**In Search of the Phantom Misnamed Honour: Duelling in Upper Canada**

* Duels were typically took place as a way for the victor to obtain a type of satisfaction, they were also commonly used as a means of shifting norms of gender and class, religious issues and attitudes towards violence and law. The men who took part in a particular duel were typically of similar hierarchy within their society, whether that be upper or middle class, black, white, indigenous or British.
* In the 18th century English duellists shifted from using swords to firearms, which made duelling more accessible. With the shift to firearms, a higher fatality rate was welcomed into the art of duelling. The use of firearms in a duel required less skill than using a sword to defeat your opponent, this would result in more people participating in these acts. The art of duelling was widely accepted by those in the army, suggesting that it provided them with the feeling of masculinity.
* Duelling in the 18th century was mainly about defending ones honour, John Wilson, the son of a poor farmer, felt he needed to issue challenges to other men to assert his dominance and maintain his standing in society, because he was of a lower social class, he felt the need to defend his background and to be tenacious of his character. By participating in duels, men hoped to maintain and signify upper-class honour.
* The code of honour with respect to duelling, was intended to affirm a difference in class. Those who participated in a duel could stake a claim on gentlemanly status. The code of honours proclaimed that only real men were to take part in duels, men that belonged to upper-class societies, not lower-middle or working class.
* Duelling had a part in the court room as well. A lawyer, William Warren Baldwin couldn’t tolerate being disrespected in the court room any longer by the Attorney General John MacDonnell. MacDonnell had used ‘ungentlemanly’ words towards Baldwin, which resulted in Baldwin issuing a challenge to a duel. When the two met, Baldwin fired first and missed, and the two shook hands and the matter came to a close. Duelling was thought of to be an alternative to legal action.