

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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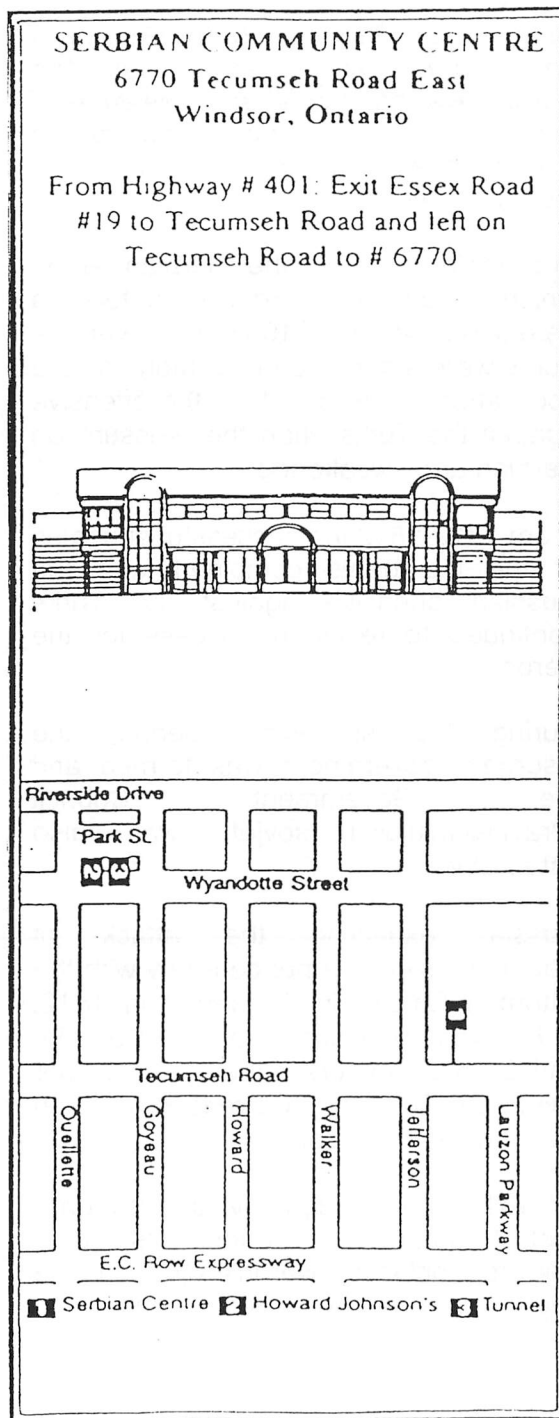
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Organizacija i naoruzanje vojske u Prvom srpskom ustanku – Istorijski muzej Srbije.

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## Serbian Heritage Museum of Windsor



Presents  
EXHIBIT:

**200 YEARS OF THE FIRST  
SERBIAN UPRISING AGAINST  
THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE**

**February 15 – June 1, 2004**

## First Serbian Uprising 1804-1813

Serbs established their first state in the 9<sup>th</sup> century in the part of Serbia named Raska (Kosovo). During the Middle ages, under the Nemanjic Dynasty, Serbia first became kingdom and then empire. Serbia developed culturally and was one of the most civilized states in Europe.

After this "golden age", the powerful Serbian state was occupied by the Ottoman Empire for almost 500 years. Life was harsh without any rights and privileges. During that time Serbs were denied the right to an education. There were no schools, no recorded history, and no cultural life of any kind. Only Serbian monks in the remote monasteries preserved Serbian literacy and Orthodox religion.

In the 19 century (1804), Serbs finally rose up against the Turks after the so-called "massacre of the headmen" (seca knezova) in which ninety five of the most distinguished Serbian leaders were killed. The leaders, who saved their lives by fleeing into the mountains, met at Orasac on February 14<sup>th</sup>, and decided to launch an armed uprising. They elected Djordje Petrovic, called by the Turks Karadjordje (Black Djordje) to lead the uprising.

The dahije were expelled from Belgrade and killed. After the great victories at Misar and Deligrad in 1806, the Turkish Government agreed to negotiate with the

insurgents. With mediation by Russia, a peace treaty was signed in 1807. The Serbs were granted a large measure of autonomy. Since Turkey had not carried out the peace agreement, during 1807 the struggle continued.

The main force of the Serbian army, which advanced toward Nis, suffered a defeat on Cegar in 1808. However the Turks were stopped on river Morava, and soon after that Russia took the offensive against the Turks, than the pressure on Serbian army weakened.

From 1810-1812 the successful struggles of the insurgents combined with the Russian offensive against the Turks continued to result in success for the Serbs.

During the successful period, the insurgent government was formed and the Government Council "Praviteljstvujusci sovjet" was also established.

Russia, expecting the attack of Napoleon, signed a peace treaty with the Ottoman Empire in Bucharest in 1812, which was most unfavorable for Serbia, and Serbian leaders rejected the peace giving the Turks a good reason to crush the Uprising by force.

In 1813, surrounded by the superior Turkish army, most of the outstanding leaders, including Karadjordje, left the country and fled to Austria, after which

date Turks renewed their tyranny in Serbia.

**The spirit of freedom awakened by Karadjordje gradually lead to a final liberation.**

- 1) Djordje Petrovic-Karadjordje, Leader of the First Serbian Uprising against Ottoman Empire; the Belgrade Pashaluk, Insurrection in Orasac, Karadjordje's Seal, Replica of Karadjordje's canon.
- 2) Costumes and weapons.
- 3) The first government
- 4) One of the military flags
- 5) Prints of some military flags
- 6) Supporters of Karadjordje: Vuk Stefanovic-Karadzic, Dositej Obradovic, Petar Petrovoc-Njegos, Njegos's dedication to Karadjordje in his work "Mountain Wreath"
- 7) Karadjordjes flag
- 8) Karadjordjevic Dynasty
- 9) Assassination of Karadjordje
- 10) Family tree of the Karadjordjevic Dynasty.