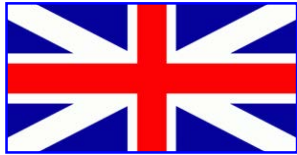


CATARAQUI LOYALIST TOWN CRIER



*The Kingston and District Branch
United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada
P.O. Box 635, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4X1*

www.uelac.org/Kingston-Branch

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KingstonUELAC/>

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



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NEXT MEETING – Saturday, November 28, 2:00 p.m. Susan Bazely, archaeologist and anthropologist. "The Many Layers of the Lower Burial Ground, St. Paul's Churchyard and under the Church Hall, Kingston, Ontario." This meeting will take place on Zoom. You need a desktop computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone, and if you haven't used Zoom previously, you need to download the free software. (But you don't need a mic or a camera: it's listen-only. Questions are submitted by typing into the Chat box.)

Here's the link to the Zoom meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/96450762418?pwd=cjFCVEJBd3M0NGwwd3RvTDU2SC9lQT09>

You don't need to preregister; just click the link on the 28th, about 10-15 minutes beforehand if you need to get the software (if first-time user) or test your speaker. Feel free to share this link with anyone you think may be interested. (We'll send you an email reminder a few days before.)

Initially you will be in a 'waiting room' until the host/leader opens the meeting and adds you to the meeting.

CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE...

You may recall the story submitted by our Vice-President, Miles O'Reilly UE, in the September issue, about Myles O'Reilly the Slasher, commemorated by a monument in the village of Finea in County Cavan, Ireland. Space constraints meant we could only include the wording from the front of the memorial:

MYLES O'REILLY,
{ THE SLASHER }
WHO FELL ON THE 5TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1646
WHILE DEFENDING THE BRIDGE OF FINEA
AGAINST THE ENGLISH SCOTTISH FORCES UNDER
GENERAL MONROE

"HE FOUGHT TILL THE RED LINES BEFORE HIM,
HEAPED HIGH AS THE BATTLEMENT LAY.
HE FELL BUT THE FOOT OF A FOEMAN
PRESSED NOT ON THE BRIDGE OF FINEA"

The details of the gory story are carved into the reverse of the memorial:

THE SLASHER HAD WITH HIM 100 HORSE, WHILE THE ENEMY WERE 1000 STRONG. HE FOUGHT THEM THE WHOLE DAY LONG, TILL HIS FOLLOWERS WERE NEARLY ALL SLAIN. FINALLY HE WAS ENCOUNTERED BY A GIGANTIC SCOTSMAN WHO THRUST THE POINT OF HIS SWORD THROUGH THE SLASHER'S CHEEK, THE LATTER CLOSED HIS JAWS ON THE BLADE AND HELD IT AS IF IN AN IRON VICE WHILE HE SLEW HIS ANTAGONIST CUTTING HIM THROUGH STEEL HELMET DOWN TO HIS CHIN WITH ONE BLOW, BOTH FALLING TOGETHER. AT THAT MOMENT REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED FROM GRANARD AND THE BRIDGE WAS SAVED.



Submitted photo. Miles' son at the memorial to Slasher O'Reilly

From this memorial you might have thought that the Slasher died at the Bridge of Finea. However that was not his end. He recovered and lived in Cavan to the ripe old age of 54!

Having grown up with little knowledge of Irish history, I was curious to learn about the warfare that was going on at that time. What follows is a brief summary of relations between Ireland and England during the last 500 years that might have contributed to emigration from Ireland, apart from famine.

12th Century

The island of Ireland had been taken over by medieval English and Anglo-Norman settlers, divided between Old or Gaelic Irish and Old English. Politically, the land was divided locally amongst individual Irish Lords: the Counties around Dublin were known as the Pale and administered by the English, under English laws and language. As a result, the Hiberno-Norman Lords were able to carve out their own fiefdoms in the remaining Counties with a high degree of independence, and under the Roman Catholic religion.

16th Century

The Tudors were technically in control of Ireland, but they principally did not want the cost of such control, except for preserving the interests of the English settlers in the Pale. Consequently, they delegated government to one of the stronger Hiberno-Norman dynasties, the FitzGerald of

Kildare, to keep down the cost of running Ireland and to protect the Pale. By 1534, Henry VIII had passed a law making him also King of Ireland. He discovered that “Silken Thomas” FitzGerald was plotting with others to depose him; he seized them all and had them beheaded. In order to impose control, Henry required all of the Lords outside of the Pale surrender their Irish titles and then re-granted them new English titles. If they had not signed by a certain date, they would be outlawed! Cavan was the last county to sign on.

1569 to the 20th Century

During this period many rebellions broke out and were put down by English and Scottish forces, including the Nine Years’ War under Elizabeth I, 1593-1603, the Confederate Wars (the Eleven Years’ War) under Oliver Cromwell 1641-1652, the “Glorious Revolution” 1688-91 under William III, the Irish rebellions of 1798 and 1803, the Easter Rising 1916 and the Troubles, 1969-1998.

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse have been trampling through Ireland for a millennium: Conquest, War, Famine and Death. My UEL ancestor John O’Reilly, and his ancestors experienced them all. It was probably not any one thing that made him think that there might be a better place to live in this world to make a living and raise a family. He had been born in Baltrana in County Cavan in 1725, and was an educated, intelligent, faithful Roman Catholic. It is likely he was a Jacobite, and may have been one of the Wild Geese that fought at Culloden in 1746. It was certainly shortly after that date that he decided to leave County Cavan and cross the Atlantic, a dangerous venture at the best of times.

What is known is that he first settled in America in Baltimore where his first son, John, was born on December 3, 1749. He established a school and started a family. Wanting a complete change, he swore allegiance to the King of England and joined the Church of England. His school was doing very well, and at some point he was invited to join the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia. But there were rumblings.

The Americans had many complaints about England, principally about taxation and representation in government and regulation of the colony’s commercial dealing with other countries. This ultimately led to confrontations that escalated to armed interventions, culminating in the Declaration of Independence in 1776. For the next five years, fighting continued between the Patriots, the British and the Loyalists, each trading victories and losses, until the British Army surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, in October 1781.

Animosities ran high between the Loyalists and Patriots, as is common in civil wars. Therefore, it is no surprise that a goodly number of Loyalists left, taking what they could carry and resettled in different parts of British North America. Although the Treaty of Paris in 1783 formally put an end to the Revolutionary War and established the Thirteen Colonies as a Republic, animosities to the Loyalists persisted. Therefore, in 1786, John took his family (11 children!) to Upper Canada and settled in Stamford in the Niagara Frontier. A few years later, when a delegation from Philadelphia came up to ask him to return he admitted that he was too old to start over and his now large family was well established in Upper Canada.

John Sr. died in 1812. Five of his sons served in the war of 1812 in Butler’s Rangers.

Miles O’Reilly UE

Editor’s Note: You may think that Butler’s Rangers were only a Revolutionary War unit. However, Col. John Butler settled in the Niagara Peninsula area, as did most of the men of Butler’s Rangers. He served there as deputy superintendent of the Indian Department until his death in 1796. Wikipedia notes, “Although advanced in age, many of Butler’s Rangers lived to fight in the War of 1812, which they did with the same spirit which had distinguished them in the Revolutionary War.”

COMMEMORATION OF WAR OF 1812 SOLDIERS

On Saturday, September 12th, members of the Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry – “the Fencibles” – together with members of Cataraqui United Church, held a ceremony commemorating the eight veterans of the War of 1812 who are buried in the cemetery beside the church, recently renamed the Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui. (The Fencibles are a group of soldier re-enactors. Their predecessors played a large role in the War of 1812.)



Due to COVID-19 regulations, visitors and most of the soldiers wore masks. Other interested parties attended through Zoom, the software that permits “cloud” meetings. One person recorded the actions on his cell phone, streamed it through Zoom, and people could watch the activities in the Heritage Cemetery from the comfort and safety of their home computer or tablet. An interesting juxtaposition of 21st century technology with 19th century military!

Microphones and speakers permitted the audience to hear what was being said, even though seated at a distance: another case of juxtaposing technology and history.

As the ceremony progressed, a unit of four soldiers marched up to each gravesite of an 1812 veteran. A small plaque had already been placed into the ground at the foot of each tombstone and covered with a red cloth. After the veteran’s name was read aloud, the officer used his sword to move aside the cloth and unveil the plaque.



Note that the Fencibles are all wearing black masks, which blend well with their uniforms and hats. Those who could not wear a mask, such as the fifer in the band unit which played both *God Save the Queen* and *O Canada* to begin and end the ceremony, were positioned well apart from other soldiers.



It had been hoped that some relatives of the veterans could participate in the unveiling. Several distant nieces and nephews (distant both genealogically and geographically) expressed interest but inability to attend in person. Zoom provided them an excellent opportunity to witness the honouring of their great-great-uncle. The live audience, some in period attire, were suitably distanced and masked.

The War of 1812 Veterans honoured are as follows:

Daniel David born August 1790, died December 16, 1878

Thomas Graham born September 12 1787, died October 30, 1847 (Loyalist descendant)

John Grass Sr. born about 1773 died January 18, 1849 (son of Michael Grass, who is also buried in this cemetery)

Nathaniel S. Hatch died May 8, 1857 aged 81 years 9 months & 13 days

Francis Powley died October 22, 1861 in Toronto (not sure if this is the Loyalist or his son; evidently his remains were returned here for burial next to family members)

Gilbert Purdy born about 1763 died January 5, 1851 (Loyalist)

Jesse Purdy born about 1794 died August 22, 1881 (son of Loyalist)

James Reed (headstone says James Reid) died October 5, 1842 aged 56 years



About to unveil the plaque at the foot of Gilbert Purdy's tombstone.

Photos captured from the Zoom live stream using Snagit software.

USING FIND-A-GRAVE FOR FAMILY RESEARCH

On Saturday, September 26th, Kingston and District Branch held our first virtual meeting, using the free Zoom software. (Free for individual users; we were kindly given access to the subscription held by the Dominion Office, so that our meeting could run longer than 40 minutes. We were also given some training on what the Host of a Zoom meeting does, by UELAC Board Member Liz Adair. Thanks to Liz and to Jim Bruce of Dominion office, who set up the meeting.)

Our speaker was **BRIAN SHANNON**. Brian, who has strong Acadian and Loyalist roots, retired to Amherstview from Nova Scotia in 2016. Despite his roots being in Nova Scotia, his family has a connection to Kingston. Brian's father trained here before going overseas during World War II, his uncle Walter lived here for many years, and his son Colin went to RMC and married a Kingston girl. Brian is a member of the board of the Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui (formerly known as Cataraqui United Church Cemetery).

Brian has been doing genealogy for about 23 years, and joined the website [findagrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com) about four years ago. As he explained, Findagrave is free to everyone to use without joining or signing in. However, if you do join the site (also free), you can then do things like submit corrections to memorial information, create memorials for people not yet found on the site, and upload photographs of tombstones.

Brian's presentation began with a short video recorded at the September 12th commemoration of War of 1812 veterans buried in the Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui (see previous article). Brian has been photographing stones in the cemetery for the past couple of years and uploading them to Findagrave. This can benefit people around the globe who may be related to an individual buried in a cemetery far from them, but can thus see the tombstone and other information.



A Findagrave memorial entry generally consists of birth and death dates for an individual, burial place, and perhaps links to other family members. These linkages do not happen automatically, but you can create them yourself if you're a member. You can "own" one or more memorials; many have been created by volunteers living near a

cemetery who have no connection to the person and are usually happy to turn over ownership to a relative upon request. The memorial may have a photograph of the tombstone, and perhaps of the person if someone has uploaded one. There can be links to an individual's parents, siblings and children. One memorial entry can lead you to many more family members. Some memorials include additional information if added by the contributor, such as a newspaper obituary, marriage date, etc.

You can search Findagrave for memorials by name of the individual, or by geographical area.

Brian pointed out a memorial where he had left "a flower" on a date in 2018. This flower remains on the site forever, and might serve in future to inform a site visitor that Brian is also interested in this individual and may be a relative of the visitor as well.

Brian then discussed the Findagrave app, available for use on a smartphone (also free, from either the Apple store or Googleplay). The app provides exactly the same access you get to the website on a desktop computer, with a few bonuses: because a smartphone has GPS ability, you can use it to direct you to the exact location of a specific grave. Brian played a short video he'd

recorded, showing him typing in the name of a cemetery (St. Linus in Bath, Ontario) and being directed by the GPS how to drive from his home to the cemetery. He then walked over to a tombstone not hitherto shown on Findagrave.

In the video, Brian took a photo of the tombstone on his phone. He also typed into the Findagrave app the person's name and dates (read off the stone) and the name of the cemetery. He uploaded that entry to Findagrave, and we could then see that it was now on the website. The upload captured the GPS information associated with the stone. So now a person looking for the stone could use their own phone and the app and be guided right to the correct stone. This would obviously be of really great benefit when hunting for stones in larger cemeteries – thinking of Cataraqi Cemetery, across the road from the Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqi, which covers 91 acres and has well over 40,000 burials. (Note: your phone needs to have data access turned on in order to access Findagrave in the cemetery.)

Finally, Brian discussed “virtual cemeteries” in Findagrave. As well as providing public linkages among the stones of various family members, you can create a Virtual Cemetery that contains anyone you'd like to associate with other individuals. For example, Brian has created a Virtual Cemetery for the eight War of 1812 soldiers commemorated September 12th. Yes, they all rest in the same cemetery, but because they are not related to each other, they could not be linked as family members can; but creating a virtual cemetery for War of 1812

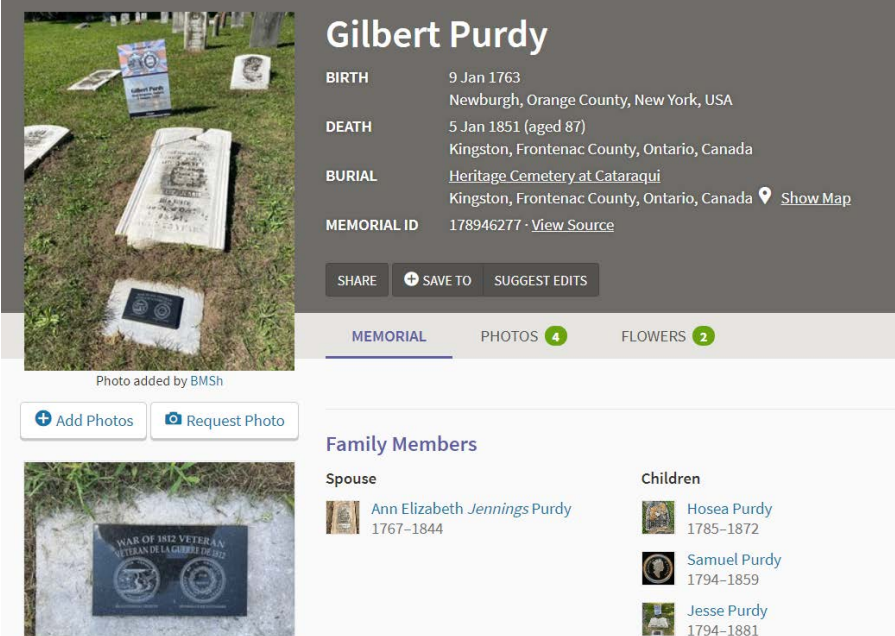
soldiers means that other veterans buried elsewhere in Canada could be added to the same War of 1812 Veteran Virtual Cemetery. Virtual cemeteries may only be accessed from the Profile page of the Findagrave member, who can control whether anyone else can see them. It can make a convenient way to group people from various family lines in one place for future reference.

COMING EVENTS

Sat., Nov. 21, 10:00 am: Kingston Branch OGS meeting, Michael Onesi, “The Ultimate Black Sheep: What Happens When You Discover a Serial Killer in Your Family Tree”. Free to all, but register ahead of time at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdOypqzpkG9eO86leygS0QLRuexSEpW6W>

November 28: Our Annual General Meeting. PLEASE volunteer for a vacant position, or to take over from some current and long-time incumbents, particularly those covering more than one position. House and Hospitality will also become vacant. Contact the branch as soon as possible to let us know your intention. We really cannot continue much longer without a Secretary and a Newsletter Team. Email anytime to kingston.uelac@gmail.com; your message will be passed along to the appropriate person(s).



Gilbert Purdy

BIRTH 9 Jan 1763
Newburgh, Orange County, New York, USA

DEATH 5 Jan 1851 (aged 87)
Kingston, Frontenac County, Ontario, Canada

BURIAL Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqi
Kingston, Frontenac County, Ontario, Canada [Show Map](#)

MEMORIAL ID 178946277 - [View Source](#)

SHARE + SAVE TO SUGGEST EDITS

MEMORIAL PHOTOS 4 FLOWERS 2

+ Add Photos + Request Photo

Family Members

Spouse
Ann Elizabeth Jennings Purdy 1767–1844

Children
Hosea Purdy 1785–1872
Samuel Purdy 1794–1859
Jesse Purdy 1794–1881

Part of the Findagrave page for Gilbert Purdy, War of 1812 veteran - taken after unveiling of the plaque below the stone.

January 23, 2021 Kingston & District UEL Branch Meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom (link to be sent out later). **St. Alban the Martyr UEL Memorial Church in Adolphustown: its history and its future.** The church was built in 1884, near the site where Loyalists landed in 1784. Diane Berlet, church historian, and Axel Thesberg, Chair of the Friends of St. Alban's, will discuss the group's plans for its preservation and re-imagined role in the community, now that it was deconsecrated in 2018.



UELAC Conference & Historical Event 2021: “Join the rEvolution – Come Be Part of the Story” – May 27 – 31, 2021

Join the rEvolution has never been a more apt slogan than it is now. Bridge Annex, the 1st virtual branch of the United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada (UELAC), is proud to announce we will be hosting the first virtual conference in UELAC history!

Innovation is what Bridge Annex was founded on, and the pandemic has shown us this foundation allows us to take our vision for an interactive and memorable conference & historical event and apply it to a virtual platform.

Think virtual is boring? Think again! We’re producing a mix of multimedia and live elements to engage our audience. The opportunity of a virtual conference is that we can produce expanded content and bring in partners from across Canada and the US to participate and share their knowledge.

In fact, our list of possibilities just keeps growing because of the enormous enthusiasm and sense of cooperation from our many partners on this journey. We are pleased to announce that our major partner Cornwall Tourism is on board. Their support has been critical to developing our vision for sharing the rich history of the region – Loyalist and more. We’ll be hosting live elements on the ground from Cornwall and Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry (SDG) Counties throughout the conference weekend.

Our tagline still holds true: Join the rEvolution – Come Be Part of the Story. Our conference and historical weekend will allow you to connect with others and participate in meaningful ways. We’re excited to share our new promotional video <https://youtu.be/Db0xwE06Rio> to share a taste of what is to come. Further details will be posted on our website in the coming weeks:

www.uelbridgeannex.com/2021

It’s going to an incredible journey, so in May 2021, Come Be Part of the Story!

Kingston and District Branch, United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada			
2020 Executive			
President	Peter Milliken	Past President	Dean Taylor
Vice-President	Miles O’Reilly	Secretary	VACANT
Treasurer	Nancy Cutway	Genealogist	Anne Redish
Hospitality	Maureen Long	House	Jim Long
Library	Alex Ross	Membership	Lorraine Sherren
Merchandise	Alex Ross	Newsletter	VACANT
Programme	Jean Rae Baxter	Publicity	Nancy Cutway
Website	Correine Weichec	Welcome	Lorraine Sherren
To contact the Branch, email kingston.uelac@gmail.com			
We gratefully acknowledge a Heritage Organization Development Grant from the Ontario government which has assisted in the production of this newsletter.			



Kingston and District Branch
P.O. Box 635, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4X1
<http://www.uelac.org/Kingston-Branch>

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2021

You may also renew online at <https://uelac.ca/signup/#JoinAddRenew> where you can pay with a credit card or PayPal.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: Home () _____ Business () _____

Email: _____

Please make your cheque payable to the *Kingston & District Branch, UELAC*.
For continuous membership, please renew NO LATER than December 1, 2020.

Renewal Membership Dues for 2021

Individual Membership \$45.00
Family Membership (all at same address) \$60.00
(name(s) of additional family members): _____

If you belong and pay full dues to another Branch, you may maintain a membership in Kingston Branch for only \$15.00. \$15.00

Please indicate your preferences:

- I am planning to renew online. [Please complete this form anyway, and send a scan of the signed form to the Membership Chair at sherren69@gmail.com so we know your preferences as shown below.]
- I am willing to receive my newsletter by e-mail to the address shown above.
- I prefer to receive my newsletter by postal mail.

I am willing for my phone number/e-mail address to be shared with other members of the Branch. Yes No

Signature: _____