

# CATARAQUI LOYALIST TOWN CRIER



*The Kingston and District Branch*

*P.O. Box 635, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4X1*

[www.uelac.org/Kingston-Branch](http://www.uelac.org/Kingston-Branch)

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

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

**Volume 40, No. 2 – March 2021**

**NEXT MEETING – Saturday, March 27, 2021, 2:00 p.m. Richard Parry, branch historian, will speak about **The 1786 Ernestown Project.****

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/j/86552288079>

Keep this newsletter handy, so you can easily click on the link and join the meeting just before 2 pm on March 27th. Feel free to share the link above with anyone who may be interested.

## **OUR MEETING ON JANUARY 23, 2021**

We were pleased to see over 35 logins to the Zoom meeting, which meant about 40 folks were in attendance since we know some couples were sharing a screen.

After a brief summary of the activities of the branch over the past couple of months, we were privileged to see an excellent presentation about St. Alban the Martyr United Empire Loyalist Memorial Church in Adolphustown. Diane Berlet, historian of the former church, told of how the arrival of Loyalists in Adolphustown was behind the building of the church, and how a continuing tribute is paid to the Loyalists through the memorial tiles adorning the interior of the church. Axel Thesberg, Chair of Friends of St. Alban's, spoke about future plans.

Diane reminded us that the Loyalists first arrived at Adolphustown in 1784 after wintering near Sorel, Quebec. They were quickly assigned plots of land, although many never settled on them, choosing instead to trade or sell them. Those who did settle around the growing village of Adolphustown did eventually build a frame church as a place of worship.



*Re-enactment of the 1784 arrival at Adolphustown.*



*The old church built 1822.*

This is a wall in the old burying ground at the landing site. It is said that the land for a cemetery was set aside on the day of arrival as a baby had died on the journey. There are many unmarked graves where perhaps wooden crosses once stood. Surviving stones were placed in the wall when the cemetery was restored in 1955 by the Toronto Branch of the UELAC. There is a UEL Research Centre and Museum near the Landing Site (in the former home of Loyalist David Allison) and a campsite and park maintained by Quinte Branch UELAC.



There was also a cemetery established around the first wooden Anglican church and there are gravesites of some of the original landing party, such as the stone (shown next page) marking the resting place of William Ruttan, which was recently restored by the Quinte Branch of the UEL. A commission has been set up to identify gravesites of War of 1812 participants: thus far three have been identified in the St. Alban's cemetery and will be marked at a special ceremony in June, 2021.



In 1884, there was a three-day celebration of the Centennial of the arrival of the Loyalists. Visitors from all over descended on Adolphustown for various festivities including the dedication of an obelisk in the park near where the above wall can now be found. However, the new rector of St. Alban's, Rev. Richard Sykes Forneri, felt that an obelisk was not nearly enough, and he embarked on plans and fundraising for a new stone church.



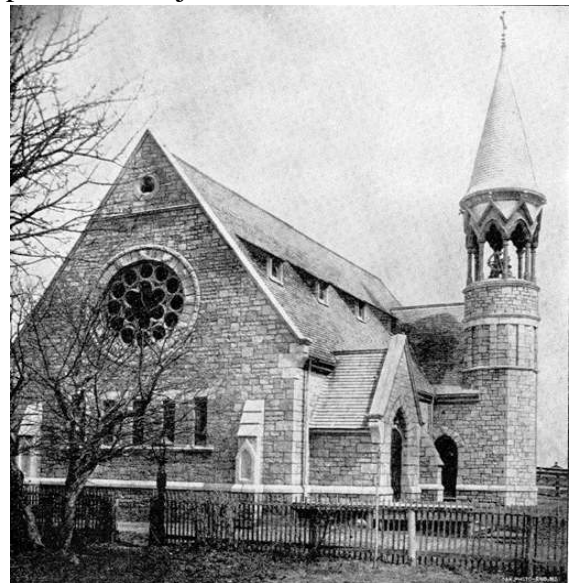
*Stone of Loyalist William Ruttan..*



*1884. Note standing tombstones to rear of obelisk, some now in wall.*

Rev. Forneri hired Joseph Powers, the foremost architect in Kingston, and secured a plan for a mini Neo Gothic Cathedral that costed out at \$5,000, a great deal of money at the time. His vision must have seemed unrealistic to his small group of parishioners, just 20 families. Rev. Forneri set out on a year-long, province-wide quest to raise pledges for the required funds, which turned out in the end to be \$8,000. He appealed to Loyalist descendants, travelling to preach in Toronto, Niagara, Hamilton, Ottawa and even Montreal. Miraculously he achieved his goal and the cornerstone of the new St. Alban the Martyr United Empire Loyalist Memorial Church was laid June 17, 1884 by then Lieutenant Governor, John Beverly Robinson. John Beverly's UEL ancestor, Christopher Robinson is featured in a memorial tile in the church, the only green tile amongst the blue and beige.

In his travels Rev. Forneri promoted the idea of a United Empire Loyalist Memorial Church by seeking sponsorship for memorial tiles to be mounted in the church, paid for by the descendants of Loyalists to honor their ancestor. A tile cost \$7 or \$14, depending



*Church built 1884.*

on colour. You could provide the wording you'd like to see on it, although surviving order forms illustrate the fact that wording was edited for brevity.



The order was then sent off to the Minton pottery works in Stoke-on-Trent, England, where the tile would be manufactured. The architectural plan called for 64 tiles but the orders only trickled in and it was to take 25 years before the envisioned tile frieze was completed.

Diane pointed out these are not hand-painted tiles, as many have thought. Rather, they are encaustic: meaning that the designs and lettering were all carefully inset by hand before the tiles were fired. This is a rare technique, developed by Herbert Minton in the 1850s based on his study of 13<sup>th</sup> century tiles at Westminster Abbey. The only other major location of encaustic tiles in North America is the lobby and hallways of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, DC.

A few years ago Diane Berlet presented the building's curator with a copy of her book about the tiles. The curator was most interested in hearing more about the manufacture of the encaustic tiles at the Minton pottery works, which were produced for a period of only 50 years in the latter half of the 1800s.

Not all Loyalists commemorated were local, nor were all Anglicans. Rev. John Bethune was the founder of the first Presbyterian church west of Quebec and also grandfather of Dr. Norman Bethune, noted Canadian surgeon.



Richard Cartwright was a very successful entrepreneur in the Kingston area. Later a judge and a politician in Upper Canada, he was married to Magdalen Secord, whose sister-in-law was Laura Ingersoll Secord.





Other notable architectural features of St. Alban's include outstanding stained glass windows installed over a period of 130 years, and a tower designed to hold a bell that never hung in this church but was cast in Bristol, England in 1690 and gifted to the original church. The unique hand-crafted wooden ceiling may well have been constructed by local boat-builders. All these make it a wonderful building. However, the congregation dwindled and in 2018 it was closed.



The Friends of St. Alban's group are now planning to purchase the building and rectory, and are planning for its future use as a museum and a community meeting place to serve the arts, social events, whoever would want to use this magnificent space. They are fund-raising for funds to restore the tower and perform other work. Their [Strategic Plan](#) outlines plans for 2021 and beyond. You can be kept apprised of their progress and of other news and events by [subscribing](#) to their mailing list or by following the [Facebook page](#). To become a member of *Friends of St. Alban's Adolphustown* or to order the richly illustrated book *The Loyalist Tiles of St. Alban's*, please contact [info@friendsofstalbans.ca](mailto:info@friendsofstalbans.ca).

At the end of the meeting, after Program Chair Jean Rae Baxter thanked the speakers, Treasurer Nancy Cutway displayed a cheque for the donation to *Friends of St. Alban's Adolphustown* approved by the branch executive at its last meeting for \$500. We encourage individual members to follow suit, as they are able.

*We thank FOSAA for permitting our use of photos from their presentation.*



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT ON 2020

*The report included in November was just numerical due to space. This is the full report on last year from Membership Chair Lorraine Sherren UE.*

The year 2020 has been a trying one for us all. We are all adjusting to the new idea of having to meet via Zoom calls rather than in person. The silver lining of this is that members who, in the past, were unable to attend our meetings due to simply living too far away (in some cases in another country!), can now join in the meetings and contribute their thoughts. This year we welcomed a record number of new members to our fold. Please welcome:

ADERS, Coco - Vancouver, BC [additional branch]

BOYCE, Alan Robert - Hartington, ON

BROWN, Paula Margo - Rockland, ON

BYERS, Beverly Diana - Kingston, ON

CHISHOLM, Stacey - Kingston, ON [additional branch]

CLEMENT, David - Liverpool, NY, USA

DEMETRIOFF, Jara - Nanaimo, BC

FAIRFIELD, Cullen (& Erica, Leah, Caris) - Oshawa, ON

HAGAR, Jeff - Napanee, ON

KAVIN, Karen - Santa Clarita, CA, USA

KEEFE, Barry - Kingston, ON

KINNEAR, Gail (& John) - Kingston, ON

LOWRIE, Cheryl - Oshawa, ON

MacDONALD, Wayne - Huntsville, ON

MEATHREL, Kim - Kingston, ON

OFFORD, Kevin - Kingston, ON

RUDICK, Deborah - Barrie, ON

SHAINI, Carol - Sacramento, CA, USA

SILVER, Steven - Odessa, ON

WHYTE, Bonnie - Kingston, ON

We look forward to one day being able to meet again in person, to hug, shake hands, partake in our chatty lunches, and sit in community with one another during our meetings. Until then, we hope that, if possible, you can join us in our Zoom meetings.



## CERTIFICATE PRESENTATIONS

Since we have not been able to present certificates in-person during 2020, Genealogist Anne Redish suggested those who had received one or more should exhibit them during our Zoom meeting. This was a new experience for all. Despite that, we did manage to view and record the certificates and recipients. Congratulations to all: we know it represents a great deal of research work.



Alan Boyce proved descent from two Loyalists, John PICKLE (Fredericksburg) and George SCHRYVER (Fredericksburg). Here he displays his Schryver certificate.

Cheryl Lowrie is now certified as UE through John CAVERLY who settled in Thurlow Twp, Hastings Co.





Wayne MacDonald obtained his UE through John LEMON of Glengarry County.

Richard Parry showed us the certificate from his Ernestown Loyalist ancestor Nicholas SIMMONS. He also got certificates for George FINKLE Sr. who also settled in Ernestown, and for James McMASTERS Sr. who settled briefly in Adolphustown and then went to Sidney Twp.



Miles O'Reilly received his certificate in the spring for proving direct descent from Loyalist John O'REILLY who settled in Lincoln Township, Niagara County.



## IRISH PALATINE BOOK

The Irish Palatine Special Interest Group of the Ontario Genealogical Society is proud to announce that their book *We Remember* has been printed and is ready for sale.

SIG Communications Chair Phyllis Chapman says, “*We Remember* is a compilation of information about Irish Palatine men who perished while serving in the Canadian Forces during the First World War. The book is 120 pages long and has a 2-page write-up for each of 46 Irish Palatine soldiers we were able to identify who made the ultimate sacrifice.”

This [We Remember excerpt](#) contains the cover page, foreword, list of soldiers' names, as well as the index of all Irish Palatine names noted in the book. Many of these Palatine families are also Loyalist families, such as Dulmage, Embury, Switzer, etc.

Price: \$16.00, plus postage (CDN). Postage in Canada: \$5.00. International postage will be determined by the destination.

To order, please send an email to Chair, Chuck Wallace, at [ip-sigchair@ogs.on.ca](mailto:ip-sigchair@ogs.on.ca) with the subject line "We Remember Order".





## LIBRARY ADDITIONS

Our genealogist and librarian have been consulting through the lockdowns and came up with several purchases that will enhance our collection held at the Central Branch, Kingston Frontenac Public Library. As the lockdown lifts and the Library gradually re-opens, the library staff will be able to catalogue and process the books and add them to our shelves in the second-floor history room.

The books purchased in 2021 are:

*Loyalist History of Nova Scotia: On the Loyalist Trail* - by Brian McConnell, 2020

Indexed transcriptions by the Quebec Family History Society:

*Christ Church Montreal Marriage Index, 1766-1899*

*Christ Church Sorel, 1784-1899, Births, Marriages and Deaths*

*Garrison Anglican Church Montreal, 1790-1880*

*St. Gabriel's Presbyterian Church, Montreal, 1778-1925*

In addition, our branch donated \$200 to KFPL so they can purchase ebooks or books suitable for children and young adults on the subject of the United Empire Loyalists.

Look for these books to appear on the shelves soon.



## ONTARIO TOWNSHIP PAPERS AT FAMILYSEARCH.ORG

Several blogs were buzzing in January with this announcement:

Through an agreement with the Archives of Ontario, FamilySearch is making Ontario's Township Papers available on their website for free. They are filed alphabetically, and can be found at the following links:

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/185567?availability=Family%20History%20Library>  
(townships Abinger to Haldimand)

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/2759321?availability=Family%20History%20Library>  
(townships Hallowell to Zorra)

In order to access them, you must sign into or create a free account with FamilySearch. Please note that these records have not yet been indexed or transcribed, but hold a wealth of information, so is worth it for any researcher to check them out! They were previously only available at Family History Centres or affiliate libraries.

What do these papers have to do with Loyalists? The Archives of Ontario Research Guide 215, [From Grant to Patent: A Guide to Early Land Settlement records, ca. 1790 – ca. 1850](#) says:

The series of Crown land records called “the Township Papers” (RG 1-58) are a miscellaneous collection of documents about land. The staff of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests brought these records together as a way to sort and arrange otherwise unrelated land records. The records date from ca.1783 to ca.1870. If an individual document dealt specifically with a particular piece of property and did not appear to fit within another records series, it was placed within the Township Papers. After the department transferred the series to the Archives, our archivists continued to file miscellaneous material within the series.



The Township Papers include copies of orders-in-council, location certificates and tickets, assignments, certificates of settlement duties, correspondence and some wills. The records are arranged by township, town, or village and, within each township, by concession and then lot number. Once you know the particular lot of land the settler was granted, it is worth looking at the Township Papers since there may be records on the lot in question that will provide information about the settler.

Naturally, not every person had correspondence with the township clerk or other authorities, so there are gaps and variability. For example, the farmer on Lot 3 Con 3 may have protested his taxes often, but his neighbours on Lots 4 and 5 did not contribute any documents to this record set. At least you can now browse them from the comfort of home.



## UELAC CONFERENCE AND 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 are available on our website [www.uelbridgeannex.com/2021 - registration is now open.](http://www.uelbridgeannex.com/2021-registration)

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

Registration for the entire weekend of events is just \$50 and is apparently the same price whether you’re a UELAC member or not – so invite your friends and family to attend. It could be a great way to introduce them to United Empire Loyalists and the activities of UELAC.

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	<b>VACANT</b>
Treasurer	Nancy Cutway	Genealogist	Anne Redish
Historian	Richard Parry	Hospitality	<b>VACANT</b>
House	<b>VACANT</b>	Library	Alex Ross
Membership	Lorraine Sherren	Merchandise	Alex Ross
Newsletter	<b>VACANT</b>	Programme	Jean Rae Baxter
Publicity	Nancy Cutway	Website	Correine Weichec
Welcome	Lorraine Sherren		

To contact the Branch, email [kingston.uelac@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## COMING EVENTS

- **Kingston Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society** welcome all visitors to their meetings, currently taking place via Zoom. March 20: Michael More on “Getting to know TONI: The Ontario Name Index” and April 17: Mags Gauden, “Update on DNA Research”. Meetings begin at 10:00 am. Visit [kingston.ogs.on.ca](http://kingston.ogs.on.ca) to get the Zoom link and pre-register (free).
- **Kingston Historical Society** - Wednesday, April 14th @7:00 pm via Zoom - Dr. Tabitha Renaud will speak on “Without Words: The Communication Barrier between Indigenous Peoples and the Earliest European Explorers in North America.” Visit <https://www.kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca/> to get the Zoom link or email [info@kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca)
- **Marine Museum of the Great Lakes** is holding Virtual Meetings: registration required – fee \$5. Details <http://www.marmuseum.ca/education/nautical-nights> - upcoming on Wed. March 24, 7:00 p.m. MARK BOURRIE: “Bush Runner: Early French and Indigenous Relations”.

If that doesn't keep you busy enough, you can always begin work on another Loyalist Certificate application 😊 or writing a story of a Loyalist family for this newsletter.