

COL. JOHN BUTLER (NIAGARA) BRANCH

1963 April

The year of 1962 was a good year for our Branch. At the February meeting a letter was read from Mr. Geoffrey Harmsworth of the Harmsworth Press, London, England, thanking the Branch for writing him that we had noted with appreciation his preservation of the Chapel of Wolford, Devon, in which Governor Simcoe was buried, and said "It is fitting that the name of Governor Simcoe should be remembered in Canada, and for my own part I am proud that my family have had the care for the past thirty-six years of the Chapel at Wolford in Devon where Governor Simcoe and his family are buried." Mrs. T. E. Hilston of Niagara Falls ran off her own composition called "The Niagara", formerly called the "Ongaiara", describing the five sections of the river in a musical record.

At the social evening held at the Y.W.C.A. in May, Mr. Stanley Honsberger, Q.C., of Toronto, President of the Dominion Council, addressed the gathering on making U.E.L. vital in today's community and Mrs. Ross Glassford, speaker of the meeting, gave a most interesting talk on genealogy entitled "This, You Can Take With You".

A wreath was placed on the U.E.L. Boulder in Memorial Park in June by Mrs. R. E. Stevens. This boulder was once the half way mark between Queenston and Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. The Annual Picnic was held at MacFarlane Park on Niagara Boulevard on July 14th. Also in July some of the members attended the Indian celebration of the Jay Treaty of 1794 which gave the Indians free crossing rights between Canada and the United States.

At the October meeting Mrs. Fred Sherlock gave a paper on the Kerne family and related families of Mayhew, McNab, Hammond, Glover, Ogg and Mathews. Mr. Vernon Jones, the President, presented his fine film on Southern Europe.

Five hundred Christmas cards depicting the scene of a figure from the U.E.L. monument at Upper Canada Village were taken by the members.

1963 November

The St. Catharines Branch has a long history, beginning .in 1905 with Miss Catherirre Nina Merritt I8S the first president I8!nd Mrs. Henry O'Loughlin, the first secretary.

This early branch later witnessed the Provincial and local United Empire Loyalists societies unite into the Dominion Association in 1913. An Act of Parliament in 1914 created the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada and vested the authority in the control council of the association.

It is of special interest to many members throughout the branches that Miss Kathleen O'Loughlin, the present secretary, is carrying on the fine work commenced by her mother who was the first secretary.

At our February meeting, Mrs. T. Hilston of Niagara Falls, gave a history of her U.E.L. ancestor, Capt. Philip Henry, who came with the Royal York Volunteers. For a time he was prisoner in York, Virginia. Related families were Hamm, Gillies, Mowbray and Walker.

At the April meeting Miss Eleida Clench gave a talk on the early educational system in Upper Canada. In May our Branch was honoured by a visit from Mr. S. Honsberger, President of the Dominion Council,

and Mrs. Honsberger. Mr. Honsberger in showing slides of his World Tour, said that 'he and his wife were shown every courtesy wherever they went, as Canadians and British.

In June a wreath was placed on the Boulder in Memorial Park by Mrs.. Fred Sherlock. This boulder was once the halfway mark between Niagara-on-the-Lake and Queenston.

July 20 our Branch had their Annual Picnic at Queenston Heights on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Laura Secord's walk. In August some of the members joined the Bus Tour to the Six Nation's Reserve, Brantford, and saw the play depicting Brant and Sir Wm. Johnson. In October Mr. Vernon Jones gave an illustrated talk on the battle of Lake Erie in 1812. At this meeting, a resolution was passed that a letter be sent to the Prime Minister that the Union Jack be continued as the Flag.

By Miss Kathleen O'Loughlin

1964 April

In November the members attended the St. Catharines and Lincoln Historical Society meeting at Rodman Hall, at which Mr. Colucci, Director of Pioneer Village, Toronto, gave an illustrated talk. The most important project now is the assembling and installing of the Roblin Mill, built by Owen Roblin in 1812. Mr. Colucci spoke of the educational value of these old mills, and in particular the Elora Mills. Some of these mills are six storeys high.

Ball's Falls Mills, on the Twenty, now part of the Ontario Conservatory was built in 1810. The old Ancaster Mountain Mill was built in 1791, and still operating; the Merrickville saw and grist mills, built by William Merrick in 1793; and the woollen mill built by Wm. Merrick, Jr., in 1834, the first textile mill in Ontario.

At the December meeting, The Rev. Dr. Harvey G. Forster of Welland, gave a talk on "Butler's Rangers". He is descended from Joseph Senn, of Swiss nationality, who served as a Sergeant in Butler's Rangers. Dr. Forster outlined the situation and said "After the Seven Year's War and the Treaty of Paris, Britain was broke financially and owed 140 million pounds. The people of England were poor. They had fought to save the world, as they had later in World Wars I and n. Much of the expenditure had been for American colonies, and the British Parliament imposed a small Excise, but when it was objected to, they removed it. The Colonies were growing rich, tobacco from Virginia, shipping, lumber and fisheries from Massachusetts. The British Parliament then put a small tax on tea. Sir Wm. Johnson, a superintendent for Indian affairs, appointed Colonel John Butler as his second in command. Butler's were the only troops to defend Niagara and the lake ports and aided greatly in saving Canada. The Butler's Rangers did not commit atrocities but were true soldiers in uniform. At Fort Wintermute, Col. Butler addressed the Rangers and Indian allies in typical Royalist spirit. He said: "We do not fight old men, women and children."

At this meeting, Mr. Wm. J. Boyle, of Thorold was received as a new member. He is the great grandson of the Rev. John Bethune, who emigrated from the Island of Skye to South Carolina, became chaplain in regiment of the Revolution, was taken prisoner and exchanged . He became the first Presbyterian Minister in Upper Canada. In 1787 he was given a grant of land in Williamstown. His wife was Veronica Wadden, a Swiss by birth.

Mr. James Lovekin, President, Toronto Branch, United Empire Loyalists, said "It is time that the real picture of the United Empire Loyalists be put forward, namely that people of all walks of life and of a variety of background united in support and appreciation of the noblest political system devised by the

mind of men, and one to which humanity owes the distinction between civilized government and the herding of men like flocks of animals. The Greeks, it should be remembered, never conceived of a democracy larger than a city state, whereas the British brought before man a free government, global in its sweep. "

By Miss Kathleen O'Loughlin

1964 November

At the Social Evening at the Y.W.C.A. in May, Mr. Stanley Honsberger gave an address on his trip to the Middle East, illustrated with pictures. Mr. Honsberger said that everywhere there was good feelings toward the Commonwealth, and that the language best understood by the natives of all these countries, outside of their own, was the English language. Mr. L. L. Merrill of Hamilton also gave an address. Mrs. John Robertson was the soloist of the evening.

On Memorial Day, in June, a ceremony was held at the Boulder in Memorial Park, when Mr. Wilfred R Bald, former Mayor, gave an address. Mr. Bald was instrumental in having the City Council pass a recommendation that the Canadian Ensign be retained. Mr. W. H. Van Every placed a wreath on the Boulder. A portion of Mr. Bald's speech relates, "We are forever indebted to the past. It is the records in our books, in the minds of our parents, in our Universities. What has a University to offer but what it has absorbed of the past, to be communicated to the new generation with interpretation and adaption."

A picnic in July was held at Ball's Falls, now a Provincial Conservation area. This old Mill is among the best preserved in Ontario.

Representatives of the U.E.L. were present at the unveiling and dedication of a plaque to the memory of the Rev. Anthony Burns, at Victoria Lawn Cemetery, Sunday, July 19, 1964. On this occasion Robert Welch, M.P.P. for Lincoln made the following address: When the United Empire Loyalists came to the area following the end of the American Revolution in 1783, some of the wealthier settlers brought with them their slaves. However this anti-slavery sentiment had reached very compelling proportions, and in 1793 Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe had the Provincial Legislature (nearly all United Empire Loyalists) pass a law forbidding the importation of slaves into Upper Canada, and providing for the freedom of slave children on reaching the age of 25. Although this was not total abolition, it did effectively dispose of the slave system as a permanent feature of life in Upper Canada, and was the first territory in the British Empire to take this forward step.

By Miss Kathleen O'Loughlin

1965 April

At the October meeting Miss Frances Becksted, great, great granddaughter of Colonel John Munro gave a paper on her ancestor. Col. Munro came from Scotland in 1754 an officer in the British 48 Foot. In 1776 he was appointed a Commanding Officer in the 1st King's Royal Regiment and served through the war. He died in 1800 and his memorial may be seen in the Holy Trinity Memorial Church at Morrisburg.

Miss Lorna Robson has a picture of old Power Glen, once called Reynoldsville. Mr. Reynolds came from the U. S. about 1847 and built the house now occupied by Mr. Clifford Hooper who has a wealth of information about this district, and who has the corner stone from the old mill built by Peter Thomas in 1811 on land owned by his father. The mill was built of reddish or pinkish stone different from the grey

of the escarpment, which came from Jackson's Flats now Decew Road. Down the hill are the old mill ponds. An ancient forest here of ash oak walnut was known as Reynold Stand.

At the December meeting, Mr. Vernon Jones, the President, gave an account of his tour of the Continent and London. When in London, Mr. Jones visited the Public Record Office, and brought back copies of Lord Dorchester's letters in connection with United Empire Loyalist affairs.

Our immediate Past President, the Rev. C. H. E. Smith, passed away on January 31st, and many members attended the funeral. There were ten clergy present including the Bishop, Bishop Bagnall. Mr. Smith was highly regarded by all kind to the poor and sick - a gentle man. Born in Homer, Ontario, Mr. Smith was ordained deacon of Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton in 1907. He was assistant to the rector of Christ Church, Niagara Falls, for three years, then was appointed rector of St. James Church, Fergus. Mr. Smith served there and in Acton before coming to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1918. appointed as fifth rector of the historic St. Mark's Church, oldest church in the Diocese of Niagara. He served there until he retired in June, 1954. A member of Niagara Lodge No.2, A.F. & A.M., he was well versed on Loyalists affairs.

By Kathleen O'Loughlin

1965 November

At the February meeting of the St. Catharines Branch, Mr. M. E. Rittenhouse of Jordan Station gave a talk illustrated with implements and utensils used in pioneer days. Mrs. T. McClelland had on display a pioneer heirloom quilt with patches made by different members of her family. One square had on the name of George Adam Darby, Jr., who drove the ammunition wagon in the war of 1812, the son of George Adam Darby, Sr., U.E. Loyalist. Other names on the quilt were the Everinghams, Hills, and Cohoes.

On April 6th, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Edmondson entertained the members at their home at 41 Yates Street. Mr. Vernon Jones introduced Mr. J. Dorland, President of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Historical Society. Mr. Dorland is a direct descendant of the Dorland family, Two brothers Janse Dorland and Lambert Janse Dorland came from the Netherlands in 1632-1633 and settled in the township of Brooklyn named after Breuckelen, their birthplace in Holland. Mr. Dorland gave a coloured illustrated talk on the Simcoe Ball with scenes of table settings and costumes of the period.

In May a social and musicale evening was held at the Y.W.C.A. Mr. Gordon Brown of Welland had a showing with vivid description of scenes from the Canadian West.

On Memorial Day, 1st Sunday of June, a wreath was laid on the Boulder in Memorial Park by Mrs. Fred Sherlock. On Sunday, July 9th, the annual picnic was held at the home of Miss Frances Becksted, great grandmother of Col. JQhn Munro, of the King's Royal Regiment of New York.

Five new members welcomed into the branch were: Mrs Beatrice Irene Mitchell (Misener), Mr. Wm. H. Lampman (Frederick Lampman), George C. Slingerland (Richard Slingerland), Richard J. Cudney (Stephen Secod and Ezekiel Cudney), and Oscar Frank Lutz (Conrad.)

By Miss K. O'Loughlin

1966 April

At the October meeting Miss Elizabeth Barillier gave a talk on the summer she spent with the Anglican Caravan among the Crees. She said they were patient, truthful and honest. They are a quiet

and decisive people, that is, when they say "no" or "yes" to a question they mean it, and see no pur. pose in going over it again. Miss Barillier feels that the Indian handicrafts should be protected by the Government, so that the Indians get a fair price for their work. They should, said Miss Barillier, be given technical schools and agricultural schools. The proud Indian does not like a free gift and he will take better care of a dress or coat for which he pays 5 cents or 15 cents than for one given to him for nothing. At the October meeting, Mr. Jones gave an account of his trip to Eastern Canada, Halifax, New Brunswick, where interest is shown in the reopening of U.E.L. Branches. It was announced, that the Ontario Government has donated \$25,000 to preserve Wolford Chapel, near Honiton, Devon, where John Graves Simcoe, first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, and Lady Simcoe are buried. The chapel was acquired by Sir Leicester Harmsworth in 1926. Since then Sir Geoffrey Harmsworth and his brother, Sir Harold Harmsworth have been responsible for the upkeep of this historic spot, and the thanks of all the Loyalists of Canada are due to their efforts.

At the December meeting, Dr. J. D. Dillane, President of the Hamilton Branch, gave a talk on the United Empire Loyalists of Hamilton.

It is noted with regret that several members have passed away in 1965, Rev. C. H. E. Smith, former President; Mr. John Hicks, former President; Mrs. Murray Denton; Mr. T. A. Hilston.

By Kathleen O'Laughlin

1966 November

The President, Mr. W. S. Van Every, was in charge of the April meeting which was held in the Library.

A motion was made that the Centennial Committee advise the Branch about the plans already made and the part the U. E. Loyalists will play in their programme.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. Walter Parks, who is Curator of Lundy's Lane Museum, Niagara Falls, Ont., and a member of the Niagara Falls, New York Historical Society, was introduced by Mrs. Gordon Brown of Welland. Mr. Parks is a descendant of Cyrenius Parks, who served with General Burgoyne in the Revolutionary War and was Captain in the Lennox and Addington Regiment in the War of 1812.

"Old Pewter" was the subject of Mr. Parks' talk. Originating in China some 2000 years ago it came into general use and was brought to England by the Romans in 55 B.C. The Romans used a mixture of tin and lead to make pewter and found much of their raw material in the mines of Ancient Britain. Fine pewter is made from tin, copper, bismuth and antimony which was known to the ancients, grown in Borneo and has medicinal qualities. To make the metal the mold must be heated then rubbed with a mixture of red ochre and white of egg. If a spot is missed a hole will appear as the pewter cools.

Pewter ink pots and other objects made from the same metal appear in many of Rembrandt's paintings. Many pieces have been inherited by the descendants of early Canadian pioneers and United Empire Loyalists. Collections of pewter can be seen in the Lundy's Lane Museum, the Niagara Falls Museum and the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto.

The annual picnic was held on June 25th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Kinnear on crown grant on which seven generations have lived. Mr. E. J. Chard, the Dominion President, was introduced by Mr. W. S. Van Every, President of the St. Catharines' and District Branch. Mr. Chard would like to see a closer relationship with all the branches in Canada, as he feels that this would strengthen and enlarge the U. E.

L. Association. He paid tribute to the visits by the Mr. Vernon Jones & Dr. J.G. Dillane to the Winnipeg and Maritime Branches. He said that the Loyalist Gazette was now well launched, and had been noticed in different parts of the Commonwealth.

On June 2nd, was Remembrance Day at the boulder in Memorial 'Park. Mr. Vernon Jones presided and the wreath was laid by Mrs. Frank Vine.

On June 8, Mr. W. S. Van Every, the President, and members of the St. Catharines Branch attended the ceremony sponsored by Niagara Historical society when a plaque was unveiled by Hon. Wm. A. Stewart, Minister of Agriculture.

On Sunday July 9, members of our Branch attended the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Parish of St. Mark's. A tablet was unveiled to the memory of our late president, the Rev. C.H. E. Smith by Canon N. P. Blagrove, a former rector.

On July 17, the branch members took a bus tour by way of the Niagara Boulevard, to Old Fort Erie, Buffalo Museum and to Albright-Knox Art Gallery.

By Kathleen O'Loughlin

1967 Spring

At the December meeting a letter was read from Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society outlining a book, "The Canadian Shore". by Peter C. Andrews. This tells the history of the north shore of Lake Erie and furnishes evidence of the dependence of Buffalonians upon the raw materials and recreational facilities of Ontario.

Alderman Wilfred Bald, a former president, presented a silver trowel which had been given to Sir Alan MacNab on the occasion of his laying the cornerstone of the Town Hall and Market House at St. Catharines On October 30, 1848.

Miss Lorna Robson had an ornament of the 41st Regiment, found on Lundy's Lane Battlefield. This land was formerly owned by her great - grandfather, Mr. Benjamin Sutton, whose mother was a Miss Lundy. For the Centennial project it is planned to obtain two large lithographs of the Kelly painting of 'The Opening of the First Parliament of Canada by Governor John Graves Simcoe at Navy Hall, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Sept. 17, 1792.' A Letter to the Niagara Falls City Manager is to suggest that a suitable monument commemorating the United Empire Loyalists be placed in Civic Square. Mr. Waiter Parks is to convene the fund for the John Graves Simcoe Memorial.

Mrs. T. E. McClelland read an account of the old Darby School, in Crowland Township. On the corner of the crown grant farm of Adam Darby, this log schoolhouse was built. It was heated from a large stone fireplace and the teaching, until 1853, was done voluntarily by the parents. Many rattlesnakes infested the surrounding swampy lands and to combat these and thus make it safe for the school children, near-by farmers turned their pigs loose to forage on the pests. Names of trustees remembered were Everingham, Ramsden, and Misner. The first inspector, from 1876 to 1908, was James R. Ball.

A new member, Mr. Charles Ryerson Stewart, is a descendant of Henry Roth and Mary Overholt.

By Kathleen O'Loughlin

1967 Autumn

The St. Catharines and District Branch held their Centennial Social evening in April with an 1867 atmosphere of oil lamps and old time costumes. Mrs. John Robertson gave a selection of songs by Canadian composers. The president, Mr. W. S. Van Every, was chairman.

The principal speaker, Mr. Percy L. Climo, was introduced by Mrs. R. E. Stevens and took as his subject "The Honourable James Cockburn" - one of the lesser known Fathers of Confederation. After research, extending over three years, Mr. Climo has produced a manuscript telling about the lifetime experiences of James Cockburn.

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The speaker dealt with the political and economic developments of James Cockburn's time, with respect to both the local area of Cobourg, the Newcastle district where he lived, and to the nation generally.

In June, the St. Catharines and Hamilton branches met at historic Niagara-on-the-Lake for their annual picnic.

On Saturday, June 24, the St. Catharines and District Branch and the Hamilton Branch had a picnic tea at St. Mark's Anglican Church Hall. This church serves a parish founded in 1792. It was first built 1804-09 and during the War of 1812 was used by the British as a hospital and by the Americans as a barracks. Burned by the latter, it was rebuilt in 1822. The outlines of military entrenchments may still be seen in its ancient churchyard.

Following a visit to the church, the old churchyard, and the museum, Mr. W. S. Van Every introduced the Mayor of Niagara West, Mr. W. E. Theobald, who welcomed the visitors to this historic spot. Other speakers were: Dr. J. B. Dillane, President of the Hamilton Branch, Mr. L. L. Merrill, Past President of the St. Catharines and District Branch, and the Dominion President, Mr. E. J. Chard. The latter emphasized the importance of getting together genealogical records before this information is lost. Mrs. D. W. Dorling and Miss Guillaume of the Ontario Archives were also among those present.

Another interesting occasion was when the St. Catharines and District Branch joined with the St. Catharines and Lincoln Historical Society in a visit to the Halton County Museum situated about four and one-half miles from Milton, Ontario. The Museum is on the original property of Adam Alexander who came from Aberdeen, Scotland, in the early 1800's. The former barn - now the Museum - has a display of many interesting pioneer items.

1968 Spring

A well attended meeting of the St. Catharines' branch was held in October. Mr. Van Every was in charge of the meeting. He explained that owing to the illness of Miss Kathleen O'Loughlin, Mr. Walter Parks had volunteered to fill in as acting Secretary. Mr. Parks gave his report of attending the Genealogy meeting in Toronto. Mr. V. C. Jones showed a number of slides on his recent trip to Europe and explained the various buildings.

The December meeting was chaired by Mr. Walter Parks in the absence of the President and Vice-President with Mrs. Kinnear taking notes. The guest speaker was Mr. Francis Petrie who spoke on the history of surrounding districts showing many papers and documents.

1968 Autumn

The Kate Leonard Room at the Y.W.C.A. in St. Catharines was the setting for a Social Evening on Thursday, May 2nd. Mr. W. S. Van Every, President, conducted the meeting. A special event was the presentation of a Life Membership to Miss Kathleen O'Laughlin in recognition of her long years of service to St. Catharines Branch and to the Dominion Association of the U.E.L.

Mr. A.R. Petrie, Superintendent of Secondary Schools for the city, was the speaker taking for his topic, Roads, Transportation and Inns of the Niagara District in the 19th century. Loyalists and many early settlers crossed the Niagara and took up land near the river and in the newly surveyed townships in Lincoln County. One of the first roads was the Portage Road from Newark to Queenston, which went around the cataract and on to Lake Erie. In 1803 Lundy's Lane was declared a King's Highway, and in the same year Holland Rd. connecting Lundy's Lane to the boundary of Thorold Township also became a King's Highway.

Also mentioned was the Creek Road west of the Fort at the mouth of the Welland River. In 1802 it crossed Mill Point and Reilly's Creeks and terminated at the bank of the Welland River near the s. w. corner of Pelham Township. Mr. Petrie referred briefly to Stedman's Portage on the American side, In 1791 or 1792 a tornado went through Pelham and Thorold Townships creating havoc. A path was cleared through by the wind and a road was made on the cleared strip. Even today it is known as Hurricane Road. As more land was settled Lakeshore Road and Niagara Stone Road came into use.

Among the early inns mentioned was Johnson's at Lundy's Lane, Forthsythe's at Portage, Prospect House at Fall's and at Bridgewater, Rhorbacks Whirlpool Hotel.

The Annual Picnic was held in Queen Victoria Park at Niagara Falls with a visit to the site of the Battle of Lundy's Lane and to the Lundy's Lane Historical Museum where our Secretary, Mr. W.F. Parks, is the curator.

Mrs. Kinnear of the St. Catharines Branch has been chosen as Standard Bearer for the Dominion Association.

1969 Spring

The October 3rd meeting was entirely taken up with business concerning the impending Special Meeting at Toronto. The appointed delegates were W. S. Van Every, V. C. Jones, Mrs. Norman Kinnear and W. F. Parks. Christmas Cards were ordered. A new member, Mr. William Boyle of Thorold, 44 Albert Street, (his ancestor Rev. John Christie) was welcomed. Miss Ardill, Corresponding Secretary, handled Christmas Cards at St. Catharines. The Recording Secretary handled the cards at Niagara Falls.

A special committee meeting was held at the home of Mr. W. S. Van Every prior to the November 2nd meeting.

The December 5, 1968, meeting was held at the St. Catharines Library. A full report was given of the November 2nd meeting, followed by much discussion. Mrs. Sherry Dorling (McMicking) was welcomed as a new member. A number of members who have not been able to attend meetings for several years were at the December meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Dorling now make their home at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

February 6, 1969, will be the annual meeting. St. Catharines and Hamilton Branches will hold a joint picnic at Balls Falls, a Provincial Park north of St. Catharines, near the Town of Vineland, the site of the gristmill operated by generations of the Ball family.

1969 Autumn

At the Annual Meeting in February the slate of officers proposed for the coming year was: President, Mr. W. S. Van Every; First Vice-President, Mrs. Stevens; Second Vice-President, Mr. Vernon C. Jones; Treasurer, Mrs. Norman Kinnear; Recording Secretary, Mr. W. F. Parks, Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Richard Lounsberry; Genealogist, Mr. W. F. Parks.

The resignation of Miss Helen Nelles, a veteran member of the Branch and Genealogist for many years, was accepted regretfully. Delegates for the Dominion Council Annual Meeting were selected at the April meeting. Business consisted of discussion of Rule change, and dealing with the report of the Rules Committee.

The setting of a social evening in May was the Kate Leonard Room of the YWCA in St. Catharines. The guest speaker was Mrs. Roy Summers, a local historian and genealogist, who spoke on the early settlement of the Niagara area. She mentioned Patrick Alden and Stephen Hopkins of Mayflower fame and the connection of the Butler and Ball families with the family of George Washington, also the Swayzie and Summers families and their place in local history. A skilfully handled question and answer period followed her closing remarks on reference book lists and the A.B.C.'s of genealogy and locating the family tree.

On June 14th Mrs. Nonnan Kinnear and Mr. W. F. Parks attended the Annual Meeting at Dominion Headquarters. On June 21st the St. Catharines and Hamilton Branches met at Balls Falls Conservation Park for their annual picnic. The weather was fine and congenial talks were held between members of both branches. The Blessing was asked by Mr. Van Every and each and everyone sat down to a delightful lunch.

A number of plates were sold by the Chairman of the Souvenir Committee, Mr. R. Colin Mills. The Viking Shop is the outlet in Niagara Falls for the Loyalist Souvenir Plates. The Viking Shops are located at 1879 Ferry St., Niagara Falls, Ontario, and 91 Main St., West, Port Colborne, Ontario.

It is announced with regret that one of our members, the wife of our President, Mrs. W. S. Van Every, passed away recently. She was a member of the prominent Burgoyne family of St. Catharines. She was founder and first president of the YWCA of St. Catharines, and Vice-President of the YWCA of St. Catharines and Vice-President of the St. Catharines Standard. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mr. Van Every at this time.

The best wishes of the Branch go with Mr. Lounsberry and his family who are moving to Warton.

1970 Spring

The October meeting of the St. Catharines and District Branch was chaired by the President, Mr. W. S. Van Every. The guest speaker, Mr. William Arch, was introduced by Mr. W. F. Parks. Mr. Arch, who is an adopted member of Mohawk tribe, appeared in full regalia. He traced the history of the Neutral Indians and the Six Nations Iroquois from the very early days until the coming of the white man. He

emphasize that the Indian was not cruel by nature, but had learned to scalp from the white man. He showed many artifacts—skinning, arrowheads, stone chisel and gouging tools, war hammers, spearheads and tomahawks, French trade axes, and explained the use of each fully. Among the audience were many children who requested the speaker to explain the different garments and different pieces of the regalia, the necklace of bears' claws, the wampum belts and the eagle feather head dress. It was a spirited question and answer period thoroughly enjoyed by adult and children alike. Mr. Arch was thanked by Mrs. Stevens and Mr. Van Every.

At the December meeting, Mrs. Dorling and Mr. Van Every gave reports on the November General Meeting. The Gazettes were issued by Mrs. N. Kinnear and Christmas Cards by Mrs. McClelland. Mr. Van Every "introduced Mr. Walter Parks who spoke on the Genealogy of the Parks Family. The speaker traced the family from Robert Parks who was born in England (1570) and sailed to Boston in June, 1630. Cyrenius Parks, a direct descendant, served with General Burgoyne and as a King's Ranger in 1780. He was honourably discharged Dec. 24, 1783, and moved to Hay Bay the next year. His first wife was Elizabeth Carscallen, and his second wife was Elizabeth Huffman. Cyrenius Parks, the speaker's forebear, was appointed a lieutenant in Lennox Addington Militia in 1803 and appointed a Captain in 1812 by General Sir Isaac Brock. A question and answer period followed.

1970 Autumn

At the Annual Meeting held in February the existing slate of officers was voted in for another year, for the St. Catharines and District Branch.

A motion was made that a letter be sent to Dr. Dillane that an editorial be written in The Gazette directed to Hon. Pellatier regarding the manifestation of the creeping republicanism in the life of the Canadian people, and the gradual abolition of the Royal Family from the public view, and also that in this Branch's view the Royal Family is "self-sustaining and self-supporting." A letter is to be prepared and sent to Mr. Van Every for final revision.

Mrs. Sherlock was the guest speaker on the Kern or Karn family, starting with the year 1250 in Mecklenburg. In 1739 the family Kern emigrated to North America. Fred Nicholas John Jacob, the senior member, the father, held an important position in The Netherlands. Fred was buried at sea. The boat finally landed at Philadelphia on February 7. The Kern brothers finally settled at Germantown in 1740. Mrs. Sherlock gave a concise history of the family down through the generations. Eventually the family came to New Brunswick, and then moved west along the St. Lawrence River. Many of the members and descendants of the family became prominent citizens of Canada, among them Matthew Kern of Butler's Rangers. A number settled in Wentworth County and burial plots in various churches in Hamilton and Ancaster and in the Niagara District, show their industry and zeal in settling the new Province of Upper Canada. In closing the speaker stated that she and her husband were celebrating their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary in June and would welcome all the members to drop in.

On April 2 the meeting was called to order at 8:15p.m. Correspondence and minutes were read and adopted. Mrs. Dorling discussed the qualifications of membership explaining the application forms. Mrs. Smylski (Servos) application. was accepted. Delegates were elected for April 18 and May 9. A committee meeting was held at the home of Mr. W. S. Van Every prior to the April 18 meeting at Toronto to discuss the By-laws. Following the reading of the letter from the Hamilton Branch, the joint picnic is to be held at Old Fort Erie on June 20th. The secretary is to write to the Niagara Parks Commission for reservation for 50 people.

The wreath is to be laid on June 7 at 2:30 at the Boulder in Memorial Park at St. Catharines.

The Social Evening was held on May 7, 1970, at the Kate Leonard Room at the Y. W. C. A. - Y. M. C. A., the guest speaker being Constable Diplock Of St. Catharines Police Department, a former member of the R. C. M. P. He described the voyage of the Patrol Boat, St. Roche, from Halifax up the Atlantic Coast through the North West Passage to the Pacific Coast in 1944. The St. Roche was 125 feet long and 25 feet beam, with no keel, and a carrying capacity of 80 tons with a 300 H. P. engine. Their course took them through Labrador Strait, to the top of Baffin Bay. One evening they counted 40 icebergs. At one point of call the white population was one R.C.M.P. constable, one R. C. priest, some Anglican missionaries and two Hudson Bay men. At this time the R.C.M.P. was the only federal agency in the Arctic. In the West Arctic they stopped at a bay where on a rocky ledge a cairn had been erected in the memory of Sir John Franklin at the request of Lady Franklin. At the Magnetic Pole no compasses were working, so they relied on Eskimo guides of whom 30 were on board. The Eskimos and their dogs were left at Herschel Island. Leaving the Aleutian Islands they were caught in a hurricane and lost their cook. During the hurricane they had two anchors out with 548 feet of chain on each anchor. Following the talk, Mr. Diplock showed a film that was taken on the 1941 trip and a question and answer period followed. Mr. Diplock was 19 years old at the time. The talk and film were well received.

On Sunday June 7th the annual ceremony was held at 2: 30 placing a wreath at the 'Boulder' in Memorial Park, St. Catharines.

The St. Catharines Branch joined by the Hamilton Branch held the yearly picnic on Saturday, . June 20 at Old Fort Erie Park.

1971 Spring

At the October meeting of the St. Catharines and District Branch congratulations were given to Mr. and Mrs. Kinnear on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. A trip was made to Dundurn Castle and attended a luncheon by various members of the branch. The speaker of the evening was Dr. Johnston who showed slides and gave a talk on Ecuador.

It was suggested that the topic of the talk for the December meeting would be for members to bring several articles and be prepared to speak on them. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sherlock were welcomed back. Mr. Sherlock had been ill for the entire summer and has recovered. The speakers were Mrs. McClelland who showed three articles - a crockery egg and a pair of forceps and a horseshoe puller carved out of wood. Mrs. Stevens showed a number of ribbons that her father had collected when competing in different events in bygone years. W. F. Parks showed two books - one an Indian Hymn Book, the other a law book once owned by Thomas Dickson in 1815 at Queenston. Mr. Charles Stewart showed a portrait in glass with two articles and gave an interesting history of the portraits on the glass one a pressed glass plate with the picture of Queen Victoria of 1887 and the relation of the picture to the stamps of Prince Edward Island, the coins of Nova Scotia; the other a glass pitcher with the picture of the Marquis of Lorne whose wife was the daughter of Queen Victoria.

It is the earnest wish of this Secretary in writing this report that more of the same little talks be given in the near future. Also reviewing the past year on the whole I have found that there is a growing dissension carried to a very petty extent and it is my belief that the president and executive should be able to shoulder the burden in the coming years to bring back pride to the Association.

Among the new members that have been accepted have been Miss Norma Rolls (ancestors: John Butler and Benjamin Pauling); Mr. Charles Osborn (ancestors: John (Haunts) Trumpour, Phillip Roblin, John Jost Herkimer, Gilbert Purdy).

At the conclusion the monthly reports were given and the officers were elected: President, Mr. W. S. Van Every; 1st Vice-President, Mr. Vernon Jones; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. R. E. Stevens; Treasurer, Mrs. Norman Kinnear; Recording Secretary, Mr. W. F. Parks; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. D. W. Dorling; Historian, Mr. Charles Osborn; Branch Genealogist, Mr. W. F. Parks.

1971 Autumn

In St. Catharines on Sunday, June 13, 1971, there took place the yearly Laying of the Wreath ceremony at Memorial Park to commemorate the first coming of our Loyalist ancestors to the Niagara area. Mr. W. S. Van Every presided. A few members attended, but not as many as hoped for.

The annual picnic of the St. Catharines Branch was held on June 19, 1971, at the Jordan Historical Museum of the Twenty, Jordan, Ontario. This was a very successful affair, due to a combination of fine weather, perfect location, very agreeable people and excellent food.

1972 Spring

The Fall meeting was opened by the President, Mr. W. S. Van Every, with singing of God Save the Queen. Mr. Van Every announced that Dr. Fielding had passed away and that Mr. Walter Parks had been in the hospital for the last month, and that Mr. Jarvis and Mrs. J. Willis had been hospitalized. Mr. Van Every reported on the Dominion Council Annual Meeting at which there were many persons present. Correspondence included a request from Major the Reverend J .D.L. Howson, Chairman of the Historical Committee, requesting that each Branch form its own Historical Committee. It was moved by Mr. Stewart that a Historical Committee be formed, seconded by Mrs. Kinnear. The following members were appointed to form the Committee: Mr Charles Osborne, Mrs. Willis, Mrs. Laurie, Miss K. O'Loughlin and Mr. Parks. Correspondence included reference to the meeting of the St. George's Society. The members agreed that the action should be supported.

An article from the Beamsville newspaper "Simcoe Day is Proposed" was displayed urging all Ontario municipalities to honour Governor Simcoe by changing Civic Holiday to Simcoe Day.

The minutes of the Dominion Council Meeting held at Penetanguishene in June were read.

A letter from Mr. Eric L. Teed of the New Brunswick Branch reported the possibility of buying U.E.L. Association grave markers made of bronze.

Mr. Van Every displayed the Association Newsletter for September 1971 and invited the members to read it. He also displayed a copy of the St. John, N.B., Telegraph Journal and Evening Times. This issue was commemorating Loyalist Days Celebrations in Saint John.

Mr Stewart was the guest speaker talking on Captain Cook and his trip to the West coast of Canada. Among the officers of his crew was Captain Bligh (of Bounty fame) Captain George Vancouver as midshipman in the ships the Resolution and Discovery in the years 1776-1777-1778-1779 and 1780.

Although it was several years before reaching the Coast of America Captain Cook described the natives he had met in the reports on his voyage. Mr. Stewart agreed to carry on his talk on Captain George Vancouver into the December meeting.

At the December meeting several who had been ill were welcomed back. Mr. Van Every and Mrs. Kinnear gave a report on the Council Meeting of November. Mrs. Willis made a motion to record an

objection to the report of the Dominion Genealogist as to the status of an adopted child of a loyalist family. It is now the law of the country or province that the word adopted be deleted from the Birth Certificate that there is no way to say for certain as the children of U.E. Loyalists whether there were any foster children among them.

Mr. Stewart was called on to continue his talk based on the third voyage to British Columbia and Nootka and short trip to China of Captain Vancouver, who had been trained under Captain Cook in navigation and map making. He was born in Norfolk, Kingsland, in 1757, and baptized March 1764 at St. Margarets. He served ten years in the East Indies in the navy, map making and became associated with Admiral Parker. Most of the places he mapped were given clear distinct names that still remain the same. In 1789 the British Navy sent out an expedition under Vancouver to finish the work of Captain Cook. He set out in 1791 in two vessels. During the trip he and his crew sailed 20,000 miles. Vancouver was only 34 years old at this time on June 11, 1792.

Mr. Stewart described conditions along the coast as Captain Vancouver saw them at that time. He mentioned earlier explorers and later ones as well. He was thanked by the members on a talk well prepared and presented.

At the close of the meeting Mr. Van Every pointed out that it was the last meeting of the year which gave them two months to think about the election of new officers for the February meeting.

1972 Autumn

The speaker at the St. Catharines and District Branch meeting in April was Mr. Paul Sherlock, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sherlock, who with his wife and two sons had visited the boyhood home of Mr. Fred Sherlock in England. Mr. Sherlock gave the branch members an illustrated talk on an area of England which included many slides of Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace, Quebec House (where Sir James Wolfe was born), the country home of Winston Churchill and the White Cliffs of Dover, describing each picture in full. It was a well presented entertaining and educational talk.

On May 18 at the Kate Leonard Room, Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. Mr. W.S. Van Every gave a report on the Dominion Council Annual Meeting that took place at Ottawa on May 6. The guest speaker of the evening was Brigadier Moogk of Niagara-on-the-Lake who showed a film based on the Diary of Mrs. John Graves Simcoe, followed by a talk on the Life of the Simcoe Family of England at Wolford Abbey, the home of the Simcoes, as well as the period the family spent in Upper Canada. Brigadier Moogk outlined the function of the Simcoe Commission of which many U.E.L. members are on the Board. He spoke on the aims and future work of this Board. At the close of the talk a delightful luncheon was served by the ladies of the Social Committee.

On May 25 four of the members of the Branch attended a banquet given by the Sesquicentennial Committee of the Patriotic Societies of Buffalo. Among the guests attending were Mr. W.S. Van Every, Mr. Robert Powell, Miss Kathleen O'Loughlin and Mrs. Laura Smylski. The speaker for the occasion was Mr. Francis Petrie, an historian from Niagara Falls, Ontario, who is no stranger to The U.E.L. Association. Mr. W.S. Van Every was given a presentation and was asked to reply to a Toast to the Queen.

On June 3 a wreath laying and memorial service was held at the Memorial Boulder and Park. A picnic was held at Jordan Museum grounds.

This has been a rather busy summer for St. Catharines Branch and District which wishes to record the three following events: the annual service to commemorate the first arrival of United Empire Loyalists in

the Niagara Peninsula took place at Memorial Park, St. Catharines, on Sunday, June 4, 1972. After the laying of the wreath by Mrs. Mary E. McClelland, Mr. W.S. Van Every, President, read an account of the life; of the Hon. William Hamilton Merritt, the author of the first and second Welland Ship Canals. The Loyalists' Memorial Stone, it may be mentioned, is adjacent to Mr. Merritt's former home.

On Sunday, June 25, the annual branch picnic was held at the Vintage House, Jordan. Despite the beauty of the spot and its proximity to St. Catharines, the attendance was less than hoped for. Otherwise the outing was a great success.

A second picnic was held by the Branch on Sunday, August 20. The scene was the "Salt Box", the historic home of Mrs. A.E. Laurie. This charming house dates from about 1830 and sits on the shore of Lake Erie, to the west of Port Maitland. It contains a fine collection of early Ontario furniture. Among those present were: Mrs. Margaret Augustine, Mrs. Lillie T. Blackwood, Mrs. Clara Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Brown, Miss Marian Calder, Miss Blanche Durham, Mrs. R.A. Elwood, Mrs. E. Freeman, Mrs. Gwendolyn Goulding, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Kinnear and Mr. Wayne and Mr. Paul Kinnear Mrs. A.E. Laurie, our hostess; Mrs. Mary E. McClelland, Mr. Charles Osborne, The Rev. and Mrs. Douglas Perry, and the Misses Adrienne and Monica Perry, Mr. Robert Powell, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sherlock, Mrs. Laura Smylsky, Mr. Charles R. Stewart, and Mr. W.S. Van Every, President.

1973 Spring

On the evening of December 7, 1972 a festive and seasonal gathering together of about sixty members of the St. Catharines and District United Empire Loyalists took place in the Crystal Ball Room, of the Welland House in St. Catharines, Ontario. The tables were tastefully decorated by Mrs. N. Kinnear with miniature sailing ships flying the Union Jack representing the Coming of United Empire Loyalist to Canada from the New England Colonies in 1783-1786

The most enjoyable dinner party was hosted by our president, Mr. W. S. Van Every, who extended a gracious welcome to all. He called upon Rev. H. M. Coulter, former minister at Knox Church, St. Catharines, to ask a blessing on the meeting and the banquet.

A toast was drunk to our Gracious Queen Elizabeth, after which a delicious turkey dinner accompanied by good and jovial conversation was greatly enjoyed.

Mr. Van Every then introduced Mr. Walter Haldorson, curator at Fort George, Niagara-on-the-Lake, superintendent of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Mr. Haldorson favoured us with an interesting showing of slide pictures of Eskimo habits, ceremonies and economy, and of the rugged, often hazardous life in the far, frozen Canadian North.

This was followed by a period of questions by the guests and answers by the Camera Man

The guests mingled for a time of visiting before bidding our host good night, along with hearty thanks for a happy evening.

Though we were unaware at the time, this proved to be our President's farewell to the St. Catharines branch, and ours to him. He was overtaken by illness soon after, and passed away to rest on February 14, 1973.

The annual business meeting of the St. Catharines and District United Empire Loyalists' Association , for election of officers was held on February 1, 1973, at the public library in St. Catharines. A fair representation of members was present.

In the absence of our President, Mr. W. S. Van Every, who was ill in a Toronto hospital at that time, the vice-president, Mr. Charles Stewart, occupied the chair. After the usual opening exercise, the election got under way. The list of officers for 1973 is as follows: President: Mr. W. S. Van Every; Vice-president Mr. Charles Stewart; Treasurer, Mrs. Norman Kinnear; Secretary, Position left vacant to be filled later. Corresponding secretary; Mrs. Fred Sherlock, "The Lynn", 499 Niagara St. St. Catharines; Genealogist, Mrs. R. M. Laurie, 1245 Glendale Ave., St. Catharines, Ontario; Historian and Mailing Loyalist Gazette, Mr. Charles Osborne; Programme Convenor, Mr. Charles Stewart; Standard Bearer, Mr. Robert Powell, Auditor, Mr. Fred Sherlock; Social Convenor, Mrs. T. McClelland.

After a short social period, the meeting was adjourned.

The officers and members are deeply grieved at the death of our President, Mr. W. S. Van Every. He passed away on February 14, 1973 in Toronto. He was liked and respected by all. Our branch has suffered a grievous loss.

1973 Autumn

The St. Catharines and District United Empire Loyalists met at the city library in St. Catharines, Ontario, on April 5, Mr. Charles Stewart in the chair. The meeting opened by singing of The Queen.

Two minutes of silence was observed in honour of the memory of our late President Mr. W.S. Van Every. Guests and members were welcomed by Mr. Stewart. Mr. Stuart Gilmor and Mrs. Gilmor were guests of the branch.

Mr. Parks of Niagara Falls, Ontario, agreed to accept the office of Recording Secretary for the branch. He was thus elected. A meeting at Memorial Park is to be held June 3, 1973 for placing of a wreath on U.E.L. Boulder.

The annual social evening is to be held in the Y.W.C.A. Kate Leonard Room on June 7.

Mr. Gilmor favoured the meeting with an interesting and amplified outline of the upcoming convention in Toronto early in May. He also offered a number of suggestions for the advancement of membership, etc., of the U .E.L. across Canada.

Thanks were extended to Mr. Gilmor. The meeting closed with a short question and answer period.

The memorial wreath to our U .E.L. ancestors was placed on the Halfway Marker -- the U.E.L. Boulder in St. Catharines Memorial Park on Sunday, June 3, 1973, by Mrs. Norman Kinnear. Mrs. Charles Stewart, President, presided. Members present repeated the Lord's Prayer.

Our late president, Mr. W.S. Van Every, was remembered by fitting words.

Mr. Stewart spoke of the United Empire Loyalists coming to Canada as bearing some similarity to Israel of old travelling to their promised land. Through much wandering and hardship to find new homes. They wished to set up and retain their old laws which had been developed by the British people for more than a thousand years. They wished to retain (1) The Monarchy (2) British Connection (3) Parliamentary Government and to establish a system of good public education. The establishment of these desired ends was attained by long and arduous labour, determination and loyalty.

The members were favoured by the presence of three guests from England, also two Iroquois Indians attended the Memorial service.

The meeting closed with the singing of "The Queen", after which all proceeded to the home of Mrs. Tom McClelland for a delightful hour of sociability and partaking of delicious refreshments.

The St. Catharines and District Branch of The United Empire Loyalists, Association held their annual picnic in the Burgoyne Woods, on June 16, 1973. In spite of inclement weather a number of sturdy souls turned out to enjoy the woods and the sights and sounds of Nature. We were happy to welcome several United Empire Loyalists from the Hamilton Branch.

The life and era of one of the Niagara region's best known early clergymen was described on June 7, 1973 during a meeting held in the Kate Leonard Room of the YMCA.

Rev. Hugh Maclean of St. Mark's Anglican Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake described the life and work of Rev. Robert Addison, who arrived in the area from England in 1792.

Mr. Addison, who was 37 when he arrived in Canada, ministered to the early settlers for 37 more years until his death in 1829.

Displayed by Mr. Maclean were several volumes from a precious collection of books willed by Mr. Addison's heirs to the rectors of St. Mark's. The 1,500-volume collection was first assembled by three 18th century English clergymen.

All enjoyed an interesting and pleasant social time, followed by the usual delicious food and beverage.

1974 Spring

The St. Catharines and District Branch held their first meeting of the autumn season on October 4, 1973 in the St. Catharines Public Library (Main Branch), Church Street. President Charles Stewart in the chair. A good number of regulars were present. The minutes of the former meeting were read and adopted.

A committee of three was appointed to attend to the hanging of three historic pictures. It was also determined by majority vote to change the date of the annual business meeting and election of officers to December in place of February of the following year.

The St. Catharines and District Branch of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada met at the Public Library, December 6, 1973, for the purpose of electing officers for 1974. Mrs. E. Stevens was appointed chairman, and ably filled the position. The resignation of Mrs. N. Kinnear as branch treasurer was received with regrets after years of loyal support. In her absence, owing to illness in her family, a letter of thanks was forwarded to her. Mr. Parks opened the February meeting with a short family history of Miss Helen Nelles, a very valued member of our branch and former genealogist who passed away January 26th in her 92nd year.

A discussion was held concerning proxy votes and it was a unanimous decision that each branch member be free to choose their own proxy vote to represent them.

Mrs. Willis was asked to look after the wreath for the Boulder in June and it was left to the Executive to make plans for the social evening in May.

Mrs. Laurie discussed the genealogy forms and how to make them out using her own family history as an example. It was most informative and we hope to hear more from Mrs. Laurie in the near future.

The new slate of officers for 1974 is as follows: President, Mr. Walter Parks; Vice-president, Mrs. R.E. Stevens; Treasurer Mrs. John Willis; Secretary Mrs. Kenneth Warwick; Genealogist Mrs. R. Laurie; Standard Bearer, Mr. R. Powell; social Convenor, Mrs. T. McClelland; Programme Convenor, Mr. Walter Parks; Delegates to Dominion Council; Miss Kathleen O'Laughlin, Mrs. J. Willis, Mrs. R. Laurie, Mrs. K. Warwick.

1974 Autumn

At 2 p.m., Sunday June 2 at St. Catharines Memorial Park, St. Paul St., The St. Catharines and District Branch U.E.L. held the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the U.E.L. Memorial Boulder in remembrance of our pioneer ancestors. The service was well conducted by Mr. Robert Powell, the Branch Standard Bearer, assisted by the Branch President, Mr. Walter Parks. The simple but dignified ceremony included prayers, a reading from the Bible, and the singing of God Save The Queen, accompanied by tape recorded music of the Band of the Royal Air Force and chorus. Mrs. Laura Smylski laid the wreath. Pictures were taken of the wreath and of those present: Mr. Walter Parks, Mr. Robert Powell, Mrs. Laura Smylski, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sherlock, Mrs. Thomas McLelland, Mrs. Norman Kinnear, Mr. R.M. Laurie and Mrs. John Willis. After the service, refreshments were served at Mrs. McClelland's home.

The story of this memorial boulder is told in The Loyalist Gazette, Vol. VIII, No.2, Autumn 1970. The account has a photograph of the large boulder, and wreath, nestled in a group of evergreens. Memorial Park, also the location of the War Memorial Cenotaph, is beside the home of the Hon. William Hamilton Merritt (now C.K.T.B. Radio Station) at the corner of St. Paul and Yates Streets. Across St. Paul St. in a tiny park is a stone marking the location of the first church in St. Catharines, and beside this stone is a statue of the Hon. William Hamilton Merritt (1793-1862) whose grandfather, Thomas Merritt (1729-1821) went to Saint John N.B. as a U.E. Loyalist. The wording on the statue records the life and accomplishments of Wm. H. Merritt describing him as "the father of Canadian Transportation who through initiatory steps in first waterways and railways earned that title." It is fitting that Merritt's house and statue overlook the twelve Mile Creek section of the old Welland Canal for which he was primarily responsible.

Obituary: **William Kirby**

William Kirby, 87, of Niagara-on-the-lake, died suddenly on July 18, 1974 at his home.

Born in Toronto, Mr. Kirby had lived in Niagara-on-the-Lake since 1928, and has been clerk with the First Division Court when it was in Niagara and was a historian and notary public retiring in 1972.

A collection of historical papers were recently presented to the Ontario Government Archives by Mr. Kirby, grandson of William Kirby, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, historian and author of Annals of Niagara and the Golden Dog.

He was a member of the United Empire Loyalists' Association, High Park Lodge, A.F. and A.M. and St. Mark's Anglican Church.

He is survived by his wife Adelaide; a son, William Kirby Jr. In Woodstock; two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

1975 Spring

Among the many activities of the St. Catharines and District Branch has been the laying of the wreath of the Halfway Rock also a picnic held at the MacFarlane Park, followed by a trip through the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum. Many of the Branch members were invited to the summer home of Mrs. Audrey Laurie to attend a genealogical meeting and to discuss matters pertaining to genealogy. We are able to welcome two new members to our Branch at the December meeting - Mr. A.G. Slingerland and Mrs. G.S.N. Gostling. Mrs. McClelland is in the St. Catharines Hospital recovering from a serious operation and we all wish her well.

Representatives of the Branch were invited to attend the celebrations of the Merritt Day, also to attend the opening of the new Library at Niagara Falls with the new Canadiana (Reference) Room done in pine where a well established reference library on local history is stored. Also many enquiries are coming out of the Fort Erie and Bertie Township District with requests concerning joining the District Branch.

We regret the resignation of our capable treasurer, Mrs. J. A. T. Willis and Mrs. Audrey Laurie, our Genealogist. Also in the hospital is Mr. Wilfred Woodruff. Mr. Edwin Secord passed away, as well as a sister of Mrs. Fred Sherlock. The Branch wishes to offer deep regrets. During the year we had a very successful social evening at the Blue Flame Room at the Penn Centre. We are looking forward to being able to hold another social evening the same place at another year.

One other social event taking place this year is the 87th annual dinner of the Lundy's Lane Historical Society. There is to be Duo Speakers for the evening Professor James Doren and Professor Elizabeth Doren, capable experts on Indian Affairs and teachers of History at Canaries College and Niagara College.

1976 Autumn

Members of the St. Catharines and District Branch held their Annual Social Evening on April 29/76. Mr. Francis Petrie, a noted local historian and lecturer, addressed the Group. During the evening, our President, Mr. Walter Parks, had the privilege and pleasure of presenting a Membership Certificate to our newest member, Mr. Melville McIntyre Carthew of Beamsville, Ont. Mr. Carthew is a descendant of James Secord, who emigrated to Canada in the year of 1774.

The death was reported of a former Member, Miss Helen B. Brown. Miss Brown was Director of Nursing for many years at the St. Catharines General Hospital.

Obituary – Robert E. Stevens

Robert E. Stevens of 269 Scott Street, St. Catharines died on October 30, 1976 at Hotel Dieu after a short illness.

Born in Niagara-on-the-Lake Mr. Stevens lived here for 60 years. During the Second World War he served as an air cadet instructor with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was a member of the Old Boys Rowing Club Alumni and the United Empire Loyalists Association and St. George's Anglican Church. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor - Secretary of the St. Catharines United Empire Loyalists' Branch - a daughter, Mrs. Dover (Sandra) Wynn and two grandchildren.

1977 Spring

Our Association has previously had the privilege of holding meetings in the St. Catharines Public Library. Now due to the fact that the City of St. Catharines is in the process of building a new Public Library, our Association has been meeting at the homes of members. This is proving very satisfactory as we are now able to enjoy a coffee hour following our business meeting, and also have an opportunity of learning to know our fellow members in a more casual way.

At our October meeting we were pleased to have Mr. Colin Duquemin describe his work with the Niagara South Board of Education. Mr. Duquemin is a consultant with the Museum there, and also at St. John's Outdoor Study Centre. The school is one of the oldest in the area having been the first public school in Thorold Township. There is a new learning approach being taken with the school students in regard to outdoor studies, and has proven very popular with both students and parents.

At Christmas our president, Mrs. Warwick opened her home for a buffet party which all enjoyed. Our Association has always been able to keep our operational expenses at a minimum. With a very small increase in fees recently we feel that we can operate on a four dollar yearly fee.

Our February meeting was held at the home of Mrs. John Willis; two new members are now waiting to have their applications processed. Mrs. Warwick stressed the importance of bringing in new members for our continued growth, and also the importance of our regular attendance.

New executive: President Mrs. Kenneth Warwick; Vice-President Mr. Peter Warwick; Treasurer Mr. M.M. Carthew; Secretary Mrs. R.E. Stevens; Standard Bearer Mr. Robert Powell.

1977 Autumn

The spring meeting of the St. Catharines and District U.E.L. Branch was held at the home of Miss Marion Calder. It was recorded that we now have thirty-six paid-up members. We have two prospective members waiting for approval of their applications.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of our late member, Mr. Richard Corman. Mr. Corman will be missed from our Association meetings.

Mrs. K. Warwick, president, and Mrs. Willis attended the February Dominion Council meeting. One of our members will be appointed to act on the Bicentennial Committee. It was noted that a branch of the U.E.L. had existed in Virgil in the year 1898.

At our Annual Social Evening Mr. John Burtiak of Brock University, St. Catharines displayed his fine collection of old china and souvenir china.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Slingerland invited the members to come to their home in St. Davids for a weiner and corn roast in September.

At our March meeting Mr. Melville McIntyre Carthew, branch treasurer, gave a detailed account on the subject of his family tree. His records date back to Thomas Carthew (Carthu) 1611-Banham, Norfolk, Morden of Cantley, Calmady of Little Petherick. Edward Carthew, 1808, married Hannah Cartwright Secord, daughter of James Secord and Laura Ingersol Secord.

It was a sunny Fall Niagara district day when the members of the St. Catharines and District U.E.L. gathered for a picnic Pot-luck supper in the lovely gardens at St. Davids of our members, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Slingerland. Our president, Mrs. Kenneth Warwick welcomed the members and guests, along with Mr. and Mrs. Slingerland.

Membership - Persons are warmly welcomed to join the St. Catharines and District Branch who have Loyalist ancestral roots in the Niagara Peninsula. Please write to Mrs. Kenneth Warwick, President, 58 Glenridge Ave., S1. Catharines, Ontario, L2R 4Y1, phone 6855566

Obituary: Blanche F. Durham UE

At Vineland on August 10, Blanche F. Durham, U.E.L. descent, formerly of St. Catharines passed away. The funeral was held in St. George's Anglican Church and then proceeded to Victoria Lawn Cemetery.

UEL Plaque Unveiled

St. Johns Anglican Church in Thorold, Ontario was started by the United Empire Loyalists. Recently the church was renovated and on completion a plaque was put up in memory of the early Loyalists. This plaque was unveiled on Sunday, October 16, 1977 with Mrs. Norman Kinnear doing the honours. Mrs. Kinnear is a highly respected and devoted member of the S1. Catharines Branch. Along with the unveiling a pair of wooden candlesticks were dedicated, these being made from the altar railing of the first Lutheran Church in Thorold. They were paid for by Henry H. Ball (an ancestor of Mrs. Kinnear) and surrounding farmers, about 1791 or 1792.

1978 Spring

At our December annual meeting in 1976 we voted to increase our membership fee to four dollars; this was due to the fact that our per capita fees have been increased. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Warwick were our host and hostess for the annual Pot Luck Christmas meeting. Our February meeting was held at the home of Mrs. John Willis. A new member, Mr. William Warwick (ancestor Bessey) was welcomed. Our president, Mrs. Warwick, brought to our attention that the book written by the Reverend Enos Montour "The Feathered U.E. Loyalists" (Indian Tribes) is well recommended. Mrs. Warwick urged members to attend our meetings regularly in order to keep the interest and growth of our Association. The balance of the evening was well spent in looking over old documents, newspapers and scrapbooks of U.E.L. data.

The March meeting was held at the home of Miss Marion Calder with 36 paid-up members. Mrs. Warwick and Mrs. Willis reported on the February Dominion Council meeting. It was noted that the 1978 Dominion Council will meet on May 5, 6, 7 at Western University, London, Ontario.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Miss Blanche Durham and Mr. Richard Corman.

It was noted that a U.E.L. Branch existed as early as 1898 in Virgil, Ontario (Niagara District). A vote was taken on proposed motions to be put forth at May Headquarters' meeting. Our Annual Social meeting open to friends was well attended. Mr. John Burtiak of Brock University, presented his interesting collection of lovely old china and souvenir china. The Reverend Spence, Rector of the Parish Church of St. John the Evangelist, Thorold, Ontario, was introduced and invited our members to a special service to be held in his church October 16, when a plaque was unveiled honouring the parish's past association with the early settlers in this District.

In September Mr. and Mrs. Charles Slingerland opened their home in St. Davids for a Sunday Picnic.

The Reverend and Mrs. Montour of Grand River Branch were guests at our October meeting at Mrs. Norman Kinnear's home. Our Branch sent a representative to October 29 meeting of the Historical Committee to participate in the discussion of the . 'Position Paper".

On Sunday morning October 17, the special service was held in Thorold's St. John's Church. The Rector, the Rev. D. Ralph Spence and the Bishop, The Right Reverend John C. Bothwell re-dedicated St. Johns Church. A plaque was unveiled commemorating ,the parish's association with the' early settlers in the area and of other historic dates. Our President, Mrs. Kenneth Warwick and Mrs. Norman Kinnear had the honour of unveiling the plaque. The flag was the flag of St. George. Several of our members attended this service and later were welcomed by the members of the parish and the clergy at the coffee hour following.

At our March meeting our Treasurer, Mr. Melville McIntyre Carthew gave an interesting, well-researched history of his family: father -Alfred Morden; grandfather James Morden Carthew. The family records date back to Thomas Carthew (Carthu) 1611, Banham, Norfolk, England Morden of Cantley, Calmady of Little Pentherick. Other family names include James Secord and Laura Ingersol Secord.

1978 Autumn

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Warwick opened their home for the Annual Meeting. Mrs. Warwick was re-elected to the office of President of the branch.

Mrs. Norman Kinnear was the hostess for the February meeting. Guests present were Miss Rhona Ball and the speaker, Mrs. Martha Hedden. Mrs. Hedden discussed the origin of Genealogy, Genesis Chapter 5.

She stressed the importance of preserving family records. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah, has an excellent programme of records which is available to anyone enquiring. In Ontario records many family records are not complete, or were lost over the years. During the business meeting a discussion was held in regard to the "Position Paper" which deals with the origin of the U.E.L. Mrs. Willis donated a copy to our Branch. Mrs. Warwick welcomed Mrs. Patricia Vacca (Obediah Simpson) also Mrs. Vacca's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy H. Manley. Mrs. John Eli Singer was announced as our newest member (Staats, Overholt). Mr. Singer resides in Sanborn, New York.

A special meeting was held in April at the St. Catharines Historical Museum. Mr. Stuart Gilmor, Dominion President, addressed the meeting on the subject of "Unity of Canada". Mr. Charles Slingerland read a poem written by Mrs. Monture. Mr. Paul Woodruff was presented with his Membership Certificate by Mr. Gilmor. Mrs. Mable Warner Brown accepted a Certificate of Membership on behalf of her son Wilfred Warner who was unable to be present.

The May meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Robert Stevens. Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Warner were warmly welcomed. Details of the Convention were discussed. Mrs. Lillian (Frederick) Sherlock (formerly Matthews) presented the history of her family in an interesting and dramatic style. Ancestors mother's side of the family from Mecklenburgh, Europe to Netherlands 1656 to England in 1700 to New Jersey 1739, Pennsylvania, and to Mecklenburgh, Canada 1783 to Niagara Gore District to London and then to St. Catharines.

Mr. and Mrs. Slingerland graciously opened their home at St. Davids for a barbecue and corn roast in September. Correspondence received from Monarchist League of Canada requesting our support for this important issue.

We were pleased and honoured to arrange a meeting of Dominion Council to be held in the St. Catharines Museum. Mr. John Aikman chaired the interesting meeting.

Mrs. John A.T. Willis (our Historian) was our hostess when Mr. William Warnick spoke to our group tracing his family history - descendant of Bessey Family Jacob and Robert - David, son of Jacob fought with Butler's Rangers -received King's Grant of 200 acres at Homer, Niagara District.

1979 Spring

Through the years, members of the St. Catharines and District Branch have been interested in the activities and well-being of the Niagara Historical Society, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Of interest recently was the appointment of Miss Gwen O'Loughlin as the local liaison officer from the Niagara Historical Society to the Ontario Historical Society and of her attendance, along with the librarian, Miss Gladys Brownell, at the annual meeting of the Ontario Historical Society. On Sunday afternoon, November 5, members of the St. Catharines and District Branch we're invited guests of the Niagara Historical Society and enjoyed a tour of the fine museum with its new addition. Tea was served from lovely old silver services with the president of the Branch, Mrs. Kenneth Warwick, and the secretary, Mrs. R.E. Stevens, doing the honours. Indicative of the interest in historical matters by members of the Branch is the recent announcement carried in the St. Catharines Standard of an article on Louis Skickluna that has appeared recently in the Canadian Geographic Journal. The writer is Peter Warwick, a member of the Branch and a son of Mrs. Kenneth Warwick. Peter's article tells . the story of St. Catharines' first shipbuilder. The Branch is pleased to report that Mrs. Willis is now processing some new applications for membership: W. Grant Black, Fonthill, ancestor John McDougall; Mrs. R.E. Cutt, St. Catharines, ancestor Michael Cook; A.R. Murdoch, Niagara Falls, ancestor Christian Warner.

A delicious pot luck dinner held at the home of Bob Powell was our way of celebrating Christmas and everyone had a wonderful time. It was Mrs. Margaret Kinnear's 80th birthday and she was pleasantly surprised with a birthday cake ablaze with candles. We are sorry to report that she is now a patient in the General Hospital.

New interest in our Branch has been created by meeting in homes, having social events, getting new members and holding interesting meetings.

1979 Autumn

New members: William Warnick (Bessey Family), W. Grant Black (ancestor: John McDougall), Alexander Murdock (ancestor: Christian Warner).

Christmas meeting: Pot Luck supper at the home of Mr. Robert Powell.

Miss Marion Calder will represent our Branch on Bicentennial Committee.

In April, Brock University will conduct an area wide celebration of the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Welland Canal by William Hamilton Merritt.

In February Mrs. Laura Smylski (Daniel Servos) was our hostess. Letter was received from Mr. Robert K. Bessey of Vancouver requesting any assistance that we might offer in connection with the Bessey Family Reunion to be held at Queenston Heights Park, Niagara area, in July 1980.

1980 Spring

It was with a great deal of sadness that we report the death of our branch secretary and good friend, Mrs. Elenor Stevens. The death occurred December 7, 1979 at the St. Catharines General Hospital after she had been stricken with a stroke. A life-long resident of St. Catharines, Eleanor had been a valued member of The United Empire Loyalists' Association for many years. Sincere sympathy is extended to members of her family.

Five new members joined our association in 1979: Thomas P. McCarthy, Thomas P. McCarthy, Jr. and James W.C. McCarthy (ancestor: John Simmons), Mrs. June Bell and daughter Sandra of Welland (ancestor: Jacob Van Allen), Alexander R. Murdock and William G. Black.

For the Bicentennial our branch has set up a committee to plan our part here in our area under the chairmanship of Mr. Tom McCarthy. Miss Marion Calder will be our costume committee representative and Mr. McCarthy is our historical representative.

It has been suggested that we produce a Loyalists Cook Book as one project for the Bicentennial of the arrival of the first Loyalists in 1784. Submit your favorite early Canadian recipes to Mrs. Kae Warwick, 58 Glenridge Ave., St. Catharines L2R 4X1 or Mr. Tom McCarthy, 158 Lakeshore, St. Catharines, Ont. L2N 2V1.

One of the historical highlights of our Niagara District was the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the opening of the first Welland Canal by founder William Hamilton Merritt. There are now four canals, one of the engineering wonders of the world. The celebration activities continued all year long and involved not only St. Catharines but Port Colborne, Thorold and Welland areas.

In 1979 on July 12th, Mr. Robert Powell invited all our U.E.L. members to attend a gala parade of the Loyal Orange Lodge which was held at Niagara-on-the Lake. This was well attended by a number of our United Empire Loyalist members. An annual picnic was held at the summer home of Mrs. Audrey Laurie near Port Maitland. The "Salt Box" style of architecture was most interesting with its lovely antique furnishings and set on wide lawns close to a sandy beach. Our members enjoyed a delectable Pot Luck supper hosted by Mrs. Audrey Laurie for our Christmas meeting.

Mrs. Warwick opened her home for the February meeting and Mrs. Edith Stewart gave an interesting paper on her Loyalist ancestor, Daniel Servos.

July 12, 1980 the Bessey Family, who were originally from the Homer, Ontario, area, are holding a Reunion at Queenston Heights Park. Our Association will have a table of United Empire Loyalist history and information to give to interested people.

Persons living in the Niagara Peninsula or having Loyalist ancestors who settled there for membership may contact Mrs. Kenneth Warwick, 58 Glenridge Ave., St. Catharines, Ontario, L2R4X1, phone (416) 685-5566

1980 Fall

United Empire Loyalist families have been in the news frequently in the Niagara Region.

Most recently David Servos, a nephew of the St. Catharines and District branch member Laura Smylski, was named 1980 Niagara Grape and Wine Festival King. The 36-year-old Niagara-on-the-Lake fruit grower was chosen from among 40 nominees for the honor. The choice was made by members of the Ontario Grape Growers marketing Board and the provincial ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Under beautiful sunny skies, about 25 members of the branch, their families and friends, enjoyed the annual branch picnic at the Welland Museum Sept. 7. Kay Warwick, branch president welcomed the picnickers who enjoyed a potluck meal, and later viewed the various museum exhibits which trace earlier developments in this historic area.

The St. Catharines and District Branch lost one of its long-time members Aug. 27 with the death of Myrtle (Ella) Hill MacKay. Mrs. MacKay, in her 82nd year, was the widow of Kenneth C. MacKay. Interment was in Fonthill Cemetery.

On Aug. 4 several members of the branch attended an historic occasion in St. Davids at the home of James Murdock, whose son Sandy, a branch member, organized a well-attended event marking the 200th anniversary of the planting of crops in the Niagara area by white men.

In July area newspapers carried fairly good coverage on the annual reunion of the earliest United Empire Loyalist families.

Gathering at Queenston Heights July 20 were scores of descendants of Jacob and Robert Bessey, who served with the famous Butler's Rangers. Several members of the St. Catharines branch of the UELA attended a special service at St. Paul Street United Church and later the festivities at Queenston Heights. The entire event was arranged by Robert K. Bessey of the Vancouver U.E.L. Branch.

Persons living in the Niagara peninsula region or whose Loyalist ancestors had roots there are asked to write for membership in our branch to Mr. T.R. McCarthy, 158 Lakeshore road, 81. Catharines, Ontario L2N 2V1, telephone (416) 934-5715.

1981 Spring

St. Catharines Branch met on February 5 with Mr. J. A. Eamon, Dominion President giving the keynote speech in which he stated that the Association is not a static organization but it must change with the times. He also called for expansion of the membership as well as for the formation of native branches among the Six Nations. U.E.L.'s both natives and whites were Canadian forefathers.

They declared loyalties to the Crown and Canada, risking their lives and families while fleeing the United States after 1776. They fought for their cause en route to British territory through untracked forests. Mr. Eamon said unity is a main objective for Loyalists' branches throughout Canada. Mr. Eamon traces his ancestry back six generations to Jacob Eamon, a soldier in the King's Royal Regiment of New York State which was disbanded in eastern Ontario where its members were granted land.

Dr. Enos Montour supported having branches among the Mohawks. Dr. Montour said his presence at the St. Catharines meeting was a clear demonstration of the duality - native and white - of the Loyalist makeup. He said Indians still have a strong sense of duty and respect for the Crown and have helped

create Canadian unity. Dr. Enos Montour is an 81-yearold retired United Church minister and full blooded Delaware native who wrote the book Feathered UELs - about Indians who came to Canada to remain loyal to the British Crown after the American Revolution in 1776.

The national association is now planning bicentennial celebrations for 1983 and 1984. Commemorative stamps and coins as well as a National Film Board film are planned and Queen Elizabeth has been invited to visit Canada during the nationwide ceremonies. A re-enactment of the arrival of Loyalists in Canada on actual locations is planned to recreate the events between 1783 and 1784.

The St. Catharines Branch was formed in 1902. The newly elected officers are: Mr. Tom McCarthy, president; Mrs. Laura Smyski, secretary; Mr. M. Carthew, treasurer; Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Wilfred Woodruff, genealogists; Mrs. Kathleen Warwick, social convener; Mr. Robert Powell, standard bearer; Mr. Kenneth Warwick, auditor.

Honourable Robert Welch, M.L.A., and Mr. Joe Reid, M.P., each sent congratulations to Mr. McCarthy and good wishes to the branch.

1982 Spring

A St. Catharines man whose family settled in the Picton area, Prince Edward County in 1788 has been re-elected president of the St. Catharines and District Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

Tom McCarthy of 158 Lakeshore Road is serving a second term as president of the local branch which was formed in the early 1900's.

Regular membership in the UEL is restricted to the descendants of colonists who refused to take up arms against Great Britain during the Revolutionary War of 1776. Between 40,000 and 60,000 Loyalists came to Canada in the years following the war which ended in 1783.

Kay Warwick of Glenridge Avenue is past president of the local branch. Other officers elected during the annual meeting held at the home of Marion Calder of Welland Avenue were; Allen Currey of Niagara Falls, vice-president; Kathryn Newman of South Drive, secretary; Pete Carthew of Beamsville, treasurer, Robert Powell of Niagara Street, standard-bearer; and Florence Beattie of Ontario Street, membership.

For further information: Tel. Miss K. Newman, 685-7040 or Tom McCarthy 684-7251 or 934-5715.

1982 Autumn

Members of the St. Catharines and District Branch met here for their annual meeting on December 1 in the historic town hall which was the former court house and county building for the County of Lincoln.

A new slate of officers proposed a retired Bell Telephone engineer who was elected president of the Branch formed in 1902. He is Allan Currey of Niagara Falls, who was vice-president during 1982. Major Wilfred Woodruff of St. Davids is the new vice-president. Other new officers all from St. Catharines :ire Winifred Willis, treasurer, William Stevens, secretary, Tom McCarthy, genealogist, and Kathleen Warwick, social co-ordinator.

During the business meeting prior to the consideration of the slate of officers, the branch accepted a resolution raising the annual fees from \$6 to \$10.

The first meeting for 1983 will be held at the St. Catharines Centennial Public Library on February 2.

In a well-publicized meeting on October 6 the Branch met at the Public Library in St. Catharines to hear Sheila Wilson, Special Collections Librarian, discuss the resources available for tracing family roots. About 30 individuals many of whom believe they have Loyalist ancestors turned out to hear the talk, which was followed by a business meeting and social hour in one of the Library's business meetings rooms.

Tom McCarthy who has served as president of the St. Catharines Branch for the last two years, in addition to serving as Genealogist, continues as Genealogist for 1983.

The St. Catharines and District Branch lost a valued member on August 19, when Miss Marian Calder a member for 30 or more years passed away suddenly at Hotel Dieu. She is survived by a brother Dr. Irving F. Calder of Brockville. She was most generous with her home, entertaining the branch on many occasions and often held Open House on New Year's Day.

On November 2 Brig-Gen G.S.N. Gostling, husband of Frances, U.E.L. member of our branch passed away after a lengthy illness. Gen. Gostling was Commander of the Toronto Scottish Regiment at Dieppe.

1986 June

1985 was a busy year for the St. Catharines and District Branch. A series of meetings was held at the St. Catharines Public Library, featuring a number of entertaining and informative speakers, The year began on the right foot in early March when National President Gwen Smith visited the membership to explain the background and the goals of the U.E.L.

In addition to the regular meetings, President Bruce Milligan organized a series of genealogical workshops, designed to offer assistance to prospective U.E.L. members who were working to prove their ancestry, Two of these workshops were held at Brock University in St. Catharines, where participants were able to take advantage of the resources of the Brock Library.

Social occasions were an important part of 1985 programs. On a sunny Sunday in September, a pot luck picnic was held at McFarlane Park overlooking the Niagara River, near Niagara Falls. There was an excellent turnout, including a few guests from Hamilton and Burlington. The year ended on a festive note, with a delicious turkey dinner at St. Andrew's United Church in Niagara Falls.

With some innovations firmly in place in 1985, 1986 promises to see additional changes. The executive of the St. Catharines and district branch hopes to organize membership meetings in other key centres around the Niagara Region. This would be a convenience for members or prospective members who live in such areas as Niagara Falls, Welland, or Fort Erie.

President Bruce Milligan also promises more genealogical workshops to help those who are still struggling to prove their ancestry.

The Branch will have an even greater challenge this year preparing the groundwork for the 1987 national Convention, to be held in St. Catharines. Although firm dates have not been set, it is hoped the convention will coincide with ceremonies at Fort Niagara commemorating King George the third.

At the March meeting held in the Welland Library Mr. Jim Swayze, a Welland lawyer addressed the Branch on the Battle of Ridgeway. He was introduced by Mr. Ed Scott who organized a very successful and enjoyable evening. Mr. Swayze explained and outlined events leading up to this brief but significant battle, It began with a large number of Fenians crossing the Niagara River at Fort Erie in rented boats and then advancing inland. That incident involved the little known but courageous Dunnville Naval Brigade whose sole fighting ship was a tugboat with its cannon removed to prevent it falling into Fenian hands, That cannon is now in front of the Welland Court House as a reminder of that Brigade.

Mr. Swayze covered many other incidents of that period in local history and answered questions raised by very interested listeners, Mr. Al Van Alstine thanked him for such an excellent talk and presented him with a U.E.L. pin. Refreshments and a social hour completed a very enjoyable evening.

Following the practice of holding the meetings in various parts of the Peninsula, the April meeting was held in the Bertie Township Museum in Ridgeway where Mr. Victor Miller and other museum officers spoke on the displays and their local significance. The Branch discussed the expenditure of \$100.00 for incorporation under the Ontario Historical Society and so become eligible for a Heritage Organization Development grant.

Monthly Workshops in Genealogy are being given at Brock University Library for those perspective members who want help in tracing their ancestry. Plans for future meetings include a picnic at McFarland Park in September, the October meeting at Niagara Falls Library, the November at St. Catharines Library, and the Annual Meeting and Christmas Dinner at Niagara Falls in December.

1986 December

In 1986 the St. Catharines and District Branch was on the move. Branch meetings were in Welland, Niagara Falls. and at the Bertie Township Museum in Ridgeway, near Fort Erie. Changing locations for the meetings was part of a deliberate plan to interest more people of Niagara in the U.E.L. Association, and make the meetings more accessible to more people.

For the second consecutive year, the sun decided to shine on members of the St. Catharines and District Branch. The annual picnic of the Branch was held September 7th at McFarlane Park on the banks of the Niagara River near historical Niagara-on-the-Lake. The event again was well attended, giving us a chance to make some old and new friends.

Genealogical workshops will continue to be held this fall and winter at Brock University. conducted by President Bruce Milligan. These are designed to assist those tracing their ancestors. and for those hoping to make a Loyalist connection.

1992 Spring

'92 Ontario Heritage Years Celebration

The summer of 1992 promises to be an exciting time for Niagara-on-the-Lake, and all interested in the bicentennial celebrations of the Simcoe Landing, the First Parliament in Upper Canada. *The John Graves Simcoe Landing* will begin with a flotilla of tall ships departing from Toronto Harbour Front and forming the "Line of Battle" of the recreated 1792 Provincial Marine Squadron off Niagara-on-the-Lake. As John Graves Simcoe is rowed ashore to be greeted by the King's Royal Regiment and local dignitaries, a IS-gun salute will be fired from one of the ships.

This is an important time for the United Empire Loyalists' Association, and I would urge all members to participate in these special days.

The Association, through the St. Catharines Branch, is represented on the organization Committee of this celebration, and should become involved as a Dominion Heritage Association, since we truly represent those who originally participated in the functions being celebrated.

Some thoughts for involvement follow:

1. Participation by members in costume at the functions.
2. Individuals playing a role in the "Persona" program.
3. Having a display to promote all Branches of the Association, and to encourage membership inquiries.
4. Through the Costume Branch, provide information, patterns, resources, etc. to non-members who wish to have period costumes for the festivities.
5. Pictures and articles in the Gazette to promote the functions, and after as a matter of historical interest.
6. Have a sales table offering Loyalist books from the various branches well as Loyalist memorabilia, such as flags, flag pins, roses, pewter buttons, etc.

By Edward Scott UE, President, St. Catharines and District Branch

1993 Spring

Our annual meeting was held December 1, 1992, with Association President Paul Clark and Mrs. Clark as guests of honour. Forty enjoyed a turkey dinner and it was reported that our branch membership increased by 19 regular and 3 associate members for a total of 81.

The evening highlight was the vote to change the branch name from *St. Catharines and District Branch* to *Colonel John Butler (Niagara) Branch*. The motion carried by two to one. Later, Paul Clark spoke on the topic of "Commitment. "

Time for a Change

Edward Scott, Branch President, noted that the name of Colonel Butler was chosen for the St. Catharines and District Branch because it is a name associated with Niagara Loyalists without question.

The purpose of changing the name was primary to remove the geographic boundaries associated with the previous name to better reflect the extensive location of the membership.

We welcome anyone interested in Loyalist heritage to join the 2500-member-strong UEL Association.

By Edward G. Scott, UE,

1996 Fall

{Extracted from The Seniors Review, Niagara Region, Vo/.B, issue 6, page 19.}

Searching for our roots has become a popular hobby, and genealogy experts are in demand. We all wonder at times who our ancestors were, and what they did. When you start digging there's a chance

you will find somebody important, or discover something you wish you hadn't, but it's still a fascinating subject. And one group of people have taken the trouble to research back six or seven generations to substantiate the claim that their families were United Empire Loyalists.

An estimated 60,000 people left the United States between 1775 and 1787. Some returned to England, some went to the West Indies, but the largest number came north to the Maritimes and Lower and Upper Canada.

The British Government, as a reward and to help them settle in their new country - much of which was still wilderness - aided the new colonists with supplies and equipment. Land grants were given to every family, and after settling the land they were given permanent deeds to it. The government also recognized the Loyalists and their stand for freedom. To this day, descendants of the Loyalists are entitled, after proving their descent, to use the designation UE (Unity of the Empire) after their names.

The local branch of the UEL, the Colonel John Butler Niagara Branch, has about 80 members in the Niagara region, and there are approximately 3,000 across Canada. But there are probably two or three million Canadians who qualify and could, if they wished, claim membership.

Pat Hughes began research after her cousin, Daniel Turner, wrote asking her for information on the Craig branch of the family, for which he was compiling a history. In 1987 she discovered that six generations back, in 1783, a James Craig came from Massachusetts and was given a land grant in New Brunswick. "Certainly, it's not easy to get into the UEL," she said. It took her six years to establish her claim, wading through mountains of correspondence, copies of land grants, birth and death certificates, wills and other documents. And now she proudly displays her certificate of membership, which certifies her as a genuine UEL. Her son, James, has also become a member. Children have the right to membership, but not spouses, although they can join as associate members.

Joan Dodds of Niagara Falls, is a descendant of Samuel Mann, who arrived in Cape Breton from New Jersey in 1783. He was a ship's captain who lost his ship to pirates on the journey. Joan, a sixth generation, traces her ancestry mostly through the women in her family.

Marie Jackson, Welland, had a much easier time of it. She is a direct descendant of Philip George Bender, one of Niagara's first settlers, who received a grant of choice land along the Niagara River. The old Bender homestead, long gone, was built on land now occupied by Maple Leaf Village. The Bender name is perpetuated in Niagara Falls where several streets (Bender, John, Hiram, Philip) are named for the sons and grandsons of the original family. Since the family records are carefully preserved, Mrs. Jackson had little trouble establishing her claim. Her daughter, Nancy Andersen, is also a member.

The local Colonel John Butler (Niagara) Branch meets about four times a year with speakers on topics of local interest. The objective of the organization is *"To preserve, protect, and promote the Loyalist heritage"*. Information displays are set up throughout the region at heritage events.

If you think you have claim to UEL membership or are interested in the history of our early settlers, contact Edward Scott at (905) 732-2274 or Pat Hughes at (905) 357-3836 for more information.

By Patricia C. Hughes UE, Public Relations, Col. John Butler (Niagara) Branch.

1999 Fall

Our Branch had a very busy United Empire Loyalists' Week. The cities of Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catharines proclaimed June 13 - 19, 1999 United Empire Loyalist Week. A small,

hardy band of members (Joan Dodds UE, Jack Collard UE, Brian Ford UE, Harold Clement UE and Beverly Craig UE) braved the rain and attended the flag raisings in these communities and at the Laura Secord Homestead Museum. An excellent lunch at the Renaissance Fallsview, more than made up for the inclement weather.

Kyle Upton, Director of the Laura Secord Homestead Museum celebrated Loyalist Days on June 19th and 20th, and flew the Loyalist flag at the Museum during Loyalist Week. Thanks to Harold Clement UE, Edward Scott UE and Kyle Upton, we received good press coverage for Loyalist Week and the flag raisings.

The United Empire Loyalist Memorial Service at the Loyalist Memorial Boulder in Memorial Park, St. Catharines was inspiring. Major the Reverend Charles Mitchell officiated and Bob McLellan, Highland Piper led the procession. St. Catharines Councillor, James Almas represented His Honour, Mayor Tim Rigby. Delicious refreshments were served at the reception, which followed at the Lake Street Armoury, compliments of Joan Dodds, UE, Margaret and Brian Ford, UE and Beverly Craig UE.

The John Carl UE Memorial Service organized by members Betty Harley UE, Marilyn Speck UE and Stan Gould UE, was an outstanding success.

Several members enjoyed the very successful Loyalist Landing re-enactment at Adolphustown on June 19th. Rod Craig won a ride on the tall ship *St. Lawrence II*; he generously gave the trip to his wife Beverly Craig, UE. What a wonderful experience sailing on the Bay of Quinte for an hour and a half! It was particularly moving to be rowed ashore in a bateau which was an exact replica of the bateaux used by her ancestor John German, UE and his family to navigate the St. Lawrence River and land at Adolphustown with all their worldly goods.

Three Branch members attended the Annual General Meeting in Edmonton. The Conference was well run - congratulations to Fran Losie and her committee.

On July 15th a group of Branch members took part in the archaeological excavations at the site of Colonel John Butler's Homestead in Niagara-on-the-Lake. It was very interesting and many exciting artifacts were discovered including; buttons, earrings, nails, trade beads and trade silver. According to Ellen Blaubergs, Archaeologist with Archaeological Services Inc., it is very unusual to find trade items at sites like this and they are confirmation of Colonel Butler's status in the Indian Department. The Branch members plan to return to the site in August.

2000 Fall

Colonel John Butler (Niagara) Branch members enjoyed a joint meeting with members of the Buffalo, New York Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution on Saturday, June 3rd. The meeting was arranged by Buffalo Chapter President John Brackett and was attended by more than 35 persons. We had a delicious luncheon at Green Acres Restaurant in Fort Erie. Later we visited historic old Fort Erie. Jim Hill, historical interpreter for the Fort, guided the tour and made the lives of the men who lived at the Fort come alive for us. Some of our members tried on the collection of uniforms preserved in the barracks. We hope that this will be the first of many joint meetings. Next year we plan to get together at old Fort Niagara in Lewiston, N.Y., home of Butlers Rangers in the American Revolution.

Celebrations for June 19th, United Empire Loyalist Day in Ontario, included flag raisings in St. Catharines, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Niagara Falls. The city of Niagara Falls proclaimed June 18 - 24 United Empire Loyalists Week in Niagara Falls. The Branch hired a bus and 27 members, including 4

under the age 12, attended the flag raising and ceremonies at Queen's Park in Toronto. We enjoyed the reception hosted by M.P.P. Toby Butler Barrett, UE, and thank him sincerely. The United Empire Loyalist display in Queen's Park was fascinating to both children and adults. The group had a delicious lunch in the Members Dining Room. Later we toured Fort York It was hard to believe that the fort was originally close to the shore of Lake Ontario.

A dozen members, with Loyalist ancestors who settled in the Bay of Quinte area, attended the Loyalist Landing ceremonies in Adolphustown on June 17th.

On August 6th, five members of Colonel John Butler Branch, two from Sir Guy Carleton and one from Grand River Branch represented the Loyalists at the Commemoration Service (for those who lost their lives at the Revolutionary War Battle of Oriskany, in New York State).

By Beverly Craig, President

2001 Fall

Our Branch has been growing and members have been busy researching. This year we have already welcomed 37 new members and 35 certificates have been received.

In February, *Black History Month*, we visited an Underground Railway display where our guest speaker Walter Cornwell told us of his family's Black heritage, pointing out that his "visible heritage" had been lost though intermarriage. We took part in Heritage Week with a successful display, and in March Alun Hughes, Professor of Geography at Brock University, used overheads to take us back in time to the old Thorold locks/canal and nearby battlefields. With April's speaker, Andy Panko from the Canadian Railroad Historical Association, we traveled by means of slides along the Changing Rail Scene in the Peninsula. May found us on a successful Battlefield Bus Trip and in June we learned about Lundy's Lane, Past and Present from branch member, Janice Wing UE.

Our Branch was represented at the Cornwall Conference by Rod Craig, Bev Craig UE, Marilyn Johnman UE and Noreen Stapley UE. Branch members who traveled to Adolphustown were Brian Ford UE, Rod Craig, Bev Craig UE, Alvin Hedlund UE, Betty Hedlund, Sharon Gadula UE, Neill Gadula UE, Emily Gadula UE, Brian Gadula, Gord Dandy, and Noreen Stapley UE. Costumes were worn and several members were participants in the bateaux landing.

Loyalist Week was proclaimed in St. Catharines, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Niagara Falls where the Union flag flew proudly for the week. Harold Clement UE, Bruce Woodruff UE and Bob Howse joined Lord Major Gary Burroughs in raising the flag in NOTL. Bev Craig UE, Sharon Gadula UE and Noreen Stapley UE were pleased to participate in Hamilton Branch's June 19th Memorial Service at the Loyalist Monument in Hamilton.

In April, Rod Craig, Bev Craig UE and Noreen Stapley UE represented our Branch at Grand River Branch's opening of the exhibit, *A Loyalist Journey- The Long Point Settlement*. Members were also present at the Battle of Lundy's Lane Commemorative Service and Reenactment on July 22nd where a wreath was laid in memory of the Loyalists who fought in the War of 1812.

President Noreen Stapley UE has addressed three groups about the Loyalists. The Costume Challenge, put forth last year by then President Bev Craig UE, has been well received and more members are attending meetings and functions in costume.

These activities, along with a Canada Day display, have drawn interest and questions, which have resulted in the opportunity to tell others about our organization.

Articles submitted by Geri Wilson UE to the Millennium Essay and Poem Project were accepted. Congratulations to all for their efforts.

By Noreen Stapley UE

2002 Spring

In the fall of 2001, with the cooperation of Brock University, a committee was formed to establish the "Friends of the Loyalist Collection at Brock University". The purpose of the organization is: "To establish and maintain at Brock University a collection of source material dealing with the United Empire Loyalists with a view to facilitate and encourage academic research and study". A constitution and bylaws have been established and the committee is awaiting the approval of a Charitable Organization Status from Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. The Officers and Directors include: Ed Scott, Chair; Beverly Craig, Secretary Treasurer; and William Smy, Rodney Craig, and Noreen Stapley, Directors. Once established, the Collection will be available to all interested in researching and studying the Loyalists. Updates will be issued as progress is made.

Our programs featured a presentation of "Threads of Time: Clothing of the Loyalist Period", with members modelling their Loyalist outfits. Joe Misyk, President of the Chippawa Business Association, spoke in October on the historic Town of Chippawa. Wes Turner PhD., retired Associate Professor of History at Brock University, spoke on "Niagara's Forts Keeping the Americans Out?" December's musical interlude with Celtic Fiddle and Country harmoniously closed our year. Four members of our Branch, Bev and Rod Craig, Margaret Romagnoli and Noreen Stapley, took part in the very successful True Millennium Mohawk Valley Trip organized by George Anderson, Edward Kipp, and Catherine Tanser.

At the December 2001 AGM, Branch member Allan Cosby wore the original 1884 Loyalist Centennial Ribbon. The Ribbon appeared in the Fall 2001 *Gazette*.

In 2001 we welcomed 35 new members and one Branch only member. In total for the year, 46 certificates were issued. We continue to promote our Branch and the UELAC by speaking to organizations such as the Women's Institute and University Women's Club, to Church groups and at Retirement Homes. We also attend local functions such as Heritage Day, Canada Day, Book Fairs, Re-enactments and Loyalist related activities. Our Flag, costumes and clothing invariably draw attention and we are pleased to answer all questions.

By Noreen Stapley UE

2002 Fall

The Officers and Directors of the *Friends of the Loyalist Collection at Brock University* are pleased to announce that their application for Charitable Status has been approved by Revenue Canada. The Purpose of the Organization is *to establish and maintain at Brock University a collection of source material dealing with the UE Loyalists with a view to facilitate and encourage academic research and study.*

On February 7, 2002, the Colonel John Butler Branch submitted a request for permission to have a flagpole erected at the Loyalist Memorial Boulder that was unveiled in 1934.

On June 3, 2002, the St. Catharines City Council approved our request. The flagpole with the Loyalist flag flying year round will commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

At the May meeting member Marion Smith Tait UE, DAR was presented with a special nametag - one that included not only her Loyalist ancestors but her Mayflower and Rebel ancestors as well.

To celebrate June 19, our Branch raised the flag in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Mayor of Niagara Falls and the Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake proclaimed June 16 to 22 Loyalist Week in their municipalities. Copies of the proclamations were given to the Branch. Members of the Branch attended the very successful Conference 2002 in Waterloo, the June 19 ceremony and tour at Queen's Park and the very wet Adolphustown Loyalist Landing. Canada Day Weekend was spent by invitation at the Niagara Antique Power Association Heritage Display where we had a display. On July 28 we participated in the Commemorative Service for the Battle of Lundy's Lane. On the same day, at the invitation of the City of Niagara Falls, we attended the reopening of the restored Battle Ground Hotel, formerly Fralick's Tavern.

Our lunch meetings are held the first Saturday of the month. We'd be happy to have you join us.

By Noreen Stapley UE

2003 Spring

In 2002, to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee and to serve as a permanent tribute to the United Empire Loyalists who played a major role in the development of the St. Catharines area, our Branch successfully submitted a request to have a flagpole erected at the Loyalist Memorial Boulder located in Memorial Park in St. Catharines. This boulder was unveiled in December of 1934 by the United Empire Loyalist Association of St. Catharines and District to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of the Loyalists in Canada. The official dedication ceremony of the flagpole will be held on May 31, 2003.

The Executive and Members of Colonel John Butler Branch submitted a recommendation to Heritage Branch, Montreal that Rodney and Beverly Burwell Craig be considered as eligible as Companions in the Most Honourable Order of Meritorious Heritage. In the time that they have been members of the Branch and of the UELAC, Rod and Bev have worked to 'unite in fellowship' the descendants of Loyalists and 'to preserve the history and traditions' of our ancestors. Rod and Bev received their collars and insignia at the Heritage Branch meeting held at the Black Watch Armouries in Montreal. The meeting was presided over by President Robert Wilkins UE, CMH. Okill Stuart UE, CMH, assisted by Robert, carried out the investiture. Noreen Stapley UE represented our Branch and read the citation for Rod and Beverly. Also in attendance were George Anderson, UE CMH and Edward Kipp UE, CMH. Rod and Bev wore their insignia to our December meeting where they received a well-deserved standing ovation. Rod and Bev continue as active members and supporters of our Branch and of the UELAC.

The highlight of the year for many of our 155 members was seeing the Queen in Hamilton. Gail Woodruff moved up as President and welcomed Marion Tait as Vice President, Cheryl Scott as Secretary and new Directors Betty Lou Bellows and Brian Gadula.

By Noreen Stapley UE

2003 Fall

Branch Education! Outreach: Opportunities to speak about the Loyalists were accepted by Gail Woodruff who spoke to a grade 7/8 gifted class and to the Retired Women Teachers, Noreen Stapley who spoke to the Port Colborne Historical Society, and Rod and Bev Craig who spoke to the Niagara Peninsula Branch OGS. Branch displays were set up for February Heritage Week, St. David's Heritage Day, Adolphustown, and Niagara Falls July 1 celebrations. Noreen Stapley spoke at Conference 2003 on "How to Make Branches Grow - Working Toward a Successful Branch." Our speakers for the winter and Spring Branch meetings were well received.

Branch Activities: A very successful Flag Pole Dedication Ceremony and reception were held on May 31. Dominion President Myrna Fox attended as did Past Presidents Bernice Flett and Bill Terry along with representatives from several Branches. David Ellsworth, dressed in his Butler's Rangers uniform, escorted the Colours.

Emily Gadula and Noreen Stapley laid a wreath at the Memorial in Adolphustown where seven members of our Branch attended the first Legacy of Loyal Americans, Hall of Honour, Inaugural Dinner and Induction Service.

Loyalist Day was commemorated with the raising of the Union flag in St. Catharines, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls - the latter two cities proclaiming the week of June 15 to 21 as United Empire Loyalists' Week. Noreen Stapley laid a wreath at the Loyalist Monument in Hamilton on June 19.

Members of our Branch attended the visit of Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex, at Fort George. Branch members, Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs and his wife Sarah Burroughs UE, escorted the Prince into the fort.

A wreath was laid in memory of the fallen soldiers at the Battle of Lundy's Lane Commemorative Service by Brian Ford, escorted by David Ellsworth.

Director Brian Ford and his wife Margaret accepted an invitation to attend the Butler's Rangers 225 anniversary re-enactment of the victory in the Battle of Wyoming. There were 200 participants with the Rangers under the command of Lt. David Solek, Commander of Captain Bernard Frey's Company. Brian and Margaret reviewed both the Loyalist and Rebel Troops before the battle.

By Gail Woodruff UE, President

2004 Spring

Branch Education/Outreach: Opportunities to speak about the Loyalists were accepted by Noreen Stapley who spoke to the Welland Historical Society and the Wainfleet Historical Society. Both evenings presented the opportunity to hand out Branch, Project 2014 and Friends of the Loyalist Collection at Brock University brochures. Our Branch had a very successful display at the Port Maitland Heritage Day where literature was also picked up.

Branch Activities: We have undertaken the task of documenting the Loyalist Land Grants along the Niagara Parkway. President Gail Woodruff has made an excellent start. Member Brian Ford was nominated for and received a Volunteer Recognition Award from the City of Niagara Falls for his work in promoting the UELAC through Branch involvement. Brian has served as Treasurer and Vice President. Currently he is a Director, the Branch Newsletter Editor and UEL Burial Project Chair. He also maintains our website. Brian was Treasurer/Registrar for our very successful Conference 2000. Certificates of

Appreciation were presented to retiring Executive members Sharon Gadula and Betty Lou Bellows. CJB Members accepted the Hamilton Branch's invitation for a tour and luncheon at the historic Scottish Rite in Hamilton where Hamilton member Lloyd Oakes entertained an appreciative group on the pipe organ in the Cathedral.

By Gail Woodruff UE

2004 Fall

Branch Education/Outreach: In April, President Gail Woodruff spoke to the Niagara Falls Branch of the University Women's Club and to the Battlefield Public School. Branch displays and information were available at Niagara Falls Heritage Days in February, St. David's Heritage Day in May, Canada Day and the Port Maitland Festival of History in July. Children's activities were provided along with a display and information at the re-enactment of the Battle of Lundy's Lane in July. A Loyalist display was set up for the months of June and July at the Lundy's Lane Historical Museum. The Loyalist Flag was raised in Niagara-on-the-Lake and in St. Catharines for the week of June 14 to 21st in honour of Loyalist Day.

Branch Activities: Our 2014 project to document the "Original Land Grants and Early Settlers Along the Niagara Parkway" is underway. Most lots have been researched at the local Land Registry Offices. Research on the original settlers and land grantees is off to a good start with a number of completed biographies and some have already been spoken for by members and interested local citizens. If your ancestor was one of these original settlers, please contact us to share information. Or, you could ADOPT an ancestor! Please help make our project a rich collection of Loyalist history.

Rod and Beverly Craig and Noreen Stapley attended the Hamilton Branch Service of Honour and Remembrance on June 19 where Noreen laid a wreath on behalf of the Colonel John Butler Branch. On July 25th, members attended the Commemorative Service for the Battle of Lundy's Lane which took place 190 years ago on July 25, 1814. Brian Ford and David Ellsworth laid a wreath at the cenotaph in the Drummond Hill Cemetery in honour of the fallen soldiers of the War of 1812.

Congratulations go out to David Ellsworth for his appointment to the position of Standard Bearer for the UELAC.

2005 Spring

We are sorry to report that President Gal Woodruff's husband, John McDermott, passed away suddenly in December. Our deepest sympathy to Gail and her family.

In January, Sabrina Ford UE, a member of our branch and daughter of Margaret and Brian Ford, Branch Newsletter Editor and Director, died tragically in a car accident at the age of 24. Our deepest sympathy to Marg and Brian on the loss of their precious daughter.

Branch Outreach/Education: In October, Noreen Stapley spoke to the Bertie Historical Society, beginning her talk by explaining her costume. She spoke about the Loyalists in the time of the Revolution. Gail Woodruff spoke to the friends of Stamford Village showing how to provide documents to show proof of Loyalist ancestry. On October 16 members attended the opening of Mayholme, a genealogical research centre on Ontario Street in St. Catharines, founded by Corlene Taylor UE. The holdings include many records donated by Thorold Town Historian Esther Summers and other researchers. Branch Genealogist Rod Craig and Gail Woodruff presented Corlene with 10 certificates showing ancestry from 10 of her Loyalist ancestors.

Special Events: Two members were honoured at our December Annual Meeting. Noreen Stapley presented Grace Nuxoll UE with a certificate and a branch pin in recognition of her service as a Branch Director. Beverly Craig, Membership Chair, presented Norma Rolls UE with a corsage and certificate in recognition of her 50 years as a member of the Colonel John Butler Branch. Norma's Loyalist Ancestor was Colonel John Butler. David Ellsworth UE accepted the position of Standard Bearer for the Branch. Congratulations to Grace, Norma and David.

By Noreen Stapley UE

2005 Fall

We are sorry to report that members Frank Ramsey UE, Peter McGarry UE and Alan Cosby UE have passed away. Our deepest sympathy to their families.

President Gail Woodruff presided at our Branch Loyalist Day Flag Raising Ceremony in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs attended and raised our flag. Noreen Stapley attended Hamilton Branch Loyalist Day ceremonies at the Loyalist Monument and laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch.

Our Branch was involved with the restoration of the grave of William Secord Servos who died on 21 January 1862 and was buried on his own land. Land records show that his property was originally part of a one hundred acre Crown Land grant made to Thomas Butler, second son of Colonel John Butler UE. Servos acquired the land on 10 December 1858. William's lone grave, once surrounded by orchards and now on private property in an industrial park, is unique in that it has survived over the years, in part due to the iron fence erected around the grave and also due to its location: the farm eventually became part of the Happy Rolph Bird Sanctuary. The broken tombstone was taken from the grave several years ago and stored to avoid further damage. The grave site was restored and the old stone was cleaned and mounted on a granite slab and placed back inside the fence. A service of rededication of the grave was held in May.

At first we were unable to trace William's family line with any certainty. He died a bachelor leaving all his land to his niece Mary. In the family lineage, William is recorded as William Servos as no middle name for William was known. The inscription on the tombstone Wm. S. Servos did not seem to fit the family line. However, in his will, William names himself as William Secord Servos. Using clues from William's will and with help from Servos descendants Jack Peltier UE and Marilyn Jackson UE whose files on the Servos Family helped make the connection, William Secord Servos UE has been reunited with his family. William's family line is: Christopher Servos; Jacob Servos UEL; William Secord Servos UE.

By Noreen Stapley UE

2006 Spring

In September, Rod and Beverly Craig attended Norfolk Days held in Simcoe. We had guests from the Hamilton Branch, Lloyd & Gloria Oakes.

In October, Noreen Stapley helped at a History Day in Dundas for school children. Gail Woodruff spoke to the Friends of Stamford Village on the history of the Loyalists.

In November, Rod and Beverly Craig went on the Loyalist Trip.

In December, Gail Woodruff helped with a Grade 3 class during their Pioneer Days celebrations where she discussed the involvement of the Loyalists and early settlers to this land. Gail also showed artefacts and baked cookies with the children. During our December meeting we had three out-going executive members, Brian Ford UE, Noreen Stapley UE, and Gail Woodruff UE. Brian and Noreen were presented with certificates and Gail received her Past President's pin. We swore in our new executive members. We now have a branch library set up and ready for research by appointment.

Our 2014 Branch project, "*Original Land Grants & Early Settlers Along the Niagara Parkway*," is moving slowly right now. We are expecting a lot more progress this spring. If your ancestor was one of those original settlers or if you have any information about one of them, please contact us to share the information. Or if you are brave enough, you could adopt an ancestor. Please help us make our project a rich collection of Loyalist history. We have received help and information from David Ellsworth UE (Toronto and Butler Branches, UELAC Standard Bearer), Dave Johnson UE (Hamilton Branch), Bob McBride UE (Kawartha Branch and *Gazette* Editor), Marilyn McDonald UE (Grand River and Butler Branches) and Marion Tait UE (Grand River and Butler Branches). Thanks for the help from these members.

By James Dilts UE

2007 Fall

Spring and summer were busy for Branch members. Our spring lunch meetings with speakers on The Restoration of Brock's Monument; Early Surveying Equipment and Methods; and Robert Service: The Man, the Myth and his Poetry were well attended. Heritage events began when we attended Niagara Falls Heritage Days in February and St. David's Heritage Day in May with displays and Loyalist information. In June members Rod and Beverly Craig, Marilyn Johnman and Noreen Stapley attended the very successful End of the Trail Conference in Windsor. Rod and Beverly Craig and Gail Woodruff attended the Janet Carnochan Day at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum where Branch member Dr. Elizabeth Malone set up an exhibit as a tribute to Colonel John Butler. A flag raising was held in Niagara-on-the-Lake with the Lord Mayor in attendance. The Loyalist flag flew over St. Catharines' City Hall for Loyalist week. A Branch display was set up at Willoughby Museum Rural Roots Heritage Fair – A History & Heritage Event. In July, we participated in the Drummond Hill Cemetery-War of 1812 wreath-laying ceremony.

As a tribute to our Loyalist ancestors, the Branch has undertaken to erect plaques to mark cemeteries in the Niagara Peninsula where Loyalists are buried. The plaque reads: United Empire Loyalists Burial Site – United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada – Colonel John Butler Branch. The first plaque was placed in The Carl-Misener-Bald Cemetery, which is on land granted to Loyalist John Carl in 1798. The unveiling of the Loyalist plaque coincided with the unveiling of a plaque erected by Heritage Thorold LACAC to designate the cemetery as a place of Cultural Heritage Value. Congratulations to the descendants of Loyalist John Carl who, in 1995, restored the neglected cemetery.

Last Post: The Colonel John Butler Branch mourns the loss of two members: June Alfieri UE on 20 January 2007 and Barbara Schilz UE, Branch Treasurer, on 23 May 2007.

Janet Carnochan Day June 4, 2007

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Memorial Hall Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honorable James K. Bartleman, was present at Memorial Hall to help celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Museum. Due to the encouragement and perseverance of Janet Carnochan, the museum was founded in 1907 and was the first historical building in Ontario to

house artifacts of the region. Colonel John Butler member, Dr. Elizabeth Oliver Malone, representing Mrs. Col. John Butler, was responsible for the Loyalist exhibit for the “100 artifacts for 100 Years”

By Noreen Stapley UE, Newsletter Editor

2008 Spring

December always brings changes and we welcomed new Branch President Eugene Oatley and Board Members Jerry Fisher and Arnold Westlake.

Program for 2008 (First Half) is as follows:

- Feb. 2 – Corlene Taylor UE – William May and The Mayholme Foundation
- Mar. 1 – Lita Rendall and Carolyn Bassett – Land Registry Office Title Searches
- Apr. 5 – Larry Rittenhouse – Who are those Pennsylvania Dutch?
- May 3 – Cameron Calder – George McClure: The General who burned Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- May 18th dedication of the Cairn at the Butler Parkette
- June Event: Loyalist Flag Raising at Niagara-on-the-Lake

Loyalist Burial Site Plaques have been erected at Carl–Bald–Misener Cemetery and Plato Cemetery. On the 221st Anniversary of Lyon’s Creek United Church, we placed a plaque on their cemetery. We have received permission to place plaques at these cemeteries: Warner, Dell, Stamford Presbyterian, Steele and St. John’s Anglican, while others are in the planning stage.

Our Branch made donations to *Friends of the Loyalist Collection* at Brock University, in memory of Barbara Schilz UE (our former treasurer), Bob Powell UE, and June Alfieri UE, three long-time members who passed away last year.

By Eugene R. Oatley, UE, Branch President

2008 Fall

We are proud of the activities of our Branch with more members being involved in the events. Some of our monthly meetings went over the one hundred-attendee mark and our Loyalist Burial Plaque un veiling ceremonies are drawing more and more people. We participated in Church services at St. Johns Anglican on Ridgemount Road in Fort Erie, arranged by Marguerite Hanratty UE, and at Stamford Presbyterian in Niagara Falls to celebrate their 225th Anniversary, arranged by Eugene Oatley UE. Loyalist Burial Plaques were unveiled in the cemeteries at both churches.

Noreen Stapley UE organized a special unveiling at Warner Cemetery in St. Davids with descendants and many Branch members in attendance. We were very pleased that Bob McBride UE and Grietje McBride UE were able to attend as he spoke about his Loyalist ancestor, McGregor Van Every UE, who is buried in Warner Cemetery. As well Butler Branch member, Gail Woodruff UE, spoke about her Loyalist ancestor, Joseph Clement UE, who is also buried in Warner Cemetery.

In July we participated in the Doan family reunion at Steele’s Cemetery in Humberstone (Port Colborne), burial site of Loyalist Aaron Doan UE, organized by Jerry Fisher UE, one of his descendants. Attendees included representatives of the provincial, federal, regional and municipal governments and six members of the Lincoln Militia, piped in with the skirl of the bagpipes.

Member Elizabeth Oliver Malone and Ron Dale of Parks Canada organized the official opening of Colonel John Butler Homestead Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake and unveiling of the Colonel John Butler

memorial cairn. There are four plaques on the cairn: (No. 1) tells the story of John Butler; (No. 2) tells the story of the Butler Homestead; (No. 3) tells about finding the homestead site and (No. 4) lists the contributors including Thompson/Okanagan Branch and Colonel John Butler Branch. A bust of John Butler will be mounted on top of the cairn later this summer. The many dignitaries present included Fred Hayward UE.

Our annual Loyalist Day flag-raising in Niagara-on-the-Lake was special this year with a large number of members attending and drawing tourists as we walked the street in costume. We then visited the Masonic Lodge, Niagara Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 2 G.R.C., around the corner and enjoyed a tour of the Lodge building. On view in the Lodge building was a document with the original signature of Col. John Butler. After the tour we enjoyed lunch at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club, arranged by member Bob Waugh.

We have also attended many local historical events at museums and the sites of the Battle of Chippawa and the Battle of Lundy's Lane. Some members have spoken to school children and other organizations that have requested information

By Eugene Oatley UE, Branch President

2009 Spring

We have completed a successful year and planning is well underway for 2009 with topics ranging from the planning for the 1812 Bi-centennial; Police Dog training; woman's work in the 1700-1800 and a presentation of our Parkway Project.

We are very fortunate to have dedicated volunteers staffing our Executive and are pleased to report that we have a full slate including a Vice-President. Our Membership Chairperson, Bev Craig, is working on enrolling/renewing members and we hope to surpass last year, a really hard task when our membership exceeded 270 in 2008.

The support of our membership has been outstanding, at church services, placing plaques in cemeteries, meetings, flag raising, mall displays, museum days and assisting others in tracing their ancestors.

By Eugene Oatley UE, Branch President

2009 Fall

Canada Day Celebrations at Niagara-on-the-Lake, 1 July 2009.

We celebrated Canada Day with a huge party, a parade and the unveiling of the bust of Col. John Butler at Simcoe Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

A parade down the main street led by Zig Misiak and Scott Patterson carrying the Union Flag and Regimental Colours, followed by many members of the Col. John Butler Branch and re-enactors, culminated with the unveiling of the bronze bust of Col. John Butler.

Ruth Abernathy was commissioned to sculpture the likeness of Col. John Butler for which she used photographs of six generations of Butlers provided by the Butler Family. The bust will be erected atop a stone cairn that was unveiled last year in a small park that was once part of the Butler homestead in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

During the ceremony President Frederick H. Hayward UE presented Dr. Elizabeth Oliver-Malone, a member of Col. John Butler Branch, with an Associate Member Certificate for her tireless efforts in promoting the history of Col. John Butler.

2010 Spring

We were fortunate this year to have been invited to participate in the Olympic Torch Run in Niagara Falls Ontario with only a couple of days notice. Our troops rallied bringing our banner and colours to bear. Kudos to them on such a cold winter's night.

Col John Butler Branch is experiencing growing pains of a positive variety. In 2009 certificates totalled 111 and membership at year-end 2009 was 313. We are the largest branch in Canada.

We have a full contingent to our Executive with a new President and Vice-President. As well, we have many volunteers full of new ideas. We are expecting a full year with the planning and preparations for the upcoming War of 1812 Anniversary.

Our Members have had displays at the Willoughby Museum Heritage Day on 7 June 2009 and participated in *Norfolklore* in September at Simcoe, Ontario.

Members attended Loyalist Day Flag raisings in Hamilton, St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake. Members took part in the Canada Day Parade and Unveiling of the Butler Bust on July 1 st at Simcoe Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Surprise Recognition - The Colonel John Butler Branch was noted in Hansard. Eugene Oatley received communication from Kim Craitor, MPP for Fort Erie, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake regarding support by the Branch for Bill 149, the cemetery protection petition.

We fly our flag year round at the cenotaph in St. Catharines. This is good for Remembrance Day, November 11th, and year round publicity. We also attended the Laying of Wreaths to commemorate the Battle of Lundy's Lane at Drummond Hill Cemetery this year.

By James E. Roszell UE, Branch President

2011 Spring

Early in July Gord Dandy, Noreen Stapley UE, Rod Craig and Bev Craig UE, manned our display table of genealogical and promotional items at Dunnville Airport, Hangar #1. Several other historical and heritage groups attended as well. The following week, members were in Port Colborne for the official renaming of Steele Cemetery to Doan Cemetery. Jerry Fisher UE, a descendant of Aaron Doan, was instrumental in effecting this change. He was a host of the Doan reunion the following day. Sadly, Jerry died suddenly early in August. Members who are descendants of Henry Johnson UE attended the Johnson Reunion in Wellandport. The next weekend members were at the commemoration ceremony of the Battle of Lundy's Lane in Drummond Hill Cemetery, Niagara Falls. It was a beautiful day, well attended by local dignitaries, representatives from US and Canadian Legions, Scouts Canada and several of our members in period attire. A Wreath was placed at the monument by President Jim Roszell UE and Flag Bearer David Ellsworth UE.

Having completed the Branch Plaquing Project, Gord Dandy guided production of the Loyalist Cemetery CD in September. Beverly Craig UE and Rodney Craig attended the *Norfolklore* 34th Genealogical Fair

where the branch had a small display. Members were present at an assembly at Pine Grove Public School where we presented certificates to Catharine and Iain Lockhart both now proudly UE. Our Loyalist attire made a big impression.

In October, some members attended the Legends Gala in support of the Niagara Falls Museum “ Making our Mark, Celebrate 1812” where we participated in a light-hearted historical fashion show.

We nominated Corresponding Secretary Sylvia Bagley UE for a volunteer award from the City of Niagara Falls in recognition of her tireless dedication to our Branch and other organizations. Some of us attended the Gala in November to support her and our other nominee, Joe Misk, our lunch meeting host at Betty’s Restaurant in Chippawa.

Our AGM in early December was followed by a Christmas social that was enjoyed by all. Our Executive was installed at that time with Shirley Lockhart UE as President. Our Branch presented 140 certificates this past year and there are 28 more awaiting approval. Congratulations to Genealogist Rod Craig and other members who assisted him.

By Shirley Lockhart UE, Branch President

FISHER, Jerry Douglas UE

08 April 1947- 04 August 2010

Jerry was a father, a grandfather, a brother and a son, a researcher, a genealogist and a friend to all. He was extremely generous with his time and valuable research. Jerry was excited by his United Empire Loyalist background and was proud to use the initials UE after his name.

Jerry spent many years researching his Loyalist ancestors, especially the Doan Family. His hero was Aaron Doan UE who was part of the notorious “*Doan Gang*.” He travelled to Bucks County Pennsylvania to copy many original historical documents.

On 19 July 2008, after much research into the ownership of the Steele Cemetery in Port Colborne, Jerry directed a dedication of the cemetery as an historical site and a Loyalist Burial Plot. This included the plaquing by the Col. John Butler (Niagara) Branch of the United Empire Loyalists’ Association, designating the burial of a Loyalist. He personally erected a similar plaque at the tombstone of Aaron Doan UE.



Jerry Douglas Fisher UE

Jerry was not content to let the name of the Cemetery remain Steele Cemetery as, in fact, there were no members of the Steele family buried there and part of the land had belonged to the Doan family as a burial plot.

Relentlessly working through the City of Port Colborne and providing immaculate research materials, he managed to have the name of the cemetery changed to Doan Cemetery. On 10 July 2010 members of the City of Port Colborne and of the Provincial Government convened to unveil a plaque and sign renaming the land. A large number of Loyalist descendants participated.

Jerry had been nominated as the Niagara Regional convenor for the nationwide Doan Association. On 11 July 2010 he arranged the first local Doan Association Reunion that was a great success.

He worked tirelessly to produce the new Doan Book: History in Our Own Backyard: The Sons and Daughters of United Empire Loyalist Aaron Doan. Last week he completed the printing of the History of the Mitchell Family and The History of the Misner Family.

Jerry can be credited for helping hundreds of Loyalist Descendants prove their descendency and therefore join the United Empire Loyalists' Association, in particular the Col. John Butler (Niagara) Branch