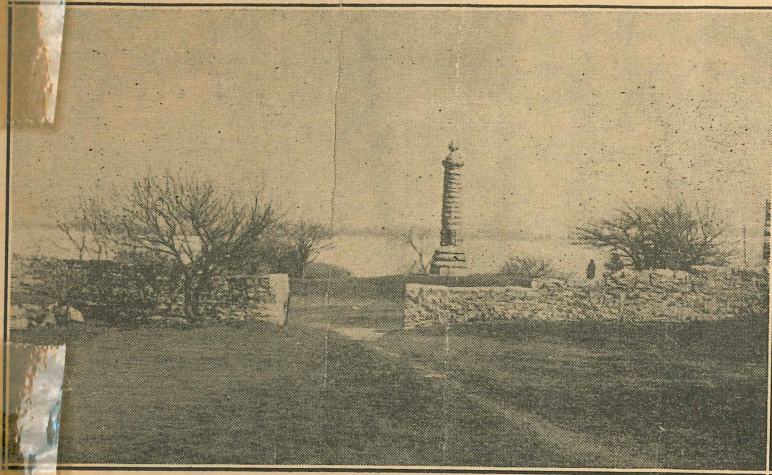


Local Patriotism Shown at Unveiling of Tablets

SCENE OF IMPRESSIVE HISTORICAL CEREMONY



The Old Fort where a crowd of upwards of 1,000 persons assembled on Sunday afternoon to witness the unveiling of two bronze tablets, affixed to the stone walls, one on either side of the entrance to the fort which is shown in the picture.

Large and enthusiastic assemblage hears many prominent speakers.

ORGANIZATIONS TURN OUT IN FULL FORCE

Dedicatory address by Brig.-Gen. E. A. Cruikshank is a masterpiece.

Sunday, 10th September, 1933, will long be remembered in historic annals as an eventful day at old Fort Erie, the scene of the unveiling of two bronze memorial tablets, one marking the ruined walls and ramparts of the Old Fort, the other commemorating the daring capture of two American ships of war, *Ohio* and *Somers*, by the gallant Captain Alexander Dobbs and men of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

At 2 o'clock the Legionnaires, firemen, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides paraded in full uniform to the Old Fort grounds, marching to the martial music of the Legion Band and the Frontier Pipe Band, the latter assembled by "Scottie" Millar, who had as his drum major, William Douglas, drum major of the St. Andrew's Scottish Pipe Band, of Buffalo.

The two bronze tablets, similar to one on the cairn at Frenchman's Creek, affixed to the walls on either side of the entrance to the Fort, were unveiled by Miss Carrie Vahey, regent of the Colonel Kerby Chapter of the I. O. D. E., and the inscriptions read aloud by Fisher Davidson, of Welland. Trumpeter Walter Scott sounded the "Last Post," and the dipping of the flag by the Legion color party was followed by a hearty cheer from the assembly, which rang through the park.

The ceremony was fittingly opened with prayer by the Rev. William Burt, rector of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Fort Erie, following which were introductory remarks by Mayor W. J. Hawley, who briefly sketched the town's history from the time in 1750, when the French built a trading post that later grew into a village to be named after the nearby fort, constructed in 1764. The village of Fort Erie was incorporated in 1857, Mayor Hawley said, and 15 years later, when the International Bridge was stretched across the river by Sir Casimir Gzowski, it gave birth to a settlement, 11 years afterwards to be incorporated and called Bridgeburg. Two years ago the town and village were amalgamated and, said the mayor, the official name was very wisely chosen to be Fort Erie.

TRACES HISTORY OF OLD FORT

The dedicatory address, delivered

Unveil Tablets at Fort Sunday

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by Brig.-Gen. E. A. Cruikshank, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.R. Hist., of Ottawa, was a masterpiece of historical data, presented in clear and close sequence, yet delivered without a note. He traced the history of the Fort from the time in 1764 when a military post was founded near the present site by Captain John Montresor, nearly 20 years before the first settlement at Niagara, up to and including the time it played a part in history recorded on the two memorials unveiled that day. The complete address is to be found on another page.

"I am glad to think that I have had some part in preserving this park and in the construction of the monument here," Brig.-Gen. Cruikshank said, "and for me there are many pleasant reminiscences in Fort Erie, where I was for many years engaged in a municipal capacity. Although a comparative stranger, I feel that I am coming home to be with you today. It may be the last occasion on which I will ever be here."

Introducing the guest of honor, the chairman, Louis Blake Duff, of Welland, said: "Here is where Brig.-Gen. Cruikshank began, and here, half a century ago, his historical work took shape. No man in Canada has made so large a contribution to historical record. We have him here for old sake's sake, and whatever he tells you will be authoritative in the last degree."

"Historical sites, such as the one where we are gathered today, do not belong to us but are the heritage of our forefathers. It is our work to keep them intact and preserve them and hand them on to another generation," was the thought expressed by George H. Smith, of Port Colborne, president of the Welland County Historical Society. He recalled that as early as 1886 the history of the Niagara Peninsula was being preserved, and a small, thin book he exhibited, printed at the time by Saul and Snark, of Welland, showed E. A. Cruikshank as its author, a man who, at that time, was serving his seventh term as reeve of the village of Fort Erie, and was warden of the county. Reference was also made to the History of the County of Welland, published the following year by the Welland Tribune Printing House, and to the published historical work of the late Reeve G. L. Hobson, and two books, Crowland and Burnaby, written by Louis Blake Duff.

OCCASION SERVES USEFUL PURPOSE

"This memorable occasion should be remembered by us," were the words of George H. Pettit, M. P., of Welland. "It serves a useful purpose — to spur us on to greater and better efforts to do more as citizens to contribute to a future British Empire. It is through the sacrifices of those gone before that we have what we have and enjoy what we enjoy."

Canada must be careful in preserving its historical treasures, won

by bloodshed, he concluded, for there are those who would like to take it all and scrap it as so much junk — have it vanish as a mist before the rising sun. Let us hold dear to what we have. It is priceless, permanent and enduring.

W. G. Willson, M.L.A., of Ridgeway, spoke of the need for maintaining British principles and ideals. "The British Empire prides itself on the stock from which it sprung," Mr. Willson said, "and it is up to you and me to be worthy of that pride and bequeath it to another generation."

Today, over thousands of miles of frontier, there is not a single fort to antagonize these two great nations. It is a lesson the rest of the world can well copy, and, he said, we trust in God that it will ever be so.

In his address, Mark Vaughan, M.L.A., of Welland, said that it makes one feel proud, on such an occasion, to be living in Canada and as a Canadian, to look back with pride on the gallant sacrifices of the 1812-14 conflict, when the history of this young country was in the moulding. Mr. Vaughan voiced his hearty appreciation of the splendid work being done by the County Historical Society, and said that he and Mr. Willson, representing Welland county in the provincial legislature, have and will continue to lend their utmost support to such a commendable work.

John H. Jackson, superintendent of the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Parks, who supervised the placing of the two tablets unveiled on Sunday, said that the Parks Commission will gladly bear the expense of erecting such memorials along the Niagara Frontier. He drew attention to those marking the encounter at Frenchman's Creek, the Battle of Chippawa, the first shipyard in Upper Canada, Forts Drummond and Mississauga and many others.

ASKS WHY NO SOCIETY HERE?

The speaker had one criticism to make in that there is no active historical society in this part of the peninsula, rich in historical interest. "I cannot express," he said, "the importance of marking many things that in time will be lost forever, instead of being added to your wealth of local history. Fifty dollars will buy a small bronze tablet suitable for marking places that once played a part in Fort Erie's history, and I think that public funds of this municipality, despite depression, might well be used in that way without just criticism."

Notables of the Niagara Historical Society, who for years had as their leader the late Janet Carnochan, a well-known historical writer, and curator of the Niagara Historical Society Museum at Niagara-on-the-Lake, have left few historic sites unmarked from St. Davids to the lake. Down that way, Mr. Jackson added, one may find by the roadside or in unfrequented places, countless unobtrusive stones marking things that should be marked, and he urged that an interest along historical lines be promoted here.

"The Niagara Parks Commission will be happy to meet with a Fort Erie body of this kind at any time," he said, and concluded with the pointed thrust that the work never will be done any sooner.

One of the numbers admirably played by the Legion Band was the "Vanished Army," a march dedicated to soldiers who fell during the Great War and which was first played at the unveiling of a memorial in Flanders, shortly after the Armistice was signed. During the program the pipers favored with two selections much enjoyed by their audience.

Letters of regret were read from Premier George S. Henry, Fred Landon, M.A., of Western University, who is a member of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada; and William H. J. Cole, O.B.E., of Buffalo, ex-British vice-consul on this border for 23 years.