



# *Newsletter*

**Autumn 2014**

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

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## Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Annual General Meeting

2014 was an exciting year for both UELAC and Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. UELAC celebrated its 100th Anniversary and as part of its celebration presented Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch with a donation which greatly aided in the restoration of the Sir John Johnson Burial Vault on Mont Saint-Grégoire, formerly Mount Johnson. A commemorative book "Loyally Yours 100 years of the UELAC" was compiled and published by Frederick H. Hayward, UELAC 2014 Centennial Chair, and each branch member received a UELAC 100 Year pin.

Saturday, June 14, 2014, saw members and visitors gather at the Legion Hall in Philipsburg for the Branch Annual Meeting. Prior to the meeting a delicious roast beef dinner, prepared by the members of the Legion was enjoyed by all. Robert Wilkins said Grace, Okill Stuart proposed a Toast to the Queen and following the meal, Edwina Jenne Bougie thanked the members of the Legion for the meal on behalf of the members. President Gerald Thomas welcomed everyone, especially Robert and Moira Wilkins and Okill and Sylvia Stuart from Montreal and three from the USA, Bill Glidden, Gene Hicks and Linden Witherall. Wesley Larocque presented the flag and Robert Wilkins led the members in the singing of God Save the Queen. In the absence of a Secretary, Adelaide Lanktree volunteered to be Secretary.

Evelyn Lewis

### Louise Hall UE and Adelaide Lanktree UE, recipients of the Marion Phelps Award

Every year since 2001, the Marion Phelps Award is presented by the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) in recognition of outstanding long-term contributions by an individual to the preservation and promotion of Anglophone heritage in the province of Quebec. This year, the presentation ceremony took place during QAHN's annual convention on June 7<sup>th</sup> in historic Stanbridge East in the Eastern Townships. For the first time, the Marion Phelps Award was presented, not to one individual like the previous years, but to two individuals,



two sisters, Louise Hall UE and Adelaide Lanktree UE, both of Farnham, Quebec. For several decades, Louise and Adelaide have contributed much towards the preservation and promotion of Anglophone heritage and have been among the finest examples of true volunteerism. In 1992, Louise and Adelaide, descendants of Loyalists Jeremiah Spencer and Edward Savage, joined Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. Ever since, they both have been very active members of the branch. Louise has been our treasurer since 2003 and Adelaide was Branch President from 2003 to 2007 and has held different functions on the executive board. Louise and Adelaide are truly deserving of the Marion Phelps Award. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to both of them. It is an honour well-deserved.

***Photo: QAHN President Simon Jacobs, Adelaide Lanktree and Louise Hall, and Michel Racicot who introduced the sisters at the awards ceremony:***

## Ceremony of the burial of the remains of Sir John Johnson and members of his family at Mount Johnson

A very unique and special event took place Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, the Ceremony of the burial of the remains of Sir John Johnson and members of his family at Mount Johnson (today Mont Saint-Grégoire). Sir John Johnson died in Montreal in January 1830 and was buried beside the remains his wife and members of his family in the family vault on the south side of Mount Johnson. It was this crypt that was accidentally bulldozed 57 years ago and that has now been restored.



Attended by more than 125 people, the Ceremony was opened by a word of welcome by Michelle Durand, representing CIME Haut-Richelieu (Centre d'interprétation du milieu écologique), an organization dedicated to the preservation of Mont Saint-Grégoire that used to be called Mount Johnson. CIME is the owner of the site and without their support and their help, the project of restoring the burial vault of the Johnson family could not have been done.

The remains of Sir John Johnson and Lady Johnson were brought to the vault by a funeral procession led by Josh Lord, a piper from the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders, followed by members of King's Royal Yorkers, the 84<sup>th</sup> Royal Highland Emigrants and members of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Quebec. The funeral urn was carried by Claude Neveu, President of the Société de restauration du patrimoine Johnson, Bonnie L. Schepers UE, President of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (UELAC) and two former UELAC Presidents, Frederick H. Hayward UE and Robert C. McBride UE. Closing the funeral procession was the Venerable Peter D. Hannen UE who conducted the Blessing Ceremony.



Two speakers were invited to talk about Sir John Johnson, Second Baronet of New York. First, the UELAC President, Bonnie L. Schepers UE told the people attending about the importance of Sir John as a Loyalist Leader during the American Revolution. Forced to leave his home in the Province of New York, Sir John came with his family to Montreal.

Upon his arrival in Montreal in 1776, he was commissioned to form the first battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. At the end of the revolution, Sir John took under his guardianship hundreds of Loyalists in exile and helped them settle in what is now Eastern Ontario.

Second, the Right Worshipful Brother Dr. Jacques G. Ruelland, Past District Deputy Grand Master and Past Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Quebec gave a very informative talk about Sir John Johnson and his life as a Freemason. Most of his adult life, Sir John Johnson was a Mason. At the end of his life, he was Provincial Grand Master of Quebec.

In November 2009, Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC proposed that The United Loyalists' Association of Canada adopt the vault restoration as a 2014 Legacy Project. On March 5, 2011, UELAC accepted the proposition and approved a major grant to support the vault restoration project. Frederick H. Hayward UE, 2014 UELAC Centennial Celebration Chair addressed the audience about the importance of supporting the restoration of the vault as a Legacy Project, a key part of UELAC Centenary. *"One of the key directives in our mission statement is to preserve, promote and celebrate the history and traditions of the Loyalist epoch in Canadian History"*.

The restoration of the burial vault of Sir John Johnson and of members of his family has been the top priority project of the Société de restauration du patrimoine Johnson, of the Société d'histoire du Haut-Richelieu and of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC. The President of the Société de restauration du patrimoine Johnson, Claude Neveu gave the highlights of the history of the restoration project and presented all the people who through the years, contributed to the project. *"The Société de restauration du patrimoine Johnson was created in September 1998, after two years of reflections at the request of Mr. Jean-Paul Lasnier, past mayor of Sainte-Brigide. Mr. Lasnier assembled around him collaborators of great talent, Richard Eldridge, Brian Allen, Charles Harbec, Marie Deschênes, Nicole Poulin, Michel Daunes, Adelaide Lanktree, Raymond Ostiguy, Gerald Thomas and myself, Claude Neveu."*

The speakers were followed by the Blessing Ceremony conducted by the Venerable Peter D. Hannen UE. As the two urns containing the remains of Sir John Johnson and members of this family were put inside the restored vault, a three-volley salute was fired by the members of the King's Royal Yorkers and the 84<sup>th</sup> Royal Highland Emigrants. Finally, the door of the vault was closed and locked by Claude Neveu.



## **Adelaide Lanktree, recipient of an Outstanding Township award**

Every year since 1999, the Townshippers' Association recognizes the individuals, couples and groups from all walks of life who work to make the Eastern Townships a better place to live, work and raise a family by nominating them for the Outstanding Township award. This year, the four recipients of an award were honoured at the Opening Ceremonies for the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Townshippers' Day, on Saturday, September 13, in Coaticook, (Quebec). Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch member Adelaide Lanktree UE was one of the recipients of the award in recognition of her tireless volunteerism for so many years.



## **UEL Certificates**

Congratulations to the members who have received UEL Certificates in 2014:

- ▶ Dr. George James Hill UE (Loyalist ancestor William Irish)
- ▶ Robert Allan Morrison UE (Loyalist ancestor Edward Savage)



## **In Memoriam**

### **Agnes Mary Riordon (née Bullock) (1930-2014)**

Agnes Mary Riordon died peacefully, at the Brome-Missisquoi Perkins Hospital, in Cowansville, on September 8th, 2014, at the age of 83. She was a resident of Dunham, Qc.

She leaves to mourn her dear husband Roderick Riordon UE, her children: Charles (Maryse), Sheila, James (Wanda), her beloved Grandsons: Ian, Bryn, Teague and Reilly, other relatives and friends.

For years, Mary was an active member of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. On behalf of all our branch members, we would like to extend our deepest condolences to our Past President Roderick Riordon and family.



# Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Executive 2014-2015

Honourary President: **Sir Guy Johnson** Winchester, England  
Past President: **Roderick Riordon**  
President: **Gerald Thomas**  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:  
Secretary:  
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  
Vault Committee: **Charles Harbec, Adelaide Lanktree, Raymond Ostiguy,  
Gerald Thomas**  
Newsletter: **Michel Racicot**  
Hospitality: **Joan Lee**



## WEBSITES

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

## E-MAIL

Loyalist Trails Newsletter: **Doug Grant** [doug\\_grant@insurance-canada.ca](mailto:doug_grant@insurance-canada.ca)  
Branch President: **Gerald Thomas** [gerryt@sympatico.ca](mailto:gerryt@sympatico.ca)  
Branch Treasurer: **Louise Hall** [adelaidel@sympatico.ca](mailto:adelaidel@sympatico.ca)  
Branch Secretary:  
Branch Genealogist: **Michel Racicot** [mracicot001@sympatico.ca](mailto:mracicot001@sympatico.ca)

**Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC**  
**2015 MEMBERSHIP**

Dear Member,

Annual fees for the year 2015 are due by **December 15, 2014**.  
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 \_\_\_\_\_