A Royal Party for Charles Dickens, born February, The Green Tiger’s bold night attack in June, DeCou fights at Frenchman's Creek, November, 1812.
By Robert Collins McBride
UE, B.Sc., M.Ed., Editor

Our submission deadlines are:
January 15th and August 1st.

I look forward to receiving your
submissions to the Gazette. Please
include your phone number and e-mail
address. We prefer your submissions
in MS Word format and illustrations as
jpegs with at least 300 dpi resolution. We
cannot use photos placed within an MS
Word file.

Our sincere thanks to the proofreading
team for this issue:
Peter Bolton UE,
Shirley Croken UE,
Alex Lawrence UE,
Bob McBride UE,
Grietje McBride UE, and
Jacqueline Murdoch.

If you can help with this essential
task, please send me an e-mail.

Doug Grant UE is the editor of the excellent
UELAC e-mail newsletter, Loyalist Trails. To subscribe, contact
him at: loyalist.trails "at" uelac.org. All
paid-for advertising for the Gazette
should also be sent to Doug.

The Loyalist Gazette, "the window
to the world for the UELAC," may contain
viewpoints in some submissions that do
not necessarily reflect the philosophy of
the UELAC or this editor.

I am always thankful for your feedback
and suggestions to ensure that we
continue to maintain our high quality.

Remember:
Teamwork Encourages
Active Members!

Loyally yours,
Robert Collins McBride (Bob)
UE, B.Sc., M.Ed., Editor.

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Pvt. Brad Stott of the US 27th Regt. at the Battle of

Cover

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The United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada

President, Robert C. McBride UE

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President, Robert C. McBride UE
Speaking Out

Richard Stockton: Loyalist & Richard Stockton: Rebel

I just wanted to let you know that I enjoy your editorials and the magazine in general. On page 6 of the current issue [Volume L, No. 2, Fall 2012] there is a nice article about Gerald Adair who lives in my own home town of Maryfield, Saskatchewan. When my mother was a young woman she taught at Adair School, the same country school where Gerry attended.

My ancestors were Richard Witham Stockton, who was a major in the British Army, and his son, Andrew Hunter Stockton, who was a lieutenant in the British Navy during the Revolutionary War. By contrast, Richard’s first cousin, also named Richard Stockton, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. One of the interesting things that my wife Marie and I have done is visit Princeton, New Jersey, to research family history. While there we even met relatives who are direct descendants of Richard “The Signer.” This led to a big reunion, which we attended, of the Stockton clan in England, in the year 2000. Interesting stuff.
—W. Wayne Stockton UE, Regina, Saskatchewan

Gift to Read his Words

Many thanks for the magazine, The Loyalist Gazette. You have no idea how thrilled I am to receive the Fall 2012 issue. I remember typing the article many years ago for Stan and I appreciate how beautifully you presented it, complete with a map and pictures. It’s a wonderful keepsake to share with his family. It was indeed a gift to read his words after he had passed away. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.
—Shirley Hanes, widow of Reverend Canon Stan Hanes UE, CD

Our 100th Anniversary

A commemorative issue of The Loyalist Gazette will be published in 2014, highlighting the one hundred years of our incorporation. We are seeking photographic and written records of your Branch and Regional centennial projects that will be published in this special issue. Take advantage of this exceptional opportunity to highlight your Branch and Regional events.
Loyally yours,
Robert C. McBride UE, B.Sc., M.Ed.

Portraying Rebels

We are glad to be featured on the cover of your magazine. That is me, Brad Stott, in the foreground reloading. On the left is Jeff Mason. We are both from London, here portraying privates in the US 27th Regiment, to help at this event with low US numbers. Our group, the Upper Thames Military Reenactment Society (based in London, Ontario), mainly portrays the 1st Royal Scots Regiment (British).

The US 27th was a regiment at the Battle of Longwoods in which the Royal Scots took part in March, 1814. The US 27th was based out of Detroit and helped with raids on Southwestern Ontario after the Battle of the Thames in October of 1813.

—Brad Stott, London, Ontario

Nitpicker Praise

OMG and LOL express the new ill-literate generation. I say ill because it is not just that English is evolving but it is decaying. What does LOL mean – laughing out loud, lots of luck, lots of love? No one seems to know.

In the September 1990 issue, LIFE magazine wrote of its proofreaders: “Not many people – even educated people – are interested in the precise meanings of words anymore ... If we’re sloppy in our use of language, we lose our ability to communicate.” About our team of proofreaders who check The Loyalist Gazette, I echo the words of LIFE’s publisher: “We’re particularly proud of our nitpickers.”

—Michael Johnson, Assistant Editor

Oops! It’s, Vicki McKay UE

My three UE Certificates (Francis Mackay, Isaac Vansickle and George Upper) were recognized in the Fall 2012 issue of The Gazette. My name was spelled correctly on the certificates I received, but was misspelled (Vickie) in all three entries on page 55 of the Gazette. The correct spelling is Vicki Laurie McKay (note the lack of “e” on Vicki and the superscript “c” in my last name).

—Vicki McKay UE

Credit Christine

In the last issue on page 23, the Adolphustown photo [below] was credited to me. It was taken by Christine Smith so it should be credited to her.

—Peter Johnson UE


Photo by Christine Smith.
Raised in a non-Native family in suburban Rochester, Dave always felt and appeared a little ‘different’ from his peers due to his Mohawk genetics. After graduating from high school, Dave attended SUNY College at Potsdam and, in 1977, earned his BA in Psychology with one course short of a double major in Computer Science.

Dave began his working career in IT as a computer operator back in the early days of IBM mainframes. He became a Database Administrator at Eastman Kodak corporate headquarters. Along with other Kodak Natives, he was an original member of the Native employee diversity group and travelled extensively, representing the Aboriginal faction of his company at national conferences.

Despite being born in Rochester, since Dave was born to a Mohawk woman from Six Nations, upon learning of the circumstances behind his birth he also discovered that he had dual-citizenship. He had always had an inexplicable draw to Canada, first noticed as a child while vacationing at an annually rented cottage on the Rideau River between Smiths Falls and Merrickville. The constant tug of Canada, however illogical, was also unmistakable.

Fate, serendipity, or perhaps some innate urge to ‘return’ to his origins, would compel him to pursue Canadian citizenship in the years immediately prior to his adoption revelation, not realizing that he’d had Canadian citizenship all his life.

At the Dominion Council Meeting on 09 June 2012 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, David Kanowakeron Hill Morrison UE presented the UELAC with the Haudenosaunee Flag of the Six Nations for use by the colour party at future Dominion occasions.
While attending the Canadian National Exhibition in 1992, he happened to visit a UELAC exhibit at a Heritage Day display on the grounds. Curious about the oddly-appearing British flag, he mentioned that he'd been told he was a descendant of Joseph Brant to a member staffing the display. The UELAC member’s eyes lit up at mention of the name.

Not knowing the historical relevance of the prominent Native Loyalist, he naïvely asked if this was significant and, within minutes, was being given a crash course on the influence his ancestor had on the development of Canada as well as who and what the UELAC was.

As fortune would have it, Bay of Quinte Branch Genealogist, Eleanor Carleton Moult UE, was the generous educator and would become his guiding mentor in exploring the necessary proofs to document his UEL application. Living in the Rochester area, however, presented a bit of a quandary to research, and raised the question of which Branch he should join. Dave wanted to be involved with Branch activities but the logistics of his residence posed a problem.

Eleanor suggested it might be appropriate to join the Branch that included his Six Nations family roots and, considering the amount of time he was spending on the reserve getting to know his newly-found family, Grand River Branch became his choice.

Preponderance of evidence became the key factor in Dave proving his Loyalist ancestry. A signed statement from his birth mother, attesting that he was indeed her biological son, became the sole link which connected him to Joseph Brant. The Brant ancestry is well documented with proofs and sourcing but, minus necessary legal documentation, adopted individuals are often at a loss in their ability to prove their relationship to their Loyalist identity.

In Native culture, oral traditions are considered as immutable facts not to be contested or questioned. As such, it became a delicate and sensitive matter for Dave to ask his birth mother to look beyond her traditions and accept that much of the non-Native world requires empirical facts. Upon seeing the importance of what this meant to Dave, and somewhat grudgingly, she relented and signed a statement attesting to the fact that he was her son.

Thanks to the tremendous assistance of Eleanor Carleton Moult UE, Grand River Branch Genealogist Eleanor Chapin UE and the Dominion Office staff, on a hot July day in 1993 at the Brantford Military Heritage Museum, Dave was presented with his UELAC certification, marking yet another milestone in his life.

Since his reuniﬁcation with his birth-family at the age of 37, Dave has enthusiastically immersed himself in Haudenosaunee culture as well as extensively studied all aspects of Canadian history and society. Thanks in great part to his attendance at UELAC Dominion conferences, his Canadian travels have extended from the tip of Prince Edward Island to the waters of Victoria, British Columbia.

Dave has also travelled widely in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec and, during his marriage, owned a year-round home in Crystal Beach in the town of Fort Erie. He maintains an address in St. Catharines and has been familiar with the Niagara Region for well over ﬁfty years.

Dave lives in two distinctly different worlds. Straddling the border of two countries, he also lives in two different cultures of Native and non-Native alike and, while that can sometimes pose a challenge, he finds that perspectives and priorities are guiding principles to seeking a balanced life.

As one might imagine, the American sense of patriotism and nationalism can often take a dim view of a resolutely held belief of a Canadian Loyalist and monarchist. Nevertheless, Dave follows his conscience and ideals, quietly devoted to an ethic his ancestors may have felt as they firmly supported their beliefs amid a sea of critics.

Determined to establish an even greater connection, Dave installed a Canadian satellite TV system at his residence in the Rochester area and enjoys all-Canadian programming, keeping him informed of the news, events and culture of Canada.

Today, residing in the Rochester area, ironically in a town called Ontario, New York, Dave is physically challenged due to serious health issues; yet he tries to contribute to his Loyalist heritage by serving as Grand River Branch webmaster. He attends as many Branch meetings as he’s able, even though the 500+ mile round-trip can be daunting.

Fortunately, the internet allows him to stay in touch and gives him an opportunity to support an allegiance he holds deeply and with a ﬁrm conviction.

A New York car license plate of UELAC

Jokingly referring to his home as being within Rebel territory he felt compelled to promote his pride with a New York car license plate of UELAC, a feature often noted as he passes back into the States through Customs.

As a further statement of his ﬁdelity, Dave is also a Lifetime Member of the Monarchist League of Canada and is in solid agreement to the spirit of conviction of his illustrious Loyalist ancestor.

For many adoptees, a sense of natural place, identity and commonality with their birth-heritage is a strongly compelling motivation to reach out and seek knowledge. To a Native adoptee in search of becoming a wholly-formed adult, it becomes almost an imperative.

In a bid to claim his rightful ownership in his Haudenosaunee identity, he also celebrates his Native heritage by embracing his Loyalist history that is a pivotal part of the story of the Six Nations of the Grand River. He believes no history of the Haudenosaunee is complete without including the contributions made by the Loyalist factions of these unique First Nations.

Dave feels he’s come full circle and has returned to his rightful status as a proud Native Canadian Loyalist; not only a part of whom he has become, it is a bold deﬁnition of who he is. • • •
As I reflect on the value of personal contact in our organization, I am thrilled with the response of Branch members and people sharing a common interest in the objectives of the UELAC: to celebrate our Loyalist ancestors, to record their exploits and legacy, and to develop worthwhile projects that bring Branch members together with a common purpose.

My wife, Grietje McBride UE, and I attended the 80th UELAC Vancouver Branch Anniversary Founders’ Luncheon in Vancouver, on Saturday, 13 October 2012, presided over by Vancouver Branch President and Pacific Regional Vice-President, Carl Stymiest UE. He showed us that good planning and teamwork are essential in motivating people to participate in meaningful activities. Many guests from regional Branches from Chilliwack to Victoria attended this daytime function. An art well practised among all the Branches in the Pacific Region is rewarding honest effort through the presentation of the Phillip Leith Medallion and Trophy each year as well as making the reception and presentation of certificates meaningful and special. I was able to connect with cousins who are now researching and completing applications for seven Loyalist ancestors based upon my applications in 2012.

Our own Kawartha Branch celebrated our Fall Banquet on 20 October with a multimedia presentation by Lt. Col. Stephen Borland UE.

Grietje McBride UE thanked Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Borland UE for his informative talk about his experiences in Afghanistan at the Kawartha Branch’s Fall Banquet on 20 October 2012.
Our support of Canadian forces serving until 2014 in Afghanistan is part of our heritage. Many of our own ancestors fought for home and country in the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Many of our Branches now take part in regional Remembrance Day services.

Three members received the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee medal for their actions in preserving heritage. They were: Joan Lucas UE from Kawartha Branch; Robert Wilkins UE who organized the Heritage Branch Annual Charter Night Dinner that we attended in Montreal on 24 October; and Mill Loomis UE from Little Forks Branch. Most who have received this honour would agree with these words from Amelia Earhart who stated that: “The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. You can do anything you decide to do. …The procedure, the process is its own reward.”

We had the honour and pleasure of meeting with members of the London and Western Ontario Branch on 13 November. We visited Past Dominion President, Bernice Wood Flett UE, who, at the time, was recovering from recent hip surgery. June Klassen UE introduced us to Branch Vice-President, Jennifer Childs UE, and my talk about Loyalists and Freemasonry gave a number of Branch members’ new ideas for possible sources to research a past ancestor in the Lodges around London.

On 17 November I attended the meeting of Victoria Branch at the Ramada Inn. My talk about the life of my ancestor, Captain John DeCou, his trials and his adventures in the War of 1812, reminded several members of the trials of their own Loyalist ancestors in the conflict that affected the lives of so many people. The connections we make across time and distance solidify the bonds we have as a national association. Branch President, Elizabeth Aberdeen UE, indicated that this was the most well attended meeting in their Branch history.

Our visit to Kingston Branch on 24 November allowed us to join the incoming Branch President, Peter Milliken UE, and meet Anne Redish UE, daughter of Kawartha Branch President, Doreen Thompson UE. Graham Hart UE, member of Kawartha Branch and veteran newscaster at CHEX Television, was the Master of Ceremonies at the Kawartha Branch’s Fall Banquet, with Grietje and Bob McBride and Graham’s partner, Karen Sadler.

Sandra Carson Hannaford UE received her UELAC certification as the descendant of the Loyalist, Mahlon Knight UE, at the Annual Charter Night banquet for Heritage Branch on 24 October 2012.

On 13 November, Jean Norrie UE presented Bob McBride UE with a floral arrangement at the London and Western Ontario Branch meeting.

On 01 December, this “young” city has few building older than the one-hundred-year-old church where our meeting
and banquet were held. Heather Traub and Trevor Angel UE, along with their committee, worked tirelessly to put on an entertaining and varied program that included: a musical welcome; UELAC Certificate presentations; and a live auction with Trevor displaying his talent for auctioneering. Here we presented our talk about one of my Loyalist ancestors, Adam Young UE, and his wife, Catherine Elizabeth Schremling UE. This was followed by many questions and a good discussion. Trevor let us know that people who have a Loyalist ancestor whose descendants moved westward, have a yearning to know more and more about the original ancestor in the East and the lives they lived. If you get a chance to read the book by Vancouver Branch writer, Gerald Brown UE, about how his ancestors came from Germany to the Hay Bay area west of Kingston, you will see the efforts a researcher will make to bring past lives into plausible reality through the fast-paced pages of this book.

“No person was ever honoured for what he received. Honour has been the reward for what he gave.” Calvin Coolidge stated this truism and it certainly applies to the dedicated volunteers whom I have met in the course of my visits to Branches across our country and close to home. Definitely, teamwork encourages active members!

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**McBrines’ March Grandchildren**

Left: Robert William Camp UE, 7 pounds, 5 ounces, was born to Margaret Robin Mary (nee McBride) Camp UE and Bradley Stewart Camp on 10 March 2013 at 7:30 a.m.

Right: Miranda Evelyn Oakes UE, 7 pounds, 13 ounces, was born to Catherine (Kate) Helen Sarah (nee McBride) Oakes UE and Brian James Oakes on 19 March 2013 at 6:52 a.m. Both mothers and babies are now home and doing very well.
Meet us at the Head of Lake Ontario for the Dominion Conference 2013
30 May – 02 June, hosted by the Hamilton Branch UELAC

This year’s conference is focused around the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Stoney Creek. We knew this would be a BIG weekend for the Hamilton area and with this in mind we reserved our conference venue three years ago: The Burlington Holiday Inn, with the pricing of three years ago: $119.00 per night. We knew that, even at that reasonable price, we needed to offer other hotels in the area that would give alternative pricing and so there is a list of five other local hotels to accommodate our attendees. Please state that you are with “The Loyalist Conference” at any of these venues.

Registration begins at noon on Thursday, 30 May, in the vast Holidome at the Holiday Inn. The Pearson Room, our hospitality location, is nearby and it will be filled with displays. The Different Drummer Bookstore will have a variety of books available including those by our presenting authors: James Elliott, Zig Misiak and Nathan Tidridge. Doug Adams from Temagami will have a display of Ontario furs that will reflect his talk about the furs, the history of our Canadian fur trade and environmental concerns for wild animals. Linda Stanley will have her display of art studies, post cards and books, through Pathways to Peace – War of 1812. We’ll have a specially designed wall quilt as a fundraising item, showing our Hamilton Loyalist monument family. This is also the location for UELAC promotional items. Baskets for a draw and refreshments will be available all the time.

There will be a UELAC membership meeting on Thursday, starting at 12:30 p.m., and a Genealogists’ meeting from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday evening our theme is based around the local First Nations. We are on Brant’s block, part of the 1000 acres granted to Joseph Brant for his service and loyalty during the American Revolutionary War. Honorary UELAC Vice-President, Zig Misiak, will speak about the First Nations’ actions locally at Stoney Creek and in the Niagara corridor. He’ll introduce you to an intriguing figure, John Norton, made Mohawk Chief Teyoninhokarawen during the War of 1812. David Hill Morrison UE, descendant of Joseph Brant, will bring greetings this evening also. There will be a variety of finger food available as well as a cash bar.

Friday is the big variety day. Attendees can choose to stay at the hotel for the morning to learn about the Battle of Stoney Creek from James Elliott, author of Strange Fatality – Battle of Stoney Creek. Then there is the choice of a talk by Doug Adams about Canadian Furs: Then and Now as well as a talk by Jim Taggart, who will tell you about Early Medical Remedies and Instruments or you can take a tour of local sites. This will include viewing Union Cemetery, the first Loyalist burial ground in Burlington that our Branch plaqued. You’ll tour Hamilton Cemetery with historian, Robin McKee.
This was the location of the British forces during 1812, known as Burlington Heights. Dundurn Castle is nearby so you’ll see the architecture of this neoclassical McNab mansion. The Joseph Brant Museum will be another stop for our local tour. Both the local tour and the speakers’ options spend the afternoon at Battlefield Park, site of the Battle of Stoney Creek, where there will be lots of amazing heritage displays and re-enactment camps.

The Niagara tour is more involved and it will take the entire day. This will include a visit to Fort George, the Laura Secord House and Brock’s monument, site of the Battle of Queenston Heights. Lunch will be at Ravine Winery where you’ll see the beautiful Loyalist home, first built for David Secord.

Friday evening is spent at the Burlington Golf and Country Club, right along Burlington Bay. Tamarack will entertain that evening with heritage ballads.

Saturday morning, the Dominion Conference will be held. That is the main business focus of the conference. The evening gala will include our keynote speaker, Nathan Tidridge, author, educator and recipient of both the gold and diamond Queen’s Jubilee medals.

The Cottonwood Brass will entertain both visually and musically on their vintage instruments. It will be a very special evening.

Sunday morning we’ll head out to see the Loyalist monument right in the heart of Hamilton. After a photo opportunity we continue on to the beautiful Christ’s Church Anglican Cathedral, built in 1835. It is the second oldest Anglican cathedral in Canada. Only Holy Trinity Cathedral in Quebec City predates it.

Come and visit the “Head of Lake Ontario” and learn about its interesting place in early Canadian and Loyalist history.

Check our website at www.uel-hamilton.com for registration information.

Contact our registrar:
Gloria Howard UE, at: glohoward “at” shaw.ca or 905 575-9878

Or conference chair:
Ruth Nicholson UE, at: ruth.nicholson “at” sympatico.ca or 905 689-7554
Have you ever wondered if there was a Loyalist equivalent to “Yankee Doodle Went to Town”? The lyrics to this song, composed in the 1750s, were sung during the Seven Years’ War, when British and colonial troops fought against New France. And, yes, the song was making fun of American colonists (the fathers of the next war’s Patriots and Loyalists). “Doodle” is a corruption of a German word for “fool,” while “macaroni” was 18th-century slang for “trendy.”

The British officers who sang the song were calling New Englanders simpletons, claiming that their colonial cousins believed that they could attain sophistication by simply putting a feather in their caps.

The stories of the meanings for poems and songs such as “Yankee Doodle” are always fascinating reading. The same is true for that part of folklore that we have come to call Mother Goose poems.

Rather than merely being nonsense poems for children, nursery rhymes were reputed to be the editorial cartoons of their day. They were said to poke fun at the rich and powerful in an era when outright criticism would result in imprisonment or execution. The schoolyard game of “Ring Around a Rosy” was believed to recount the 17th century’s Great Plague, while “Little Jack Horner” supposedly told the story of how a British family came to own some prime British real estate.

Most of the Mother Goose poems originated with the generations preceding the eighteenth century, removing any hope that there might be a verse or two with “secret meetings” related to the American Revolution, but those who study Loyalist era history don’t need to feel slighted. Folklore scholars are now casting doubt on the notion that there are political references encoded within any of the Mother Goose poems. Sometimes a “plum” is just a “plum.”

But perhaps, just for the sake of preserving some Loyalist era history, we could retrofit a Mother Goose rhyme to provide a counterbalance to “Yankee Doodle.” Would it be totally inappropriate to use “Three Men in a Tub” to help us recall some events from the American Revolution? True, this poem actually dates back to the 15th century, but, with a little remodelling, it could be given a 300-year update to serve our purposes. And so, with tongues firmly planted in our cheeks, let’s see what a Loyalist-leaning nursery rhyme might have as its “secret meanings.”

“Rub-a-Dub-Dub,” for any loyal colonists who survived the American Revolution, would inevitably bring to mind the gruesome practice of tarring and feathering the “friends of the king.” Unfortunately for the Loyalists of the rebelling colonies, there are hundreds of examples that can be used to illustrate this line of poetry.

James Galloway, who had once been the Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly, “considered himself in great danger” from the Patriots of Philadelphia. On one occasion, he had “two or three mobs” at his doorstep ready with hot tar and brushes to give him a feather coat. Galloway’s friends were able to dissolve the mob, but on another night thirteen drunk “Dutchmen” argued as to whether they should tar and feather Galloway or hang him! Luckily for the Loyalist, an innkeeper tipped him off and he was able to escape with both his life and his skin intact.

The administering of tar and feathers was not limited to violent mobs. It could be a penalty in a court of law. Consider the case of another Pennsylvania Loyalist named William Caldwell. Because he would not join his Rebel neighbours, Caldwell was brought before the local committee which sentenced him to be tarred and feathered. Two hundred “men in arms attended in order to see the sentence put into execution” on 15 June 1775.

Owen Richards, a customs official in Boston, was tarred and feathered simply for doing his job. The citizens of Massachusetts didn’t appreciate having to pay customs. When Richards had a ship’s cargo seized, local Rebels gathered up the dockside tar used for ship repairs and gave the poor customs officer a feather coat in 1770. This was five years before the first exchange of revolutionary fire. (The Battles of Lexington and Concord were fought in April 1775.)
Fortunately for the loyal colonists, there were men like Peter Dean. As soon as the “troubles” began in South Carolina, Dean signed a protest against the colony’s Rebels. He later restored guns that the Patriots had spiked in order to prevent them being fired in honour of King George III’s birthday, but what most endeared him to the Loyalists of South Carolina was the fact that he organized a militia of one hundred men, and thus, in his own words, “prevented some people from being tarred and feathered.”

“Three Men in a Tub” might remind an historian of the Loyalists along the Atlantic seaboard who used their sailing ships to aid the Royal cause. Interestingly enough, records have survived of Loyalists who were among three owners of vessels.

The first member of our “men in a tub” is Francis Green, who had a one-third share in the ship Tryon. Worth £8000, the Tryon “did great service” to the British government on her “different cruises.” Unfortunately, Green did not elaborate on how his ship helped the Loyalist cause. Another of his vessels was “of great use to the army by giving material intelligence of the French fleet.”

Green was an outspoken friend of the king: a very brave stance for a Boston merchant. He was “treated ill” by Rebels as early as 1774. Two years later, Green and eight of his dependents were among the 1,100 Loyalists who fled Boston for the safety of Halifax. The British government eventually awarded Green £600 a year for his losses.

Joseph Durfee, a Norfolk, Rhode Island, Loyalist, had a 33% interest in the schooner Dolphin. Before the outbreak of the Revolution, Durfee and his two partners used their schooner to trade between New York and Rhode Island, but, by 1775, Durfee “decidedly declared himself adverse to the opposition to the British government.” This made the Loyalist and any of his property fair game for New England Rebels. A Patriot privateer vessel seized the Dolphin as it was sailing in Long Island Sound and took it off to New London, Connecticut.

Durfee and his family left Rhode Island when the occupying British troops sailed for New York City. During the remainder of the Revolution, Durfee served as superintendent of small craft and was recognized as a “faithful servant of the Crown.” The New York barrack officer also employed two of the Loyalist’s schooners.

Following the conclusion of the war, this “man in a tub” and his family settled in Shelburne, Nova Scotia.

Edward Thorp was a Stamford, Connecticut, merchant who held a one-third interest in a number of sailing vessels. He conducted trade with the southern colonies and ferried passengers to New York. During the Revolution, Rebels seized two of his sloops, a schooner worth £600, and a ship worth £1000 that he used to trade with Jamaica and Florida. The Loyalist Compensation Board awarded Thorp £40 a year for the remainder of his life.

McCan was immediately hanged

“And who do you think they be?” Yes, even a question can call to mind a part of the Loyalist experience. Henry Nase was a Loyalist soldier who kept a diary of his Revolutionary War experiences. In the fall of 1782, Nase was in Charleston, South Carolina, as the British forces were evacuating the colony. On November first, his diary entry recorded the events surrounding a court of enquiry. A field officer and four captains met near the gallows on Charleston’s grand parade to “ascertain the person of James McCan.” Who they thought him to be would have serious consequences. Was this the McCan who had deserted from the 19th Regiment?

The Loyalist soldier confessed that he had, indeed, “deserted his colours” three times. Military justice was anything but slow. Upon his confession, McCan was immediately hanged. Six hundred Loyal soldiers and a crowd of at least 2,000 spectators witnessed the consequences of the court determining McCan’s identity.

“A butcher, a baker, a candlestick maker” easily describes the trades of some middle-class Loyalists. One butcher who served his king was David Gosling. The Englishman had immigrated to New Jersey in 1751. Five years later, he married his wife, Elizabeth, who, over the next twenty years, produced eight children, including a set of twins. Their last child, Howe Carleton Gosling, was born in 1776, the year that David joined the British army. Gosling served the troops, as he had the citizens of Amboy, New Jersey, by being their butcher. He died of an unspecified cause in 1778. Five years later, his widow and six of their children settled in Wilmot, Nova Scotia. In 1786, James was the oldest surviving son. One Gosling daughter married a local man named Henry Potter.

Interestingly, there are compensation claims for three Loyalist bakers who all once tended ovens in Boston prior to the Revolution. Benjamin Davis described himself as “a baker in government service” who had made himself “very obnoxious” to the Rebels. He was one of 1,100 Loyalists who fled when the British forces retreated from Halifax to New York in March of 1776. When Davis attempted to sail to New York City that summer, Patriots arrested him and imprisoned him for twelve months. By 1783, the loyal baker had settled in Halifax.

Another Bostonian baker that Davis might have known was Archibald MacNeil. This Loyalist had an “extensive line” of baked goods in his shop. When the Rebel tradesmen of Boston refused to supply the British troops with bread, MacNeil “engaged to do it and supplied them for a long time.” Like Davis, MacNeil fled Boston in 1776. He was later murdered while travelling to Quebec. His second wife, Elizabeth MacNeil, and their unmarried daughter, Sarah, settled in Canada, leaving at least one married daughter behind in Boston.
They once jailed him on the suspicion that he had brought tea into the colony.

Hoyt’s loyalty got him into trouble with local Patriots even before the first shots were fired at Lexington. They once jailed him on the suspicion that he had brought tea into the colony. In 1776, Rebels again imprisoned Hoyt on suspicion of carrying intelligence to British frigates. This proved to be the last straw and the Norwalk shopkeeper left home to go within British lines in the fall of 1777.

After a short stay in the army, Hoyt became the captain of a Loyalist privateer vessel. His ship was captured in the spring, and he was put in prison until the fall. Following a prisoner exchange and a short command of another privateer, Hoyt decided to become a New York City shopkeeper. After a year, he was appointed the cashier of the Barrack Master General’s Department, and then served as a clerk in the Fuel Department. When Loyalists left New York in 1783, Hoyt was among those who settled in Parrtown (Saint John, New Brunswick).

Within three years’ time, Hoyt had the opportunity to tell his story of wartime losses to the Loyalist Compensation Board. In addition to the plundering of his property and store, the seizure and sale of his ship the Little George, and the theft of eighty-six boxes of soap, Hoyt duly noted that Patriots had taken sixty-three boxes of tallow candles. The candles were carried off and sold at an auction to raise money for the Rebel cause. The 63 boxes were taken because they had been hidden away in the store belonging to Hoyt’s father “for the use of the enemy” (the British), and thus we have our candle maker for our Loyalist Mother Goose.

“Turn them out, knaves all three” is the final line in the nursery rhyme. One might wonder how the term knave, meaning a dishonest or unscrupulous person, could ever be applied to a Loyalist refugee and yet, over a two-day period in September of 1787, the Commissioners of the Loyalist Compensation Board felt a trio of veterans of the American Revolution could best be described as “knaves all three.”

Alexander Simpson’s story would seem to merit sympathy. He had come to New York in 1762 and made a living by trading with the colony’s Aboriginals. Patriots imprisoned Simpson for ten weeks in Albany and later incarcerated him for not taking an oath to the new republic. The Loyalists gathered 44 men and headed north to Canada in 1780 to join the king’s men. When he appeared before the board in Montreal, Simpson was 60 years old and “afflicted with rheumatism.” Surely, here was a man who deserved to be commended for his loyal service but, for reasons that go unexplained, the Claims Commissioners called Simpson “a damned rascal.”

Later that same day, David Jackson stood before the Compensation Board. This Englishman had settled in New York in 1772. He joined the British army in 1780 and served in Sir John Johnson’s 2nd Battalion. For his loyalty, Jackson had forfeited a 100-acre farm, three steers, a horse, furniture and “utensils.” Instead of calling him a “zealous Loyalist,” as it had done for so many others, the Board said that Jackson was “a drunken dog.”

On the next day, James Mackim came before the Board. It’s too bad he wasn’t aware of the Commissioners’ foul mood. He recounted his story, beginning with his arrival in America in 1774, his service throughout the Revolution, and his arrival in Sorel in 1783. For the third time in just two days, the Loyalist Claims Commissioners were not impressed. They claimed that Mackim was “a drunken Irishman, very little to be allowed.” Loyalists could be (and were) “turned out, knaves all three.”

Our exercise in infusing Loyalist history into a Mother Goose rhyme has come to an end. While it may never be as popular as “Yankee Doodle Went to Town,” the verse about the three men in a tub can, when needed, be conscripted for the cause of Loyalist history. Loyalists were tarred and feathered; they jointly owned ships to serve their cause; knowing who they were was immensely important; they were usually ordinary tradesmen; and at least three of them could be refused compensation for being rascals.

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Ring Around the Rosy by Edward Potthast, date unknown.

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MacNeil’s partner in supplying bread to the British troops in Boston was William Hall. In his interview with the Loyalist Compensation Board, he testified that he had supplied the 14th Regiment with bread for six weeks without charge. In 1777, Hall had the misfortune to be among the jurors who heard the case against the British captain charged with instigating the Boston Massacre. Patriots threatened his life, tarred his house, and “frequently insulted” the Loyalist baker. When he fled Boston, Rebels seized his furniture and one of his houses; he left his mother in possession of a second house. Like the baker Davis, Hall also settled in Halifax.

Candle-making was usually a do-it-yourself necessity, especially if one needed light in a pioneer farmhouse. However, city dwellers during the Loyalist era could buy their candles from local shops. James Hoyt was a Loyalist whose store in Norwalk, Connecticut, carried a wide variety of items, including candles.
John DeCou was born on 03 February 1766 in Oxford Township, Sussex County, New Jersey. The reminiscences of Captain John DeCou were first published in the *Haldimand Advocate* newspaper of Cayuga, Ontario, in 1888. Written by two of his sons, Edmund DeCew and Robert DeCue, some time after the death of their father, this record provides an interesting resource, as if written in the first person by Captain John DeCou.

“When a boy I took great delight in rambling along the sides of the mountains. At one time as I stooped down to look under a rock a rabbit sprang out and into the open bosom of my blouse.”

John DeCou and his brother, Edmund, were in Upper Canada in 1788 as shown by a record of their survey work in Township No. 7, District of Nassau, later known as Saltfleet Township, Wentworth County, in July and August 1788. John was age 22.

“I commenced exploring, and finally selected a property to my liking in the Townships of Thorold and Grantham, covering what is now called DeCew Falls, on the Beaverdam Creek.”

“When he first saw this branch of the Twelve Mile creek pouring its beautiful cascade over the Niagara escarpment into the deep gorge that its waters had carved out, he ceased his search for a home-site, feeling that he could find no place more pleasing.”

“I purchased one man’s right to a hundred acres for an axe and an Indian blanket and another hundred acres for a gold doubloon.

I endured many hardships but worked away happily [at DeCew Falls]. One of my first wants was a grindstone, which I supplied by discovering a quarry not far below the falls from which I selected a stone of suitable size and quality and, having partially shaped it with a pick, I started home with it. On becoming tired, I would lay it down and resume picking, resting, lightening my load and bringing the stone nearer the shape at the same time. Whilst thus engaged at one time I thought I heard a rustling in the leaves behind me and, on turning my head, I saw an enormous blacksnake reared up and looking over my shoulder. As quick as thought I discharged my pick at his head and laid him dead at my feet. I suppose he took me for a stump and thought there was a woodpecker on the other side, of which he might make a dinner.

I at length resolved to build a sawmill and an oil mill, being none at the time between the two lakes [Ontario and Erie]. I was aided in my enterprise by Colonel Hamilton, of Queenston, who imported the necessary ironware for me from Scotland.”

John’s sawmill, grist-mills and oil mill, all on Lot 58, Thorold Township, Welland County, stood about three-quarters of a mile...
At DeCou’s house the first scouts of the Frenchman’s Creek affair arrived. The house accommodated the headquarters, outbuildings sheltered the wounded, and regiments bivouacked in the fields. With sinking hearts the loyal DeCou family watched the rear guard of the British forces disappear on the road to Burlington and turned their eyes eastward to watch for the first scouts of the victorious American army. The enemy’s patrols were at the line of the Twelve Mile Creek and DeCou’s house the next day. On 01 June, that position was occupied in force.

Records show that Captain John DeCou was among twenty-one men seized on the 19th, 20th and 21st of June 1813. They were taken from the Canadian side of the Niagara River to Fort Niagara on 22 June and were kept there for three days before beginning a long journey into the interior of the States.

By this time a road had been opened through his property leading westward to the head of Lake Ontario. This became the principal east-west highway of the Peninsula. John chose a site for his stone home on the crest of a knoll facing southward.

“This Georgian-style two and a half storey stone house was the wonder of the countryside and the admiration of travellers. The dwellers in log huts came from miles around to view it, while other men of means were inspired to erect for themselves dwellings of a size and style that had not previously been contemplated. The hospitality of the DeCou House was known, not only by those who travelled the great highway, but also to those who passed silently along the dim forest trails. In those days numbers of Indians were constantly going back and forth between the Grand River and Niagra. DeCou’s was one of their regular resting-places and often, on a stormy night, the floor of the great west room would be so crowded with blanketed forms that no more could be accommodated.”

In 1804 John was elected a director of the Niagara District Agricultural Society, the pioneer organization of its kind in Upper Canada.

The earliest municipal records of Thorold Township are 1799 in which John DeCou was collector of taxes. In 1810, 1816, 1818, 1819 and 1835 he was the assessor and in 1815, 1820 and 1822 he was Warden of the township.

In June 1800, John DeCou was one of the forty-one original proprietors of the earliest schools established in the vicinity. In the records of the fledgling library at Niagara, the first entry lists the original subscribers, including “John Decow.” He was one of the thirteen signers of the report furnished from Thorold Township in response to Gourlay’s inquiry of 1817.

On 02 January 1809, John DeCou, age 43, was commissioned a “Lieutenant of a company of militia in the Second Regiment of Lincoln, District of Niagara” and “with the war coming on and our men being obliged to retreat from Niagra, my house was used as a military storehouse. By that time the country had become pretty well settled and I was appointed Captain.”

He was engaged at the Battle of Frenchman’s Creek, 28 November 1812. Militia records show that he was continuously on duty on these dates: from 13 September to 05 December and from 13 to 24 October with a large detachment of the Second Lincoln in Willoughby Township, as well as from 25 October to 24 November with a detachment of several companies stationed at Dr. Hersey’s house. Hersey’s home was in Bertie Township, very near the scene of the Frenchman’s Creek affair.

Captain John DeCou’s house at DeCew Falls was a pivotal point in many skirmishes and battles. On 27 May 1813, Niagra and Fort George were abandoned. The survivors of General Vincent’s force retired, gathering as they went the guards and pickets that had been stationed at various points. At nightfall the little army reached DeCou’s and there halted to rest.

The house accommodated the headquarters, outbuildings sheltered the wounded, and regiments bivouacked in the fields. With sinking hearts the loyal DeCou family watched the rear guard of the British forces disappear on the road to Burlington and turned their eyes eastward to watch for the first scouts of the victorious American army. The enemy’s patrols were at the line of the Twelve Mile Creek and DeCou’s house the next day.

Records show that Captain John DeCou was among twenty-one men seized on the 19th, 20th and 21st of June 1813. They were taken from the Canadian side of the Niagara River to Fort Niagara on 22 June and were kept there for three days before beginning a long journey into the interior of the States.
On 12 June 1813, Lieutenant James FitzGibbon, of the 49th Regiment, obtained permission from General Vincent to organize a troop of mounted volunteers, the Green Tigers, to do scout and patrol duty in front of the British position. In three days the troop of 46 men was completed and outfitted and on the 16th they advanced and took up headquarters at DeCou’s Georgian-style stone house. “FitzGibbon had chosen DeCou’s house as his headquarters, a choice which evinced an intimate knowledge of the locality as well as considerable strategic ability. The position gave him the command of four roads – to Queenston via St. David’s, to St. Catharines and the lake, to Colonel Bisshopp’s station, and to that most important post, Burlington Heights.”

The American general ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Charles G. Boerstler, of Maryland, on 23 June to take a force of 500 men and two field guns and advance to DeCou’s house and destroy it. He knew DeCou’s house to be FitzGibbon’s headquarters, well placed seventeen and a half miles from Fort George via Queenston and sixteen miles via St. Catharines.

Katherine must have rejoiced to have so many gallant protectors

At DeCou’s nothing was known of the impending attack. The pregnant 32 year-old Mrs. Katherine (Dochstader) DeCou lived in one or two rooms with her five young children: John Junior, age 12; Catharine, age 10, (this researcher’s second-great-grandmother); Robert, age 6; Frederic, age 4; and Edmund, age 1. Meanwhile the soldiers occupied the rest of the house and its dependencies. Katherine must have rejoiced to have so many gallant protectors about them while Capt. John DeCou was a prisoner in the enemy’s hands. In DeCou’s fields, to the east, a large party of Caughnawaga (Kahnawake) natives were encamped under the command of Captain Dominique Ducharme. There were also 100 Mohawks under Captain William Johnson Kerr. However, the sense of security was rudely disturbed on the evening of 22 June when a party of the Indians came to the house, having in their custody, Laura, wife of James Secord, of Queenston, whom they seized when she strayed into their camp in the darkness. The story of Laura Secord’s perilous journey to warn FitzGibbon of the advancing American troops is too well known to repeat herein. While she was describing to FitzGibbon the strong enemy column advancing towards him and the DeCou house, Indian runners brought forth the news that the foe had already passed St. Davids and had met with the British pickets.

“Then ensued a time of wild excitement at ‘DeCou’s’. The whole body of Indians rushed away to ambush the advancing column, couriers galloped to appraise DeHaren at the Ten Mile creek, and Bisshopp at ‘the Twenty’ of the sudden developments in the situation, while FitzGibbon’s men dragged out all the stores that would stand such treatment and sank them in the waters of DeCou’s mill-pond. Accompanied by a handful of his men, the commander himself went forward to the scene of conflict.

Meantime, Mrs. Katherine DeCou and her daughter, Catharine, did what they could to relieve the exhaustion of Laura Secord. Food was set before her, her bare and lacerated feet and limbs were bathed and bandaged and the shoes and stockings of the daughter, Catharine DeCou, replaced those lost in the woods and bog.
Mrs. DeCou and her children were resolved to remain in their home until it should be actually assailed by the approaching foe, but Mrs. Secord was unequal to facing any additional trials of strength or courage that day, and she desired to be taken to the home of her friends, the Turneys, below the mountain, a mile or so distant. Her exhausted body was incapable of any further exertion, so a hammock was made by fastening a long blanket to a pole, two Indians took her light weight upon their shoulders and one of the DeCou boys [probably the 12 year-old John Junior] walked beside, as guide and protector. So Laura Secord went to a place of comparative safety while the inmates of DeCou’s house trembled at the boom of artillery, rolling through the woods and fields from the direction of the Beaverdams. ...29

In the meantime, Captain John DeCou was experiencing his own wartime hardships as a prisoner-of-war. “We now numbered in all about fifty prisoners, with but a small guard placed over us [at Batavia, New York]. Shortly after this we were carried from place to place. At one place an old lady came hurrying out, exclaiming, ‘Where are they? Where are they?’ When one of our men pointed out a couple across the street, she, with a wondering look said: ‘Why, law me, they are just like men; they look like our folks.’

We at length arrived at Pittsfield, where twelve officers, I being one, were selected as hostages — to be sent to Washington and executed in retaliation for the execution of some of their men, who proved to be deserters from our army and captured bearing arms against us. After travelling eight days towards the place of execution, the orders were countermanded, Sir George Prevost having informed them that he had caused twenty-four of their subjects to be placed in close confinement, and would put two for one to death if they persisted. During the final adjustment of this, to us a vital question, we were ordered to be kept at Philadelphia, and were placed in what was appropriately called the Invincible prison — a large three-storey building, the third flat of which contained a spacious hall, to which we all had access during the day, but were confined in several apartments during the night.

We were humanely treated, and for a time had liberty to traverse a portion of the city, on parole. On returning to our restricted position, our longings for home, together with the uncertainty that hung over our ultimate position, caused us to plan an escape. There was a fire-place at the end of our hall highest the street, the chimney of which was sufficiently large to admit of our escape through it, but it was so grated with iron bars as to require the removal of two in order to permit our egress. We knew the hours when we were usually left alone, and commenced operations on the grates by using the mainsprings of our watches for saws, placing them in frames for that purpose. To provide against detection, as the chimney was inspected every day, we found it necessary to replace the grate we had removed when we were not engaged in the work. This we did by securing it in place by wrapping it with paper which we had first rubbed on the sooty chimney in order to give it the proper colour. We next made a rope of bedding, tying the strips together, and chose the hour between eight and nine in the evening, we then being usually alone and the streets not much frequented. I was the last to escape, and unfortunately for me the rope had broken in the descent of the man who had preceded me, so I found myself at the end, not knowing how far I was from the ground, but let myself fall, and found myself supported by two comrades, the blood running from my mouth. With difficulty I prevailed upon my friends to leave me, and make their own escape, as it was impossible for me to travel.”30

The escape took place on 20 April 1814. “After remaining alone for some time, rain commenced pouring down and I recovered so as to be able to walk, which I did in a direction leading from the prison; but, by a strange mishap I, in the darkness, fell into an unoccupied cellar in which stood nigh a foot of water, losing my hat in the fall. I waded around a good while before I found my hat and still longer before I found my way out, and in the meantime I heard the patrol of dragoons pass on the street.”31

The broken bone in his foot rendered walking slow and painful

“I continued my journey notwithstanding my accumulated bruises, slowly and silently, and at length saw a light from a window. On reaching the house from whence the light proceeded, and gaining admittance, I found a gentleman and a lady occupied with books. They proposed to put me upstairs, but I advised them to let me go to some outhouse, so that if discovered, I could say that I had secreted myself there without their knowledge. This they did, and I crawled into a hayloft over a stable.

The next day, I was presented with a printed bill offering one hundred dollars reward for the capture of each of the escaped prisoners and also announcing that if anyone was known to harbour or in any way assist in their escape their property would be confiscated and they tried for high treason.

The escaped prisoners were all re-taken the first forenoon, but myself and two others who had friends in the city.

I set out as a drover returning from market. Knowing that I would not be able to cross the Niagara River, I took my way to Lower Canada.”32
The broken bone in his foot rendered walking slow and painful and associated long rests. On one occasion he concealed himself in a swamp. The foot was greatly inflamed and in the hope of easing the agony he thrust the injured member deep into the black muck. To his joy he discovered that this acted as a sort of natural poultice and, after some hours of the treatment, he was able to resume his weary journey. 33

“I was shortly afterwards sent for by the General who supposed that I might have broken my parole, but on hearing my story gave me credit for tact and endurance, paid me my arrears and gave me a free pass home, where I arrived just two weeks after my friends whom I had left behind, an exchange of prisoners having taken place in the meantime.” 34

With only a short rest, however, Captain John DeCou, age 48, returned to active duty with his company of the Second Lincoln from 30 June to 24 August 1814, being present at the Battle of Chippawa, the British retirement into the Niagara forts, the Short Hills and Burlington battles and the final British advance, culminating in the Battle of Lundy’s Lane. 35

Following the War of 1812, “Captain John DeCou was handicapped by his injury that would never heal, his horses and cattle having disappeared, his fields suffering from neglect, his fences in ruins, his vehicles gone and his mills in a state of dilapidation from constant usage and lack of repairs.” 36

Nevertheless, with characteristic energy, “he set about the work of restoration and not only made all as good as before, but also rebuilt or enlarged his grist-mills. He acquired several hundred acres of additional land, resumed his municipal responsibilities and was active in all movements for the development of the country.

His numerous enterprises gave employment to a considerable number of men. Houses were erected for them near the mills and, with its school, church, blacksmith shop and other usual conveniences, the settlement became a recognized hamlet with the name ‘DeCou Town’. To the establishment of the church, as well as the school, he gave substantial aid. Tradition says he ‘built the church.’” 37

The population of DeCou Town was 200 in 1833.

Captain John DeCou was one of the originators of the Welland Canal. In 1818, together with William Hamilton Merritt, he borrowed a crude water-level and made a survey of the height of land dividing the headwaters of the Welland River and Twelve Mile Creek with the view of uniting the two waters with a canal.

The Welland Canal Company was formed on 19 January 1824, consisting of George Keefer, Thomas Merritt, George Adams, William Chisholm, Joseph Smith, Paul Shipman, John DeCou and William Hamilton Merritt. 38

John DeCou subscribed for seven shares and was one of the first four to make payment on his allotment. 39

W.H. Merritt, writing to Sir John Harvey, on 24 May 1824, said “I can bring every part of this route forcibly to your recollection. It commences ten miles up the Chippawa (Welland) river; passes DeCew’s (the house we retreated to after we were beaten from Fort George) and terminates at the Twelve Mile creek, the place where our boats generally landed during the war.” 40

Had the canal been constructed on the original line described by William Hamilton Merritt on 24 May 1824, a great industrial area would have developed at DeCew Falls, while Thorold and Merritton would perhaps not have come into existence. 41

However, when the first sod of the canal was turned on 30 November 1824, alterations had been made in the plans for the route, which didn’t come within two and a half miles of DeCew Falls and it had the effect of diverting water from the streams supplying DeCou’s mills, rather than adding to their flow as was the aim of the original plan.

The DeCou family suffered from it in several ways

“These alterations completely estranged John DeCou’s support. When the canal was completed and opened the DeCou family suffered from it in several ways. The old falls nearly went dry; the new canal towns drew population and business from DeCou Town.” 42

In 1831, John DeCou petitioned for compensation for damages sustained by the diversion of water from his mills by the construction of the Welland Canal.

In 1832 the seat for the Assembly of Haldimand became vacant. William Hamilton Merritt offered himself for the vacant seat and Captain John DeCou was also placed in the field along with William Johnson Ker and C. Richardson as candidates. This created a four-cornered contest that took place in the closing days of October and the first days of November 1832.

In those days the polling stations were open for a number of days. At one stage of the election Merritt and DeCou had received equal numbers of votes, and Ker was just a few behind. When the polls finally closed Merritt was declared elected with a majority of five votes over DeCou. 43

Unable to bear seeing his mills at DeCew Falls sit idle due to lack of a sufficient source of water power, he disposed of his holdings in the vicinity of DeCew Falls. At age 68, John sold the Georgian-style stone house in 1834 to David Griffiths. 44

“In 1833 or earlier John DeCou purchased 600 acres of wild lands on Derquania Creek in the Township of North Cayuga, Haldimand County, the property including mill sites and privileges.” 45

With characteristic energy, he began to undertake a new industrial development there, acquiring another 600 acres in South Cayuga and Oneida Townships, upon which land he established lumbering, quarrying, and other industries. 46

A dam was built across the Dequania (Derquania) Creek at Decewsville, North Cayuga Township, and the pent-up waters were led to a series of two sawmills, a planing mill and a grist-mill, all of which were under the direct management of his sons. The sawmills and planing mill were the only ones in the area. 47

Captain John DeCou built yet another stone house (Lot 40, 1st Concession North of Talbot Road, North Cayuga Township, Haldimand County) in 1834, the first of Haldimand County. 48

With his old-time liberality towards public improvement, Captain DeCou sold a site for a common school for five shillings and also set aside half an acre for a public burying-ground. 49

As well, he established a Methodist church on Lot 42 or 43, 1st Concession North of Cayuga, Oneida Township, Haldimand County, known as the Valley Church. 50

The village became known as Decewsville in honour of Captain John DeCou.

In 1833 John DeCou launched a glass manufacturing company and in 1834 a Bill to incorporate himself and nine others as “The Upper Canada Glass Manufacturing Company” was passed by the Legislative Assembly. 51

establish a ferry at his own expense

Captain John DeCou petitioned the governor, Sir John Colborne, for grants of landing-places on either side of the
Captain John DeCou’s life was of extraordinary span as measured by the history of this country. When he was born, Canada, but three years a British possession, was still under military rule and this Province was an unbroken wilderness. He was nine years old when the first shot was fired at Lexington; he fought in the War of 1812-14 as a middle-aged officer. He was past the allotted span when Mackenzie took up arms, and could not bear to see his country at odds with itself, preferring to remain on the sidelines of this fray, yet he lived to within a dozen years of the formation of the Dominion. Through the whole long story of transformations he was a pioneer. He was with the first surveyors in the Province; he became a pioneer settler; he built some of the earliest mills; he led in the betterment of agriculture, housing and means of communication, and in the encouragement of education and religion. He held a commission in the first complete militia organization; he was a projector of the first Welland canal; he was one of the first municipal officers. He struggled for parliamentary reforms; he was in the van of every movement for the development and improvement of the country.”

Captain John DeCou wrote his last will on 16 July 1847 and died on 25 May 1855 followed by his wife, Katherine (Dochstader) DeCou, on 5 December 1856. They were buried in the small Decewsville Cemetery, Decewsville, Ontario.

An obituary of Captain John DeCou was published in The Mail newspaper, Toronto, Wednesday, 18 April 1855:

"Departed this life at his residence in the Township of N, Cayuga, County of Haldimand, March 26th, 1855, Captain John DeCew, Senr., aged 87 years, 1 month and 22 days. He was one of the early settlers of the Niagara District, having emigrated there from the State of New Jersey immediately at the close of the American Revolutionary War, and from thence to this Township in the year 1828. His life has been characteristic of remarkable energy, perseverance and consistency.

As a patriot he was ardent for the interests and prosperity of the Country of his adoption, he shared no mean part in the troubles of 1812 and 1813 in which he officiated as Captain of Militia under the late Colonel Clarke. During the War he was taken prisoner, carried and confined by the American authorities in a Bastile in Philadelphia, which was considered an invincible barrier to human skill but by the use of means, combined with ingenuity, succeeded in cutting its bars, making his exit, and so disguised himself as to have succeeded in escaping detection on his return home; (by which the blessings of Providence, he succeeded in reaching) in time to share in the Battle of Lundy’s Lane.

In Politics, a friend to civil and religious privileges. Although by education a Quaker, he was by no means a bigot, but on the contrary, respected the opinions of all Evangelical Societies. As a Philanthropist, Benevolent, Charitable, Sympathizer.

As a Husband and father, he was affectionate and endearing, commanding by his good moral example the respect and esteem of his family. His love of home and the lively interest he felt for his children has been the means of cultivating a constant reciprocal good understanding.

Although for several years in the decline of life, he was the subject of much affection. His last moments were characterized by great fortitude and sensibility of mind."
In 1792, Upper Canada was in its infancy. Eight years after the largest mass migration in the history of North America, Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe had opened the Colony in an attempt to accelerate settlement. Simcoe was convinced that there were pockets of Loyal Americans who would be drawn north with the promise of free land.

Simcoe assembled “Nominees” such as Asa Danforth Jr. to recruit these loyal subjects to townships in Upper Canada. Simcoe believed these settlers were tied by a desire to remain neighbours in their new homeland as well as sharing common religious beliefs. In fact, these nominees or promoters were largely land speculators attempting to personally accumulate property and wealth.

Asa Danforth Jr. had been born in Brookfield, Massachusetts in 1768; at the age of 20 he moved cattle overland from Mayfield, Massachusetts to Onondaga in 1788 for his father, Major Asa Danforth Sr. Danforth Sr. was a Veteran of Continental Massachusetts in the American Revolution and was largely responsible for pioneering Onondaga civilization. Danforth Jr. had settled at Salt Point where a daughter Amanda was born to him and his wife Olive (nee Langdon) in 1789. The child was this first white birth in Onondaga County.

In 1794, Danforth’s father was described by Lt. Governor Simcoe as “the most virulent enemy of Great Britain in that Country.” Hence, the surprise when the young Danforth appeared in Upper Canada in 1797 seeking the favour of the government. Danforth had cumulative debts speculating on land in New York State and saw Upper Canada as his opportunity to turn his fortune around. He would essentially roll the dice at double or nothing in an attempt to make his fortune and restore his name.

However, there was a misunderstanding of what was promised to these nominees. They were led to believe that they were entitled to the outright grant of the township, given that they meet the number of settlers required.

In fact they were only to receive 1,200 acres. Following this misinterpretation, Simcoe became disillusioned with the township program and in May of 1796 declared many of the townships forfeited. All settlers within the townships were declared forfeited and required to submit proof of their claim before 01 June 1797. Danforth claimed to have helped 205 settlers in four different townships. With further investigation into the matter Simcoe learned that the nominees were land speculators rather than the loyal promoters he thought them to be. The nominee’s settlers did little to improve the lands before moving on, and were recruiting settlers who had already attained land and were not looking for more.

Despite losing most of what he had ... Danforth remained in Upper Canada.

Simcoe’s successor, Peter Russell, sought to re-engage the promoters and re-opened the townships in July of 1797. Under the new arrangement the promoters were entitled to 1,200 acres if they became a resident of Upper Canada. A number of the promoters or nominees were greatly outraged by this decision and banded together to legally contest the granting of townships that had already had been previously entrusted under the original program. The Executive Council deemed these legal actions improper and rescinded Danforth’s grant of 1,200 acres. Despite losing most of what he had acquired, Danforth remained in Upper Canada.

The irony is that, despite all his misfortune in land speculation, Danforth entered into contract in 1798 with Lt. Gov. Peter Russell to construct a badly needed road from the Catarqui Townships through Prince Edward County on to the capital of York, ending at Ancaster. The Executive Council agreed to pay Danforth $90 per mile as well as authorizing him to identify forty men from New York State to work as labourers in exchange for 200-acre grants.
Danforth had been frustrated as a promoter or nominee but was now optimistic that he could prosper as a road builder.

The road would be carved out of heavy forest across swamp and streams. It would be a key to connecting the settlement along Lake Ontario from Kingston to York. Asa Danforth’s contract allowed him to collect money in instalments as sections of the road were completed and inspected. The task of carrying his debt and financing the building of the road was a constant strain and Danforth needed to make continuous progress to stay ahead of his creditors.

By late 1799 Danforth had completed all 106 miles of the project. Upon inspection, the road was deemed “generally sound” with a few problems that would need correction in the spring at a “probable cost” of only $125. The Executive Council took the hard line with Danforth withholding almost $2,000 until the spring repairs would be completed. The council also refused to grant the land promised to the forty labourers. In the end the government defrauded Danforth of what he was owed under the premise that all Americans were “tricksters.” On another interesting note, fellow nominee, William Berczy, a traveller who stayed at Henry Finkle’s tavern in Ernestown (present day Bath, Ontario), in April 1798, remarked that the road was “very good.” The great road was blazed under the direction of Asa Danforth, the American from Salt Point, New York. In the Bay of Quinte area, the existing road along the lakeshore only had to be improved. By 1800, the road was completed to Ancaster. Berczy may have been shielding his previous partner in crime, but no one will ever know for sure.

Danforth was absent in the United States for a short time in 1800; it was here where he was jailed as a debtor. Upon his release and return to Canada he was given an extension and completed the road in December.

Another source describing The Danforth Road states “the road was supposedly thirty-three feet wide with sixteen and one half feet cleared of trees and stumps with no impossible hills.”

In some places it seemed no more than a track through the forest. This view contradicted Williams Berczy’s comments. Bitter about his treatment at the hands of the Executive Council and financially ruined, Danforth returned to New York City. There he consorted with his major creditor and political connections about the possibility of a Canadian rebellion. He was forced to lease out his Salt shares and continually borrow for financial upkeep. He returned hopeful in 1801, with a plan to overthrow the provincial government, but nothing came of it.

In the end, Asa Danforth Jr.’s personal ambition and its consequences overshadowed the legacy of the road that he constructed and that helped connect Upper Canada and protect the Empire. He was last heard from in New York City in 1821, hiding from the sheriff and his road became overgrown and unused.

Note: In Professor Alan Taylor’s book, The Civil War of 1812, the author shows an illustration (page 124) of the Danforth Road routed through Napane, Ontario. I can assure the reader this is inaccurate. I spend my summers working at the United Empire Loyalist Heritage Centre & Park in Adolphustown, Ontario. There is an original part of the Danforth Road remaining, running through the east end of the park. The road passes the UEL Memorial and Cemetery where the first Loyalist settler, a child, was buried on 17 June 1784 as well as the original landing spot of Peter Van Altine and his Company of Associated Loyalists. The original Danforth Road continued west to Glenora where a ferry connects Adolphustown to Prince Edward County. The ferry operation dates back to the late 1780s.

This is confirmed in On the Edge of History. The Danforth Road enters the county at Carrying Place from Brighton and followed an Indian trail through Ameliasburgh Township, which at the time extended from the Bay of Quinte to Lake Ontario. It crossed Hallowell Township to the Bay of Quinte at Stone Mills (present day Glenora). Here it was linked by ferry to Adolphustown and followed the shore to Kingston.

Endnotes:


Bibliography


“The Burleigh Papers” Queen’s University Archives, unpublished (also some references in The Smiling Wilderness)


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Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was a great fan of royalty. After the accession of Queen Victoria to the throne in 1837, he and a friend had a running joke about how they were in love with the young Queen. Later, in the 1850s, he twice had the opportunity to perform in plays for the Queen and Prince Albert. In 1870, three months before he died, he had a private audience with the Queen, and presented her with a complete edition of his works.

2012 marks the bicentennial of his birth. It was celebrated by a series of high-profile events in London, at which I was present, in my role as Trustee of the Charles Dickens Museum, which is located on Doughty Street, in one of his London homes. These events were a particular thrill for me as a member of the UELAC.

We began the Dickens birthday celebration with a service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey, at Poets’ Corner, where Dickens is buried. I felt somewhat uneasy about this, because Dickens himself did not wish to be buried there: he chose instead the churchyard of Rochester Cathedral. At the time of his death, the Dean of Westminster, A.P. Stanley, made a special plea to have the novelist buried in the Poets’ corner, alongside Chaucer, Dryden, Johnson, Tennyson, Masefield, Kipling, Hardy (without his heart, which is buried in Dorset!) and others who had made significant contributions to literature and the arts. I think, given how the memory and reputation of Charles Dickens have survived the test of time, he would have approved of being in such fine company!

The service began with the entrance of HRH Prince Charles and HRH the Duchess of Cornwall, to an organ fanfare. The head of the Dickens family, Mark Dickens, then read a poignant passage from The Life of Our Lord, a book Dickens wrote for his children. It describes Jesus thus: “No one ever lived, who was so good, so kind, so gentle, and so sorry for all people who did wrong, or were in anyway ill or miserable, as He was. And as He is now in Heaven, where we hope to go.” This was followed by an address from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, in which he said, “It’s difficult to tell the truth about human beings. Every novelist knows this in a special way, and when Dickens sets out to tell the truth about human beings he does it outrageously, by exaggeration, by caricature.” He then addressed the skill of Charles Dickens at depicting individual tragedies, errors, and “hells.” It was a powerful homily, emphasising our shared capacity to make mistakes, and God’s boundless forgiveness.

Then the actor Ralph Fiennes (star of Schindler’s List, and Coriolanus, who plays Magwitch in a new Great Expectations, and is currently making a film called The Invisible Woman about Dickens’s mistress, Ellen Ternan) gave a powerful reading of the death of Jo, the Crossing Sweeper in Bleak House, that ends with these poignant words: “Dead! Dead, your Majesty. Dead, my lords and gentlemen. Dead, Right Reverends and Wrong Reverends of every order. Dead, men and women, born with Heavenly compassion in your hearts. And dying thus around us, every day.” The words were especially poignant and ironic, given the fact that Prince Charles and Rowan Williams were in the congregation!

The highlight (as far as UELs are concerned) was the laying of the wreath on the grave of Charles Dickens by the Prince of Wales, which was done with great dignity. After prayers we all sang “God Save the Queen.” This was a thrilling moment, uttering these words in the presence of the next in line to the throne, who, like all of us there, sang while standing at attention, absolutely still and with intent in his look and voice.

The invited guests (among whom I was one) were then ushered into the “Jerusalem Chamber” for a private reception, attended by sixty people, including the Royal party, the Archbishop, the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral, Ralph Fiennes, and the actress Gillian Anderson (of X-Files fame, who played Miss Havisham in the recent BBC adaptation of Great Expectations).
The Royals had lots of people gathered around them, and there was a sort of formality about the introductions. I took the opportunity to talk to Gillian Anderson (who had done a private reading for the Prince of Wales at the Dickens Museum that morning), and found that she was absolutely charming! When I asked her where she called home she said “Doughty Street”: the location of the Dickens Museum! How wonderful, I thought, for Dickens to have such a nice neighbor! Ralph Fiennes was also good company; I asked him about his Dickens projects (including playing Magwitch in yet another production of Great Expectations), and wished him well with them.

Then the magic moment arrived: my meeting with TRH’s (Their Royal Highnesses). We were given notes about Royal protocol before the event: the first time one addresses them, it’s “Your Royal Highness”; thereafter it’s “Sir” for Prince Charles, and “Ma’am” (as in “ham”) for the Duchess. Both were charming, and easy to talk to. They have a knack of making people feel at ease. I did get the sense that they work awfully hard. They are aware that for many people the meeting of a Royal was a real highlight (yours truly bought a new suit for the occasion).

My brush with Royalty didn’t end there. The following week I attended a reception at Buckingham palace, together with other organizers of the Dickens 2012 celebrations, and people from the British arts and entertainment world. Our first port of call was the Picture Gallery, hung with splendid portraits by Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Rubens. However for a Victorian scholar like me these paled into insignificance compared with the Dickens items from the Royal Collection on display. These included Dickens letters and first editions; Queen Victoria’s journal (opened to show entries describing her meetings with Dickens); and a wonderful set of miniature editions of the Christmas Books by Charles Dickens (including A Christmas Carol), made in the 1920s for Queen Mary’s doll house. This project was the brainchild of her cousin, Princess Marie Louise, who arranged for the leading artists and craftsmen of the time to contribute their special abilities to the house that actually worked, including water running through tiny pipes, and miniature light fixtures.

The formal part of the evening consisted of guests participating in a receiving line in the Blue Drawing Room where the wedding reception for Prince William and Kate Middleton was held. We were announced individually, and had our photographs taken as we were introduced to the Queen. I shook hands with Her Majesty, who wore gloves for the occasion, and with the Duke of Edinburgh. We were then ushered into the Music Room, where I met one of the Queen’s Ladies in Waiting, and had a lovely chat with her about our festival for Charles Dickens. At the time I felt the event had been somewhat of an anti-climax: all that anticipation, agonizing over what to wear, what to say, and all I managed was “Good evening, Your Majesty.”

Luckily, I was given the opportunity for a more private encounter. Later in the evening, as we mingled, a member of the Royal Household came up to me and five of my friends, and asked “Would you like to meet and talk to the Queen?” We all said “Yes,” trying desperately to control our excitement. We were reminded about Royal Protocol (“Your Majesty” the first time one speaks to her, and “Ma’am” thereafter), and were told that in precisely three minutes a member of staff would come to whisk away our drinks because one did not talk to the Queen while holding a glass. We were then told that one minute later the Queen would arrive. We were arranged into a semi-circular formation, and awaited the appointed moment. In the interval one of my friends who had not been selected to meet the Queen was shooed away by the Palace official, having been told that “the Queen is coming,” and that he was “in the way.” Her Majesty then approached our little group, and spoke to us one at a time. Here was my once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

The Queen was extremely pleasant, and asked me what I did. I explained that I was an academic, a Trustee of the Charles Dickens Museum, and one of the organizers of the Dickens 2012 Festival. She asked what I thought of the Palace and the event. I said that I was very impressed by the Dickens items that were in the Royal Collection. I was careful not to say that I admired her collection of the works of Charles Dickens, for, although the items are the property of the Monarch as Sovereign, they are held in trust for her successors and for the nation. The Queen agreed, and said, “Yes, isn’t it wonderful? I didn’t realize that we had all that stuff!” We shared a laugh, and she gracefully moved on.

As a member of the UELAC, I was proud to have met the Queen under these circumstances. The fact that the Dickens bicentennial was recognized by the State in such a public fashion is evidence of the abiding popularity of Charles Dickens, and of his importance throughout the English-speaking world. Long live the Queen, and long live the memory of Charles Dickens!

Dr. Leon Litvack UE, who was born in Toronto, is a university professor at the Queen’s University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, and an eminent Dickens scholar. He was in London (England) for the celebrations of the 200th birthday of Charles Dickens that fell on 7 February 2012. He reports on his meetings with HRHs Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall, and Her Majesty the Queen, who led the UK’s tribute to the great author.
FitzGibbon was known as The Green Tiger in the War of 1812 for the 49th Regiment’s green collar and cuffs. To some he was just Fitz. Although he stood out at Battles at Queenston Heights in 1812, Stoney Creek, Beaver Dams and Lundy’s Lane in 1813, he is not as well known nor celebrated as was Major-General Sir Isaac Brock. Anna Jamieson, who knew Fitz, wrote In Winter Studies and Summer Rambles in Canada: “He is a soldier of fortune which means he owed nothing to fortune but everything to his own good heart, his good sense, and his good sword.”

Fitz, born in 1781, the son of an Irish cottor (a farm worker in a cottage) on the River Shannon, joined, at age 17, the Tarbert Fencibles of the British Army. Sent to England, he looked forward to adventures in faraway places. He was a passionate reader, especially of military history. A favourite childhood book was History of Troy’s Destruction.

His mother feared for her Catholic son in the British Army

In 1799, aged 18, he was drafted into Brock’s 49th Regiment as a Sergeant. His mother feared for her Roman Catholic son in the British Army without friends in high places or family wealth. He sailed immediately with Brock for the invasion of Holland. His first major battle was Egmont-op-Zee.

In 1801, at age 20, his regiment was with Lord Nelson in Copenhagen. In 1802, he sailed with Brock and the 49th to Canada. He served under Brock who became his personal hero and who supplied him with books on history and military instruction. Brock taught him the art of military manners and the lifestyle of a gentleman.

In June 1812, the United States declared war on Great Britain. Fitz was 32 years old. With uncanny instinct for geography, he moved boats along the St. Lawrence, delivering troops and provisions between Quebec and Niagara. He knew, better than anyone, the River’s moods, the shoreline, safe harbours and where provisions could be obtained. He commanded a company of fifteen boats 30 to 40 feet long and 5 to 8 feet wide. He supplied the forts at Kingston, York, Newark, Chippawa, Fort Erie and Amherstburg.

On 05 June, Fitz learned that the Americans were camped at Stoney Creek. He hand-picked fifty of his best Green Tigers to form a fast-moving cavalry. Divided into three parties, they moved not by main roads but by Indian paths and Escarpment trails into countryside where American raiding parties were robbing farms and taking prisoners. His assignment was to stop these insults, collect information and do everything to annoy the enemy. William Hamilton Merritt, later of Welland Canal history, and his provincial dragoons were attached to Fitz.

He went to Harvey with a bold plan: a night attack.

The British rear guard was camped near Lake Ontario about seven miles from the Burlington Heights fortifications at Dundurn. When Fitz learned that the Americans, (some records say through Billy the Scout, others that it was Fitz’s own reconnaissance), 2,500 strong, planned to attack in the morning, he feared the British would have to abandon the peninsula, letting the whole country fall. He went to Lt.-Col. Harvey with a bold plan: a night attack.

At 11:00 p.m., in soft rain, his men, asleep in the grass, were awakened and marched eastward along Burlington Bay toward the enemy. His 5th Company was at the head of the column of about seven hundred men. Three miles out, they stopped, were told it would be a night attack and the flints were removed from their guns. Fitz knew this was risky but the danger was greater if a man fired too soon as it would spell disaster for all.

The Americans were camped on Gage’s field (Battlefield Park) at the foot of Twenty Mile Hill: five hundred men to the left of Gage’s house, two thousand to the right with pickets in the woods and guns on the brow of the hill. The Gage family and the farmhands were prisoners in the basement.
Two sentries were silently taken prisoner; a third, bayoneted, cried out and a sentry fired a shot. Immediately the attack started. The Americans ran to the hill, opened fire on the British who endeavoured to fight in extreme darkness upon unknown ground with fallen trees, rail fences and stumps. Worse still, they were backlighted by the campfires.

Major Plenderleath of the 49th charged the guns that were firing down on them, took five Field Officers and Captains and one hundred men prisoner. When the British reached the top of the hill, the Americans fled. The British were fleeing too, causing confusion and terror.

Daylight on 06 June revealed dead and wounded strewn for two miles along the road and in the woods. The Americans returned, burned whatever was left on the battlefield, carried off wagons of flour and camp equipage, and joined the main body at Forty Mile Creek. The injured were carried away and many dead were buried on Gage’s farm. On 07 June, the Indians, learning the news, came in droves and, with the turned-out militia, captured Americans lost in the woods. On 08 June, the Americans retreated by land to Fort George. They sent some baggage and camp equipment by boats that were captured.

This nocturnal attack on the Americans at Stoney Creek brought a change in British prospects. Two American Generals were captured and the Americans never advanced as far into the Niagara Peninsula again. FitzGibbon developed guerrilla tactics with stealth and cunning in the Canadian woods.

On a personal note, FitzGibbon, concerned always with his lack of money, delayed marriage to his sweetheart, Mary Haley, of Kingston. Anna Jamieson wrote: “In the midst of the siege on Fort Erie, August 14, 1814, the Green Tiger mounted his horse, rode one hundred and fifty miles, married his girl, and returned the following day to his duties.” Mary travelled to Adolphustown to meet him. They were married by George Okill Stuart by licence of the Synod Office of St. George’s Cathedral, Kingston. In later years, he was a good friend of the Strickland sisters, Elizabeth and Jane. His son, Charles FitzGibbon, became engaged to their niece, Agnes, daughter of Susannah Strickland Moodie.

James FitzGibbon died in England on 10 December 1863. His children, William, Mary, and James, died in the 1850s. His son Charles survived him. During his last illness, he asked his doctor about returning to his home in Canada, to lie by his wife, Mary, in St. James churchyard in Toronto. Instead he lies in the catacombs of St. George’s Cathedral, far from where he fought in Niagara.

On 01 and 02 June 2013, Battlefield Park celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Stoney Creek with food, music and games. You will find highlights, admission details and a schedule of events at www.battlefieldhouse.ca.

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Editor’s Note: On 21 June 1813 Laura Secord overheard American officers, billeted at her home in Queenston, discussing plans to capture a British outpost located at Captain John DeCou’s House, 32 kilometres away, near the area called Beaver Dams. Early the next morning, Laura left her family to complete a walk through dangerous terrain to warn the British and their aboriginal allies of this impending attack. That evening she stumbled upon an encampment of native allies who escorted her to DeCou House. Lt. James FitzGibbon and his men captured nearly 600 American troops at the decisive Battle of Beaver Dams.

The Laura Secord Bicentennial Event and Commemorative Walk will be held on Saturday, 22 June 2013, marking exactly 200 years since Laura’s historic trek. Laura will be met at the DeCou House by Katherine (Dochstader) DeCou and her husband, Captain John DeCou, portrayed by Grietje McBride UE and Robert McBride UE.

The Friends of Laura Secord is a non-profit community group established to preserve, strengthen and perpetuate the legacy of Canadian heroine Laura Secord. For more information, please contact Caroline McCormick at 905-468-0994 or www.friendsoflaurasecord.com.

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**James FitzGibbon** fought in the Battles of: Fort George, Stoney Creek, Lundy’s Lane, and Beaver Dams. Heeding Laura Secord’s words, FitzGibbon planned his attack and was hailed a national hero. He later moved to England, where he became the Military Knight of Windsor. He was buried in St. George’s Chapel (shown), Windsor Castle.
The North American Black Historical Museum and Cultural Centre Inc., a community-based, non-profit museum, tells the story of the African-Canadians' journey and contributions by preserving and presenting artefacts that educate and inspire. In partnership with the History Department at the University of Windsor, the Essex County Black Historical Research Society and the Westmont Hospitality Group hosted the Freedom Landing Festival on Saturday, 29 January 2011.

The day began with a history conference at the museum consisting of eight presentations by historians, professors, actors and musicians.

Their magazine, The Talking Drum, Vol. 13, No. 2, February 2011, reported:

Hilary J. Dawson, a Toronto-based researcher, discussed slavery in Essex County, noting that from the earliest European presence in Upper Canada, African peoples have been enslaved. In 1763, when the Seven Year’s War (aka French & Indian War) ended, British Governor, James Murray, stated that ‘Black slaves are the only people to be depended upon.’ Matthew Elliott of Fort Malden lived in great affluence and was reported to own approximately fifty to sixty enslaved Blacks. He was known as a cruel master who used vicious weapons. When Quebec was divided into Upper and Lower Canada, John Graves Simcoe became the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. He was an abolitionist who spoke out against the ills of slavery. He was unhappy with the amount of slavery in his province so he tried to ban slavery in Upper Canada. However, he had to modify his legislation because of the opposition of legislators and other officials who depended upon their enslaved Blacks.

Thus, the new legislation did not free anyone; those who were enslaved remained enslaved but their children would be freed when they became 25 and any children born to the latter while still enslaved would be born free. This was the first anti-slavery legislation in the British Empire. Many notable individuals were slave owners, such as Col. John Butler, James Prentice, William Macomb, James Girty, Robert Suraphet, Peter Russell, Walter Roe, James and Francois Baby.

Dawson read many statements from the wills of some of these individuals, highlighting the fact that they often left ‘slaves’ to family members, the same way one would leave furniture. In the will of James Girty, Dawson indicated that Girty bequeathed to his son six Negro slaves: Jim, Hannah, Joe, Jack, Betsey and Tom. To his daughter, Girty left two Negro wenches and their children and the children born of their bodies. Dawson also detailed the life of Pompadore, a day labourer for Peter Russell. Pompadore’s wife, Peggy, was enslaved by Russell and she purposely did the bare minimum work and purposely misunderstood orders. Russell decided to sell Peggy and he turned to the services of Matthew Elliott. However, the sale fell through. Russell then advertised the sale of Peggy and her son Jupiter in the newspaper. In 1834,* slavery was abolished throughout the British Empire. (*Officially enacted 01 August but, as one might expect, not all slaves were informed immediately by their owners.)

The North American Black Historical Museum and Cultural Centre, Inc. is located at 277 King Street, Amherstburg, Ontario. N9V 2C7. Phone: 519-736-5433. E-mail: nabhm “at” mnsi.net. Website: www.blackhistoricalmuseum.org.

By Robert Collins McBride UE, B.Sc., M.Ed.
On 1 August 2012, the Branch hosted a day, free to UELAC members, at the UEL Park at Adolphustown.

Our September meeting is always an important one because of the induction of more names to our Loyalist Hall of Honour. The 2012 recipients included E. John Chard UE, whose long history of service to the Association is well-known nationally. He was a charter member of this Branch in 1956. A second recipient was the late Jeanne Minhinnick, an historian who specialized in early households and furnishings. She was involved in the development of Upper Canada Village and is the author of the highly-regarded book, At Home in Upper Canada. This meeting was held in Ameliasburgh.

Guest speaker, Diane Berlet, did a presentation on the Loyalist tiles of St. Alban’s, Adolphustown, now presented handsomely in a book reviewed in a past issue.

For our November meeting, we were back to Belleville for an afternoon with Peter C. Newman, who has become a local resident while he researches an anticipated book on the Loyalists. Peter read from the opening chapter of the forthcoming book, in which he put the American Revolution and experiences of the Loyalists into context. He also brought a vintage Hudson’s Bay Company flag and a genuine beaver hat. Peter C. Newman is now an Honorary Member of Bay of Quinte Branch.

Congratulations to Branch President Brian Tackaberry UE who was presented a Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal in September. Well-deserved!

At the time of writing, we look forward to our buffet and show-'n'-tell in Napanee in January, a meeting in Frankford in March, and a genealogy workshop at Adolphustown in April.
Calgary

By David Hongisto UE, Branch President

2012 has proven to be a successful year for the Calgary Branch. Membership is on the rise and there were twenty-two certificates issued to Calgary Branch members during the year. This may be a new record for the Branch, at least in recent years. More applications are pending at the time of writing this submission.

Our Spring event, consisting of the Annual General Meeting and Banquet, was held in May at the Calgary Winter Club. Thanks to Linda McClelland for making the arrangements. The event was well-attended and members and guests were entertained by Jeannie McCauley from the Famous Five Society with a fascinating historical presentation about Alberta’s Famous Five women. Naturally, a good time was had by all.

Several Calgary Branch members attended the Conference at the Confluence in Winnipeg and participated in the various tours and activities.

In October, Branch President David Hongisto UE and his wife, Barbara Hongisto UE, travelled to England for the wedding party of their niece, Laura Mason UE, who resides there, and David presented Laura with her Certificate. On the same trip, David had the honour and pleasure to present a Certificate to Alwyne Loyd UE, age 92 years, an historian extraordinaire and cousin to Lynne Peacock UE of Calgary, another of our newly-certified members. The presentation took place at the home of Alwyne’s son in London.

The Branch was represented at the Prairie Regional conference in Regina in October.

October also saw our Fall Banquet, again at the Calgary Winter Club. This event was also well-attended. Thanks to Sharon Terray UE, the entertainment for the evening was provided by Mr. Ryan Jones, a member of several re-enactment groups. Ryan, in a uniform of an 1812 soldier, spoke on the War of 1812 and clothing of the period. He also had artefacts to show. His enthusiasm for the subject was evident and the audience was greatly entertained.

Calgary Branch member, George Himann UE, has accepted nomination to fill a vacancy of one of the Trustee positions of the UELAC.

The future looks promising for the Calgary Branch. Membership queries continue to come in. We are hoping to increase the number of events held by the Branch.

Chilliwack

By Shirley Dargatz UE, Branch President

Canada Day 2012 provided Shirley Dargatz UE with an opportunity to officiate at the Carman United Church in Chilliwack. The theme, music, and message focused on celebrating our National Holiday and the importance of our heritage.

British Columbia’s First Annual Loyalist Day was held on 22 July at The Queen Elizabeth Park in New Westminster. With food and flags and friendship, we joyously celebrated our special day!

Crossing the mighty Fraser River on 28 July to reach the Kilby Historical Site and Museum saw Jan Ouellet, Marlene Dance, Judy Scholz UE, and two of her granddaughters, Karaline Heibner UE and Sydney Heibner UE, setting up our Loyalist displays at the Kilby Folk Festival.

The Fort Langley Brigade Days on the British Columbia long weekend in August (3–6) is always an enjoyable event. This year, Judy Scholz UE, with her grandson, Ethan Lyftogt UE, and granddaughter, Sydney Heibner UE, assisted their grandmother in setting up their Black Powder tent and belongings. For four days, in period dress, the Black Powder re-enactors live, sleep, eat, work, and barter in their encampment. On the last day, members of the Chilliwack and Vancouver Branches gathered under their favourite tree in the fort to have a picnic. In the afternoon, a parade of folks marched down to the Fraser River to await the arrival of the fur-trader’s canoes, after which all marched back up to the Fort to continue with the day’s events.

“Harvest Time” was the theme of our fall meeting. Marlene Dance, our Assistant Genealogist and now Vice-President of our Branch, was our Guest Speaker.

We were all thrilled to learn that Allan Kennedy UE had been awarded the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Award for his assistance to Navy Veterans.

The 80th Anniversary of the Founding Fathers of the Vancouver Branch was a grand affair at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. Special guests included our UELAC President, Bob McBride UE, and First Lady, Grietje McBride UE.
Six Chilliwack Branch members went to Vancouver to participate in this auspicious event.

On Remembrance Day, Marlene Dance did the honours of laying our Branch wreath at the Cenotaph in Chilliwack. Following the ceremonies, families and friends who were attending the ceremonies gathered at the Canton Restaurant for food and fellowship.

Judy Scholz UE and Shirley Dargatz UE, along with Pacific Regional Vice-President, Carl Stymiest UE, and Pacific Councillor, Mary Ann Bethune UE, enjoyed a B.C. ferry ride across the Georgia Strait to join with the Victoria Branch on the occasion of their Fall Fleet Celebration. Once again, President Bob McBride UE and First Lady Grietje McBride UE made the trek west to be guests for this occasion. Immediate Past President Bob Ferguson UE was presented with the Phillip E. M. Leith Award.

Memories of Christmas Past was the theme for our Christmas Tea. Three cousins, Bev Benje, Gail Moore, and Phyllis Mitchell, received their UE Certificates in the name of Loyalist ancestor, John Thornton UE. The numbers were heart-warming, as family members of the recipients attended to witness the Certificate ceremony and participate in the Christmas festivities. Koralee Heibner UE entertained us at the piano, and carols were sung. Our Country Store is always a popular feature and Jerry Brown UE donated an abundance of holly from his trees for this event.

Our Branch was saddened by the death of long-time member Laura Merson UE on 13 September 2012.
This past summer and fall were a busy time for many of us at Col. John Butler (Niagara) Branch. We had a display at the Dunnville Airport Museum’s annual heritage event. We even enjoyed a delicious barbeque chicken dinner at the end of the day. We attended commemoration ceremonies for the Battles of Chippawa and Lundy’s Lane, where our wreath was placed at the cenotaphs. The grand opening of the Niagara Falls History Museum was quite interesting. Guests were encouraged to wear clothing of the 1812 period and it was quite a show. We had displays at the Sherk Reunion and the Ontario Horticultural Association’s Convention; both held at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus of Niagara College. We attended at Norfolklore in Simcoe, as well. We are always looking for new members and these events are opportunities to tell interested parties about the Loyalists.

The number of events related to the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 kept us busy. Sophie, the Countess of Wessex, was at Queenston Heights in September to present new colours to the Lincoln and Welland Regiment. In October, weekend celebrations to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Queenston Heights, the resultant death of Maj. Gen. Sir Isaac Brock and his funeral, were a resounding success. The attendance far outweighed the expectations of the 1812 Committee. Several of our re-enactor members stayed at Fort George over the weekend.

The Ontario Horticultural Association, by way of the Port Colborne Horticultural Society, planted a lovely bur oak tree at the Doan UEL Cemetery. Janet Hodgkins, a descendant of Aaron Doan, unveiled a plaque at the ceremony. Janet did a very interesting presentation of her Doan heritage at our November meeting.

Our Branch was recognized at the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Volunteer Evening for its assistance with the organization and participation at the Diamond Jubilee Family Day, which was held this past May at Ball’s Falls.

Standard Bearer, David Ellsworth, was honoured when asked to place a wreath at the cenotaph in Ridgeway on Remembrance Day.

Our Annual General Meeting and Christmas Social were well-attended again this year. Members of the Executive were returned by acclamation for 2013. Everyone seemed to enjoy the free time to chat with fellow members and guests. One lucky member was the winner of an 1812 Commemorative Silver Dollar. This was a fitting end to a busy season.

Both the community and our members lost a dear and kind soul with the passing of Lloyd Fourney. He could have been addressed as Rev. Dr. Lloyd Fourney UE, BA, M.Div., D.D., but he preferred to have his titles and letters unmentioned. We knew and respected him simply as “Lloyd.” He was an active member of Edmonton Branch for many years, and is truly missed.

In August, Robert Rogers invited Branch members to a barbeque at his home. It was a lovely gathering on a pleasant summer day, giving people an opportunity to enjoy relaxed visiting. Those who attended felt that the highlight was the presentation to Don Chapman of four certificates for Loyalist ancestors: Isaac Brisco UE, John Anderson UE, Hugh Clark UE and William Bell UE. The fact that he had previously received three certificates and more were expected is an accomplishment indeed!

Our general meetings continued the series of presentations by members about War of 1812 battles. Researching a topic and presenting it to the group is a useful way for members to educate themselves. A gift basket donated by Dave Rolls was raffled at the November meeting and won by Cal Chisholm.

A Fall Fling, having an autumn and Halloween theme, took place on an October Saturday. This was an afternoon tea-style event, with several members bringing desserts. No less than eight certificates were presented!
The Branch was pleased to host a December visit by Dominion President Bob McBride and his wife, Grietje. Their weekend began with a tour of the Royal Alberta Museum. Thirty-eight people, including a few non-members, were able to attend the evening buffet dinner and meeting. In the business part of the meeting, Trevor Angell was appointed acting president until general elections are held in February. President McBride presented certificates to Kristina Harrison, proudly receiving her first for Loyalist ancestor Andrew Ritchie UE, and Don Chapman, equally delighted to accept his tenth UE certificate, this one for Loyalist ancestor William Cadman UE. Donald Fraser Chapman is the eleventh-generation grandson of Robert Chapman, 1616, Saybrook, CT.

Following dinner, Bob and Grietje performed a skit describing the history of Bob’s Loyalist ancestor, Adam Young UE. Fran Losie showed our appreciation by presenting them with a book on Alberta wildlife and a tea towel setting out the rules of the Scottish kitchen. Skyler Harrison gave Mrs. McBride a rose. This time Cal donated the gift basket. It was auctioned by Trevor Angell, and taken home by Heather Traub.

Grand River Branch had a display at the Founding Families Fair and Picnic at Backus Heritage Conservation Area near Port Rowan, Ontario, which took place on 28 July 2012. Descendants of those families who first settled Norfolk County before the War of 1812, gathered for a genealogy fair and an old-fashioned family reunion. The guest speaker was Scott Gillies, the curator of the Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum, and his topic was Flames Across Norfolk (The War of 1812). Many of Norfolk’s founding families were Loyalists. Following are some of the names of Loyalists whose descendants were some of the 80 people attending the event: Lucas Dedrick, Mary Cope, Daniel Hazen Sr., Peter Fick, Rev. George Neal, Philip Force, Frederick Mabee, and William Hutchinson. Although this was the first time for this event, plans are for it to continue, so if you are a descendant of a founding family (Loyalist or not) of the Long Point Settlement, plan on attending next year.

Six members of Grand River Branch attended the Annual Conference in Winnipeg in June 2012. David Morrison, Sue Hines, Gerry and Ellen Tree, and Ron and Heather Fink made the long trek west. The following is an account of the Conference written by David Morrison:

The 2012 UELAC Conference, ‘Conference at the Confluence,’ held in Winnipeg and hosted by Manitoba Branch, was yet another exceptional example of the dedication and tireless work of our Association’s membership. From the host hotel of the magnificent Fort Garry and the reception at Manitoba’s Government House, conference attendees were treated to a variety of venues and events which were not only entertaining, informative, and interesting, but drew us closer as we celebrated our proud Loyalist history and heritage together. Grand River Branch was once again very well-represented by its members who were warmly greeted by both new and long-time friends. We are so very pleased to reunite with all our Loyalist family from across Canada at these annual events.

This year’s conference began with Wednesday’s tour of the Manitoba Museum and a visit to the HBC Archives for early arrivals. For some, the drive from Ontario to Winnipeg meant a day of rest was needed prior to Thursday evening’s reception held at Government House. In this year of our Sovereign’s Diamond Jubilee, that was an extraordinarily moving experience. After we each personally met with Manitoba’s Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable Philip S. Lee and his gracious wife, we were treated with a light supper and lively social gathering. On Friday, some of us attended the workshops that have become a mainstay for the exchange and sharing of knowledge at conferences. The value of the topics covered cannot be understated as we seek the tools and assistance to explore our Loyalist past.

A delicious luncheon was then held at the truly magnificent Manitoba Club next door to the host hotel. Such convenience was appreciated and the generous hospitality of our host city and province was on full display.

Buses waited to deliver us to our tour of Lower Fort Garry, a short drive north of Winnipeg, where we explored the grounds and learned more about...
the settlement of the region. Fortunately, the weather co-operated and, though a bit overcast, the rains held off as we wandered between buildings and exhibits.

Again, convenience and very thoughtful planning provided our next stop at the historic Little Britain United Church Hall – practically next door to Lower Fort Garry – where supper and entertainment were thoroughly enjoyed by all. A variety of music, presentations, and the ever-present camaraderie of the evening formed the backdrop for a remarkable night.

No Dominion Conference is complete without attending to the business at hand of the Annual General Meeting and this year was no exception. Our very capable Dominion President, Bob McBride UE, guided the meeting as we discussed matters of concern and offered our suggestions as to how we might build on the great strength of our Association and its mandates. In the interest of embracing and preserving our Loyalist past, Grand River Branch was proud to present a rare stamp, which was issued very close to the time our Association had its origins in 1914, to the Association.

Additionally, Native Loyalist, David Hill Morrison UE, presented, on behalf of the Loyal Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy and Grand River Branch, a flag of the Confederacy to the Association as a gesture symbolizing the continued support and pride his ancestors played in forming the remarkable country we so dearly admire.

Concluding the AGM, we then attended to the tremendous buffet lunch set up for us. If one thing is never in doubt, it's that we Loyalists will be treated with food at conferences in astonishing quality, abundance, and variety!

Throughout the conference, the UELAC Boutique offered a selection of gifts, books, memorabilia, and auction items of interest to examine and purchase. Many of the items are difficult to find within our home provinces and are inspiring reminders that we live as proud Loyalists each day and seek to spread awareness of that pride in our own ways.

This year, the Diamond Jubilee added another dimension of our commitment to Canada’s Monarchy in a manner similar to the resolve our ancestors felt towards this institution as they stood in support.

The culminating highlight of the conference was the Gala Banquet and, as we paraded in our period attire, we were reminded of those who came before us, making sacrifices we can barely comprehend.

After a lively social hour, dinner was an extraordinary event of fine dining, skilfully prepared by the Fort Garry Hotel, followed by a warm welcome and greeting from Manitoba Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable Dr. James Manson, an historian from Cowansville, provided detailed commentary on the experiences of the Staceys and the surrounding historical events of the period concerned in the Eastern Townships. Dominion President Robert McBride UE and his wife, Grietje McBride UE, were among those present.

On 28 July, Robert and Maura Wilkins joined a bus tour of War of 1812 sites, organized by Doug Grant UE and his colleagues of Governor Simcoe Branch. A great deal was learned, thanks to the detailed commentary provided at each stop by a qualified historian particularly well-versed in the military campaign of 1813 in the Niagara area. Lundy’s Lane, Chippewa, Fort Erie, and the DeCou House were visited.

From 06 to 08 September, Okill Stuart UE and his wife, Sylvia, participated in the annual commemoration of the Battle of Plattsburgh. Branch President Wilkins and Maura joined them on the platform on the Saturday, for the march-past by the participating bands and floats. Branch Librarian Gary Aitken UE and his wife, Valerie, were also at the commemoration, promoting the Château Ramezay Museum in Montreal.

On 15 September, the Stuarts and the Wilkins attended Townshipers’ Day in Farnham, Quebec, where Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch had a booth. Adelaide Lanktree UE of that Branch was presented with an award by the City of Farnham, attesting to her long commitment to heritage preservation and other good causes in the community and the region. She and her sister Louise Hall UE were interviewed by CBC Radio about the Loyalists and the project to restore the family burial vault of the Johnson family on Mont Saint-Grégoire, formerly known as “Mount Johnson.”

On 24 October, Heritage Branch held its annual Charter Night Dinner at the Black Watch Regiment’s Armoury in Montreal. The guest speaker, John Kirwan (“Kerry”) Martin, a retired high school teacher who worked for many years at Ridley College in St. Catharines, Ontario, presented a talk on the legend R

By Robert C. Wilkins UE, C.M.H., Branch President

Robert Wilkins UE and his wife, Maura, attended a presentation sponsored by Little Forks Branch at the Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse in Milby, Quebec, on 22 July. A presentation was given there, in words and song, about the Stacey Family, a pioneer family that settled in that area in the early nineteenth century. The presentation, based on a treasure-trove of surviving letters written to relatives back in England, was turned into a musical, thanks to the artistry of Mr. David Patriquin, who presided at the keyboard, while two singers (one a niece of Milton and Bev Loomis) provided the vocals, to the delight of the audience. Between musical numbers, Dr. James Manson, an historian from Cowansville, provided detailed commentary on the experiences of the Staceys and the surrounding historical events of the period concerned in the Eastern Townships. Dominion President Robert McBride UE and his wife, Grietje McBride UE, were among those present.

Our Association owes a debt of gratitude to each member who adds their own special talent and interest so that we don’t merely exist, but thrive and prosper as one of Canada’s premier heritage organizations. Our Dominion Volunteer Recognition Committee has an extremely difficult task of determining any one recipient, but this year’s Dorchester Award was presented to Shirley Dargatz UE of Chilliwack Branch for her remarkable years of inspiring work and enthusiasm.

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After a lively social hour, dinner was an extraordinary event of fine dining, skilfully prepared by the Fort Garry Hotel, followed by a warm welcome and greeting from Manitoba Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable Philip Lee. The keynote speaker, Ms. Judith Hudson Beattie, delivered a detailed commentary provided at each stop by a qualified historian particularly well-versed in the military campaign of 1813 in the Niagara area. Lundy’s Lane, Chippewa, Fort Erie, and the DeCou House were visited.

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Heritage Branch is indirectly honoured by these awards.

Dominion President presented a UE certificate to Sandra Hannaford UE of Heritage Branch for her Loyalist ancestor, Mahlon Knight UE.

Dominion Council graciously provided Heritage Branch with a $500.00 grant to assist a local municipality in financing the replacement, in granite, of the stolen bronze plaque that was formerly affixed to the 1927 monument to Loyalist settlers of the Lake Maskinongé Settlement. The monument is a large rock, located on Route 348 outside the Town of Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon, northeast of Montreal. This sum will be remitted to the Municipality of the Parish of Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon when the new plaque is manufactured and installed on the monument.

On 27 November, Okill Stuart UE and Maura Wilkins were both presented with the Caring Canadian Award by His Excellency David Johnston, Governor-General of Canada, at a ceremony in Montreal. Congratulations to both these recipients for this well-deserved recognition of their service to the community. Heritage Branch is indirectly honoured by these awards.

Dominion President, Robert C. McBride UE, spoke with guests from Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch at the Heritage Branch’s Annual Charter Dinner in Montreal.

The Millennium Essay Collection, a project directed by Adrian Willison, has been completed. The essays may be purchased on paper for $20.00 a copy, plus postage, or on DVD for $10.00 a copy, plus postage. Orders should be placed with Adrian Willison, 41 Devon Avenue, Beaconsfield, Quebec H9W 4K7 (tel.: 514-630-3772). Cheques are payable to “Heritage Branch, UELAC.”

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Our General Meeting on 16 September 2012 brought us back together following the summer recess. The speaker, Gary Foster of Campbell Monuments of Belleville, told us about the significance of “Memorial Markers” and showed slides of the elaborate markers of the early years and some of the humorous epitaphs.

Our member and veteran television broadcaster, Graham Hart UE, was honoured by local “Homegrown Homes” and presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the organization’s Academy Awards Dinner. Graham has been emcee for many of our events and other local organizations. Quote of Graham: “This town has been good to me and I felt it was important to help out and give back. It has given me a lot of pleasure to do this.”

On 20 October 2012, the Kawartha Branch Annual Banquet was held at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church. The ladies of the congregation served a wonderful roast beef dinner. In honour of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, we decorated with lots of bling and Union Flags and table favours of the Jubilee Lapel Pins. The guest speaker was Lt. Col. Stephen Borland UE, son of Keith Borland UE and his wife, Deneyse. His presentation was in reference to his tour of duty in Afghanistan. Slides and commentary gave an overview of the terrain and conditions with which the army coped.

Kawartha

By Doreen M. Thompson UE, Branch President

Our General Meeting on 16 September 2012 brought us back together following the summer recess. The speaker, Gary Foster of Campbell Monuments of Belleville, told us about the significance of “Memorial Markers” and showed slides of the elaborate markers of the early years and some of the humorous epitaphs.
On 11 November 2012, a number of our members in Loyalist attire paraded in the Remembrance Day Parade with banner and sashes identifying our UEL significance in the early years of the War of 1812 and the American Revolution.

On 14 October 1979, an organizational meeting to establish the Kawartha Branch was held and the first guest speaker for that event was Ken Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong has led many committees at municipal, provincial, and federal level. His awards include the Ontario Medal for Good citizenship, the Queen’s Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals, and the Order of Merit of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem. He was named Peterborough’s Volunteer of the Year in 1997, Peterborough’s Citizen of the Year in 1998, and was inducted into Peterborough’s Pathway of Fame in the journalism category in 1999. Mr. Armstrong is Chairman of the Peterborough-Lakefield Police Services Board, a member of the Trent University Board of Governors and a fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

Mr. Ken Armstrong has recently been appointed the New Honorary Colonel of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment. It is one of Canada’s oldest regiments, a reserve army unit that is part of the 33 Canadian Brigade Group. Based in Belleville Armouries, the so-called Hasty P’s have garrisons there as well as in Peterborough and Cobourg, Ontario.

On 18 November 2012, Dr. Michael Eamon, Trent University History Professor, gave us an enjoyable history lesson. He told of the display in the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa and the efforts in acquiring the memorabilia to be used, an appropriate production to remind us of the War of 1812. Undoubtedly a great deal of planning and work went into it.

On 11 November 2012, members of Kawartha Branch gathered to participate in the annual Remembrance Day parade and service.

Mary Christina (Tina) Lloyd UE received her UELAC certificate for her Loyalist ancestor, Robert Land Senior UE, from our Kawartha Branch Genealogist, Joan Lucas UE (left). Attending was Bob McBride UE.

Kingston & District
By Jim Long UE

Our summer activities began in May with the great Historical Fair at Queen’s University, where Kingston and District Branch awarded $25 and a book written by Jean Rae Baxter UE to each of the Loyalist winners. The three prizes went to: Campbell Maclnnes & Tessa Devos from R.G. Sinclair Public School for their project, Laura Secord; Grace Kirby from Odessa Public School with her display, Discovering the Loyalist; and Cohen O’Grady from Calvin Park Public School with The Amazing Asselstines.

This year our annual banquet, with fifty attending, was held at Donald Gordon Centre. Our after-dinner speaker was the Honourable Peter Milliken UE.

12 June was United Empire Loyalist Day, with The Fort Henry Duty Band playing “British Grenadiers” and the Royal Anthem. Cohen O’Grady raised the Loyalist flag over Confederation Park. Kingston Deputy Mayor Bill Glover stood in for Mayor Mark Gerretsen and a good number of tourists and Loyalists mixed in for the flag-raising.

On 17 June, several members attended the annual United Empire Loyalist service at St. Alban the Martyr Church. This was the 228th anniversary of the landing of the Loyalists, under the command of Major Peter VanAlstine, in Adolphustown, on 16 June 1784.

On Saturday, 22 September, at St. Paul’s Anglican Church, history professor Paul Fritz, retired from McMaster University, spoke on Abel Stevens, founder of Bastard and South Burgess Township. As well, a report was given by our member, Lynn Bell UE, who sits on the lower Burial Ground Restoration Society, about the completion of the perimeter wall and the Forsythe monument. The start on the Stuart liar (Scottish term for a stone burial area) has begun with the raising of over $11,000.00 from donors.

On Saturday, 24 November, members gathered at the Golden Rooster for lunch with our Dominion President Robert McBride UE, B.Sc., M.Ed. Then we all walked over to St. Paul’s
to hear our Dominion President speak on the escapades of his third great-grandfather, Captain John DeCou.

Our charter was put on display for all to observe and the election of officers for the coming year took place. Our new President will be Peter Milliken UE, taking over from now Past President, Dean Taylor.

Branch President Dean Taylor presented twenty-year membership certificates to Peter Milliken, Carol and Peter Davy, Terry Hicks, Betty Bull, Judy Langdon, and Ken Langdon.

Little Forks

By Bev Loomis UE, Branch President

With the dawning of spring, members of Little Forks Branch became extremely eager to engage a contractor to have a new roof put on our Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse before the tourist season began.

The Schoolhouse was prepared and opened in April for the Compton Historical Society, which continues to enjoy our facilities. This, in turn, helps raise needed funds.

The bilingual Interpretation Panel proves to be a fantastic attraction to all age groups, as it covers the early history of the area. The MRC [Municipalité régionale de comté] of Coaticook has posted a “Bus Stop” on our grounds, where folks coming from Sherbrooke and vicinity can hop on a bus designated for a specific historical route. This allows people to park at our school grounds, then read our Interpretation Panel either while they wait or when they return. Visitors find it very accommodating, as they can stand on a cement platform and are protected from the elements by a cedar-shingled roof.

It was a pleasure for some of our members to attend the Monarchist Ecumenical Church service held 26 May at St. George’s Anglican Church in Lennoxville, Quebec, where we heard the Jubilee Hymn being played by the organist. An “English-Style Tea” followed the service in the adjoining hall.

In June, we succeeded in replacing the roof on the schoolhouse with cedar shingles — a great relief and accomplishment!

Our Branch hosted the Eastern Townships Chapter of the Federation of Historical Societies and, following the meeting, served lunch.

In July, we held the Multi-Media Presentation entitled “The Stacey Letters: The Eastern Townships circa 1850, viewed through the eyes of a British Immigrant.” We were honoured to have distinguished guests UELAC President Robert C. McBride, along with his wife, Grietje, Montreal Heritage Branch President Robert Wilkins and his wife, Maura, along with Larry and Sandra Hewlett of Pennsylvania join us. Sandi is not only a Stacey descendant, but also a Certified Genealogist. Under the large tent, we heard the presentation by James Manson, history professor at McGill University. His talk was based on the book Lifelines, the Stacey Letters, written by Jane Vansittart. Music was provided by Donald Patriquin, with live musical performance by Mary White and Cora Loomis UE who sang numbers from the musical “Louisa.”

We participated at the Armistice celebration in Lennoxville, where young Loyalists, Tristan and Abbigael Loomis, placed our Little Forks Wreath at the
Cenotaph, these two children being two of Milt & Bev’s sixteen grandchildren. Then to our great surprise, following the ceremony we (Milt & Bev) were asked to step forward in front of the Cenotaph, believing that it was for a photo-op. Instead it was for the presentation of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee medal, along with a lovely hard-covered book from the House of Commons in which there is a Certificate along with a letter from the Governor-General of Canada, Mr. David Johnson, and a letter from Mr. Jean Rousseau, Member of Parliament for Compton Stanstead. This award was given in recognition of our hours of labour spent in preserving the Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse. Included in his kind words was a congratulatory message for our 60th wedding anniversary, celebrated on 27 September.

Two other members of our Branch have received the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee medal:

• George Beaulieu UE, 1st Vice-President of Little Forks Branch, who has recently been elected Dominion President of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans Association of Canada; and

• Branch member, Past President UELAC, Mr. Okill Stuart UE of Montreal.

We have received confirmation that the sampler stitched by Adela Hyatt and marked “Adela Hyatt, Sherbrooke 1851” has been accepted in the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) called “Significant Objects for Telling Identity (SOFTI), English Quebec through 100 objects.” Adela is a daughter of Loyalist Cornelius Hyatt UE. The 8” x 14” sampler, donated to our Branch by Thelma Hyatt Middleton, has been well-protected under glass in a large wooden serving tray. A real treasure!

We are busy preparing data on Colonel John Thorne Weyland, who fought in the War of 1812 and who took a musket ball in his right bicep, 06 June 1813 in the Battle of Stoney Creek. We do have many of his original military records, diaries, sword, and many family pictures, as this gentleman happens to be Milt’s 3rd-great-grandfather. He is also featured in the book entitled, Strange Fatality – The Battle of Stoney Creek, 1813, written by James E. Elliott.

The Annual Christmas Meeting, Dinner and Drawing took place Sunday, 16 December at the Little Schoolhouse, following which the building was buttoned down for the winter.

Please take Note: We still have a few copies of the book, Twasn’t Just Luck, My Life & Times, written by Lloyd George, available at $35.00, and Lifelines: The Stacey Letters, written by Jane Vansittart, available through Amazon.com.
last summer, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) launched a project called Significant Objects for Telling Identity (SOFTI): English Quebec through 100 objects. With this project, QAHN aims to collect the stories of 100 objects that together will create a portrait of Quebec’s English-speaking communities, past and present. These 100 objects and their stories will be placed on a specially designed website and DVD for distribution across Canada. This website will be launched in March 2013. Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch has submitted such an object to the SOFTI project: the Gravestone of Sir John Johnson.

In 1830, Sir John Johnson was interred in the family vault on Mount Johnson (now known as Mont Saint-Grégoire), near the village of Saint-Grégoire. The vault was accidentally bulldozed sixty years ago. Fortunately, Sir John’s stone survived. Later, the gravestone was transported to Stanbridge East, where it was placed at the Missisquoi Museum. On 03 December 2012, we received confirmation from QAHN that our submission has been chosen and will be included in the SOFTI project.

Even though it has no link to the SOFTI Project, it is very interesting to note that a two-page text titled, Commemorating a Loyalist – The restoration of Sir John Johnson’s Burial Vault, written by Jessica Campbell, appeared in the magazine, Quebec Heritage News, Winter 2013, published by QAHN. The author outlines the life of Sir John Johnson, the story of the burial vault, and its restoration project.
Townshippers’ Day is a bilingual autumn festivity that attracts some 5,000 to 10,000 visitors. Organized by the Townshippers’ Association, T-Day highlights the cultural identity of the Townships’ English community.

Each year, a different community in the Eastern Townships hosts the event and, in 2012, T-Day was held in Farnham on September 15th. Why Farnham? Kate Wisdom, Community and Cultural Coordinator of the Townshippers’ Association, wrote in the Fall/Winter issue of Townshippers: What made Farnham take an interest in hosting Townshippers’ Day? The spark was lit during a conversation with Farnham personalities Louise Hall and Adelaide Lanktree, two sisters who are well-known for their work with the United Empire Loyalists and Farnham Heritage. Louise Hall was named an Outstanding Townshipper in 2003 and is also recognised for her work on the BMP Hospital “Petit Musée” Museum project (in Cowansville).

At T-Day, our Branch had a display table attended by Branch members: Adelaide Lanktree, Heather Darch, Gerald Thomas, and Michel Racicot. They were later joined by our Treasurer, Louise Hall, who was accompanied by Heritage Branch members Okill and Sylvia Stuart and Robert and Maura Wilkins.

In the afternoon, Louise Hall and Adelaide Lanktree, along with Robert Wilkins and Okill Stuart, gave a long and very interesting interview to Jacqueline Czermin, CBC Breakaway host (photo). They talked about the reconstruction of the tomb of leading Loyalist Sir John Johnson that was destroyed more than fifty years ago, hoping, that in 2014, Sir John’s resting place will finally be restored with honour and pride.

L–R at Farnham: Louise Hall, Adelaide Lanktree, Robert Wilkins, Okill Stuart, and Jacqueline Czermin

Our September meeting welcomed Darryl Withrow who introduced us to his very unusual area of specialty—1837 Rebellion Boxes. These boxes were handcrafted by men who were imprisoned in the early months of 1838 for their part in the 1837 Rebellion. Eventually, some of these men began to carve the stove wood into memento boxes, decorated with mottos, messages, poetry, political statements, or, simply the names of their loved ones. Apparently hundreds of these boxes were made and sent to friends and family. They speak poignantly to the suffering of these men and their uncertainty about what their immediate future held (hanging for some, exile for others). Darryl Withrow is co-author of a book about the boxes, From Hands Now Striving to be Free, along with Chris Raible and Dr. John C. Carter. Darryl brought with him twenty-four replicas along with three original boxes.

On behalf of Toronto Branch, members Mike Young UE and Linda Young UE participated in the Corn Roast and Heritage Fair at Montgomery’s Inn. Mike’s red jacket always attracts attention!

Dorothy Duncan, author and UELAC Honorary Vice-President, spoke to us in October on the subject of “Hoping for the Best: Preparing for the Worst: Everyday life in Upper Canada 1812-1814.” Dorothy has recently published a book by the same name, focusing on society and relationships that developed after the Revolution, through to the War of 1812.

In November we held a Genealogy Workshop led by expert genealogist, Jane E. MacNamara, entitled “Are you getting all you can from your family documents?” Sometimes we see only the most obvious information in a document like a census return, birth certificate, or land record and miss important clues that can lead us to learn more about our families. This workshop started with an example of a Marriage Register. With each new example, we were able to learn much more than the obvious. Jane is the author of the upcoming book Inheritance in Ontario: Wills and other Records for Family Historians (OGS/Dundurn, April 2013) and writes about genealogy at: http://wherethestorytakesme.ca/.

Toronto Branch was once again invited to participate in the annual Christmas Show and Sale at historic Heintzman House, in Richmond Hill. Our thanks go to the branch members who volunteered to help with the display that weekend: Diane Reid UE, John Warburton UE, Linda Young UE and Michael Young UE. The Crown Grant property where Heintzman House now stands was originally awarded to Loyalist Anthony Hollingshead UE, who built a two-room adobe brick farmhouse on the property. In 1817, the property was sold to George Crookshank, the son of a Loyalist. Crookshank was a prominent member of Upper Canada society and built a house befitting his station in life. The humble Hollingshead dwelling was succeeded by a 13-room mansion which incorporates some of the original house. The house takes its current name from its last private owners, the Heintzman family, who owned the house from 1930 to 1959. Today the house is owned by the town of Markham and managed by a board of directors.

Our December Christmas lunch at Black Creek Pioneer Village brought 2012 to a wonderful end. With some new members, some about-to-be members, and some Governor Simcoe members, young and older enjoyed the event.
We have had excellent guest speakers at our meetings over the past six months. The AGM in January was followed by our annual slide show — “A Year in Review.” At our February meeting (Black History Month), Roger Jones presented Keeping up With the Jones’s: An African Canadian Family. It was a fascinating history of African Canadians, focusing on his own family roots in Canada. Roger has a website at www.rogerbjones.com.

In March, we went on a field trip to the Vancouver Museum to see a presentation on the Chuck Davis book, Vancouver Then and Now. In April, Gordon Macintosh spoke to our members about life in the early years of British Columbia. He is a re-enactor and Friend of the Fort (Fort Langley, BC), who travelled from Nanaimo and was most entertaining. Gord Macintosh was followed by Tim Watkins in May. Tim’s presentation was “Perils of the Sapper: Life in the Royal Engineers,” an excellent talk with many wonderful stories and demonstrations of items representing the life of a sapper one hundred and fifty years ago. At two of these meetings, we also celebrated the 85th birthdays of members Duncan Cameron UE and Evelyn Anderson UE.

Along with our regular meetings, there were a number of special events that we either hosted or participated in. Once again, some of our members marched in Vancouver’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

In April, some of our members served as adjudicators at the annual BC Heritage Fairs in Vancouver and Burnaby. One of the students selected by the Vancouver Branch for displays that best reflect our Loyalist heritage was Branch member Kirra Little (Vancouver). In May, we participated in New Westminster’s Multicultural Days (Simon Fraser’s birthday). The Vancouver Branch has set up a display along the Quay at the Fraser River for over ten years and often the weather is wet and cool. This year, we enjoyed a bright, dry day. In June, the Vancouver Branch hosted our Diamond Jubilee celebration in the multipurpose room at Carl Stymiest’s apartment. Our guest speaker was Keith Roy from the Monarchist League of Canada (BC Division). Keith has met most of the Royal Family and he shared his personal experiences with us. Many of his stories were comical and he had our full attention. Lunch was pot luck, with a large Diamond Jubilee cake for dessert.

And lastly, on 22 July, we celebrated BC’s 1st Loyalist Day at Queen’s Park, New Westminster. Pacific Regional Vice President and Vancouver Branch President, Carl Stymiest UE, was the Master of Ceremonies for the day’s proceedings. Carl spoke on the arrival of the first Loyalists and its historical significance from the archival writings of Vancouver Branch 1932. Mary Anne Bethune UE read the proclamation followed by a picnic lunch with all four BC branches represented. The Unfurling and Presentation of Flags was conducted by Shirley Dargatz UE (Chilliwack Branch), Carl Stymiest UE (Vancouver Branch), and Darlene Jones UE (Thompson-Okanagan Branch). A number of young Loyalists were present.

In other business, the Glenbow Museum in Calgary, Alberta, has returned fifteen to twenty boxes of archival materials to the Vancouver Branch. This represents much of our early history. It will join the rest of our historical material at the Archives of Vancouver.

Above:
Rebecca Fraser UE & Peter Moogk UE cut Diamond Jubilee cake. Photo: Linda Nygard UE

Children at first BC Loyalist Day. Back row L–R: Victoria Gardner (Maple Ridge), Dominic Del Grosso (Ottawa), Kirra Little (Vancouver), Melaina Del Grosso (Ottawa). Front row L–R: Ivan Schmidt (Kelowna), Cameron Del Grosso (Ottawa). Photo by Linda Nygard UE
FOURNEY, Lloyd William

Lloyd William Fourney was born in Cornwall, Ontario, 01 April 1943. He was blessed to know the value of a cohesive, loving family, lively community life, and the encouragement and Christian example of his church family at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, Ontario. Lloyd’s Loyalist heritage, his love of home, history, and tradition returned him often to visit the Fourney farm and family and his home church where he was ordained to Christian ministry by the Presbytery of Glengarry in May 1969 and where he preached his last sermon in May 2012 on the occasion of its 225th anniversary.

After ordination, Lloyd was appointed to St. Andrew’s, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, (1969 – 1972), and then called to St. Mark’s, Moose Jaw, and Knox Church, Briercrest, Saskatchewan, (1973 – 1983).

In April 1983, Lloyd was inducted as the tenth minister of First Presbyterian Church, Edmonton, Alberta, and there served for nineteen years until 2002, becoming Minister Emeritus a few years after his retirement due to health issues.

Lloyd’s ministry at downtown First Church thrived on many challenges to understand and assist people in their concerns and needs, regardless of their position, whether within the congregation, within the local community, or in some unbearable situation across the world. From 1986, the care of newcomers and refugees was a special outreach of compassion and service. Patiently persevering in hope, driven by his sense of justice, his inclusive acceptance, and a growing knowledge of sponsorship processes, Lloyd helped change many a life for the better.

In all commitments related to church courts at every level, including his term with Presbyterian World Service and Development, Lloyd’s diligence and effectiveness has been noted. In recognition of his work, Lloyd received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Presbyterian College, Montreal, in May 1999.

Lloyd embraced the role of guiding, caring, and loving the generation that would follow. He treasured time spent with sons David and Daryl, and later regularly talked with his sons and followed their progress. He loved to spend time with, and eagerly followed news of, grandchildren.

Lloyd and Mamie Dawson married in July 1988. Mamie’s family, Karen, Keith, and her grandchildren, received the same gentle attention from Lloyd. Lloyd and Mamie enjoyed twenty-four years supporting each other through illness and loss, work and recreation until Lloyd’s recent passing on 29 August 2012.

We now treasure his memory and example.

JENNE, Edwin Lewis

Edwin Lewis Jenne passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, 15 September 2012, at the age of 92. He was predeceased by Alice Hope Cotton UE, his wife of 56 years, and his daughter, Pauline Svestka. He is survived by his five children: Edwina (Jerry), Brian (Marie), Keith (Brenda), Susan (Jerry) and Michael (Karen); his sister Betty (Harrison); his eleven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Edwin joined Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch in 1978 with his wife, Alice Hope Cotton UE, who was a proud UEL, a descendant of the Reverend John Stuart UE, a Loyalist who settled at Cataracaui (Kingston) in 1785, becoming the first resident Anglican clergyman in what is now Ontario. For years, they were active members of our Branch. After his wife passed away on 01 January 2011, Edwin continued participating in our Branch’s activities with his daughter, Winona Bougie UE.

Edwin Lewis Jenne was a proud veteran, gardener, avid reader, bridge player, photographer, bird watcher, fisherman and family man. He was also a great friend of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch and he will be sorely missed.

McCaw, Audrey Myrne Martin (1917 – 2012)

Audrey Myrne Martin McCaw passed away peacefully on 19 June 2012 at Christleton Village, Gibsons, BC. She was predeceased by her husband, Charles Wilkie McCaw UE, and her son, Peter Cameron McCaw. She is survived by her daughter, Nanci Jean McCaw.

Audrey was a talented musician and played five instruments. A graduate of McGill University, she was a published author. She wrote several historical texts including Beating the Drums for Sir John Johnson (1984). Audrey McCaw and her husband Charles McCaw UE were active members for many years of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. Audrey was Secretary from 1979 to 1986. Her husband, a descendant of Loyalist, Michael Cook UE, was Genealogist from 1974 to 1983.

Lodge, Teresa (Terry) June UE (nee Pearson)

Our charter member (Thompson Okanagan Branch), born 01 June 1934 in Vancouver BC, passed away on 09 July 2012 in the North Okanagan Hospice, Vernon, BC at the age of 78 with her family at her side. Terry spent her childhood years in West Vancouver and went on to graduate from the St. Paul’s Hospital School of Nursing. Predeceased by her parents, Bill and Dorothy Pearson, and husband, Terence (Terry) Lodge. Lovingly remembered by her 6 children, 11 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 3 brothers. Terry was an active member in the Thompson Okanagan Branch of the United Empire Loyalists. A delightful person to know and to be around; she will be greatly missed. “We never miss the music until the sweet-voiced bird has flown away.”

• • •
In recent years I have been researching Grave Marker designs as a sideline to genealogical research. I've also had the pleasure of presenting that topic, most recently to a group last fall in Cobourg, Ontario.

As genealogists will tell you, it can be very worthwhile to return to previously examined sources to get a fresh perspective. With that in mind, I dusted off the UELAC CD, *Loyalist Burial Site Project*, for a return visit. It was worth the effort.

The project was proposed during the term of Dominion Past President, Myrna Fox UE, and shepherded along under the guiding hand of the late C. Ray Lewis UE of Toronto Branch. The particular copy that I checked was Phase 1, Version 2, revised in 2005. It contains some 360 entries over 437 pages. Each entry concerns an individual Loyalist and the amount of information varies greatly. Several spread over more than one page with biographical information, family names and sometimes sources listed. There's also an evocative image on the actual CD which lures the viewer in.

Of course this is a secondary source and, as with any compilation, one must approach it with a bit of caution. There are also a handful of entries that really don't belong on the CD, but that is a small price to pay for the wealth of information included.

The strength of the project is its breadth. It doesn't just focus on one geographical area but contains entries from most of the locations where that first generation of Loyalists settled. In short, it presents an overall picture of the amount of information included.

My particular interest in returning to this CD was to examine images of Loyalist Grave Markers. The project was set up to state where individual Loyalists were likely buried and, sadly, a majority of entries include no such images. The ones that are present are wonderful to see and encompass a whole range of styles. That first generation was so busy establishing a new life in this country that acquiring the most durable of grave markers was not the top priority, so such markers that are known to exist are a prize.

As this was being written, the eastern half of Canada had just experienced a record-breaking snowstorm, so roaming around local cemeteries was not an option. This CD provided another outlet. This magazine's date corresponds to a warmer time of year when such cemetery hopping is possible.

Why not check out the CD again and then wander through a local cemetery with a fresh vision?

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**Awards & Honours**


On the evening of Monday, 21 January 2013, W. Bro. Peter W. Johnson UE was Installed as the W. Master of Franck Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 127 G.R.C., Prince Edward District, in Frankford, Ontario. Peter has been the Lodge Historian for a number of years. Both R.W. Bro. Robert Collins McBride UE and R.W. Bro. Frank E. Lucas, both Past District Deputy Grand Masters for Peterborough District, were in attendance, doing some of the ritual that evening.
Examing Loyalists of New York

By Christopher F. Minty, Ph.D. candidate, University of Stirling, Scotland

During the past six months I have been writing a series of articles for Loyalist Trails. They have varied in length, focus and content. Some have isolated particular themes, such as “What is Loyalism?” or “What is a Loyalist?” and others have focused on particular individuals, such as Joseph Allicocke or Rev. Dr. Charles Inglis. These articles have been written at numerous locations across the Atlantic, specifically at one of my many desks in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling, Scotland; in New York City; and in Fredericton, New Brunswick. It has proven to be an immensely valuable way to spend my time. As a young, upcoming academic I am often encouraged to “write a little bit” every day or every other day. With the hectic schedule I have currently just finished, teaching at the Universities of Edinburgh and Stirling as well as being a research assistant on The Papers of Francis Bernard (Colin Nicolson, ed.), I have managed to redraft two chapters of my dissertation and am currently 9,000 words into another one. Despite this “progress,” I have not been able to get as much official writing down as I would like. However, I have tried to spend at least an hour or two per week writing and researching articles for Loyalist Trails and it seems to have paid off.

This incredible generous award from the UELAC

I have recently been awarded a United Empire Loyalist Scholarship that will enable me to purchase a myriad of source materials, ranging from probate records to Todd Braisted’s latest text, Bergen County Voices (2012). This incredibly generous award from the UELAC will therefore enable me to efficiently maximize the efficacy of my current research schedule and enable me to achieve the ambitious goals I have set myself with this Ph.D.

This project began in October 2010 at the University of Stirling (www.stir.ac.uk) under the supervision of Dr. Colin Nicolson (Papers of Francis Bernard and The "Infamous Govener") and Dr. Emma V. Macleod (A War of Ideas). Originally, the project was going to focus on the complex social and political phenomenon of Loyalism in the "Age of Revolutions, c. 1763–1815," but after a couple of lengthy research trips to Albany, Ann Arbor and New York City, it became increasingly apparent to me that the 3,750 Loyalists from New York had not yet received the historiographical focus that was needed. Of course, scholars such as Wallace Brown (The King's Friends & The Good Americans), Robert Calhoun (Tory Insurgents & Loyalists in Revolutionary America, among others) and Philip Ranlet (The New York Loyalists) have given us class accounts of Loyalism and Loyalists in New York.

More recently, scholars such as Ruma Chopra (Loyalists in New York City) and Maya Jasanoff (Liberty's Exiles) have also helped paint the increasingly complex portrait of Loyalism and the individuals it has come to represent. Despite these useful works, however, significant gaps remain. How did Loyalists interpret the imperial crisis? Teleological and anachronistic accounts have tended to eschew our view of the path to Loyalism whereby it has been projected that they somehow experienced the crises of the 1760s and 1770s “differently.” As Wallace Brown states in The Good Americans, “the Stamp Act launched the Loyalists.” This, in large part, is where my project comes in.
This dissertation has identified 3,750 Loyalists, each of whom voluntarily signed a petition, address, subscription list or declaration affirming their continued loyalty to King George III and the British government. Their names are familiar: Oliver DeLancey, Frederick Philipse, Rev. Dr. Samuel Seabury, William Bayard, and so on; but, there are less familiar names, David Grim, Peter Goelet and Leffert Lefferts, to name a few. This project will present the most comprehensive prosopographical examination of Loyalists from New York. No historian has attempted to historicize or examine such a large group of individuals. I have drawn upon previously underused sources such as tax lists, probate records, land deeds, daybooks and ledgers in an attempt to locate them within colonial New York. This project, however, will not substitute enumeration for understanding and therefore another major section seeks to examine how and why colonists became Loyalists. Amid such a vociferous atmosphere in Revolutionary New York, where colonists who were seen as Loyalists were openly pushed to the outskirts of civil society, it was not an easy decision to make.

Christopher Benson, for example, an English immigrant who moved to New York in May 1759, was confronted in June 1776 by some 200 people who “came in a riotous & tumultuous manner” to his house in New York. Benson had been informed they were coming to physically assault him so he “stood at his Door with a sword determined to defend himself.” They mob denounced him as a “damned Tory, [and] began pelting him with Stones, one of which struck the Deponent [Benson] on his Forehead.” Benson, clearly inebriated from the blow, stumbled and the Patriots rushed towards him. He managed to regain his senses and redrew his sword and the mob dispersed, only to return the next day. Benson subsequently felt he had to flee New York, but finding “a place of Safety” proved difficult as Patriots were “parading the streets in search of other denominated Tories.” Benson hid two days, out of sight but eventually returned to New York to complain to Gen. George Washington to “beg for Protection.” Washington said he “had nothing to do with” the Patriots actions nor did he “want to hear any of the Deponents Complaints . . . or trouble himself with any Thing of the kind.” Benson then decided after hearing that the Patriots aimed to “hang up ten or a Dozen of the Tories like Dogs” to leave New York. He would not return until after the British occupation began in September 1776; and, upon his return, he would assume command of the First Independent Company of Rangers, a local New York Loyalist company that was frequently complimented. Why would Benson and thousands more put themselves through this hostility?

This, in large part, is what my dissertation seeks to answer and, with a UELAC scholarship, I will be able to purchase required primary and secondary sources to help me contextualize a vast array of intricate and often dense material. The project is due for completion in August 2014, when I will present a copy of it to the UELAC.
Supporting the UELAC

“to enrich the lives of Canadians”

Incorporated in 1914, The United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada helps “to enrich the lives of Canadians through fostering public awareness of our national history and, in particular, of the United Empire Loyalists and their contributions to Canada, while also celebrating their memory and perpetuating their heritage as an integral part of the Canadian identity.” (AGM 2002)

The United Empire Loyalists Charitable Trust enables this not-for-profit organization to focus on this vision statement.

In keeping with the principle of something both timely and timeless, the UELAC Finance Committee is committed to thank and recognize donors to the Association who have generously contributed either In Honour of, OR toward the Operations of, the United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada (Memorial Fund, Scholarship Fund, Special Projects, General Funds). Acknowledgement of our most generous and committed supporters, is a powerful statement of our purpose and vision.

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...
Loyalist-era history is being presented to the public in a variety of avenues ranging from university textbooks to historically-based fictional novels and television documentaries. The Loyalist Gazette invites publishers to send their publications for review to: The Loyalist Gazette Review Editor, Grietje R. McBride UE, B.Sc., c/o Maple Grove Farms, R.R. 1, Indian River, Ontario. K0L 2B0. Phone: 1-705-295-4556. E-mail: gazette.editor"at"nexicom.net.

**Eye-Popping Publications**

**Black Patriots and Loyalists: Fighting for Emancipation in the War for Independence**

Author: Alan Gilbert

The University of Chicago Press 2012
Hardcover
369 pages

Reviewed by Stephen Davidson

Alan Gilbert’s Black Patriots and Loyalists is the latest work to enrich our understanding of the role of enslaved Africans in the American Revolution. Far from being marginal participants in North America’s first civil war, blacks had a crucial role, comprising a larger component of both Patriot and Loyalist forces than previously recognized.

In his introduction to Black Patriots and Loyalists, Gilbert lays out his intriguing argument that the War of Independence was actually two revolutions. The first revolution was undertaken to achieve political independence; the second revolution was fought to end slavery.

While these two conflicts sometimes ran parallel to one another, they were also often at odds. Patriots who fought for political independence sometimes did so to oppose the abolition of slavery. Some of those who battled to defeat the cause of liberty did so to gain their own freedom from slavery. And it was the British rather than the American Patriots – Gilbert states emphatically – who most advanced the cause of the “second revolution” for social equality.

The second revolution got underway before the first. Caribbean slave rebellions began as early as 1761, 15 years before the Declaration of Independence. When a judge ruled that slavery was illegal in Great Britain in 1772, it sent shock waves across the empire. While it did not bring about abolition
(that would not happen until 1807), the ruling gave the perception that the British Empire wanted to abolish slavery. This had two immediate consequences before the events of 1776.

For some white colonists, slavery’s anticipated abolition was seen as another one of Britain’s many unfair impositions on her colonists. For enslaved Africans, the 1772 court decision demonstrated that Britain – rather than the Patriot cause – was their best hope for liberty. When, on 07 November, 1775, Virginia’s Governor Dunmore issued a proclamation offering freedom to any Patriot’s slave who sided with the crown, the rebels’ worst fears and the slaves’ greatest hopes were confirmed.

Gilbert then outlines the course of the two American revolutions with startling statistics as well as detailed wartime experiences of both Black Patriots and Loyalists. Readers will learn of the exploits of the Black Pioneers, the Royal Ethiopian Regiment, and black guerrilla fighters as well as the First Rhode Island Regiment and the Bucks of Massachusetts. Thomas Peters, Colonel Tye, and David George are among the featured “black redcoats”, while Prince Duplex of Connecticut and the three uncles and father of Rhode Island’s Elleanor Eldridge are spotlighted black Patriots.

While Gilbert points out how blacks were exploited by both sides in the revolution, he also demonstrates the extent of British exertions after their defeat to protect free Black Loyalists from re-enslavement by the “liberated” citizens of the new United States. His careful study of the Book of Negroes is a great boon to anyone – scholar or Loyalist descendant – interested in the black diaspora. Using it and other primary sources, Gilbert provides a conservative estimate of 12 to 15,000 free blacks that fled the United States with the Crown.

Rather than ending the story of Black Patriots and Loyalists with the conclusion of the American Revolution, Gilbert recounts the impact these emancipated refugees had in Nova Scotia, Sierra Leone, the West Indies, and Great Britain – and demonstrates how the Revolution affected abolition movements throughout Europe and North America after 1783. By the end of Black Patriots and Loyalists, Gilbert accomplishes his goals – to tell the history of the twin revolutions and to honour the efforts of blacks to free themselves. It is a fresh perspective that enriches the ever-growing historical tapestry of the Loyalist era.

Charts outline all the battles, commanders, and dates of the Patriot (U.S. Armed) forces sorted chronologically by date and by region. Each nationality involved in this conflict has a summary of their activity and charts of the battles, commanders and time-frames so that this book serves well as a quick reference for the facts of the war.

Maps that clearly depict the location of northern and southern battles follow. Major battles in the war are treated with tactical descriptions. The reader will be interested in judging the facts according to his understanding and prior knowledge of the particular battles studied. Significant battles chosen are Lexington and Concord, Long Island, Saratoga, Cowpens, Overseas action around Britain, and the Caribbean as well as the Siege of Charleston, Pensacola, and Yorktown.

Toward the end of the book are chapters that summarize what I would call the victims of the American Revolution: Indians, Africans, women and prisoners. These chapters offer opinions that you may or may not agree with and are not supported by references.

Finally a chapter outlining the improvements in war technology is included. The reader will enjoy reading about the development of the Ferguson rifle which is accurate.

The author has included a Bibliography of books about the American Revolution, Internet resources, and Blogs that readers might like to explore.

I would recommend this book as a reference and quick guide for the battles, locations, commanders, and timelines of events in the American Revolution.
Musical Warriors: The Big Hits of 1812!

Reviewed by Peter W. Johnson UE

Members of the UELAC have been involved in musical projects in the past, with Bonnie Schepers UE being a notable example. I had that opportunity via a CD of Period Music recorded by the Drums, Crown Forces 1812 and that CD was available for the first time at the 200th anniversary of Queenston Heights in October.

The Drums, Crown Forces 1812 represents a generic British Fifes and Drums Corps that would have been attached to a regiment dressed in red coats with green collars and cuffs, because the Drums wear the reverse colours – green coats with red collars and cuffs. This was typical not only of the War of 1812, but also the case during the American Revolution. I serve as a fifer. The cover photo shows the Corps in Field Dress whereas the more formal outfit is shown elsewhere in the liner notes.

The CD contains twenty-two tracks, several of which include more than one song, because the tunes were often quite short. The selections vary from Duty Beatings (relaying orders that the troops would have recognized), to various popular songs that would have been used to, among other things, entertain the troops during a march and keep them in step. There are copious notes regarding sources and comments about most of the pieces and, generally speaking, if the tune is later than 1815, it is too modern to be here! Some of the songs have a long history. Lilliburlero for example was known at least as early as 1703. Another, Hohenfriedberger’s Marsch, commemorates a Prussian victory in the 1740s and is often attributed to Frederick the Great. More often than not, the selections are Scottish, English or Irish in origin, but also draw upon noted composers such as Handel. The main instruments are the fife and snare drum, but this Corps also has a bass drum, bugle and even a piper.

The CD is available through a sutler, Spencer’s Mercantile at (905) 525-6303 or info “at” spencersmercantile.com. It’s an opportunity to hear tunes your ancestors would have known.

Bergen County, Voices from the American Revolution. Soldiers and Residents in Their Own Words.

Author: Todd W. Braisted

Reviewed by Peter W. Johnson UE

This slim and meticulously researched book is what could be called ‘user friendly.’ While undoubtedly the professional Historian could learn something here, the general public will find it both informative and easy to read.

Bergen County, New Jersey, is located in the northeastern portion of that State and at its northern extremity shares a border with Orange County and Rockland County, New York. During the Revolution it was in a constant state of turmoil, in part because of the large Loyalist population who wasn’t going to accept the new Republic without a fight. It’s also worth noting that, at the time of the Revolution, Bergen County was larger than it is today.

If there is one succinct message in this book, especially for those less versed about the nature of the American Revolution, it is how far that conflict was a Civil War. Perhaps the best example is the Ryerson-Ryserse name. In Canada we are very familiar with that surname and its Loyalist roots, so it may come as a surprise that Todd has selected a Ryerson on the Rebel side. Families were very much split during the Revolution, and nowhere more clearly than in New Jersey.

There are twenty-two chapters in the book and each one is devoted to an individual or family involved in the War. Eleven chapters showcase Loyalists and the other eleven feature Rebels. Most of the names had representatives on both sides, but some examples include Blauvelt, Bogert, Demarest, Van Allen, Van Burkirk, Holmes and Banta. For each one Todd has provided the context and information to help our understanding of the individual’s experiences. What follows is that individual speaking to us across the centuries via his or her War Losses Claims or Pension Applications.

The stories they relate tell of loyalty to their cause, and far too often of hardship and tragedy. They also present clear indications of their views regarding the opposing side. The former provide Loyalist information, are a familiar source to researchers of the Loyalists, and were generated soon after the War. The Pension Applications apply to the Rebels, and date from the 1830s.

As someone with deep Bergen County Loyalist roots, I am always interested in any book on that locale and, given Todd’s reputation, one can safely assume it’s a winner. A real highlight for me was a 2009 trip that took in part of Bergen County and specifically the area where my Johnsons, Babcocks and Redners had resided so long ago. It would be nice if these names had appeared in this book but, like the vast majority of Loyalists, they did not generate War Losses Claims, so the paper trail to them has some limitations. Oddly enough, my Captain Abraham Maylee UE from Tappan New York is mentioned as supporting the claim of Elias Holmes, a free Black who was wounded and left destitute by the Rebels. The book is indexed, and there are a generous number of photographs, often of re-enactors active in that State.
Loyalist descendants in the Maritimes will find the book informative because so many Loyalists from New Jersey settled there, including the disbanded New Jersey Volunteers, so it is no surprise to find many references to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The other side of the story is that numbers of Loyalists there eventually relocated in Upper Canada, including perhaps as many as one-hundred New Jersey Volunteers. As well, others moved to Upper Canada directly from New Jersey. One such enclave settled in Prince Edward County. There are a few references to those who ended up in Upper Canada.

In a biographical note, Todd is happy to state that he is an Honorary Vice-President of the UELAC, is clearly proud to be such, and he is the first American to be thus named. We’re happy too.

As for the book, of course I recommend it!

**Freedom Bound**

Author: Jean Rae Baxter

Publisher: Ronsdale Press, Vancouver, British Columbia
ISBN: 978-1-55380-143-6
Paperback, 251 pages © 2012

Reviewed by Grietje R. McBride UE, B.Sc.

By far Baxter’s most dramatic historical fiction, Freedom Bound is the third of a trilogy following the life’s adventures of Charlotte and Nick, two teens caught up in the American War of Independence. Following The Way lies North and Broken Trail, reviewed in earlier Loyalist Gazette issues, Freedom Bound explores the themes of slavery and war in Charleston, South Carolina.

Newly married, Charlotte arrives by sea in the busy Charleston harbour, at the height of the British American conflict in January 1781. We soon learn that the British and Loyalist cause has suffered a major setback in the war at the Battle of King’s Mountain with the defeat of Major Patrick Ferguson. This change of fortune dramatically alters Charlotte’s future as she is turfed from the comfort of an elegant mansion to the Spartan home of a Quaker widow and her family.

Not knowing where her husband is, but knowing she must pay for her keep, she becomes embroiled in the trials of runaway slaves and the politics repressing young slaves in the Deep South.

The pace of this novel is swift as readers cannot help empathizing with the main characters and their desperate adventures. Facing dangers both environmental and political, Charlotte sums up all the courage she can muster amid the Carolina swamps to save the lives of those she loves. Jean Rae Baxter brings the sights and sounds as well as the smells of the streets of Charleston and the miry swamps of the backcountry to life with her vivid descriptions that add to the drama of this well-written novel.

That Baxter has completed extensive research on the slavery issue central to the political conflict in South Carolina is evident throughout her writing and makes this novel worth reading by adolescent readers everywhere.

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**Road to Ganneious**

Author: Gerald Richardson Brown

Publisher: Conundrum Press, Greenwich, Nova Scotia
Paperback, 315 pages, © 2012

Reviewed by Grietje R. McBride UE, B.Sc.

Serendipity plays an important role in historical research. Every serious researcher can recall a time when a piece of information of momentous importance dropped into his lap. This coming together of many years of research by relatives and friends in far distant places provided the material necessary for this unique family history. Gerald Brown takes his family history back to 1620, barely out of the Middle Ages, to follow generations of the Waeger family in Europe before six-year-old Eberhardt arrives in New York with his parents, aunt and uncle.

This historical fiction is composed of two parts. The first is set at Radenthein near Spital am Drau in Carinthia, now a state of Austria. The action takes place during the Thirty Years War when the earliest ancestor, Jorg, leaves the rugged mountain slopes surrounding his home in search of a better life than the subsistence life that his father, Kaspar, endured. The Reform movement clashed with the traditional Catholic Church and Kaspar’s family as well as many others in the Carinthia and Palatine regions were subject to unspeakable cruelty and plunder for a generation of war. The reader glimpses a medieval world with mundane images of everyday life through the eyes of Jorg as he joins the army of the Catholic League under Duke Maximilian in Bavaria and his son, Hans, who makes his way to Württemberg, Germany, while earning his keep as a soldier, herder, salt miner or butcher. Descriptive passages highlight the sights and sounds of this Alpine country with vividness and immediacy as if we were caught up as bystanders in the action and epic events of this tumultuous time in a long distant past. Black-ink maps assist the reader in following the journey through places still in existence but described in medieval terms: Prague, Munich, Vienna, and many others.

Gerald Brown covers 112 years of German history as Swedish, French and English soldiers crisscross the mountain terrain and four generations of the Waeger family live and work in one guild or another. The detailed descriptive writing about what their lives must have been like from one day to the next is the strength of this historic fiction. Sights, sounds, smells, almost a visual panorama, impress the reader with the hardships that the Waeger family endured. We often think that our ancestors who came from the Palatine region made a hasty decision to come to America through England.
Looking Backward

Author: George Sterling Ryerson

Review by Peter W. Johnson UE

This book came by way of a relative Linda Smith UE and, as we are looking forward to the UELAC anniversary in 2014, it seemed to be a good time to take a look at this book, Looking Backward. (One can read it at: http://archive.org/details/lookingbackward00ryeruoft.)

Essentially it is the autobiography of George Sterling Ryerson, but it is also part History and part Travelogue, because Ryerson was a dedicated traveller.

Among other things, Ryerson had a heavy involvement with the Red Cross, so there are chapters devoted to the Boer War and World War I. He was also present at the Riel Rebellion, and devotes several pages to the Fenian Raids. There is also an early section on the War of 1812 with a focus on the taking of Detroit. There are also glimpses of 1880s Toronto, and an account of a rather infamous political speech. You have likely heard of the famous occasion where Sir John A. MacDonald was sick from drinking at a political gathering. What saved him from a political ruin was his quick comeback regarding the rival candidate: I suppose you are quite disgusted with the exhibition made of myself this afternoon, but the fact is, I can never hear this man Smith (the Opposition candidate) speak without being sick at my stomach. (p. 93).

MacDonald is not mentioned by name, but the story is well known!

Since our main focus is the Loyalists, the book has some sections of interest. Having an interest in History, and apparently an understanding of his own family’s background, Ryerson is bound to mention the Loyalists. He refers to the early pre-Revolutionary War history of the family, their eventual move to New Jersey, and of Joseph Ryerson who served throughout the war. The author slips once when he says that Joseph was in the Prince of Wales New Jersey Volunteers, which is actually two different Loyalist corps. Of personal interest was the remark: One of Captain Ryerson’s old comrades of the Bay of Quinte, Peter Redner, said he was a man of daring and intrepidity and a great favorite with his company (p. 17).

Peter Redner UE was a NJV veteran, but a bit of a shadowy individual in so far as little is known about him, compared to his more fully researched brother Henry Redner Sr. UE. Apparently Joseph was in the New Jersey Volunteers, not the Prince of Wales Regiment. He was not the only Ryerson (Ryerce) to serve on the King’s side. It’s also worth mentioning that the famous Edgerton Ryerson was an uncle of George Sterling Ryerson.

George S. Ryerson was also involved with the Masons, but a bigger space is devoted to The Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, and the subsequent St. John’s Ambulance that led to Ryerson’s passionate involvement with the Red Cross. The history of the latter two is outlined.

The First World War was not kind to Ryerson. He lost one son and two others were wounded. Just days after the death of his son, his wife went down in the Lusitania. Ryerson’s daughter narrowly avoided the same fate.

For those looking forward to 2014 and UELAC history in general, the author devotes a chapter to the UELAC. He defines the Loyalists because: this book may fall into the hands of those whose knowledge of Canadian history is limited, it may be well to write a few paragraphs in explanation. (p. 150). We could attest to that sentiment today!

In 1896 along with Lieutenant-Colonel William Hamilton Merritt, Ryerson and several others, who are named, formed the United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Ontario. The Hon. John Beverley Robinson was President and George Sterling Ryerson was Vice-President. The objectives were listed and they don’t sound too different from those of our current UELAC. Membership was limited to Loyalist descendants whose ancestors came to Canada prior to 1796, (p. 154). He would be elected President several times. Curiously enough he makes no mention of UELAC developments in 1914 and notes only that 1914 marked the centennial of the Battle of Beaver Dams.

Perhaps the most poignant comment is found when Ryerson compares neglected British graves from the Napoleonic era in Spain to the more recent World War 1 graves in France, as remarked upon by him in 1924: Will those in France be in the same condition a hundred years hence? Families die out or lose interest and nations forget (p. 139). Hmmm...

Where does the title, Ganneious, come from? We learn at the beginning that this is the name of an Indian village that once existed near Hay Bay near Napanee, Ontario: the end of the story — and the beginning.

This book is both dramatic and inspiring as it pulls together generations of family research to produce a very plausible history of more than seven generations of one family living through major events in European and North American history.

I highly recommend it to you.
The following received certification from the UELAC on the dates indicated and from the branches shown. *Note 1 indicates members who requested on the certificate application form that their names be unpublished. However, the name of the ancestor and branch remain. They may reconsider by notifying Dominion Office in writing. Editor’s Note: UELAC privacy policy dictates that individuals’ personal information will not be shared. If one wants to contact any member listed below, please indicate whom and contact their branch via e-mail. Branch contact persons can be found on the UELAC website: http://www.uelac.org/branches.html. The branch contact person will then notify that branch member on your behalf, and the member will then be able to respond to you.

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The Loyalist Gazette

The United Empire Loyalist Heritage Centre and Park, located in Adolphustown, Ontario, has completed a project aimed at digitizing Loyalist-related artefacts and documents. The project was made possible through grant money from the Museums Technology Fund of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Funds allowed for the purchase of a new computer, scanner, digital camera, and other related digitizing equipment to carry out the project. In addition, money was provided for the hiring of staff to carry out the project during the 2012 operating season of the UEL Heritage Centre. Some items for digitizing were also provided by the Bay of Quinte Branch UEL.

The aim of the project was to provide digital copies of many items in the collection of the museum that would allow greater access of these items to the general public and those doing Loyalist or family tree research, while protecting the integrity of these early fragile documents. This will be available to any visitors to the research library of the UEL Heritage Centre starting in 2013. In addition, it has provided the museum with digital records of the items in its collection, complying with standard museum practices.

Over 3,000 items have been digitally scanned or photographed during the project. Some highlights of the digitized items included are:

- Benjamin Seymour’s original store account books, from 1794 to 1810
- Records of the UEL butter and cheese factory in Adolphustown
- The United Empire Loyalist Executive list
- Selected Loyalist discharge certificates and land grant petitions 1784 to 1840
- Some early documents and land records, dating to 1770.
- Over 500 photographs related to local Loyalist families
- Various other documents and objects making up the collection on display or in storage.

Success! UEL Heritage Centre Digital Project

By Brian Tackaberry UE, Bay of Quinte Branch President

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The Governor General’s Caring Canadian Award presented to two worthy members of the UELAC in Montreal

On Tuesday, 27 November 2012, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, was in Montreal to present the Governor General’s Caring Canadian Award to twenty-three recipients including Maura McKeon, wife of Robert Wilkins UE, from Westmount, Quebec, for her long-standing compassion towards society’s most vulnerable, and for the home-cooked food hampers that she makes for them, and Lieutenant-Colonel Okill Stuart (Ret’d) UE, from Saint-Lambert, Quebec, for his long commitment to promoting our country’s heritage, notably Canada’s role in the Second World War.

Created in 1995, the Governor General’s Caring Canadian Award recognizes living Canadians and permanent residents who have made a significant, sustained, unpaid contribution to their community, in Canada or abroad. Often working behind the scenes, these individuals volunteer their time and efforts to help their fellow citizens. The award also brings to light the example set by volunteers, whose compassion and engagement are a part of our Canadian character.

Medals, Honours and Presentations

By Bev Loomis, Little Forks Branch

Here is a brief outline of members who have been recognized recently ...

Milt Loomis (right) received the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal. Milt is noted for work he has done in saving the Little Hyatt One-room Schoolhouse.

George Beaulieu, 1st Vice-President of our Branch, was recently elected as Dominion President of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada. This ceremony took place in Winnipeg.

Our Young Loyalists, Abbigael and Tristan Loomis, (two of our 16 grandchildren) placed our Little Forks Branch wreath at the cenotaph in Lennoxville, attended by mayors of Lennoxville and Sherbrooke.

Loomis family at the cenotaph are, from left: Brittany, Abbigael, Bev, Tristan and Milt Loomis.

The children are three of Milt and Bev’s 16 grandchildren:

• Tristan & Abbigael are children of Warren & Helen (MacKinnon) Loomis, Chelsea, Quebec.
• Brittany is daughter of Jeff & Ellen (Oxford) Loomis, Courtice, Ontario.

...
Publications and Items for Sale from Dominion Office

To order, see address on page 4.

_The Loyalist Gazette_, published semi-annually, has information of Loyalist interest, historical articles, book reviews.

**BACK COPIES** from Spring 1963 to present, excluding current issue: $8 each, postage included. An index of _Gazette_ articles is available at www.uelac.org or from Dominion Office by e-mail.

**UEL BRONZE PLAQUE. 4.5” x 6” with raised 1/4” letters UEL, may be used as plaque or as a grave marker. Available only to recorded members. Send for official order form and additional information. Price: $95.00.

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### BICENTENNIAL BRANCH

The Loyalists of the New Settlement – a Study in Multiculturalism $10.00 each plus $1.50 S&H. Send cheque payable ‘Bicentennial Branch’ to Margaret Lewis UE, RR3, 997 McCain, Kingsville, ON N9Y 2E6.

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### COL. JOHN BUTLER (NIAGARA) BRANCH

Loyalist Cemetery Project CD containing photos and descriptions of more than 30 cemeteries in the Niagara area where more than 40 UE Loyalists are buried. Brief biographies of the Loyalists and detailed instructions on how to locate the cemeteries are included. CD $15.00 + $2.50 S&H.

Contact: Shirley Lockhart
10 Governor Simcoe Dr.
St. Catharines, ON L2N 3J2
co4392 “at” sympatico.ca

FRIENDS OF THE LOYALIST COLLECTION AT BROCK UNIVERSITY

United Empire Loyalists in the Niagara Peninsula Proceedings Sixth Annual History Conference Brock University April 1984. Original copies 104 pages. $30.00 S&H included. An Annotated Roll of Butler’s Rangers 1777 – 1784 with Documentary Sources by Wm. A. Smy CD UE. $40.00 + $10.00 S&H. Order Form and 3 methods of payment, see: http://www.brockloyalistcollection.ca.

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### GOV. SIMCOE BRANCH

Loyalist Vignettes and Sketches, 183 page, 89 short stories, $18 + $7 S&H.

**Hasty notes**, with a colour picture of the Loyalist Rose on the front, its story on the back panel, with envelope. Price incl. S&H, 5 for $7.00, 25 for $40.00, 50 for $80.00. (To USA: pay in US funds.) Gov. Simcoe Branch, 315 Carlton St. Toronto ON M5A2L6 doug.grant “at” insurance-canada.ca We’ll get prices to you.

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### GRAND RIVER BRANCH

Loyalist Families of the Grand River Branch, UEL – Volume I at $95.00. or in CD format for $30.00, each including shipping. The book includes stories of members’ Loyalist ancestors along with three-generation charts and direct line charts. Many pictures, charts and maps make up the book.

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Loyalist Families of the Grand River Families, UEL - Volume I in CD format for $25.00 including shipping.

Sarah’s Diary by Doris E. Wilson for $10, including shipping.

To order any of these items, make cheques or money orders payable to Grand River Branch UELAC and send your request to Jerry Tree, 114 Delatre St., Woodstock, Ontario. N4S 6B9. Contact Jerry Tree at jtree7437 “at” rogers.com or at (519) 537-7437 for any further information.

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### HAMILTON BRANCH

Census of Niagara – 1783, Mostly members of Butler’s Rangers, with the members of their families. $3.00.

**Hasty notes:** UEL Monument in Hamilton. Package of 10 with envelopes, $20 Cdn.

UEL Monument pin. $5 Cdn. Add $1 S&H for each item ordered.

Our contact for sales items is: Frances Showers Walker #311, 1229 Marlborough Court, Oakville, ON L6H 3B6.

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### HERITAGE BRANCH


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### KAWARTHA BRANCH

Hearth and Home 1783 – 2000, $10 plus shipping. Cookbook with a Loyalist flavour! Historical notes, old family recipes & remedies.


Decals $5.00 + S&H, 5” square. Royal Union Flag. King Geo. III cipher in centre.


Celebrating Our Loyalist Past: An Activity Book For All Ages, updated in 2006, created by elementary school teachers, Grietje and Bob McBride. $5.00 + S&H.

Please contact Frank Lucas at: frank.lucas “at” sympatico.ca or by post: 1852 Glenforest Blvd., Peterborough ON K9K2P3.
LOYALIST ROOTS IN SASKATCHEWAN

The Saskatchewan Branch of the UELAC is compiling an historical book about Loyalists who came to Saskatchewan. We invite people to submit their historical information about their Loyalist background. For further information please contact: Linda Smith (306) 789-1996, e-mail sparklingsprite@at@hotmail.com, or Ken Fader, e-mail neptune17542003@at@yahoo.ca, or Pat & Gerry Adair (306) 646-4952, e-mail: gerry.pat “at” sasktel.net.

LOYALIST ROOTS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Loyalists All – stories about New Brunswick Loyalists, told by their descendants. Contributed by members of the New Brunswick Branch (1985). $25 + $10 S&H.

Both are soft cover, cerlox bound.
Contact: Helen Seely, PO Box 484, Saint John, NB E2L 3Z8 or: sales “at” uelac-nb.ca.

LOYALIST ROOTS IN CANADA

Iroquois Point Cemetery – Sold out. Look for the new revised edition coming soon.

King’s Royal Regiment of New York Replica Officer Buttons or Pins $6.00 each plus $2.50 postage for 12 or less in Canada. Contact: Lynne Cook, P.O. 607, Township of South Dundas, Morrisburg, ON, KOC 1X0.

A Loyalist Guide to the Mohawk Valley composed by George Anderson. $3.50 or $5.00 outside Canada. Contact: Lynne Cook, P.O. 607, Township of South Dundas, Morrisburg, ON, KOC 1X0.

LOYALIST ROOTS IN NEW YORK

A Loyalist Guide to the Mohawk Valley George Anderson, 6 Saginaw Cres, Nepean, ON K2E 5N7. $3.50 or $5 outside Canada.

Data on the Existing Cemeteries in the United Counties of Dundas and Stormont affected by the St. Lawrence Power Projects – Lyall & Margaret Manson
(Original compiled by James A. Smart, April 1956, corrections and additions by Lyall and Margaret Manson)

Book & CD-ROM contain:
• a retyped copy of the Smart text
• cemetery maps.
• an alphabetic index to above text.

In addition, the CD-ROM contains a copy of the original 1956 text by Smart. All files are in PDF format. Price of the book is $30.00 Cdn. each plus S&H of $9.00 Cdn. to any location in Ontario or S&H of $12.00 Cdn. to other locations in Canada and the USA.

CD-ROM: $25.00 Cdn. per CD plus $2.00 S&H. Send cheque or money order payable to St. Lawrence Branch UELAC, P.O. Box 607, 3 Augusta St., Morrisburg, ON KOC 1X0. Branch info: www.rppnet.com/sites/uelstlawrencebr or: ekipp “at” rogers.com.

SIR GUY CARLETON BRANCH

Carleton’s Loyalist Index A select index (50,000 entries) to the names of Loyalists and their associates contained in the British Headquarters Papers, New York City 1774–1783 (The Carleton Papers) on CD-ROM $25.00 + $2.50 S&H. Outside of Canada pay in US dollars. Please contact me at: ekipp “at” rogers.com before ordering.

Edward Kipp, 6242 Paddler Way Orleans, Website: www.uelac.org/Carletonuel/

TO ALL BRANCH PRESIDENTS:

If your Branch has something for sale, please contact the editor and submit details for publication here. Thank you.

We strive for accuracy, but cannot be responsible for items, price and delivery of what is listed in this column.

— • —
Decals: An oval peel and stick decal 4.5" x 2.25" Manufactured for use out of doors to attach to cars, vans, or any smooth surface. $3.00 per decal, S&H included.

Limited Edition Plate: 8 1/4 inch white plate, edged in gold. Centre of the plate is the new UEL Crest in colour with 'Loyal Then, Loyal Now' around the crest. A description of the crest is printed on the back of the plate. Comes boxed with a plate stand. $40.00 S&H included.

Coasters: Set of 4 leather coasters $10.00 per set.

UEL Flags:
3 ft. x 5 ft. Satin polyester $22.00 plus $3.00 S&H
6" x 10" $8.00 plus $2.00 S&H
UEL Blue Badge Earrings: $25.00 a pair

PINS: following are $6.50 + S&H $2.00:
UEL Blue Badge Pin ( Brooch Clasp )
UEL Blue Badge Pin ( Butterfly Clasp )
UEL Blue Badge Pendant
UEL White Pin ( Brooch Clasp )
UEL White Pin ( Butterfly Clasp )
Crossed Flag Pin

“Looking Good” Items

Black Valise: Embroidered with the Union Flag. Available in black, comes with an adjustable, detachable shoulder strap, folded web carry handles, clear vinyl outside business card holder, full length zippered main compartment and full length zippered lower front outside pocket.

Licence Plate Frame: blue lettering on white. Top reads "LOYAL THEN – LOYAL NOW" Bottom reads "UEL – LOYALIST ANCESTORS – UEL" $5.00 plus S&H.

CLOTHING

UEL Ties Navy with gold UEL lettering $30.00 plus S&H.

NOTE:
All clothing/hats are embroidered with the Union Flag and "United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada." Branch names may be added to most items for $3.50 per item. For sizing and colours, please see contact below. Additional cost on some XXL+. Shipping and handling are additional.


Casual Shirts, Ladies’ and Men’s: 65% cotton/35% polyester. Both in long or short sleeved. $45.00. Many colours to choose from. Check our on-line catalogue.

Denim Shirts: Dark Blue – 'traditional' denim colour. 100% cotton denim. Long sleeved only. Men’s and Ladies’ Style. Light Blue: 100% cotton denim. Long sleeved only. Men’s and Women’s Style. $45.00.

Caps: Pre-washed distressed green with taupe peak or green peak, pre-washed distressed navy (denim blue). Adjustable back strap. $15.00.

Bucket Hats: Adult size 58 cm. Offers good sun coverage. Red, navy. $18.00

Jacket: Style 12721: Lined Nylon Jacket, drawstring waist, elastic cuffs, drawstring bottom, two slash pockets, snap front. $47.00.

NOTE: Prices are subject to change without notice. Price includes all taxes.

For more info., sizes and colours available, contact Patricia Groom, 78 Golden Appleway, North York, Ontario M3A 3P1. Phone: 416-447-1246. E-mail: patricia.groom.uel@ gmail.com. or contact your Branch 2014 Representative or visit our online catalogue at http://www.uelac. org/promotion/catalogue.php.

The Promotions Committee still sells this popular item: a UE Address Sign with your house number as well as the UEL flag.

Now you can display your UEL ancestry to all your friends and visitors. The sign can be attached to the front of your house or hung in a window or door. The sign is carved from a plastic material that will last for years and is hand-painted. The numbers and the flag are raised for better viewing. The numbers can be easily read from the street or roadway.

The sign is 16 inches wide by 13 inches high. It is sold with 2 brass screws for mounting on a wall.
While the War of 1812 engaged able-bodied citizens in the defence of our fledgling nation, the hard task of farming continued. Children of the Loyalists who fled the American Revolution were granted land as sons or daughters of these heroic refugees. They soon adapted new inventions to make the job of farming easier. Seen here is the one-furrow plough.

Find seven hidden farming tools in the picture. ...
TEAMWORK

Corporal Mike McMorland, bottom left, grimaces as his 2nd Connecticut Regiment "team" scales a wall at Fort George, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, 31 July 2010. Photographer: Walker Astle.

Own a piece of our Canadian history with coins from the Mint. Search for "1812" at www.mint.ca and you'll find coins featuring some of the heroes of the War of 1812: Tecumseh, Salaberry & Isaac Brock.