**"THIS POOR WOMAN'S HUSBAND DIED A PRISONER": PERSONAL STORIES OF THE COLOURED CORPS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE WAR OF 1812.**

Most books about the War of 1812 focus on diplomacy or battlefield strategies. Family historians are more interested in what the experience was like for individuals. What was the impact of the war on everyday life, its aftermath and legacy, and how did it affect a particular ancestor?

Using contemporary documents and eye-witness accounts, historian and genealogist Hilary Dawson will illustrate how the war affected members of “Captain Runchey’s Company of Coloured Men” and their families. Many of these resources are available online, and may be useful to family historians whose ancestors were in Upper Canada during these turbulent years.

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**BIO**

Hilary Dawson is a professional genealogist, historical researcher and educator. She regularly shares her passion for black history in particular, through illustrated lectures for libraries, cultural organizations, and private groups. She has worked in museums in the UK and Canada, including the home of abolitionist William Wilberforce in Hull, UK.

Over 30 years ago, Hilary's research into the history of Etobicoke Township (now part of Toronto) uncovered a previously unknown nineteenth century black presence. The Etobicoke Historical Society honoured her with the *Jean Hibbert Award* for her contribution to Etobicoke’s history, and with the *Denise Harris Prize* for writing. Hilary has published several articles on black history topics, including a chapter in the recently published *Reflections on Old Victoria County: in Tribute to Rae Fleming*. She is currently working on a biography about Alfred Lafferty, Ontario’s first black high school principal, who went on to become the province’s first Canadian-born black lawyer.

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