

EDMONTON BRANCH

1989 February

At the end of a most pleasant meeting held in the University of Alberta's Faculty Club in May of 1981 the Branch became a reality. Participants in the meeting included the President of the Association, Dr. Vera Vanderlip, and the President of the then only Alberta Branch, that of Calgary, Mrs. Lois Cummings (who was really the catalyst behind the establishment of our Branch). A four person executive was elected (dragooned?).

We have held two successful general meetings and seem to have stabilized at a membership of just over 20. Our latest meeting, held last May, included watching a video produced by CBC entitled "The World Turned Upside Down" which portrayed the plight and flight of UEs during the American Revolution period as seen through the eyes of a child. It is available locally to teachers of grade 8 in our public school system and is an honest attempt to rectify what many of us know is a real lack in the curriculum of much of the teaching of that period. Joan Magee's "Loyalist Mosaic" and Walter Stewart's "True Blue" also provide realistic (finally!) details which should be better known. Perhaps "Gazette" book reviews and/or publicity through local branches of these three sources of information might be useful steps to consider.

During the early part of this year we sponsored a four-evening course to introduce members and others to genealogy. It was well attended and did provide us with useful approaches and forms. Now if only one had the time to complete the process!

We're looking into becoming involved in the annual August "Heritage Days" perhaps as part of the British pavilion and are discussing what help if any we can provide in our schools' interpretations of the roles our UE ancestors played in the history of this fractious nation.

1990 Fall

Fourteen members of the Edmonton Branch met on February 21st at Hillcrest Junior High School and enjoyed an entertaining evening.

Mr. Bob Dorland accepted a copy of *True Blue* and of *Loyalist Mosaic* on behalf of the Hillcrest Junior High Library. The Branch expressed its appreciation of the school's hospitality in providing us with a most pleasant meeting accommodation.

Mrs. Rosaline Hupfer accepted membership certificates on behalf of her daughter, Maureen, and her son, Kenneth.

Mr. William Conell was presented with his membership certificate. Bill has given our branch a map of the State of New York showing the boundaries of the several counties during the Revolutionary War, a list of New York State County historians, a list of County and Regional historical and genealogical societies and a bibliography of Loyalist records.

The guest speaker was Mr. George Milner, Chairman of the Northern Alberta Branch of the Monarchist League of Canada. After hearing his talk we have a clearer understanding of the genealogy of George III, his personality and the debilitating hereditary disease, porphyria, with which he was afflicted. This did not cause insanity but depression and loss of equilibrium. He would have benefited from modern

medicine and TV communication would have allowed greater appreciation of his kindly and practical disposition.

Past President, Barbara Roth, thanked Mr. Milner and presented him with a copy of *Loyalist Mosaic*. The evening closed with refreshments.

By Margaret Best UE, President, Edmonton Branch

1992 Fall

Celebrates 5th Anniversary.

On May 11 th, 1992 we celebrated the branch's fifth anniversary to the day. A wonderful dinner was enjoyed by 28 members and guests. This was followed by a glorious tour of the renovated Hotel Macdonald.

By Robert Dorland, Branch President

1994 Fall

Although the Edmonton group had a late start (see the frozen chicken story in *Letters to the Editor!*) we had three very interesting meetings in 1994.

Our past genealogist Barb Roth met with us February 22 at the Alberta Genealogical Library and with the help of the librarian Norma Wolowyk, showed us the many good sources of U.E.L. materials which are available, and distributed an excellent bibliography prepared by Barb.

April 6th found eleven people, some of them prospective members, at the Family History Centre of the Church of Latter Day Saints, where Marion McQuay explained through video and guided tour, the many resources available for research.

Our new Genealogist is Joy Doyle, who works part time as Staff Resource personnel for the Alberta Genealogical Society at the Library. Joy is a new Association member of the U.E.L. who has had many courses in genealogical research. Secretary-Treasurer Betty Fladager and President Fran Losie continue on for the 1994-95 year. Past President is Bob Dorland.

Dr. David Mills, a professor of Canadian History at the University of Alberta and the author of the book *The Idea of Loyalty in Uoper Canada 1784-1850* spoke at the 7th Annual Founders' Banquet of the Edmonton Branch held on the evening of Monday, May 9th, 1994. Dr. Mills, whose general theme was "what linked our loyalist families together during the period 1784-1812?" touched on a number of points that have relevance in today's world. At the request of the branch's President, Miss Fran Losie, Paul Robison thanked Dr. Mills and while doing so gave what he felt were the four major points made by the speaker:

1. The UEL ancestors felt rather than rationalized loyalty. This feeling more than anything united them.
2. The American Revolution was really a Civil War which saw the UEL emigrants leaving for three major reasons (all of which linked them together regardless of their religion or their race):
 - a. They were really "non-American, Americans" and in effect were more afraid of the rebel Americans than of the Crown.
 - b. They were in large part minority groups who were outside the mainstream.
 - c. They were generally conservative by nature.

3. There is a clear distinction to be made between the words "Loyalists" and "Loyal", which should lead many of us to wonder about what we are loyal to today and thus what is keeping us together?
4. The major legacy of our Loyalist ancestors are the imprints affecting many of our thoughts and actions today. For in stance, our attitude towards the United States and most recently how we approached the 'free trade' issue. The link with the UE Loyalists is thus pervasive."

Those present at the dinner were: Bob Dorland, Vivian and Merven Etty, Jack and Enid Fitzsimonds, Betty Fladager UE, Earle Fladager, Margaret and Wyatt Grant, Fran Losie, Mary McSparron UE, Bill McSparron, Paul Robison, Barbara Roth UE, Grace Walker UE, Les Walker, and Dr. David Mills, guest speaker.

The membership of the Edmonton Branch now stands at 12 UE, 13 Associates, and gaining!

By Frances Losie.

1996 Spring

Our Edmonton Branch membership now stands at 30. During 94-96, we picked up 12 new members and lost 3.

One of our Charter members, Annie Elizabeth (Bessie) Losie, UE, passed away 4 December 1994, at age 85. She received her certificate in 1983 through her ancestor John Dusenbury.

Paul Robison. UE, attended the National U.E.L. Convention as the sole representative from Edmonton. We are proud that he is serving on the Policy and Planning Committee. He must have made an impression at the Convention, because Peter Johnson featured him in a cartoon in a Fall Fidelity Newsletter. At last the Prairies are being recognized!

Our February 1994 meeting saw the branch genealogist John Avey sharing his family research, as well as a talk on filling our family charts and proving the U.E.L. requirements for membership, and places to search for information. He also showed the members copies of Land Grants, old maps, books, pictures and library sources. We are proud that one of our new UEL members Susan McKeen, is now the new librarian of the Edmonton Branch A.G.S. Library, in its new location at the City Archives (The Armoury) building. New members present at the February meeting received a small copy of the U.E. declaration picture from the Confederation Life Collection.

Nineteen people attended our March 1994 meeting, held in the Family History Centre of the Church of Latter Day Saints. Terry Dafoe, UE, who has done research for 30 years, shared findings about his ancestor John Dafoe and his family of eight, how they came to Canada, from where and when. Terry recounted how his ancestor managed to pursue an existence during the times of struggle similar to the other people who eventually came to Canada as Loyalists to the British Crown. He gave us many ideas about where to search for family information and how to do it in order to establish Loyalist lineage. A tour of the Family History Centre and its research facilities ended the evening.

Robynne Healey, a history student with the University of Alberta, Edmonton, working on her doctorate dissertation, spoke about "Loyalist Women" as guest speaker at our seventh annual Founders Banquet 8 May 1995, at The Edmonton Golf and Country Club. She gave us new insight into the roles of women in Loyalist times, and the bravery of many such as Sarah McGinnis and Molly Brant. 30 people were present with 4 new members joining that night.

One of the goals for the 1995-97 biennium is to have a ceremony to present some members with certificates, and to that end the programs have been planned to assist members in completing their applications.

The November 1995 meeting had 14 in attendance to hear Susan McKeen to speak and illustrate how to use indexes to get at microfilms for Ontario materials before 1850 and how to use district marriage registers before 1859 as well as the Ontario land record index. She prepared an excellent hand-out to accompany the talk, which was well received.

The February 1996 meeting will again call on the expertise of Susan McKeen on using church records for U.E.L., for which she has prepared another hand-out. Members are to bring their pedigrees to get help from each other in solving problems, with a view to completing some applications.

John Avey, our branch genealogist, who took over from Joy Doyle, is himself having to give up the post, due to a return of illness. Although we have not had any members receiving a certificate recently, John has done preparatory work, (along with help from Barbara Roth, a previous branch genealogist.) and has given helpful information at our meetings. We will miss John's cheery nature and ready willingness to help. Susan McKeen has graciously offered to "fill the breach".

President Fran Losie will continue another two year term, with Lois Cummings UE, as President Elect, taking over in 1997. The position of Secretary- Treasurer, so ably filled by Betty Fladager UE, for the past two years, is open for filling at the February meeting. The final meeting of the year will be the eighth annual Founders Dinner to be held at the Edmonton Country club, 13 May 1996 - speaker to be announced later.

The Edmonton Branch does not but wishes to thank the branches who send us their interesting and informative newsletters, which help us in our research and make us feel more a part of the Association.

By Fran Losie, President

1997 Fall

Since our last article in the Spring *1996 Gazette*, six certificates have been presented - two to Avar Mann for his ancestors Henry Rutherford and Joshua de St. Croix, and four to the Grant McKinnon family - Grant and his three sons, Brent, Neil and Scott. Their ancestor is David McCready.

Lois Dickinson, UE, who travelled from Chilliwack and brought much sparkle and enthusiasm to our 10th Anniversary Edmonton Branch Founder's dinner, spoke on "New Vistas in the DEL Association" contributing many ideas and insights for our group, as well as resources for further study.

Mrs. Margaret Best, UE, presented the book With Heart and Hands and Voices by Phyllis Hamilton, to the Edmonton Branch, at our May 5th dinner. It will be placed in the Reserve section of the Alberta Genealogical Society's Edmonton Branch library, along with two other books Mrs. Best previously presented to our group.

At our February 1997 meeting, one of our members, Terry Dafoe, DE, who is a first class researcher, talked to us about the Haldimand Papers. He has been very helpful and has spoken to our group several times.

Wilma McKinnon (secretary-treasurer) and Susan McKeen (branch genealogist) have put together a very good information pamphlet which helps us advertise the Edmonton UELAC Branch.

The Branch had an information booth at the April 1997 Alberta Genealogical Society Conference, and through a sign-up sheet was able to garner more "possible members". We have increased our membership to 16 Regular members and 33 Associate members, for a total of 49. We had just 25 total in 1994. Spurred on by Myrna Fox's Membership Guideline Handbook, we have re-organized our UELAC information handbook which we keep in the reference section of the AGS Edmonton Branch library. It is proving useful for prospective members.

The Edmonton Branch Executive headed up by President Lois Cummings, UE, and Sean Smith, President Elect, is very proud of the generous and unflinching response given by Edmonton UELAC Branch members to the financial crunch we experienced when extra dues were required this year. The same enthusiasm seems to be prevailing for the decision to host the National UEL Conference in Edmonton in 1999.

Interest was aroused with the results of historical research into the early beginnings of the Edmonton Branch, when it was discovered there had been a group in 1912, the first one West of Toronto at the time, and another incarnation in 1934. We are appreciative of the impetus given by Historian Elizabeth Richardson UE, to search out this information which is continuing.

Six members who enjoyed the well run Winnipeg Conference were: Lois Cummings UE, Rosaline Hupfer UE, Paul Robison UE, Mary McSparron UE, Bill McSparron, and Frances Losie. It was very enlightening to put faces to names one has read about in the Gazette. We appreciated the excellent information and handouts in the workshops.

We are sorry to report that two of our Associate members, John Avey (57) and Donald McBride (87), passed away from cancer this past year. Both had very nearly completed their research, which is being carried on by their families. John Avey served as branch genealogist for a year.

We are looking forward to the visit of our National President Bernice Flett, UE, September 22, 1997, when we can personally thank her for her fine leadership and all she has done for UELAC. The meeting will begin with a dessert party, and two more certificates will be presented. EDMONTON 1999 WILL BE THE LAST UELAC CONFERENCE THIS CENTURY. DO PLAN TO COME!!

By Fran Losie, Past President

1998 Spring

When Association President, Bernice Flett, UE, visited in September 1997, we were all pleased to have her present certificates to Greg Vasey and Ivy Trumppour.

Our President, Lois Cummings, UE, incapacitated with a broken shoulder since late September, is recovering slowly.

We lost our president-elect and conference chair, Sean Smith, through transfer. Before he left, his high-tech illustrated program about Loyalist military uniforms was well received especially by the enthusiastic aspiring costumers. The good news is that we are fortunate and pleased that Ken Montgomery will take over as Conference '99 chair. Our theme is "Loyalist Heritage from East to West".

Spurred on by the suggestion of Myrna Fox for location of grave markers of local Loyalists, an appeal was made in our Alberta Genealogical Society publication (*Relatively Speaking*) for information on early

Loyalist branch members of the 1912 era, whose names were listed. Hopefully grave sites and histories will be located.

By Fran Losie, Past President, Edmonton Branch

1998 Fall

Edmonton Branch now has 50 members - 25 Regular, 25 Associate. Most of the Associates are working hard to complete their documentation. The position of secretary-treasurer was divided this past year. Ivy Trumpour UE, is our new secretary, and treasurer Wilma McKinnon will continue until next November.

"Never Kill a Spider" was the title of an interesting and informative talk about Maritime Loyalist Research, given by Rev. Velma Kane, for the February meeting. The title story referred to a fleeing Loyalist family saved from detection by the presence of a spider web which led searchers to believe the hiding place was not newly inhabited.

The May Founders' Dinner was held at the Old Timer's Pioneer Cabin - proposed site for the 1999 Conference Friday Barbecue. The speaker was "still with it", 98 year old Charles Denney, reminiscing about early Edmonton and also the history of his first wife's Loyalist Springer family. Mr. Denney researched the families of the Hudson Bay Company and Red River Settlers. His "Denney Papers" can be viewed and used at the Edmonton Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society Library. A reason to come early for the '99 Conference!

Four members of the Edmonton Branch attended and thoroughly enjoyed the Kingston Conference: Edmonton President Lois Cummings UE, Calvin Chisholm UE and his wife Vera, and Fran Losie UE. An exciting moment was when National President Bernice Flett presented Calvin with his UE Certificate at the Aldolphustown Ferry celebration. Bernice and Calvin share Van Koughnet connections.

At the September 14, 1998 meeting, Greg Vasey, UE will receive four more certificates (he received the first one last September) for ancestors William Rogers Jr., John Williams Sr., John Wees Sr., and Malachi Church. At a later meeting, Fran Losie will receive three certificates for her ancestors John Dusenbury Sr., James Cotter and Jacob Hess.

Edmonton Branch members are looking forward to meeting delegates from across Canada, when they host the 1999 Conference.

By Fran Losie, UE

2000 Fall

Alberta's Lieutenant-Governor at Founders' Dinner

Edmonton Branch Founders' Dinner held at the Mayfair Golf Club May 29, 2000, was attended by 55 people who thoroughly enjoyed the after dinner talk by our Honorary Patron, the Honourable Lois Hole. President Robert Rogers UE and Past President Lois Cummings UE made the arrangements for the memorable evening, and also the Honorary Patron arrangements. Paul Robison UE gave the toast to the Association, and Cal Chisholm UE, in his historically correct attire, zestfully delivered the toast to the Loyalist Ancestors.

Doreen Dimitroff and Gordon Rancier received their UE certificates from Her Honour Lois Hole and President Bob Rogers UE. Doreen's ancestor is John Bice and Gordon's ancestor is William Rancier.

Edmonton Branch now has 85 members including family members. Membership Committee Cal and Vera Chisholm and the Executive have done a splendid job. Members who will have their certificates officially presented at a meeting are: Norman Rancier (William Rancier); Hazel Amy Light (Noah Webster); Jean Lund (John Barnhart); Greg Vasey's daughter, Heather, (Benoni Wiltse Sr.); and Greg Vasey (Benoni Wiltse Sr. and John Wiltse Sr.). Greg is leading the pack with 8 certificates!

Edmonton Branch President Robert Rogers UE attended a Prairie Regional meeting at Regina in March.

A successful workshop on certification procedures was held April 3 for 22 people. Susan McKeen, our former Branch Genealogist, presented it. April 15th saw a "help table" at the Alberta Genealogical Society's successful "GenFair 2000," where contact was made with a record number of 17 "possible members." Manning the table with displays were: Sharon Corbett, Doreen Dimitroff, Cheryl Donnachie, Emma Justik, and Fran Losie UE.

Members who attended and enjoyed the excellent Dominion Conference at Niagara Falls were: Al Dodd, Fran Losie UE, Robert Morgan UE and David Rolls. Past President Lois Cummings was unable to attend as she broke her wrist on the last day of her British tour in March.

Edmonton Branch was proud to share the cost of the reconstruction of the Armorial Bearings along with Regina, Calgary, and Manitoba Branches, and thanks the Manitoba Branch who did the basic work, and our Western Vice President Margaret Carter who spearheaded the project.

Al Dodd submitted an excellent write-up of the enjoyable conference; both in the Alberta Genealogy Association "Relatively Speaking" and for our new Branch newsletter "Loyalist Northern Lights" of which Ivy Trumpour UE is the Editor. A member profile is included in each issue. Whoever is profiled must write a profile, of a member of his/her own choosing, for the next edition. Ivy also includes highlights from Dominion Council meetings, Branch meeting minutes and articles from other Branch papers.

Pamela Robillard UE is gathering stories from members arising from the Edmonton Branch Family Stories Project. The project is in keeping with the Mission Statement of the Edmonton Branch, "To raise awareness in Northern Alberta of Loyalist history."

By Frances E. Losie UE

2001 Fall

Edmonton Branch elected new Executive members in November 2000: Hugh Ross, President; Shona EWards UE, Secretary; and Robert Morgan UE, Vice President. Returning Executive members are Cheryl Donnachie, Treasurer; Doreen Dimitroff UE, Genealogist; Calvin Chisholm UE and Vera Chisholm, Membership; Ivy Trumpour UE, Newsletter; and Mary McSparron UE, Telephone Announcements. Due to additional work commitments, Robert Rogers UE was unable to continue on the Executive. Hugh Ross took over management of the Web Page since Greg Vasey UE spends most of his time in the Third World. Pamela Robillard UE has moved to Ontario and cannot continue collecting the Ancestor History submissions. Vacant positions are Activities Director and Education Coordinator.

We were saddened by the death of Dr. John Best in January. His wife of 58 years, Margaret Best UE, is a charter member and steadfast supporter of the Edmonton Branch, as well as one of the Past Presidents.

Dr. Best was named Veterinarian of the year in 1985 by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), and was awarded his 35-year certificate by the AVMA in 1995. Just prior to his death he was named Honorary Life Member of the AVMA, an award later given to Mrs. Best in recognition of her long-time support.

In February, Susan McKeen, President of the Edmonton Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS), presented an overview of the holdings of the AGS and Edmonton Branch libraries, where many of the UEL meetings are held. A few weeks later Susan did another of her excellent workshops on proving Loyalist ancestry. The AGS, particularly Susan, is a faithful supporter of the UEL. Several Branch members presented the March program at the AGS meeting wearing traditional dress and describing our activities. Doreen Dimitroff UE and Louise Croft UE assisted with the genealogy course held by the AGS. Several members helped at the GenFair on April 21.

Branch Bylaws were discussed and accepted in April. These will be distributed to all members after they have been approved at the Dominion level. Small group discussions of problems and solving hints were part of the April meeting, which provided some members with new ideas for research. Merle French received his UE certificate. His ancestor is Lieut. Jeremiah French of the 2nd Battalion of the Kings Royal Regiment of New York. (*Editor's Note: If possible Merle should check out French's Rev War Uniform in Ottawa, his 1784 house in Upper Canada Village, and his 1768 house in Manchester VT.*)

The Annual Banquet at the Royal Glenora Golf and Country Club was well attended in May. The prime rib dinner was followed by a thought provoking presentation by Dr. Michael Payne, a teacher of Canadian history and the fur trade at Concordia College. His talk explored the "history" of teaching Loyalist history. Shona Wards received her UE certificate. Her ancestor is Daniel Keith.

Six members (Calvin Chisholm UE, Vera Chisholm, Lois Cummings UE, Emma Justik, Heather Bruchet, Ivy Trumpour DE) and one guest (Jack Twells) attended the Annual Conference in Cornwall. All enjoyed the experience of meeting acquaintances or relatives, and learning new bits of information about the past. Louise Croft DE, a founding member, is going to Salt Lake City to work at the Family History Library. She has presented United States research (including UEL information) at the AGS Family Tree Course for many years. She obtained her UE certificate before the Edmonton Branch was formed in 1987, served as the first Branch Genealogist, and gave a course to members in 1988. Louise wrote two books in conjunction with her family research which are in the AGS Library. We appreciate her steady support of our group over the years and wish her every success in her new venture.

The September meeting will be held at the Family History Library and will include information about using the resources available there.

The Branch membership as of July 2001 stands at 84 members. Attendance at meetings usually exceeds 40 people.

By Ivy Trumpour UE

2002 Spring

Edmonton Branch continues with almost the same Executive as last year, both President and Secretary having received their UE certificates during 2001.

The Branch holds approximately four meetings per year, plus an annual Founder's Banquet in May. Four newsletters, *Loyalist Northern Lights*, are published. A list of our Loyalist ancestors with links to the branch members is available at [http:// people.becon.org/uel/uel.htm](http://people.becon.org/uel/uel.htm). Meeting announcements are also posted on the web page and we would welcome visitors from other branches at our meetings.

At the September meeting in the LOS Family History Library, Terry Dafoe UE and Louise Croft UE presented an enlightening talk about the original systems of granting lands to the Loyalists and Military. Terry explained how the application and approval went through many offices and bureaucrats, with frequent changes in both rules and officials. Louise provided information on how to find the records that survive. When these are found, the next step is to interpret them.

On one of the first snowy days of November a smaller than usual group gathered at the Alberta Genealogical Society Library for the annual meeting. Following the meeting a lively discussion followed as everyone prepared sample certificate application forms. Numerous questions arose about which blank spaces were required or optional and how much detail was necessary. About half of Edmonton members have not proven their UE ancestry. Some of our active and long-standing members acknowledge that they do not have UE ancestry. They make significant and appreciated contributions to the Association and deserve a heartfelt THANK YOU.

At the same meeting Clifford Barnett received his certificate for ancestor Thomas Davis, and told his family's history. Cliff's children, Alison and Adam, were granted certificates. The story of the Davis family was printed in *Loyalist Northern Lights*.

It is anticipated that the meeting in February at the Provincial Archives will be helpful to those still floundering with documentation. We look forward to the Regional Meeting that will be held in Edmonton this year.

By Ivy Trumpour UE

2002 Fall

In February, a group of about 20 met for lunch at the Provincial Museum and Archives. Jonathan Davison of the Archives gave a very informative talk on subjects such as ship passenger lists, homestead records, vital statistics, etc. Afterwards members were given the opportunity to access any area of interest for individual research. We plan to follow up this success with a similar venture to the Edmonton Public Library in the fall.

The Branch purchased the two-volume set of New York Colonial Muster Rolls 1664 - 1775. Report of the State Historian of the State of New York. This has been donated to the Alberta Genealogy Society (AGS) Library.

This year our annual May Founder's Dinner was held in conjunction with the Prairie Regional Conference. We were honoured to have President Bill Terry as the banquet guest speaker. Myrna Fox and Fred Hayward made presentations about Dominion projects. We also heard from Margaret Carter about Manitoba's Young Loyalist Program, Helene de Wit on genealogy documentation, Audrey Wirtzfeld on her co-ordination of the Glenbow Museum with public schools.

The highlight of the day was the "fashion show" put together by our own Vera Chisholm.

Margaret Carter and Hugh Ross led the many who worked together to make this a successful event. Thank you to all.

By Ivy Trumpour UE

2003 Fall

Our Branch elected a new president, Robert Morgan UE and secretary, Betty Fladager UE, in 2003. Cheryl Donnachie is continuing as Treasurer, with Dave Rolls and Lloyd Fourney UE membership directors. Marilyn Lappi UE is the branch genealogist. Recent activities have been visits to both the Edmonton Public Library and Alberta Genealogical Society Library, along with demonstrations of their resources.

In February, Al Dodd led a discussion of the Loyalist portion of the CBC video series on "Canada: A People's History." We viewed the DVD, stopped and enlarged parts to get a better look at clothing, and discussed people and events mentioned. We described what our own families may have been doing, regiments they were in, transportation they used, whether they had been in prison. We discovered the importance of using a timeline and integrating world events with family events.

The branch has been saddened by the deaths of three members over the past year. Vera Chisholm lost her struggle with cancer in September 2002. She was an active and enthusiastic member whose expertise in history, particularly as it relates to clothing, is very much missed. In January long time member Grace Walker UE passed away. This was followed by the sudden passing of Donald Russell in April.

Louise Croft UE and Heather Bruchet were able to attend the Winnipeg Conference, a successful venture by all accounts. Congratulations and thank you once again to the committee and delegates.

By Ivy Trumpour UE

2004 Spring

In November, Bob Morgan UE returned as Branch President, with Shona Wards UE as new Vice-President, Betty Fladager UE returned as secretary, Earle Fladager assumed the Treasurer's position upon Cheryl Donnachie's retirement, Marilyn Lappi returned as genealogist, and Lloyd Fourney UE and Dave Rolls as membership directors.

In September John Maher UE gave an interesting presentation about his visits to the Mohawk Valley, with a particular emphasis on the Battle of Oriskany.

As an activity in 2004, Branch members will give presentations about their ancestors who came to Alberta in the early years, and their contributions.

The Alberta Provincial Archives in Edmonton has moved to a new spacious location in the city. The Branch will meet there on Feb. 21st for a tour and research.

William Hurlburt UE gave a talk on his ancestors Bernard Frey, Peter Ball and Moses Hurlburt at the November meeting. William and his daughter Katharine Hurlburt UE were presented with certificates at that time. Another presentation was made by Merle French UE and his wife Diane. Merle's ancestor was Jeremiah French UE.

(Editor's Note: Jeremiah's 2nd Battn. King's Royal Yorkers' coat is at the War Museum in Ottawa. His 1769 house still stands in Manchester VT and his 1784 house is at Upper Canada Village. I am descended from his sister.)

By Betty (Chrysler) Fladager UE

2004 Fall

The first event the Edmonton Branch held this year was a visit to the new location of the Provincial Archives of Alberta. After many years at the site of the Provincial Museum, the Archives building is now situated in the southeast part of Edmonton at 8555 Roper Road. Eleven members attended and the Archivist gave an orientation about what the Archives contains. The Archivist indicated that there are many sources of genealogical material for the Province of Alberta but the only Ontario data is the microfilm for the various years of census. Some of the members present took advantage of the opportunity to do research.

In April several members attended the annual Alberta Genealogical Society Conference in Edmonton. The Branch presented an eye-catching display, thanks to Doreen Dimitroff, Frances Losie, Shona Wards, Betty and Earle Fladager.

The Founder's Banquet held on May 5, 2004, marked 221 years and one day since the Loyalists arrived in Nova Scotia. The committee of Frances Losie, Shona Wards, Heather Bruchet and Marilyn Lappi organized a superb event and are to be commended for their efforts. Approximately 60 Loyalist descendants and guests attended, including dignitaries from Dominion Office.

Since 2004 is the centennial of the City of Edmonton, banquet guest speaker Ken Tingley researched and talked about several Edmonton pioneers who were United Empire Loyalist descendants. He mentioned Richard Secord and his daughters Isobel and Imogene, J.B.A. Secord, Ian George Keltie, Lovisa Jane McDougall, Mrs. W.F.W. Carstairs, William Bailey Church Chamberlain, Percy Simpson Bailey, George H. Van Allan, A. Newton Van Allen, His Honour Hedley Clarence Taylor, Dr. Egerton Pope, Dr. Malcolm Ross Bow, Edward Brice, Mrs. Haight and Charley Grant. Recognition of many of these prominent figures can be seen today in the names of schools, parks, buildings and other monuments. Most belonged to either the first UEL group formed in Edmonton in 1914, or of the second in the 1930s. Given the patriotism and civic mindedness of members, neither club survived the greater demands of war and depression.

During the afternoon of May 5, Dominion representatives Myrna Fox, Doug Grant and Margaret Carter met with Branch members to educate and provide prospective on the broader picture of the Association. At the annual meeting in November 2003, the Branch set a goal to increase membership by ten percent, and in light of this the Membership Committee held a promotion. A draw was made among all new members, with the prize being a ticket to the Founder's Banquet. This was won by Camille Murray from Crossfield, sister of Branch Vice President Shona Wards. At the banquet Camille was also presented with a UEL certificate recognizing her descent from Daniel Keith. In all, five new members joined in 2004 as a result of this initiative.

Our fine ambassador, Frances Losie UE, attended the Annual Conference in Peterborough. Although she was the only person able to attend the Conference, we are pleased to make connections with other branches where possible. For example, Don Flowers of Toronto Branch contributed a contest to our Founder's Banquet. Dave Kanowakeron Hill Morrison UE of Grand River Branch has given us a UEL flag and Mohawk flag, as well as contributed to our Branch newsletter, Loyalist Northern Lights. Jean Jones and Ivy Trumpour sent a stone from their grandfather's farm in Saskatchewan to be incorporated into the Loyalist cairn being built in Regina.

By Ivy Trumpour UE

2005 Spring

The Edmonton Branch held two general meetings in the last half of 2004. At the one on September 27 at First Presbyterian Church, Fan Losie presented a detailed and interesting report on the Annual Conference in Peterborough. She was the only Edmonton Branch member who attended. At the same meeting, Betty Fladager gave an informative presentation on her grandfather,, John Alfred Crysler UE, coming to Alberta from Ontario with his family in 1908 to homestead. Don Chapman gave a very interesting report on his trip to Ontario to search for his ancestors with resulting great information.

The annual general meeting was held on November 15 at the Alberta Genealogical Society Library at which time the 2005 Executive was selected. The officers for the coming year are Shona Wards, President; Betty Fladager, Secretary; Earle Fladager, Treasurer; Rover Morgan, Past President; Marilyn Lappi, Genealogist; Lloyd Fourney and David Rolls, Membership; Doreen Dimitroff, AGS Liaison; Frances Losie, Social; Ivy Trumpour Newsletter.

The LDS Family History Center held an open house on October 15. Fran Losie, Cheryl; Donnachie and Al Dodd set up and attended a table at this event. They described the UEL Association and gave information about joining. Several people showed an interest.

Our membership in 2004 totalled 55 people, including 4 new members, which almost met our target of increasing membership by 10%.

In 2004, we celebrated Edmonton's centennial year. This will be followed by another in 2005, that of the province of Alberta. We, along with Saskatchewan, will be 100 years old in September 2005.

By Betty Fladager UE and Ivy Trumpour UE

2005 Fall

Edmonton Branch holds some meetings at the Alberta Genealogical Society. One speaker, archives advisor Michael Gourlie, provided advice about archival storage. Another speaker, Margaret Bendickson, spoke about evidence: sources, types, reliability, description, and filing. Our display table was part of the AGS conference.

About twenty-five members and guests braved the downpour at Commonwealth Stadium and waved Loyalist Flags as the Queen passed their front row seats. It was a proud moment watching her Majesty inspect the troops despite the bone chilling weather. Later, Shona Wards, Sarah Barton and Marion Rex were invited to dinner with the Queen. Sarah is the 18-year-old granddaughter of member Doreen Dimitroff.

The Founder's Banquet, held at the Scottish Society, had a theme of "*Castles to Homesteads.*" We celebrated Alberta's Centennial and recognized contributions made by Loyalist descendants, homesteaders and Scots. Alberta's Leader of the Opposition, Kevin Taft, brought greetings from the Province. Dr. Michael Paine was the speaker. We recognized our long-term and founding members: Margaret Best UE, Betty Fladager UE, Mary McSparron UE and Paul Robison UE. All have served on the Branch Executive (Betty still does), and all continue to contribute to the Association as much as they are able. They are a much-appreciated inspiration.

Six members and four guests travelled eastward to "*Westward Ho*" in Regina. What an accomplishment for the Regina Branch, whose members are scattered throughout the province!

Diana and Merle French attended the dedication ceremony of the new monument for Loyalist Jeremiah French UE in Williamstown, Ontario. Merle was the only one there who was a direct descendant of Jeremiah carrying the French surname. Dorothy and Robert Rogers went to New York to take part in the unveiling ceremony of a life-size bronze statue of Bob's ancestor, Maj. Robert Rogers UE, on Rogers Island in the Hudson River north of Albany.

By Ivy Trumpour UE

2006 Spring

Education and Programs Director, Fran Losie UE, organized an enjoyable and successful “*Palatine Evening*” in September. Thirty-two people attended this social event at the German Club. The evening began with a buffet meal and was followed by visiting and discussion of the Palatine aspect of history. Fran brought her own display of maps, pictures of soldiers in their respective uniforms and some history books.

At the November meeting, a list of questions on Loyalist topics was distributed and individuals or groups selected one to research and answer at a future meeting. This idea was well received and initiated more discussion on how to educate ourselves. Congratulations to Greg Vasey UE who has received a certificate for his ninth ancestor.

The Edmonton branch has changed its web site location to URL: http://members.shaw.ca/edmonton_uela. Do check it out. There was no change in the Branch executive at the annual meeting.

By Ivy Trumpour UE

2007 Spring

On 17 June 2006, the Edmonton Branch planted a bur oak tree on the Legislative Grounds of the Provincial Government. This was a project to commemorate the visit of Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of Alberta's 100th birthday. Past President Shona Wards UE, President-Elect Al Dodd UE, Dave Rolls and Alan Jess UE received permission from the government to plant the tree and a plaque was placed at the base. The plaque reads:

This bur oak tree commemorates the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in celebration of Alberta's Centennial 1905 – 2005 Planted by descendants of United Empire Loyalists of Canada who are members of the Edmonton and Calgary Branches. The roots of this tree symbolize the ancestral roots of Loyalists who fled the thirteen American Colonies during the American Revolution (1775 – 1783) and remained faithful to the British Crown. Oak leaves have long been held as a symbol of loyalty to the Monarchy since the time of Charles II. Just as the branches of this tree grow and spread, similarly many Albertans are descendants of the original Loyalists.

Many members, including some from Calgary Branch, attended the ceremony that followed a luncheon. We offer a sincere thank you to Dominion Past President Doug Grant UE for the great assistance he provided in making this project successful.

The Edmonton Branch Annual Meeting was held on 27 November 2006 and elected the new Branch President, Al Dodd UE, and the Vice-President, Alan Jess UE. There are no changes in all of the other Executive positions.

The year 2007, our 20th Anniversary, will be an exciting year of celebration for this Branch with many planned events.

By Betty (Chrysler) Fladager UE, Branch Secretary

2007 Fall

The Edmonton Branch celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a banquet on 8 May 2007.

Branch President, Al Dodd, was Master of Ceremonies, Paul Robinson UE gave a toast to the Queen, Diana French gave a short historical summary as a toast to the Association and Heather Traub noted some highlights in our ancestors' lives in her toast to the Loyalist Ancestors. Our very own Rev. Dr. Lloyd Fourney UE said Grace.

It was fitting that member Don Chapman UE received his UELAC certificate from Peter Johnson UE as their respective fathers attended school together. Don then introduced Peter as the guest speaker. Peter's presentation was about the military aspects of Loyalists as he has been a military re-enactor for many years. He was wearing his "*less important*" uniform as a safety precaution against airlines losing his luggage. He described it and explained that having the buttons grouped together in twos meant that it was the 2nd Battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. At the beginning of hostilities, uniforms were generally green but later most changed to red like the British regiments. We were reminded that some Loyalists could have served in various regiments over the course of their military careers. Often people of the same regiment settled in the same areas. Peter encouraged us to research the Muster Rolls, books and web sites to discover the history of our ancestors. Peter also recognized the Loyalists who were in non-military roles. Many were women who kept the homes and businesses while possible and supported the cause in various other ways. At the conclusion of Peter's talk, Fran Losie UE presented him with a framed silkscreen print entitled "*Aurora Borealis*" by George Weber on behalf of the branch.

Betty Fladager UE gave a summary of the Edmonton Branch history from the first two groups formed and disbanded prior to each of the World Wars to the present Branch chartered twenty years ago. She also mentioned that two of the inaugural Executive members were present, Paul Robinson UE (President) and Barbara Roth UE (Vice-President).

President Al Dodd UE presented Long Service Certificates to Betty Fladager UE for thirty-seven years of continuous service with Calgary and Edmonton Branches and to Margaret Best UE (who was not present) Paul Robinson UE and Fran Losie UE each of whom had given twenty years of continuous service to the Branch.

A special thanks to Fran Losie UE and Shona Wards UE for their hard work in convening a most successful Annual Banquet.

Following the May 8th celebration, a social luncheon was held on May 26th at an Edmonton restaurant. Some former Branch members attended and two new members were present. These socials are popular and give everyone time to share ancestral histories.

The Edmonton Branch, in fulfilling its Mission Statement "*To Raise Awareness in Northern Alberta of Loyalist History*", is willing to suggest UEL topics and resources to teachers and students planning to create displays for the Edmonton Historica Fair 2008. Fran Losie UE attended the Edmonton 2007 Historica Fair and found that a display had a Loyalist twist to it. The spelling of the family name "*Thouin*" had become "*Twa*" when a marriage took place with a Loyalist family who didn't pronounce the name in the French manner. The boy in the photo is Paul Twa who is home-schooled and gave an excellent presentation. His mother won a Teacher Prize at the 2007 Historica Fair.

On 5 December, Branch member Marion Rex, was recognized as one of six recipients in Alberta for the Wild Rose Foundation Stars of Alberta 2006 Volunteer Awards, sponsored by the government, for the work she does in several volunteer organizations. She has also received several high-level awards for her

teaching attributes in the Separate School system and is currently President of the Alberta Genealogical Society – Edmonton Branch, as well as Grants Chair of the Alberta Genealogical Society – Provincial Board. She is a very dedicated lady.

By Betty Fladager UE, Edmonton Branch Secretary

2008 Spring

One of our best-attended meetings of the year is always the fall Palatine Night, a dinner meeting at the Edmonton German Canadian Club. Fran Losie UE organizes this event every September to begin the fall and winter meeting schedule. In addition to the good food, which is certainly a draw, the topic of Palatine history and ancestors is also of interest to many of the members. Fran always brings a selection of her own prints, charts and pamphlets for display.

The advantage of having a good membership turn out is to give an enthusiastic welcome to new members. Branch President Al Dodd UE and Vice-President Allen Jess UE assisted with the presentation of certificates to Alysha, Calista and Neal Fladager UE along with Betty Scharff UE.

The evening was also an opportunity to hear several speakers on Loyalist topics. Neil Lund UE gave a talk on “*Naval Stores Scheme*,” the manufacture of pine tar. This was of great importance to naval forces before the age of the steel vessel. Pine tar was used as a wood preservative for naval vessel. Earle Fladager gave a presentation on the history and geography of the Palatinate area. Robert Rogers UE brought greetings and news from the Western Region.

The Branch Annual General Meeting was held in November. There were only a few positions that needed to be filled, as most offices will continue with current members until next year. Shona Wards UE and Doreen Dimitroff UE are now the membership committee members and Cal Chisholm has accepted the position of Branch Flag Bearer.

Loyalists planning to visit Edmonton are invited to attend one of our meetings – check our website for more information.

By Dave Rolls UE, Newsletter Editor

2011 Spring

Our annual Founder’s Dinner was held on 25 May. Guest speaker Rob Milson described his experience with an episode of “*Ancestors in the Attic*” about his great grandfather’s counterfeiting activities in Boston.

On a lovely spring day in June, after meeting for lunch downtown, we visited our bur oak tree on the Alberta Legislature grounds. At this site a new Loyalist plaque was unveiled by President Rev. Bruce Miller. This was a joint project by Calgary and Edmonton branches and was achieved with the help of member donations and Dominion Association grants. Councillor Ed Gibbons, representing the City of Edmonton, declared 19 June United Empire Loyalist Day.

We were pleased that Calgary Branch members, David and Barbara Hongisto, could attend. Our sixth annual “*Palatine Night*” was held in September. Bruce Miller talked about the non-conformist nature of the Loyalists and pointed out that the majority of them were not from the established Church of England. He mentioned several sects, such as Anabaptists, Ranters and Shakers, and gave a rundown of some of their more unusual beliefs.

Several certificates were presented to the Rogers and Fladager families. Marilyn Ratke UE told us about the Crysler family, who lived at Schoharie, New York, and relocated to the Williamsburg area of Upper Canada. Her ancestor, Geronimus Crysler UE, was a drummer boy. Robert Rogers UE gave a presentation on the Playter family which originated in Suffolk, England. This fascinating story included a shipwreck off the coast of Chile before settlement in the colony of New Jersey. After the Revolution the Playter family was granted land at York, in a location that is now downtown Toronto.

During *Reading Week* Heather Traub visited Meadowlark School wearing period dress. She read part of a book from the Dear Canada series, "*With Nothing but our Courage – The Loyalist Diary of Mary MacDonald, Johnstown, Quebec 1783*" by Karleen Bradford. She made up her own six-page picture story booklet about the Loyalists to give to the students, and discussed the Loyalist migration into Quebec and Nova Scotia, the creation of New Brunswick and Ontario, the North West Company, western exploration (with the Indian guides and French Canadian coureurs des bois), and gave examples of some of the many accomplishments of Sir Alexander MacKenzie and Simon Fraser.

As a new Christmas event, Heather Traub held an open house one snowy Friday in December. An afternoon and evening of warm fellowship and tasty treats was appreciated by all. On 25 February 2011, Betty (Chrysler) Fladager UE celebrated her fortieth consecutive year as a certified United Empire Loyalist. She joined the Calgary Branch in 1970 and became the Vice-President representing Edmonton for fourteen years. She transferred her membership to Edmonton in 1987 when Edmonton formed a branch. She served as Secretary Treasurer in 1994 and 1995 and Secretary 2004 to 2009. Her husband, Earle, has been at her side throughout giving his loyal support to both Betty and the Branch. They have three children and seven grandchildren all of whom are UEs.

By Ivy Trumpour UE