

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, September 26, 2:00 p.m. Brian Shannon. "Using Find-a-Grave for Family Research". Brian was to speak to us in March, at the meeting that was cancelled at the start of the pandemic. This meeting will now 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/99029865228?pwd=ZGdCN0lDMFVCcm5CRW5tQ1p3WG9VZz09>

You don't need to preregister; just click the link on the 26th, about 10-15 minutes beforehand if you need to get the software 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.

ANOTHER CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

Miles O'Reilly's certificate arrived in Kingston this past spring. There could, of course, be no public presentation made to him, but he graciously dressed up in his best Loyalist-looking shirt so that his wife Susan could take this photo.



Miles' ancestry follows a direct line back to **John O'Reilly UEL**.

Miles writes, "The family folklore has it that John O'Reilly Sr. had been a Jacobite in Ireland and after the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745, he decided to leave and start a fresh life in North America. Accordingly, he pulled up stakes and sailed for Baltimore where he settled and established a school. To start afresh, he gave up Roman Catholicism, and joined the Church of England, gave up the Jacobite Pretenders, and

endorsed the King of England. He was successful, married, and had his first of many children in December, 1749, John O'Reilly, Jr. in Baltimore.

“The school prospered and eventually was taken over by the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia. In the next twenty-five years, rumblings were going on between the settlers and the English home country. Once things got hotter after the Declaration of Independence in 1776, people were having to make a decision of what further steps would be taken, and take sides. There was no easy decision to be made. Once the shooting started, the entire country was divided between the Patriots who wanted total independence to form a new country, and the Loyalists who wanted to find a way to settle their complaints with the Crown. A full out war ensued and battles swung back and forth, with thousands killed on both sides. England was also at war in Europe and could not divert all its troops to North America. The supply lines were stretched thinly and it was getting to be too much to fight two wars. In 1783 the Treaty of Paris was signed creating the United States.

“The Patriots had also suffered greatly and they took it out on the Loyalists. John O'Reilly Sr. then decided to give up the school and head north to British North America where he and his family settled in Upper Canada. It was said that several years later, a delegation from Philadelphia came up and tried to persuade him to return and resume his position with the University. However, he was now getting much older and could not be sure that all enmity had been assuaged against the Loyalists yet. His son, John Jr. would later become a Sergeant in Butler's Rangers together with several of his brothers, and received land in Stamford Township, Lincoln County, Niagara District.”

Thanks, Miles, for telling us about your Loyalist ancestor. We hope some of our newer members will do the same, particularly once they receive their certificate. Branch Genealogist Anne Redish reports that several members have been working industriously at home during the pandemic, assembling all their documentation to prove their descent from Loyalist ancestors. Those applications should be completed and approved this coming autumn. It is our hope that once the COVID-19 limitations on indoor meetings are lifted – whenever that may be – we'll all be able to congratulate them in person.

For another story from Miles, see page 9 below.



1855 Kingston Directory on Canadiana

1855 is too late for most Loyalists to be still alive, but their children could very well be listed in the “Directory of the city of Kingston, and the villages of Waterloo, Portsmouth, Williamsville and Barriefield, 1855”. You can find it at http://www.canadiana.ca/view/occihm.8_00139 -- and if you're not familiar with the Canadiana website, you should be. MANY digitized historical documents and books, once requiring a subscription, now all free to access.



Crowdsourcing Project at Queen's Archives

If you're willing to help fill your time by transcribing historic Kingston documents, you can read about it at <https://archives.queensu.ca/help-us-transcribe> and sign up to volunteer. There are examples of the types of handwritten documents needing to be transcribed, as well as instructions. All work done from your home, on your computer, at your pace.



Congratulations to the Fairfield Heritage Home Association on their new newsletter! It's a great read. Contact them to get Nos. 1 and 2 for 2020.



Fairfield Notes

A Closer Look at the Past *Issue 1, July 15, 2020*

The Fairfield Homestead Heritage Association welcomes you to our new digital newsletter! Safety measures in response to the Covid-19 virus have closed Fairfield House for visitors this summer. *Fairfield Notes* has been started to share more of the fascinating history of the Fairfield family and their historic house by means independent of an actual visit and tour of Fairfield House.

It will be a way to look more closely at the collections of artifacts and archival material that once were part of the lives of the Fairfield family. Fairfield House staff is working to prepare *Fairfield Notes* that will come to you in August and later in 2020. The publication will keep you up-to-date about other digital and social media events that the staff is now developing. This material has been researched and edited by Emma Wyse. We hope you enjoy! We'll welcome your suggestions and questions.

Do you know any fellow history enthusiasts who might be interested in *Fairfield Notes*? Please forward them a copy and suggest they send an email to **fairfield1793@gmail.com** to be added to our mailing list.



Issue 1 of "Fairfield Notes" contains a well-researched item about two artifacts in the Fairfield House collection: a "spying glass" included in the inventory of Stephen Fairfield's estate in 1820, and a kaleidoscope. Issue 2 examines a bird cage – keeping pet birds was very popular beginning in the early 1800s. Issue 3 spotlights a box of pastels and who was the family artist who used them.



If you're interested in seeing other Kingston-connected artifacts, the City of Kingston has a new website: KingstonCivicCollection.ca which the Kingston Whig-Standard reports "is being hailed as a milestone in the city's multi-year effort to digitize the civic collection using specialized software. The resulting database allows artifacts to be catalogued and searched by specific object or subject, such as mid-century modern paintings, the stained glass in City Hall's Memorial Hall, a selection of more than 1,500 wood hand planes from the MacLachlan Woodworking Museum and a series of original Group of Seven drawings." [June 8, 2020]

As it says on the site, it's very much a work in progress, hampered by the pandemic, but promises to display interesting items located in City Hall and elsewhere.



LOYALIST PETITIONS ONLINE

By Nancy Cutway UE

I recently listened to a webinar by Jane MacNamara, a Toronto-based genealogist. She pointed out that the images for the Upper Canada Land Petitions are now on familysearch.org as well as at Library and Archives Canada (LAC), and that the familysearch version has a better viewer and makes it easier to manipulate the images.

I decided to test this out. First I went to the LAC index at <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/land/land-petitions-upper-canada-1763-1865/Pages/land-petitions-upper-canada.aspx>. I searched for Platt Wood, my 4-gts-grandfather, who I have not really explored.

Surname	Given Name(s)	Place	Year	Volume	Bundle	Petition	Page(s)	Reference	Microfilm
Wood	Platt	York	1799	523A	W 4	54		RG 1 L3	C-2951
Wood	Platt	Charlotteville	1800	544A	W Leases 1798-1820	3		RG 1 L3	C-2967

I know Platt settled in Charlotteville, but I was particularly curious to see what he did in York; perhaps it was just a stopping point when he first arrived in Upper Canada after moving up from New Brunswick in company with other members of the former Queen's Rangers. (John Graves Simcoe had been their Colonel during the American Revolution, and once he was appointed as Lt. Governor of Upper Canada in 1791, numerous men from his former regiment moved to Upper Canada to live under his administration. He must have been an impressive leader.)

I made note of the year and details for the York reference. I then could have viewed the digitized microfilm on the LAC site using the link "How to Obtain Copies" from the results page. But following Jane MacNamara's suggestion, I went instead to familysearch.org, signed in to my free account, and then clicked on Search > Catalog. I typed in "Upper Canada" and the catalog told me to look in "Canada, Ontario" so I clicked on that. I scrolled down the resulting list until I came to "Land and Property" and then, from the 31 items on that page, I selected

Petitions for land grants and leases, 1791-1867

Author: Upper Canada. Executive Council

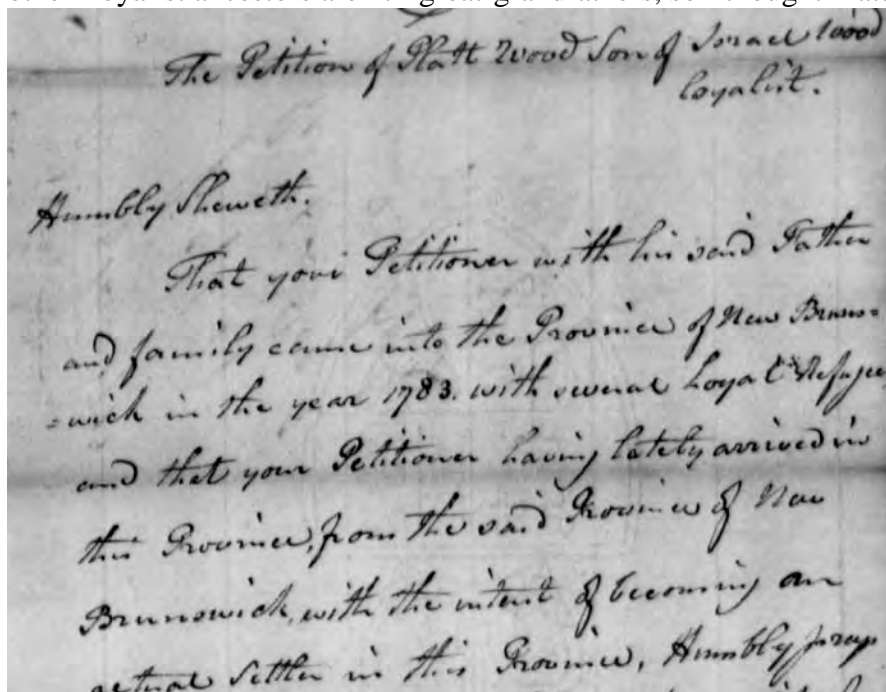
The LAC reel number is at the beginning of each entry. There are four pages – I had to go to page 3 in order to see

I clicked on the camera icon at the right-hand end of the line and that took me to the film images. (If I had not already signed in to my account, I would only see an icon of a microfilm reel, telling me to go to a Family History Centre or library.)

Yes, you still need to work your way to the exact page you want – but unlike the LAC site, you still start at the beginning of the film but you get to see 30 thumbnails at once. I picked one near the bottom right of the first screen, to see what bundle I was at. Enlarging it to readability (clicking on the + symbol at the top left corner of the page) told me I was at bundle W3 ref 74. I jumped ahead 100 pages (typing 130 in the image number box) and found I was still in Bundle W3. Another 200 pages landed on Bundle W4 #9. Platt's petition was on page 478. I could enlarge the pages and move around much more easily than on the LAC version.



Reading this 1799 petition made me realize that Platt Wood is only applying for land as a Son of a Loyalist. It's his father Israel Wood who was the Loyalist; I had not paid attention to the fact that Platt was only born on 25 January 1776 on Long Island, New York, so obviously not carrying a musket at age seven when the war ended! I was fooled by generational slip: all my other Loyalist ancestors are 4th-great-grandfathers, so I thought Platt would be as well.



That's why it is important to obtain every document you possibly can, for each Loyalist and descendant.

At least the FamilySearch site has made it a little easier to obtain the Upper Canada Land Petitions and download a copy of each page to your computer. (Remember that there are a number of pages to each petition. In this case there were 3 pages in total, but many are much longer.)

NEWS FROM CATARAQUI

For years, people have been confused by the similarity in names between Cataraqui Cemetery and Cataraqui United Church Cemetery. To ease the confusion, and to promote the fact that in 2018 it was designated as a Heritage Site, the United Church cemetery has a new name.



Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui

~A Dignified and peaceful resting place for loved ones since 1798~

965 Sydenham Road, Kingston Ontario, K7M 3L8

613-777-5260

July 15, 2020.

This note is to inform you that Cataraqui United Church Cemetery has changed its name to Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui. The main purpose of the change is to remove the confusion between us and Cataraqui Cemetery located across the road.

Our relationship to Cataraqui United Church and our by-laws have not changed. We are still managed by a dedicated volunteer Board.

The cremation lots now available will be identified as being located in Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui. To mitigate any confusion that may arise for those doing genealogical searches, we will note that Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui was formerly Cataraqui United Church Cemetery.

Our new contacts are:

telephone - 613-777-5260

email - HeritageatCataraqui@gmail.com

web page - heritagecemeteryatcataraqui.com

We will be pleased to answer any question or to provide more information.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Lewis
Board Chair
Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui

Some Loyalist descendants may wish to investigate the new Cremation Lot and Pillow Marker package now being sold by the cemetery. If you're descended from Michael Grass or any others, Loyalist or otherwise, who are buried there, you may now have your ashes buried close to theirs. Or perhaps you have no family connections, but might choose to rest in this peaceful place.

1788 MILITIA RETURN

Return of the Battalion of Kingston and Ernestown Militia 10th September 1788

Companies	Commissioned Officers				Staff		Sergts Present	Drummers Present	Effective Present & Abs.				Effective Total
	Majors	Captains	Lieutenants	Ensigns	Adjutants	Quartermasters			Present fit for Duty	Sick	Absent with leave	Absent without leave	
Major McDonell's	1	"	1	1	1	1	2	"	18	2	"	5	25
Captain Johnson's	"	1	"	1	"	"	3	"	30	"	6	"	36
Captain Simmons's	"	1	1	1	"	"	3	"	33	2	"	1	36
Captain Parrat's	"	1	1	1	"	"	3	"	36	2	"	"	38
Captain Dusenberry's	"	1	1	1	"	"	3	"	34	2	1	"	37
Captain Everit's	"	1	1	1	"	"	"	"	22	3	1	1	27
Captain Macaulay's	"	1	1	1	"	"	2	"	14	2	2	5	23
Captain Atkinson's	"	1	1	1	"	"	"	"	25	1	1	1	28
		7	7	8	1	1	10	"	212	14	1	13	250
NB Captain Dusenberry was Sick and Lieutenant Clark absent													

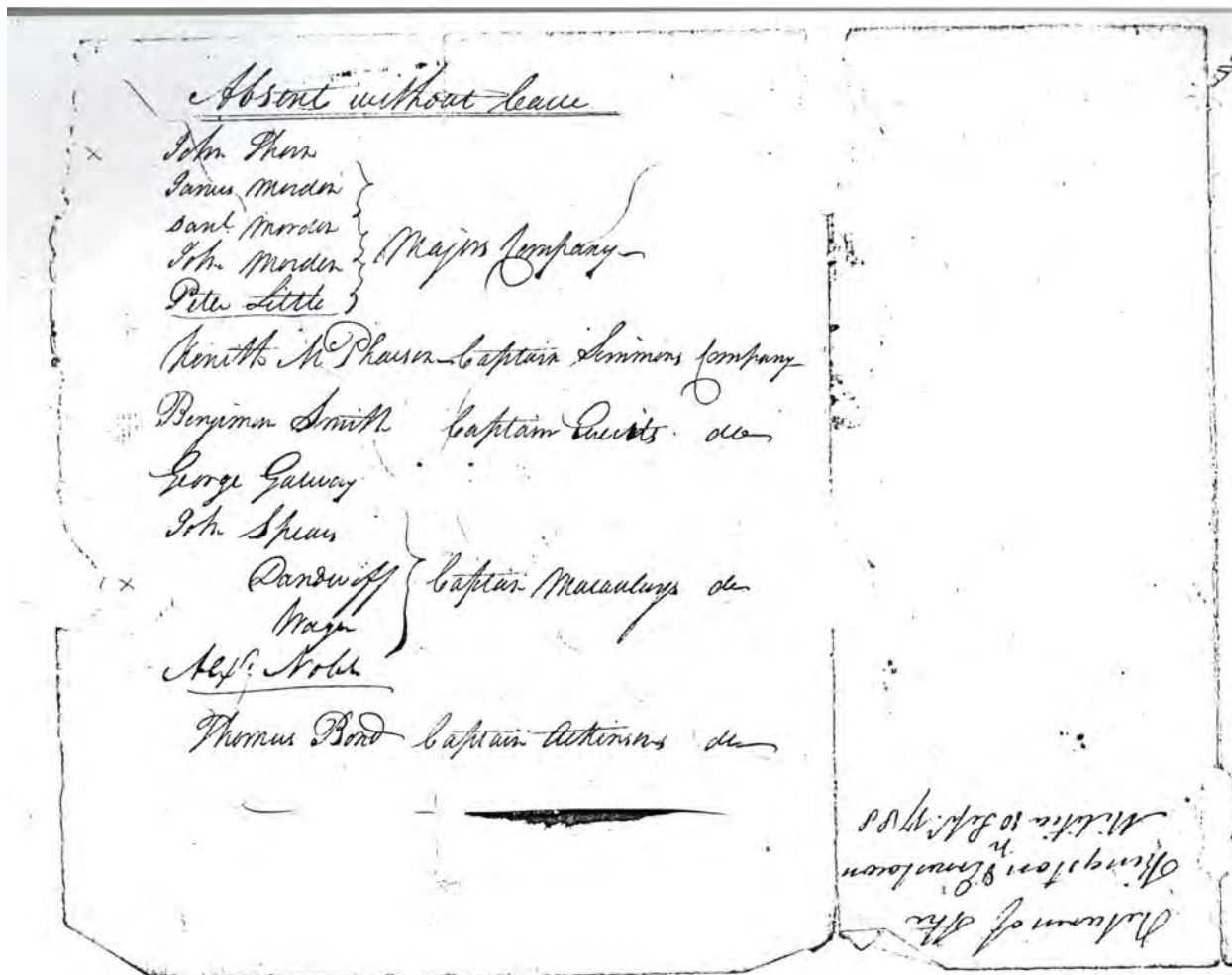
MS. Militia. Returns of the Battalion of Kingston and Ernestown Militia, 10 Sept. 1788. Original held by Metropolitan Toronto Library.

In case you have some difficulty reading the handwriting, the companies are: Major McDonell's; Captain Johnson's; Captain Simmons's; Captain Parrat's; Captain Dusenberry's; Captain Everit's; Captain Macaulay's; and Captain Atkinson's.

The headings across the top read: Majors, Captains, Lieutenants, Ensigns, Adjutants, Quartermasters, Serjeants present, Drummers present, Present fit for duty, Sick, Absent with leave, Absent without leave, Total.

The note across the bottom is: "NB Captain Dusenberry was sick and Lieutenant Clark absent."

Just as a point of interest, the four pages containing this copy and the page that follows, together with a library-created transcription, were purchased in 1978 by a researcher who thought at the time (erroneously) that her husband descended from Captain Simmons of Jessup's Rangers. Total cost was 40¢ for copies and 60¢ for mailing and service charge.



Absent without leave

John Thorn, James Morden, Dan'l Morden, John Morden, Peter Little – Major's Company

Kenith McPherson – Captain Simmons Company

Benjamin Smith – Captain Everits do ["do" for "ditto", for "company"]

George Galway, John Spears, Dandwoff, Wager, Alex^r Noble – Captain Macaulays do

Thomas Bond – Captain Atkinson's do

Wonder what punishment, if any, was given to those Absent Without Leave from the militia muster?



ONTARIO HISTORICAL PLAQUES

Although you may not be able to get out and drive to other parts of the province at the moment to hunt for historical plaques, you can see them online.

A gentleman named Alan Brown undertook in 2004 to photograph all the historical plaques in Ontario and make them available on a website: <http://www.ontarioplaques.com/index.html>

You can look in the index under Location, then by County or by City. So, for example, you could look under either Frontenac County or Kingston if you wanted to see the wording of the plaque about the King's Royal Rangers of New York, found on Ontario Street across from City Hall. You'll see a smaller version of the sign in the list; click on it and a new, larger version opens with more information including links to other plaques on the same topic or in the same place.

Mr. Brown, you're to be commended for undertaking this wonderful historical collection.



FOR SALE

Richard C. Nowell UE writes from London, Ontario:

I have (2) two complete period outfits that have seen very little use. I am eager to have someone else put them to use so I am offering everything up for sale.



Mr. Nowell did not indicate which regiment is represented by the military uniform.

Interested parties should contact him directly at richnowell48@gmail.com or (519) 471-4920.



O'REILLY FOLKLORE

By Miles O'Reilly UE

My father, Miles Breffni O'Reilly, had never been to Ireland. In fact, he had never been across the Atlantic. However, when I told him that I would be taking a year off upon final graduation in 1960 in order to go backpacking in Europe, he said that I must visit Cavan Town in County Cavan in Ireland, the seat of the O'Reillys. He had also heard that somewhere nearby there was a monument to one Myles the Slasher O'Reilly, so look out for that.

Cavan is located as the southernmost County in the Province of Ulster in the north of Ireland. Consequently, I found myself standing, backpack on my back, on the road approaching Cavan Town on a spring day in April, 1961. Birds singing, rhododendrons blooming. As I strolled into the town, on either side of the street were commercial establishments: O'Reilly's Green Grocer,

O'Reilly's Public House, O'Reilly's Bakery, O'Reilly's Hotel; in Toronto, the closest we could come to the name commercially was a locksmith, who had dropped the O' from his surname. After spending the night in O'Reilly's Hotel, I got instructions to find the memorial for Lord Miles O'Reilly which lay a short distance south of Town in a village called Finea [pron. Fin- ay]. Sure enough, there in the centre of the Village of Finea, next to the River Inny stood the monument:

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"



COMING EVENTS

November 29: Our Annual General Meeting. PLEASE volunteer to take on a vacant position, or to take over from some of the current and long-time incumbents, particularly those covering more than one position. Contact the branch as soon as possible to let us know your intention and willingness. We really cannot continue much longer without a Secretary and a Newsletter Team. You can email anytime to kingston.uelac@gmail.com and your message will be passed along to the appropriate person(s).

Speaker: **Sue Bazely**. A report from the Lower Burial Ground archaeological excavation going on under St. Paul's Parish Hall. This meeting will probably be conducted by Zoom: further details will be in the November newsletter. By then we will all have a better idea of how the pandemic has progressed.

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

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