

CATARAQUI LOYALIST TOWN CRIER



The Kingston and District Branch

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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.**

It's going to be 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.

Conference also brings the AGM. Even if you don't attend the Conference, you can participate in the AGM virtually on Friday, May 28 at 11:00 a.m. EDT. All UELAC members are entitled to attend and vote. Watch for details at uelac.org.

OUR MEETING ON MARCH 27, 2021

After a brief summary of the activities of the branch over the past couple of months (see below), we were privileged to see an excellent presentation by our Branch Historian, **Richard Parry**, on “**The Loyalists of Ernestown 1786**”.





Richard told us that the project began in early spring of 2019 as plans were being prepared for Kingston and District Branch’s participation in the Canada Day celebrations in Bath. We were to have a booth in the park where branch members could spend the day interacting with the hundreds of visitors: Bath has long been known for its major parade as well as other activities on July 1, Canada Day.

Genealogist Anne Redish suggested to Richard that we should have some focal point for discussions with attendees and wondered if a map would be a good idea. They settled on a map showing land patents from 1783: the names of men assigned to 294 lots surveyed in the township, giving Lot Number, Concession Number and Number of Acres assigned to each. (Of the 294 lots, 26 were reserved for the Crown and 3 for Glebe land, i.e. for churches.)

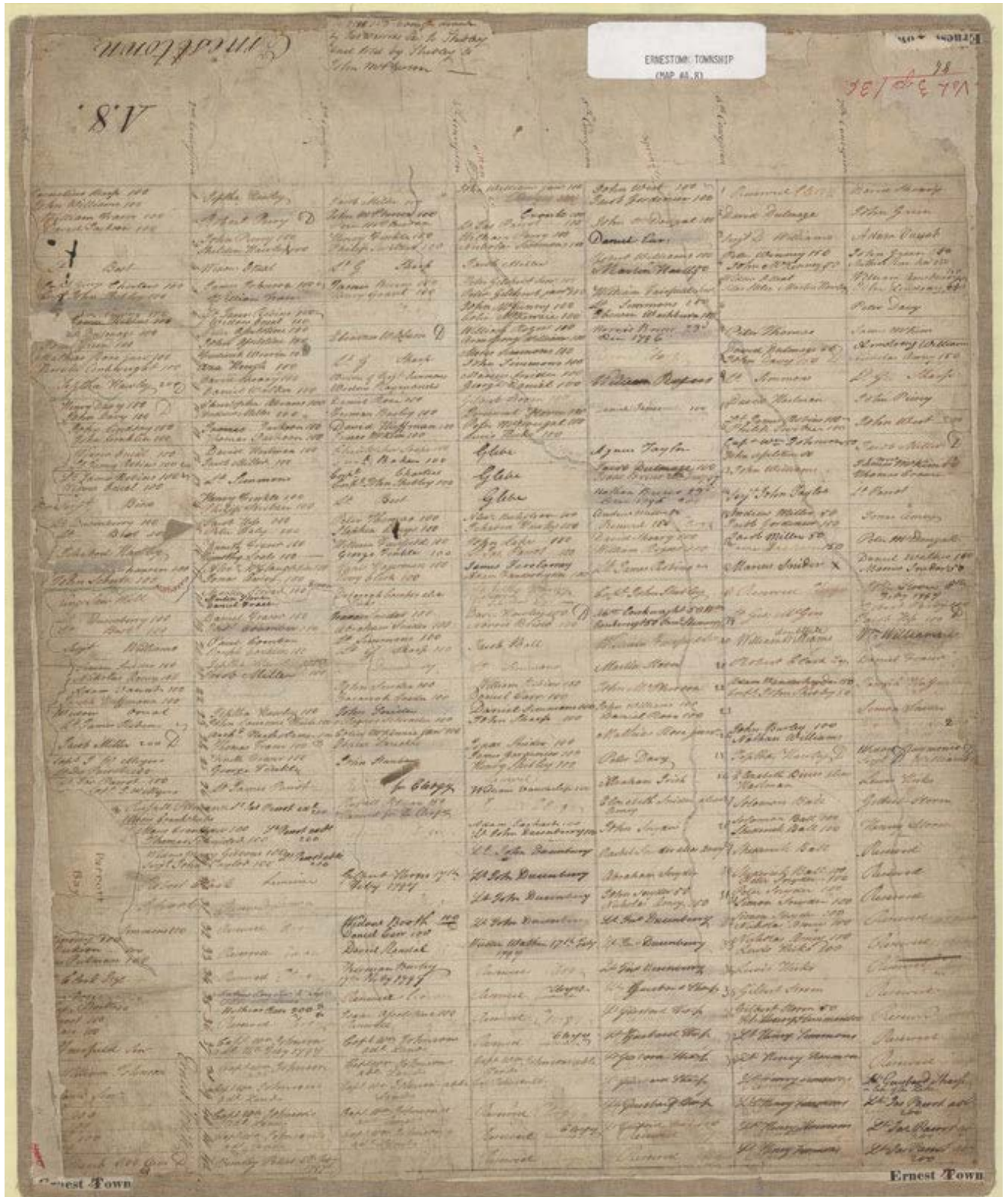
To find a Patent Map for anywhere in Ontario, go to

<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/about/patent-plans.aspx>. Richard found his map from that page by entering “Ernestown” as a keyword in the Archives of Ontario Visual Database search box. The result was:

Your search for **Keyword: Ernestown** returned 4 results. Displaying records 1 to 4.

	<p>Digital Image Number: lo043488.jpg</p> <p>Title: Ernestown Township</p> <p>Reference Code: RG 1-100</p> <p>Item Reference Code: RG 1-100-0-0-566</p>
	<p>Digital Image Number: lo043487.jpg</p> <p>Title: Ernestown Township</p> <p>Reference Code: RG 1-100</p> <p>Item Reference Code: RG 1-100-0-0-565</p>
	<p>Digital Image Number: lo043486.jpg</p> <p>Title: Ernestown Township</p> <p>Reference Code: RG 1-100</p> <p>Item Reference Code: RG 1-100-0-0-564</p>
	<p>Digital Image Number: lo043485.jpg</p> <p>Title: Ernestown Township</p> <p>Reference Code: RG 1-100</p> <p>Item Reference Code: RG 1-100-0-0-563</p>

A quick glance suggests the third map is the clearest.

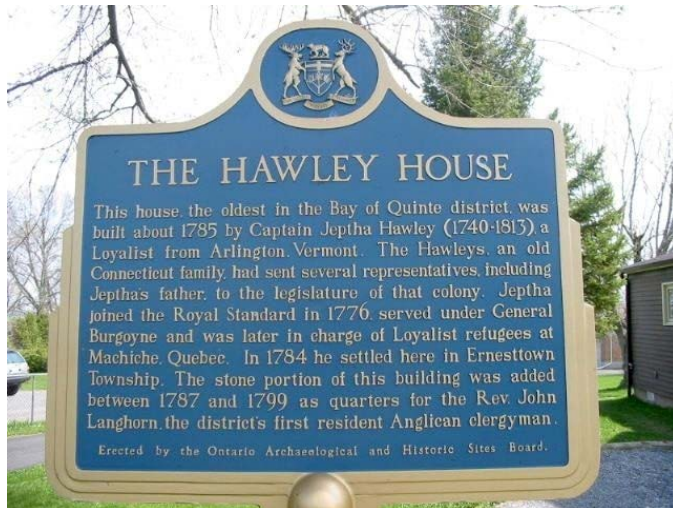


Digital map from Archives of Ontario, Reference RG1-100-0-0-564. Ernestown Township.

As United Empire Loyalists were being assigned new homes in which to settle, the British government – represented by Governor Haldimand – decided to keep disbanded regiments together, for several reasons. The men would be among fellow soldiers they already knew and had worked

with, so there would be good cooperation when help was needed. Land assigned to officers was scattered throughout the township in the belief that would help preserve discipline among the settlers. And, if hostilities broke out again, the regiment would be easily re-assembled to return to duty.

Thus, Ernesttown Township (as it was first known, since it was named for King George III's fourth son, Prince Ernest Augustus: the second "t" eventually disappeared) was assigned to officers and men of Jessup's Rangers. It seems that the patent map was drawn up while they were still in Quebec over the winter of 1783-84, before they undertook the arduous trek west to Lake Ontario.



Source: ontarioplaques.com

Richard reported that very little information exists about the movement of the Loyalists westward up the St. Lawrence River from Quebec. He did manage to find documentation that Jephtha Hawley was put in charge of the settlers waiting at Machiche, Quebec. (Jephtha Hawley's home is the oldest existing building in the village of Bath – the former village of Ernesttown – and is a designated historical site.) Hawley drew up destination lists: some Loyalists were to travel east to Chaleur Bay in what would become New Brunswick, others to Cataraqui, Adolphustown or Ernesttown in what would become Upper Canada.

At first Haldimand decreed in November 1783 that lands were to be distributed as Seignury lots, in the manner that land was already held in Quebec. This would have meant that settlers could not own their land and would have to pay rent. The Loyalists were angered and sent a petition to Haldimand, who countermanded the order and said that land was to be given free to Loyalists.

Between December 1783 and January 1784 the members of Jessups' corp were discharged. Haldimand had ordered the building of bateaux in Lachine, Quebec. These were flat-bottomed, double-ended boats [that is, a point at each end] that were about 36 to 45 feet in length and were good for carrying cargo. Some Durham boats were used as well, which were slightly longer. Groups departed Machiche between late spring and early fall. Haldimand paid for a guide for each flotilla. Richard found records for one group, guided by Baron de Reitzenstein, which consisted of 218 individuals: 45 men, 35 women, 68 boys and 70 girls. They departed on 31 May 1784. When they reached Montreal, they discovered that their tents were not ready, so had to stay there until 15 June. (Loyalists were issued one tent per 5 people; the tents were to be returned to the government after they had built a cabin. One wonders how many tents were actually returned, when the canvas could obviously be used for many purposes around the property?) Other supplies provided by the British government included:

Each man and boy over the age of 10 years was to be given a coat, waist coat, breeches, hat, shirt, blanket and shoe soles.

Each woman and girl over the age of 10 years was to be given two yards of woolen cloth, four yards of linen, stockings, a blanket and shoe soles.

They were also issued some tools such as axes, which may have been shared between a couple of families.



Credit: Library and Archives Canada, C-1512

Richard found at Library and Archives Canada a painting by James Peachey showing what Kingston would have looked like as the Loyalists reached it and passed it. Peachey was a former army officer and assistant to Samuel Holland, Surveyor General. His watercolour paintings include “A view of Cataraqui from Captain Brant’s House, July 16, 1784”. The date may not exactly correspond to when Baron de Reitzenstein’s flotilla passed Kingston, but the timing may well have been close.

It would not be a quick journey: every time the boats reached rapids (e.g. at Lachine or Long Sault), they would have had to empty the bateaux, haul the boats up the rapids with ropes, then carry all the goods along the shore to a point where they could re-load them into the bateaux and continue on. It would certainly have taken several men and an additional number of boys to pull each boat past the rapids. The entire process would probably have involved an all-day effort for each barrier in the river.

Back to Richard’s 2019 project... to obtain information on every Loyalist named on the Ernestown Patent map. He wanted to be able to look up land and people quickly when someone came to the branch’s booth, so after filling binders with more detailed information on each man named on the map, he generated two indexes: one organized by Surname, linking the name to the Lot and Concession; and one by Concession/Lot number, referring to Surname. He spoke with many visitors to the booth that day, some descended from Loyalists who were delighted to find their surname in his binders, others who wondered who had first been given the lot on which they now live. Since that time, Richard has placed four copies of these binders at locations accessible to members of the public: Kingston Frontenac Public Library (Central Branch), Lennox & Addington County Museum and Archives, the Bath Museum, and the Loyalist Research Centre at Adolphustown.



2019 at Bath: Richard Parry sets out info binder. Large Patent map on wall behind him.

One fact Richard discovered is that many of Jessup’s men apparently never set foot on the land assigned to them on the map. They were likely issued their land “tickets” while in Machiche, and probably traded them with others so that, for example, two brothers could have adjacent properties instead of being separated by three concessions. Others may have reached the land assigned to them, realized it was not good for

farming, and sold or traded the ticket, moving on to another community. This caused confusion when the Upper Canada Land Board was finally convened (1789) because the master list did not match the actual land occupancy: hence the need for the [Heir and Devisee commissions](#) to sort matters out.

With his research project completed, Richard turned to the question of where the Ernestown and other Loyalists were buried. Almost all the cemeteries in Lennox & Addington and Frontenac Counties have long since been transcribed and published by the Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, and the Quinte Branch OGS have done the same for cemeteries in Prince Edward and Hastings Counties. However, surprisingly few headstones actually mention the fact that the person was a UEL.

Richard spent his 2020 pandemic summer driving to cemeteries in the four counties mentioned and photographing stones. He uploaded over 4,000 memorials to [FindaGrave.com](#) as well as 11,000 photographs. Using the UELAC Loyalist Directory, his Ernestown binder and other reference materials, he could indicate which people were UELs. He has also collected information on which graves belong to War of 1812 veterans as well and has turned the data over to the appropriate body who is willing to commemorate each group.

For the War of 1812 participants, their graves will eventually be marked by the War of 1812 Graveside Project – see <https://gravesideproject.ca/> for further information. For Loyalists, markers in this area may be placed by members of the Canadian Fencibles, a re-enactor regiment. The project has been spearheaded by David Smith UE. Plans for marking ceremonies, of course, are all on hold until after the pandemic.



AN INTRODUCTION TO RICHARD PARRY - by Nancy Cutway UE

I was asked to introduce Richard at the March 27th Zoom meeting, and of course I was happy to do so: in 2019, Richard's huge map of Ernestown Township with names of Jessup's Rangers assigned to lots provided a break-through for me.

I asked Richard to send me a brief bio prior to the meeting, and he did so. He covered the usual: info on his parents, wife and children; his education; his career. But the most interesting item he included was an anecdote about his past research experiences. Here's what he wrote:

Ancestry has been a hobby since the early 1970s.

Humorous ancestry episode: 1978, Belleville Public Library. While using the old microfiche machine in the dedicated and dimly lit room after work one day, I finished my investigation and gathered up the material to return to the special section desk. I opened the door and found the library completely dark and the alarm was now wailing. I had been forgotten about and locked into the library and the staff had gone home. After locating a phone I called the police, explained the situation and asked if they could contact the librarian and unlock the door so I could go home. Needless to say she was quite upset that no one had checked the room I was in before closing up for the night.

My comment was, if it happened these days, when Richard no longer had to get home to a young family and to work the next day, he'd probably use a cell phone to call home and say, "I'm locked in the library – I'll be home tomorrow morning" and he'd just keep researching! The amount of work he must have put into his Ernestown Project is truly astounding, and many folks will continue to benefit from it over the coming years.

TREASURER'S REPORT, MARCH 27, 2021

On behalf of our members, Kingston and District Branch recently made the following donations to the usual group of recipients we support annually:

Collins Bay Horticultural Society	\$200	Toward planting and maintenance of flower beds at Loyalist Gates on Highway 33
Fairfield Homestead Heritage Association	\$300	Toward operating expenses of Fairfield houses as tourist sites
Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui	\$200	Toward upkeep of UEL graves
Lower Burial Ground Restoration Society	\$1,000	Toward continuation of cemetery projects
Old Hay Bay Church Restoration Project	\$500	Toward replacement of the roof
UELAC Scholarship Endowment Fund	\$600	Toward Loyalist Scholarship Fund

Despite this amount of expenditure, at present we have over \$11,700 in our bank account, due in large part to the fact that we have not been able to hold in-person meetings or participate in other events. We are pleased this has enabled us to support the recipients listed above. All have thanked us profusely, with expressions such as “We certainly appreciate your ongoing support” and “We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the generous donation.”

*Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Cutway UE, Treasurer*



FROM OUR BRANCH GENEALOGIST...

Some background reading you can do as you research your Loyalist families:

In March 1784, Loyalists were anxiously waiting in refugee camps for news of completed Township and Lot surveys along the St. Lawrence River. Correspondence with Governor Haldimand about the plans is very clearly written and readable, at https://heritage.canadiana.ca/.../oocihm.lac_reel.../1226...

For several years, Loyalists were located at many different camps. Some of these camps were along the Richelieu River (Ile aux Noix, Saint Jean sur Richelieu, Chambly, & Sorel), on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River (La Prairie), on the Island of Montreal (ville Montreal, Lachine, & Pointe Claire), and Isle Jesus and Terrebone, and further east along the St. Lawrence River, (L'assomption & Machiche).

-1779 Victualing Lists for some of these camps
https://heritage.canadiana.ca/.../oocihm.lac_reel.../624...

-Sept 1784 Victualing Lists for some camps Image 145-163

https://heritage.canadiana.ca/.../oocihm.lac_reel.../145...

-June 1782 Saint Jean sur Richelieu https://heritage.canadiana.ca/.../oocihm.lac_reel.../909...

and Oct 1783 https://heritage.canadiana.ca/.../oocihm.lac_reel.../928...

-May 1784 Loyalists at Machiche wanting to go to Missiquoi Bay

https://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_h1654/317?r=0&s=5

- early Marriages at Montreal <https://archive.org/.../reportoncan.../page/n165/mode/2up...>

-early Baptisms at Montreal <https://archive.org/.../reportoncan.../page/n181/mode/2up...>

A good book re: Loyalist Refugees is Watt, G. "Loyalist Refugees: Non-Military Refugees in Quebec 1776-1784" <http://globalgenealogy.com/.../loyalist/resources/101069.htm>

You can read all of the above for free (except the book), from the comfort of home, while libraries are locked down and you're staying safe.

Anne Redish UE, Branch Genealogist

CONGRATULATIONS ON NEW CERTIFICATIONS



Genealogist Anne Redish is pleased to announce that member **Cheryl Lowrie** (above) has now been approved for her certificate of descent from a second UEL, her ancestor **Adam Earhart**.



And **Deborah Guilbeault** (right) received her certificate after proving her descent from Loyalist **Joshua Losee Senior**.

HELP REQUESTED

The Kingston Historical Society forwarded to us a request that came to them recently:



We are trying to identify a historical piece that was found in our grandmother's estate, and wondered if you might be able to help us? It is a framed crest (or ensign, coat of arms?) made out of fabric. It looks well made and in good condition. It is less than 2 feet long and 1.5 feet wide.

We are fairly certain it comes from a family line that was from the Kingston area of Ontario during the 19th century. They immigrated to British Columbia around 1900. They had originally come to Canada from New York during the American Revolution, as they were United Empire Loyalists.

We were wondering if you could shed any light on the history or meaning of this piece, or if you have any suggestions of who else might have the answers?

Many thanks, Elizabeth in British Columbia **CarFamily** <carfam@telus.net>

It looks to a few of us more like a creative work of art than any official provincial or military crest. What do you think? If you have a suggestion, email Elizabeth directly, at the address above.

Kingston and District Branch, United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

2021 Executive

President	Peter Milliken	Past President	Dean Taylor
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Treasurer	Nancy Cutway	Genealogist	Anne Redish
Historian	Richard Parry	Hospitality	VACANT
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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.

COMING EVENTS

- **Kingston Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society** welcome all visitors to their meetings, currently taking place via Zoom. Both are on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. EDT. Visit kingston.ogs.on.ca to get the Zoom link and pre-register (free) for each meeting.
 - **May 15:** Joanne Stanbridge, Local History and Genealogy Librarian at the Central Branch of Kingston Frontenac Public Library will speak on “Kingston Frontenac Public Library: Around the Room in 40 Bookmarks.”
 - **June 19:** Carol Ufford and Dawn Kelly will present “Murder and Mayhem/Settlers and Sinners/Colonists and Criminals – More Thrilling Stories from New France.”
- NEXT KINGSTON AND DISTRICT UELAC BRANCH MEETING: **Saturday, September 25, 2:00 p.m. EDT.** Our own Jean Rae Baxter, Program Chair, will speak on “**WHEREAS it is Unjust**” – **Upper Canada’s Role in the Fight to End Slavery.** Since more Loyalists than you might think arrived here with Black “servants,” this will be an interesting talk. Pre-register (free) right away or at any time over the summer, at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUldOuprj0vH9CK-CqPToos9pDbQ25LwOH2> and you’ll receive a confirmation email that can serve as a reminder – and, if you keep an electronic calendar in Google or Outlook, you can add the date to your calendar as you register. That way, your calendar will remind you too!



Have a great summer. Stay safe. Get vaccinated. Write a paragraph about your Loyalist ancestor for the next newsletter. See you in September!