

JOHN MINARD (Cont'd.)

He started on Christmas day to visit his sick daughter, Emily Whipple in Chicago and died in a cable car after he had reached the city. A daughter, Mary, married William Titus in this year and the next spring the mother went to live with them in St. Thomas. It was in 1909 that Ruth Titus sent her Grandmother's photograph to the New Idea magazine and won for her the award for "The most beautiful Grandmother in America."

Mr. Elias Chase bought this farm about 1892 and later sold to Mr. Stafford, who sold it to William Wiley in 1920. It now is a well kept up place where general farming is carried on.

LEVERTON FAMILY

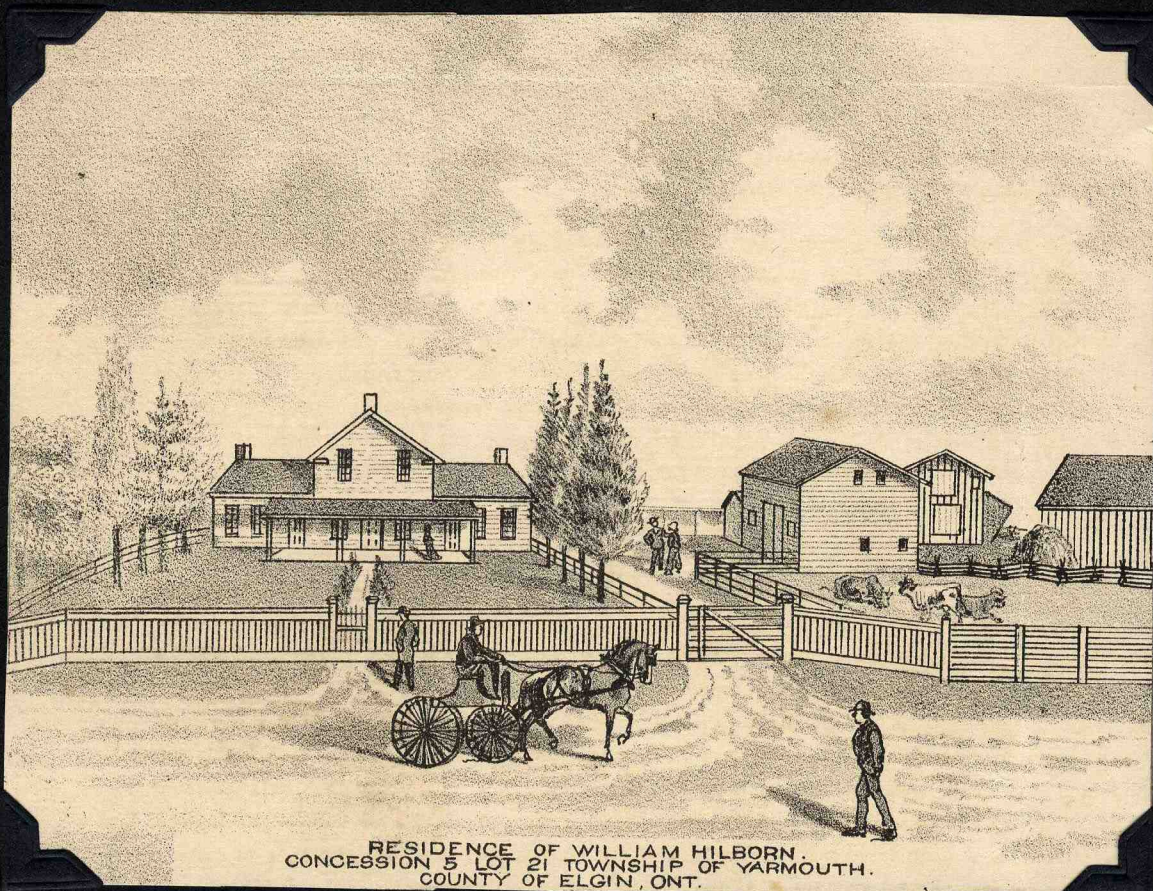
William and Elixabeth Leverton came to Canada from Lincolnshire, England in 1851. They were accompanied by all their family, except Edward, who was born in Canada.

They settled on a farm in Concession 11, Township of Yarmouth, County of Elgin. This farm was later occupied by their son William, and by his son William.

Most of the family remained in the Sparta-Aylmer-St. Thomas area, except "Aunt Libbie", who after her marriage to Duncan Ferguson, lived in Toronto. Burials of early members of the family were in Union Cemetery, Sparta Cemetery, and at Summers' Corners.



The Dennis
Homestead



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM HILBORN.
CONCESSION 5 LOT 21 TOWNSHIP OF YARMOUTH.
COUNTY OF ELGIN, ONT.

THE DENNISS HOMESTEAD

The farm consisting of two hundred acres, Lot 25, 6th Concession of Yarmouth, is owned and operated by George Denniss and Sons.

It was taken over from the Crown in 1845 by Henry G. Zavitz.

At first a small house was erected in the flats, but fearing that the Catfish Creek which runs through the farm might overflow its banks, it was moved to the hill-top and was lived in until the present house was built. This building has been used to this day as a granary. The house was built in 1845. Henry Zavitz's son, Seth W. Zavitz, took over the place in 1877 and he sold it to Henry Denniss in 1891. Mr. Henry Denniss' sons have owned and operated the farm to the present date.

The house is a solid built frame structure of a Quaker type, with beams of oak and walnut. It has twelve rooms, seven of these being bedrooms.

A large bell is erected on the roof, with a silk rope extending down to the living room. This was used by the past generation to call their own men as well as the surrounding neighborhood, to dinner at twelve o'clock and time for chores at five o'clock in the evening. Of course, very few carried watches in those days.

The flats on this farm have been a happy recreation spot for both hunters and fishermen for many generations. On the side hill of this farm is a cave extending back 20 feet, 4 feet high and 4 feet wide and covered on the top with solid rock. This is supposed to have been a fox den.

THE WILLIAM HILBORN FARM

John Mills Sr. bought 200 acres from Alex Dunlop and others for 950 pounds sterling. After his death, he left this farm to his fourth son John Jr. who was a great uncle of Wilson Mills.

John Mills Jr. died about 1862 and William Hilborn purchased the hundred acres, Lot 21, Concession 5, which is now the Denniss farm. William Hilborn had four sons and one daughter, Rosetta. William Hilborn went to Detroit for a cancer operation but died during the operation. William Bailey married Rosetta and bought the other heirs' shares of the farm.

At the death of Mr. and Mrs. William Bailey the farm was left to their two daughters. Mr. Charles Denniss married Ethel and bought out Myrtle's share.

In 1923 the old house was dismantled and the present rug brick house built. The garage and back kitchen are parts of the old house.

The farm is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Philip Denniss. Lynda and Donna, their daughters, represent the fifth generation to live on the farm.

Mrs. Mills will see this was looking thro an experienced

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1941

People of Serbia Friendly Cheerful, Freedom-Loving

Mrs. Wilson H. Mills Served There as Red Cross Nurse After Last War

The present prominence in world news of Yugoslavia has brought back to Mrs. Wilson H. Mills, of Sparta, wife of the Federal Member of Parliament for Elgin, vivid memories of six busy months spent among the friendly, kindly people of Serbia after the last war. Mrs. Mills, who is a graduate nurse, was serving then with the Balkan Commission of the American Red Cross, following some months of active service in France and with the army of occupation in Germany. Two medals, prized possessions, one an award from King Peter I "to show the appreciation of the Serbian Red Cross Society for the care of the wounded and sick," are tangible evidence of the manner in which the people of Serbia regarded the work of the Commission in those trying days.

Letters which Mrs. Mills, then Miss Effie May Swayze, wrote home to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William D. Swayze, of Sparta, and which are now stored in the useful tin box which proved a valuable gift during overseas service, have kept for the writer a record of many details and impressions that might have been forgotten in the intervening years. They prove a cheerful record, full of reassuring messages home from the nurse abroad who was Mr. and Mrs. Swayze's only child, and full of the certainty that overseas was the one place the writer wanted to be at such a time.

"I would rather be here than any place in the world," she wrote from an evacuation hospital in France, and later, "It is the most wonderful work in the world . . . so thankful to be here." And again, "The things we think at home are so necessary are not missed so much when we cannot get them."

The suffering of the men under her care, especially of the gassed patients, effected the young nurse deeply and at the end of November, 1918, she wrote "The allies are too easy."

The then Miss Swayze, who was a graduate of a Buffalo hospital, was nursing in Buffalo at the time of the war, and enlisted as a nurse with the American Red Cross. She was sent overseas in the spring of 1918, landing at Bordeaux, with the expectation of looking after French refugee children, but except for occasionally assisting with refugees at the stations was otherwise occupied during her entire stay, for it was found that nurses were needed for the army.

"Sunshine"

The cheerfulness and the sense of humor, which are still characteristic of Mrs. Mills' happy disposition, run all through the letters, a saving grace in those days of strain, and it is no wonder that her hospital name was "Sunshine."

Mrs. Mills was stationed in United States evacuation hospitals for the greater part of her service in France, being at Chantilly, Beauvais and near Chateau Thierry among other places, the hospitals being moved as the army advanced. At Beauvais, she met Miss Blanche Gilbert, of North Yarmouth (now Mrs. Blanche Curtis), also on active service as a nurse.

Following the armistice, Mrs. Mills went on into Germany with the American army of occupation, and in the spring in response to an appeal for experienced nurses proceeded to Serbia under the Balkan Commission of the American Red Cross. That country had suffered greatly in the war and the Red Cross undertook social service work of many types, as well as distributing great quantities of badly needed articles, including hundreds of yards of materials for clothing. Mrs. Mills still remembers with sympathy the dreadful poverty of the people, many of whom were in rags and patches, and without shoes and stockings. She remembers that the enemy had removed the street car tracks and that there were no street cars running. And she recalls the wonderful spirit of the people even after so many years of bitter warfare. One day an old lady of eighty, who had lost an arm and had had two toes blown off by a shell, went to the clinic. She was in rags, but was gay and cheerful in spite of everything, says

tea and Mrs. H. H. Coleman, Mrs. C. L. Anthony, Mrs. C. W. C. McMurry, Mrs. W. A. Day, Miss M. Kerr, Mrs. A. A. Styles, Mrs. Brady, Mrs. W. H. Spooner and Mrs. R. J. Chedd assisted in serving. The event was a most enjoyable and successful one.

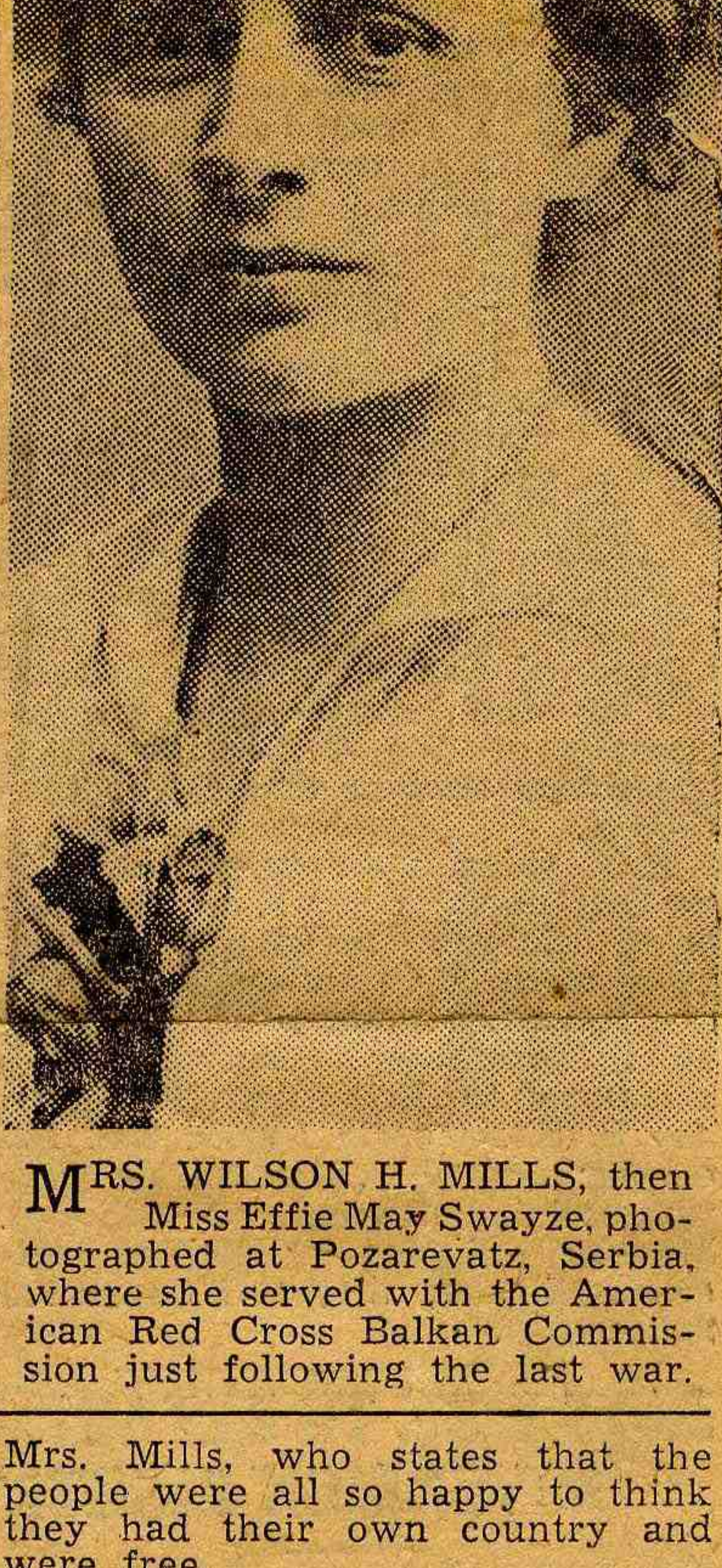
Mrs. Ross Merritt and sons, Roy and Keith, have returned home from Hamilton, after attending the wedding of Mr. Merritt's niece, Miss Norma Merritt. They also spent a few days in Galt.

The Pere Marquette Saturday Night Bowling Club held their first annual social gathering on Tuesday evening in the dining room at the Grand Central Hotel. The evening was spent in dancing and later the members elected Mrs. John Nichols as president; Mrs. Cecil Watson as secretary-treasurer; and Charles Smale, Walter Plastow, James Alexander, Miss Dorothy Butterworth and Miss Katherine Watson as committee members. Mr. Smale, who instigated the forming of the club and who was in charge of the arrangements for the pleasant evening, was named honorary president.

The members of Supreme Rebekah lodge held an afternoon card party on Friday, five tables being in play. Mrs. J. Noble won the favor for euchre and William Coulter that for bridge. At the conclusion of the game, tea was served. Mrs. O. Laur poured and Mrs. H. McNames, Mrs. A. Bloye, Mrs. T. Watts and Mrs. J. Noble served the guests. The next party will be next Friday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. John Small and three children, of Detroit, spent the Easter holiday with the former's mother, Mrs. Nevill, Centre street.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Butcher and daughter Isabelle of Niagara Falls, Ont., and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Butcher and family of Aylmer were week-end visitors with relatives in St. Marys. Miss Isabelle Butcher remained to spend the Easter holidays with her aunt, Miss F. Butcher.



MRS. WILSON H. MILLS, then Miss Effie May Swayze, photographed at Pozarevatz, Serbia, where she served with the American Red Cross Balkan Commission just following the last war.

Mrs. Mills, who states that the people were all so happy to think they had their own country and were free.

The love of freedom is strong among the Serbian people, says Mrs. Mills, who believes that typical of the spirit of the people was the beautiful flag made by Serbian women when their country was occupied by the enemy during the last war. It was made of many tiny pieces, and they worked stealthily at night to fashion their national flag.

Beautiful Country

Even during her short residence there, Mrs. Mills became greatly attached to the Serbian people, whom she found simple, cheerful and lovable. To think of the country is to conjure up again in the mind's eye many picturesque scenes, with colorful costumes, oxen in the streets, a man going to market with a lamb across his shoulders like the pictures in Biblical story books, beautiful scenery, and lovely flowers. Although many of the people lacked adequate clothing and the distribution of this was a big service of the Red Cross, they seemed to have plenty to eat, and everyone seemed to keep chickens, says Mrs. Mills. There was much tuberculosis, however, and the Red Cross started a hospital for these patients.

The Serbians are very hospitable and Mrs. Mills recalls the manner in which they celebrated Easter, which is observed with many parties like our Christmas and New Year's season, and with everyone calling on friends. A Serbian afternoon tea is a delightful event, says Mrs. Mills, who tells of one she attended while there. Black coffee was served in tiny cups instead of tea and the refreshments consisted of delicious thin wafers and jam. The jam was served in a jar on a tray, which also bore a spoon for each guest, who took a spoonful of the sweet and spread her wafer. Mrs. Mills worked with the Red Cross in both Belgrade and Pozarevatz, and at the farewell party for the Americans there were tears in the eyes of both the Serbians and the departing nurses.

Returning to Canada, Mrs. Mills brought back with her many samples of the beautiful work of the Serbian people, which are not only a bright note of color in her lovely home in Sparta, but also serve as a reminder of a gallant, artistic and lovable people. There are beautifully woven, fine wool rugs and smaller mats, a colorful apron with embroidery on its woven stripes, a shoulder bag which makes a bright chair seat in the Canadian home, hand-made lace of clover design, as well as a few lovely samples of pottery, brass and other crafts gathered throughout her stay abroad.

Mrs. Mills' passport took her into many lands while she was abroad and among other places she visited Rumania and Turkey while in the Balkan district. While in Europe, she also had had an opportunity to visit Italy and the Riviera, and en route from the Balkans to embark on the ship La France for home at Le Havre, she also passed through Switzerland. She had crossed to Europe in a French ship also, the Rochambeau, and the passengers on that first trip were very grateful for British convoys, which ensured them a safe crossing, she states.

National Anthem

Among the valued souvenirs of her visit to Serbia, Mrs. Mills has a copy of the Serbian national anthem, which is as follows:

God of Justice! Thou who saved us
When in deepest bondage cast,
Hear Thy Serbian children's voices.
Be our help as in the past.
With Thy mighty hand sustain us,
Still our rugged pathway trace;
God our Hope! Protect and cherish
Serbian crown and Serbian race;
God our Hope! Protect and cherish
Serbian crown and Serbian race.

Bind in closest ranks our kindred,
Teach the love that will not fail,
May the loathed fiend of discord
Never in our ranks prevail.
Let the golden fruits of union
Our young tree of freedom grace,
God our Master, guide and prosper
Serbian crown and Serbian race.

Lord avert from us Thy vengeance
Thunder of Thy dreaded ire;
Bless each Serbian town and hamlet,
Mountain, meadow, hearth and spire
When our host goes forth to battle,
Death or victory, to embrace,
God of armies! Be our leader!
Strengthen then the Serbian race!

On our sepulchre of ashes
Breaks the resurrection morn.
From the slough of direst slavery
Serbia anew is born.
Through five hundred years of duress
We have knelt before Thy face.
All our kin O God! Deliver!
Thus entreats the Serbian race. Amen.

The Wind and the Rain in Your Hair



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