



The Ottawa Loyalist  
Newsletter of the Sir Guy Carleton  
Branch, UELAC  
Volume 36 Issue Number 2  
Spring 2020

***Sir Guy Carleton Fall Social and Annual General Meeting***

***Saturday 14 November 2020, 1:00 – 4:00 pm***

Join your fellow Branch members for an afternoon of conversation at the City of Ottawa Archives (Room 115, 100 Tallwood Drive, Ottawa).

***Guest speaker:*** Stuart Manson “Loyalist Cemeteries in Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry”

Stuart lives in Cornwall, but, commutes to work in Ottawa. He is part owner of an historical research company called Public History, specializing in Indigenous historical projects (such as land claims & litigation). His company is frequently contracted by the federal government, provincial government and First Nations.

Stuart is descended from approximately 12 members of KRRNY and is keenly interested in the history of the Revolutionary War, Early Upper Canada and the Loyalists. A member of the UELAC St. Lawrence Branch for four years, he serves on their Executive as editor of the branch newsletter “The Royal Yorker”, manages the branch website and also is the project lead for the “Loyalist Burial Site” project.



His talk, “Loyalist Cemeteries of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry” will cover the importance of historical cemeteries, some unique aspects of Loyalist cemeteries in that region and also feature some specific information on a selection of particularly-interesting cemeteries.

**Light refreshments** will be served. Help save the environment:

please consider bringing your own coffee mug!

Guests are welcome!

**Please RSVP** by so we can plan refreshments and seating.

Use either the Branch email – [carletonuel@hotmail.com](mailto:carletonuel@hotmail.com),

or call the Branch Secretary at 613-824-0980.

## ***Message from the President***

By Rosemarie Pleasant

Hello everyone, I hope you and yours are doing well in these strange and eerie times. So much happening it is hard to focus on our corner of the world, but we can only do our best at getting through it.

Because of the closing of the City Archives building, and the new rules on social distancing we had to cancel our Spring AGM. It has been postponed to the fall, and will be part of the November Social. It will feature the same speaker, Stuart Manson. The elections slated for the Spring meeting will be held in the fall.

The John Ruch Memorial Bursary in Canadian Studies was awarded to Teviah Pimlatt in 2019/20.

There is good news: Warren Peters, our vice president has been accepted into grad school starting in September; and bad news--we are down another member of the executive. Please consider filling our vacancies for the November AGM/social. The Dominion Office is trying to set up a virtual Annual General Meeting as the annual conference has been cancelled, so check the UELAC website for updates.

Spring is here, try to get outside (within the limits) and I hope we can get together in November. Turn off the news once in a while, I see buds on the tree outside my balcony. There are good things happening outside, I can almost smell the lilacs.

## ***Book Review***

Penny Minter

Data on Existing Cemeteries in the United Counties of Dundas and Stormont affected by the St. Lawrence Power Project ; (Original compiled by James A. Smart, O.B.E., for The Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario April 1956) ; with corrections and additions by Lyall and Margaret Manson 2007. Morrisburg, Ont.: St. Lawrence Branch, UELAC.

The creation of the St. Lawrence Seaway resulted not only in the loss of 10 villages and hamlets, but, the displacement of 6500 people and 18 cemeteries. In many cases these cemeteries held the remains of United Empire Loyalists or their descendants. The graves were moved only on demand or if they were quite recent. In all, 2,560 monuments were moved. The graves left behind were covered with limestone or large stone slabs to prevent water erosion.

The original publication from 1956 was written and compiled directly from the headstones as plot plans or church records were unavailable or non-existent. Many graves were unmarked or the markers which were probably made of wood, had deteriorated over the centuries. The cemeteries in the book are divided by township, Matilda, Williamsburg, Osnabruck and Cornwall with the largest number of lost cemeteries coming from Osnabruck Township. Many of the graves and stones were moved to St. Lawrence Valley Union Cemetery while some of the stones were moved to the Pioneer Memorial at Upper Canada Village.

In 1997, Lyall and Margaret Manson undertook to make a recording of the stones at the Village and an attempt to document the location of all the stones which were moved.

This edition of the book contains a name index of over 7500 entries, as well as a brief description and map of the affected cemeteries. While the names of Loyalists may not be contained in this book, the reader is quite likely to find the names of Loyalist descendants and an idea of where their ancestor may have lived.

An excellent reference, this item is available from St. Lawrence Branch, UELAC, <http://uelac.org/st-lawrence/> for \$30.00 + shipping.

**Daniel Springer, U.E.: A Remarkable Life, in a Remarkable Time**

*By Warren Peters*

Here lies in tomb, dispute it if you can,  
An honest squire, and an upright man;  
In all things he acted the manly part:  
Blush, squires, blush – and copy Daniel’s heart.

*-Epitaph on the tombstone of Daniel Springer*

Of the roughly 50,000 people who made their way to Canada as a result of the upheaval of the American Revolution, one can only imagine the fascinating stories that would have belonged to these refugees. Whether fleeing persecution, following a devotion to the Crown, or one of a myriad of other personal reasons, these individuals found themselves at the centre of one of the foundational periods of Canadian history. It is lamentable that only so much historical knowledge can be retained and so many stories are forgotten as time goes on. The following is what can be pieced together of the life story of but one Loyalist.<sup>1</sup>

Daniel Springer, UE, led a remarkable life during a remarkable time. Born in Schenectady, New York in 1764 to David and Margaret (née Oliver) Springer,<sup>2</sup> he came of age in a tumultuous period of North American history, as the Thirteen Colonies prepared to go to war in 1776 to gain independence. David Springer and his family found themselves in a difficult situation as Loyalists to the British Crown, while so many of their neighbours and even relatives took favourably to the revolutionary cause. Daniel unfortunately became familiar with the horrors of war early on when his father was killed at the Battle of Normanskill, witnessed by Daniel’s older brother Richard.<sup>3</sup> Faced with a population hostile to their views and a war turning against their favour, Margaret Springer had no choice but to take what she could and flee with her children to Canada.<sup>4</sup>

Caught up in an extraordinary period of time, Daniel Springer (alongside his brother Richard) decided to join the cause that their father died fighting for and enlisted in Butler’s Rangers. Although there is little record in the way of the two brothers’ exploits in the war, it is interesting to note that these two historical figures inspired H. Orlo Miller, a noted local historian from London, Ontario, to write the historical fiction novel *Raiders of the Mohawk*. Following the war, as both the son of a noted loyalist (David was referred to by some on the revolutionary side as “that notorious tory”<sup>5</sup>) and someone who clearly displayed loyalty to the Crown in his own right,<sup>6</sup> Daniel was entitled to an allotment of land in Upper Canada.

Springer settled first in Barton Township, an area that is now part of Hamilton. He stayed in the region for several years, where he operated a trading post<sup>7</sup> and is also noted as having been a founding member of the local Freemasons lodge.<sup>8</sup> Following the presumable sale or trade of his original land grant, Daniel made his way further west to Delaware Township, Middlesex County, an area he was familiar with already having had experience trading with the local indigenous peoples.<sup>9</sup> This was a relationship he fostered, as one of the first white settlers in the area, and he was apparently given the name “Wabasash,” meaning “a good man” or “a wise man.”<sup>10</sup>

Although an exact record has not been found, it seems to be somewhere around this period in the mid-1790s that Daniel married Ruth Fairchild, herself part of a loyalist family.<sup>11</sup> The couple went on to have nine children<sup>12</sup> as they continued to live out a pioneer lifestyle in Middlesex County. One interesting anecdote that illustrates the struggles of pioneer living, recounted in a later retelling of the Springer family's life in an 1877 London Free Press article,<sup>13</sup> regales how Ruth Springer once had to wrestle a cougar that found its way into their kitchen: "Mrs. Springer seized the animal by the fore legs and after a desperate struggle got him down and held him to the floor while one of her daughters procured a penknife and cut his throat."

Daniel Springer found himself returning to military endeavours as war broke out between Britain and the United States in 1812, although by this point Springer was captain of the local militia unit. He had a storied experience in the war, facing treachery from his former neighbour Andrew Westbrook, who switched sides to the Americans. Leading a band of marauding American soldiers, Westbrook captured Springer and a number of other officers and soldiers defending Delaware Township, afterwards transporting him to Kentucky to be imprisoned. As one author notes however, "no prison could hold Daniel Springer,"<sup>14</sup> and he managed to escape and make his way back to Canada in time to participate in the Battle of Lundy's Lane. Although the exact circumstances are no longer clear, following the war Springer attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the militia.<sup>15</sup>

In addition to his wartime service, Springer was a prominent member of his community, and made a living chiefly through trading goods, especially furs. He also set up the region's first postal station in 1798,<sup>16</sup> and was one of the first Justices of the Peace to be appointed in the area, in 1802.<sup>17</sup> He was apparently not universally admired however, as he was accused of "official and personal misconduct" by his neighbour John Matthews, a rather capricious character who was later elected to the Provincial Assembly, who also took issue with Springer's alleged "indolence, drunkenness, rapacity, and deceit."<sup>18</sup> An inquiry was launched and later dropped.<sup>19</sup>

Outside of the exploits of Daniel Springer during his life, some mention is also due for the folklore and traditions surrounding his broader family. H. Orlo Miller, the author of *Raiders of the Mohawk* who had a keen interest in the early history of the Springer family in Canada, made the following claim in a letter to an American member of the Fairchild family who was compiling a genealogy: "Traditionally the family Springer are descended from Pharamond, the first King of France, and author of the famous Salic Law. The [genealogical] sketch I have shows the descent from Pharamond through Louis II (1042-1128), Count of Landgrave of Thuringia, to whom the nickname of "the Springer" was given in 1089. From him descend the line of the Counts Springer, of Waldenburg, and from them the citizen line of Springers, of whom Lorentz (or Lawrence) Springer (1646-1741) was the ancestor of the American family."<sup>20</sup> This type of long form genealogy stretching back to the Middle Ages was commonplace in nineteenth and early twentieth century North America,<sup>21</sup> but unfortunately is grounded more in leaps of faith than documented fact. Even linking David Springer to Lawrence Springer is open to debate, looking at the available evidence.

The Revolutionary period provides other pieces of family folklore. Daniel Springer's mother, Margaret, is commonly said to have been from France, subsequently abandoned by her first husband when he returned to Europe. The actual genealogical record does not support this, rather showing she was born locally (although her mother's maiden name, Benoit, suggests there may indeed have been French heritage further along the line).<sup>22</sup> Another story often repeated is that David Springer was killed in his own front yard. The evidence is clear however that he was killed at the Battle of Normanskill, a small skirmish (in which he was the only casualty) on the property of a local farm, although not that of the Springers.<sup>23</sup>

After a life well lived, Daniel Springer passed away on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 1826. His obituary, which appeared in the *Upper Canada Gazette*, reads as follows: "At his residence in Delaware, on 15th inst. Daniel Springer, aged 65 years. He had long been a respectable inhabitant and an active and useful

magistrate. He was one of the earliest settlers in the Province, and an U.E. Loyalist.”<sup>24</sup> He was buried in the Tiffany Cemetery in Delaware. His tombstone is notable for featuring the crest of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; this appears to be in recognition of his status as a Freemason, as Pennsylvania was the centre of freemasonry in North America.<sup>25</sup> His legacy lives on in the Delaware area to this day, with Springer Road and Springer Lake both being named after him.<sup>26</sup>

## Endnotes

1. The choice of subject for this article is the result of Daniel Springer being the (alleged) fifth great grandfather of the author, and the research conducted as part of proving this lineage. The last piece of documentary evidence to provide the genealogical link has not yet been located, in order to prove descent beyond what is already suggested by significant circumstantial evidence, but the author remains optimistic.
2. Holland Society of New York, Schenectady Baptisms, Vol 2, Book 42.
3. Arnold W. Nethercott, “A genealogical quandary partly solved,” *Canadian Genealogist* 6, no. 3 (1984): 168.
4. *Upper Canada Land Petitions* (Ottawa: National Archives of Canada): The Surveyor Generals Report, No. 177, bundle No.1, letter S.
5. Arnold W. Nethercott, presentation at United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada, London Branch meeting, May 1977, quoted in <http://www.uelac.org/UELAC-history/Branching-Out/Branching-Out-London-Western-Ont.pdf>
6. It is curious to note that despite tradition dictating that Daniel Springer took part in the war as part of Butler’s Rangers, the present author has not been able to find concrete record of this service. His land petitions following the war also do not make mention of having fought.
7. Westminster Township Historical Society, *Delaware and Westminster Townships: Together in History* (London, Ont.: Westminster Township Historical Society, 2006): 590.
8. F. Ross Robertson, *The History of Freemasonry in Canada* (Toronto: George A. Morang & Co., 1900), 643.
9. Westminster Township Historical Society, 590.
10. London Free Press, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1877. The present author regrets that he has not been able to consult the original source, due to current circumstances preventing in person archival research. As such, this is quoted from a thirdhand source, found at: <http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/b/e/n/Diane-L-Bengivengo-FL/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0248.html>
11. United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada, Toronto Branch, *Loyalist Lineages of Canada, 1783-1983* (Toronto: Generation Press, 1983), 223.
12. Bradley Evan Murphy, *The Family of David Springer and Margaret Oliver, United Empire Loyalists* (self-published, 2008): 166.
13. See endnote 10.
14. Grimbsy Historical Society, *Annals of the Forty No. 8, Loyalist and Pioneer Families of West Lincoln 1783-1833* (Grimbsy: Grimbsy Historical Society, 1992): 69.
15. Murphy, 164.
16. Westminster Township Historical Society, *Delaware and Westminster Townships: Honouring our Roots* (London, Ont.: Westminster Township Historical Society, 2006), 129.
17. Westminster Township Historical Society, *Together in History*, 591.
18. Paul Romney, “Matthews, John,” Dictionary of Canadian Biography, accessed April 10, 2020, [http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/matthews\\_john\\_6E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/matthews_john_6E.html)

19. Unfortunately given current circumstances, the present author is not capable of personally consulting the archival documents created from this inquiry, but this seems to present a fascinating avenue for future research into Springer's life.
20. H. Orlo Miller, letter to Timothy Marsh Fairchild, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1940. Consulted from University of Western Ontario archives, Orlo Miller collection.
21. Nethercott, "Genealogical Quandary," 165.
22. Ibid., 162.
23. Ibid., 168.
24. As quoted in R. Robert Mutrie, *The Ontario Pioneer Genealogies: Springer of Wentworth, Oxford, and Waterloo Counties* (self-published, 2019): 22.
25. Nethercott, "Genealogical Quandary," 167.
26. Ibid.

### **Membership benefits**

Membership in the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada is managed by its branches and is open to descendants of Loyalists or just those who are interested in the history of Canada. By joining the Sir Guy Carleton Branch you would receive the Loyalist Gazette, the official publication of the UELAC (published twice per year) as well as the Ottawa Loyalist, the Branch newsletter which is published 3 times per year. Both publications are available either electronically or paper copy.

Branch members receive the latest news on Branch activities (including the spring and fall socials), special events, meetings and projects. Those whose primary branch is Sir Guy Carleton can also be associate members of other branches for a fee.

### **Certificate application**

Descendants of United Empire Loyalists can apply for a certificate after proving their lineage back to the original Loyalist. Applicants are encouraged to work with their branch genealogist who will provide guidance in collecting the proofs required and will provide the certificate application form. On completion of the application and with satisfactory proofs and the fee, the application will be submitted to the Dominion office by the branch genealogist. If accepted, the applicant will receive a certificate which can be presented to them at a branch meeting, or if they prefer, they can receive it by mail. For further information on the application process, see [uelac.org](http://uelac.org).

### **Upcoming Events**

American Revolution Mohawk Valley Conference September 10 - 13, 2020

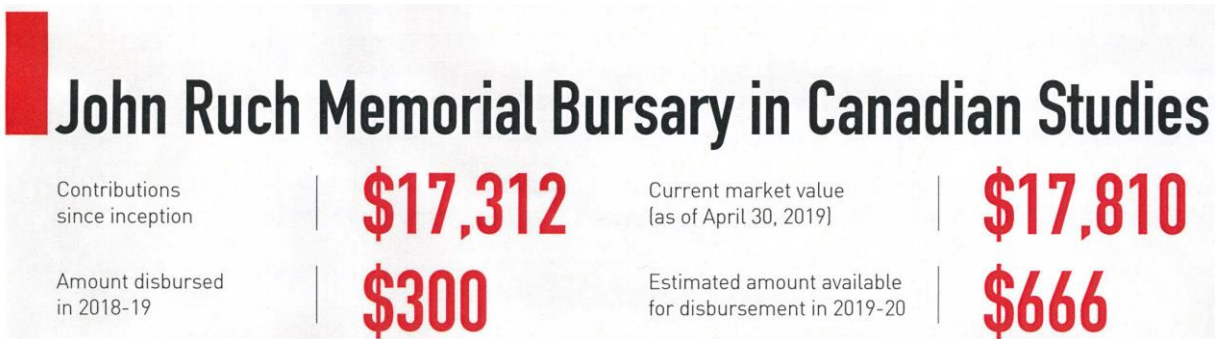
The Fort Plain Museum's Annual American Revolution Mohawk Valley Conference is September 10 - 13, 2020 <http://www.fortplainmuseum.com/conference>

Cancelled - Conference 2020 : Jun 24-28, 2020, "Eyes on the Heart of the Continent", Delta Marriott Hotel, Winnipeg, MB, hosted by Winnipeg Branch <https://www.uelmanitoba.ca/>

Conference 2021 : May 27-31, 2021, "Join the Revolution : Building on our Past, Safeguarding our Future", Cornwall, Ontario <https://uelbridgeannex.com/>

# Focus on Education

## Sir Guy Carleton Branch John Ruch Memorial Bursary



**Carleton University, Ottawa, ON**

The interest from the endowment is awarded annually to students proceeding from Second to Third year enrolled in the Canadian studies program.

**Goal – Build this Bursary to \$20,000 in 2020!**

Learn how here <http://www.uelac.org/SirGuyCarleton/education.php>

## UELAC Scholarship



Some UELAC Scholarship Recipients

The UELAC Loyalist Scholarship is available to Masters and PhD students who are undertaking a program in relevant research. The topic should further Canada's understanding of the Loyalists and our appreciation of their, or their immediate descendants, influence on Canada.

Two scholarships of \$2500.00 are available each year.

Learn how to donate to the UELAC Scholarship here.  
<http://www.uelac.org/scholarship/UELAC-scholarship.php>

### ***Editor's Note***

Please consider receiving the newsletter electronically rather than a paper copy. If you would like to change your mailing preferences, please contact the Membership Chair, Gary Bagley at [gary-bagley@sympatico.ca](mailto:gary-bagley@sympatico.ca)

Newsletter submissions gratefully accepted. Do you have interesting articles about your Loyalist ancestor? Have you read a new work on the Loyalists and would like to submit a review? Please feel free to send me any suggestions that you might have at [keziah1@rogers.com](mailto:keziah1@rogers.com)

### ***List of Executive Members for 2020***

Past President:	Marg Hall <a href="mailto:33marg.hall@gmail.com">33marg.hall@gmail.com</a>
President:	Rosemarie Pleasant <a href="mailto:rpleasant02@hotmail.com">rpleasant02@hotmail.com</a>
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