

U.S. Ambassador honours Canadians in Civil War



MORRISBURG, ONTARIO. – This weekend was full of history and union at the Upper Canada Village, as the American Civil War was remembered with the help of a special guest.

The **Civil War weekend at the village was celebrated over two days to honour the Canadian soldiers who fought in the war**, an occasion that attracted the **American Ambassador to Canada, David C. Jacobson**, who was joined by his wife, uncle and aunt.

"I think the thing to me that is the most interesting is the involvement of Canadians to our Civil War in a time that it was against the law to do so," Jacobson told the Standard-Freeholder in an interview Saturday.

"I think that says a lot about why I can sit here and (why) I can look across the river and see friends."

In the early afternoon, Jacobson and his family had the opportunity to observe a re-enactment of the battle between the Confederate and Union forces that took place in Winchester, Virginia, in 1862.

It was after the re-enactment and during a tour of the village that the Ambassador learned about the more than 40,000 Canadians from Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes who volunteered to fight in the Union army and navy.

In a speech to a small crowd in front of Willard's Hotel, he told visitors about his trip to Vimy Ridge and the opportunity he had to see the monument that stands for the thousands of Canadians who lost their lives at that battle during the First World War.

"It was the place where all four divisions of the Canadian army fought together for the first time, where so many perished fighting for a common cause and in my country, the United States, our nationhood was forged in the American Civil War, that cemented all the sections of our country and united all the states into a single union," he told the crowd.

Of the Canadians who fought in the American Civil War, four became generals in the Union army and 34 Canadians were given the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for service above and beyond the call of duty in the United States.

"Canada's fate has been inextricably intertwined with that of the United States for hundreds of years," Jacobson said proudly.

After the presentation, as many of the visitors left the scene at the Willard's Hotel, some of the guests who acted as soldiers during the re-enactment were seen shaking hands with the Ambassador who had to return to Ottawa for another engagement.

"I have the best job in the United States government," Jacobson laughed.

It was certainly a day, and a weekend, to be remembered at the Upper Canada Village.
