



Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, UELAC

Newsletter

Winter 2016

Winter has arrived; this is a good time to look back on our Branch activities in this year.

2016 Branch President's Report

Activities:

- **11 June** : our 49th Luncheon and Branch Annual General Meeting held in Knowlton at the Lakeview Inn, was attended by 43 members and guests.
- **23 June**: A very special ceremony took place that day at Mont St-Grégoire. A War of 1812 Veterans Plaque Unveiling Ceremony in honour of Sir John Johnson and other members of his family, held at the Johnson Family Burial Vault, was attended by 90 members and guests. The ceremony was preceded by an excellent lunch at nearby Érablière Charbonneau. A great day.
- **20 August**: Our annual picnic was held in Dunham at ViewMount House, the home of our 2nd Vice-President Marven Beattie. About 20 of us participated at this event on that beautiful day.
- **17 September**: Again this year we had a table at Townshippers' Day held at Brome – We had very good traffic at our table. Three of us took turn in greeting the visitors: Adelaide Lanktree, Rod Riordon and I.
- **29 October**: our "Late Breakfast" and Semi-Annual General Meeting, held in Cowansville at the Restaurant O Patio, was attended by 20 members.

Membership:

- Since 2010 with 94 members, our membership had been decreasing every year reaching, hopefully, a low last year (2015) of 52 members. In 2016 our branch has 56 members. We do hope to increase that number again in 2017. Please help us by completing the 2017 membership renewal (page 5) and mailing it with your cheque to our treasurer Louise Hall. It will be greatly appreciated. Thank you

Michel Racicot, President

Annual Branch Picnic at ViewMount House

Again this year, we were invited by Marven Beattie, Branch 2nd VP, to his home, the ViewMount House in Dunham for our Annual Picnic. On Saturday, 20 August, twenty members and friends accepted his invitation and enjoyed not only a very lovely weather but also a fantastic view of the mountains. The Beattie family originally came from Scotland and lived three generations in Ireland before



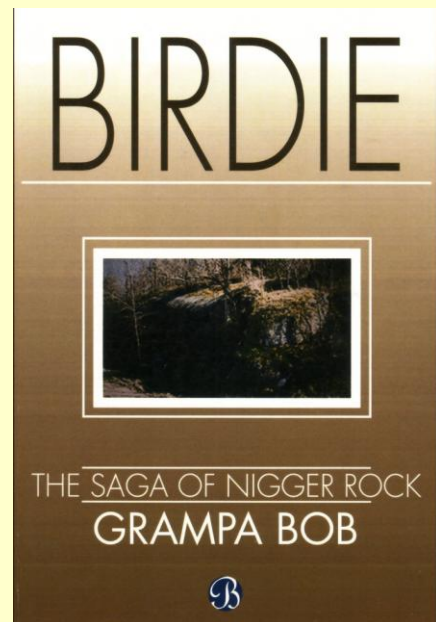
coming to America and settling in 1828 on what became Beattie Road in Dunham Township, Lower Canada. ViewMount House, built in 1960, was the home of Arthur and Gladys Beattie before becoming the home of their son Marven J. Beattie UE, descendant of Loyalist William Bull. From the house, the view of the mountains is breathtaking. In one glance, you can see Jay Peak, the Round Top, Mont Echo, Mont Glen, Mont Foster, and Mont Orford and several others. Thank you Marven for the warm welcome!

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Semi-Annual General Meeting

On 29 October, our Branch held their semi-annual meeting at Cowansville with 20 members attending. At noon, we all gathered at the Restaurant O Patio where a delicious “Late Breakfast” was enjoyed by all. After the breakfast, we were entertained by our guest speaker Bee Santori on “Nigger Rock”: What is it? Where is it? How did it get its name? Why is it so important to our history? During a thirty-minute presentation, Bee Santori shared with us his knowledge and experience on “Nigger Rock”. A short business meeting presided by Michel Racicot was held to close this event.

Guest speaker Bee Santori

Born Egidio Santori in Italy, Bee Santori immigrated to Montreal, Canada with his family in 1953. After obtaining a degree in Special Care Counseling, Bee worked for over 30 years with “special needs” individuals, both children and adults. His career did not prevent him from getting interested in storytelling and creative writing as early as 1970. Bee has been teaching Creative Writing at the Missisquoi Community School that takes place in Cowansville, Quebec, every autumn. For more than 10 years, he has also been very interested in the saga of “Nigger Rock” which took place in St. Armand, Québec, on the land of Loyalist Philip Luke. Bee has written two books, under the penname Grampa Bob, on that subject: *“Birdie, The Saga of Nigger Rock”* in 2007 and *“Pilgrimage to Nigger Rock, In Search of Miss Birdie”* in 2015.



Message from the President

The Upkeep of Sir John Johnson Burial Vault:

Maintaining the site's integrity is now a recurring project. This year, a cedar rail fence and plants were added to the site. In 2017, more landscaping will be done on the site and a plan will be prepared to help us keep it beautiful for many years to come. Other plans for the site will be the preparation and installation of a panel explaining the role played by Sir John Johnson and members of



his family in the War of 1812. Finally we intend to create and publish a small brochure (in French and in English) about the Johnson Family Burial Vault and its history. This brochure will be used as a publicity tool for the vault site to be distributed at local historical societies, museums, etc.

50th Anniversary of our Branch in 2017

In 2017, our Branch will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. We need to think and plan special activities and ways to celebrate this anniversary. If you have any ideas and suggestions to help us celebrate this anniversary please contact the Branch executive. One special activity that we could do is organized a visit to Williamstown, Ontario. We have very good friends there who are very interested in greeting us and giving us a guided tour of the heritage sites of this area. The historic village of



Williamstown, named after Sir John Johnson's father, Sir William Johnson, is where Sir John Johnson built the Manor House which is now a Canadian National Historic Site and one of the oldest surviving buildings in Ontario.

As the New Year approaches us, we wish all of you a Wonderful 2017. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and friendship over the years.

Happy New Year!

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Executive 2016-2017

Honorary President: **Sir Guy Johnson** Winchester, England
Past President: **Gerald Thomas**
President: **Michel Racicot**
1st Vice President: **Vacant**
2nd Vice President: **Marven Beattie**
Secretary: **Evelyn Beban Lewis**
Treasurer: **Louise Hall**
Genealogist: **Michel Racicot** 129 Church St., Cowansville, QC, J2K 1T9 Tel. 450-260-1736
Publicity: **Evelyn Beban Lewis**
Membership: **Adelaide Lanktree** 140 Principale Ouest, Farnham, QC, J2N 1K6 Tel. 450-293-6342
Archivist: **Michel Racicot**
Vault Committee: **Charles Harbec, Adelaide Lanktree, Raymond Ostiguy,
Gerald Thomas, Michel Racicot, Roderick Riordon**
Newsletter: **Michel Racicot**
Hospitality: **Vacant**
Card Convener: **Louise Hall**
Flag Bearer: **Wesley Larocque**
Website: **James Riordon**
Various tasks: **Edwina Bougie, Roderick Riordon**



WEBSITES

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch
UELAC

<http://www.uelac.org/SirJohnJohnson>
www.uelac.org

E-MAIL

Loyalist Trails Newsletter: **Doug Grant** loyalist.trails(at)uelac.org
Branch President: **Michel Racicot**
Branch Treasurer: **Louise Hall** adelaidel(at)sympatico.ca
Branch Genealogist: **Michel Racicot** mracicot001(at)sympatico.ca

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC
2017 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Dear Member,

Annual fees for the year 2017 are due by **December 15, 2016**
Prompt payment would be greatly appreciated.

UELAC membership

_____ **Individual membership \$40.00**

_____ **Family membership \$55.00**

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 _____