

WILLIAM ALLAN DEMPSEY

Inducted - 2011

William Allan Dempsey was born August 17, 1906 and died March 13, 1993. To Allan and his first wife, **Muriel Bentham**, two daughters, **Ruth and Elizabeth**, were born, and from his second marriage to **Dr. Ethel Noble**, two sons, **Albert and Lawrence** completed his family of four. The Dempsey lineage is interesting, as Allan was a fifth generation from the second permanent settler in Ameliasburgh Township, and was born on the family homestead on Lot 67 Concession 1. He has co-lineal descent to US presidents **John Adams** and **John Quincy Adams**. He is descendant of the following loyalists: **Thomas Dempsey UE**, **Jacobus Peck Jr. UE**, **Godlove Mikel UE**, and **John Lott Sr. UE**. These names appear through his great-grandparents, **Major William Dempsey** who married **Sarah Ann Mikel**, and **George Boulter** who married **Sarah Peck**. Allan's grandparents were **Emily Boulter**, who became the wife of **Captain William Ryerson Dempsey**. An impressive lineage, which combined Irish and British ancestry.



Cadet Allan Dempsey was one of the key players in the successful celebration for the United Empire Loyalists held in Belleville in 1924, where the UEL monument was to be unveiled in June of that year. The occasion was the 140th Anniversary of the settlement of the Loyalists in Upper Canada. June 16th 1924 was determined to be the date when a week of celebrations would commence. There was a concern by the organizers how they would spread the news of this important event with limited resources, since most newspapers published only weekly. Some of you will know that they succeeded in bringing hundreds of visitors to the Belleville area making the Loyalist Celebration an outstanding success. Allan Dempsey contributed as a 17

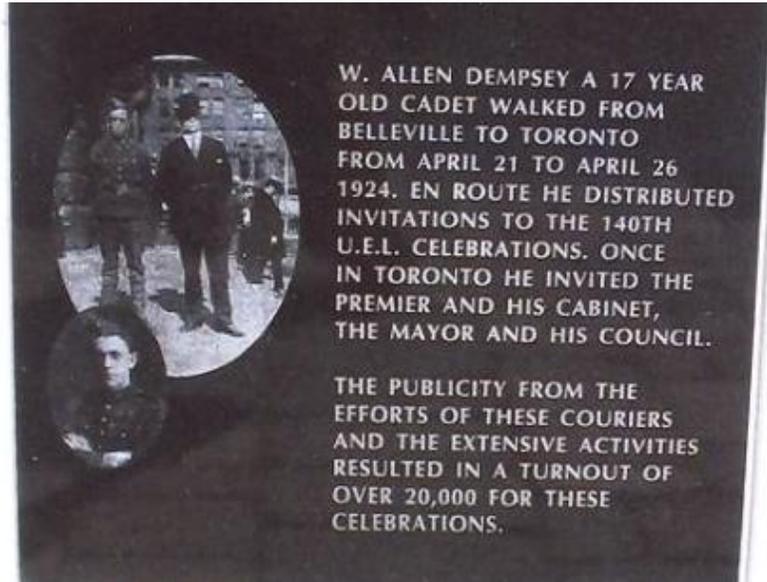


Image at right of Cadet Dempsey is from plaque on the restored UEL Monument in Belleville)

year old cadet, acting in the roll of courier travelling on foot from Belleville to Toronto, after the manner of our pioneer's mode of travel. A daunting task taken in stride by Allan, as he carried invitations to the Mayors of the cities and towns, as well as Reeves of villages and all the council members of the municipalities through which he was to pass en route to the provincial capital. The invitations from Belleville **Mayor W.C. Mikel** would spread the news of the event, with the final stop in Toronto with invitations to its Mayor and Council, and the Premier of the Province and his Cabinet. Chief Justice **Sir William Mulock** was also delivered an invitation.

His historic trek began on Monday April 21, 1924. Wherever Cadet Dempsey went, the young courier was warmly welcomed, receiving splendid treatment. Local newspapers carried his story and publicized the upcoming celebrations. An account written by a Whitby reporter read

Having all the appearance of a clean living Canadian youth, clear of eye, and the picture of health, Cadet Dempsey appealed to one, as a worthy descendant of that noble band of hardy pioneers who settled in Canada following the American War of Independence. And he comes of real UEL stock, and it is fitting that he should be chosen to carry the credentials he does in the old time manner of courier.

It was Saturday evening April 26th when he arrived in Toronto. On Sunday he was received by the Premier of Ontario, and on Monday by **Mayor W.W. Hiltz** of Toronto. The Mayor, being of Loyalist stock, expressed his pleasure at the invitation and hoped to attend with a number of the council members. Allan's obligations as UEL courier was completed and he returned to Belleville by train. He was met by Mayor Mikel of Belleville and Mayor Blakely of Trenton, along with several aldermen and other city officials. Cadet Dempsey was praised by Mayor Hiltz of Toronto in a letter to Mayor Mikel which read in part as follows:

