

The Ottawa Loyalist

Volume 29 Issue 2 Winter/2014

Events

Spring Luncheon

April 26, 2014

Macies Best Western,
1274 Carling Avenue,

Speaker: Marg. Hall

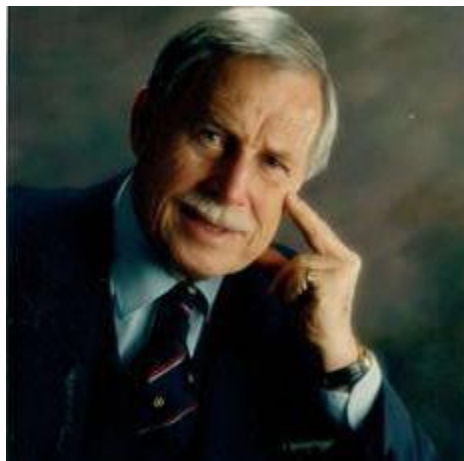
Topic: Two Loyalists: Nicholas Lake and George Murdoff

Cost : *Probably* \$30.00

Lunch menu: *Likely*; A Choice of Beef au Jus, Chicken with sauce or Salmon

Send Cheque, made out to Sir Guy Carleton Branch U.E.L.A.C. to Bob Adair, 34 Briardale Cresc. Ottawa, Ont., K2E 1C2 (When we finalize details! You will be notified!)

Last Post



**John Ross Matheson
1917-2013**

The Honourable John Ross Matheson formerly of Gananoque, Rideau Ferry, Ottawa, Brockville, Barrie, Toronto, Kingston, Montreal, and Quebec City; passed away December 27th 2013, The oldest child and only son of Gertrude (McCuaig) and Rev. Alexander Dawson Matheson, John was born in Arundel on November 17th 1917, and raised in Quebec City. He attended Queen's University, graduating in 1940 with a B.A. Honours in Economics. He served in World War II with the First Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, 1st Canadian Infantry Division. As a Forward Observation Officer, he was wounded near Ortona, Italy in 1943. He married Edith Bickley in 1945, after which John studied Law at Osgoode Hall, graduating in 1948. He later earned degrees from Mount Allison University (Master of Arts), and the University of Western Ontario (Master of Laws). John was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1967. He also received Honorary Doctorates from Queen's University and the Royal Military College in Kingston. John became Chairman of the Board of Management of Queen's Theological College, held tenure as a University Councillor, and had a founding membership in the Cha Gheill Society, and two decades was on the Board of Trustees. In 1948 John and Edith settled in Brockville, where he was a founding member of the firm Matheson, Henderson and Hart. John was elected Federal Member of Parliament for Leeds in a 1961 by-election. He was re-elected in 1962, 1963, and 1965 and served as Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Pearson. In 1968, he returned to the practice of law and was appointed Judge for the Judicial District of Ottawa-Carleton. In 1979 he moved to the County Court of Lanark, Perth Ontario. In 1985 he was appointed a Judge of the District Court of Ontario and served on the Ontario Court of Justice (General Division) from 1990 to 1992. During his political career, John was the leading member of the parliamentary committee, which arranged the adoption of the Canadian (Maple Leaf) flag by parliament in 1965. Years later, his master's thesis was published under the title "Canada's Flag: A Search for a Country". He also provided the concept and the background research that led to the design of the Order of Canada in 1967. A devoted Mason, he was a member of numerous lodges in Ontario and Quebec and cherished the practice of Freemasonry. Heraldry was another of John's passionate pursuits. He was a driving force in the foundation of the Canadian Heraldic Authority. Proud of his military associations, he held honorary militia appointments of Lt. Col. and then Col. with the 30th Field Artillery Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery from 1972 to 1982. John was named Brockville Citizen of the Year in 1967. In 1993 he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada. In 1999 he was the first recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians. He was a Knight of Justice in the Venerable Order of Saint John and a Knight Commander of Merit in the Order of Lazarus. He received the Canadian Centennial Medal, the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal, the 125th Anniversary of Confederation of Canada Medal, and the Canadian Forces Decoration" *adapted from Judge Matheson's obituary in The Ottawa Citizen.*

An important part of the Honourable John Matheson's life is **not** indicated above. Judge Matheson was a committed member and executive officer in the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada for more than 40 years. He held the positions of President of the Sir Guy Carleton Branch U.E.L.A.C.; Honourary President of the Sir Guy Carleton Branch, and laterally, Dominion Honourary President for the entire United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

John Matheson was responsible for seeing that all his children, and his grand-children became Life Members of the Sir Guy Carleton Branch U.E.L.A.C. He brought a grand total of 21 members into our Branch. John was a cousin to another distinguished member of the Sir Guy Carleton Branch U.E.L.A.C. former Speaker of the House Peter Milliken.

John Matheson's wisdom, his sense of humour, and his dedication to his country, his family, and his friends will be much missed.

Last Post

Lloyd, Melvin Howard, P. Eng.

At home on December 18, 2013 in his 86th year. Survived by his wife Maria Lloyd and predeceased by his former spouse Rose Mary Lloyd (née Traynor). Loving father of Roxanne, Christine (Kevin) Olesen, Grace, Darcy, and Roger (Karin Stebbins).

Cherished grandfather of Kirsten and Erika Rose Olesen and Dane Lloyd. Predeceased by sisters Vera Hillier and Doris Barber. He is survived by brother Kenneth (Marina) Lloyd and many nieces and nephews.

Melvin Lloyd was a relatively recent but very keen member of our Branch.

Ruliph Ostrom Loyalist

Ruliph Ostrom's great-grandfather, Hendrick Jans Oosterom, came from Schallwyck, Utrecht, Holland, first taking the surname Van Schallwyck ("from Schallwyck") and later reverting to Oosterom. Over the years, spelling of the surname was modified to the simpler "Ostrom". A land grant to Hendrick Jans Oosterom dated 1650 places the Oosteroms in New Netherland, which occupied parts of what are now the Mid-Atlantic States of New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Connecticut, at least that early.

The Ostroms had lived under British rule in the new world for over 100 years when the American Revolution broke out. Ruliph's family was divided in their

loyalties. His three eldest sons supported the rebels, one of them dying in the Revolution. On one occasion when Ruliph was away they stole his horses and some cattle and joined the Revolutionary Army. However, Ruliph remained loyal to the British Crown. According to written testimonials of Ruliph's loyalty, he and his wife sheltered Loyalists from persecution and he acted as a guide and dispatch carrier through enemy lines for the British. One source states that he participated in the Battle of Bunker Hill, although he does not appear to have been a regular in the military. He arranged for other Loyalists to come to Canada, but only arrived himself in 1785. He, his wife Elizabeth Yelverton, one of his daughters and youngest son Daniel, were among the earliest settlers in Sidney Township, Hastings County, Ontario.

Ruliph was 45 years old when he and his family came to Canada to start their life anew. He received significant land grants totalling almost 1000 acres. So busy was he developing his property, he neglected to apply to have his name added to the list of United Empire Loyalists, which would permit each of his children to receive 200 acres of land as Loyalist descendants. His application of 1804 was denied on the grounds that he had already received "adequate grants of land and that, as he had not applied at the proper time, it would be improper to comply with his request." He persisted and in 1808, when he was 68, his petition was granted, which allowed his son Daniel to receive 200 acres of land. Daniel's grant in Nepean, was in what is now the NCC Shirley's Bay Conservation

Area. Daniel remained in Sidney Township and there is no record that he actually took up the land.

The settlers were not provided with guns, and predators such as wolves and bears were such a problem that a bounty of £1 was offered per wolf head; £2 for a bear's head. Ruliph built a trap of logs in a pyramid shape and baited it. The wolves and bears would jump in the small opening at the top but could not climb out. In this manner he is said to have caught 100 wolves and three bears in one season. Ruliph also kept a tavern in Belleville. When Sir Isaac Brock stopped there on his way to defend Niagara during the War of 1812, he picked up Ruliph's youngest grandson and kissed him. The family christened the baby Isaac Brock Ostrom. *Dorothy Meyerhof*

THE RESTORATION OF THE UEL MONUMENT

The Monument to the United Empire Loyalists is the oldest monument to the Loyalists in Canada. It is located in the United Empire Loyalist Heritage Centre and Park, situated along the historic Loyalist Parkway in Adolphustown, Ontario. It was erected in the old Loyalist Cemetery, established shortly after the first Loyalists to Ontario landed on this site on June 16, 1784. The cemetery contains the graves of many early Loyalists, but unfortunately most of the early burials were unmarked. The monument is a tall granite obelisk mounted on three limestone bases,

located just inside the entrance to the cemetery grounds. It was unveiled on June 16th, 1884 to honour the Centennial of the Loyalists in Ontario who landed at this site and established the cemetery.

Due to its age, the monument is listing and needs to be levelled. The original limestone bases have badly cracked and need to be entirely replaced in order to prevent further damages to this important monument. In addition, the flagstone walkway, installed in 1956, shows signs of heaving due to frost and tree roots, and in many areas poses a tripping hazard to any visitors into the cemetery grounds. This again poses insurance risks to visitors so the entire walkway must be removed and levelled.

The restoration and repairs to the UEL Monument is a joint project by the UEL Heritage Centre and Park and the Bay of Quinte Branch UEL with a planned completion date in 2014. The estimated cost to repair and replace the bases and the surrounding walkways is \$35,000. To date, close to \$20,000 of the cost has been pledged. The scope of this project is beyond the normal financial operations of both the UEL Heritage Centre and Park and Bay of Quinte Branch UEL. As such, we are seeking financial support from our members, various UEL branches, and other individuals, as well as other historic groups to support this important project.

Your gift will help to preserve and support Loyalist History. **All donations will be issued with a charitable receipt.** Should you wish further information on this project, please contact us at 1784@uel.ca. Thank you for your support!

YES! I would like to support the UEL Monument Restoration Project

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Please make cheques payable to **UEL Heritage Centre and Park** and mail to:
UEL Heritage Centre & Park, 54 Adolphustown Park Road, Bath, Ontario K0H 1G0
Tax receipts will be issued. Registered Charity No 889 242 863 Rr0001



Sir Guy Carleton Branch Fall

Social 2013 began with the advancement of the colours by Bill Powers and Barry Gilmore. After the singing of God Save the Queen led by Sylvia Powers, the toast to King George the 3rd was given by Lynne Webb and the toast to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the 2nd was given by Ron Richards.

Nancy Richards then welcomed the branch members and special guests to the luncheon and introduced the head table which included members of the executive - Lynne

Webb (President), Gary Bagley (Membership & Genealogist), Dorothy Meyerhof (Library Coordinator), Nancy Richards (Member at large), Lucille Capes (special guest) and Glenn Wright (guest speaker).

Grace was given by Marg Hall and then the attendees enjoyed an excellent meal provided by the staff of Macies. Bob Adair again thanked the staff for a job well done.

After the meal Gary Bagley gave a membership report and indicated that membership is down this year (78). He then presented a certificate to Bill Powers for his Loyalist ancestor Myndert Harris.

After a brief break, Glenn Wright presented his talk on "**Great Revelations: Canada, Canadians and the 1921 Census**". Glenn Wright is a retired archivist and historian with Library and Archives Canada and with the RCMP. He has published extensively on genealogical and historical subjects, and is a frequent speaker at family history conferences and workshops. Glenn is President of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa. His talk on the 1921 Census was extremely interesting and informative. Bob Adair thanked Glenn for his talk and presented him with a small token of appreciation on behalf of the branch.

The **announcements** included with this year's program are:

1. Conference 2014, June 5-8, Toronto, ON
"A Centennial Celebration 1914-2014"
See:

www.uelac.org/conference/conference.php

2. Ottawa OGS meetings take place at the City of Ottawa Archives on 100 Tallwood Ave. Meetings are as follows : 25 Jan 2014, 1 pm.

Gene-O-Rama will be held March 21-22, 2014 at **Confederation Education Centre, 1645 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa.**

3. Donations to UELAC can be made by cheque to headquarters or on line with www.canadahelps.org Key words UELAC takes you to donor page. Canada Helps will issue the receipt. To donate to the branch, send cheque to headquarters.

4. To advertise in the Gazette send email to Pat Adair at gerry.pat@sasktel.net. People are needed to volunteer to do book reports for the gazette.

5. The Loyalist directory on the uelac.org website can use your ancestor.

6. The Newsletter (Ottawa Loyalist) would be pleased to accept an article on your Loyalist ancestor. Send to carletonuel@hotmail.com

7. Marg Hall will be stepping down as the newsletter editor after the Spring Edition. A replacement is urgently required. If you are interested in taking over this task, please contact a member of the executive.

The colours were then retired and those present concluded the social by the singing of O Canada. Lynne Webb thanked

everyone for coming and invited everyone to stay and mingle. *Penny Minter*

Library Report for Ottawa Branch Newsletter – January 2014

When searching for your loyalist ancestors at the City of Ottawa Archives, don't forget to look at the collections of the Ottawa Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS). They have a few references that are not in the Sir Guy Carleton Branch Library. The call numbers and titles are given below.

Don't worry if you lose this edition of the Sir Guy Carleton Branch Newsletter. The lists of Loyalist material held by the City of Ottawa Archives, the Ottawa Branch (OGS) and BIFHSGO are all in the Finding Aid for the Sir Guy Carleton Library; right side of the very first bank of shelves as you enter the Reference Room.

The Library has a budget to purchase books each year. If you have suggestions for books you think should be added to the collection please send them to the Branch Librarian, Dorothy Meyerhof, at meyerhof@magma.ca. Please put "Library Suggestion" in the subject line.

Loyalist Books in the Ottawa Branch, OGS Library:

016.97 UEL **Bibliographies of the United Empire Loyalists at the St Catharines, Hamilton, Niagara Falls (Ontario); St John and Fredericton (New Brunswick) Public Libraries**

929.571359 **Names and Graves Found in the United Empire Loyalists Memorial Burial Grounds**, ADO UEL Adolphustown Park, Adolphustown, Ontario

929.1072071 Report on manuscript lists in the Archives relating to the United Empire Loyalists
CAM OS

929.571371 **St. Lawrence United Church Cemetery, Wolfe Island, Frontenac County, Lot 9, WOL StLA**
Conc. 18, Lot 9, Wolfe Island

929.2 SCH **William Schurman: Loyalist of Badeque, Prince Edward Island and His Descendants**, Vol. 1 & 2

929.2 SHA **The Loyal Americans: Shaver Emigrants to Canada**

971.3 LAP **To Their Heirs Forever**

971.3 WIL **The Ontario Register: V. 2, No. 1, p. 31**, "Notes on Some Loyalists of Sussex County, New Jersey", Thomas B. Wilson.

V. 3, No. 4, p. 236,
"Loyalists of Bergen County, New Jersey", Howard I. D. *D. Meyerhof*



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It is not too late to send in your membership fees. Regular Member \$55.00 Family Member; \$70.00 Branch Member only (must be a regular member elsewhere): \$15.00 Send them to Bob Adair, 34 Briardale Cresc. Ottawa, Ont., K2E 1C2 or to the Branch Mail Box: 5104, 19 Colonnade Rd., Nepean ON K2C 3H5 See **form on following page**

Sylvia holding *another* certificate she has earned! She has 13 Loyalist ancestors

Renewal Form

Name:.....

Street Address:.....

Apartment Number:.....

City:.....

Province:.....

Country:.....

Would you be willing to accept an executive position?.....

Would you be willing to be a Speaker?.....

Can you help out at some of our events?

.....

**Bill Powers receiving his certificate for Loyalist Ancestor Myndert Harris
from Genealogist Gary Bagley**

