



Hoping for the Best, Preparing for the Worst: Everyday Life in Upper Canada, 1812-1814

By Dorothy Duncan

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Hoping for the Best, Preparing for the Worst explores the web of human relationships that developed in Upper Canada following the American Revolution, in the years leading up to the War of 1812, and during the conflict that raged for two years between the young United States and Britain, its former master. The book focuses on the families, homes, gardens, farms, roads, villages, towns, shops, and fabric of everyday life in this frontier society. Upper Canada was a land in transition as First Nations, fur traders, Loyalists, entrepreneurs, merchants, farmers, and newcomers from every walk of life formed alliances and partnerships based on friendship, marriage, respect, religion, proximity, and the desire to survive and prosper. With the declaration of war in June 1812, Upper Canadians realized that not only their lives but their future peace and prosperity were threatened. They responded with perseverance, loyalty, and unexpected acts of bravery.

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Hoping for the Best, Preparing for the Worst: Everyday Life in Upper Canada, 1812-1814 By Dorothy Duncan Bibliography

- Rank: #13605565 in Books
- Published on: 2013-07-11
- Released on: 2013-07-11
- Format: Large Print
- Original language: English
- Dimensions: 10.00" h x .59" w x 7.75" l, 1.11 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 260 pages

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Dorothy Duncan has worked with organizations across Canada and around the world to ensure that Canada's culinary history is recognized, researched, and recorded. In 2007 her book Canadians at Table won the Cuisine Canada and University of Guelph Culinary Book Gold Award. She lives in Orillia, Ontario.

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