

A British General Resumes His Place In Front Of Georgetown's Brocklebank Musum

The Georgetown Historical Society is proud to announce that on Saturday, August 2, 2008 a replica of the Brocklebank Museum's much treasured 1754 Tavern Sign returned to a post in front of the building.

The original of this sign, which is on display inside the Museum, depicts British General James Wolfe on a white horse. The original marked the location of the General Wolfe Tavern located in this Museum building in the 1750's and 1760's when Georgetown was known as the West Parish of Rowley. (Georgetown was incorporated many years later in 1838)

The original sign is obviously an older sign that has been painted over and shows a "ghost" image of a face bleeding thru the outer main image. This earlier image, plus the conjecture about how (what have been identified as musket ball) holes got into the sign, makes this original sign an historical treasure for the Society.

The name for this Tavern was obviously selected in honor of General James Wolfe who was a well known and popular British General in the early 1750's.

During the French and Indian War, British General James Wolfe and French General Louis Joseph de Montcalm met in battle famously on Quebec's Plains of Abraham, September 12, 1759. In a daring nighttime maneuver the British scrambled up the steep and high river bank considered to make Quebec inaccessible. Soon ten thousand soldiers battled. They say the battle was over in less than an hour. Both Wolfe and Montcalm were mortally wounded. It was said that this battle ended French dominance of Canada, but that remains the subject of much discussion.

Research by the Georgetown Historical Society indicates that in 1754, Rowley's Dudley Tyler maintained a tavern in the home previously occupied by generations of Brocklebanks. Solomon E. Nelson acquired Tyler's tavern in 1767 and made minor modifications to the sign.



Replica Of General Wolfe Tavern Sign
In Front of the Brocklebank Museum's
New "Georgetown" Picket Fence

to identify his ownership of the Tavern. The ears of the sign saw Nelson's initials painted over Tyler's D. T. and Nelson's year of acquisition was added.

Which owner actually painted General Wolfe on horseback over the image on the earlier sign is uncertain and the original image underneath the existing image has not been identified. But, today Tyler's original 1754 date of acquisition and the ghostly face peer above General Wolfe's image, an image which legend indicates suffered musket shots from Rowley militiamen conscripted for the War of the Revolution. Purportedly, these militiamen stopped at the tavern, had a few drinks and as they were leaving fired their volley at the image that at that time represented the disliked British. Based on this event the owner of the Tavern felt that having a name honoring a British General was bad for business and during the Revolution the sign remained the same, but the tavern, once known as the General Wolfe Tavern became the White Horse Tavern.



Original General Wolfe Tavern Sign.
Now Located In Brocklebank Museum