

Jonathan A. Bayer
2019 UELAC Loyalist Scholarship Award Recipient

The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada is pleased to announce Jonathan Bayer of London, Ontario as recipient of the 2019 UELAC Scholarship Award. Jonathan is a second-year PhD student in History at the University of Western Ontario. In 2018, he successfully completed his PhD comprehensive exams and won the Ivie Cornish Memorial Fellowship in recognition of outstanding performance. Jonathan currently holds an OGS scholarship.

Jonathan's PhD dissertation is a study of emergent ideas of national identities, American and Canadian from mid-1700s to mid-1800s, as expressed in print culture (especially newspapers), and the extent to which these identities formed in conversation (and often in conflict) with each other. He is examining how mockery/ridicule (including satire) of the other nation captures national self-identities as well as it projects an identity on the other. Loyalism and its role in forging Canadian national and regional identities is key to this project.

In 2013, Jonathan was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in History at Walla Walla University, College Place, Washington. He received his M.A. [History] degree in June of 2016 at University of Windsor with his major paper 'The Vilest of All Varlets': Counterfeiting and Propaganda in the American Revolution, 1755-1783.

Jonathan writes, "As a second year PhD student, I have found the University of Western Ontario to be the ideal place for me to pursue this research. My supervisor is Dr. Nancy Rhoden, an expert on the American Revolution who is currently working on related questions of individual and national identity. The university's strengths in both Canadian and American history will be a continuing asset to this work, as will the university library's extensive holdings of both Canadian and American newspapers."



Following is an excerpt from J. Bayer's 2019 research proposal -

Canadians and Americans share a long tradition of mocking one another in ways that hint at essential difference. Despite deep cultural and economic ties, Canada and the United States have often defined their collective identities against one another, with the roots of their antagonism stretching back to the eighteenth century. My study explores how the Canadian and American presses depicted the other nation and its peoples between the end of the Seven Years' War in 1763 and Canadian Confederation in 1867. It focuses primarily on the ways in which ridicule and satire were used to draw distinctions between the two nations and the effect this had on the formation of both Canadian and American identity. How did mockery impact the coalescing of distinct Canadian and American national identities from the diverse regional and ethnic identities within

both nations? How did portrayals of the other differ across internal regions like French and English Canada or Upper Canada and the Maritimes, and how did such depictions change? My dissertation examines the early North American press to explore both the ways in which Canadian and American identities formed in relation to (and often in contention with) one another and the impact that published mockery had on this process.

A significant aspect of this research centres on the methods and tactics used to draw distinctions between Loyalists and Patriots in the eighteenth century and the ways in which the rhetorical devices and stereotypes developed during the American Revolution continued to inform Canadian and American depictions of one another in later conflicts. Many scholars have examined the political and social reasons for the animosity between Canada and the United States, but the ways in which mockery affected this hostility have not been explored. Attitudes regarding Loyalism provide an excellent lens through which to view the evolving Canadian-American relationship, both because the American Revolution represents the first major rupture in English North American colonial society and because memories of the Revolution were recycled during subsequent conflicts like the War of 1812. My MA research into newspaper propaganda regarding the alleged British and Loyalist scheme to counterfeit the Continental Dollar during the Revolution suggests that the Patriot press actively “othered” their Loyalist neighbours, painting them as the antithesis of proper, moral Americans, while Loyalists in turn mocked the Patriots for their economic short-sightedness and ineptitude. My dissertation will further examine the ways in which similar reciprocal ridicule was used to drive a wedge between Canada and the United States in the years that followed and explore the affect that “othering” during the American Revolution had on the formation of distinctly Canadian and American national identities.

The formation of national identity in North America has already attracted significant academic interest. Jack P. Greene has surmised that American national identity was an adaptation of the British frameworks on which it was established (*Pursuits of Happiness*, 1988) while Jon Butler has argued that this identity was more the product of burgeoning ideas about difference between America and Britain (*Becoming America*, 2001). Similarly, Carl Berger has identified the emergence of Canadian national identity in the conceptions of British imperialism that motivated many Loyalists (*The Sense of Power*, 1970) while José E. Igartua has argued that it was more the product of notions regarding autonomy and separation (*The Other Quiet Revolution*, 2006). In both cases, the links between Canadian and American national identities and antecedent notions of British national identity are clear, but what remains vague is the interplay between the Canadian and American national identities themselves. Taking up this challenge, my research explores how reciprocal mockery served to affirm both emergent identities. Alison Olson has argued that eighteenth century newspapers made frequent use of ridicule and satire when attacking unpopular public figures (“Political Humor, Deference, and the American Revolution,” 2005). My previous research indicates that similar tactics were also turned against nations and against perceived internal political threats, such as the Loyalists. My dissertation explores the ways in which such printed derision impacted the emergence of the distinct Canadian and American identities that continue to influence the Canadian-American relationship.

Portrayals of and by Loyalists were essential to the formation of distinct Canadian and American identities in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Loyalists and their memory played a crucial role in supporting the vision of eighteenth and nineteenth century Canada as a monarch-centred

British colony that was in many ways self-consciously constructed as the opposite of the American republic. My study explores the ways in which “othering” and mockery served to reinforce this notion in both Canada and the United States throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and examines the role that Loyalism and its memory played in the emergence of distinct Canadian and American identities.