



Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, UELAC

Newsletter *Spring 2012*

Another winter is behind us and spring is definitely upon us.
It is time to invite you to our 45th Annual General Meeting.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Saturday, June 16th

At 11:30 AM for lunch at 12:00 Noon

To be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall
Montgomery St, Philipsburg (St. Armand), QC

Guest Speaker: Robert C. McBride, UELAC President

Topic: Mr. McBride will speak about the exploits
of his ancestor, John DeCew in the War of 1812

Lunch: \$18.00 per person (wine included)

Please reserve by June 10th with:

Adelaide – e-mail: adelaidel@sympatico.ca

Telephone: (450) 293-6342

or

Linda – e-mail: lilac23@axion.ca

Telephone: (450) 306-1096

*Payment may be made at the door
but please remember that we must pay for the number of places we reserve.*

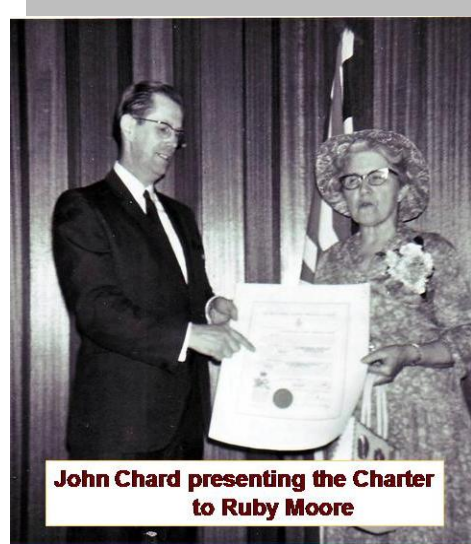
In 2012, Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch celebrates its 45th Anniversary. Let us look back and see how it all started.

The Beginning

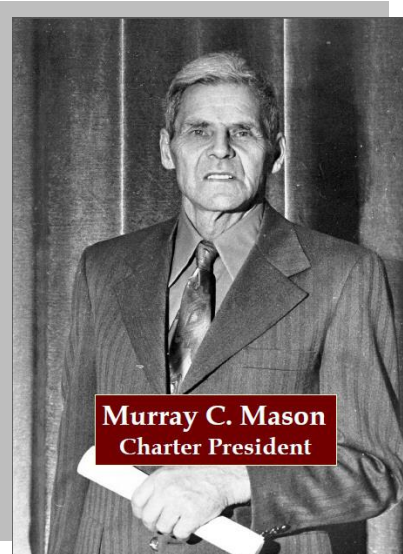
“It is Ruby Moore that we have to thank for having the initiative in 1966 to respond to the request of the representative from the Dominion Headquarters in Toronto, Mr. E. John Chard, that a United Empire Loyalist Branch was formed here in the Townships. Ruby Moore had the foresight to see that Missisquoi County was the natural place to start such a movement since so many of the early settlers here were Loyalists.” *Marion L. Phelps*

It all started in 1966 when John Chard, then president of the National Association of the United Empire Loyalists, became concerned that there was no branch of the UEL Association in the Province of Quebec and especially no branch representing the descendants of those Loyalists who had settled in Missisquoi County.

E. John Chard, a school teacher and Dominion President of the UELAC from 1966 to 1968, was also the editor and business manager of *The Loyalist Gazette* from 1966 until 1987, 20 years of service. The *Loyalist Gazette* had originally been published for a brief period, from 1931 to 1933. It then lay dormant until John Chard revived it in 1966 during his term as President of the Dominion Council. The *Loyalist Gazette* became widely accepted as an authoritative historical Loyalist publication and is now distributed all across North America.



John Chard presenting the Charter to Ruby Moore



**Murray C. Mason
Charter President**

While visiting the World’s Fair in Montreal during the summer of 1967, John Chard came to Missisquoi and met Donald MacCallum of Noyan who suggested a visit to the Missisquoi Museum at Stanbridge East where Mr. Chard met Ruby Moore, genealogist of the Missisquoi County Historical Society. He soon realized that Mrs. Moore had a remarkable knowledge of the history of the region. Before leaving the area Mr. Chard also met several local people, such as Murray Mason, Flora and Clifford Rhicard.

Several years later John Chard made this comment on his first visit in Missisquoi: “It soon became evident that there was now support for a gathering of the Loyalist descendants, but according to a universal custom, they relayed the work of finding prospective members onto one person, Ruby Moore. They could not have made a better choice.”

In order to commemorate, not only the 100th year of the Confederation but also the fact that the former residence and burial place of Sir John Johnson, the Loyalist leader, was in our area, the name of “Sir John Johnson Branch” was suggested for this new branch in the Province of Quebec. In August 1967, the term “Centennial” was added to the branch name, so it became evident that the task needed to be completed during this Canada’s centennial year. To recruit members and prepare their applications, Ruby Moore obtained the valued help of Beryl Tremblay, Herbert Derick, Ed Struthers, Donald MacCallum, Murray and Esther Mason.



Beryl Hauver Tremblay

First Meeting was held at her home in Stanbridge East November 21, 1967

The practice in establishing new branches is to arrange for pro tem officers to serve temporarily until meetings are held for official and legal elections by the membership. So an early meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Beryl Tremblay in Stanbridge East on November 21, 1967. In the Minute Book, we read: “Mrs. (Ruby) Moore acted as chairman for the meeting because she had been corresponding with Mr. Chard & Mr. Benson of the U.E.L. Association of Canada & she had called this meeting together in hopes of forming a Chapter in this district – the first* one in the Province of Quebec.” (*Note: There had been a branch established in Montreal in the mid-1910s for a few years only, but none since then.)

At this first meeting, three important decisions were taken: first – that those who were present organize a Branch of the UELAC, second – that the Branch be called The Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, and third – that an application for a Charter be forwarded at the Dominion Association as soon as possible.

Then the following Charter Officers were elected: President, Murray Curtis Mason; 1st Vice-President, Mary Taber McCutcheon; 2nd Vice-President, Marion Hooper Perkins; Recording Secretary, Margaret Jane Doherty Ellis; Corresponding Secretary, Flora Primmerman Rhicard; Treasurer, Arsène Galipeau; Genealogist, Ruby Laduke Moore, aided by the Genealogical Committee formed by Beryl Hauver Tremblay, Mary T. McCutcheon, Edileen Shepard Drennan, Margaret J. Ellis, Kenneth Tree, Edward J. Struthers and Donald W. MacCallum.

Soon after, the official application for a charter was made to the Dominion Headquarters in Toronto. At last the deadline was met in Canada’s centennial year, when the Dominion Council met on December 16, 1967, at which meeting Reginald Hawke and Eldon Spencer, both originally from Missisquoi, presented to the Council the qualifications with a motion of a branch charter to the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. Dominion Council officers granted approval of this motion.

The Baronets of New York

In 1755, William Johnson became the 1st Baronet of New York. He had so much impressed the British Parliament for his role in the Battle of Lake George, during the French and Indian War, that he was created a baronet. Baronet is a title of British nobility. The baronet is entitled to the appellation "Sir" before his name and the suffix "baronet". The title is transmitted by heredity to the eldest son.

- **Sir William Johnson, 1st Baronet of New York (1755-1774)** was born near Dublin Ireland in 1715, arrived in America in 1738. Sir William Johnson was an army officer in colonial New York, and the British Superintendent of Indian Affairs from 1755 to 1774. He served on the Governor's Council in New York, earned the rank of Major General in the British forces during the French and Indian War. He died on 11 July 1774.
- **Sir John Johnson, 2nd Baronet of New York (1774-1830)** was the son of Sir William Johnson, 1st Bt. Born 5 November 1742, he inherited his father's title in 1774. When the American Revolution started in 1775, Sir John became a loyalist leader. He and his followers formed the core of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. In 1784 Johnson was assigned by the British government to distribute crown lands along the St. Lawrence River and the north shore of Lake Ontario to the loyalists who had come to Canada during the Revolution and to help them settle on these lands. He died 4 January 1830. *Our branch name acknowledges the contributions of this courageous leader.*
- **Sir Adam Gordon Johnson, 3rd Baronet of New York (1830-1843)**, son of Sir John Johnson, 2nd Bt. Born in 1781, Sir Adam Gordon Johnson was baronet from 1830 (at the death of Sir John Johnson) until his death in 1843.
- **Sir William George Johnson, 4th Baronet of New York (1843-1906)**. Born in 1830, he was the eldest son of John Johnson, son of Sir John Johnson, 2nd Bt. Sir William George Johnson was commissioned into the Royal Artillery from the Royal Military Academy. He eventually became A.D.C. (*aide-de-camp*) to the Governor of St. Helena, but his sojourn in this lonely station influenced him to leave the Army, whereupon he retired to Nice, where he died in 1906. He left a widow, but no children.
- **Sir Edward Gordon Johnson, 5th Baronet of New York (1906-1957)** was the nephew of Sir William George Johnson, 4th Bt, and grandson of Colonel John Johnson of St. Mathias. Sir Edward Gordon Johnson spent his life in the employment of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Born in 1867, he died in Montreal in 1957, at the age of ninety-one.
- **Sir John Paley Johnson, 6th Baronet of New York (1957-1975)**, son of Robert Warren Johnson and Grace Isobel, and great-great-grandson of Sir John Johnson, 2nd Bt. His father died on 22 September 1914, killed in action, on board H.M.S. Cressy when it was torpedoed. Born on 12 June 1907 in Devonshire, Sir John Paley Johnson was educated at Wellington College and the Royal Military Academy. Commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1927, after a period on the Army Reserve he returned to the Royal

Artillery in 1938, having spent most of 1935 and 1936 in America and Canada. At the outbreak of war he was a Captain and Adjutant of a Field Artillery Regiment. After the war, he then spent four years in Turkey as Chief Land Instructor at the Turkish Staff College. Following this appointment, after nearly nine years abroad he returned to England. Sir John retired from the Army in 1960 with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. After 1952, horses carrying the colours of Sir John and his wife appeared regularly in steeplechases and in 1957 he was



elected Master of the West Kent Foxhounds. He became well known as a competitor and later as a judge at the Royal Tournament. In 1961, Sir John and Lady Johnson visited Canada to unveil the Memorial Plaque to the Second Baronet and also the beautiful memorial to the Loyalist Regiments in the Crysler Battlefield Memorial Park, near Morrisburg, Ontario. He and Lady Johnson attended the first official meeting of our UELAC branch held at the Art Centre in Cowansville Quebec on 24 April 1968 (*photo*). In 1975, Sir John became the first Honourary President of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. He died that same year on 15 December.

- **Sir Peter Colpoys Paley Johnson, 7th Baronet of New York (1975 -2003).** Born 26 March 1930, the son of Sir John Paley Johnson, 6th Bt. He served in the Royal Artillery from 1949 until 1961, retiring in the rank of Captain. Sir Peter was an avid, renowned yachtsman who wrote many books on yachting and held numerous offices in the yachting world. Sir Peter had planned to visit Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch and the Johnson Vault at Mont Saint Grégoire but ill health prevented him from doing so. He died 24 May 2003.
- **Sir Colpoys Guy Matt Johnson, 8th Baronet of New York (2003-).** Born 13 November 1965, he is the son of Sir Peter Colpoys Paley Johnson, 7th Bt. Living in England, Sir Guy visited Toronto in 2004 and took part in the ceremony of the Presentation of Colours to the King's Royal Regiment of New York at historic Fort York. Sir Guy looks forward to attending the rededication ceremony of the Sir John Johnson Vault when the project is completed. Following the tradition established by the 6th Bt, Sir Guy is the Honourary President of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. And Sir Guy, his wife Marie Louise and their three children Colpoys William, Rufus George and Benedict Peter are honorary associate members of our branch.

The Baronetcy of Johnson of New York in North America

Writer, heraldist and community activist, Rean E. Meyer UE (1929-2002) was born in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. After retiring he settled in Victoria, BC, where he served on many associations, including the United Empire Loyalists' Association and the Heraldry Society of Canada. From 2001 to 2002, he was the editor of *Heraldry in Canada*. In 1984, Meyer published a text titled "The Johnson Armorials". The following is an excerpt taken from this text.

The Canadian connection

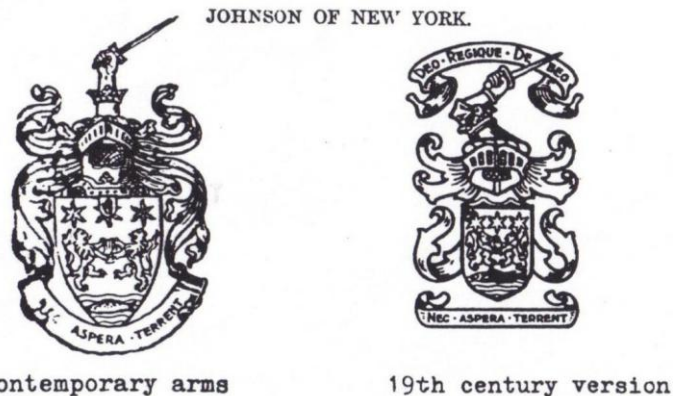
The Baronetcy of Johnson of New York in North America has a long and continuous Canadian association. The second baronet, Sir John, was the leading Loyalist of his time and served this country in the legislative councils of Quebec and Lower Canada. He maintained his father's interest in, and links with the Native population, through his appointment as Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs in British North America. At the time of the revolt of the American colonies, he raised two battalions at his own expense and formed the King's Royal Regiment of New York.

Sir John died at his home at Mount Johnson in Quebec (*Lower Canada*) in 1830. The 3rd and 4th baronets continued to reside in and around Montreal. The 5th baronet lived until his death in 1957, in an historic house on Burgoyne St. near the

fort at Chambly. In 1968, the 6th baronet, Sir John Paley Johnson, was guest of honour along with his wife at a reception held in Cowansville, P.Q. by the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association. He was succeeded by his son Peter, who as 7th baronet, served as honorary president of the UEL branch bearing his illustrious ancestor's name. (*Today, the 8th baronet Sir Guy Johnson continues the tradition of serving as honorary president of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch.*)

Arms of Johnson of New York in North America

Argent, two lions counter-rampant supporting a dexter hand gules, in chief three estoils of the last, and in base salmon naiant in water proper. **Crest:** An arm gules, encircled with a ducal coronet or, the hand grasping a sword proper, pommel and hilt gold.



Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network Founding Meeting in June 2000

The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) is a non-profit, non-partisan umbrella organization whose mission is to help advance knowledge of the history and culture of English-speaking society in Quebec. It was founded in June 2000 under the theme "Building a Future for our Past".

Photo: Ken and Phyllis Hamilton and Adelaide Lanktree at the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch exhibit at the QAHN Founding Conference held at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Quebec, 23 June to 25 June, 2000. The photo was taken by branch member Louise Hall.



Our branch executive will be attending the 2012 QAHN Annual General Meeting to be held at Champlain Regional College in Saint-Lambert, Quebec, on Saturday 12 May.

A great friend of our Branch celebrated her 104th birthday on the 9th of February

Marion L. Phelps, a long time curator, archivist and historian of the Brome County Historical Society, who is now 104 years old, has been a treasure to Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch since its beginning in 1967. In October 1969, in recognition of her worthwhile contribution to our branch, Marion Phelps was made Honourary Member of Sir John Johnson Centennial



Branch. Through the years, our genealogists have always benefitted from her invaluable assistance in the documentation of Loyalist lineage.

On the photo taken a few years ago, we see Marion Phelps receiving her UELAC Associate Member Certificate from Adelaide Lanktree, Past President of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch (*on the right*) and Arlene Royea, administrator of the Brome County Historical Society.

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Executive 2011-2012

Honourary President:	Sir Guy Johnson	Winchester, England	
Patron:	John E. Chard	Belleville, ON	
Past President:	Adelaide Lanktree	140 Principale Ouest, Farnham, QC, J2N 1K6	Tel. 450-293-6342
President:	Roderick Riordon	4512 Principale St., Dunham, QC, J0E 1M0	Tel. 450-295-2382
1 st Vice President:	Gerald Thomas		
2 nd Vice President:			
Secretary:	Phyllis Hamilton		
Treasurer:	Louise Hall		
Genealogist:	Michel Racicot	129 Church St., Cowansville, QC, J2K 1T9	Tel. 450-260-1736
Publicity:	Evelyn Lewis		
Membership:	Adelaide Lanktree		
Card Convener:	Louise Hall		
Vault Committee:	Charles Harbec		
Hospitality:	Linda Howman		
	Joan Lee		

“There are vacancies on the branch executive. Please contact Adelaide Lanktree if you would like to be a member of this executive. Phone 450-293-6342.”

WEBSITES

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch <http://www.uelac.org/SirJohnJohnson>
UELAC www.uelac.org

E-MAIL

Loyalist Trails Newsletter: **Doug Grant** loyalist.trails@uelac.org
Branch President: **Rod Riordon** Roderick@Riordon.ca
Branch Treasurer: **Louise Hall** adelaidel@sympatico.ca
Branch Genealogist: **Michel Racicot** mracicot001@sympatico.ca