

An Original United Empire Loyalist

Lois Love

My great-grandfather, Joseph Benjamin Allison, wanted to go to a United Empire Loyalist meeting being held at Carrying Place. He asked my father, his young grandson, to drive his 1923 Model T. Great-grandfather would buy the gasoline. A car load of people left Adolphustown early in the morning, crossed by the Glenora ferry and stopped in Picton so that great-grandfather could buy a hat and a new pair of shoes. They travelled on to Bloomfield and Wellington along the old Consecon Road. They arrived at the meeting about noon. It was held in the Anglican Church, just west of Highway 33 at Carrying Place.

Mr. Rankin, a lawyer from Belleville, chaired the meeting. He saw great-grandfather who was about eighty-five years old and asked him to sit near the front of the church. After the programme Mr. Rankin said that there was a man in the audience who had seen an original United Empire Loyalist and that he was going to speak. He called on Mr. J.B. Allison of Adolphustown.

Great-grandfather got to his feet. He told the crowd "I think I can truthfully say I am the only one living who has ever seen one of the original United Empire Loyalists. He was my Uncle Joe Allison. He died in the year 1840." He then continued, "I was born in the year 1839 and I lived in the same house as my Uncle Joe. I must have seen him many times during that year before he died, but my memory is quite hazy. I can't quite recollect." Needless to say, the people at the meeting were amused.

For another story about J.B. Allison, see the contribution by Merton Davis.