

## Honouring Audrey Kirk UE

Inducted 2011

In the January 1992 edition of Toronto Branch's newsletter, I wrote,  
*Certainly 1991 was an eventual year (for Toronto Branch). We launched a book, hosted a convention and on a sadder note lost several faithful members including Audrey Kirk.*

### **Audrey Lorraine (Richardson) Kirk:**

(2 Jan 1928 - 17 Oct 1991)

Audrey was born in Mimico ON, and was the daughter of **Roy Richardson** and **Violet Arding**. Her Loyalist ancestry was on her father's side. In 1946 Audrey married **Robert Franklin (Bob) Kirk** and they had three sons, David George, Allan Roy, and Andrew Gordon. She had five sisters and two brothers as well, so was raised in a lively family.

Audrey joined Toronto Branch UELAC in 1965 and Bay of Quinte Branch in 1969. By the time I met her in the 1970s she was already a major figure in the Association, so she became very adept at genealogy in a very quick time. It would take too long to list all her contributions to the UELAC but it was in the genealogical area where she especially shone. Audrey and Bob resided in Streetsville, but made frequent trips to the family property north of Frankford where they ultimately retired and built a new home. There are undoubtedly several here who recall pleasant visits to that residence and remember well its well-stocked genealogical library and that large fish tank!

Audrey was the descendant of at least five Loyalists: **Asa Richardson UE**, **Thomas Richardson UE**, **Samuel Brownson UE**, **William Marsh UE** and **Matthias Marsh UE**. In 1991 Audrey and Bob were awarded a handsome wooden plaque with the UELAC Coat-of-Arms, and she passed away just a few months later. It was a matter of some regret that years of research had not yielded the one missing piece of documentation that would have completed her Marsh lineage. Oddly enough that missing piece turned up soon afterwards and Audrey was granted a posthumous UEL certificate; the first ever awarded by the UEL Association of Canada.



This year, Bay of Quinte Branch embarked on a project to refurbish the deteriorating Kirk marker at Frankford and it now has a handsome new UELAC plaque replacing the formative decorative tile.

I was fortunate in that Audrey and I were "Marsh Family" cousins so I knew her for several decades. You didn't, however, have to be related to benefit from her genealogical knowledge and her friendship. Indeed at Audrey's funeral in 1991, the theme of niece Lori Ireland's tribute was Audrey Kirk as best friend. How fitting.

by Peter W. Johnson UE