

CATARAQUI LOYALIST TOWN CRIER

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The Kingston and District Branch
United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada
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DUCIT AMOR PATRIAE

January 2016

Kingston and District Branch was granted its charter November 4, 1978

What a balmy winter we are having! We hope you all had a pleasant Christmas and New Year holiday and are ready for the REAL winter yet to come! Our next meeting is **Saturday, January 23, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. for 12:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church hall, corner of Queen & Montreal Streets.** A delicious POT LUCK luncheon will be served. For those not supplying food, a contribution of \$3.50 would be appreciated..If you wish to bring a food item please call Maureen Long 613 384 9190.or e mail at jmlong@cogeco.ca.

A message from our president

I want to wish all members of our Association best wishes for the New Year! I hope 2016 is a great year for all of us and that we can enjoy many collegial events here in Kingston and area. Thanks for your participation and membership in our group and I hope you find the meetings interesting. Raising awareness of our UEL heritage is important for Canada. Let's get together often and share our knowledge of this with others so more people can appreciate the great role our ancestors played in building this wonderful country of ours.

See you soon and Happy New Year!

Peter Milliken U.E.
President Kingston and District Branch UELAC

Our speaker is **Mr. Jeremy Heil** Archivist at Queen's University (See inside for more details)

Come and join us and bring a friend!

December meeting

Our speaker, Mr. Gord Sly, a retired teacher and school principal, took us back to the early school days in this area.

Late in 1786 The Rev. John Stuart selected a school site in the city core of Kingston and in 1792 Governor Simcoe gave a grant of the princely sum of One Hundred Dollars toward a school and

houses to be built scattered along King St. Sir Richard Cartwright sponsored a “classical” school and John Strachan a noted educator at the time was engaged to teach Cartwright’s children! In 1807 a further grant of One Hundred Dollars was provided to Midland District’s eight school districts. Mr. Edgerton Ryerson, Minister of Education published periodicals to raise money for text books and higher pay for teachers. The rural areas were different from the urban areas and schools there were not as well treated. All were “one room” schools with one teacher teaching several grades. They were heated by stoves only and because of the small number of schools they were scattered and required students to walk long distances (sometimes miles!) to school. Obviously it was no picnic for the teachers either! Our great grandson Clark Davy age 12, attended the meeting and was absolutely intrigued by the conditions kids had to endure.

About our guest speaker:

Jeremy Heil has been the Digital and Private Records Archivist (formerly Technical Services Archivist) at Queen’s University Archives since 2001. He holds a Master of Archival Studies degree from the University of British Columbia and a B.A. (Honours) in History and Visual Arts from Brock University. Prior to working at Queen’s, he was employed as an archivist with the Chung Collection in Vancouver, and in the Private Records Section of the Provincial Archives of Alberta. He is former president of the Archives Association of Ontario, and has served on numerous committees locally, provincially and nationally over the years. He has taught workshops on electronic records, photographs and artworks in archives, and presented papers on various topics. His publications include "The Procrustean Bed: A History of the Arrangement of the Al Purdy fonds", *Archivaria* 76 (Fall 2013) and "Stones: Using Mashups to Understand a City’s Social Tapestry,” *The Interactive Archivist: Case Studies in Utilizing Web 2.0 to Improve the Archival Experience* (Society of American Archivists, 2009), <http://lib.byu.edu/sites/interactivearchivist/case-studies/stones/>. He is currently the Managing Editor of *Archivaria*.

BOOKS

A reminder that there are many excellent books in our library which can be viewed at the Central Branch, Kingston Frontenac Public Library. See the listing at http://www.uelac.org/Kingston/title_list_sept_2015.pdf and look for the Loyalist flag above the shelves in the Kingston Room.

We remind you too of the several excellent books written by our own member **Jean Rae Baxter U.E.** She had a book launch of her most recent book *Hope’s Journey* on October 22nd. All Jean Rae’s books are available at Novel Idea book store.

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SILENT AUCTION

Thanks to all who participated in our Silent Auction held during the December 5th meeting. The auction raised \$124.00 from the successful bidders. The clearance sale of copies of our transcription of the 1851 census of Kingston Township yielded another \$6.00, for a total of \$130.00. This money may eventually go towards binding more of our back issues of The Cataraqui Loyalist into a permanent record of our newsletter.

More importantly, the two filing drawers now freed up will permit moving some of our binders and duotang folders around so we can actually get at them.

Nancy Cutway, Acting Librarian

MICHAEL GRASS (cont.)

The following are pages 3 and 4 of the Michael Grass story that appeared in the December newsletter...

Compulsory militia service would have given the Gress children, once they were old enough, good training in life skills. Their superior officers would expect them to use English. Unless there were occasions when policing or emergency service was required, the militia men only needed to take part in regular training sessions. They were not paid, so the men had to have some means to earn money. Militia service was generally restricted to each Province of British America; only regular soldiers could be sent anywhere and they were on the payroll. If a male of militia age moved, they would have to enlist in the new area.

Of the Gress children, it is known that Michael moved to the Province of New York, possibly about 1754-5. He would be 19 or 20 then. He married his wife Margaret Schwartz there in 1760. He needed to have had time to get to know her for some time before that marriage. He had to serve in the New York militia. He would have been unfamiliar with New York, being new to the province.

The story about him and two others being in the militia and being captured by the French sometime in the period 1755-8 in the northern part of the Province of New York could be true. The northern frontier of New York was not firmly controlled by either the British or the French. Frequent raids from both sides occurred, but in many cases, those caught were killed. If Michael had been caught as stated, it may be that his knowledge of French may have saved the three of them. Apparently the three captives were sent to Fort Frontenac where they were held for several months. They escaped on the second attempt, after getting help from some Indians whom they had befriended, with sufficient provisions to withstand a long trek through the bush back to a British-controlled area. The British were strengthening their position and the French had just about abandoned Fort Frontenac when Michael and his comrades were captured. It may have been easier to get away and not be pursued under these conditions.

Some have discounted this story as fabricated by Michael Grass' son John, who was thought to have glorified his father's life. But, it seems that the other claims that son John had made were later deemed to be true. He was just recounting the stories that his father Michael had told him.

That Michael Gress/Grass was in the Province of New York in the mid 1750s is very likely. His brothers and parents probably stayed in Pennsylvania. It seems that Michael met Henrich Schwartz and his family in Queens, New York where they both lived, probably as neighbours after coming from Philadelphia. Queens is a suburb north of New York City. The Schwartz family was: Henrich, christened 02May1706, his wife Eva (nee Hohl), christened 07Apr1714, and their three children, Peter Bernhard Schwartz, b 09Feb1733, Maria Margaretha Schwartz, b 08Feb1736 and Anna Margaretha Schwartz, b 25Sep1738. Several other children were born to Henrich and Eva in Germany, but the only ones that reached America were the three indicated above. Another child, Jan Simon Schwartz, was born in Queens on 08Feb1756 to Henrich and Eva.

The Schwartzes had immigrated to British America in 1754 from Schweigern, near Boxberg, in the area of northern Baden-Wurttemberg in what is now Germany. This is a different town than

Schwaigern (spelling is not the same) which is also a town in Baden-Wurttemberg about 80 km south of Schweigern.

In 1759, the Schwartz family changed churches from the Dutch Church in New York City to the German Reformed Church, also in New York City, the church that Michael Gress attended. The fact that the Schwartzes had attended the Dutch Church indicates that their background and native language was Dutch.

Johann Michael Gress married Anna Margaretha Schwartz on 20Jul1760 at the Lutheran Church in New York City. That church was picked because the Gresses spoke Alsatian German, not Dutch. The Schwartzes would know German, coming from Schweigern. On the same day, Peter Bernhard Schwartz married Appolonia Seibel (written as Zeisseling in the records), b 21 May 1737, at the same church. Appolonia was the daughter of George Seibel and Maria Engeltje Hulss. Her mother had died before 1760 and her father had remarried.

Michael and Margaretha Gress had 4 children baptised at the German Reformed Church in New York City. They were Andreas Gress, b 01May1761, Eva Margaretha Gress, b 09Jul1763, John Michael Gress, bpt 03Oct1765 and Peter Gress, b 27Jan1770. No further information about Andreas Gress and Johann Michael Gress has been found. Eva Margaretha Gress and Peter Gress and later children came with Michael and Margaretha to Cataraqui in 1784 and lived long lives. It's possible that by 1784, the two "missing children" got married and stayed in America. There is some indication that Michael and Margaretha moved from Queens to Cortlandt Manor on the Hudson early in the 1760s. Peter and Appolonia apparently lived there for a time, although it appears that father Henrich Schwartz had bought property near Knox, NY (close to Albany), where many of his Dutch friends had settled. People who lived at Cortlandt Manor operated as tenant farmers, living there in exchange for working on the manor.

After 1770, Michael's sons Daniel Grass, b 23Dec1771 and John Grass, b 23Oct1773, were both baptised at St. George's Episcopal Church in Schenectady, New York. It's likely that Michael and Margaretha had moved to that area about 1770 after their son Peter was born. Margaretha probably needed help raising her young family, and her mother Eva was there to help; I'm assuming they lived with or close to Henrich and Eva Schwartz.

It is known that Michael purchased 125 acres of land near Canajoharie, specifically Sprout Brook, NY, which was part of the William Dick Patent, in Dec1772. The previous owner was Hendrich Diefendorf who owned a few properties in the area. Michael probably had to build a house, and that would be the reason that Margaretha stayed with or near to her mother Eva until after 1773 when John was born.

Mary Grass was born about 1776 and probably was baptised at the Canajoharie Church, near where the family lived. No record has been located for her birth.

Please join the **Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston**
and **Mayor Bryan Paterson**

to the Grand Opening of the special exhibit

**Sir John A. Macdonald's Dry Dock:
A National Historic Site**

Wednesday, December 2, 2015, at 11:00 a.m.

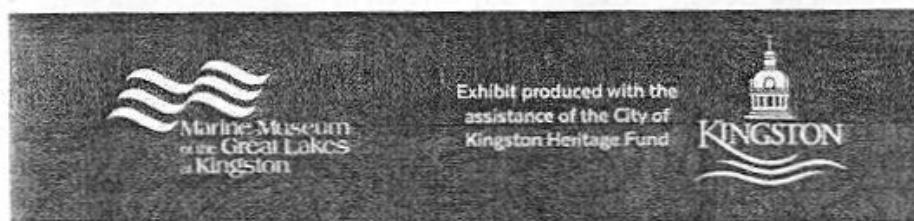
at the

Kingston Dry Dock beside the Marine Museum
55 Ontario St., Kingston, Ontario

All are welcome to this free outdoor event
Refreshments served inside the Marine Museum

Come join us for the Grand Opening of an exciting new exhibit that tells the story of Sir John A. Macdonald's involvement in establishing the Kingston Dry Dock. Funded by the **City of Kingston Heritage Fund** to celebrate the bicentenary of Sir John A. Macdonald's birth, the outdoor exhibit features interpretive panels that include archival images, original architectural drawings and documents related to the building and history of the first federal dry dock in the Great Lakes. Designated as a National Historic Site in 1978, the Kingston Dry Dock is one of the last remaining vestiges of Kingston's industrial waterfront past, and a lasting tribute to Canada's first prime minister.

For more information visit the Marine Museum web site at
www.marmuseum.ca, or call 613-542-2261



THIS IS THE VERY SITE WHERE THE FIRST LOYALISTS LANDED IN KINGSTON 1784.

[The event is past but the exhibit is ongoing.]

Our December 5, 2015 Meeting



Books laid out for Silent Auction



Nancy Cutway displaying a book in the auction.



Doris Wemp and Barb Carson with Branch Charter



School Museum display brought by Gord Sly



Artifact from the Frontenac County Schools Museum



Our speaker Gord Sly

photos Nancy Cutway UE

Let's Celebrate
“ROOTS 2016”
AUGUST 26, 27, 28, 2016

A reunion for the descendants of the FOUNDERS of
OLD HAY BAY CHURCH – built 1792

OR related to the families of the youth who drowned in 1819

If you think you may be a descendant of, or related to Jos. Allison, John Bininger, Wm. Casey, Jos. Clapp, Dan'l Dafoe, Henry Davis, Andrew Embury, Arra Ferguson, Peter Frederick, Chris'r German, John or Wm. Green, Henry Hover, Paul or Solomon Huff, Wm. Ketcheson, Eliz. Roblin, Peter or Wm. Ruttan, Dan'l Steel, Casper or Conrad Vandusen

Or related to the Families of the youth who drowned in 1819:
John & Jane German, Mary & Jane Detlor, Mathilda Roblin, Eliz. “Betsy” Clark, Mary Cole, Hulda Madden, Eliz. Mckay, Peter Bogart

Plan to participate in the events at OLD HAY BAY CHURCH which is 30 km south and west of Napanee, at #2365 South Shore Road, or 9.5 km from Glenora Ferry.

We are planning a variety of exciting events:

- A twilight outdoor movie “Discovering Emma” - popcorn available
- Tours of the local area
- The Annual Pilgrimage Service Sunday afternoon, speaker TBA
- Re-enactors of Fife and Drum
- Dinners with entertainment nearby, both Saturday and Sunday evenings
- Food vendors on site throughout the day
- Presentations on aspects of pioneer life
- Vendors with display tables
- Meeting areas where you can meet your relatives – some for the first time
- Activities for children

Keep checking Facebook at Old Hay Bay Church to keep informed of plans as they develop.

We need your help in spreading the word. Would you kindly forward this information to other people who might be interested or send us email addresses so we can contact them with the initial and future notices. We encourage you to print and display this poster in suitable locations.

Visit our Website: <http://www.oldhaybaychurch.ca>
Contact Kathy Staples: kathystaples0@gmail.com

Let's Celebrate "Roots 2016"

The poster above outlines exciting events being planned for August 26, 27, 28, 2016. We invite you to attend.

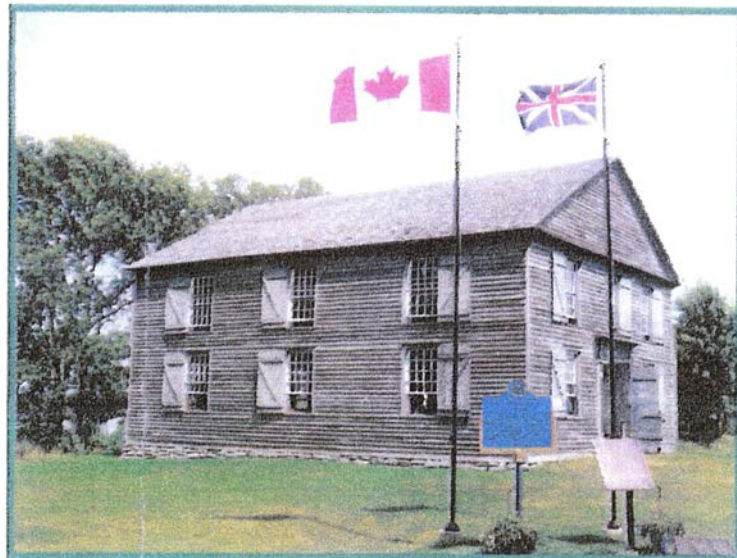
We ask your help to inform others who might be interested. There are so many descendants of the Founders of Old Hay Bay Church, we cannot possibly contact them all.

Your help in providing information on your family tree would be appreciated. Would you send or bring information on a memory stick, labelled, Allison, Binger, Casey, Clapp, Dafoe, Davis, Embury, Ferguson, Frederick, German, Green, Hover/Hoover, Huff, Ketcheson, Elizabeth Roblin, Ruttan, Steel, or Vandusen. Also, Detlor, (Rev. John Palen Roblin s/o Elizabeth & Philip Roblin), (Elias) Clark, (Barnard) Cole, Madden, Bogart. Even if you have only a partial account, we may be able to combine it with other submissions.

To learn more about this event, visit our website www.oldhaybaychurch.ca or contact Kathy Staples: kathystaples0@gmail.com

If you are interested in the event but unable to attend, a donation payable to **Old Hay Bay Church** would be appreciated. A tax receipt will be issued for \$20 or over. (Be sure to print your name and address clearly.) Mailing address is: c/o 1105-828 Sutton Mills Ct, Kingston, Ontario K7P 2S9.

OLD HAY BAY CHURCH



Adolphustown, Ontario, Canada