



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**July 11, 2016**

Lt. Andrew Playfair of the 104<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot  
War of 1812 Veteran Recognition Ceremony

### WAR OF 1812 VETERAN TO BE HONOURED AT ELMWOOD CEMETERY PLAQUE DEDICATION CEREMONY JULY 23

On July 23, descendants of Lieutenant Andrew Playfair will unveil a War of 1812 Graveside Plaque for the veteran at the Playfair Monument in the Elmwood Cemetery, in Perth. The ceremony for Lt. Playfair, who served with the 104<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, will take place at 3:00pm, and is open to the public.

Initiated by the Historic Military Establishment of Upper Canada, the Graveside Project recognizes and honours Veterans of the War of 1812-1815, the defense of British North America and their contribution to the eventual founding of Canada as a nation.

The plaque dedication will be placed at Andrew Playfair's monument in Perth because of his contribution to the War of 1812.

Lt. Playfair, born in 1790 in Paris, France, left the United Kingdom in 1812 for active duty in the Canadas with the 104<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot. Arriving in Saint John, New Brunswick, the 104<sup>th</sup> was ordered to march from Fredericton to Kingston during the winter of 1813, to reinforce the front in Upper Canada. Playfair left Fredericton on February 16, 1813, in the first group of nearly 600 soldiers and officers on an approximate 1,200-kilometre heroic overland journey - one of history's most notable winter military marches. Poorly equipped, in worn-out uniforms, and at times without food, soldiers became ill during the march, suffering from extreme cold and frostbite. Many nights they had to build their own shelters after walking approximately 25 kilometres each day through the vast, sparsely settled, densely forested northern wilderness. They arrived in Kingston almost two months later.

With the 104<sup>th</sup>, Playfair fought at the Battle of Sackets Harbor, New York on May 29, 1813. He was present for the surrender and taking prisoner of over 500 Americans at the Battle of Beaver Dams, on the Niagara Frontier on June 24, 1813, after Laura Secord warned the British that the Americans were coming.

Playfair was among 20 officers and soldiers from the regiment who received military land grants in the Perth Military Settlement providing a built-in internal defense. Playfair founded the village of Playfairville building a dam with lumber, grist and carding mills, post office and Methodist Church. Playfair died on September 1, 1868.

To honour these veterans and Playfair, the plaque dedication ceremony will include a presentation from renowned War of 1812 expert, author and historian Donald E. Graves. Re-enactors from the 104<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot will be posted at the plaque with replicas of the 104<sup>th</sup> Regimental Flag and the King's Colours. Fifer, drummer and bugler re-enactors from the 100<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot will perform War of 1812 marching music. The 104<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> re-enactors will fire their muskets during the ceremony. The Venerable John Fowler will offer the blessing and Rev. Dr. Stan Errett, Great-Great-Great Grandson of Lt. Andrew Playfair, will be delivering the closing prayer.

The Elmwood Cemetery is located off Highway 7, on Dufferin Road, behind Home Hardware in Perth, Ontario. The event organizers wish to thank the Council of Tay Valley Township for their support in preparing the Playfair Monument.

For more information about the ceremony please visit: [www.playfairville.ca](http://www.playfairville.ca) or email [playfairville@gmail.com](mailto:playfairville@gmail.com). For more information on the War of 1812 Veterans Graveside Project please visit: [www.1812veterans.ca](http://www.1812veterans.ca)