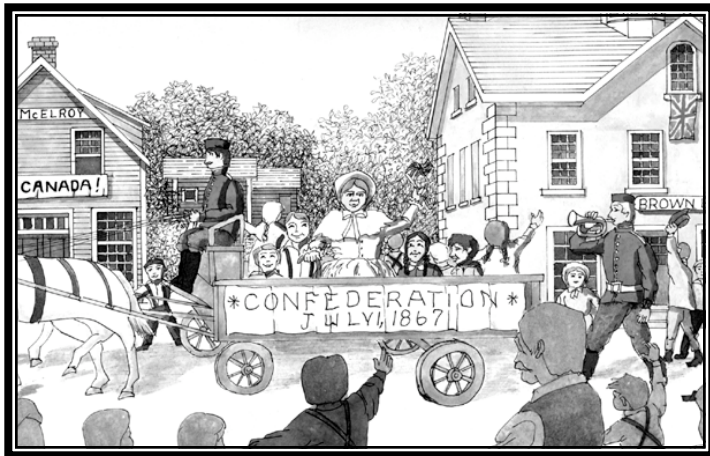


María Hill: A “Daughter of the Regiment”

The story of Maria Hill is a well known part of Richmond’s local lore. Maria was the wife of Sergeant Major Andrew Hill, who fought with the ‘100th Regiment of Foot’ during the War of 1812. She is often called a “Daughter of the Regiment” because her father also served the British Army in North America during the war. Maria worked alongside the 100th Regiment as a surgeon’s assistant at the battles of Lundy’s Lane and Chippawa. While some say that Maria disguised herself as a man and followed her husband into battle, we now know that there were some women (mostly wives and children) who were allowed to travel with the Regiment.

After the war, Maria persuaded her husband to open a tavern. As hostess of the ‘Masonic Arms’, Maria was renowned for her cooking and singing. The ‘Masonic Arms’ soon became the social hub of the Richmond military settlement. It was here that Charles Lennox, the 4th Duke of Richmond, spent the night before his death. Indeed, the Hill’s tavern was renamed the ‘Duke of Richmond Arms’ to commemorate his visit. After the Duke of Richmond’s death, Maria prepared his body to be sent back to Quebec City for burial.



After Andrew Hill’s death, Maria married Sergeant Andrew Taylor, who was more than ten years her junior. She lived into her nineties, passing away during the 1880s. In her will, Maria left money to the Richmond Anglican Church for the construction of its ornate spire.

The image above depicts an elderly Maria Hill riding in Richmond’s Confederation Parade on July 1st, 1867. Painted by Becky Marr-Johnson, this image is a section of a mural that hangs outside of the Richmond Arena.

Imagine that you are a soldier or nurse during the War of 1812. What would it be like to fight a war in an unfamiliar land? OR Imagine that you are a pioneer settling in a newly created village. What challenges would you face in building a home or finding a job?