



Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, UELAC

Newsletter

Autumn 2013

With winter fast approaching, this is a good time to look back on our Branch activities in this year.

	Page
♦ QAHN Annual Meeting	2
♦ Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Annual Meeting	2
♦ Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner	2
♦ Johnson Family Vault Restoration	3
♦ Family History Road Trip – Eastern Townships.....	5
♦ Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration	6
♦ In Memoriam	7
♦ Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Executive	8
♦ 2014 Membership Renewal	9

QAHN 2013 Annual General Meeting and Awards Luncheon

The 14th Annual General Meeting and Awards Luncheon of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) was held on Saturday June 1, at historic Golden Rule Lodge No. 5 in Stanstead, in the beautiful Eastern Townships of Quebec. We first heard about the fascinating history of Golden Rule Lodge, which dates to 1860, and which has the distinction of being Quebec's oldest Masonic hall. Once the business meeting had been attended to, we headed across the street for a guided tour of the Colby-Curtis Museum. Next, we gathered for a delicious lunch at La Vieille Douane Restaurant in downtown Stanstead. President Gerald Thomas and Genealogist Michel Racicot represented our Branch at this meeting.

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Annual General Meeting

Members and guests, including Myrtle Johnston, Councillor, Central East Region UELAC, Roy Lewis, Vice-President, Central East Region, both from Brockville, Ontario, also Bill Glidden and Gene Hicks from Vermont, of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch gathered at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall, in Philipsburg on June 15, 2013 for lunch and the Annual General Meeting. Following "Grace", said by Evelyn Lewis, everyone enjoyed a delicious Buffet Luncheon, prepared by members of the Legion. The Guest Speaker Roy Lewis proposed a toast to the Queen with everyone responding "To the Queen" as they raised their glasses. Linda Howman thanked the members of the Legion for the lunch on behalf of those present.

Rod Riordon, in the absence of President Gerald Thomas, called upon Genealogist Michel Racicot to introduce the guest speaker Roy Lewis, a descendant of Loyalist ancestor William Lewis. Mr. Lewis, who has retired after 43 years as a journalist, photographer, composer and editor, lives with his wife Helen in Athens, Ontario and plays a very active part in Col. Edward Jessup Branch as well as the national executive UELAC. He gave us a most interesting talk. Adelaide Lanktree thanked Mr. Lewis and presented him with a book. Rod Riordon then proceeded with Annual General Meeting.

Evelyn Lewis

Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner

The 40th Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner was held on Wednesday, October 23rd at the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch (R.H.R.) Armoury, on Bleury Street in Montreal. The guest speaker was Sam Elison who spoke on "The Scottish Loyalists and their Contribution to Canada". A graduate of the London School of Economics (BSC Honours) and McGill University (MA in Education), Sam Elison had a long career as a high school history and economics teacher. On retiring, he became an adjunct professor of education at McGill, teaching Canadian history to secondary teachers. He is the author of numerous works in history and economics and a frequent contributor to the Montreal Gazette.

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was well represented that evening. Among those present were: Roderick Riordon, Adelaide Lanktree, and Michel Racicot. Also present were Heritage Branch members Okill and Sylvia Stuart, Robert and Maura Wilkins, and Gary Aitken who are also Sir John Johnson Centennial second branch members.

Restoration of Sir John Johnson Family Vault

In 1967, the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada formed its first branch in the Province of Québec. And this new branch chose to honour both Canada's Centennial and Sir John Johnson, a great Loyalist, by naming the branch, Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. Since the Province of Québec was the home of Sir John Johnson for so many years and many members of his Regiment came to live in this part of the country, it seems most fitting that this new branch be



named in his honour. Sir John died in January 1830 and was buried beside the remains of his wife and four of their children in the family vault on the south side of Mount Johnson (now known as Mont Saint-Grégoire, near the village of Saint-Grégoire). It is this crypt that was accidentally bulldozed 56 years ago and that is now being restored. In 2011, the Restoration of Sir John Johnson Family Vault was accepted as a UELAC 2014 Centennial Project.

We are glad to report that the restoration is progressing well. The metal vault, with the original door attached, that will be enclosed in the stone facade is on site. Stones were excavated from the site to cover the foundation of the original vault (*photo 1*). The area of the interior perimeter of the base of the original vault has been filled with rocks, stone siftings and earth. This will be topped with flag stones and will form a patio at the front of the new vault. The original metal door is attached to a metal chamber (*photos 2 & 3*) which will house two large urns or mini caskets in which the bones and bone fragments which were excavated in two archeological digs will repose.

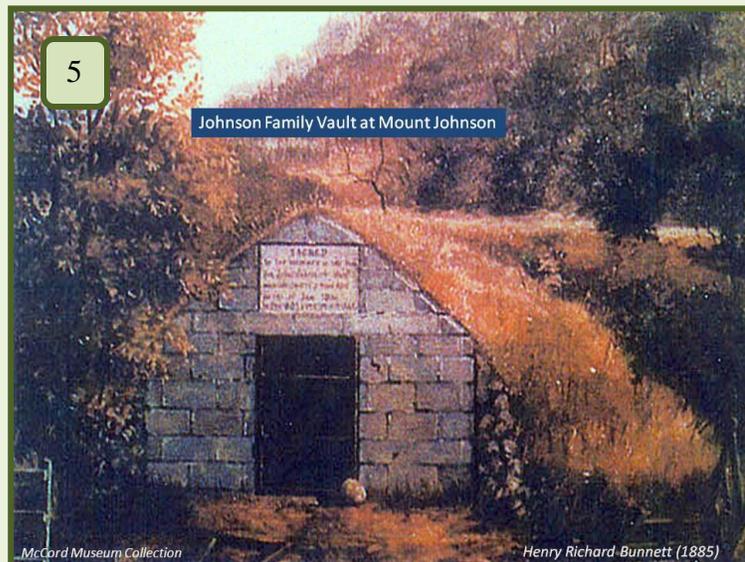
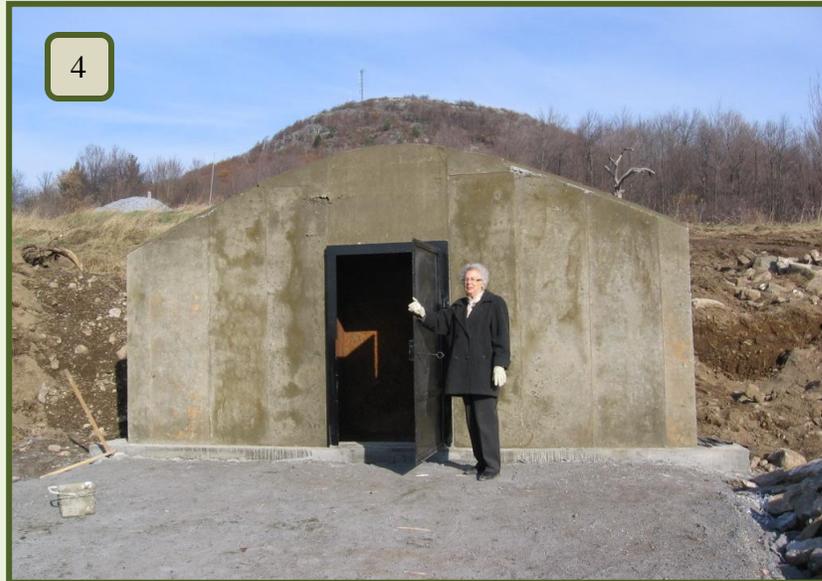


The foundation was poured around the steel vault (*photo 3*). You will note that the original foundations are now completely protected by a layer of stone dust which varies from six to 12 inches in thickness (*photo 2*). The base of the new footpath leading to the site from the entrance road was prepared and all of the vegetation was removed. A layer of stone dust will be added to provide a better base and to be consistent with the footpath. The flat



stones dug out of the ground are intended to reproduce the original foundations that are now buried and protected by the layer of stone dust which has been compacted. They formed part of the walls of the former vault; many still have traces of the mortar that was used in the original construction.

The facade of the vault (*photo 4*) will resemble the facade in the 1885 Henry R. Bunnett painting of Sir John Johnson's Vault (*photo 5*). The vault will nestle into the slope of Mont Saint-Grégoire. The site which is clearly visible from Chemin du Sous Bois will have good access.



Family History Road Trip – Eastern Townships

I was born in Granby and spent the first 12 years of my life there. The family of my paternal grandfather, Charles Savage, had lived in the Eastern Townships since our ancestor Edward Savage with his brother John and families came as Loyalists from New York after the American Revolution. As a child I had been vaguely aware of this family history but my father was not particularly interested and it wasn't until I started doing research about 5 years ago that I began to fill in some of the details. By then I was living in British Columbia and I wished I had known more when I actually lived near the places associated with my family's history. My husband applied for his UEL certificate this year and got me interested in doing this myself. It made sense to join a branch of the association located in the Eastern Townships and this is how I made contact with Michel Racicot, who was very helpful. We were already planning a visit to Quebec in October so it was fortunate that my application was accepted by then, he was available, and we were able to meet in person.

After doing a lot of research, I knew where quite a number of my direct ancestors were buried. Our first stop was the Shefford Mountain Cemetery where we found Edward's son John Edward Savage (1778-1856) and his wife Lucy Kilborn. It's a small cemetery and there were other relatives there as well. We then moved on to South Stukely, where John Alexander Savage (son of John Edward) (1814-1903) and his wife Margaret Todd are buried. My great grandparents Edwin Savage (son of John Alexander) (1848-1931) and Helen Johnson are in the Waterloo Cemetery,

along with her grandparents Gardner Eldridge and Hannah Fessenden. I had connected with cemetery supervisor Shirley Maynes online and discovered that she taught in Granby at the same time as my father and remembered him well. She kindly gave us a tour of the



cemetery and showed us where the grave markers were. My great grandmother Helen Johnson's parents Iram Johnson and Mary Eldridge are buried in the Duboyce Cemetery and we made a quick stop there as well, after finding it in what seemed like the middle of nowhere (our GPS was very helpful on this trip!) Shirley also told us about the North Shefford Cemetery because she thought there might be Savages there. She was right, but they were only distant relatives.

My paternal grandmother's family had one connection to the Eastern Townships. Her mother Maude Ashe was the daughter of Edward David Ashe who was born in England and when he retired from the Royal Navy set up the first observatory at Quebec City. He died in 1895 and was buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Sherbrooke. His wife Marcella Percy lived with my grandmother's family in Port Hope, Ontario and when she died she was

buried in Elmwood as well. It's a beautiful large cemetery and we were able to find the plot with directions I had been given some years before.

Our final stop was at St John's Cemetery in Bromont. I left this until last because it was the one cemetery I had visited before and it was right near the place we were staying. It is notable for being the burial place of Captain John Savage (brother of my Loyalist ancestor Edward Savage) and his wife Anne Pratt. The street between the cemetery and the church is named for him and there are many other Savage relatives buried there. It was interesting to read the historical markers both there and at the church, which were new since our visit some years before.

We spent less than two days finding a total of seven cemeteries, six sets of direct ancestors and many relatives. It was fortunate that we had beautiful weather and the

gorgeous foliage added to what was a wonderful experience.

Susan Savage Baumann



Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration 2013

The 199th Anniversary of the Battle of Plattsburgh, one of the most strategic battles in the War of 1812 was celebrated in September. The highlight of the celebrations was the Battle of Plattsburgh Parade which took place on Saturday September 14. The Grand Marshals of the parade were Okill Stuart and his wife Sylvia (*see photo*). Okill is the past president of Heritage Branch and was UELAC President

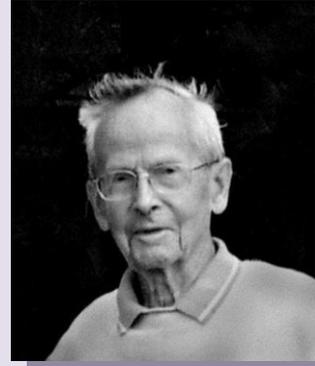


1994-1996. Branch members Gerald Thomas, Rod Riordon and Michel Racicot were present at the parade. Both Okill and Sylvia are second branch members of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. That Saturday night, the Concert Band of Cobourg (Ontario) was featured in a concert in the beautifully restored Strand Theater.

In Memoriam

Douglas Everett Page UE (1917-2013)

Born October 22, 1917, Douglas Everett Page passed away on October 20, 2013 very peacefully after a brief illness two days shy of his 96th birthday at the West Island Palliative Care Residence surrounded by his family. Doug is survived by his sister Helen Page Smith; his wife Enid Gow; son Rick (Judy Frampton) and grandchildren Alison and Anthony; son David (Patricia Stewart) and grandchildren Jeremy, Dylan and Julia; and great-grandchildren Devlin and Yasmeen. He grew up in Fredericton, New Brunswick and spent all his summers at his cottage on nearby Grand Lake. He received a Bachelor of Arts (Music) degree from the University of New Brunswick and a Master of Science degree from McGill University. Doug was a meteorologist for Environment Canada in Moncton New Brunswick, Gander Newfoundland, Goose Bay Labrador and Montreal from 1939 to 1981. In the last 15 years of his career, he was responsible for long-range forecasting for Canada. Among his many roles at the Anglican Parish of St. Andrew and St. Mark in Dorval, Doug was organist and choirmaster from the 1960s to 1993. In 1953 Doug was a founder of the Canadian Hemophilia Society and the first President of its Quebec Chapter. A member of Heritage Branch UELAC, Doug was for many years a second branch member of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch.



Thelma May Soule Gage UE (1917-2013)

Thelma May Soule died peacefully at her home November 1st, 2013, at the age of 87. She was the loving wife of the late Gordon Gage of Stanbridge East, Qc. She leaves to mourn many nieces and nephews, other relatives and special friends, especially Bryan Larose who took very good care of her. Thelma was a regular member of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch since 1987 and participated regularly to the branch activities. She will be sorely missed.



Persis Eleanor Soule Irwin UE (1924-2013)

Persis Eleanor Soule passed away at Manoir Lac Brome on August 5th, 2013 in her 89th year. She was the loving mother of Sharron (Peter Giddings) and Sandra (John Parry) and the cherished grandmother of Eric, Courtney (Steve), Josh (Gillian) and Tessa (Dave) and the great-grandmother of Madison, Mackenzie and Kasper. She was predeceased by her first husband Eric Irwin and by her second husband Ralph Crosby and her sister Elaine Clow. She was also the sister of Thelma Gage and like her sister, Eleanor was a regular and faithful member of our branch. Our deepest sympathies to the family.



Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Executive 2013-2014

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

WEBSITES

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

E-MAIL

Loyalist Trails Newsletter: **Doug Grant** doug.grant@insurance-canada.ca
Branch President: **Gerald Thomas** gerryt@sympatico.ca
Branch Treasurer: **Louise Hall** adelaidel@sympatico.ca
Branch Secretary: **Linda Howman** lilac23@axion.ca
Branch Genealogist: **Michel Racicot** mracicot001@sympatico.ca

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC
2014 MEMBERSHIP

Dear Member,

Annual fees for the year 2014 are due by **December 15, 2013**.
Prompt payment would be greatly appreciated.

UELAC membership

_____ **Individual membership \$42.50**

_____ **Family membership \$60.00**

Second Branch Members (members of other branches)

_____ **Individual membership \$10.00**

_____ **Family membership \$15.00**

Please make your cheque payable to:

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC

And forward it to:

Ms Louise Hall
140 Principale Ouest, Farnham
Québec, J2N 1K6

Please return this notice with your payment. Thank you.
Please notify us of any change of address, email address or phone
number.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Telephone _____