

CATARAQUI LOYALIST TOWN CRIER



The Kingston and District Branch

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, January 23, 2021, 2:00 p.m. Diane Berlet, church historian, and Axel Thesberg, Chair of the Friends of St. Alban's, will speak about **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. We will hear about the group's plans for its preservation and re-imagined role in the community, now that it was deconsecrated in 2018.

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: you can listen-only. Questions are submitted by typing into the Chat box.) Initially you will be in a 'waiting room' until the "host" opens the meeting and adds you to the meeting.

Here's the link to the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtfuugrjMqG9y0g5u0mwDUxJBY9Mr725G1>

Please register beforehand. Zoom will send you a Confirmation Email: keep it handy, so you can easily click on the link it will contain and join the meeting just before 2 pm on January 23rd. Feel free to share the link above with anyone who may be interested.

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 28, 2020

It was the shortest AGM on record, since the minutes of the 2019 AGM and the Reports on 2020 had been circulated to all members by email. Unfortunately those few who have not provided the branch with an email address did not receive the documents.

If yours was not among the 30 computers or devices logged in to our Zoom meeting on November 28th (which meant we had over 32 attendees, since several couples shared the same screen), then you missed an excellent presentation by our speaker Sue Bazely, as well as the opportunity to contribute to the operation of your branch.

More about Sue's talk below. But for the moment, let's discuss our meeting results. It was very disappointing that our executive now has more vacancies than after the last AGM. We need people to step forward and claim the unfilled positions:

Secretary

Hospitality Chair

Newsletter Editor

House Chair

PLEASE write kingston.uelac@gmail.com to tell us which position you can do or share with a co-chair. Please don't wait to be asked: we don't know your interests and aptitudes well enough to match you with your ideal position, so you need to ask for it. (P.S. If your wish would be for a position presently shown on page 8 as being filled, there could certainly be negotiations to free up a position for you. As you will note, several individuals are presently holding two positions out of a sense of duty.)



THE MANY LAYERS OF THE LOWER BURIAL GROUND, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD AND UNDER THE CHURCH HALL, KINGSTON, ONTARIO



Screen snapshot of Sue Bazely during the Zoom meeting.

Susan Bazely, MA

Sue began by outlining the history of the Kingston area.

The Haudenosaunee moved through the area on a seasonal basis about 1000 to 1500 years ago, following the migrations of animals. About 1450 they settled a small village on the banks of the Little Cataraqui River.

In 1673 the first Europeans arrived, when the French built a fur trading post and named it Fort Frontenac. There were actually three versions of the French fort, each larger and stronger than its predecessor.

As white settlers grew in number under both French and English rule, their beliefs and religious practices made it necessary to open burial grounds. In 1783 the Lower Burial Ground (then without the adjective "Lower") was laid out as the Loyalists arrived. It was used for interring Kingstonians of all denominations until 1808 when St. Columba Cemetery was opened for burial of Roman Catholics. (The Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui, located next to Cataraqui United Church on Sydenham Road, opened about the same time but was of course far beyond the confines of the town of Kingston.)

When the Upper Burial Ground (now McBurney Park) was opened in 1825, residents had to begin referring to this one as the Lower Burial Ground in order to differentiate them. And in 1827 the Union cemetery was opened, for those of non-conformist denominations (now under Bethel Church on Johnson Street).

St. Paul's Church was erected in 1847 – smack in the middle of the Lower Burial Ground. Little consideration was given to the fact that the walls were rising over top of some graves.

In 1854, after a fire, they enlarged the north end of the church. In 1872 the Sunday School was constructed, now part of the church hall where our branch has been meeting. Again, there would have been earlier grave markers on that land to the west and north of the initial church.

In 1931, water and sewer services were added, and again that digging must have disturbed at least some early graves.

In 1937, church member Charles Long wrote up a history of the church and transcribed some burial records. He mentioned “71 memorials under the parish hall.”

In 1959-60 an addition joined the Sunday School building to the church. In 1970 the land to the east and north of the church building was paved over for parking.

The Lower Burial Ground Restoration Society was formed in 2008. This volunteer group has overseen such things as rebuilding of the western wall of the churchyard along Montreal Street, after a car crashed into it and took down a portion of the stone wall. They have completed several projects to restore particular graves such as the Forsyth Monument and the Stuart Lair.

The current project of the LBGRS is the “Cultural Resources Inventory Project”. Stage 1 involves archaeological assessment. During the summer of 2019, archaeologist Sue Bazely led a team of volunteers, working in cooperation with some technical staff and in difficult working conditions such as low headroom and dust, to clear out all the debris that covered many stones and pieces of stones under the church hall. They were not permitted to actually dig or lay out a grid, as is the normal practice for archaeological explorations. Instead, they slowly and painstakingly brushed off the dust and debris which had accumulated over the gravestones since the hall was erected in 1872.



Part of 360 Panoramic view under the Church Hall, prior to cleaning

Since the team could not drive in spikes for a grid, they had to settle for anchoring 8 screws in the foundation walls and running strings between them, with some little flags to mark positions. Sue had wanted to use GPS to establish reference points but could not acquire the satellites from this underground position. Instead, they made use of City of Kingston engineering data drawn up by surveyors over time so they could establish elevations. Two professional surveyors kindly donated their time and expertise to work out, from known location points outside of the churchyard, at what elevation the areas under the church hall and church were located.



Same view after clearing of debris



Working conditions

Sue had planned to record features they uncovered using apps on her phone, but there was too much dust in the air to risk using the phones, so they had to resort to old-fashioned methods: paper and pencil. Sue had to teach the graduate students, who were well versed in 21st century technology, how to use tape measures and plumb bobs to note the measurements.

Anne Redish's husband Adair later entered their data into a computer-aided design program (CAD) so the careful mapping could be printed out.

They were able to work with faculty and students from Queen's University who used a terrestrial laser scanner using LIDAR to get a spatially comprehensive scan of the crawl space under the church hall. Sue was able to show us a 3D image of the site.





The actual 3D image can be rotated and viewed from all angles.

Another 21st-century technology that the team were able to use is Ground Penetrating Radar, used in the churchyard to detect where there may be burials with no markers. GPR looks for subsurface disturbances. They were also able to use this at one end of the basement, and found some anomalies which need to be studied in more detail: they could represent burials or else naturally occurring boulders.

Right: Getting the GPR machine into the small entry to the space was a major accomplishment.

All photos in this story were obtained from screen shots from the Zoom meeting, with gracious permission of Sue Bazely.

A third technique, Reflective Transformation Imaging, was demonstrated to our branch some years ago at a meeting. Its use on gravestones above ground is well described with accompanying



photos on the website of the Lower Burial Ground Restoration Society, <https://www.lowerburialground.ca/conservation/>. While tripods and tall lights could not be used under the church hall, trouble lights with incandescent lightbulbs held beside stones at different angles made it possible to bring out details that were otherwise impossible to read.

The photo on the next page is of the tombstone of William Atkinson. A sister of William married Robert Graham. Both William Atkinson and Robert Graham came with Michael Grass and other members of the Company of Adventurers who arrived in Kingston in 1783. It's believed that William Atkinson's wife was named Eliza. These facts were provided by Joan Lucas UE, long-time and recently retired Branch Genealogist for Kawartha Branch, and a distant relative of William Atkinson.



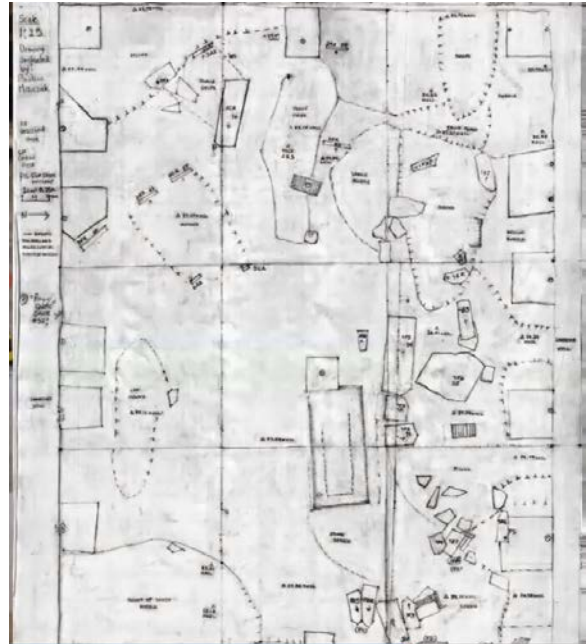
Reflective Transformation Imaging made the stone legible.

The stone, which was found lying under the rubble that was cleared, reads “William Atkinson of Kilburn in Yorkshire died the 7th April 1805 aged 54 yr 9 mo and 4 dy.”

Sue calculated that volunteers contributed 795 hours to the project during the summer of 2019. They had, of course, planned to continue the project during the summer of 2020, until Covid-19 intervened. Still, she was proud to say that they had already transformed a nineteenth-century garbage dump back to a sacred landscape.

Among the debris they removed were several Bibles and a 1903 sex manual. There were loose pieces of headstones and footstones, including 20 fragments recovered from the furnace room under the church. All dust was carefully screened for any human remains, and the small fragments of bone that were recovered will be re-buried on the site. In response to a question, Sue stated that it is impossible to know how many burials in the Lower Burial Ground have been disturbed over time by the various construction operations. At least they have restored dignity to a small portion of it.

And no, they did not find the grave of Molly Brant!



Map of underhall area produced by Adair Redish using CAD

IN MEMORIAM – DORIS WEMP UE

Doris Wemp was a member of Kingston and District Branch since 1999 -- for 21 years. She served as Membership Chair for a number of years, and continued to assist at the Welcome table afterward.

Doris contributed two stories that can be found on our branch website: one about her UEL ancestor, [George Storring](#), and one about [Oswald Wemp](#) (1897-1917), a World War I soldier who was descended from Loyalist **Barent Wemp** and whose WWI medal ended up in North Bay, Ontario before being returned to Amherst Island.

Doris was an avid champion of UEL history, and assisted her brother and sister to obtain certificates from one ancestor after claiming her own from several different Loyalists. Our 2016 newsletter (no. 4) read:

“Congratulations to Ron Storring and his sister Mary Ann Bell, who were presented with certificates at the lunch for their proven descent from Hermanus See UEL. Mary Ann was unable to attend, so her sister Doris Wemp accepted her certificate. Both were presented by UELAC Dominion President Barb Andrew.”

Right: Ron Storring, UELAC President Barb Andrew, Doris Wemp. Photo by Nancy Cutway.



Doris passed away suddenly on December 5, 2020. Our sympathies to her family, who wrote a loving tribute to her which can be found online at <https://thewhig.remembering.ca/obituary/doris-wemp-1081118417>



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			
2021 Executive			
President	Peter Milliken	Past President	Dean Taylor
Vice-President	Miles O'Reilly	Secretary	VACANT
Treasurer	Nancy Cutway	Genealogist	Anne Redish
Historian	Richard Parry	Hospitality	VACANT
House	VACANT	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.



Are you reading a boring black-and-white print version of this newsletter? You could be seeing all the photos in full colour, and as large as you want, if you were reading this on the screen of your computer or tablet. If you would prefer to receive the *Town Crier* by email as an enlargeable PDF file, please contact the branch address, kingston.uelac@gmail.com.

TREASURER'S REPORT
Kingston and District Branch UELAC
For the Year 2020

Bank balance at 1 January 2020 \$12,405.92

INCOME

Certificate fees received	720.00	
HODG Grant	1,545.00	
Interest Income on GICs	1,093.94	
Membership dues received	610.00	
Merchandise Sales	58.20	
Other Income (Chard Fund)	<u>5,593.98</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		9,621.12

EXPENSES

Certificate fees remitted to UELAC	730.00	
Donations	2,600.00	
Hall rent (incl 4 mtgs 2019, 1 in 2020)	510.00	
Insurance	698.00	
Membership expenses	47.48	
Merchandise purchase for resale	36.00	
Newsletter	173.26	
Office Expenses	307.67	
Per-Capita Dues remitted to UELAC	1,412.50	
Postal box	266.68	
Programme	398.31	
Publicity	<u>184.07</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		7,363.97

NET GAIN ON YEAR \$ 2,257.15

BANK BALANCE AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2020 \$14,663.07

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Cutway UE
Branch Treasurer

NOTE: The Branch has agreed to financial commitments regarding signage and marking of Loyalist graves at the Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui. Those plans have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, making our account seem to be making a profit. It is hoped that the project can proceed in 2021 or 2022, at which point our financial picture will more properly match our non-profit status.



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. This is the last reminder you will receive from us.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: Home () _____ Business () _____

Email: _____

Please make your cheque payable to the *Kingston & District Branch, UELAC.*

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: _____