

ABEGWEIT

1973 Autumn

NEW GROUP DEDICATED TO PRESERVE LOYALIST HISTORY

"We are not interested in a narrow, partisan cause; we are interested in the preservation of one of the several cultural heritages of Prince Edward Islanders." With words to this effect, Mrs. Gordon (Helen) MacDonald assumed the presidency of the Abegweit Branch of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. This branch, which covers the entire province, is Canada's newest and most easterly division of the organization devoted to the collection, recording and maintenance of Loyalist history and artifacts.

The meeting, the second to be held, was opened at the Royal Canadian Legion on Pownal Street, Charlottetown, by Mrs. Ethel Matheson, acting chairman. The branch charter was received and read by the interested group in attendance.

Election of officers produced the following results: President, Mrs. G. MacDonald of Charlottetown; Vice-President, Mrs. E. Matheson of Charlottetown; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Don (Florence) Patterson of Cornwall; Treasurer, Lester Linkletter of R.R. 7, Charlottetown, and Genealogist, Edward Van Koughnet of Malpeque.

Mr. Van Koughnet was saluted for his prominent part in organizing the branch, a task that took many months of work. Special recognition was extended to E.J. Chard of Toronto, a past national president, whose diligence and persistence have been so valuable to the formation of this provincial group. Mr. Chard was created an honorary member of the Abegweit Branch. Among other matters, plans were discussed for group involvement in the upcoming visit to Prince Edward Island by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Finally, the meeting was addressed by its new president before adjourning for the afternoon.

By 1785, about 600 United Empire Loyalists had come to Prince Edward Island, most via Shelburne, Nova Scotia, from their original American homes. Because of their loyalty to the British Crown during the American Revolution and the resulting persecution these immigrants came and established in eastern Canada a foundation that has contributed much to our political and social growth.

All Islanders who have any Loyalist ancestry or an interest in the Loyalist contribution to Prince Edward Island's history are urged to contact the branch secretary at Cornwall or Mr. Van Koughnet at Malpeque, R.R. 1 Kensington, P.E.I.

1974 Spring

The Abegweit Branch in Charlottetown, P.E.I. of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada is one of the newest Branches of the Association. Thanks to the dedicated and untiring efforts of Edward Van Koughnet, Malpeque, PEI and E.J. Chard, Toronto, Ontario, we received our Charter in February, 1973.

Two meetings have been held since receiving our Charter and although our membership is small in number, we hope to rectify this by embarking upon a membership drive before the end of 1973.

We were honoured by a visit by Queen Elizabeth and The Duke of Edinburgh as part of our Province's Centennial celebrations. At a Garden Party held at Government House on July 1st, our Branch Genealogist, Edward Van Koughnet was informally introduced to the Royal Party as a representative of the Abegweit Branch of the UEL.

Branch Historian, James Smith, has begun a series of Newsletters in which he will record histories of Island Loyalists. Branch Members will assist in helping provide research for their families or other Loyalists. These newsletters are being distributed not only to our own membership, but to other Branches across Canada, local libraries and archives, etc. as well as to other suitable repositories for research and reference materials, (e.g. newspapers, radio, etc.). If sufficient funds can be found, we hope we may be able to modestly publish these documentaries in some form of booklet.

Governmental departments will also be approached in regard to possible assistance in erecting plaques at designated Loyalists' landings for settlements on PEI. Although our Branch is only nine months old as of this date, we feel we have made a start for an active organization in keeping with the purposes of the Association.

By Mrs. Helen Macdonald, President.

1974 Autumn

The third, meeting of the Abegweit Branch of The United Empire Loyalists' Association was held in Charlottetown, P.E.I., on March 23 with Vice-president, Mrs. Sheldon Matheson, presiding.

Fourteen new members have joined the Branch since receiving its charter one year ago, reported Edward Van Koughnet, Branch Genealogist. Five more applications for membership are pending. The preliminary research report concerning the erection of a monument honouring Loyalists' Landing on the Island was discussed. Mrs. Reginald Haslam, Breadalbane, P.E.I., is conducting the research. Design and materials to be used have yet to be decided.

The Abegweit Newsletter under the editorship of Mrs. James Smith, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, is receiving excellent notices. It is hoped that funding will be secured to insure its wide distribution.

The Annual Meeting of the Abegweit Branch will be held on May 19 at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Van Koughnet, Malpeque, P.E.I., at which time a new slate of officers will be installed.

The first annual meeting of the Abegweit Branch, The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, was held Saturday, May 18 at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Van Koughnet, Malpeque, P.E.I.

President Dr. Helen MacDonald noted that this was a most timely day on which to hold our annual meeting as it is known as "Loyalists Day" in New Brunswick. On May 18, 1783, the first Loyalists landed in New Brunswick, many of whom eventually migrated to P.E.I.

Mr. Lester Linkletter will head a committee to organize an exhibition of Loyalists memorabilia to be held at "Beaconsfield", Heritage Foundation of P.E.I., within the next few months.

Mrs. Doris Haslam, Breadalbane, P.E.I, reported that a presentation will be made to the Historic Sites and Monuments Commission concerning assistance for and approval of a monument to be placed in dedication to Loyalists landing on P.E.I.

Officers elected for the coming year are as follows: President, Mrs. Helen MacDonald, L.L.D.; Vice-President, Mrs. Ethel Matheson; Secretary, Mrs. Patterson; Treasurer, Mr. Lester Linkletter; Genealogist, Mr. Edward Van Koughnet; Historian/Publicist, Mr. James Smith; Monuments, Mrs. Doris Haslam. The above slate of officers was presented by Mrs. Mildred Johnstone, Kensington, P.E.I

1977 Autumn

The annual meeting of the Abegweit Branch of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada was held June 24 at Beaconsfield, the Home of P.E.I. Heritage Foundation. The President, Mrs. Wm. Johnstone, chaired the meeting.

Letters were read from The P.E.I. Heritage Foundation and the Provincial Archivist regarding a Loyalist monument.

The Secretary reviewed the minutes of the annual meeting of the - As!;ociatitn held in Toronto, also a letter from our proxies holder, Dr. Helen Dow. who gave us some interesting highlights of the annual meeting in Toronto.

Reports were read by the treasurer, Mr. Lester Linkletter: Historian, Mrs. Edwin Johnstone: and Secretary, Mrs. Mary Bradshaw. Nominating Committee under Mrs. Ivan Mitchell reported that Mr. Edward Van Koughnet was our new treasurer. A vote of thanks was extended by Mrs. Doris Haslam to Mr. Linkletter for his fine work as treasurer since the Branch was founded.

The President congratulated Mr. Brent Wood on his award by the P.E.I. Heritage Foundation for his book, " A Family History".

Persons having. Loyalist relatives or friends living in Prince Edward Island and anyone living anywhere in North America who have Loyalist roots in P.E.I. are asked to send names and addresses to Mr. Lester Linkletter, Abegweit U.E.L. Branch Genealogist, R.R. 7, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

1978 Spring

The Abegweit Branch held its Fall meeting at "Strathaven", home of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Johnstone, New Haven. The president, Mrs. William Johnstone chaired the meeting.

Correspondence from the Dominion president, Stuart Gilmor, Mr. E. J. Chard, editor of The Loyalist Gazette, and from Mr. J. R. Zavitz was discussed. A written treasurer's report from Mr. Edward Van Koughnet, who was unable to attend, stated that 27 members had paid dues. one enquiry for membership was received; this was passed on to the Branch Genealogist, Mr. Lester Linkletter.

Mrs. Edwin Johnstone read a reply from Dr. Bolger, a member on the Board of Monuments and Historic Sites for Canada, asking the branch to write a brief regarding a Loyalist monument for this province.

It was decided to hold the next meeting in late April or early May. Each member was asked to write a sketch on his or her Loyalist family tree for the next meeting. Mrs. Doris Haslam stated that her book on The Loyalist Wrights was going to the printers in early November.

Lunch was served, followed by a demonstration with hand bells given by the hostess ,and eight members.

1978 Autumn

The annual meeting, Abegweit Branch was held on June 3 at the home of the President, Mrs. Wm. Johnstone.

The treasurer reported 27 paid-up members at the beginning of the year, also that a list of members postal codes were sent to Headquarters office.

Mrs. Edwin Johnstone reported on her reply from the Board of Monuments and Historic Sites of Canada.

The secretary, Mrs. Mary Bradshaw, reported on information sent to six eligible persons for membership. The programme consisted of members relating accounts of their loyal ancestors, the following families were mentioned: Acorn, LeFurgey, Strong, Judstone, Canfield, Wright, Cole and Robins.

Members were invited to meet at Doris Haslam's home in August. Lunch was served by the hostess.

The Branch held its summer meeting, on August 31 at the home of Mrs. Doris Haslam. Fifteen members and two guests were present. The president, Mrs. Wm. Johnstone chaired the meeting. Mrs. Edwin Johnstone reported that she had no reply from brief sent to Board of Monuments and Historic Sites of Canada. Mrs. Lewis Roper was appointed to study information on New Horizons project; Mrs. Doris Haslam, as our branch's representative on the Bicentennial Committee; and Mrs. Edwin Johnstone, as our branch's liaison on the Historical Committee.

The branch's genealogist, Mr. Lester Linkletter reported working on five applications for membership.

The President introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. Irene Rogers who spoke on the P.E.I. Heritage Foundation. She was thanked by Mrs. Lewis Roper.

The fall meeting is to be held October 21 at the home of Mrs. Lewis Roper, Southport. Lunch was served by the hostess, assisted by Miss Haslam and Ruth MacDonald.

1979 Spring

The Abegweit Branch held two important meetings late in 1978. The regular fall meeting, presided over by the President, Mrs. W. Johnstone, was held on October 21 at the home of Mrs. Louis Roper, Southport. It was agreed to raise the dues to \$7.00 payable in January, 1979. Through the efforts of the Branch, the brief was favourably reported in the Summerside Journal-Pioneer and was also sent to the Eastern Graphic in Montague. The Branch intends to publish a book on the Loyalist families of Prince Edward Island; but, as this is a costly project, the members had decided to ask aid from New Horizons of the Department of Health and Welfare, Canada. Mrs. Louis Roper, reporting on her visit to the New Horizons regional office, stated that New Horizons was willing to provide a speaker to explain procedures that should be followed. It was decided to hold a special meeting on November 9 to take advantage of this offer. The genealogist for the Branch, Mr. Lester Linkletter, reminded the members of the immense research required to publish a book on the P.E.I. Loyalists. Plans are being laid to draw up by-laws and the secretary was asked to write to other Maritime branches for copies of their by-laws. The hostess, assisted by Mrs. W.C. McLeod and Mrs. Lester Linkletter served a very enjoyable lunch.

The special November 9th meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Linkletter, Charlottetown. The president, Mrs. William Johnstone, was in charge. The special speaker, Mrs. Sandra Gaudet, gave an informative address on the New Horizons programme and the assistance that the Branch could receive for its proposed publication of a book dealing with P.E.I. Loyalists. Mr. Wesley Strang presented a copy of his family history for use by the Branch, and Mrs. Louis Roper volunteered to get copies of land grants and lists of Loyalist sellers in P.E.I. The members were asked to bring material for the Loyalist book to the meeting in December called to allow for further discussion of the New Horizons project.

1979 Autumn

The announcement by the Branch President, Mrs. William Johnstone, that a \$4,450.00 New Horizons grant had been received, was accepted with great interest at the afternoon meeting on April 18, of the Abegweit Branch. This meeting was held in Southport at Mrs. W.C. McLeod's home, and present were two new members: Mrs. Sarah Coles and Mrs. Pauline Millar. Mrs. Millar was appointed Membership Convenor.

The New Horizons grant is being used to publish a book about Prince Edward Island Loyalist families, a challenging project for the Abegweit Branch.

Consideration was also given to the answer received from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in reply to the Abegweit Branch's brief submitted in 1977. The Board has recommended that recognition of the Loyalists of Prince Edward Island should take the form of commemoration of events, persons, or places of national historic significance rather than a more general recognition of the Loyalists as a group.

The members were reminded by the Secretary, Mrs. Mary Bradshaw, of the annual meeting of the Branch on May 16 at the Eptek Centre in Summerside. The meeting concluded with a lunch served by the hostess, assisted by Mrs. Gordon and Mrs. Mitchell.

The election of officers for the new year and the making of plans for the Branch's history of P.E.I. Loyalist families highlighted the meeting of 16 May. The officers were: President, Mrs.

William Johnstone, Kensington; Vice-President, Mrs. Doris Haslam, Breadalbone; Secretary, Mrs. Mary Bradshaw, Summerside; Treasurer, Mr. Edward VanKoughnet, Malpeque; and Charlottetown, P.E.I.; Membership, Mrs. Pauline Miller, Tyne Valley. In planning for the publication of a history of P.E.I. Loyalist families, it was decided that the family histories would be limited to the three generations from the original Loyalist settlers. The Branch was pleased to have Mr. Brent Wood volunteer to compile the Foy and Enmon histories.

The meeting was held in Prince Edward Island's newest Museum, Eptec Centre. A tour of the museum to view the displays preceded the meeting.

The Branch was privileged to hold its summer meeting on July 24 at Fanningbank, the official residence of the Lieutenant-Governor, Gordon Benett. Mrs. Benett is a descendant of the Loyalist family, Bernard. The twenty members and friends were greeted by His Honour who told the history of Fanningbank and conducted a tour of the residence. Afternoon tea was served in the dining room with the Branch President, Mrs. William Johnstone, in charge of pouring tea. At a brief meeting in the drawing-room, a welcome was extended to the 'Branch's' newest member, accompanied by her husband, Mrs. Lukes of London, England. An expression of thanks was made by Mrs. Doris Haslam to Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Benett for their hospitality.

1980 Spring

The Abegweit Branch held three meetings in the fall of 1979. The October 18th meeting was held at Eptec Centre in Summerside. The Vice-President, Mrs. Doris Haslam, chaired the meeting. The genealogist, Mr. Lester Linkletter, reported a transfer of one membership from the New Brunswick Branch, as well as membership papers completed for a new member. A note of appreciation was read from Margaret and Alan Luke a member in London, England, thanking the Branch for its hospitality while on P.E.I. The following Committee was appointed to review materials collected to date for the book being published by the Branch: President Mrs. Wm. Johnstone, Mr. Lester Linkletter, Mrs. Doris Haslam and Mrs. Louis Roper. Mrs. Roper stated, "she had completed copying all the original Loyalist Land Grants on P.E.I." Mrs. John Gordon moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Rankin for the use of Eptec Centre. After the meeting and afternoon tea, served by Mary Bradshaw and Verna Linkletter, members viewed The Canadian Nature Art 78 exhibition.

A special meeting on November 8th at Beaconsfield, Charlottetown hosted Mr. John Aikman, Dominion President and Mrs. Aikman. The President, Mrs. Wm. Johnstone, chaired the meeting. The President spoke on the organization of The U.E.L. Association briefly, followed by outline of activities for the Bicentennial in 1983. It was moved by Mrs. Doris Haslam, seconded by Mrs. Roper that our Branch endorse the plans and help with the programme for the Bicentennial in Shelburne, in June 1983. Mr. Lester Linkletter thanked the speaker on behalf of all present.

Expression of sympathy was extended to Mr. Van Koughnet on the death of Mrs. Van Koughnet, an Honorary member of our Branch.

A vote of thanks was given to Beaconsfield for the use of the meeting room. Afternoon tea was served by Doris Haslam, Ruth MacDonald and Mary Bradshaw.

A windup business meeting for the year 1979 was held at the home of Mrs. Doris Haslam, Springfield on November 16th. The President, Mrs. Wm. Johnstone chaired the meeting. In the

absence of the Secretary, Mrs. Haslam acted pro tem. A letter of thanks was read from Mr. E. Van Koughnet.

A letter was drawn up to be sent to Loyalist descendants for writeups for the book being published; 100 copies of this letter to be sent by various members. The Secretary was asked to place block ads in the local newspapers for information on Loyalist families. Afternoon tea was served by the hostess.

Obituary: **Margery E. Van Koughnet**

The death of Mrs. Edward Van Koughnet at Prince County Hospital, Summerside on October 25, 1979 in her 77th year. Mrs. Van Koughnet was the former Margery E. Booth. She was a descendant of the Storms, Shibleys and Booth United Empire Loyalist families who settled in Upper Canada.

On Mr. Van Koughnet's retirement from the City of Montreal, they moved to Malpeque, P.E.I. They were the principal persons who were instrumental in forming the Abegweit Branch of The U.E.L. Association on Prince Edward Island. Mrs. Van Koughnet was an Honorary member of this Branch as well as a member of the Malpeque Women's Institute.

Her death is a great loss to the community.

Interment was in the Peoples Cemetery, Malpeque

1981 Spring

The Abegweit Branch held six meetings in 1980.

The Branch gratefully acknowledges a donation for research from Mrs. Roy Hartman, Bay of Quinte Branch, in memory of Mrs. Edward Van Koughnet, a life member of the Abegweit Branch.

Display advertisements were placed in the three major newspapers regarding the research on Loyalist families on P.E.I. by our Branch. In addition, the entire 1841 Claimant's List was also published in weekly instalments. Because of this, our Branch is receiving information from Loyalist descendants for the Loyalist History we are writing as our Bi-Centennial project. The executive was re-elected at the annual meeting, and at this meeting the associate membership was increased to \$5.00 annually.

Mr. Blair Bourgeois, Regional Director of New Horizons, was guest speaker at the September meeting. He outlined the method to be used in applying for the second instalment of our grant for another year's research. This grant was received in November.

The Branch purchased the biography, "Hans Walthmeyer" by J.B. Goddard. We are most happy to announce that our proposed contest for an essay on "The Loyalists" has been approved by the Dept. of Education, open to all grade VI students on P.E.I. This essay is to be no longer than 1000 words and is to be judged by a panel of 4. Prizes in each unit are set at \$15.00, \$10.00, and \$5.00. Mrs. Louis Roper is Chairman of the Essay Committee assisted by Mrs. Ruth MacDonald and Mr. Lester Linkletter.

Mrs. Doris Haslam, Chairman of the Bi-Centennial for our Branch, has been corresponding regularly with the Bicentennial Chairman, Mr. Zavitz, and also Mrs. Reta Bower of the Shelburne Branch. Mr. Lester Linkletter, Genealogist, has submitted fourteen applications to Headquarters for membership; this is most encouraging.

1980 has been a busy and exciting year for the Abegweit Branch.

1981 Autumn

LOYALISTS PLAN BIG CELEBRATION

The bicentennial of the arrival of the American Loyalists to Prince Edward Island will be celebrated in 1983 and to mark the occasion, the Island Branch is producing a history of the Loyalists and their families.

Mrs. Reg Haslam, chairman of the historical committee, stated that the Branch received funding to do the history under the federal New Horizon program.

The project was started over a year ago and the committee is hopeful that the information will be published by October 1982. To help in their research, the committee has asked for assistance of descendants of those early Loyalists on the Island in gaining more information about their lives here.

The secretary, Mrs. Reg Bradshaw explained that the Branch is advertising in newspapers lists of names of Loyalists and disbanded soldiers who settled in the Island. Time is becoming a factor for persons who would like to have their family in the United Empire Loyalist History. Mrs. Bradshaw noted that the committee would like to have all submissions by September 1981 so that the committee can edit the material and reapply for the second part of the New Horizon grant.

Submissions from Loyalist families should indicate the location of the ancestors' home and occupation, wife's name and the family to at least the third generation. If the ancestor was in the army, then include unit and rank and any interesting events or experiences during the journey to the new home and its location.

The provincial UEL president, Mrs. William Johnstone of Kensington said that the response to the committee's advertising and personal inquiries has been good.

Further submissions are welcome and interested persons are invited to send their information to Mrs. Bradshaw at 326 Maple Avenue, Summerside, P.E.I. C1N 2H3, or to contact members of the branch for further details.

Names of Loyalist and disbanded soldiers whose descendants have not responded to the Abegweit Branch request for information are: Lawrence Barret, Walter Beny, Jerv Brown, Brown Yand, James Carver, Patrick Conally, Spencer Crane, William Fisher, John Elmslie, George Sutherland, Donald Gillis, Benjamie Grosvenor, John Taylor and Alec Boyce.

Mrs. Johnstone stated that there are many other families on the 1841 claimants list (some 330 in all) which have not been heard from and which the branch would be interested to include.

Many Loyalists on P.E.I., Mrs. Haslam explained, left the thirteen colonies in 1776 during the Revolutionary War while a greater Loyalist migration began in 1783, and came to P.E.I. Many of

the Loyalists belonged to regiments or battalions including His Majesty's St. John's Volunteers, King's Rangers and the 84th Regiment made up of immigrant Highlanders.

The bicentennial of the arrival of the American Loyalists will be celebrated partly in Shelburne, Nova Scotia in 1983. When members of the Abegweit Branch travel there to help in the celebration, they hope to be able to take their history of Loyalists and their families on P.E.I.

The Guardian. Charlottetown

1982 Spring

On September 7 the Abegweit Branch met in the Royal Canadian Legion, Kensington. After the president, Mrs. William E. Johnstone, called on Mayor Gerald McCarville for a few words, Mrs. Doris Haslam introduced Mr. Eamon, Dominion President, to address the group.

Mr. Eaman brought greetings from the branches and commended our branch on its essay contest, saying it was a good way to interest young people. The purpose of the U.E.L. is historical in nature; working together in unity for Canada and the Crown in parliamentary and legal practices. The speaker mentioned the courageous, Godly life and the sense of responsibility the branches inherited from their forefathers and their belief in the work ethic, protection of society and cultural tolerance. He said Canadians identify with great exploits, not blood, in most exciting stories. The secretary, Mrs. Mary Bradshaw, thanked the speaker.

The Bicentennial will begin with celebrations in 1983 when the national annual meeting of the U.E.L. will be held in Saint John, N.B. From there it goes to Shelburne, N.S. where so many U.E.L.'s arrived. A week will be spent in social activities: The Queen has been invited. The secretary, Mrs. Mary Bradshaw, thanked the speaker.

Mrs. William Johnstone showed a motto "Labour Has Sure Reward" made by Charlotte Bernard, a third generation U.E.L. After the meeting, lunch was served with the Ladies Auxiliary of the Legion assisting.

On Oct. 24th the branch met at Eptek National Exhibition Centre and members viewed the paintings on exhibit. This was mostly a business meeting. The executive reviewed the estimates presented to New Horizons for the remainder of our grant for publishing our Loyalist history. Those members present reviewed their completed Loyalist research.

BEST STUDENT ESSAY

The best student essay was selected by the judges from the Loyalist Essay Contest our Branch conducted in the schools of Prince Edward Island in 1981. It was won by Willard Moose of Queen Elizabeth Elementary School at Breadalbane. A copy has been sent to the Dominion Headquarters.

ABEGWEIT PROJECT APPROVED

The Abegweit Branch Bicentennial Project was one of the New Horizons projects for retired people that was approved for funding in P.E.I. by the federal government, announced by Bennett Campbell, Minister for Veterans' Affairs. Among the three projects the Abegweit Branch of the

United Empire Loyalists with 28 persons, Mrs. William E. Johnstone, president, will receive \$3,950 to complete a book on the history of the United Empire Loyalists in Prince Edward Island.

1982 Autumn

The Abegweit Branch of Prince Edward Island held meetings in March, May and June, these meetings were all well attended. Mr. Allen Rankin, Cultural Affairs Officer with the Government of P.E.I. spoke at the May meeting.

The Branch is in the process of planning a Loyalist display for Eptek Centre the National Exhibition Centre at Summerside for Bi-Centennial year 1983.

The format for the "Loyalist Family History of P.E.I." has been drawn up. To date over 80 histories have been received and more promised: these histories are in the process of being edited and a Branch member has consented to do the sketches for the history. We hope to get this book published by the end of 1982. At the June meeting we were pleased to have in attendance Mrs. Ludwick of Santa Rosa, California an affiliate member of our Branch.

The Branch sent a donation to the L.B. Pearson College of the Pacific at the request of the Mountbatten Memorial Trust.

Officers elected for the year 1982-1983 were as follows: Pres., Mrs. Wm. Johnston; Vice-Pres., Mrs. Doris Haslam; Secretary, Mrs. Mary Bradshaw; Treasurer, Mrs. Ruth MacDonald; Genealogist, Mr. Lester Linkletter; Membership, Mrs. Pauline Miller.

Obituary: Mrs. Edwin C. Johnstone

The death occurred at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on Friday, July 30, 1982 of Mrs. Edwin C. Johnstone (Nee Rena Wood) of New Haven P.E.I. following a long illness. Mrs. Johnstone was a valued member of the Abegweit Branch and will be greatly missed by the members. She was a gifted musician, author of several books and an avid gardener.

1984 December

Bicentennial Activities of the Abegweit Branch. P.E.I.

The Abegweit Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada in Prince Edward Island. under the direction of Mrs. Reginald (Doris) Haslam, President, marked the Bicentennial of the coming of the Loyalists with a variety of significant projects.

Throughout the Bicentennial. the history of the Loyalists was brought prominently to public attention through newspaper articles submitted by the Branch.

At the annual meeting of the P.E.I. Heritage Society, Mrs. Haslam herself was honoured with the Mary Cornfoot Brehaut Award for her outstanding contribution to Island genealogy. In 1978, after forty years of research, Mrs. Haslam published the two volume 992-page family history The Wrights of Bedeque: a Loyalist Family.

In 1983, An Island Refuge, detailing the history of Island Loyalist families won for the Abegweit Branch, a P.E.I. Heritage Foundation publishing award. The C.B.C. Compass presented an eight-minute television interview with Branch members concerning the book.

Through Irwin Publishing Incorporated, Frank J. Bostwick Jr. published a young adults historical novel Artie Bostock. Tory, about a boy and his family caught in the American Revolution. Based on thorough and authentic research, the story relates the dangers, persecutions, tragedies and triumphs experienced by the Loyalists, who opposed the Revolution.

The United Empire Loyalists and the Abegweit Branch of the U.E.L.A. were the focus of attention during the Bedeque Days celebration. During the opening ceremonies Mrs. Lea Campbell deposited the Loyalist flag, and David Schurman read a brief history of the Bedeque Landing. The printed program for the ceremonies included an historical account of the Loyalist settlers of P.E.I., provided by Mrs. Mary Bradshaw. The Abegweit Branch also manned a booth displaying artifacts and answered genealogical queries.

Loyalist floats, adorned by Loyalist descendants in period costumes, were included in both the Bedeque Canada Day parade and in the Summerside Lobster Carnival parade, with the result that thousands of people viewed the historic displays.

Over 300 descendants of Loyalists George and Martha Linkletter, including Lester Linkletter, the Abegweit Branch genealogist, held a re-union commemorating the arrival of the Linkletters in P.E.I. in 1784 (after their earlier arrival in New Brunswick in 1783), where they were granted 500 acres on the shore of Bedeque Bay. In 1984 a cairn was erected at the Linkletter Cemetery commemorating the founding family: George and Martha and their three sons, George, James and John.

On 26 June the Abegweit Branch mourned the passing of Branch co-founder Edward Matthew Van Koughnet at the age of 82. In recognition of his endeavours, he had been presented to Her Majesty the Queen during the royal visit to the Island in July, 1973.

The Abegweit Branch worked all summer to establish a two-ton granite cairn. Although, at present, it has not obtained land on which to erect this cairn to mark the landing of the Loyalists on Prince Edward Island 200 years ago. However, the Loyalist descendants in the Bedeque area have obtained land and are in the process of collecting funds to erect a cairn there in 1985.

1985 December

Descendants of the United Empire Loyalists commemorated the landing of their forefathers in Bedeque on Canada Day when Lieutenant-Governor J .A. Doiron unveiled a six foot monument. Several hundred people attended the unveiling at Central Bedeque Park. Among those participating were Lieutenant-Governor J.A. Doiron, Premier James Lee, Paul H. Schurman and Lee Campbell, chairmen of the Bedeque Harbour Loyalists Committee. Mr. Schurman is a descendant of William Schurman who led the first Loyalist settlers to Bedeque 200 years ago.

1986 December

The Abegweit Branch has been planning to put up a cairn to mark the contribution made by the Loyalists to the early settlement of P.E.I. So far the Branch has raised funds and purchased cut Island stone and a bronze plaque. Arrangements for the site have yet to be completed. Mr. Austin Bears has been especially helpful on this committee.

We have paid off all our book debts but still have a lot of copies of An Island Refuge on hand which we are making a special effort to sell. We have been trying to keep the Loyalist role in the public eye by submitting articles to the news media. Miss Orlo Jones has placed copies of *The Loyalist Gazette* in all Island public libraries, the University and the archives. She also publicized our book *An Island Refuge* when she attended the New England Genealogical Society seminar. We were especially pleased to have Lynne McCrea, a journalist from Boston, with two cameramen meet members of our branch at the home of our branch president, Mrs. Doris Haslam to do a documentary on the Loyalists of P.E.I. and the aims and objectives of the Association. This program was on T. V. early in October.

We have been meeting in various parts of the Island in order to find and interest new members. Our annual meeting was held at the home of our past president Mrs. William Johnstone at Kensington, and other meetings at Mrs. Doris Williams' home at Cape Travers and at Mr. and Mrs. Miller's at Bideford. Attendance has held up and several guests have joined us. Mr. Bostwick author of *Artie Bostock* spoke on early American flags at our July meeting.

1987 Fall

The Guardian, Charlottetown PEI, Fri. Aug. 21, 1987

“SUMMERSIDE – The bicentennial of the landing of the United Empire Loyalists on Prince Edward Island in 1783 was marked here Thursday with the unveiling of a cairn on Harbor Drive.

Dr. Vera F. Vanderlip of Ontario, the national president of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada, was on hand to officially unveil the monument, with some help from Dan Compton.

Also participating in the event were Lt.-Gov. Lloyd MacPhail, provincial Conservative Leader Leone Bagnall, Summerside Mayor Basil Stewart.

The first Loyalists arrived in 1783, which means the bicentennial was actually in 1983, but the cairn was only erected this year by the Abegweit branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada.”

1988 Spring

SUMMERSIDE – The bicentennial of the landing of the United Empire Loyalists on Prince Edward Island in 1783 was marked here Thursday with the unveiling of a cairn on Harbor Drive.

Dr. Vera F. Vanderlip of Ontario, the national president of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada, was on hand to officially unveil the monument, with some help from Dan Compton.

Also participating in the event were Lieutenant-Governor Lloyd MacPhail, provincial Conservative Leader Leone Bagnall, Summerside Mayor Basil Stewart and Prince 4th Liberal MLA Stavert Huestis.

Mr. Huestis was representing Premier Joe Ghiz, who was unable to attend the event, and the MLA noted that the Loyalists played an important role in the development of the province. He noted his family has Loyalist roots. Summerside and Bedeque were two areas where Loyalists settled when they arrived in Prince Edward Island.

UNVEIL PLAQUE

A plaque on the cairn states, “these courageous, loyal refugees contributed greatly on the development and growth of a tiny colony struggling for independence and prosperity”.

Mildred Johnstone, past president of the Abegweit Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association, said it is estimated that about 600 Loyalists were in this colony at the close of the American Revolution. She says the erection of the cairn is a dream come true for the Branch.

The cairn stands 2.1 meters (7 feet) high and is 1.8 meters (6 feet) wide and it is entirely a product of Prince Edward Island. It is located on Summerside’s waterfront just west of the Burger King Restaurant.

Dr. Vera Vanderlip, national president of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada, joins with Dan Compton to unveil a stone cairn on Summerside’s waterfront in memory of the United Empire Loyalists who first arrived in the province 200 years ago. Erected by the Association’s Abegweit Branch, the cairn is the first piece of a new linear park being developed on land along Harbor Drive by Summerside waterfront development Corporation. Descendants of that group of American colonists who chose to remain loyal to the Crown gathered with special guests and members of the public for the ceremonies. (Material on the unveiling of the Loyalist cairn at Harbourside, Summerside, Prince Edward Island, August 20, 1987, submitted by Mary Bradshaw, Abegweit Branch.

1989 Spring

KENSINGTON HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING OF ABEGWEIT BRANCH OF UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS

The Abegweit Branch of the United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada held its annual meeting recently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Johnstone, Kensington.

The Abegweit Branch has had another busy and eventful year. From May 1987 to April 1988, seven meetings were held with an average attendance of 15.

The Branch accepted the location for the cairn on the Summerside waterfront in the linear park at the May meeting; many hours of planning and preparation went into this project by the cairn

committee and architect Austin Bears. The project was completed last summer and the cairn unveiled by national president Dr. Vera Vanderlip.

Invitations were sent to all persons who had submitted materials for *An Island Refuge*. Many attended the reception at the Silver Fox sports complex following the unveiling, including Lt.-Gov. Lloyd MacPhail and Mrs. MacPhail, as well as two members of the Saint John Branch. A large cake was decorated in Loyalist colours, blue and gold, was donated for this reception by Mrs. William Johnstone.

Last summer, members and the national president were guests at Government House for a tour and tea, following this a tour of Beaconsfield and a meeting at the summer home (Loyalist House) of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bostwick. At this meeting, Dr. Vanderlip addressed the members. Dr. Vanderlip was presented with a hard cover copy of *An Island Refuge*.

A committee was formed at the September meeting for members to take part in the Summerside Lobster Carnival, this year on a Loyalist theme. Orlo Jones' name was submitted to national office for the position of honorary vice-president, this to be announced at the June convention.

Mr. Frank Boswick, a Branch member, had published another Loyalist book, *Separate Beachheads*. Mrs. Wm. Johnstone accepted the position as vice-president, and Miss Jones accepted the position as assistant genealogist during Mr. Linkletter's illness.

Austin Bears made a video of the construction, unveiling and reception that followed of the cairn which he presented to members at the September meeting.

At the February meeting, permission was granted by the Department of Education to present copies of *An Island Refuge* to all school libraries on P.E.I. Most of these books have been delivered.

Copies of the new *Loyalist Gazettes* have been donated to libraries in Summerside, Charlottetown and Beaconsfield.

All expenses connected with the building of the cairn have been paid.

A scroll and certificate were presented to Lester Linkletter at the April meeting for his long years of loyalty to this Branch. A good number of books have been sold over the past year. This is our main source of income.

1991 Spring

C. Austin Bears, age 72 years, passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elliott Lake, Ontario, January 5, 1991. Austin was a veteran of World War II and former resident of Clyde River, P.E.I. He was the son of late James and Norma (Doull) Bears. He leaves to mourn, his wife Ruth (Hiltz) and two sons, Sandy in Halifax, Charles in Calgary; four grandchildren; and one sister, Shirley (Mrs. Robert MacDonald) Chelton, P.E.I.

Austin was an active member of Abegweit Branch and played a big part in the erection of Loyalist Cairn in Summerside and in the design of the book, "*An Island Refuge*". The Abegweit Branch mourns his passing.

Donald F. Stewart, 1915 – 1990

Donald Stewart became a member of the Abegweit Chapter of the U.E.L. in 1983. He traced his lineage through his paternal grandmother to George Linkletter who, with his family, left Connecticut in 1783 for Prince Edward County. He received a grant of 500 acres of land from King George III near Summerside. Linkletter district school and road, were named after these early settlers.

Mr. Stewart, a graduate of Nova Scotia Agricultural School and MacDonald College (McGill), was employed by the Government of Canada as plant products inspector in Nova Scotia and later in Prince Edward Island. At his retirement he was awarded honorary life membership in both the Canadian Feed Manufacturers' Association and the Canadian Seed Growers Association. He was elected a Robertson Associate for his contribution to Canadian agriculture.

Mr. Stewart was co-organizer and first president of P.E.I. Craft Council and in recent years made honorary life member.

He was founding president of the P.E.I. Genealogy Society receiving the Heritage Awareness award in 1978 and its highest award, the Mary Cornfoot Brehaut Award in 1983 for recognition of his achievement in the field of Island Heritage. He spent many hours during his retirement researching family histories – compiling the MacNevin history and researching over fifty different Stewart families on P.E.I.

Mr. Stewart's greatest personal achievement was the restoration and re-opening of the Cross Roads Christian Church, Lot 48, P.E.I. This was the pioneer church of the Stewart family established in 1810.

He leaves to mourn; his wife Margaret, three sons, their wives and several grandchildren.

Submitted by Mrs. Mildred H. Johnstone, Past President, Abegweit Branch

1992 Spring

PRESERVING HISTORY OF PIONEER ANCESTORS

A visit to Province house in Charlottetown “stirred emotions in those of us who staunchly support a united empire,” stated Arnold Nethercott, President of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

Doris Haslam past president of Abegweit Branch, presented Arnold Nethercott, Dominion president, with “*An Island Refuge*” as Mildred H. Johnstone, vice president of Abegweit, observed.

The Abegweit Chapter of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada were visited by the Dominion President Wednesday when he delivered an address to their luncheon meeting in Summerside.

In his presentation Nethercott discussed the Association's submissions to the Canada Forum hearings held across Canada in recent months. He expects that he, as president, will again be called on to submit the views of Loyalist association members to the most recent round of

constitutional discussions, which began on P.E.I. on Wednesday, with the Special Joint Committee on a Renewed Canada.

He also told the P.E.I. members of the work which the national association and other branches across the country are doing. He spoke about one of the main problems within the association, which is the retention of members.

EMPHASIS ON RECRUITING

He noted that the national council is working on ways to alleviate this problem and to come up with ideas on recruiting and keeping new members.

He also noted that the association is currently experiencing some financial difficulties and predicts "some uneasy times ahead".

However, he is confident that by the time the association celebrates its centennial anniversary in 1996, they will be on "sound financial footing".

He told the local members of the work the various branches are doing to "uncover and preserve the history of Loyalist Pioneer ancestors".

In pointing out the progress made in this area over the past year, he cited the completion of the *Loyalist Lineages, Volume II*, by the association's genealogical investigation committee. This newest volume has added over 1,300 new lines to the Loyalist Lineages.

At the end of his presentation, Nethercott was presented with the P.E.I. version of Loyalist history, "*An Island Refuge*", which was completed in 1983. It tells the story of the approximately 600 Loyalists who came to the Island and formed the backbone of the initial settlements here.

1993 Fall

A special mention should be made of our branch President, Frank J. Bostwick, who has made great efforts to inform the public of the Loyalists. Mr. Bostwick wrote, photographed and produced a flyer and two different postcards promoting our Branch and the UEL Association. These have been distributed to many spots where tourists can find them and learn more about the Loyalists.

1994 Spring

BE PROUD OF BRITISH HERITAGE

Of all the idiosyncrasies in the columns by Harry Bruce, the credit at the end contains the most irony: "Harry Bruce, an author and journalist living (of all places) in St. Andrews, N.B." Of all places! St. Andrews, to Loyalists like myself, is one of the holy of holies.

Does Mr. Bruce realize that he is living among 28 Loyalist homes, brought *in toto* by boat from St. George (now Castine), Maine, after the great British-Loyalist victory of 1779 (which, of course, is omitted from the American text books which I was made to use in teaching 'Mary Poppins history')? Perhaps Mr. Bruce lives in one of the old Loyalist homes, which, of course, would be the ultimate hypocrisy.

As President of the Abegweit Branch of the United Empire Loyalists, I have come to realize my most important function is to promote awareness of the British heritage, such as the Loyalists which seeded the founding of English-speaking Canada. If Mr. Bruce's American-style political correctness continues to hold sway, Canadians will know even less about their great Dominion.

If Loyalists hadn't been loyal, there wouldn't be any Canada (as we know it) today. I am very proud of my present-day U.E.L. cousins across the Dominion and my ancestors in Bostwick-Loyalist family cemeteries in New Brunswick and Ontario.

All the Chipman, Hazen, White, etc, name places in Saint John and elsewhere come from Haverhill, Mass., where my wife was raised and we now live. It is obvious that Mr. Bruce doesn't have the vaguest idea about the whys and wherefores of the British-Loyalist American connection.

By Frank J. Bostwick

1997 Spring

To prepare for the Annual General Meeting of the U.E.L.A.C. to be held in Halifax in June, 1996, representatives from the Fredericton, Saint John, Abegweit, and Halifax-Dartmouth Branches met at Fort Cumberland to make tentative plans.

We were proud and honoured to entertain seventy U.E.L.s on their Loop Tour of the Maritimes. Our President, Mary Bradshaw, UE, welcomed everyone at the reception held on the night of their arrival in P.E.I. Two of our members, Bertha Brown and Doris Worth attended the AGM.

Wilfred Thompson and Bertha (Thompson) Brown, brother and sister, each received two certificates. Wilfred traced his roots through William Judson and John Acorn. Bertha had already traced her ancestry through William Judson. Her two new certificates were through John Acorn and Frederick Williams.

Our Branch was saddened in September by the passing of two members. Verna Linkletter was an associate member, wife of the late Lester Linkletter who was a charter member and long-time genealogist of our Branch. For many years, she was treasurer of the Cairn and Book Committee.

Mildred (Thompson) Johnstone (wife of the late William Johnstone), was a founding petitioner, Charter Member, Holder of a Certificate (descended from William Judson) and a Life Member of the U.E.L.A.C. She was an enthusiastic researcher, encouraging each of us to prove our Loyalist connection. As well, she inspired those who were involved in the erection of our Loyalist Cairn in Summerside and spent many hours helping in the production of our book *An Island Refuge*. She would have been overjoyed had she lived to attend the presentation of certificates to her brother and sister, Wilfred and Bertha.

We shall miss their guidance, wisdom, experience, friendship and love.

Doris Worth, Branch Secretary