

E. John Chard UE

Inducted 2012

Edgar John Chard was born near Stirling Ontario, one of two sons of Clarence Spencer Chard and Harriett Hulbert Nelmes. John was a descendant of Nehemiah Hubble, a Loyalist who settled in Rawdon Township near Stirling. He is also descended from Barce Chard, who also settled there from Ballston Spa, NY, although he served on the American side during the Revolution. John received a B.A. and M. Ed. and worked for many years as a teacher, and later at the Ministry of Education in Toronto.

John has had a long involvement with the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada, and in particular with the Bay of Quinte Branch. He became a charter year member of the Bay of Quinte Branch in 1956, and was soon encouraged to join the branch executive. When the branch first made plans for its Loyalist Museum in 1959, John became the chairman of the Museum Committee. The mandate of the planned museum was to locate and collect articles that would relate the graphic story of



The background of the early Loyalists
The coming of the Loyalists to the Bay of Quinte District
The receiving of Land Grants
The Struggles of establishing their first homes
The evidence of perseverance it bettering their lots
The descendants and their dispersal throughout the country

This mandate is very similar to the present one for its successor, the UEL Heritage Centre and Park. He was elected as president of Bay of Quinte Branch at their annual general meeting in May, 1960, and established the first branch UEL Newsletter to be sent to all members. That summer, the new Loyalist Museum opened in Allison House at the Adolphustown Loyalist Park.

Unfortunately due to change in job situation, John resigned his position in the fall of 1960 and moved to Ottawa. It was at this time that he began his strong commitment to the Dominion UEL Association. While living in Ottawa during the 1960's, John assisted several persons to prove their Loyalist ancestors and meet other newly proven Loyalist descendants. Before long the Sir Guy Carleton Branch received its charter on 14 April 1962. This was the first branch which John helped to establish.

Dominion Council proposed that the Association needed a better means of communication with the branches. From that discussion, Mr. Chard was appointed to create a magazine to be published twice a year, and in April of 1963, he published Volume 1, No. 1 of The Loyalist Gazette. He continued as editor of the Gazette for 24 years until 1986.

John served as Dominion President from 1966 through 1968. During his term of president, he established a permanent Dominion Office and Library in Toronto, as there had not been one since World War II. Financial aid was given by Colonel R.S. McLaughlin of Oshawa who donated \$125,000.00 from which

the interest was to be used to rent and furnish premises, including a lounge. During Canada's Centennial in 1967 he helped to promote the importance of the Loyalists to our history, and unveiled a plaque commemorating the Upper Canada Loyalists in the Ontario Legislature. In the 1960's, the UELAC decided to pursue armorial bearings. An official request was made by John Chard in 1969. With the assistance of Sir Conrad Swan, York Herald of Arms-in-Ordinary to Her Majesty the Queen, a formal application was made and accepted. Design work commenced and the Armorial bearings were granted by Royal Authority through the legal instrument known as Letters Patent, dated 28 March 1972.

John was also actively involved in the expansion of the Association in creating new branches. He helped to charter Grand River Branch in 1972 and became its first president. Of the current twenty-seven UELAC branches, from coast to coast, John Chard was involved with the founding of sixteen. During the 2009 Dominion Conference hosted by our branch in Napanee, he was presented with the Dorchester Award. For more on some of John's accomplishments with the UELAC, please visit the Dominion site www.uelac.org/Honours-Recognition/bio/Dorchester-John-Chard-2009.pdf

Throughout it all over these many years, he still retains his ties to our own Bay of Quinte Branch. I am pleased to induct John Chard to our Loyalist Hall of Honour.

PHOTO TO THE RIGHT:
John Chard is inducted to the Loyalist Hall of Honour by Bay of Quinte Branch President Brian Tackaberry at their Ameliasburgh meeting on September 8th, 2012.

(Photo Courtesy Of Gerry Buss)

