



Joanne Sheils and Lori Seymour from Aquila Tours sit upstairs in the old homestead of Colonel Henry Nase. Photo: K  t   Braydon/Telegraph-Journal

[Committee turns back clock to honour Mount Hope Farm](#)

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NEREPIS – If it weren't for the cars lining Nerepis Road, the gathering at Mount Hope Farm on the outskirts of Grand Bay-Westfield on Sunday could almost have passed for a scene from colonial times.

Men in work shirts, hats, and suspenders joined women in long dresses and bonnets to sing a sad soldiers' song from the war of 1812: "I seek for one as fair and gay/But find none to remind me...How sweet the hours I passed away/With the girl I left behind me."

This weekend was the 225th anniversary celebration for Mount Hope Farm, the home built by British Colonel Henry Nase, the area's first Loyalist settler.

The farm was also a stopping-off place for British soldiers marching on foot from Fredericton to Kingston, Ontario during the War of 1812, said Jan Riddell, chairwoman of the heritage committee for Grand Bay-Westfield tourism.

Activities at the free event included a guided tour of the historic home and a musical performance by the Kingston Peninsula Heritage Choir.

Nase, once an almost-forgotten historical figure, has become "quite a celebrity" in recent years, Riddell said. One of the region's many ferries is even named after him and one of the town's newest roads – Col. Nase Blvd – is also named in his honour.

“He was a scout,” Riddell said. “Loyalists were coming up on ships from New York, and they needed somewhere to go.”

The 1786 farm still stands, although various additions have been built throughout the years.

“Mount Hope Farm is really the gem of our community in terms of history,” Riddel said. “We wanted to celebrate it and make it special.”

The Nase family has owned and managed Mount Hope Farm continuously for all 225 years of its existence. In fact, a number of Nases were in attendance on Sunday – along with 250 visitors – including four sisters, all born with the Nase name, who have the distinction of calling the Colonel their great-great-great-great-great-grandfather.

Charlotte Lohnes, Esther Chapman, Lillian Camp, and Christine Jennings said they think it’s great that the community and heritage committee have taken such an interest in their family’s founding role in New Brunswick history.

A 75-year-old photo of the sisters, along with their brother and parents, now deceased, still hangs in the home.

“We lived here and grew up here, were born here,” Chapman said. “That picture has always been there, there’s the sewing machine,” she added, gesturing around the room. “The cuckoo clock has always been here, but it used to be in the kitchen.”

The home’s low ceilings and tiny doorways probably would have been adequate for an undernourished eighteenth-century family, but some tour participants had to hunch over to get from room to room.

Colonel Nase is 7th great-grandfather to Jennifer Burpee, 11, granddaughter of Lillian Nase Camp.

“It’s pretty cool,” Burpee said. “I can tell the kids in my class I have these relatives.”

“I was looking forward to just exploring the house and exploring the parts I’ve never seen,” she said.

Even the vast spread of tea-time treats offered to event guests was authentic to the time period.

“We tried to only incorporate things that they were able to get 200 years ago, which was a little difficult,” said Cathy Gallant, who catered the event.

The sweets included carrot cake, biscuits with strawberry-rhubarb preserves, maple fudge, and ginger snaps.

“I couldn’t use coconut, I couldn’t use peanuts, marshmallows,” Gallant said, “No pecans, no bananas.”

The farmhouse, which has been both a family home and a bed and breakfast, hasn’t been occupied for the past two years. But its owner, heritage committee member Peter Lohnes, son of Charlotte Nase Lohnes said he plans to keep it in the family.



Peter Lohnes, the great-great-great grandson of Colonel Henry Nase and current owner of Mount Hope Farm, gives a tour of the old homestead at the 225th Anniversary celebration Sunday. Photo: Kâté Braydon/Telegraph-Journal



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The fifth great granddaughters to Colonel Henry Nase stand in front of a photograph of themselves with their parents and brother, taken over 70 years ago. From the left: Charlotte Lohnes, Christine Jennings, Lillian Camp and Esther Chapman. Photo: Kâte Braydon/Telegraph-Journal





Blueberry cake, one of the traditional foods back in the 1700s, was served at the 225th anniversary of Mount Hope Farm on Sunday. Photo: Kâté Braydon/Telegraph-Journal



Apple bars, one of the traditional foods served at the 225th Anniversary of Mount Hope Farm. Photo: Kâté Braydon/Telegraph-Journal