

New Brunswick History on the Internet

In the past decade there has been an explosion of websites, on-line publications and blogs dealing with local, provincial, regional and national history. In addition to virtual galleries created by museums, archives have begun to digitize documents. There are also many Facebook sites that feature historic photographs and commentary.

The following list, not exhaustive, is representative of the growth of on-line heritage sites relating to the history of New Brunswick.

Provincial Archives of New Brunswick:
<http://archives.gnb.ca/Archives/?culture=en-CA>

Centre des études acadiennes, Université de Moncton:
<http://www.umoncton.ca/umcm-ceaac/node/3>

Acadian Historic Village:
<http://www.villagehistoriqueacadien.com/>

New Brunswick Museum:
http://www.nbm-mnb.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=121&Itemid=316

New Brunswick Military History Project:
<http://www.unb.ca/fredericton/arts/centres/gregg/nbmhp/index.html>

Saint John Jewish Historical Museum:
<http://www.museevirtuel-virtualmuseum.ca/GetMuseumProfile.do?lang=en&chinCode=guaavs>

Tantramar Heritage Trust:
<http://heritage.tantramar.com/>

Fort Beauséjour-Fort Cumberland National Historic Site:
<http://www.saintjohn.nbcc.nb.ca/heritage/>

York-Sunbury Historical Museum:
<http://www.yorksunburymuseum.com/>

Crime and Punishment in New Brunswick:
<http://www.unb.ca/saintjohn/arts/projects/crimepunishment/>

Attention all Members:
As 2012 continues, we would like to remind members that if they have not yet paid their annual membership fees, we would encourage them to do so at their nearest convenience. Also, any members who wish to receive their copy of the NBHS newsletter by mail are asked to email President Kathy Wilson with their name and preferred email address. This not only will cut down on the cost of production and distribution of the newsletter, help the environment by reducing the amount of paper used and also will ensure that you receive your issue in a timely manner. Kathy can be reached at the Loyalist House, or by emails at kathryn.wilson@nbed.nb.ca.

NEW BRUNSWICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The November meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday, November 27th, 2012 at 7:30PM in the Mary Oland Theatre of the N.B. Museum in Market Square. This month the Society will be having an unconventional meeting. Please see below for details.

Upcoming Meeting Notes

Due to weather conditions the October meeting of the NBHS was cancelled.

The speaker, Tony Tremblay of Fredericton, will be speaking at our April meeting instead. We apologize for any inconvenience and disappointment.

The November meeting will follow a different format. Members will be voting on an updated edition of the Society's By-Laws. Questions and discussion will precede the vote. A short visual presentation, prepared by Emma May Weisseneder, on the celebration of the 400th Anniversary of European settlement at Catons Island will be shown.

The remainder of the evening will involve our members in discussion groups to focus on a variety of topics to help give direction for the society to improve, change and develop.



LOYALIST HOUSE

Some topics will include: possible change in meeting day and time; initiatives in program development; Loyalist House management and activities; field trips; members benefits and activities; interest groups. This will be a time for members to interact, become better acquainted with other members, and discover common interests, talents, goals and camaraderie. This is a new initiative for us and it will prove to be an exciting evening. Come and join us on Tuesday 27th November at 7:30 at the New Brunswick Museum, Market Square.



CATONS ISLAND

The Bravest Canadian
Fritz Peters, VC: The Making of a Hero of the Two World Wars
By Sam McBride

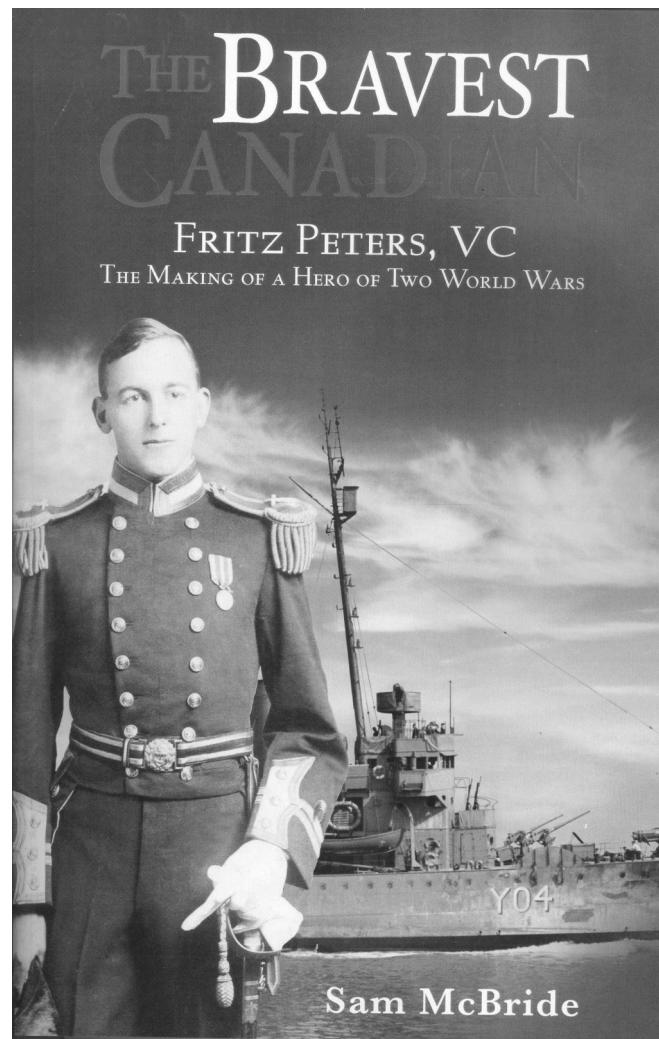
A new book tells the story of one of Canada's most decorated—and least known—military heroes, Capt. Frederic Thornton "Fritz" Peters, VC, DSO, DSC and bar, DSC (U.S.), RN.

The author, Sam McBride, is a great-nephew of Fritz Peters and had access to a recently-discovered treasure trove of Peter's personal letters kept by his next-of-kin. In the letters his personality, motivations and zest for battle were revealed. They also answered questions about his mysterious life, including service with Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, exploits in the Gold Coast colony of west Africa in the inter-war years, three stints of Royal Navy service over a 37-year period, and his tragic death in a flying boat crash returning to England after miraculously surviving heavy fire from all directions when he led a charge into the Vichy French-held Algeria port of Oran.

November 8, 2012 will mark the 70th anniversary of the Allied invasion of North Africa, code-named Operation Torch. The invasion of Vichy French territory was the first large combined operation of British and American forces, and would prove to be the turning point in the war against Nazi Germany. The initial targets of the invasion were Oran and Algiers in Algeria and Casablanca in Morocco. Peter's courage in leading an attack by two converted Coast Guard cutters through barriers and inside Oran harbour at 3 a.m. on Nov. 8, 1942 in the face

of point blank fire from French shore batteries and moored warships was honoured with the highest awards for valour offered by Britain and the United States. In 1942, at age 53 he became the oldest Victoria Cross recipient in the Second World War. He had previously received a DSO in 1915 and a DSC in 1918 with a DSC bar added in 1940.

The surrender of the last Nazi forces in North Africa in May 1943 secured Allied shipping lanes in the Mediterranean and gave the Allies bases for subsequent invasions of Sicily, mainland Italy and France.



In the inter-war years he developed technology for miniature submarines and was an early user of plastic explosives and time-delay fuses in his work with secret intelligence. In 1940 he commanded a school for spies and industrial sabotage for expatriates who later returned to their native countries in Occupied Europe to fight the Germans from within.. Peters was a descendant of Loyalists on three family lines. He was determined to live up to his family's tradition of military leadership and courage in battle going back to his UEL ancestors in the American Revolutionary War and the Crimean War. Peters was the son of P.E.I. Premier Frederick Peters and a great grandson of shipping magnate, Sir Samuel Cunard. His paternal grandfather was Judge James Horsfield Peters of Gagetown, N.B., who was the grandson of James Peters and Margaret Lester, United Empire Loyalists of Hempstead, Long Island, New York. His mother was Bertha Hamilton Susan Gray whose father was Col. John Hamilton Gray, Father of Confederation and host for the Charlottetown Conference that discussed the possibility of Confederation of Canada. His Loyalist background was central to the Fritz Peters story.

This very readable book is punctuated with personal family letters that give insight to the character of Fritz Peters. It also includes a short genealogy of his family lines including Fritz's paternal line of Peters and Cunard; his maternal line of Bertha Hamilton Susan Gray; Fritz's siblings that bring the family lines up to the present day. This book is available from Granville Island Publishing,



Vancouver, B.C. by contacting www.granvilleislandpublishing.com.

See the blog www.thebravestcanadian.wordpress.com for side stories of interest, including letters, photographs and other memorabilia of the Peters Family Papers.