



## **CONTEST WINNERS – Fall 2008**

Grade 7 and 8 history students from across the province were invited to make their own history with the Ontario Time Machine. Choosing the books they liked best, the students thought of creative ways to bring history to life with baking and diary writing projects. Congratulations to our two winners who received pizza gift cards and digital cameras for their historic efforts!

# History Comes to Life

Paris from Hamilton

## Introduction

My project is about the three books of science from the OTM site and how amazing history really is. You could tell right away that the family recipe book was from the olden days right after you looked at the book. There were a couple spelling errors and when I made the cookies they were good, but not at all like cookies nowadays. I found the books very interesting. The catalogue of seeds indicates history's part in agriculture today. It can still be used these days, because it influenced the lives of many scientists. Time Reckoning of the 20th Century helps explain how the time zones came to be what they are today. It was amazing how back in the 1800s, people had such advanced thoughts. Without them, we wouldn't be where we are today. People don't write such intriguing books these days. Back then there was quite a variety of wonderful and special literature. When you tie history in with science, you get a terrific combination.

## The Books of Science

*The Family Recipe Book* is for families of all sorts. To find out how people got along in the 1800s, log onto Ontario Time Machine and prepared to be amazed! This book was published in 1869 by Northrop & Lyman and was created to be very useful for every family. It has intriguing recipes such as sand tarts which are a kind of cake. It also has remedies for things like sore throats, and tips for pickling things. Imagine making a recipe that is almost a century old! Then you could really eat like it was the good old days. Provided is a picture of drop cookies from this great book.



*The Catalogue of Seeds* by John A. Bruce was created in 1884 to provide you with a description of seeds of all varieties. If you don't know what something is, the catalogue of seeds is the way to go! It provides details of each plant, and if you're looking for something to plant, the catalogue of seeds is a helpful tool. It is amazing how back in the olden days, people were so interested in science! If I was in the 1800s I would have definitely bought this book!

Now, onto the last (but not least) book. *Time reckoning for the Twentieth Century* was created by Sanford Fleming to establish the usage of time zones. This book explains standardized time zones, how they work and their importance to the world. This is a great book and I would recommend it to anyone who is inquiring about the 1800s.

Overall, these three books are awesome resources and I am glad that Ontario Time Machine presented this contest or I would have never discovered the magic of historical times.

# The Diary of Laura Secord

Rebekah from Kitchener

## Introduction

My project is about the Canadian heroine Laura Secord. I was inspired by the World War I diary of Leonard Youell on the OTM site, so I made a fictitious one about Laura. I picked her because I wanted to do a project about a heroine and she was one of the few out there. Also I think she deserved some credit for what she did. I added some links to a few websites about her that I thought were at a student appropriate level...Because the diary covers a time period of approximately a year I was able to include some cultural things in that time period such as Christmas. Most of things in my project are facts but a few I made up based on information on that time period. I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I enjoyed making this.

## *The Diary of Laura Secord*



10/10/12 The day has been uneventful although it is nice to get some peace and quiet with the war going on. James says it will be over soon. I hope he is right.

13/10/12 The Americans have attacked Queenston! Since our house is so close to the battle field the children and I had to move to a nearby farm owned by some friends. We now wait for news of James.

14/10/12 James has been wounded! Once I heard the news from a soldier, I rushed onto the battle field. Oh, how I wish I could have helped the wounded but I knew I had to find James. It took me a while but soon I saw him lying on the ground bleeding from his shoulder and knee. I was about to help him up when three American soldiers thrust me aside. I knew that they were going to kill him and I screamed at them to leave him alone when an American officer stopped them and order the soldiers to carry James to our house. I will not forget his chivalry even though he is on the other side. Once James was taken home another terrible sight met my eyes. Our house had been ransacked! Almost everything was smashed or stolen! But I can't write anymore because I have to look after James.

15/10/12 I have found out the terrible truth. General Isaac Brock was killed during the same battle in which James was wounded. General Brock was our best chance to defeat the Americans! With him dead all I can do is hold my breath and wait.

20/10/12 The cow has gotten into the onion patch again. I have no more news of the war.

27/10/12 James is slowly improving.

7/11/12 the snow has come and it has become very cold.

10/11/12 Yesterday there was a dance to try to have some fun on these dreary days.

18/11/12 The children went skating today and later I will take Charlotte, Harriet, Charles and Appoloni for a sled ride if Mary agrees to look after James.

19/12/12 It is quite close to Christmas and perhaps for once this year, we will have a good day.

24/12/12 We began decorating for Christmas with greenery, nuts, Osage oranges and dried apples.

[Here is some information about Osage oranges] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osage\\_Orange](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osage_Orange)

25/12/12 Christmas is at last upon us! I believe the children are having a good time despite the lack of presents. Although the whole family is together so it has indeed been a good day.

26/12/12 It is the second day of the twelve days of Christmas.

28/12/12 James is doing very well.

30/12/12 The year is almost over. Hopefully the war will be over soon.

1/1/13 A new year has begun and with it new hopes.

5/1/12 The Twelve days of Christmas are over so there will be dancing and we will have a great celebration with our neighbors.

15/1/13 Today there will be a wedding. Hopefully, I can attend it.

29/1/13 James has greatly improved.

9/2/13 Today I got together with some other women and we had a quilting bee.

3/3/13 At last, after a long and hard winter the snow has melted!

2/4/13 James is well enough to sit outside for a few minutes if he is protected from the wind.

30/4/13 The pink and white blossoms of the peach and apple trees are especially beautiful today.

1/5/12 Today I planted my seedlings. I hope the weather is warm so I can transfer them to the garden.

5/5/13 The Americans have come again! They have both sides of the Niagara River now. As well they took every man over eighteen and sent them to the United States as prisoners! Although they did not take James because he is a cripple and cannot fight.

11/5/13 Our home is being used by three American officers. I try to go along with my life like everything is normal but it isn't.

20/5/13 I do hate having these officers in my house but at least there is a supply of food coming in because of them, so we are better off than some of our neighbors.

7/6/13 James thinks these officers are up to something and he is constantly trying to listen to them.

19/6/13 The officers are inviting Colonel Boerstler to my house for dinner so they are having fancy foods brought to me that I must prepare.

21/6/13 After Colonel Boerstler and the officers had their dinner I over heard them talking. They are going to send 500 men to attack Lieutenant FitzGibbon at Beaver Dams! I told James that FitzGibbon had to be warned but I knew James could not do it, I would have to. James tried to convince me not to take the twenty mile walk and instead to go to my half-brother Charles and get him to tell FitzGibbon. Although Charles has been sick and staying with James' widowed sister-in-law Hannah, perhaps he is well now. Besides I can use the excuse that I am just going to see my sick half-brother in case I am confronted by Americans.



22/6/13 I am almost ready to start my walk. I have packed medicine for Charles if I am questioned by enemy soldiers.

8:00a.m. I arrived at Hannah's house earlier this morning. I was heart-broken to discover that Charles is still sick! So I had to continue the walk myself. At least I am not alone, my twenty-year-old niece, Elizabeth is accompanying me.

10:00a.m. The sun is very hot and since we are walking through swamp and brush, mosquitoes are out. Elizabeth is tiring fast. I do not think she can make it much farther.

5:30p.m. I had to leave Elizabeth at a friend's house quite some time ago.

7:00p.m. Dusk is rapidly falling.

9:45p.m. I am at Beaver Dams! I just need to make it to John Decew's house. That is where FitzGibbon is staying.

10:00p.m. I have met some Indians. They are taking me to FitzGibbon.

10:20p.m. My mission is completed! I told Lieutenant FitzGibbon about the American's plan. Although I am not sure he can

beat them. He has only forty-one Indians and a few soldiers. But I am tired and must sleep.

25/6/13 Yesterday, Lieutenant FitzGibbon won! Colonel Boerstler was wounded and captured. They surprised the Americans and tricked them into thinking there were more soldiers than there actually were. It was a great victory and hopefully will impact the war. But right now I just want to get back to my family, although I do feel proud because the victory would have been a loss if it were not for me.

The war ended in 1814. Laura did not get any recognition for what she did until the Prince of Wales came to Canada. Laura presented a petition to him, pointing out her age, her service, and that of her late husband. Colonel Fitzgibbon attached a note to the petition telling the Prince of Laura's walk. When the prince returned to England, he gave gifts to many of the people who had petitioned him. He also sent a gift of one hundred pounds in gold to Laura. At last, after almost fifty years, Laura was recognized for her heroism. Laura Secord, a ninety-three year old woman, finally died October 17, 1868, but she is still remembered as a great Canadian heroine. A monument in Niagara Falls has been dedicated to her and a plaque in Queenston Heights has these words on it:

LAURA SECORD MEMORIAL  
IN LOVING AND HONOURED MEMORY OF  
LAURA INGERSOLL SECORD  
A RESIDENT OF UPPER CANADA  
WHO SAVED HER COUNTRY  
FROM THE ENEMY IN 1813.

For more facts about Laura Secord check out these sites:

<http://www.niagaraparks.com/heritage/secordhistory.php>

<http://www.canadianaconnection.com/cca/secord.htm>

Image sources:

<http://currwww.smcdsb.on.ca/mdy/secord.gif>

<http://cev.northwestcompany.com/secord.gif>