

## **GOVERNOR SIMCOE BRANCH – Charter - 18 May 1937**

### **1963 April**

**D**uring 1962 the Branch held seven regular meetings. At our January meeting Miss Marlyn Colhoun showed us her interesting pictures of the Holy Land. In March, Mr. Gene Butt of the Ontario College of Art illustrated with coloured slides his talk about a 150-year old log house which he had bought and restored to its original beauty. At the April meeting Mr. Albert Colucci took us on a tour of Pioneer Village by coloured motion pictures in which the staff took part in reliving the early pioneer life. In May we saw a coloured motion picture called "Quality of a Nation" showing a cross section of Canadian life from sea to sea. At our October meeting we had two guest speakers Inspector Potter from the Metropolitan Police Force spoke on the subject "The Need of Law and Order in a Democracy", and Mr. David Rotenberg, City Alderman, spoke on the subject of Governor Simcoe's burial place at Wolford Chapel, Devonshire, England and its upkeep. In November Mr. Peter J. Stokes of Ottawa gave an illustrated address showing old buildings restored or renovated at Upper Canada Village and Niagara-on-the-Lake. The December meeting was our annual Christmas party. We were privileged to see coloured motion pictures of Britain: "The Royal River", "Britain is a Garden", "Westward Ho!" and "The Three Seasons". After the pictures, we sang a few Christmas carols, and then were served with delicious refreshments.

Our Annual Church Service was held at Trinity United Church on Sunday, May 20th where the Rev. Robert Watt gave us a fine message. Our Chaplain, Dr. Myers, took part in the service by reading the lesson. On Saturday, June 16th, we had our annual summer outing. A group of us enjoyed an outing at Pioneer Village.

During the year, five new members joined our branch and two associate members.

### **1963 November**

**S**ince the last edition of the Loyalist Gazette, our members have been saddened by the loss of Mrs. Lotta Noxon McLean, one of the founders and charter members of this branch. For 17 years she served faithfully as corresponding secretary, then lady vice-president, and until her death, genealogist. She had also been genealogist of the Dominion council. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

At the October meeting, our past president, Dr. H. G. Walton-Ball, gave an illustrated address with coloured slides on some of the historic and beauty spots of the south and west of England. Of particular interest to the members were the scenes at Wolford Lodge and Chapel where Governor Simcoe was buried.

At our November meeting, Mrs. R. H. Neil, the well-known collector of Canadiana, will give an illustrated address on "Treasures in your Attic".

by Mrs. W. K. Nobbs

## 1964 April

The November meeting was addressed by Mrs. R. H. Neill on "Treasures in Your Attic," the priceless antiques she had found in the most unheard of places. The Christmas party was a very successful function with the showing of a coloured film on the rebuilding of devastated Coventry Cathedral. The film revealed every activity associated with the design, planning, and building of the great building up to the last touch when a helicopter of the RAF set the cross in place on the steeple.

Several of our beloved members passed away during the year 1963, Mr. Haggerty, Col. Alley and our Genealogist, Mrs. MacLean. Mrs. L. Noxon MacLean bequeathed her valuable collection of historical documents to this Branch that will continue to serve the purpose for which they were collected with such care by Mrs. MacLean.

by Kenneth A. Benson

## 1964 November

Our annual meeting and election of officers took place on January 29th, when Mr. Kenneth Benson was re-elected as president. Later Dr. Walton-Ball entertained the meeting with coloured slides of former parties and outings.

At our meeting on March 18, we heard a very interesting travel talk by Dr. F. Carlyle Hamilton, "Ireland as seen by a Scot", with coloured slides.

On Sunday, April 5th, Dr. and Mrs. Walton-Ball held open house at their home on Rose Park Drive and a large number of Governor Simcoe Branch members attended this enjoyable tea. At our meeting on April 16th the speaker was Dr. C. C. Love of Victoria College, on the subject "Our Literary Heritage".

On Sunday, May 24th, our members attended the morning service at Bloor Street United Church where we heard an interesting sermon by Rev. Dr. Ernest M. Howse. The speaker at our meeting on May 20th was Mrs. Ross Glassford, on the subject "This You Can Take With You".

A picnic was held on Saturday, June 20th, when members met at Pioneer Village, Jane Street and Steeles Avenue, and visited the interesting displays there.

Governor Simcoe Branch meetings will be held at the I.O.D.E. Home at Spadina and Lowther Avenues.

by Mrs. W. K. Nobbs

## 1965 April

The Governor Simcoe Branch commenced the fall season with an illustrated talk by Miss Marion MacRea entitled "Ontario Homes of the Loyalists". Miss MacRea is co-author with Professor Adamson of the book "The Ancestral Roof." Miss MacRea covered the Weller homes of Carrying Place, Prince Edward County, in her talk. Asa Weller was one of the earliest Loyalist settlers in that district and is considered the founder of Carrying Place which is derived from the practice of boatmen dragging their vessels overland before the canal existed. Weller's Bay is named in honour of Asa.

Miss Ruth Home, like Miss MacRea, a member of the teaching staff of the Ontario College of Art spoke to the members at 'the November meeting on the role of "The Small Museum in the Community." Her lecture was followed by a number of slides taken of small museums in rural Ontario communities.

December 16 was the date of the annual Christmas Party

### **1965 November**

**A**t the April 22nd meeting of Governor Simcoe Branch, the speaker was Mr. John I. Rempel, a past president of the Ontario Historical Society, showed coloured slides of the many-sided houses, most of them octagonal, built in Ontario during the last century.

At the May 20th meeting Mr. Ross M. Willmott presented a colour film "Expo '67" a promotional film in connection with the Montreal World's Fair.

Our most recent member is Mrs. D. Black, 1075 Dixie Road, Port Credit, Ontario. Mrs. Emily Trearton Black's Loyalist ancestor was Martin Treartin.

by Mrs. W. K. Nobbs

### **1966 April**

**A**t our meeting on October 21st, 1965, we heard Very Rev. J. R. Mutchmor give a most interesting address on the subject "Church Union and the Ecumenical Movement". On November 18th this was followed by a talk by Rev. Dr. T. R. Millman on "The Anglican Church and the Ecumenical Movement," In December our Branch visited Mackenzie House as a group. Our annual meeting was held on January 20th, 1966, new officers were installed, and Mr. Kenneth Benson showed pictures of historic churches in Ontario. Dr. Carlyle Hamilton entertained us on March 17th, showing beautiful coloured slides of the Channel Island, Guernsey and Sark. For our meeting on April 21st we look forward to hearing that well – known historian and author, Mary Quayle Innis, speak on her latest book, "Mrs. Simcoe's Diary."

Five new members have joined recently: Mrs. D. W. Dorling, Toronto (Loyalist ancestor, Thomas McMicking); Mrs. F. S. Lockyer, Kentville, N. S. (Alan and Mary Nixon); Mrs. Brian C. Barker, Toronto, (Captain Silas Hopkins and John Green); Mr. James W. Sager, Pasadena, Texas (John Weese); Mr. Arthur Allen Ruttan, Scarborough (William Henry Ruttan).

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Alfred B. Fisher, a former president of the Governor Simcoe Branch.

### **1966 Autumn**

**M**r. Edwin C. Guillet, well known author and historian, addressed the May 19th meeting of the Governor- Simcoe Branch On his five volume work "Pioneer Inns and Taverns". Before the coming of the railways in the middle of the nineteenth century, the only means of transportation in Upper Canada was either by water or by stagecoach. The first Inns and Taverns were situated on the primitive roads at regular intervals where horses had to be changed and the weary traveller, rested, fed or housed'

for the night. The accommodation offered of course, was far from ideal. With few rooms provided, many slept in the barn. On the other hand, the meals were large, topped off with whiskey, but were eaten in great haste. Travellers from Britain, accustomed to a more leisurely way of life, were appalled at this way of life. To-day most of the Inns have vanished or been converted into private dwellings. Mr. Guillet's work runs into five volumes, the result of years of research and collecting. It was a most informative meeting, with many questions being asked by those present.

by K. A. Benson

### **1967 Spring**

**A**t the first meeting of the fall season of the Governor Simcoe Branch, held on October 20th, we were fortunate in having as our speaker, Gladys Chantler Walker, wife of the well - known historian and author, Dr. Frank N. Walker. Mrs. Walker, daughter of a Methodist minister, a graduate of Victoria College and a former teacher, spoke on her husband's latest book, "Sketches of Old Toronto". The period covers approximately 150 years, from the founding of York in 1793 by Governor Simcoe to the concert given by Jenny Lind in the St. Lawrence Hall in the middle of the nineteenth century. Many interesting personal stories were related by the speaker, especially of Mrs. Simcoe, who in spite of great hardships and privations in the early days, found beauty, interest and pleasures in what to others was a drab and dull existence. After the departure of the Simcoe's in 1796, Toronto continued to grow and in spite of setbacks such as the burning of the Parliament Buildings in 1813 by the Americans, it was incorporated as a city in 1834, with William Lyon MacKenzie as its first mayor. With the coming of the railways shortly afterwards radiating in all directions, Toronto of course was destined to become the great commercial and cultural centre that it is to-day.

At the November 17th meeting, an illustrated address was given by Dr. H. G. Walton-Ball our former president, past president of the Dominion Council and the representative of the whole Association at the handing over ceremony of Wolford Chapel, Devonshire, England, to the Province of Ontario On September 27th, 1966. Several dozen slides of the affair were shown which illustrated the grand reception at Wolford Lodge, the guests -many from Canada, Simcoe's descendants, and the chapel with actual handing over of the deeds by Sir Geoffrey Harmsworth and Mr. A. G. Le Marchant to Premier Robarts. Our speaker read Mr. Robarts address, on this auspicious occasion, for it related in detail the many accomplishments and life of our first Lieutenant Governor, John Graves Simcoe. Now that we finally have this little bit of Ontario in England, restored and preserved, it will be a must for all Ontarioans to see while visiting in England. Brochures telling of its location and how to reach it, will be available at Ontario House in London.

by H. G. Walton-Ball

### **1967 Autumn**

**T**he Governor Simcoe Branch, Toronto, held their Annual Meeting on Jan. 19th, when Mr. Michael Spohn was again elected president and Mr. Stewart G. Moore vice-president. Coloured motion pictures of Niagara, Pioneer Village and Upper Canada Village were shown. At our March 16th meeting Miss Edith G. Firth, head of the Canadian History and Manuscript Section of the Toronto Reference Library spoke on "The Town of York - 1815-1834", and showed rare pictures of old street scenes in Toronto.

The meeting of April 20, was the outstanding one of the year, and one of the largest in the history of the Branch. Over 100 attended which included a number from the Toronto Branch as our guests. Mr. Allan Rowan Legg, a director of the Montreal World's Fair, gave an inspiring illustrated address on "Expo '67". Mr. Norman E. Horn the Dominion Treasurer moved the vote of thanks. In addition, His Worship, Mayor William Dennison and the Dominion Council President, Mr. E. J. Chard, spoke briefly, the latter telling of the final plans for the Centennial Convention.

May was a very busy month for members of the Loyalist Association. The Governor Simcoe Branch on the 18th, saw a motion picture entitled "The Hundredth Summer," which was the story of Prince Edward Island's Centennial in 1964, celebrating the first meeting of the founding Fathers. Members of the Branch on May 17, were invited to attend a "Centennial Birthday Party" given by the Toronto Branch.

The Loyalist Convention took place on May 27, with a luncheon at noon, the unveiling of the Loyalist Plaque in the Parliament Buildings, discussion groups in the afternoon and a dinner later at the Park Plaza Hotel. Many out-of-town members attended. On Sunday morning our members attended the church service at St. Paul's Avenue United Church.

### **1968 Spring**

The Governor Simcoe Branch had for their October meeting Mr. Charles Sauriol, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Toronto and Regional Conservation Foundation, who spoke on the subject "Some Historical Aspects of Early Toronto." Mr. Sauriol's talk covered Black Creek, Todmorden Mills, and other nearby settlements as well as early Toronto, and was most interesting.

In November the meeting was addressed by Mr. George Hume, Secretary and General Manager of the Toronto Humane Society, on "Eighty Years of Service on Behalf of Animals". His witty, informative address made us realize the wonderful work being done by the Humane Society.

On December 6th Governor Simcoe members joined Toronto Branch in a Christmas party held in the Great Hall at Hart House where, after a sumptuous dinner, the Esso Choristers provided a very fine musical programme.

We regret to announce the deaths of two former members, Mrs. H. T. Coyne and Mr. Thomas L. Harding. New Members: Mrs. M. M. Bruce, Shelburne, N. S., and Mrs. R. Weldon, Halifax, N. S.; Mr. A. Benson, Brantford, Ont. ; Rev. W. M. Benson, Chatham, Ontario; Mr. Proctor, Willowdale, Ont.; Mr. E. McMicking, Oakville, Ont., Mr. B. Wilson, Madison, New Jersey, U. S. A.

### **1968 Autumn**

The Governor Simcoe Branch held their annual meeting in January. The new Executive officers are as follows: President - Mr. S. G. Moore, Past President - Mr. Michael A. Spohn, Vice - President - Mr. Silas S. Salter, Lady Vice - President - Mrs. W.K. Nobbs, Treasurer - Mrs. W.A. Jarrell, Recording Secretary - Mrs. G. Duncan - Clark, Corresponding Secretary - Mrs. Margaret C. Whitney, Standard Bearer Mr. Ormand S. Johnson, Associate Representative - Mr. W. K. Nobbs, Junior Representative Mr. George Gilbert.

After the annual reports and election of officers we were entertained with a fine collection of coloured slides assembled by two of our past presidents Dr. H.G. Walton - Ball and Mr. Kenneth Benson. A great many of the slides were taken during the Loyalist Convention including the unveiling of the Loyalist Plaque in

the Parliament Buildings and the Centennial dinner in the Park Plaza Hotel. Also there were pictures taken at Niagara on the Lake at the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the opening of the first Provincial Parliament of Upper Canada by John Graves Simcoe. At the March meeting Dr. A. E. Berry, President of the Conservation Council of Ontario, presented to us an address on "The Management of Ontario Water Resources." Dr. Berry is considered to be an authority on the subject of the air and water pollution and soil conservation.

As a preview of Spring a delightful tour of Britain on film was shown which included "Three weeks in Britain" summer tour of the Old Country, "Chartwell" - the country home of Winston Churchill, and "In search of an English Garden" a movie of beauty and charm.

In May Miss Alma Stevens, one of our long-standing members, showed a collection of her slides entitled "Toronto during the Four Seasons of the Year", This was a delightful presentation.

The Annual Church Service was held on May 12th at St. Anne's Anglican Church. This church is one of the most beautiful in Toronto and is renowned for its Byzantine architecture . Members of the Toronto Branch were invited.

Since the first of the year we have welcomed the following new members: Mr. John Augustus Reginald Benson, Brantford, Ont., R.V. Wilford Benson, Chatham, Ont.; Miss Marjorie Bruce, Shelburne, N.S.; Mr. Walter E. McMicking, Oakville, Ont.; Mr. Charles Lloyd Proctor, Willowdale, Ont; Mrs. Rhoda Weldon, Halifax, N.S.; Mr. Thomas B. Wilson, Madison, New Jersey, U.S.A.

We regret to announce the death of Miss Netta M. Ellis. Our sincere sympathies were extended to her brother, Mr. Clinton O. Ellis.

## 1969 Spring

The Fall and Winter meetings of the Governor Simcoe Branch commenced on October 10th. .M the October meeting we were fortunate in having as our guest speaker Miss Marion MacRae. Her subject being an illustrated address on "Dundurn Castle". Miss MacRae, along with Professor Anthony Adamson, are largely responsible for the magnificent restoration of the castle.

Colonel Charles B. Briggs, Curator of Johnson Hall, Johns town, N.Y., was our honoured guest and speaker during November. "The Ross Raid on the Mohawks - 1781" was Col. Briggs' most colourful subject. He reminded us that ancestors of many Loyalists were involved in this conflict. This meeting was held in the Maurice Cody Hall of St. Paul's Anglican Church. Members of the Toronto Branch were with us on this occasion.

A well-attended meeting of the Ladies Committee was held at the residence of our Lady Vice-President, Mrs. W. K. Nobbs.

In December, we were delighted to be the guests of the Toronto Branch, this being their Annual Christmas Party - held in the Great Hall of Hart House, University of Toronto.

In January, we were entertained by viewing two outstanding motion pictures - "The Diary of Mrs. Simcoe" and "Fort York - 1816 Defenders of Upper Canada".

The nominating committee headed by Miss Florence Lyons presented the 1969 executive officers as follows: President, Mr. S. G. Moore; Immediate Past President, Mr. Michael Spohn; Vice-President, Mr. Silas S. Salter; Lady Vice-president, Mrs. W. K. Nobbs; Treasurer, Mrs. W. A. Jarrell; Recording Secretary, Mrs. G. Duncan-Clark; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Margaret C. Whitney; Genealogist Mrs. George Hancocks; Standard Bearer Mr. Ormand S. John50n; Associate Representative, Mr. W. K. Nobbs.

Mr. William C. Heine of London, Ontario, was welcomed as a new member to the Branch.

### **1969 Autumn**

**G**overnor Simcoe Branch in Toronto held its first meeting of the year with a delightful programme arranged by our programme convenor, Dr. H. G. Walton-Ball. It consisted of two fine films produced by the John Graves Simcoe Foundation. "The Diary of Mrs. Simcoe" and "York 1816-Defenders of Upper Canada". They were both shown in conjunction with the Simcoe exhibit at Fort York last year.

Our nominating committee, consisting of Miss Florence Lyons and Miss Agnes Smith, gave their report which was followed by the installation of officers.

During February we omit our regular meeting on agreement of the members.

Three new members were welcomed in March: Mrs. Louise Gerry, Mr. Murray Johnson, both regular members, and Mrs. Murray Johnson, an associate member.

Our March meeting opened with Professor W. M. Goulding as our special guest. Professor Goulding is on the staff of the school of Architecture at the University of Toronto. His subject was "A Look at our Heritage in 19th Century Buildings in Ontario". This address was illustrated with coloured slides, followed by a discussion on what steps could be taken to preserve some of the fine examples of early buildings in the province.

In April "Never a Backward Step", the award-winning motion picture from the National Film Board was shown. It is the life story of Lord Thomson of Fleet. In addition to this some interesting old photographs of important Governor Simcoe events were on display.

"The Delayed Recognition of John Graves Simcoe" was the subject of the speaker at our May meeting. We were honoured in having Mr. Marcus Van Steen discuss with us his latest book "Governor Simcoe and His Lady". Mr. Van Steen is also the author of "Pauline Johnson Her Life and Work", and at present is working on his third book "Sir Isaac Brock". It was a privilege for our members to have the opportunity of an open discussion with such an outstanding historian. A limited number of Mr. Van Steen's books were for sale at this meeting.

At the February meeting of the executive and at the March General Meeting of the branch a motion was passed offering financial support to the erection of the equestrian statue of King Edward VII. From this stemmed the forwarding of a substantial donation to the City Treasurer from the Branch. Special invitations were received for the unveiling ceremonies in Queen's Park.

The following new members have been welcomed to the Branch since February: Mrs. Louise Gerry (Adam Heins and Elizabeth Froelick), Toronto; Miss Isobel Adamson (Colonel Daniel McCall), Etobicoke; Mrs.

Lucy Booth Martyn (John Thorn), Toronto; Mr. Murray Johnson (Andrew Johnson), Willowdale; Mrs. Murray Johnson, Associate Member.

### 1970 Spring

The fall activities opened in October with the speaker, Mr. William Sheldon, an authority and well - known collector of antique glass, who took as his subject "The History and Use of Glass". He had recently been asked to speak at seminars at the Corning Glass Centre and had a wealth of information on his subject. The collecting of early Canadian glass is a fascinating hobby and goes hand in hand with our early history and heritage.

"Reminiscences of Cabbagetown" was the topic of Mr. William B. Hambly, first vice-president, at the November meeting. This was a most colourful talk which was well illustrated with his stories of this interesting early part of Toronto. During the month, Mrs. H. G. Walton-Ball very graciously received the members of the Ladies Committee in her home. Mrs. Margaret C. Whitney was presented with a beautiful corsage in recognition of her past services as Corresponding Secretary.

In December, we were once again delighted to be the guests of the Toronto Branch at their Annual Christmas Party which was held in the Ball Room of St. Lawrence Hall.

The Dominion Council President, Dr. J. G. Dillane, was the speaker in January, taking as his subject "The Present Position of our Association".

Recent new members are: Mr. Donald V. Hill, Toronto; Rev. D. F. Morris, Toronto; Mrs. Marilyn Smith, Scarborough and Mr. R. L. Cartwright, Port Hope.

Due to renewed interest and enthusiasm, the February meeting was reinstated this year after a lapse of ten years.

At the February meeting Mr. Orval C. Madden, spoke on the U.E.L. Settlement routes along the St. Lawrence River and Bay of Quinte, illustrated with historical maps and sketches. Mr. Madden is a descendant of John Madden of Meath, Ireland; who emigrated to America in 1760 and, after the American Revolution, moved to Vermont and thence, in the late 1780's, to Switzerville, near Napanee. John Madden's son was a dispatch carrier between Montreal and York. Mr. Madden showed some early maps showing the route followed. He also showed 24 watercolour sketches illustrating the military dress of Loyalist Regiments which were copied from originals in the archives of the New York Historical Society, New York City. A graduate of the Ontario College of Art, Mr. Madden worked at one time with the late C. W. Jefferies, noted for his illustrations of the Canadian History textbooks, and since then, he has devoted most of his time to historical painting. Some of his work was for the Loyalist Museum at Adolphustown (in collaboration with Dr. H. C. Burleigh, Genealogist for the Bay of Quinte Branch) for which he was made an honorary member of that Branch. His paintings are also in the National Historical Museum in Ottawa, Upper Canada Village, Morrisburg, the Lennox and Addington Historical Museum, and the Marine Museum, Toronto.

The Governor Simcoe Branch Annual Church Service is being held this year at 11 a.m., May 3, 1970, at the Church of St. Luke, 170 Westwood Ave., Toronto, Ontario, who are celebrating their 100th anniversary. The sermon will be given by the Reverend Canon T. R. G. Owen, Provost of Trinity College. The service will be followed by an historical display and refreshments in the Parish Hall. The annual church service is held each year on the date nearest the Landing of the Loyalists with the Spring Fleet at



St. John, N.B., May 18, 1783, to commemorate the coming of the Loyalists. An invitation to attend is warmly extended' to Toronto Branch members and any other descendants of United Empire Loyalists. The Governor Simcoe Branch has sent a petition to the Hon. James Auld, Minister of Tourism and Information for the Province of Ontario, in support of the John Graves Simcoe Memorial Foundation, requesting that the first Monday in August be declared a statutory holiday throughout the Province, designated as "Simcoe Day".

Since the City of Toronto, in 1969, declared that Civic Holiday, the first Monday in August, be henceforth known as Simcoe Day, and declared a public holiday in memory of Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe, the first governor of Upper Canada, it is felt that the petition would carry more weight on a province-wide basis if it is submitted by all Ontario Branches of The United Empire Loyalists' Association.

### **Chadwick's Ontarian Families:**

Mr. Thomas B. Wilson, U.E., a member of Governor Simcoe Branch, and publisher of The Ontario Register, a genealogical quarterly, has recently undertaken to reprint this careful compilation of the genealogies of numerous Ontarian families gathered from private family papers, which, since the original publication in 1894 and 1898, has been recognized as an authoritative and indispensable reference source. The two volumes have been bound into one in a good grade of cloth, printed on a good grade of 300 year paper and for greater ease in using, reduced in size to a standard 6 x 9 book. The plates of the original printing have been eliminated for economy. The list price is \$12.00, although subscribers to The Ontario Register are entitled to a 25 per cent discount, or a price of \$9.00 U.S. It may be ordered from Hunterdon House, 38 Swan St., Lambertville, N.J. 08530, and to take advantage of this special offer, a subscription to The Ontario Register for 1970 may be ordered at the same time for an additional \$6.00 U.S.

A cordial welcome is extended to a new member, Mr. Richard L. Cartwright, 87 Augusta St., Port Hope, Ontario, a descendant of Richard Cartwright, who settled in Kingston, Ontario, from Albany, N. Y., in the early 1780's.

We regret to announce the death of the following members of Governor Simcoe Branch and extend our sympathy to members of their family:

Allison, Cecil Ross, at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, February 8th, 1970, a member of the Governor Simcoe Branch since 1961, whose ancestor Joseph Allison came with the Van Alstyne party to Adolphustown in 1784.

Gray, Miss Mary (Mollie) E., at home, 7 Pine Hill Rd., Toronto, on January 1970, who, with her mother Genevieve Caniff Gray, were enthusiastic members of the Governor Simcoe Branch in its early days.

Ruttan, Col. Charles M., at Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, January 20th, 1970, aged 86, a founding member of Governor Simcoe Branch. Born and educated in Winnipeg, Man., he was the son of Brig. General Henry Norland Ruttan and Andrina Barbarie, both Empire Loyalists. William Ruttan, Bergen Co., N. J., left with the Van Alstyne party, wintered in Sorel, Quebec, 1783-84 and landed in Adolphustown June 16, 1784, and was of Huguenot stock who settled in New York in the 1600's.

### **Western Visitor**

Miss Bessie P. Choate, Secretary of the Vancouver Branch, visited Toronto last fall as the guest of her niece, Miss Isobel Adamson.

Miss Choate will always be remembered as the founder and guiding spirit behind the formation of the Vancouver Branch in 1932. Her name will go down in the annals of the U.E.L. Association as one to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude for our present growth and resurgence. During Miss Choate's month stay in Toronto she attended a meeting of the Governor Simcoe Branch where she renewed old acquaintances and was the guest of honour.

## **1970 Autumn**

### **GOVERNOR SIMCOE ANNUAL CHURCH SERVICE**

The U. E. L. church service of the Governor Simcoe branch was held at St. Luke's Anglican Church (Westwood Avenue). All members of the Toronto Branch were invited to be with us. As St. Luke's was celebrating its centennial this year, special arrangements were made for this occasion. The sermon was delivered by our honoured guest, Reverend Canon Derwyn Owen, Provost of Trinity College, Toronto. Cannon Derwen's parents were married in the Old St. Luke's which was situated in the early days at the corner of St. Vincent and St. Joseph Streets. Our standard bearer, Mrs. M. C. Whitney carried the flag in the processional and presented it to our branch chaplain, Major the Reverend J. D. L. Howson, who had come from Peterborough to take part in the service. Other clergy participating were Reverend H. W. Surdivall, the rector of St. Luke's who extended an impressive welcome and the Reverend John Pyke, also of St. Luke's.

Immediately after the service, members of the Anglican Church Women, of which Mrs. Whitney is president, welcomed all to view the display of historical material, photographs, documents and artifacts which brought the past vividly before us. During the period refreshments were served. There was a fine representation of members. Presidents of both branches and Mr. E. J. Chard, a past Dominion President, were present.

### **LITTLE TRINITY CHURCH**

A special service on June 7, 1970, commemorating the 128th Anniversary of the founding of the Church, was held at Little Trinity Church, 425 King Street East, Toronto, the City's oldest surviving church. Among members from more than twenty societies at the service, The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada was represented by members from the Governor Simcoe and Toronto Branches. Little Trinity Church has been designated an Historic Site by the Ontario Government, also the Enoch Turner School House erected in 1848 behind the Church, which is being restored.

### **GOVERNOR SIMCOE (Toronto)**

During the past season Dr. H. G. Walton-Ball has provided a varied, interesting and worthwhile programme for the Governor Simcoe Branch, starting in October with an illustrated talk on "The History of Glass" by the noted collector and authority, William Sheldon. In November, Mr. William Hambly of Toronto Branch gave an entertaining talk on "Reminiscences of Cabbagetown", where he was brought up and still carries on the family business. In December, we again joined Toronto Branch, for their Annual Christmas Dinner, held this year in the elegant St. Lawrence Hall, recently restored to its early days of Jenny Lind fame. In January) Dr. J. G. Dillane, Dominion President, outlined the present position of our Association. In February, the noted historical artist, Orval C. Madden, showed his paintings of historical sites along the Bay of Quinte and St. Lawrence River routes of U.E. L. settlement in Upper Canada; and, in March, R. Philip Smart, Dominion Younger Members Chairman, showed his slides of the U. E. L. settlement towns of Old Brockville and Maitland. In April, Mr. Lionel L. Merrill of Hamilton Branch showed his slides of a recent trip to Spain to visit his daughter starting from and returning to "King's

Grant", his home in Hamilton. In May, our well-travelled member, John Hubert Dell, gave an interesting and informative travelogue composed from a number of trips around the Mediterranean coast and down the Nile. Our annual church service was held, as usual, on the Sunday nearest May 18th, to commemorate the landing of the Loyalists with the Spring Fleet at St. John, N. B. in 1783, and was well attended. So, besides being entertained with interesting travelogues, we delved into our historical and archaeological past, learning more about ourselves and our U. E. L. background, which make us what we are today.

It was a good year for the Governor Simcoe Branch, with a greater interest shown by members in Branch affairs. Although we were saddened by the loss to the "grim reaper" of some of our oldest and staunchest members: Miss E. Gretchen Spohn, Miss Ruby Paterson, Col. Chas. L. Ruttan, Cecil Ross Allison, Miss Mary E. (Caniff) Gray, Mrs. John B. Filisinger and Dr. Stanley K Clark, we gained some new and valued ones: The Rev. Wm. D. F. Morris, Mrs. Marilyn Smith, Mrs. Kathleen LeRoy (A), Maj. The Rev. J. D. L. Howson (transferred from Sir Guy Carleton Branch), Donald V. Hill, Richard L. Cartwright, Milton A Buell. We now have a younger members representative Mr. Murray Johnson, who sponsored one of our meetings, and we look forward to renewed vigor and strength from that quarter.

Over 100 U. E. L. Souvenir Plates were sold for our Branch by our enthusiastic and energetic member, Ormand S. Johnson, who is now recovering from a major operation and we hope will be active again by September. The short history of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada and the present organization, compiled for the Governor Simcoe Branch by the late Horace H. Van Wart has proved its worth as a concise source of basic background information and will be supplied to branches in quantities for resale on request. Our present supply of U. E. L. hasti-notes has been exhausted and orders are being received for the new U. E. L. Historical Notes, now in production.

One member, Thomas B. Wilson, publisher of the Ontario Register, a genealogical quarterly, has recently reprinted Chadwick's "Ontarian Families", which is a great boon in genealogical research, and may be ordered from Hunterdon House 38 Swan St., Lambertville, N. J. 08530 at \$12.00 U. S.

Plaudits go to our distinguished member, the Right Honourable J. R. Cartwright, on his retirement as Canada's twelfth Chief Justice on reaching his 75th birthday, March 23, 1970, an appointment he held with distinction for the last 2 1/2 years. As Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, since 1949, he has upheld the best traditions; his contribution to Canadian Society was acknowledged by Government House, recently, when he was named a Companion of the Order of Canada.

Again, Dr. Walton-Ball made up a U. E. L. table for the Annual St. George's Society Dinner, held on April 23rd in the Canadian - Room of the Royal York Hotel, at which the toast was proposed by the Rt. Hon. John G. Diefenbaker, former Prime Minister of Canada, and replied to by the Hon. Dean Eyre, Canadian High Commissioner for New Zealand. On June 7th, our President, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Moore, represented our branch at the 128th Anniversary Service of Little Trinity, Toronto's oldest surviving church, founded by the Protestant Irish with the support of 'the Gooderham and Worts families. On July 26 Dr. Walton-Ball took part in the unveiling of an historical plaque commemorating St. Mark's Church, Port Hope, the oldest continuing church in the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. The land on which it was built was set aside for this purpose in 1800 by Jonathan Walton and Elias Smith.

The Governor Simcoe Branch submitted a petition to the Hon. James Auld, Minister of Tourism and Information for the Province of Ontario, requesting that the first Monday in August be declared a statutory holiday throughout the Province, designated as "Simcoe Day", in memory of Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe, the first Governor of Upper Canada and support the Dominion Council in petitioning the Hon. Gerard Pelletier, Secretary of State of Canada, to keep the name "Dominion Day" as the most significant and unifying designation of July 1, our National Day.

## Spring 1971

We were pleased to welcome as new members to the Governor Simcoe Branch, Toronto, Mrs. Adeline M. Bayley and Mrs Helen M. Dale, of Toronto, also Richard L. Cartwright of Port Hope; Milton A. Buell and Mrs. Buell (Associate) whose ancestor, Timothy Buell, was born in Connecticut, going to St. John's, Lower Canada, in 1781, and died at Elizabethtown (Brockville) in 1789. Mr. Buell has compiled a genealogical record and history of the Buell family, who played a major part in the founding of Brockville. Other new members are Mrs. Richard Townsend and her father Cmdr. Richard B. Chenevex-Trench, whose U.E. ancestor, Christopher Robinson, was Treasurer of Virginia, and father of Sir John Beverley Robinson, Chief Justice of Upper Canada 1829-62; Mrs. Ethel (Campbell) MacLeod, whose ancestor John Cameron came from the Mohawk Valley settling in Lancaster in 1784; and Mrs. Etta (Overholt) White, whose ancestor Abraham Overholt came from Pennsylvania to Thorold, Ontario.

Two of our members transferred to other branches: Mr. Walter E. McMicking (Thomas McMicking, Stamford Twp., 1773) to Hamilton Branch, and Mrs. A. M. E. Clark to Calgary Branch; and during the past year we mourned the death of the following:

Col. Charles M. Ruttan, a founding member of Governor Simcoe Branch, who died at the age of 86 in Toronto. Born and educated in Winnipeg, Man., he was the son of Brig.-General Henry Norland Ruttan and Andrina Barbarie, both United Empire Loyalists.

Miss Mary (Mollie) E. Gray at Toronto, a descendant of James Canit! who settled in Adolphustown in 1783.

Cecil Ross Allison, at Toronto, whose ancestor Joseph Allison, came with the Van Alstine party to Adolphustown in 1784.

Mrs. John B. Felsing at Toronto.

Mrs. Geo. H. Thomas, at Smiths Falls, Ontario, mother of Mrs. R. R. Williams, a member of Sir Guy Carleton Branch.

Mrs. F. R (Edna) Miller at Toronto, a descendant of James Noxon who brought a group of Loyalists to Adolphustown in 1783.

Membership applications have been received from the following and are pending further information relative to the U.E. ancestor. If you can be of assistance, please contact the applicant or our Genealogist, Mrs. O. G. Hancocks, 172 King Henry's Blvd., Agincourt, Ontario (291-5213); Mrs. Lorraine Anderson, 30 Vancouver Drive, Guelph, Onto (ancestor: Daniel Keith, New Canaan, N.B.); Dr. Raymond Heimbecker, 75 Hillholme Rd., Toronto 7, Onto (ancestor: Edward Turner, Clarke Township, 1778); William A. Petts, 790 Batory Rd., Ajax, Onto (ancestor: Conger, Prince Edward County (Conger Coal Co., Collingwood; Charles Foster Rice, RR1, Haileybury, Onto (ancestor: Thomas Rice (Silverthorn), Chingacousy Twp.); Mrs. Grace Kenney Ross, 505 Hatch St., Woodstock, Ont. (ancestor: Samuel D. Kenney, from Cambridge Springs, Pa., to Drumquin); Thomas Lyons Seymour, 286 Dawlish Avenue, Toronto 317 (ancestor: John Hickey, Williamsburg Twp., Dundas Co.) ; Mrs. Howard Shrimpton, 309/120 Rosedale Valley Rd., Toronto 5 (ancestor: William Herrington, Percy Twp., Hastings Co.); Mrs. Victor Webb, 984a Meadowwood Rd., Clarkson, Onto (ancestor: Knapp, Kingston, Ont.).

Due to our name, Governor Simcoe Branch, we from time to time receive requests for information on possible U.E.L. settlement related to the Simcoe name, and a future worthwhile project of our Branch would be to research and collect any information connected with Col. Simcoe as Commander of the Queen's Rangers during the Revolution and his subsequent appointment as the first Lieut. Governor of Upper Canada 1791-1796.

Last February the Governor Simcoe Branch sent a petition to the Ontario Government to have Civic Holiday renamed "Simcoe Day" in honour of Lt. Gov. John Graves Simcoe, and a copy was sent to the seven other Ontario Branches, asking that they consider supporting our motion. A petition was to have been sent to the Federal Government to have the name "Dominion Day" retained for the July 1st holiday, but as Mr. Spohn sent a petition on behalf of the Association and the Bill was dropped, this was not done.

**List of New Officers for 1971**

Honourary President:	Col. Sir John Johnson, M.B.E., Sixth Baronet of New York.
Past President:	Mr. Michael Spohn.
President:	Mr. S. G. Moore.
Vice-President:	Mr. A. A. Ruttan.
Lady Vice-President:	Mrs. Margaret Whitney.
Treasurer:	Mrs. W. A. Jarrell.
Recording Secretary:	Mrs. G. N. Duncan-Clark.
Corresponding Secretary:	Miss Louise Beck.
Standard Bearer:	Mrs. W. K. Nobbs.
Associate Representative:	Mr. W. K. Nobbs.
Programme Convener:	Dr. H. G. Walton-Ball.
Junior Representative:	Mr. G. Edward Gilbert.
Genealogist:	Mrs. O. George Hancocks.
Legal Adviser:	Mr. Michael Spohn.
Chaplains:	Major The Rev. J. L. L. Howson, Peterborough, and Rev. Wm. D. F. Morris.

Obituary: **James E. Laughlin**

Alex Laughlin migrated from Glasgow, Scotland, in the 1760's, landing in northern New York State. He joined the New York Royal Regiment as was captured, held captive for three years. In 1798 he was granted 100 acres of land at Ernest, Upper Canada,. As a U.E.L. there his son, William Laughlin was born in 1835 at Ernesttown, Lennox County.

Later, William's son, James E. Laughlin, was born in 1870 ( the youngest of five) at Blanchard, Perth County. Eventually they moved to Windermere, Lake Rousseau.

They then bought a piece of land in McLean Township, 18 miles north of Bracebridge. Here they lived in a log cabin, sharing the hardships of real Canadian Pioneers. Very difficult for them at times.

With this background, Mr. Laughlin gained a very intimate study of pioneer life which has depicted in his many drawings and illustrations. The accuracy of his drawings was based on an endless study and research of the conditions of these early times.

Mr. Laughlin died in Toronto in 1944. He belonged to the Governor Simcoe Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

**Spring 1972**

1971 was a good year for our Branch, also a happy one. The Branch held seven meetings.

At our January meeting, Mr. Michael, Spohn, Dominion President and Past President of the Branch, was the guest speaker and his subject was "Whither the U.E.L.?" It was most interesting and instructive.

The February meeting was an illustrated talk on Dunkeswell Abbey and Environs by Mr. Keith M. Taylor, Honourary Treasurer of the Dunkeswell Abbey Preservation Fund. The slides and talk were delightful. This Abbey is nearby the John Graves Simcoe memorial in Devon, England.

The speaker at our March meeting was Mrs. R. Bruce Craic k, President of Ontario Chapter' of the I.O.D.E. Her subject was "Patriotism - What is it?" It was enjoyed by all.

At the April meeting, Mr. Michael Filey, a chemical technologist with the Ontario Water Resources Commission, gave an illustrated talk on our city and changes that have taken place during the years.

The May meeting was devoted to the History of the Lyons Family by Miss Florence Lyons. It was very interesting. The balance of the evening was spent as an open meeting ending with a social hour. Lunch was served by our Lady Vice-president.

The Annual Church Service was held at Centennial United Church, Dovercourt Road. Rev. W. D. F. Morris, pastor there, is a member of our Branch. There was a good attendance, including several members from the Toronto Branch.

The speaker at the first Fall meeting was Dr. F. G. Stulberg who spoke on The Development of the Post Office at York & Toronto during 1797-1851. Coloured slides were shown.

At the November meeting our speaker was Miss Jean Howson whose subject was Rhodesia Revisited 1971. It was a most informative evening and we learned much about Rhodesia.

In the early Spring of 1971 a committee was appointed to arrange for a trip to the Mohawk Valley. A trip was arranged for over the Thanksgiving weekend. Transportation and accommodation down at the Valley had to be arranged; the latter being arranged with the help of Colonel C. B. Briggs, a member of Governor Simcoe Branch and Curator of Johnson Hall, Johnstown, N. Y.

The trip was a great success with over eighty U.E. Loyalists from nine Branches across Canada going on the trip. The Governor Simcoe Branch gives the credit for the success of the trip to the conveners: Mrs. W. L. LeRoy and Miss L. Beck, members of our branch.

### **1972 Autumn**

**T**he Governor Simcoe Branch, Toronto, held its annual meeting at the beginning of the year with the installation of officers. The Honourary President is Colonel Sir John Johnson, M.B.E., C.C. Past President, Mr. S. G. Moore, was presented with a Past President's Bar and U.E.L. jewel. The new President is Mr. Arthur A. Ruttan; Vice-Presidents Mr. E.A. Livingston and Mrs. W.A. Jarrell; Recording Secretary, Mrs. G.N. Duncan-Clark; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. C.J. Taylor.

The program for the evening was a presentation of slides, movies and tape recordings on the "Mohawk Valley Homecoming" trip. This reliving by illustrations of the historic trip to Johnstown, New York, was shared by both Toronto Branch and Governor Simcoe Branch members. Many pictures taken by members were shown and explained by Dr. H. G. Walton-Ball. Motion pictures and tape recordings by Mr. Phillip Lennard were also shown of Thanksgiving Dinner and Sunday Night reception at Johnson Hall. The artist, Mr. A. DeDiego, who drew the insignia and inscription in the "Book of Names", presented it to

Johnson Hall. Prints from the New York State Bicentennial Commission of the American Revolution were displayed.

At the March meeting Mr. Hugh P. MacMillan, Liaison Officer at Ontario Archives in the Department of Public Records and Archives spoke on "Searching for Ontario Documents". Mr. MacMillan maintains that gathering historic documents can be a very rewarding pastime. Old bookshops and second-hand stores yield many valuable treasures. With the swiftly changing times so much will be lost to the U.E.L. members and to the Association if each member does not rescue these books very soon by collecting all books on the Loyalists. These rare books will increase in value in the passing of years.

In April the speaker was Dr. J.S. Wilkinson, Research Associate of "Greek and Roman Department" at the Royal Ontario Museum, and president of the Chedoke Numismatic Society. Dr. Wilkinson showed slides of these ancient Greek gold and silver coins. The pictures were beautifully illustrated. These priceless coins are kept in security at the Royal Ontario Museum and can be seen on special occasions. Another special event for the evening was a presentation of a Family History - Soules, the family name and ancestors of Mrs. R.H. Owens, a past Lady Vice-President of the Governor Simcoe Branch. The Soules, who in 1783 landed at Digby, Nova Scotia, later moved to Upper Canada where they settled at Thornhill, Ontario. Mrs. Owens brought documents, model ship, coins and a copy of the "Mayflower Quarterly".

Subscriptions are available. Address Editor, Mrs. R.M. Sherman, 128 Massasoit Drive, Warwick, Rhode Island, U.S.A. Spending much time down through New England, Mrs. Owens has collected a great deal of information on her family genealogy. She is a member of several historic clubs.

On May 17 a joint meeting of Toronto Branch and Governor Simcoe Branch was held with speaker Dr. Louis L. Tucker, Ph.D. - his subject "Uncle Sam's 200th Birthday". Dr. Tucker is Director of New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, State Historian for New York and Assistant Commissioner for State History.

### **1973 Spring**

**T**he Governor Simcoe Branch, Toronto, had Mr. Francis J. Petrie of Niagara Falls, a most enthusiastic speaker on the history of the Niagara area, as their guest at the October meeting.

A member of all the historical societies in the Niagara district, he is on the John Graves Simcoe Advisory Board, and writes a weekly column in the Niagara Falls Review.

Five thousand Loyalists settled in the Niagara Peninsula, beginning in 1792. Most of them were Butler's Rangers. They received 200 acres of land for each man, woman and child. An early deed states that the mineral rights went with the land but the white pine trees belonged to the Crown.

Mr. Petrie illustrated his talk with slides showing landmarks which still remain from the earliest days of European settlement.

The forest was so thick that the Indians used to bend the branches of the elm trees down and up again, and tie them that way, to mark the trail. Only one such tree is still standing -- on the Mountain Road at the Town Line.

The largest Indian burial ground, at St. David's, is marked by a cairn. The Neutral Indians kept bodies by wrapping them and placing them up in the trees. Every twelve years they held burial ceremonies which were very elaborate.

Seven years ago an old house in Wainfleet Township was torn down. Inside was found a well-preserved log cabin with a twig chimney. This has been moved to Ball's Falls just south of Jordan where a lovely park and picnic area attract many visitors.

There are many other sites well worth seeing, such as Laura Secord's home, MacFarland House, Fort George, Fort Erie, and a maple tree on the Comfort farm which was there in Champlain's day over 350 years ago.

Navy Hall, the site of the first Parliament of Upper Canada, is to be completely renovated, as is the oldest frame building in the peninsula, Butler's Barracks.

All these and many other bits of early history added up to a most enjoyable evening. "Memories from Abroad" became "Happiness for Tonight" when Mr. Henry Ross presented his travel pictures to the enthusiastic members of the Governor Simcoe Branch, Toronto, at their November meeting. Arranged in original manner under such headings as clocks, castles, rivers, abbeys and animals, the beautiful slides took the viewers from Edinburgh to Aswan and back, stopping to view the original home of Mr. Ross' Loyalist ancestors on Loch Ness and such famous historic sites as Runnymede, Greyfriars, Carnarvon, Heidelberg, Prague and York.

The commentary which accompanied the slides was most interesting, telling the significance of each building, for instance, Yorkminster Cathedral contains half of the stained glass in England.

Mr. Ruttan, the president, proudly announced that this branch was probably the first to use the new U.E.L. armorial bearings on its bulletins. Also, he stated that his aim was to double the membership from 120 to 240 during 1973. Twelve new members were received in 1972.

The Governor Simcoe Branch, Toronto, met in January 1973 to elect a slate of officers as follows: Past President Mr. S. G. Moore; President Mr. A. A. Ruttan; Vice-Presidents Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Livingston; Treasurer Mrs. W. A. Jarrell; Acting Secretary Mrs. G. N. Duncan Clark; Corresponding Secretary Mrs. C. J. Taylor; Standard Bearer Mrs. W. K. Nobbs.

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The program for the evening was entitled "Toronto, The Old and the New", and consisted of many historical pictures of the early architectural treasures of the city, followed by present-day contrasts in steel and glass and concrete.

### **1973 Autumn**

The March meeting of the Governor Simcoe Branch, Toronto, was held in the Maurice Cody Hall, with Mr. E.A. Livingston, Vice-President, as the speaker. His subject was a trip through the Mohawk Valley, scene of many exciting events during the Revolutionary War. Mr. Livingston is an excellent photographer and treated the members to beautiful scenes of nature as well as historic buildings such as Johnson Hall, Fort Johnson, Herkimer House, Fort Ticonderoga and many others.

The President, Mr. Arthur Ruttan, told the story of his Loyalist background, from the French Huguenot roots in Rochelle through England and Holland to New Rochelle, N.Y. In 1784 two brothers came to Upper Canada with VanAlstine and settled at Adolphustown, Bay of Quinte. The family had the first clock in the town and were close friends of Joseph Brant, naming a son Joseph Brant Ruttan.



Mr. Gilmor of Toronto Branch outlined plans for the U .E.L. Convention and urged all members to attend May 11-13 at New College, University of Toronto. During the business period a membership certificate was presented to Mrs. John E. Oms, and Mrs. E.A. Livingston was asked to try to re-activate the Ladies' Auxiliary of the branch.

The May meeting of the 'Governor Simcoe Branch provided the many members who were present with a vivid look into the earliest days of settlement in the Don Valley which is today the site of a crowded expressway.

The speaker was Mr. Bert Pratt, the chairman of the Board of Management of Todmorden Mills. the Centennial Project of the Borough of East York.

In 1963 a centennial committee was set up to plan for the restoration of the site of the first settlement in East York, at the suggestion of Mr. Charles Sauriol. Other restoration projects were studied, such as those at Upper Canada Village and Black Creek Pioneer Village.

Twice the Mayor, Miss True Davidson, was instrumental in saving the property from development. Finally it was sold to the Conservation Authority for one dollar.

There were several buildings including two houses, one built in 1794 and one in 1821, which were still being used as homes in 1965. The first manufactured goods produced at the mill on the Don River were bricks and paper. The first settler was a Loyalist named Parshall Terry who fled to Canada and joined Colonel Butler's Rangers at Niagara. Later he came with Colonel Simcoe to York and in 1794 built a house and sawmill three miles up the Don River from York. Parshall Terry became a councillor and a magistrate. He was drowned in the flooded Don River in 1808. His house is now restored and furnished in the period of 1837.

Thomas Halliwell built the second house which is now furnished in the style of 1867. A small museum is open to the public and work is proceeding on a centre for the arts, using the former Whitewood Riding Stables. A pageant and parade are held each year on the first Monday in August, now called Simcoe Day. Pictures of the restored buildings and of the annual ceremonies added greatly to the enjoyment of the talk. Mr. Pratt was introduced by Dr. Walton-Ball and thanked by Dr. Walters. Mr. Norman Smith, President of the Don Valley Conservation Association, assisted at the projector.

During the business session Mr. Ruttan, the President, expressed sympathy to Mrs. Duncan-Clark who had suffered a broken hip. Her duties as recording secretary have been assumed by Mrs. Murray Johnson. Murray Johnson received his membership certificate and was welcomed by the President.

The meeting closed with refreshments and conversation.

### **1974 Spring**

**T**he Governor Simcoe Branch met in Toronto on October 10, Mr. S.G. Moore, Past President, in the chair.

Two new junior members were welcomed and received their certificates, namely, Miss Ellen Louise Carter and Mr. David James Barton Carter. Certificates were sent to four new non-resident members also: Mrs. W. Belshaw, Brantford; Mr. Dale Abbott, Philadelphia; Mr. Douglas Schrane, Thornhill; Mr. R.E. Allen; Pasadena.

The new chairman of the Ladies Committee, Miss Louise Beck, presented the suggestion that old recipes from pioneer days be used for preparing refreshments at the meetings, and that a collection of such recipes be started, with the hope of preparing a cook book. Ginger snaps, thimble cookies, quick bread, and candied walnuts were greatly appreciated during the coffee hour.

Dr. Walton-Ball introduced the distinguished speaker for the evening, Brigadier Willis Moogk. Prior to his retirement Brigadier Moogk commanded Base Borden and during World War II led the Winnipeg Rifles and served at General Montgomery's Headquarters. At present he is the curator of Dundurn Castle in Hamilton, and is chairman of the Executive Committee of the Governor Simcoe Foundation, the purpose of which is to restore the Wolford Chapel built by Governor Simcoe at his home in England, and to increase and spread knowledge about Governor and Mrs. Simcoe and their impact on the history of Ontario.

The Foundation is actively promoting recognition of the first Governor of Upper Canada (1791-1796) in many ways. It is developing the idea of placing a fine equestrian statue of Governor Simcoe on Yonge Street in Toronto.

A film of his life and times is planned by the Education Television authority.

A bill to rename Civic Holiday "Simcoe Day" is before the Legislature.

A picture is to be hung in Ontario House in England and portraits are to be presented to schools bearing the name of Simcoe throughout Ontario -where this has already been done the students have shown a marked interest in history as a result.

A "Simcoe Award" is to be given to the student showing the highest standard of leadership and scholarship for at least two years in each of two secondary schools. Governor Simcoe School in St. Catharines and Simcoe Composite School in the town of Simcoe have been chosen as the two pilot projects for this plan.

Brigadier Moogk outlined the life of Governor John Graves Simcoe and his wife, noting the hardships they endured in travelling throughout Upper Canada, living under canvas for two years, never complaining, but establishing a firm foundation for the future of this province.

In August 1972 Brigadier Moogk officiated at the unveiling of an Historical Plaque at Holy Trinity Church, Dunkeswell Abbey, Devonshire, England, to the memory of Elizabeth Posthuma Simcoe, a generous benefactor to Christian churches and missions throughout her lifetime.

Mr. Moore expressed the thanks of the enthusiastic audience to the speaker for the very interesting evening.

The November meeting opened with the President, Mr. A. A. Ruttan, followed by a toast to The Queen and one in honour of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips on their wedding day.

The President welcomed the guests and visitors and introduced Mrs. G.D. Conant of Oshawa who presented a copy of the book "Life in Canada" written by Thomas Conant over seventy years ago. Mr. Conant was a descendant of Roger Conant, U.E.L., from Massachusetts and inherited large land holdings south of Oshawa. He was a world traveller, author, newspaper correspondent and farmer, who was fond of extolling the blessings of life in Ontario. Mrs. Conant was thanked by Mr. Ruttan.

Miss Beck reported that special brown bread from a pioneer recipe would be served with the coffee and invited offers of other home baking.

The tour of Gibson House was much enjoyed and a tour of The Grange is to be arranged for February 14.

Several announcements of coming events were made. Members are asked to send newspaper clippings of any articles of U.E.L. interest to the Dominion Headquarters. Mr. Chard is collecting these.

Mr. S. G. Moore presented the slate of officers for 1974 and moved its adoption. This was seconded by Mrs. LeRoy and carried.

Past President Mr. A.A. Ruttan; President Miss Louise Beck; Vice-President Mrs. W.D. Goodger; Second Vice-President Mr. Murray Johnson; Secretary Mrs. Murray Johnson; Corresponding Secretary Mrs. C.J. Taylor; Treasurer Mrs. W.A. Jarrell; Program Dr. Walton-Ball.

Dr. Walton-Ball then presented a program of coloured slides of trips taken by members of Governor Simcoe Branch during the last twenty years. These included visits to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Sibbald Point, Newcastle, Port Hope, Upper Canada Village and others.

### **1974 Autumn**

**T**he Governor Simcoe Branch, Toronto, held its final meeting for the season on April 25 at Fort York Armories, Toronto. The speaker, Lt. - Col. M.A. Stevenson, Commanding Officer of Canada's oldest regiment, still active, The Queen's York Rangers, gave an address on "John Graves Simcoe and the Queen's York Rangers.

In the Officers Mess a large group of members of the Governor Simcoe Branch and friends, gathered in informal comfort, in this luxurious setting.

Lt. - Col. Stevenson in dress uniform of the Queen's York Rangers was assisted by two young soldiers in uniform, with slides of 18th and 19th century forts, ships and old documents, carefully preserved. Two original flags of this famous old regiment, neatly mended, were on display within the safety of their glass case. The museum, with its valuable collection of centuries old firearms, uniforms and other mementoes, was opened for this select group of people.

Lt. - Col. Stevenson knew his subject well, and an unforgettable evening was spent by those fortunate enough to hear this distinctive talk on Upper Canada's first Lieutenant Governor, John Graves Simcoe, and his part as Lt. - Colonel of the Queen's York Rangers having seen service in Boston 1775. His military career in America ended with the defeat of Cornwallis at Yorktown, in 1781. Several groups of Rangers had been gathered together to form what eventually became the Queen's York Rangers (the best woods. men, riflemen and scouts of Butler's Rangers, etc.).

John Graves Simcoe even though appointed Lieutenant Governor was a soldier and his beloved Rangers were always on hand to do his bidding. The pioneer colonists resented rule by the military, and John even stirred resentment in the Governor General, Lord Dorchester. But he did much good for Upper Canada in his own way, building a good road from Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe that became Yonge Street. Being military minded he was on the lookout for the invaders from south of the border. The knoll where he and his rangers spent the night after getting bogged down in Holland Marsh, is still intact on the Viola

MacMillan farm, where those who wish to traverse the old Humber Trail can see it. John Simcoe was soon recalled to England, leaving the Queen's York Rangers behind. The War of 1812 saw this regiment in action again. It became disbanded more or less at various times through the 19th and 20th centuries, only to come alive on special occasions when needed, updated where necessary .

Lt. - Colonel M.A. Stevenson is the most recent commander of this famous old regiment. He was thanked by Dr. H.G. Walton-Ball.

Guests were Len Kwastowski and John Farmer, who were award winners for their presentation of Fort York in the Ontario Schools History examinations.

Immediate Past President, Mr. A.A. Ruttan, of Governor Simcoe Branch was presented with a jewel and bar by President Louise Beck.

A buffet luncheon with coffee was enjoyed by the group.

Dr. and Mrs. J. G. Dillane of Hamilton and Dr. and Mrs. H. G. Walton-Ball of Toronto attended the Loyal Societies Dinner in honour of the Toronto Scottish Regiment, in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, on Wednesday, June 26th, 1974 at the Inn on the Park.

### **1975 Spring**

**T**he Governor Simcoe Branch, Toronto, for its October meeting visited Black Creek Pioneer Village. The visit was organized by the Younger Members Chairman, Ron Willson.

At the November 14th meeting Dr. J.G. Dillane of Hamilton outlined the role of the Association's Public Relations Committee, of which he is chairman and Dr. H.G. Walton-Ball is our Branch representative. Mrs. E. Blair, Dominion Genealogist, outlined steps in completing membership application forms. Two films were shown, "The War of 1812", filmed at Black Creek Pioneer Village and "The Restoration of Louisburg, Cape Breton, N.S."

In December, following our usual custom, some of our members joined the Toronto Branch for its Christmas dinner party at the Park Plaza Hotel.

On January 16th, we met at the Royal Ontario Museum for an illustrated talk by Mrs. Mary Holford of the Costume Department, on the fashions in Upper Canada from 1780 to 1830, covering the Loyalist and Simcoe periods, for all types of activities and members of society. Members of the John Graves Simcoe Memorial Foundation and Queen's York Rangers joined us on this occasion as well as others interested in membership. Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Elliott and Mr. and Mrs. H. Lampman came from Hamilton and Mr. Elliott outlined plans for the Annual Convention which the Hamilton Branch is hosting this year on April 25 - 27.

Two of our members, Mrs. Emily Maclean-Howard and Miss Catharine Gordon, great granddaughters of William Hamilton Merritt (1793-1862), were guests at the various ceremonies held in St. Catharines and Thorold the week of November 24-30 to mark the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Welland Canal.

Our genealogist, Mrs. Elizabeth Hancocks is the first Canadian lineage specialist to be certified by the National Genealogical Society of the United States, She and our past first and second vice-presidents, Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Livingston, are official Genealogical Record Searchers. The Livingstons moved to Prescott

and Mrs. Livingston teaches genealogy at St. Lawrence College, Brockville. Mr. Livingston is now President of Col. Edward Jessup Branch.

Our past president, Arthur A. Ruttan, moved to Bracebridge in October with his wife and family, where he has opened a new plant. He has given us the newspaper account of the official opening by the Mayor of Bracebridge, and a copy of a book, written by his brother Robert A. Ruttan, The Adventures of Oolakuk, an account of the modern Eskimo and his problems in adjusting to the modern world.

The recent appointment of the President of Governor Simcoe Branch to the Advisory Board of the John Graves Simcoe Memorial Foundation will give us an opportunity of working together to support our mutual aims. Simcoe was held in such high esteem by the Loyalists who served under him in the Queen's Rangers during the American Revolution that many of them came to join him in Upper Canada when he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor, and helped build the capital and province we know today. Mr. L.H.C. Jennings, historian for the Queen's York Rangers, is writing the story of Simcoe and the Queen's Rangers and would like to contact any descendants of the Queen's Rangers First American Regiment. His address is 50 Greenbelt Drive, Suite 70, Don Mills, Ont. M3C 1M4. Phone (416) 449-6471.

Early in 1974 the support of Governor Simcoe Branch was sought to save what remained of a pioneer Loyalist community burial ground on the Cameron farm, Lot 4, Concession 6, Cornwall Township. After receiving the report of the Regional Inspector of the Cemeteries Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, and going down ourselves to see the site, it was evident that, if something wasn't done soon, there would be nothing left to save. Students through a SPICE grant from the local high school worked on the cemetery during the summer to improve its physical condition and write the history of the families buried there; newspaper publicity was obtained locally, and we prepared and submitted a brief to Heritage Canada. The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society have offered to look after the restoration work and to administer a trust fund for this purpose. Those interested in contributing should make cheques payable to the Cameron Cemetery Restoration Fund, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Historical Society, Box 773, Cornwall, Ont. K6H 5T5. Donations will be tax deductible. One of the remaining stones is in memory of John Cameron, Clunes, U.E.L., died May 10, 1824, aged 99 years.

There are many such graves around the countryside of our Loyalist ancestors, abandoned and forgotten. With them disappears an important part of our Loyalist pioneer history. We trust this project will be part of an over-all plan to preserve our Loyalist landmarks and history. The Dominion Council is drawing up guide lines for the restoration and maintenance of abandoned Loyalist pioneer cemeteries, under the chairmanship of Miss Louise Beck, 4 Washington Ave., Toronto, Ont. M5S 1L2

### **1976 Spring**

**T**he November meeting was held at the pioneer home of Lewis Bradley. Some twenty members, of the Governor Simcoe Branch gathered around the fireside to hear Mrs. W. K. Martin, a member of the Bradley family, tell how the Bradleys and their associates came from England to Georgia, fought together during the American Revolution, settled in New Brunswick and then came together to a new land in Upper Canada. After Mr. W. K. Nobbs thanked her for a well-researched aspect of the Loyalist story, Mr. Ronald Wilson, the Curator, gave the history of the house and museum, which contains Lewis Bradley's land grant as a son of a Loyalist. Then Mrs. Alex F. MacLeod, on behalf of Governor Simcoe Branch, presented to Mrs. W. B. Lawrence, Secretary of the Township of Toronto Historical Foundation Inc., a root of the Loyalist Rose, to be planted in the Bradley House garden. This rose was brought to Canada from the Mohawk Valley after the American Revolution by one of Mrs. MacLeod's ancestors. It has been identified as Maiden's Blush of the Alba family.

For lunch baked beans were served from the spit over the fire, hearth baked brown bread, and hand-pressed apple cider, provided by Miss Catherine Gordon and Mrs. W. L. LeRoy, social conveners, with the assistance of Mrs. Lawrence and Mr. Wilson. It was enjoyable, 'arm and hospitable occasion, as ell as an historic one. Among the Loyalist families who settled this community were the Jarvises and Stephen Jarvis's home, the Anchorage, still stands on the next property.

The speaker at the January meeting was Mrs. Mary Beacock Fryer on the subject Cowboys and Blackbirds: The British Secret Service during the Revolution. Mrs. Fryer was born in Brockville of Loyalist ancestry and writes on the Loyalists for young readers. Her main interest is the war experience of Loyalists, and the fact that many were operating out of Canada. Her talk was based on material gathered when researching the life of Capt. John Walden Meyers of Belleville for her book Loyalist Spy-a fascinating and entertaining account of a little-known aspect of the Revolution.

At the February meeting in recognition of Heritage Day (Feb. 16) this branch joined the Grand River Branch for a talk and tour of the Canadiana Gallery 'and current exhibition " Wolfe and the Battle for a Continent" which featured maps portraits of Wolfe and Montcalm and their officers. Scenes of warships in action, models of the flagship "H.M.S. Vanguard" and a French man-of-war, decorations, documents, and some of the weapons of war, including the sword and powder horn of General Montgomery were shown. This exhibition was of particular interest in view of the mock battle on the Plains of Abraham last October when General Richard Montgomery and Colonel Benedict Arnold tried to capture Quebec in 1775, just sixteen years later, to gain control of Canada for the rebel Americans.

The March meeting featured Mr. Gavin K. Watt on the subject of The King's Royal Regiment of New York: The Royal Yorkers (Johnson's Greene), Mr. Gavin Watt and Mr. Edward Anderson of the Service Rifle Shooting Association, representing a sergeant and corporal in the uniform of the KRR NY, complete with accoutrement, were accompanied by a drummer with an 18th century drum (reproduction). An original 18th century halbert was on display as part of the regalia. The re-raised regiment formed part of the Guard of Honour for the Lieutenant-Governor at the Garrison Ball in February, and will take part in the re-enactment of the Landing of the Loyalists at Kingston at the U.E.L. Annual Convention on May 14.

On June 19th, 200 years ago that Carleton gave Sir John Johnson the order to raise the regiment at Chambly, they will conduct a ceremony in front of the memorial plaque to Sir John in Crysler Battlefield Memorial Park, presented by the late Sir John Johnson, who had accepted the position of Honorary Commandant of the re-raised Regiment and was eagerly looking forward to taking part in the ceremony. Mr. Watt has done a great deal of research on the history of the regiment and its men.

The president of the Governor Simcoe Branch, Toronto is Miss Louise Beck, 4 Washington Street. Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1L2.

### 1977 Spring

**T**he Governor Simcoe Branch has been very active this past year. Recognizing the significance of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, the Branch held its first meeting at St. Paul's Anglican Church, October 7, 1976, with Mr. Carl Lee Shain, U.E., Chairman Toronto Branch, The Monarchist League of Canada, giving the address. Suggesting that Loyalists should be most prominent in supporting the Monarchy, Mr. Shain reminded the Branch that The Crown is a symbol of continuity, order and authority, and that the precious institution for which our Loyalist forefathers fought is above local,' province, and federal politics. With various signs of erosion taking place, The Crown is becoming subject to biased criticism.

Accordingly, Mr. Shain suggested that those who adhere to the concept of Constitutional Monarchy, a democratic form of government which would not have tolerated a Watergate scandal, should write to their elected representatives requesting that appropriate school texts be used to familiarize students with the role of the Monarchy in our system of government. A lively discussion period followed Mr. Shain's address.

The November meeting was held at Montgomery's Inn. This Islington, Ontario tavern and hostel was built in 1832 and has been restored to approximate the 1850's. A substantial membership turnout resulted in the tour being divided into two groups. Each tour lasted for approximately one and one-half hours, candlelight and fireplace warmth affording a pleasant excursion through one of the province's finest restorations. After the tour, Mr. C.J. Humber outlined for the Branch the brief which he was submitting on behalf of the Loyalists' Association to the Ministry of Education which was in the process of revamping the History guidelines for the province's grades seven, eight, nine and ten students. The brief outlined the reasons why more stress should be placed on Loyalist History, emphasizing that the foundations of the province promoted multiculturalism, law and order, hard work, and religious freedom.

On February 17, Mrs. Eula Lapp addressed the Branch. Many Loyalist members, aware of her publication To Their Heirs Forever, a book which has won many awards, including a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History in 1972, greatly looked forward to meeting with this fine lady who reminisced for approximately fifty minutes how she became involved in genealogy, exploring the anecdotal incidents leading up to the publication of this book which has just been reprinted by Mika Publishing Co., Belleville, Ontario. One of the largest turnouts the Branch has had in a long time responded with vibrant applause.

Mr. Ronald Willson, Branch President, and his executive, anticipate a large turnout for Dr. Allan Walters whose presentation on March 17 will cover the Loyalist Settlement at Cataraqui and the Bay of Quinte, 1783-84. This address was as well received by the annual convention in Kingston last year that many who heard it have been eagerly anticipating the repeat address, an address which will be published shortly in the Lennox and Addington Historical Society's Papers and Records.

April 21 is a special day for the Branch, as Her Honour, Pauline McGibbon, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, will hold a reception for the Branch in her suite at the Parliament Buildings. A conducted tour of the Legislature will follow the reception. Over two hundred are expected to turn out for this memorable occasion.

The Governor Simcoe Branch has been more than stirring "roots" ! Our membership is swelling and we anticipate continued and sustained growth as we approach our Bicentennial.

### **1977 Autumn**

**T**he March 17th meeting of the Governor Simcoe Branch was held jointly with the Toronto Branch in the Maurice Cody Hall, St. Paul's Church, Toronto. The auditorium was capacity filled, with overflow in the gallery, as approximately 150 Loyalists heard Dr. Allan Walters' much acclaimed address on "The Loyalist Settlement at Cataraqui and the Bay of Quinte, 1783 and 1784". This speech, first given in May

1976 at the U.E.L. Annual Meeting in Kingston, Ontario, focuses attention on Sir Frederick Haldimand and his massive emergency plan to open the land above the rapids on the St. Lawrence River all the way to Picton. This professionally documented declamation with many pulchritudinous slides of prominent personalities during this epic occasion, as well as interesting maps and graphic data relating to this refugee movement, all contributed to a highly successful evening, culminating in an abundance of delectable refreshments served by the ladies of both branches.

Many thanks must go to Dr. Walters a branch member whose energy this past year has been directed toward Loyalist projects in particular the **Position Paper on Nomenclature** in which he, as secretary, has significantly helped in researching and collecting information pertaining to the 200-year usages of the terms "Loyalists", ..U.E.... "U.E. Loyalist" and "United Empire Loyalist". All of this scholarly research has concluded in a most important document now being offered for sale by Headquarters, and should be reading material for all ardent Loyalists as well as those interested generally in Canadiana. (This book is sold to members for \$3.50, mail delivery. Order through your branch. )

This past April, on Queen Elizabeth II's birthday, the Governor Simcoe Branch was honoured by Her Honour. Lieutenant Governor Pauline McGibbon. who graciously held a reception for the Branch in honour of the Queen's Silver Jubilee in the Parliament Buildings at Queen's Park. This was a momentous occasion as almost 300 Loyalists and their friends, all personally invited by written invitation from Her Honour's office. were greeted by the Queen's representative in Ontario, then for about one hour all enjoyed Her Honour's hospitality, entertained with the finest of refreshments and cordiality. Following the reception, a guided tour was conducted of the Provincial Legislature. There is no doubt that this particular evening was the highlight of the year for the Governor Simcoe Branch. Many thanks must go to Mr. Charles J. Humber, the programme convener, who arranged this memorable engagement, particularly fitting-for all Loyalists, since it was their forefathers who steadfastly maintained loyalty to England's grand Monarch, George III, rather than succumb to the birth pangs of Republicanism, advocated by the revolutionary Patriots of 200 years ago.

The meeting was not only the Branch's Annual meeting but an evening in which Lieutenant Gavin K. Watt, Unit Commander, Colonel's Co 'y, "King's Royal Yorkers", addressed a full house on the topic: "The Expedition of Brevet Brigadier General Barry St. Leger, to Fort Stanwix and the Loyalist Victory at Oriskany". Dressed in the military regalia of the period, Lieutenant Watt was most impressive (his audience was most attentive!) as he examined and elaborated about the military strategy of both sides in one of the most crucial battles and expeditions of the New York revolutionary scene.

At the same meeting, Mr. Ronald Willson was elected President for the second consecutive term, Charles J. Humber was elected the new Vice-President, Mrs. Kathleen LeRoy the new programme convenor, and the posts of Secretary, Treasurer, membership Chairman, and Branch Genealogist were acclaimed respectively for Mrs. Barbara Johnson, Miss Florence Foster, Mrs. Lorne Butler and Mrs. Jean Goodger. For membership write to Mrs. Jean Goodger, Genealogist, Governor Simcoe Branch, 30 Evermede Drive, Don Mills, Ontario, M3A 2Sa. telephone (416) 444-5745.

Extended appreciation goes to Miss Louise Beck. Past President, whose efforts to generate executive morale and offer advice of experience have succeeded in making this a banner year for the Governor Simcoe Branch, 1976-1977.

### 1978 Spring

**G**overnor Simcoe Branch, Toronto, opened the fall session with a Loyalist Thanksgiving family dinner. The Maurice Cody Lounge was bright with fall decorations, tables were set up for individual groups, and a centre buffet table was adorned with candles and flowers, and resplendent with gourmet dishes which were provided by members of the branch. The Loyalist children, provided a touch of hope for the future. It was suggested that this dinner be made an annual affair. Mr. Charles Humber, Vice-President, held a short meeting after the dinner. Five letters written during the revolution, 1782-1783, from Lieutenant Francis LeRoy to his father Peter LeRoy of Poughkeepsie, New York, were read by Mrs. Kathleen W.



leRoy. Miss Catherine Gordon and Mrs. Bertha Scott of the social committee were in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Carl Benn spoke at the November meeting. He is senior interpreter at Montgomery's Inn and former commanding officer of the Fort York Guards. "The War of 1812 tactics employed by the military" was his subject. It was a learning experience for the audience. He explained smoke screens and the use of the different kinds of shot. His talk was illustrated with slides, and Mr. Benn is to be congratulated for his forthright delivery. The president Mr. Ronald Willson, presided. Refreshments were served.

On January 17 the Governor Simcoe Branch met at the Toronto' City Hall. It was a special meeting, arranged for an address delivered by the Dominion President, Mr. Stuart Gilmor. "The Unity of Canada" was the title of his informative speech. Guests attending were from the Royal Orange Lodge, University and Scouts, the St. Andrews Society, and members of the St. George Society. In spite of the stormy night a good attendance was reported. A short business meeting was conducted by the president, Mr. R. Willson. He then introduced Mr. Gilmor who delivered a lengthy speech, including statistics and many quotes on the problem of unity in Canada. At the moment in spite of all the organizations working toward the union there seems to be no tangible way of solving the matter. An open discussion followed, and light refreshments were served by the social committee.

On February 22 Mr. Philip Dunning and Miss Lyn Cunningham brought their tableau "Jessup's Rangers" and "Women Camp Followers" to our meeting. Mr. Dunning is Curator of Montgomery's Inn, author of "Canadian Guide Book" , "Antique Collecting in Canada", and writes for several periodicals. With all the historical accoutrements, dressed in the costumes -of that time, and with the aid of slides, they brought to the audience a life portrayal of a Loyalist regiment of the 1775 era. Comment was made on the work and research that went into this task, the original materials used, the dye from nature used for the garments, land uniforms, and what was significant in the tailoring. But, there were many soldiers who marched off to war, in the clothes they wore, replenishing them wherever they could.

The women camp followers were many, sometimes wives and girlfriends, children too, they worked along with the army, mending and washing and cooking. When their clothes became worn, they simply made do with petticoats, which were transformed into skirts, and worn with blouses which they fashioned from any material they had on hand. Miss Cunningham used slides to illustrate her talk and brought a bright and objective view to her subject.

Loyalist Regiments have been re-activated in Canada and the United States. They now serve a purpose in the historical past of our countries. We are proud to know that Montgomery's Inn has taken a leading part in the bringing of Canadian History to the people. Our thanks is extended to Mr. Dunning and Miss Cunningham for their warm and gracious response to come and speak to us.

Mr. R. Willson, the President, was in the chair. The Position Paper, the Loyalist rose and the annual convention being held in London, Ontario May 5-7, were discussed. Refreshments were served by the social committee.

New members: Mr. Malcolm George Davies, Mrs. Gertrude Loudon, Mr. Douglas A. Crawford, Mrs. Minerva Herrett, Mr. John K. Tovell, Mr. Harold Cross, Mrs. Meryle De Valadares, Mr. Malcolm E. Harris, Miss Georgina Howes, Mr. R. G. Mutrie, Mr. Leonard White.

The Governor Simcoe Branch Newsletter is now being noticed through friends in other historical groups, and some comment has been made in their historical newsletter. We congratulate Miss Louise Beck for her fine effort on the branch's behalf.

Remembering Kathleen J. Wark Walters, M.D. – Quietly she came into our midst, And lit a candle, and now she is gone, the candle still burns brightly:

Greetings to old friends : Helen Blair, New Mexico; Mary Muncy, Ladysmith, B.C.; Arthur Ruttan, Bracebridge, Ontario; Mrs. G. P. Woods, Islington, Dorothy Jarrell, Islington.

### 1978 Autumn

The Governor Simcoe Branch held its April meeting of the year at the Maurice Cody Hall Lounge, St. Paul's Anglican Church, Toronto, on the 18th. A large crowd gathered to hear Mr. David Faux of the Hamilton Branch speak on the first settlers of the Grand River. The visual effect of the many slides personally taken by Mr. Faux highlighted the evening. Those present learned that the early settlement of this significant river in south western Ontario became host to a multi-racial society in 1784. Following the American Revolution, Delaware, Six Nation and mixed-blood people settled interspersed with their fellow Americans of Palatine and English descent, most of whom were disbanded soldiers of the Indian Department and Butler's Rangers. Following the meeting, Mr. Faux was encouraged to publish his topic in such periodicals as The Loyalist Gazette or Ontario History .

At the May annual meeting, Mr. Ronald Willson's two year term as president came to an end. Despite a very busy career at IBM, Mr. Willson has devoted many hours of his time guiding the Governor Simcoe Branch through many successful meetings. The new president, Mr. Charles J. Humber and two vice-presidents, Prof. H. U. Ross and Dr. J. R. Bogert, as a team, will have to work very hard to maintain a similar successful course as well as prepare for the Association's Convention in the Spring. As the new treasurer, Mr. R. R. G. Mutrie III has undertaken a very important responsibility. Toronto Alderman Thomas A. Wardle Jr., who becomes the programme convenor will be showing bard-to-get films in addition to providing us with a slate of speakers. Mr. C. Lorne Butler will carry on as membership chairman. His up-to date lists have been an invaluable assistance to the Branch's executive over the last several years. Other members of the executive are Mrs. Lois Love, recording secretary; Mr. A. G. Collins, associate representative; Rev. E. E. Johns, Chaplin; Mr. Michael Spohn, legal advisor; Miss Donna Moore, standard bearer; Mr. Murray Barkley, historical committee chairman; Miss Louise Beck, a past president, editor of Branch's Newsletter; social conveners, Mrs. Bertha Scott and Miss O. June Pierson; Mrs. Margaret Whitney, assisting with sick and visitation. Special mention of thanks must go to Miss Jiss Florence Foster who has hosted many of the executive meetings over the past several years in addition to being a very capable treasurer during difficult years of branch expansion. Additionally, the Branch extends many thanks to Mrs. Jean Goodger, whose genealogical expertise has continually helped the Branch to maintain up-to-date membership lists. Finally, the Branch would be the poorer had it not been for the secretarial work of Mrs.. Barbara Johnson.

The Branch Executive and Dr. J. R. Bogert, who has volunteered to be the Convention Chairman while the Branch hosts the Annual Convention for the Association's Convention on May 24-28, 1979, announces that Trinity College, University of Toronto, is the designated headquarters for the Convention. The Association's banquet will be in the great hall of Hart House. Reservations have been made for over 300 seats.

The Branch was very proud to participate in the Governor Simcoe Day celebrations held in Toronto. Three of our members, Gavin Watt, Edward Anderson and Ronald Willson, active members of the recreated King's Royal Regiment of New York, demonstrated musketry and military pageantry. Additionally, Branch President Charles J. Humber, with Dominion President John Aikman of Hamilton, placed a wreath of gorgeous flowers at the old military flag post site of Governor Simcoe. Miss Louise Beck, Miss Madeline Goldring, and Mrs. Jean Goodger were dramatically dressed in period costumes and

added greatly to the colour of the festivities. Also present were Toronto Branch members Mrs. May McGillivray, Mrs. Betty Owen, and Miss Margaret Owen.

The Branch welcomes the following new members: Mr. Gavin Watt (King City), Mrs. Roy Taylor (Toronto), Mr. W. W. B. Thompson (Sutton West), Mrs. Hazel Croft (Toronto), Mrs. Grant S. Dean (Port Lampton), Mr. Richard Dodge (Oshawa), Mr. R. Douglas Loyd (Toronto), Mr. and Mrs. James Cameron Lyttle (Weston), Mrs. Margaret MacMillan (Toronto), Mrs. Muriel Clark (Thornhill), and Mrs. L. H. Cobbledick (Stroud)

## 1979 Spring

The October 11th meeting of The Governor Simcoe Branch, chaired by its new president, Charles J. Humber, was held in the auditorium of The Toronto Board of Education Centre. The U.E.L. President, Mr. John Aikman spoke on "The Aims and Purposes of The United Empire Loyalists' Association in the Context of Today's Needs," was thoughtful and he clearly demonstrated his concern for the direction which our Association is taking to promote our image and our general welfare. Miss Louise Beck thanked Mr. Aikman for his fine message. Following Mr. Aikman's address, the general membership applauded Mr. Ronald J. Willson who accepted the Past-President's badge presented by Mr. Stuart Gilmor, a Past-President of both the Dominion Association and the Toronto Branch. The agenda concluded with a National Film Board production entitled "The Family Prince," a film about Prince Charles' visit to Canada and his views on The Monarchy. The Branch thanks Toronto Alderman Thomas A. Wardle Jr. for making available this film.

On 14 November 1978, The Governor Simcoe Branch held its second meeting of the year at The Toronto Board of Education Centre. A large crowd of seventy-five members and friends gathered to hear Mr. Arthur Bousfield, Chairman of the Toronto Monarchist League Branch and editor of Monarchy Canada, the leading voice for Monarchical issues in Canada today. Mr. Bousfield's stirring address reflected many of the sentiments made by The Monarchist League in its brief to the Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons on the Constitution of Canada. Much of the message exhorted Loyalists not to forget their ancestors whose unflinching loyalty to the Crown is the legacy of all Loyalists today in Canada. Mr. Alex Collins introduced the guest speaker and Alderman Thomas A. Wardle Jr. gave the appreciation.

Following Mr. Bousfield's presentation there were shown slides depicting the many Monarchical symbols throughout the Queen City. This Monarchist League production was a surprise to realize just how much the symbol of the British Crown is reflected in the city of Toronto !

## Governor Simcoe Branch Celebrates 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Governor Simcoe Branch reached a milestone in its history last 6 December 1978, with a memorable dinner commemorating its forty-fifth anniversary. A shoe-horn capacity crowd of more than one hundred and forty braved cold weather to attend the dinner which was held in the Royal Canadian Military Institute. The head table included the Chairman, Charles J. Humber and Mrs. Humber. guest speaker Rev. Dr. Reginald Stackhouse and Mrs. Stackhouse. Ll. Gavin K. Watt and Mrs. Watt, Mrs. Fred Knight, President of Toronto Branch. And Mr. Knight, Dominion President John Aikman and Mrs. Aikman, Dr. H.C. Walton-Ball and Mrs. Walton-Ball, Father McGivern of the Toronto Branch, and Alderman Thomas A. Wardle Jr. representing the City of Toronto.

The evening began with grace by Father McGivern which was followed by a toast to George III, the Sovereign under whom our Loyalist forefathers fought, and to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, given by

Lt. Gavin Watt, in charge of the recreated K.R.R.N.Y. The Royal Anthem was sung vigorously and the piano responded resoundingly to the fine playing of Gordon Ford, a Toronto Branch member.

After the main course, attention was drawn by the Chairman to the history sketch which was at each dinner plate outlining the history of The Governor Simcoe Branch. This account of one of the Association's earliest branches outlined the major activities which The Governor Simcoe Branch participated in over the years, such as erecting displays at The Canadian National Exhibition in the 1930's, and the holding of various Costume Balls in such places as the old Eaton Auditorium and The Royal York Hotel. Dr. Walton-Ball also fondly remembered in this brief how the branch prepared hundreds of ditty bags and hampers for those serving their country during W.W. II. In commenting on this sketch, Dr. Walton-Ball hoped that the branch has helped to make the general public aware of the great contributions made by John Graves Simcoe as the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada and the founding father of the Town of York. It is also hoped that Dr. Walton-Ball, after proposing a toast to The United Empire Loyalists' Association, will long remember the heart-felt applause he received following his presentation.

The Reply to the Toast was graciously made by the Association's President. John Aikman of Hamilton, who encouraged all branches to recognize that our bicentennial is only four years away and that we all must anxiously stir up our spirits and move vigorously forward with imaginative ideas so that our forefathers' memories will not be forgotten.

One of the highlights of the evening was a letter from Buckingham Palace read by Charles J. Humber. In part, it read: "I am commanded by The Queen to acknowledge your letter ... and to thank you for having sent a copy of the brief submitted by The U.E.L. Association .. to the Joint Committee on the Constitution, which Her Majesty was interested to see .., The Queen appreciates the warm and affectionate messages contained in your letter ..." The, Chairman was delighted to share this message with those in attendance and remarked that it was a privilege for The Queen to respond so warmly to our Association.

The highlight of the evening was the stirring address by Dr. Stackhouse, Principal of Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, and a former Member of Parliament representing Scarborough East. Dr. Stackhouse's address, though humorous at times, nevertheless grappled seriously with the problems facing those of us today who wish to preserve Canada for our children and for the generations to come. The four main points of this address, entitled "The Importance of Canada's Heritage," compared the fundamental traditions of his country to the four sides of a superstructure. Each of these walls, according to Dr. Stackhouse, is leaning and cracking. Each must be strengthened by those societies whose roots stretch backward to the foundations of this superstructure. The first of these is The Crown. Loyalists came to this country at great personal sacrifice because of their indebtedness to The Crown, a politically neutral institution guaranteeing personal freedom. The second wall is "the British Connection." It is this connection to Britain which sustained and protected us in the early days from the developing colossus below the border. This British Connection must not be forgotten if our identity is to be maintained. The third wall is the concept of "mutual acceptance," that is learning to live together, learning to keep our ethnic identities. learning to respect one another's ethnic background finally, the fourth wall is the old-fashioned respect for the noble virtues such as the work ethic, industry, thrift, integrity, marriage, the family. religion ... It is fashionable today to sneer at such virtues. but these are the traits which have made Canada attractive to the new Canadians of today! If we shore up these sides. the superstructure can be restored. If we neglect them. the cracks will widen until someday the superstructure called Canada will be demolished.

Present at the banquet were many distinguished guests. Former Governor Simcoe Branch Presidents in attendance were: Dr.H.G. Walton-Ball (1938, 1941, 1956-58), Mr. Curtis Bradt (1961-62), Mr. A.A. Ruttan (1972-73), and Miss Louise Beck (1974-76). Also present were three Past Presidents of the Dominion Association: Dr. H.G. Walton-Ball (1960-62), Dr. J.G. Dillane 1968-70), and Mr. Stuart Gilmor (1976-78). Several representatives of various Loyal Societies were also present representing The Royal Canadian

Military Institute, St. George's Society, The Simcoe Foundation, St. Andrews Society, The I.O.D.E., The Toronto Monarchist League, and The Ontario Historical Society, also five Past Presidents of The Toronto Branch, Mr. Stanley G. Loucks, Mr. John DeMille, Mr. Philip Smart, Mr. Stuart Gilmor, and Dr. Fred Branscombe. In all, forty members of The Toronto Branch joined with the Governor Simcoe Branch to contribute to the success of the evening.

Surely this evening was a highlight in the activities of the Branch. Many thanks must go, therefore, to people such as Louise Beck, Robert Mutrie, Dr. and Mrs. Walton-Ball, Lois Love, Jean Goodger, Kathleen M. Leroy, and Charles Humber, for without this committee of stalwarts, there would not have been such a successful banquet for so many distinguished guests.

#### Obituary: **William K Nobbs**

Mr. William K. Nobbs of the Governor Simcoe Branch passed away on Oct. 14. Mr. Nobbs was a staunch Loyalist and devoted member of his branch, having served in several offices as well as on the Dominion Headquarters Committee. He left his imprint as a worthy member that is greatly missed.

#### **1979 Autumn**

On February 7, at The Toronto Board of Education Auditorium, the speaker addressing the Governor Simcoe Branch was William G. Cooke, Ph.D., the Chairman of the Archives Committee at St. James Cathedral. After introductions by Dr. H.G. Walton-Ball, Dr. Cooke, a Harvard graduate, spoke on "The Role of the Crown in Canada". One of Dr. Cooke's main points stressed that a major revolution is today taking place in Canada -- mostly unnoticed! The revolution appears to be a drift away from a constitutional monarchy toward a republican oriented society. The erosion of monarchical elements highlights this revolution. Many of the young people in Canada today, Dr. Cooke emphasized, who are anti-monarchical or neutral about parliamentary reforms, are uninformed and misguided about their heritage and therefore condemn or misunderstand their institutions about their heritage and therefore condemn or misunderstand their institutions about which they know so little. Following Dr. Cooke's presentation, Professor Harry Ross, the Branch's Vice-President, thanked the speaker. The meeting concluded with Part 5 of the Royal Heritage Series (B.B.C.) called "The First Three Georges".

One of Canada's leading citizens and certainly one of the country's major philanthropists, Dr. David M. Stewart, came to address a large crowd at The Toronto Board of Education Auditorium on March 7. Dr. Stewart, Honorary Colonel of The Queen's York Rangers (1st American), interrupted his stay at the Macdonald 50th Anniversary Briar in Ottawa to be with the Branch. As President of the Macdonald-Stewart Foundation, it was indeed a pleasure to have this distinguished Canadian come to address the Governor Simcoe Branch on the topic "Celebrating Canadian History". Supplemented with slides, Dr. Stewart introduced the Branch to one of his major interests, namely, that of discovering both the birthplaces and resting places of distinguished Europeans who have significantly contributed to the development of Canada. Thus, he showed slides of the birthplace and homeland of Sir Isaac Brock, one of the great military commanders for the British forces in The War of 1812. He introduced us to Cartier's and Cabot's birthplace and what The Macdonald-Stewart Foundation is doing to preserve them as historical sites; and he illustrated John Graves Simcoe's resting place at Wolford Chapel, a shrine maintained today by The John Graves Simcoe Foundation, whose Chairman is Branch member, Mr. Canada, John Fisher. Dr. Stewart who had been introduced by Terry Poulos, a student specializing in military history at the University of Toronto, clearly showed how close our Canadian identity and heritage

are linked to such places as England, Scotland and France. Dr. Stewart is willing to repeat his fascinating program for large audiences elsewhere in Canada.

The National Film Board production entitled "The Invasion: 1775-1975" followed Dr. Stewart's presentation. The film was of particular interest to our Branch since two of our members, Gavin Watt and Ed Anderson, as Royal Yorkers (K.R.R. N.Y), participated in the action of the film. Additionally, The Queen's Rangers, La Companie Franche de la Marine, and the 78th Highlanders, re-created units either founded or funded by Dr. Stewart, also took part in the film. Mr. Stuart Gilmore thanked Dr. Stewart, a Montrealer, for coming to address us.

Senator Ann Bell from Vancouver was to have spoken at the April meeting. Unfortunately, the federal election made her appearance impossible and Branch President Charles J. Humber was fortunate to replace her with Torontonion Mary Beacock Fryer who came dressed in splendid period costume, which she wears when addressing students at local schools, and who shared with us her recent Loyalist projects. Mrs. Fryer's books are well known: Caleb Seaman was written about her Loyalist ancestor; The Loyalist Spy and Escape, two books aimed at young people, certainly debunk the commonly held theory that Loyalist history is dull. Anecdotal in approach, Mrs. Fryer discussed Capt. Justus Sherwood, a prominent figure associated with Loyalist history and a figure who will become much better known after Mrs. Fryer's next book is published. Past Branch President Louise Beck introduced Mrs. Fryer and Mr. Alex Collins thanked her for her educational presentation. There was no May meeting as it was felt the Branch needed as much time as possible to prepare for and host the four-day May 1979 annual convention of the Association at The University of Toronto.

### **1980 Spring**

**T**he annual meeting of the Governor Simcoe Branch, usually held in May, was postponed in 1979 until October because of the heavy commitments of the Branch in May preparing for the four-day 1979 annual convention of the Association at Trinity College, University of Toronto.

The October 3 annual meeting was divided into two parts: the election of officers; and an address by Charles J. Humber.

The following officers were accordingly elected to the second half of their two year term: President, Charles J. Humber; Vice-President, Professor Henry U. Ross; Treasurer, Mr. R. Robert G. Mutrie III; Recording Secretary, Miss Lois Love; Newsletter Editor, Miss Louise Beck; Membership Chairman, Mr. Lorne Butler; Genealogist, Mrs. Jean Goodger; Executive Members at Large; Dr. Gordon Leggett, Toronto Alderman Thomas A. Wardle Jr., Mr. Alex Collins, Dr. H.G. Walton-Ball, Mrs. Margaret Whitney, Mr. Murray Barkley and Mrs. W.S. Scott. One of the highlights of the annual meeting was the announcement by Membership Chairman Lorne Butler that the Branch had accepted 25 new members during the past year.

The second half of the annual meeting consisted of an address by President Charles J. Humber, a member of The Advisory Board of The John Graves Simcoe Memorial Foundation, an agency of The Ministry of Culture and Recreation. Dressed in period costume and portraying Ontario's first Lt. Governor, John Graves Simcoe, Mr. Humber spoke about the four-day voyage he took in sail-rigged canoes in August through Simcoe County, a re-enactment of a trip that John Graves Simcoe took in 1793, the purpose of which was to explore the Upper Great Lakes and to establish a naval base at Penetanguishene (see The Loyalist Gazette, Autumn, 1979, p.5).

### **1980 Autumn**

The April meeting of the Governor Simcoe Branch was held as usual at the Toronto Board of Education Auditorium, just west of University Ave. The speaker was Mr. Robert J. M. Shipley, author and artist, whose forthcoming book on Canada's war memorials is soon to be published by the University of Toronto press. Mr. Shipley's presentation was illustrated with many slides, most of which he has taken himself on a cross Canada trip aided by a Canada Council grant. Introduced by Charles Humber, Branch president, and thanked by Past president Dr. Walton-Ball, Mr. Shipley's message stated that although we have all vaguely seen war memorials, we rarely have given much thought to what they commemorate or to the people who erected them. He suggested strongly that one Loyalist Bicentennial project could be to locate all Loyalist monuments. The address was followed by the National Film Board presentation "Wealth from the Sea," a look at architectural restoration in downtown Halifax.

The May 7 gathering of 125 members and friends not only was the annual meeting of the branch but surely the highlight of the year. As acting branch archivist, Murray Barkley gave a visual address on the forty-six year history of the branch. Some two weeks before his address at the 1980 annual banquet of the U.E.L. Association, Mr. Barkley's presentation before an enthusiastic crowd was filled with nostalgia, reminiscence, and facts about the birth, growth and maturation of the Governor Simcoe Branch.

In preparing for his address, Mr. Barkley had to visit and correspond with older members of the branch, some of whom were charter members, collate all of the branch archives, and undertake many days of research. Additionally, Mr. Barkley, with the aid of President Charles Humber, took close to 200 pictures which formed the nucleus of the slide presentation. Thanks to Mr. Lorne Butler, the branch has microfilmed the almost half century of correspondence, documents, photographs and scrapbook material which members have kept and turned over to the present branch executive. The fruits of Mr. Barkley's research will result in the branch's publication of its history as a bicentennial project. It is also hoped that other branches will aspire to do similarly. The next meeting of the branch executive will discuss the possibility of giving to the Ontario Archives a copy of the microfilm material to advance knowledge of this branch which has sustained an interest in many aspects of Ontario history over the years.

The new executive for the 1908-81 schedule of events and business includes Charles J. Humber, Past-President, Professor Harry H. Ross, President, Mr. R.R.G. Mutrie III, 1st Vice-President, Mr. E. Brock Rideout, 2nd Vice-President, Hilda Lorenz, Treasurer, Lois Love, Recording Secretary, Louise Beck, Newsletter Editor, Mr. E. Lorne Butler, membership Chairman, Jean Goodger, Genealogist (30 Evermede Drive, Don Mills, Ontario M3A 2B3), Roy H. Fletcher, Asst. Genealogist, Ken Brown, Associate Representative, Murray Barkley, Historian, Edward Anderson, Bicentennial Committee, Lynn Cunningham, Costume Committee, Thomas A. Wardle, Jr., Programme Chairman, Bertha Scott, Social Convener, Jim Thorne, Sales, Hazel Croft, Telephone Committee, Margaret Whitney, Sick and Visiting, Donna Moore, Standard Bearer, Rev. John Allan, Chaplain, Michael Spohn, Legal Adviser.

## 1981 Spring

### **Archival Donation Photographed.**

Mr. Hugh P. MacMillan, Liaison Officer, Archives of Ontario, accepts from President Professor Harry Ross, six rolls of microfilm of all Governor Simcoe Branch archival material for the past fifty years microfilmed by Mr. Lorne Butler, Membership Chairman. Microfilm copies are now deposited in the Dominion and Provincial Archives and Toronto Reference Library. Past-Pres. Charles J. Humber, at right, is Branch Archivist.

On October 8, the Governor Simcoe Branch met at the Toronto Board of Education Auditorium to hear Mr. Hugh P. MacMillan, *V.E.*, a full-time searcher after historical documents for the Ontario Provincial Archives. Chaired by Professor H. V. Ross, President of the Gov. Simcoe Branch, the meeting had several highlights: the issuing of membership certificates to the Roy Fletcher family (total of seven), the presentation of the Past-President's badge to Charles J. Humber, the presentation of all Governor Simcoe

Branch archival material on microfilm to Hugh MacMillan, Liaison Officer of Archives of Ontario and, the outstanding slide show which Mr. MacMillan gave while addressing the branch.

Mr. MacMillan is a well known historian for many reasons. Not only does he locate archival material for the provincial government, but he helped to organize . the Glengarry Historical Society in 1958, and with the late Ian McMartin (member, St. Lawrence Branch) founded the Nor'Wester and Loyalist Museum at Williams town. A direct descendant of several North West Company founders, and of Loyalist descent through the Cameron family, Hugh MacMillan has organized many canoe brigades to help promote knowledge of the fur traders. His interest in early Canadian history has inspired many hundreds of young people who have come to know their 'history by travelling waterway highways from Minnesota to Montreal in 1967, from Minnesota to Winnipeg in 1970, from Toronto to Georgian Bay in 1979, and from Toronto to Oswego to Prescott in 1980. His fascinating slide show depicted not only who were the founders of the famous North West Company, but where they went, how they went and why they went. This visual programme was an outstanding success.

On November 5, Mr. Charles J. Humber, Vice-Chairman of the John Graves Simcoe Foundation and immediate Past President of the Gov. Simcoe Branch, addressed the Branch with a slide presentation, the subject of which, was "Promoting History Through Re-enactment."

One of Mr. Humber's convictions is that if we are to bring people closer to history, then historical re-enactments and pageants are a major vehicle for such education. Reporting on the historical pageants of the previous summer, Mr. Humber showed slides of events in which he participated as Governor John Graves Simcoe, Upper Canada's first Lieutenant Governor. In July, The North West Company under the leadership of Hugh MacMillan, escorted "John Graves Simcoe" to Oswego and Sackets Harbour on the south shore of Lake Ontario. This goodwill tour, which included more than forty voyageurs from all over Ontario, brought living history to thousands of people. These ceremonies were widely covered in the media. Stops at Kingston, Brockville and Prescott along the St. Lawrence River where Loyalist Days was culminating a week long period of festivities also received wide publicity. Additionally, Mr. Humber talked about his "pitch for history" at the Toronto Blue Jay baseball game on Simcoe Day weekend in Toronto last summer. The branch was told what it was like to speak to a crowd of 20,000 baseball fans, how co-operative Wintario was in helping to fund the event which included the mass distribution of a newsletter about Simcoe to baseball fans, and the extravaganza of having "His Excellency" escorted onto the playing field by the recreated Queen's Rangers (1st American), the Fort York Guard (King's 8th Regiment of Foot) and the Royal Artillery brigade. When the opening pitch of the game was fired, Mr. Humber stressed how important it was to make "the pitch for history" a strike, for if we are to promote history, we must strike out those who have been robbing it, erasing it and ridiculing it.

At the February meeting, Mr. Gerald A. Rogers, President of Heritage Branch (U.E.L), Montreal and a Past-President of the Chateauguay Valley Historical Society addressed our Branch. With lavish maps illustrating the migratory patterns of the French Huguenots, the German Palatines and Dutch martyrs from Europe to the American colonies and thence to British North America following the American Revolution, Mr. Rogers supplemented his talk with. slides of various communities in Europe, and the British Isles where so many Loyalist descendants today can trace their ancestry. Stressing the multiculturalism of these Loyalists, Mr. Rogers erased the concept that Loyalists, because of their loyalty to the British Crown, must have been English. Thousands of Loyalists, he emphasized, were loyal to the British Crown for a number of reasons: they were of German extraction; and therefore supported an Hanoverian King (George III); they were opposed to republicanism; they were loyal to a king who gave refugee Europeans before the revolutionary war of 1775 - 1781 a chance to escape to the new world from religious and political persecution and harassment in the old world; and they basically were pacifists by nature and abhorred revolution and violence. Because Mr. Rogers is a direct descendant of several of these Loyalist families, he was able to convey a sense of intimacy with these pioneers that so few in the historical community today could duplicate.



The March meeting brought Donald Webster to address the Branch. Curator of the Canadiana Gallery of the Royal Ontario Museum and widely known for his various publications on antiques, Mr. Webster talked about the type of furnishings the Loyalist refugee of the 1780's would have had in the Maritimes, the Eastern Townships of Quebec and Upper Canada. Stressing that most furniture was primitive or of "country" nature, Mr. Webster's slide show surely convinced those present that indeed some high style furniture was made very early in the Loyalist period and although very little of it has survived, enough has surfaced to create the basis for English Canadian Furniture of the Georgian Period (McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1979), Mr. Webster's latest book. The slides offered by Mr. Webster clearly indicated that opulent furniture, though scarce, was beautifully crafted with fine lines, great style and the classical motifs of the Chippendale, Sheraton and Hepplewhite periods. Those who witnessed the parade of furnishings on the screen surely took home with them the concept that not all first generation Loyalists were paupers or log house, dirt floor inhabitants.

The Branch was very saddened to learn of the death in February of one of its members, Mr. John Wiggins Fisher, better known to millions of Canadians as "Mr. Canada", our centennial commissioner in 1967 and CBC radio broadcaster for nearly 40 years.

### **1981 Autumn**

**M**argaret Clara Whitney who died on October 5th, 1981 at the Toronto East General Hospital after a relatively short illness, was born in Toronto on July 12th, 1910. Funeral service was at St. Luke's Anglican Church, Toronto, and interment in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. After attending her primary and secondary schools, she finished her education at Moulton College. She married Vernon Whitney in 1944, who served overseas in the Second World War and was invalided home.

In that same year, along with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Bell, she joined the Governor Simcoe Branch of the U.E.L. Association, where she was liked by all and became a pillar of strength. Starting as the Junior Representative on the Executive, she was Genealogist from 1964 to 1966, Corresponding Secretary in 1968 and 1969, Standard Bearer in 1970 and for four years 1960, 1961, 1971 and 1972 she served as Lady Vice-President. For the past ten years she headed the sick and visiting Committee, doing an invaluable piece of work for those members who became ill or infirm. Subsequently in the Dominion Association, she became Standard Bearer and was also on the Headquarters Committee for many years. Margaret Whitney through the years belonged to many organizations and held various executive posts. Her love was her church, St. Luke's Anglican Church, and she was one of the few surviving members from the church's original location on Bay Street, Toronto. Through the years she was Sunday School superintendent and for over the past ten years, President of the St. Luke's Anglican Women's Association. Over the same period of time, she chaired the Walter Stewart Library blood donor clinic for the Red Cross. She was past president of the East Toronto Business and Professional Women's Club. Was President for over ten years of the Todmorden Women's Progressive Conservative Association, and was on the executive of York East Progressive Conservative Association. Was past secretary of Todmorden Ratepayers Association.

Her life was that of giving of herself and because of this philosophy, her rewards were many. Her heart was always joyful. Because she was able to accept the reality of life without criticizing or complaining, her witness was her faith and love.

Her many years of association with the United Empire Loyalist, Dominion Council, and Governor Simcoe Branch, were of sheer interest and pleasure. She was very keen in promoting the welfare of the Loyalist cause in Canada.

## 1982 Spring

**M**r. Charles J. Humber, Past President of The Governor Simcoe Branch won the grand first prize for this display of postcards on February 28 at an exhibition of postcards hosted by The Toronto Postcard Club of which he is a Vice-President. His display was on a theme emphasizing the Loyalist Mohawk contribution to Ontario's heritage.

Mr. Humber, a noted collector of Canadian postcards, has addressed the Toronto and Kawartha UEL Branches. His next talk is to the Governor Simcoe Branch.

## 1982 Autumn

**T**he following is a record of the Governor Simcoe Branch meetings during the last year and a half.  
April 15, 1981 - Speaker: Carl Thorpe, Supervisor, Historical Conservation Section, Heritage Administration Branch, Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation. Subject: "Sources of Government Assistance for 1984 Bicentennial Celebrations." At the suggestion of The Right Honourable Roland Michener, former Governor General, a pro tem bicentennial committee was formed for Governor Simcoe and Toronto branches, Charles J. Humber, Chairman and Audrey Kirk, Robert Snetsinger and Louise Beck, committee members.

May 6, 1981 - Branch Annual Meeting - Officers elected for second term of office: President, Prof. H.U. Ross; Vice-Pres., Robert G. Mutrie; Recording Sec., Lois Love; Treasurer, Hilda Lorenz; Newsletter Editor, Louise Beck; Corres. Sec., Charles Humber; Membership Chairman, Lorne Butler; Genealogist, Jean Goodger; Social Convener, Bertha Scott; Telephone Committee, Hazel Croft. The film shown, "Peace, Order and Prosperity," the story of Upper Canada.

October 7, 1981 - Speakers:

Mrs. Elizabeth Hancocks, Dominion Genealogist, Certified Genealogist, and Mr. George Hancocks, Publisher, Canadian Genealogist and Generation Press. Subject: "Genealogy and Your Family Tree." Film: Prince Charles Backstage at Covent Garden."

November 5, 1981 - Speaker: Mrs. Gail Saunders, Archivist for the Government of the Bahamas and Editor of the Journal of the Bahamas Historical Society. Subject: "The Loyalists in the Bahamas". Mrs. Saunders discussed the thousands of loyalists who emigrated to the Bahamas in order to remain loyal to the British Crown. New Plymouth has been chosen as the site of a Memorial Garden in honour of the bicentennial of the coming of the Loyalists to the Bahamas in 1783. This will be the only bronze sculpture memorial to the Loyalists and their slaves. It will be unveiled in 1983.

February 3 - Speakers: Capt. Gavin K. Watt and Lt. Edward J. Anderson, Officer Commanding and Second in Command of His Majesty's Royal Yorkers, (recreated). Subject: "The 20th anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown" (slide show). The Royal Yorkers took part in the re-enactment of Lord Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown. The massive bicentennial celebrations in Yorktown, Virginia, re-enacted exactly 200 years to the hour, should be a source of inspiration for those who wish to celebrate the 1984 Loyalist bicentennial celebrations in Canada.

March 3 - Speaker: Dr. Anthony Adamson, OC, FRAIC, LLD. Subject: "The Architecture of the Loyalists. Guest Dr. Adamson was the consulting architect for the recreation of the Loyalist pioneer settlement - Upper Canada Village, and restoration architect for Dundurn Castle, Hamilton, built by Loyalist Sir Allan Napier MacNab.

April 21 - Speaker: Charles J. Humber, M.A., U.E.L. Dominion Vice-Pres. Subject: "The 1908 Quebec Tercentenary". Using more than 150 slides made from early post cards of the 1908 period, Mr. Humber shared his interest in one of the most' commemorative events ever to take place in North America and suggested that the 1984 Loyalist bicentennial celebrations in Ontario should be just as massive as the 1908 Quebec Tercentenary.

May 5 - annual Meeting Officers elected for 1982-83 term: President, R. Robert G. Mutrie III, 1st Vice-Pres., Roy H. Fletcher; 2nd Vice-Pres., Douglas W. Grant; Treasurer, Prof. H. V. Ross; Recording Sec., Anita Fletcher; Corr. Sec., Rev. Fr. Leo D. Burns; Membership Chairman, Mrs. Marie Newell; Newsletter Editor, Louise Beck; Communications Chairman, Thomas A. Wardle; Genealogist, Mrs. Jean Goodger, Ass. Genealogist, John Mitchele; Archivist, Charles J. Humber; Historian, Murray Barkley, Social Convener, Mrs. Bertha Scott; Sick and Visitation, Mrs. Margaret Lade; Standard Bearer, Donna Moore; Chaplain, Rev. John F. Allan; Sales, Douglas W. Grant; Telephone Committee, Mrs. Hazel C. Croft. The Bicentennial Project of the Branch is to publish a volume of vignettes telling anecdotal stories of the Gov. Simcoe Branch membership's Loyalist forefathers. Four of the members at this annual meeting gave anecdotal sketches of their Loyalist ancestors: Jean Goodger told of Capt. Michael Grass of Kingston and how he brought bateaux up the St. Lawrence River in 1784; Lois Love told of her great, great uncle Peter Davis who landed with Peter Van Alstyne of Adolphustown, 1784; Bob Mutrie told of Frederick Maybee who travelled as a Loyalist from Yorktown, New York, to St. Stephen, New Brunswick and finally to Turkey Point (Ontario) in 1793; Harry Ross told of his great grandfather, William Mattice of Cornwall.

October 6 - Speaker: William R. Yeager, Curator of Eva Brook Donly Museum in Simcoe, Ontario. Subject: "The Way of Life of Simcoe County's First Settlers". Highlight of the evening occurred when Mr. Yeager's cousin, President R. Robert G. Mutrie III presented to Bill a certificate of U.E. membership in U.E.L. Association. Bill Yeager is descended from Adam Green, Isaac Gilbert, Jacob and Matthias Buchner and Caleb Wood, all 1783-84 Loyalists who had to flee persecution at the end of the American Revolution. Dominion U.E.L. President Charles J. Humber brought greetings from Dominion Council and exhorted all to prepare for 1984 bicentennial celebrations. Mrs. Marie Newell gave a sketch of the Vail family, Loyalists, who settled north of Toronto and pioneered in Bruce and Gray Counties.

November 3 - Speaker: Mary Byers and Margaret McBurney, authors of Rural Roots, Homesteads and Governor's Road. "The Governor's Road: Early Buildings and Families from Mississauga to London." Copies of Governor's Road were available for purchase. The talk about the homes and families along Governor's Road, the road which Lt. Col. John Graves Simcoe, Upper Canada's first Lt. Governor, built during his time in office, 1791-1796, was highlighted by slides of some of the most important buildings standing in Ontario today.

## 1985 June

**T**he major bicentennial project, the publication of Loyalist Vignettes and Sketches came to fruition late in 1984. Reaction from far and wide has been super, but not too late to get your copy.

The branch has enjoyed many outstanding presentations: Parks Canada on its Centennial, The Queen's Rangers (including much about Governor Simcoe) by Major Stewart Bull; and other activities, such as a "show and tell" evening and the annual potluck dinner at Montgomery's Inn.

The branch is looking forward with great anticipation and eagerly preparing for an even more exciting program in 1985-1986.

### **1985 December**

**M**iss Grace Lawrence, Executive Director, The Ontario Black History Society spoke to the Governor Simcoe Branch at its November meeting on the topic of the society and screening of the O.B.H.S. video film "A Proud Past - a Promising Future" which documents the history of Blacks in Ontario over 200 years. A segment of the video mentions the Loyalists, their slaves and the Black Loyalists. Further information is available from the Society at its office: 352 Sheppard Avenue East. Toronto, Ontario, telephone (416) 225-1176.

The Governor Simcoe Branch has completed a great year and now has embarked on a new one which promises to be even better. Last year's highlights included publication of our Bicentennial project "Loyalist Vignettes and Sketches" and a June trip to Lang Century Village near Peterborough, hosted so kindly by the Kawartha Branch.

Our new year has already seen three striking presentations: one on Folk Tales of Loyalist Ontario, by Prof. Carole Carpenter; The Loyalist Diary, by Prof. Russ Waller; and a presentation on the creation of the Canadian Encyclopedia.

We have scheduled a "Loyalist Ball" for Wed., Jan. 15 at the St. Lawrence Town Hall - an evening of fun, dance, food, and costumes; and tickets are only \$3.00 so be sure to write for tickets and join us.

Other 1986 events will include an evening about John Graves Simcoe, a presentation by J. Alan Walters, MD about Loyalist medicine; our annual potluck at Montgomery's Inn, a session about Benedict Arnold at our annual meeting, and a second annual trip to Peterborough courtesy of Kawartha Branch. As well we will see many of you at Belleville for the annual convention.

In other directions, our branch is becoming much more involved with the promotion of our Loyalist heritage in the community.

For genealogical assistance and membership please contact Mr. R. John Mitchele, Genealogist, Governor Simcoe U.E.L. Branch, (Toronto) 18 Montgomery Road, Toronto, Ontario M8X 1Z4, ph. (416) 231-3976.

### **1986 June**

**T**he Governor Simcoe Branch celebrated the arrival of 1986 with a Loyalist Gala, held Jan. 15 at the Town Hall. A large costumed gathering included guests from the Toronto Branch, Monarchist League and Royal Yorkers generated good times and a healthy donation to the Mohawk Chapel Restoration Fund. The evening's highlight was a display of Arts and Crafts by the Six Nations.

The February meeting was a birthday party, complete with cake, to honour our namesake John Graves Simcoe, born at Catterstock England on February 25, 1752.

In April, Desmond Conacher of the Toronto Historical Board, described the proposed Toronto Civic Museum.

Our traditional pot luck dinner at Montgomery's Inn has been moved to April, and will feature children's performer Deborah Dunleavy and our familiar fun auction.

The monthly meeting season will conclude with the May Annual General Meeting; however the social events carry on with the annual convention, a planned bus trip/boat cruise to Peterborough in June courtesy of Kawartha Branch and a family picnic on one of the islands in July.

The branch continues to grow with a steady flow of new members. Meanwhile, branch objectives are being formalized, a descriptive pamphlet prepared, and the Branch By-laws rewritten- a busy time for one and all.

## 1986 December

The Governor Simcoe Branch opened its 1986-87 season by listening to Frank Knight, Town Crier for the City of Scarborough, Ontario, who told us about the origins of the office and about its rebirth in Canada and elsewhere in modern times. At the second meeting Mrs. Elizabeth Hancocks, who was for ten years genealogist for the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada, gave us a concise and very useful analysis, complete with detailed map, of archival and other record sources in the Toronto area.

A major beginning has been made in the past year to what might be termed our 'Loyalist outreach' with the naming of J. Paul Denter, U.E., as co-ordinator of special events and public education. Paul has been busy liaising with representatives of heritage and ethnic organizations and with other loyal societies in programs of joint action in the metropolitan area. As part of the public-education program, he has gone into the schools of the area to make a three-fold presentation: (1) a visual display using pictures, flags and written commentary, (2) the showing of a Loyalist film, and (3) a talk to the students on the Loyalists.

The branch is proceeding with an attempt to form a genealogical group to assist would-be members to search for authentication of their Loyalist ancestors and for members to trace their ancestry prior to the Loyalist period.

The Branch President. Doug Grant reminded the members of the importance of selecting and participating in an event each year that would make other Canadians aware that we live in a country that takes pride in its history. This might be done by staffing a booth on Simcoe Day. helping with a re-enactment at Black Creek Pioneer Village. marching in a Loyal Societies parade on Victoria Day, or any similar activity in your own area. This past summer the branch put on teas at Todmorden Mills, the settlement site of Loyalists Parshall Terry and the Skinner family. There was a grand opening with an address by the Mayor of East York, a military display with muskets by a squad of the Queen's Own Rifles. and dancing by the Allen Highland Dancers. Helen and Miranda Denter (age 5) and some teenage Loyalists served refreshments.

Simcoe Day on Aug. 24th was also very successful. At the request of our Special Projects Coordinator. Paul Denter, seven other Heritage Communities and Loyal Societies each provided a display. All were well received but particular interest was taken in the panels depicting the Loyalist story. Already plans are being made for including more heritage organizations in next year's event.

These projects have increased public awareness of the Loyalist presence in the community.

The branch's bicentennial publication: Loyalist Vignettes and Sketches consisting of 87 short stories by more than 70 writers is still available at a price of \$17.00 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling. Please make cheques payable to Governor Simcoe Branch, U .E.L. and mail to 315 Carlton St., Toronto, Ont. M5A 2L6.

### **1989 July**

Once again the Governor Simcoe Branch had a most successful Pot Luck Supper, held at Montgomery's Inn, Etobicoke, April 12, 1989. There was a maximum capacity present. Thanks to the capable organization of our Social Convener, Mrs. Bertha Scott; the co-ordinating of dishes to be brought by our Telephone committee director Mrs. Margaret Lade, and her committee, and the kind and capable help on the evening of the supper by members at large - with special thanks to Mrs. Darrell Sewell, the food was a joy to behold, and also to eat!

At the conclusion of the meal, the President, John Mitchele, was happy to welcome two new U.E.L. members, his son, R.J.M. Mitchele, and daughter, Mrs. Nancy McDonald. Their certificates were presented by our Chaplain Rev. Ralph Blight. An annual evening highlight was the Auction, with our capable Membership Chairman Douglas Grant acting as Auctioneer. This proved great fun, and also brought in money to defray the rental of the meeting room at the Inn, the use of the excellent kitchen, china and cutlery, etc., and the capable help of the Evening Inn Supervisor Mr. Larry Giles.

By M.K. Mitchele

### **1991 Fall**

At our Annual Pot Luck Supper at Montgomery Inn on April 4, Col. Frank Cooper was our guest. As usual, the dinner was exceptional and the auction sale, thanks to Doug Grant, was a lively success. We were delighted to see Madge Mitchele out for the first time in months.

On April 27, some members will join the Loyal Societies at the Royal York to celebrate the Right Honourable Roland Mitchener's 90th birthday. Members will wear Loyalist roses made by the Costume Branch.

The usual high calibre of the meetings was maintained with talks by the Curator of Todmorden Mills, William Frankling, and John Kennedy from Centennial College on heraldry.

Loyally yours, Jocelyn Badovinac, U.E., Corresponding Secretary

### **1992 Fall**

Thanks John Mitchele

The Association owes a great thank you to Mr. John Mitchele for his many faithful years of representing the UEL Association as Standard Bearer. At meetings and various functions, both Mr. & Mrs. Mitchele were always lending their support and Mr. Mitchele as Standard Bearer was always in attendance. He now feels it time to pass the flag to Professor Henry Ross, Governor Simcoe Branch, who will take on the responsibility.

### **NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE TOUR**

In 1792 John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, came to Newark (now Niagara-on-the-Lake) and opened the first Legislature. Two hundred years later, on 4 July, 1992, Simcoe's arrival was re-enacted. Members of the Gov. Simcoe Branch UEL, took advantage of the occasion and arranged a bus tour to Niagara-on-the-Lake to take part in the fun. Thirty-six, many in period costumes, had a wonderful time.

At the Court House there was a spectacular parade of the re-enactment regiments assembled for the official opening ceremonies. The Lord Mayor greeted the regiments and granted them the freedom of the town.

After lunch we returned to town and assembled in Queen's Royal Park on the shore of the Niagara River. The tall ships that brought Governor and Mrs. Simcoe had already anchored in the river mouth. The re-enactment regiments were drawn up on the shore accompanied by their ladies in costume.

The Simcoes came ashore in a longboat and were greeted by a 15-gun salute, a feu-de-joie and the cheers of the civilian re-enactors. The Simcoes mounted a landau and paraded with the regiments to Navy Hall for the dedication of a plaque commemorating the first legislature of Upper Canada.

After opening remarks, words of welcome and addresses from VIP's, the Honourable Henry Jackman, the present Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, brought greetings from Her Majesty the Queen. He then unveiled the plaque and cut the ribbon opening the rebuilt Navy Hall to the public.

### **SIMCOE DAY, TORONTO**

On 3 August, 1992, the Governor Simcoe Branch, UEL, took part in the Simcoe Day celebrations in High Park, Toronto, close by Colborne Lodge. A number of heritage organisations set up display booths in the area.

At 11:00 am a band concert began with the 7th Toronto Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery Band. At 12:30 pm the official party formed up and were escorted to the bandstand by the Fraser Highlanders and their piper. Mayor June Rowlands was represented by a member of the City Council. The Loyalists present included: Paul Clark, President; Dorothy Chisholm, Executive Director; June Pierson, President of Gov. Simcoe Branch; Sheila Harbron; Louise Beck; Barbara Hancock; Barbara Wright; David Sands and Harry Ross representing the Gov. Simcoe Branch. The Councillor brought the Mayor's greetings and presented June Pierson with a scroll from the Mayor. The scroll told a brief history of the Loyalists and announced that, in celebration of the bicentennial of the arrival of Governor Simcoe to Upper Canada, the City of Toronto and the United Empire Loyalists' Gov. Simcoe Branch would join together in planting a red oak tree.

To complete the ceremony at the bandstand, the Fraser Highlanders put on a show of sword fighting. The Gov. Simcoe Branch members returned to June Pierson's home for refreshments.

### **1993 Spring**

**I**n May, 1992, Harbord Collegiate, Toronto, celebrated its Centennial. The oldest living graduate present was Pauline Munro of the Class of 1903. Pauline was born in Perth, Ontario, in 1887, descended from Loyalists who settled in Iroquois, Ontario (near Cornwall). At the time she attended Harbord, teachers would not allow girls to do science experiments and, instead, took notes while watching the boys do the work.

Pauline did her MA thesis on William Lyon MacKenzie, then began a teaching career. She married a brilliant young lawyer and moved to Saskatchewan to raise a family of five. After her husband's death she began full time work for the government until age 72, continuing part time for ten years, while active in her church and in UNICEF.

Pauline's daughter, Margaret Lade, an active member of the Gov. Simcoe Branch Executive, provides support with daily visits to see her at Leisureworld in Toronto.

If you were to ask Mrs. Munro how far back she can recall, she would tell you of seeing the black-draped portrait of Queen Victoria displayed in store windows on city streets in 1901.

Pauline and her mother, Emily Smith became members of Governor Simcoe Branch in 1934.

### **HER HERITAGE**

Pauline Munro made a nostalgic trip some years back to find her homestead near Cornwall. Like many other low lying properties, it had submerged beneath the waters of the newly constructed St. Lawrence Seaway. Nearby, however, still stands Carman House, a museum filled with family artifacts dating back to Loyalist days.

Pauline's ancestors include:

Jacob Coons, Number 23 in Colonel's Company of the King's Royal Regiment of New York under Cot. Sir John Johnson, having joined the regiment on June 19, 1776 at age 17. He married Magdalena Carman, daughter of Michael Carman, who had served in the same regiment. In a directive (stating a need of trusted men) from Sir John Johnson he expressed faith in Mrs. Munro's ancestors: "There are four men which I wish to have with me...Luke Bowen, Michael Carman, Jacob Coons and George Shaver."

After their regiment was disbanded in Montreal, December, 1783, the Coons and Carmans drew land grants in Matilda Township, County of Dundas. Many houses were built, but only the Carman House (museum) remains above water.

Mrs. Munro recalls that Jacob Coons built the first saw mill and the first grist mill in Matilda Township. As a hobby, Jacob worked to make a machine for perpetual motion, earning himself the name, "the Crazy Coon."

Both families were firm believers in education. Plans were drawn up and in 1845 James and Mathew Coons donated an acre of land for the Matilda County Grammar School and Philip and John A Carman were among those appointed to the board of trustees.

Longevity seems to be a Loyalist heritage. Jacob Coons died at age 93, his wife, Magdalena Carman at 98. Mrs. Munro's parents both lived well past 90, and Pauline seems to be the champion survivor of them all.

#### **1996 Fall**

**T**he United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada lost its Standard Bearer and the Governor Simcoe Branch lost its President on Wednesday, 21 August 1996 when Henry "Harry" Urquhart Ross died peacefully at his home in his 84th year.

Harry grew up in Sault Ste Marie where his father was a lockmaster. He entered the Royal Military College in Kingston, graduating in 1934, and obtained his Master's degree in engineering from McGill University in 1936.

He joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1943 and served till 1946 reaching the rank of Commander. Harry was an instructor at Royal Roads Military College in Victoria, and worked at Algoma Steel's Algoma Ore Properties in Wawa. In 1947 Harry moved to the University of Toronto as a professor of metallurgical



engineering and retired in 1979. Professor Ross was a world authority on iron and steel smelting. While at the U of T, Harry won the Alcan Award in 1978 for his contributions to the advancement of metallurgy in Canada.

Harry had many interests. He was a member of the Toronto Granite Club. He loved his lawn bowling, he was an ardent curler going with a group from the Club to Scotland to represent Canada, enjoyed HARRY ROSS: World authority on metals also enjoyed painting with friend A.V. Jackson. bridge and had been recently taking lessons to improve his skills. He was the editor of *The Simcoe Loyalist*, the Governor Simcoe Branch's newsletter, as well as the Branch's President. Among his many interests was being grandfather to his grandchildren Craig, Jeffrey, Alastair, Stephen, Frances, Corey, and Susanne.

Harry was a lover of art and painted with A.Y. Jackson with whom he shared a cottage on Lake Superior near Wawa. He had been introduced to the artist by his wife Jennie, who predeceased him. He leaves his sister Dorothy of Peterborough, son Ian and his wife Kathy of Kingston, and son Kenneth and his wife Judy of Toronto. A funeral service was held August 24th at Lawrence Park Community Church, Toronto.

The Governor Simcoe Branch and his many friends will miss Harry's guidance, and quiet humour.  
submitted by Lloyd Mellor, UE.

### 1997 Fall

Governor Simcoe Branch has had a wonderful set of meetings over the last few years, and 1997 has been no exception. This is mostly due to the diligence of Barbara Hancock who has recruited our speakers, and the delightful home baked cookies provided by Bertha Scott with assistance from Stan and Sheila McDermott.

And we are under way with a number of branch projects as well:

1. a new branch brochure.
2. Heritage Days at the Scarborough Town Centre - thanks to those who staffed the booth.
3. the ritual April potluck dinner at Montgomery Inn, complete with raffle, draws and an auction.
4. the Victoria day parade from Ontario's Queen's Park around by way of Yonge St. The parade was led this year by Her Honour, Hillary Weston, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.
5. UELAC annual convention in Winnipeg in June - with Simcoe Branch represented by June Pierson..
6. a first contribution to an oral history project with Sheila Harbron's taping of Marie Newell's commentary about her genealogy hobby.
7. Simcoe Day celebrations at Todmorden Mills.
8. a day-long bus trip on Saturday August 16 to Prince Edward County, with a series of stops from Ameliasburgh to Adolphustown. Gov. Simcoe Branch has run several bus trips over the last few years - perhaps this could become an annual event? .
9. a quilt raffle - thanks to June for donating her handiwork; the draw will be late fall. (This quilt represents June's tribute to Harry Ross, a long time member and leader of the branch.)
10. a yet-to-be-determined fall social event, probably in mid-November.

So, a busy year it will be. As ever the branch's success will be determined by the enthusiasm of the members.

by Doug Grant, UE

## 1998 Spring

We first sold tickets at the Simcoe Day festivities, held in August 1997 at Todmorden Mills as one of their special events. Gov. Simcoe himself attended, with his troops. And he came to our November branch meeting to describe in more detail the life, times, and events of Simcoe's history. Michael Stevenson portrays Simcoe wonderfully.

- Oct. Wayne Crockett, archivist, spoke on "The Simcoe Papers" their content and their fascinating history and how they were acquired by the Archives of Ontario.
- Dec. Eleanor Darke from Heritage Toronto spoke about the "History of Todmorden Mills". Gov. Simcoe had an early hand in establishing a quality miller at the site.

## UEL ROSE HASTI-NOTES

Margaret Taylor, a member of the Heath family, long time and active members of the Governor Simcoe Branch, took a picture of a blossom, stem and leaves of the Loyalist Rose growing in her parent's garden. She proposed that it be made into a hasti-note. The Governor Simcoe Branch is pleased to offer these hasti-notes for sale.

## A LOYALIST FAIR

The Simcoe Branch's "Loyalist Fair" was held at the Heritage Toronto main offices in a splendid old bank hall. Many booths and displays provided material to ponder at leisure:

- Stan McDermott loaded a large table with military memorabilia, mostly medals;
- Costume Branch populated a table with dolls and related costume and clothing materials;
- Doug Heath brought many genealogy and research books and references;
- Toronto Branch: Diane Bennett Bender and Jeff Bender staffed a table with Loyalist materials and presented their free-standing display;
- Several provided photos of our Simcoe Branch 1997 bus trip (display created by the Heaths). Tourist information was provided on the August 8, 1998 trip to Historic Niagara;
- Many branch members came in costume, and special thanks to those (and others who provided the costumes, especially members of Costume Branch, June Pierson and Joyce Bradford). Those who came wonderfully attired: June Pierson, Joyce Bradford, Sheila Habron, Elizabeth April Heath Zejn (aged 10), Lloyd Mellor and Doug Grant.

## PRIZES AND WINNERS

- Prize 5 - Simcoe Branch Vignettes and Sketches - Harley Koons, Campbell River BC;
- Prize 4 - Simcoe Branch Vignettes and Sketches and 5-pack of Loyalist Rose hasti-notes - Robyn Forbes, Kemptville, On;
- Prize 3 - Francis Simcoe. 200 Years Yonge and 5-pack of Loyalist Rose hastinotes - MaIjorie Allan, Victoria BC;
- Prize 2 - Burning of the Valleys T C Turner, Toronto - MaIjorie Allan, Victoria BC;
- Prize 1 - Grand Prize: Quilt, "Grandmother's Flower Garden" - Bev Loomis, Lennoxville Quebec. The raffle cleared about \$400 each for the UELAC and Gov. Simcoe Branch.

(With appreciation to the Costume Branch and Toronto Branch, UELAC and Heritage Toronto for use of their facilities, and the Government of Ontario for a Heritage Grant.)

## THE 1998 PROGRAM

Jan. Rollo Myers, "Rediscovering Simcoe's Lost Park Lands" at the foot of Parliament Street in Toronto. Feb. Ron Brown, author of Vanishing Villages of Ontario will discuss those same towns. Mar. Stewart H. Bull will speak on the Queen's York Rangers, commanded in part of the revolutionary war by John Graves Simcoe. And of course in April, our annual Potluck Dinner and Auction will be held at Montgomery Inn. In May, our Annual General Meeting.

In addition, we are planning several others events, most of note will be a bus trip to Niagara on Saturday, 8 August.

by Doug Grant UE.

## 1999 Spring

The penultimate year to the millennium dawns and plans are being made for this year as well as that year of great celebrations. However, a moment's review of 1998 is in order.

### **GREAT SPEAKERS AT MEETINGS:**

Barbara Hancock, UE continues to bring excellent speakers to our meetings. Rollo Myers told us about Simcoe's Lost Park Lands, those lands originally set aside as park but long since largely developed in the general area of Parliament and Front Streets in Toronto. Rob Brown, well known geographer and author, brought many of Ontario's vanished villages back to life for us. Stewart Bull, author of The Queen's York Rangers, took us through the re-enactment of Simcoe's landing at Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake) and reviewed much of Simcoe's military exploits and contributions to Ontario's development. Ken Purvis helped those who are musically inclined (and otherwise) appreciate the instruments, music, and the impact of things musical on Loyalist times and the early nineteenth century. Jim Houston brought his one-man show about Henry Scadding and the *Toronto* (York) of his times to our stage. Allan Skeoch, noted teacher and radio commentator, has researched Sir John A. MacDonald and helped us better appreciate the trials, tribulations and challenges that our first Prime Minister faced and through which he managed to create many successes. Ron Brown returned with a fascinating look at the history of railroading in Canada - from Winnie the Pooh to the 'English' railroad stations, from gardening competitions between stationmasters to the restored railroads that are operating today.

### **MEMBERS WHO ARE MISSED:**

1998 was a sad year, with the passing of both Gord and Marie Newell, long time executive members and contributors, and Joyce Bradford, a key executive member and costume enthusiast who also belonged to the Centennial and Costume Branches.

Branch Events and Community Involvement: 1998 was not only a year of branch meetings - we did lots of other things as well. April brought our traditional annual potluck dinner at Montgomery Inn which concludes with a fund-raising auction which usually raises in the order of two hundred dollars to help fund some of the other activities.

In May, many of us watched the Union Rag fly again at Fort York; and others walked the highway in Toronto's Queen's parade organized by the Monarchist League. In June we joined many others for the raising of the Union Rag at Queen's Park in celebration of June 19 as United Empire Loyalists Day. A week later we set up a display at Riverdale Hospital's community festival organized by two of our Loyalist members Nancy Hawley and David Loyst.

Simcoe Day is celebrated in parts of Ontario on the first Monday in August and once again we staffed a booth at Todmorden Mills on the Don, not far from where Simcoe built Castle Frank named in honour of

his son. Mid-month we set off for a bus tour of Niagara-on-the-Lake's many Loyalist and related sites, from Laura Secord's house to Fort George, from the Historical Museum to the MacKenzie Printery, from Navy Hall to Butler's Barracks. Some members returned to their roots on the Sir Guy Carleton Branch bus trip to the Mohawk Valley in October.

To top off the year Governor Simcoe Branch turned sixty-five with an anniversary banquet in mid-November. Reception piano music, an eloquent blessing by Rev. Ralph Blight, folks in costume for a costume parade, a musical interlude by seventeen of the After Dinner Mints, fine food, a brief sing along, emphasis points by soldier guests from Toronto Branch fifer, Peter Johnson and drummer Ken Taylor. To take us back to our Toronto and Simcoe roots, there was a speech about Fort York. Speaker Joe Gill from Friends of Fort York, related the linkages between Simcoe and Fort York from 1793 to the present day. Included were current events and pressures from the megacity and political pressures. Joe concluded with an offer to further the Simcoe Branch Fort York ties as he outlined future plans and possible joint activities.

New Members: Of course a Branch will gradually wither without new members. The December branch meeting featured Doug Heath presenting certificates to Duane Currie and Adam Donnelly.

Adam is Simcoe Branch's youngest member, being one day short of five months on this night. Mother Linda Donnelly joined a year ago, not long after her father Daryl, brother of Duane. Daryl joined the branch executive earlier this year, and organized much of the meeting. In his pre-retirement train conductor uniform, Daryl helped welcome the new members, thanked speaker Ron Brown for his railroad presentation, introduced many guest railroad buffs, and organized the 'special' luncheon which followed.

By Doug Grant,

Obituary: **Beck, M.E. Louise**, (UEL, WRCNS, OCA), 16 Jan. 1916 - 8 Jan. 1999

**M**arian Edith Louise Beck, beloved daughter of the late Marian Frances and Harry Thatcher Beck. Dear sister of George H., Harry Romeyn, Mary W. (Allen), Arthur T.C. and the late Susie E.L. (Schaus). Dear aunt of Marian Archbold, Patricia Beck, Penelope Remmer, Rosemary Beck, Gillian Stokes, Nicholas R. Beck and James Beck, Lyn Fischer, Nicholas A. and Harry Beck, Marjorie Brownlee and the late Donna Crossland. She was a talented artist, avid historian, member of numerous galleries and societies including Governor Simcoe Branch U.E.L., St. George Society and Imperial Officers Association of Canada.

Service was at St. Thomas Anglican Church followed by a private family internment.

By Douglas W. Grant

## 2004 Fall

**L**ike many branches, Gov. Simcoe has developed special relationships with other specific heritage groups in our area. We are members of the Toronto Historical Association, which counts many other Heritage groups from across the City as members. In February of 2004, we joined with several others within THA to present our information to the public with a display at Metro Hall. It was a good day, with many of the people who work in that location stopping to chat – it is always interesting to find a larger number than expected who say they are Loyalist. Daryl Currie UE, our Past President, is a director on the Board of THA.

We have also maintained a small relationship with Fort York. A couple of times in the twentieth century history of Fort York, Gov. Simcoe Branch members were quite involved in the fights to save the Fort – like too many of our heritage sites, it has had to fight to survive.

This year we have thrice participated in Fort York events. In May, Historica sponsored a Fair at which students presented their projects, which they had developed. Our UEL display was one of few outside participants. It was great to see so much enthusiasm by the children. On Canada Day, we were again on display – most of the visitors were tourists from foreign lands. They too soak up the local history. Finally, in honour of our namesake, Simcoe day in various Ontario municipalities is held the first Monday in August. We displayed and enjoyed Simcoe's visit, and many drill, musket, artillery, fortification and barracks presentations.

We have recently enjoyed a variety of speakers: Shirley Hart on Intriguing People of Toronto's Past, Brian Gilchrist on Genealogy and the Loyalists, and Karolyn Smardz Frost on Lucie and Thornton Blackburn, two fugitive ex-slaves who did well in Toronto. Our Spring Potluck at Montgomery Inn was a most festive occasion.

by Daryl Currie UE

### **1999 Fall**

The spring and summer 1999 focus of the Governor Simcoe Branch has been our community involvement.

#### **VICTORIA DAY:**

Governor Simcoe Branch members walked and rode in the Toronto Victoria Day Parade, May 24th, 1999. Costumed branch members, a decorated minivan and the Loyalist flag drew attention to our proud unit as we traveled from Queen's Park, across Bloor Street and south on Yonge Street. Chris Loyst, aged

12, wore a replica Maryland Loyalist's uniform loaned from the UEL Costume Branch. Chris and his father Dave Loyst were interviewed for an article in the *National Post* - May 25th.

On the banks of the Don River: Branch members, Doug Grant, Daryl Currie, Lloyd Mellor, June Pierson, Collin Heath, Robert Heath and Dave Loyst, volunteered at The Riverdale Hospital annual Community Festival and provided a display of Loyalist history and branch information. Many visitors, especially those from other countries that were British Colonies, asked about the "Loyalist" flag and its history. The festival is organized by Branch member Nancy Hawley, Community Linkages coordinator at The Riverdale Hospital.

#### **SIMCOE DAY:**

Monday August Second the Governor Simcoe Branch accepted an invitation to have a display at Fort York, Toronto. Daryl Currie organized our booth with the help of many of his family. It was a wonderful day amid the musket and canon fire within the Fort York walls. We were happy to share information with the public and media about the important role of Lt. Gov. John Graves Simcoe in establishing York. The Simcoe Day events of Toronto were reported on local and national television and radio.

#### **ALL ABOARD!**

In addition to the branch's community involvement some members had their own celebrations too. Long time branch members Rev. Ralph Blight and Gladys Blight (nee Heath) celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary, June 25th. To mark the special occasion friends and relatives took a ride on the historic South Simcoe Railroad, Tottenham, powered by a 116year-old steam locomotive. Daryl Currie, a retired train conductor, was invited by the family to be the "conductor" for the trip. Rev. Blight is Chaplain of the Governor Simcoe Branch. Our congratulation to Rev. and Mrs. Blight!

### **BRANTFORD BOUND:**

On Saturday August 14th branch members and friends boarded a scenic coach bus to tour the Brantford, Ontario region in our annual historic bus trip. Highlights of this tour included the Joseph Brant Museum, Mohawk Chapel, Woodland Cultural Centre, 18th century Myrtleville House Museum and the new recreated Iroquois Kanata Village. We had a very informative day about the role the people of the Six Nations played during and after the American Revolution. A great day of fun, food, fellowship and history was enjoyed by all.

by: Dave Loyst,

### **2001 Fall**

Our Program Coordinator Barbara Hancock once again brought a fabulous suite of speakers.

In January Andrea Gutsche from Lynx Images took us through the highlights and behind the scenes stories of the making of *Mysterious Islands*, a film and book combination. They present a fascinating historical journey to islands in the vast Great Lakes basin. Standing removed and alone, islands have been central to some of the most important, outrageous, and tragic events in Great Lakes history, from a decisive and bloody naval battle during the War of 1812, to Prohibition rum running, and harrowing tales of shipwreck and rescue.

In February Dr. Carl Benn, Chief Curator with the City of Toronto's Museums and Heritage Services, and the author of several articles and books, spoke on "The Queen's Rangers and the British Light Infantry tradition", with a focus on the time of the Revolutionary War. The British army developed skills in the forest, and light infantry warfare that was superior to that of the Rebels, contrary to popular mythology. Due to John Graves Simcoe's attachment to them, special consideration was made as to how these skills were articulated by the Queen's Rangers.

In March we were thrilled by Chief Donald Maracle, Chief of the Mohawks in Deseronto. A current project is the restoration of Christ Church, Her Majesty's Royal Chapel of the Mohawks. His topic was, "The Mohawk Nation as political and military allies of the Crown." There was an overview from pre-contact with Europeans to the Industrial Age. Chief Maracle did us the special honour of bringing the Queen Ann Silver for us to view.

Our annual Potluck dinner and auction at historic Montgomery Inn filled our April meeting.

In May, the largest audience in many years was brought together by now-President Daryl Currie. The speaker was Wallace McLeod, Loyalist descendant, Toronto Branch member, a member of the Masonic Order, and a retired Professor from the Victoria College, University of Toronto. He is also the author of a number of books about Masonic history.

Professor McLeod spoke eloquently about the relationship between the Masons and Loyalists, and took us through the history of Freemasonry. Some of the better-known Masons were Lt. Governor John Graves Simcoe, William Jarvis, Thomas Merritt, Major James Rogers, Major Edward Jessup, Major Peter Van

Alstine, (*and Sir John Johnson*). He related in more depth the story of several other Loyalist Masons: Rev. John Beardsley, Capt. Joseph Brant, and Capt. John W. Meyers. A large number of Masons were guests for the evening. They were at the meeting by special invitation to present a 60-year membership pin to Douglas Heath and a 50-year pin to Rev. Ralph Blight. Colin Heath accepted on behalf of his father, who had passed away just a couple of days earlier.

Once again we marched our banner in the midst of the parade celebrating the Queen's Birthday on May 21st. The parade started on schedule, but rain soon started to mist us. Before long it became a full rain- leading to many soaked costumes long before the parade ended. President Daryl and June Currie hosted marchers at an indoor BBQ afterwards.

The Toronto District School Board held a Toronto Regional Heritage Fair on May 11 th at John Fisher Public School. President Daryl Currie, and June Pierson, Past-President of the Costume Branch participated. They had two full tables of interesting material that enticed the children into questions and much conversation about our crewelwork dolls on display, hats, gowns, and games for children. Laurier Lapierre was the quest speaker. June Pierson was introduced as the lady in the pretty dress". One child said to June, "This is a hobby of yours." June replied, "What makes you think so?" The response was, "You enjoy what you are doing!"

-Doug Grant UE

## **2002 Spring**

### **SUMMER OUTREACH**

Many participants in the celebrations enjoyed the day, as Gov. Simcoe Branch displayed at Monarch Park.

### **SIMCOE DAY AT TODMORDEN MILLS**

We were at Todmorden Mills for the celebration of Simcoe Day with an exhibit which included our usual tables of books and things for sale and perusal, including our UEL genealogical information. June Pierson drew upon her costume and doll collection to present a wonderful historical display in our display case.

### **HISTORICAL HAMILTON: AN AUGUST BUS TOUR**

**A**n avid historian, Ursula Stewart, guided us around old Hamilton, from the Loyalist Memorial to the remaining examples of early house architecture, from churches and public buildings to sites where early Loyalists settled.

Battlefield House Museum was used as quarters for American officers at what became a decisive Stoney Creek Battle in the War of 1812. The Museum of Steam and Technology: built in the mid- 1800s to improve Hamilton's water supply and system, the Waterworks building, in Italian architectural style, housed locally manufactured pumps to draw water from the lake and then distribute it. At Whitehern, the home of three generations of the McQuesten family, a guide told us the fascinating story of riches to near-penury, and back again. Finally, Hamilton Cemetery, where we viewed the resting place of Robert Land and several of his descendants - five descendants were with us on the bus tour - Dodie Brown, Mary Bowman, Barbara Hancock, Kathy Andrachuk, and Miriam Flatt.

### **THE PASSING OF A PIONEER ERA – THE SINKING OF THE MAYFLOWER, NOV. 1912**

October speaker Peter Unwin, a Toronto author, provided this history. A local resident who had moved west died there in a shooting accident. His brother-in-law was returning the coffin and body for burial. Because of wet fall roads, the last fifteen miles from the train station were impassable. The captain of the *Mayflower* was pressed into service to deliver the coffin by boat. A sudden night time storm, a modified sternwheeler, and the 16' x 60' *Mayflower* sank in minutes. Nine perished. Three who tied themselves across the coffin, which floated free from the deck, were swept to an island to be rescued the next day. The story made headlines round the world, following on the heels of the Titanic tragedy earlier the same year. The loss brought into play major government regulations for fresh water shipping.

**"The Old Town", with Rollo Myers, Tuesday October 2**

Rollo, avid historian and heritage "activist", enthralled us with the history and future possibilities for The Old Town. Using slides, Rollo showed us the waterfront and areas up to Queen St., from the Don on the east to Fort York on the west. Simcoe and early town planners had originally laid out a set of reserved property around Ft. York, along the waterfront and just west of the Don. The growth of the town and then city over time brought changes through the early settlements: the industrial age with rail, steam and manufacturing plants galore, and now the information age resettlement.

**St. James Cathedral and Special Exhibit "Discovered! A Piece of Ontario's First Parliament Buildings"**

On Nov. 10, we toured St. James Cathedral and the exhibit, which has close ties with John G Simcoe. Nancy Mallett, coordinator of exhibits for St. James, enthusiastically described many interesting details of St. James. The story told in the stained glass windows round the Cathedral is fascinating.

The special exhibit was mounted to celebrate the strong historical links between church and city. Simcoe brought the Capital to Toronto in 1793 from Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake). The plans for the Parliament buildings were drawn up, but Simcoe's 1796 return to England preceded construction of these, Toronto's first, red brick buildings in 1797. Once built though, the congregation of St. James met in these buildings until 1807 when the first church was constructed. In the summer of 2000, the present owners of current buildings there, along with the City and Province, funded an archeological dig. Part of the foundation of the original Parliament Buildings was unearthed. The exhibit included much material describing the digs and history of the Buildings and location; this was supplemented by period items from Fort York and John Butler's house in Niagara-on-the Lake. Many of John G and Mrs. Simcoe's items were displayed. What a treasure trove.

**BROKEN SHACKLES (DEC. 4 SPEAKER)**

Peter Meyler, a Black history enthusiast, researched a Black settlement in Artemesia Township, Grey County near Owen Sound. "The Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee" in the 1980s recovered a few headstones that had been removed when that cemetery was obliterated some years earlier. By dint of hard work they managed to purchase and rebuild part of the original cemetery and erect a new memorial, which was dedicated by Lt. Governor Lincoln Alexander. Our speaker accepted the committee's challenge to edit a new version of "Broken Shackles", first published in 1889 and renamed "Broken Shackles: Old Man Henson from Slavery to Freedom". The original book was written by John Frost, a prominent Owen Sound resident, as an oral history based on stories told by Old Man Henson.

**ONTARIO'S MOST HISTORIC TOWN: COBALT BY RON BROWN. (JAN. 8 SPEAKER)**

During the 1990s, TVO ran a contest to determine Ontario's prettiest town. Perth won the contest. The encore was to determine the most historical town. The panel of judges: Desmond Morton, OHS's



Dorothy Duncan and Ron Brown. More than 100 towns and cities applied. The second runner up in the contest was Petrolia - the world's first producing oil well and the centre of the oil industry for a long while. The runner up was Kingston, with its military base and many old buildings.

Cobalt, the winner, best met the criteria. In 1910, with the discovery of cobalt, and a more important lode of silver, the world came to Cobalt. For a few years this was Ontario's "Dawson City".

### **JOHN GRAVES SIMCOE, FOUNDER AND FIRST LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, PROVINCE OF UPPER CANADA, 1791 - 1796**

**W**hen Toronto was purchased in 1787, the original tract of land included most of today's Metropolitan Toronto, all of Vaughan and King Townships, plus a goodly portion of Aurora and Markham Townships - roughly 618,000 hectares (about one-quarter million acres) of prime land.

The trappers and other seasonal transients who lived here on and off weren't particularly affected by the sale and it wasn't until the arrival of Lt. Col. (later Maj. Gen.) John Graves Simcoe, first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada that things really started to happen.

Through his contacts in Parliament, Simcoe engineered an appointment as Lieutenant Governor, and late in 1791, he arrived, full of ambitious plans for the development of the colony, which he saw as the centre of British power in North America. An arsenal was already planned for Toronto, and its strategic location and defensible harbour made Toronto a natural choice. In the event of war, command of the lake would keep naval routes open for the rapid deployment of troops and supplies. The choice was meant to be temporary, but the anticipated war didn't materialize until sixteen years after Simcoe returned to England, by which time the town was firmly established as Upper Canada's Capital.

He then began to plan his capital, laying out a grid pattern for the Town's roads; ten geometric blocks running north/south and east/west. He named the streets either after members of the Royal Family or after his close friends and many of these names are still in use today: Yonge, Dundas, George, Frederick, Berkeley and Front.

John Graves Simcoe served as Lieutenant Governor for only three years, but his name, more than any of his successors, has endured as an individual who played a major role in shaping both the modern Province of Ontario and the City of Toronto. From his writings, we learn much of the military and commercial life of the day. Elizabeth's diaries tell us much of the social activities of the times (such as they were) and her many paintings have proven invaluable to historians in pinpointing the precise location of the town's buildings.

In 1968, Toronto City Council chose to honour our founder's achievements by proclaiming the first Monday in August as "Simcoe Day", one of the City's most popular holidays. For more on the Simcoe family, check the various books by Mary Beacock Fryer UE.

- Doug Grant UE

### **2002 Fall**

**W**e are blessed with a cornucopia of history that program convenor Barbara Hancock brings forth through speakers at monthly meetings.

In February, we celebrated John G Simcoe's birthday with a presentation by Mary Beacock Fryer.

Some of our Loyalist ancestors fought under Barry St. Leger in 1777. Gavin Watt, in March, briefed us on this campaign, and the writing of his two books "The British campaign of 1777" and "Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley - 1777" proof that Gavin's twenty five years of research and involvement in the history of the Revolutionary War is more than a hobby.

An annual tradition is our April Potluck at Montgomery Inn. Our special projects executive Heather James (with lots of help) managed a wonderful evening of fine food, raffles, an auction and lots of visiting.

President Daryl Currie planned our last meeting of the program year in May which featured a group tour and banquet at Black Creek Pioneer Village. We were guests of and also hosted the Masons. Blackwood Masonic Lodge, Woodbridge in the late 1800's was housed in a building now in Black Creek, having been restored and now staffed by Masonic interpreters. Many Masons joined us for a banquet, featuring guest speaker Wallace McLeod who continued his topic from a year earlier by speaking about Benedict Arnold and William Jarvis. Heather James assisted by June Pierson told us about Loyalist era dress.

Several of us thoroughly enjoyed the Annual UELAC Conference in Waterloo, which led up to June 19 Ontario's Loyalist Day. In Toronto the three UEL Branches pooled their resources. June 19th featured the donation of a Union Flag to Lt.Gov. James K. Bartleman for Queen's park by UELAC President Myrna Fox. Many Loyalist-related speakers from the platform along with re-enactor and current military participants, made this a wonderful ceremony.

On June 22 a bus tour of Loyalist Toronto featured Snider House, a private dwelling, and included Todmorden Mill, St. James Cemetery and Cathedral, Fort York and an evening BBQ. On Sunday, Evening at St. Peter's Anglican Church in Scarborough Church featured many Loyalist participants and a Loyalist theme.

by Doug Grant UE

### **2003 Spring**

**O**ur annual summer bus trip in August took us to the Niagara Peninsula for a wonderful tour through early Ontario history. Niagara-on-the-Lake's Butler's Barracks was our first stop. Named for Walter and John Butler, now they house the Military Museum of the Lincoln and Weiland Regiment, itself related to Butler's Rangers.

Our second stop along the Niagara Parkway was McFarland House, which was built in 1800 by James McFarland. One of the Niagara District's finest residences, it was used during the War of 1812 as a hospital by both British and United States forces.

Our next stop was the Lundy's Lane Battlefield; then we toured what has been Fralick's Tavern. Recently restored by the City, it has been renamed the *Battleground Hotel* and was brought to life by the interpreters.

A recently opened historical park marks the Battle of Chippawa July 5, 1814, where we stopped next. Fort Erie followed, and a re-enactment was underway. It was fascinating to see the detailed authenticity that these people bring to their hobby of re-enacting.

There is a growing abundance of history available to us and we thank these speakers for sharing with us. · "Simcoe's Yonge Street" by Hamish Berchem took us from the pre-York wilderness through early development to delayed completion by Tiger Dunlop during the War of 1812.

- "Dear Diary" by Dorothy Duncan took us via text and slides through early Ontario history viewed by five women who recorded every day activities.
- Carl Benn Chief Curator of Toronto's Heritage Museums, presented the History of Early Toronto, 1793 – 1854

Mary Beacock Fryer has spoken to our Branch so often about John G Simcoe and his family, that she is like a member. She reported that on August 23, 2002, the John Graves Simcoe Wolford Chapel Committee held a ceremony commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Simcoe family chapel. The chapel had been opened officially on 23 August 1802. The Ontario Heritage Foundation sent a cheque towards the expenses, and a letter from the Honourable James Bartleman, Lieutenant-Governor. He was not able to be on hand, but he may visit the chapel when he goes to Britain to pay his respects to Her Majesty.

- Doug Grant UE

### **2003 Fall**

**W**e have new members and new certificates due to Membership Chair Daryl Currie's enthusiasm. We celebrated John G Simcoe's Feb 25, 1752 birthday with a cake, concluding with a re-enactment at Fort York.

In March a costumed Ed Rutherford characterized Constable George Whitlock, NWMP who volunteered in Toronto and took the 1873/4 trek to Fort Hamilton (Fort Whoop-up) near Calgary.

Our annual potluck at Montgomery Inn was good fun. Heather James organized it, and others pitched in. May brought a review of the UELAC present by President Myrna Fox and past by John Warburton who told fascinating historical notes about the formation of the Loyalist associations and the early days of the UELAC.

Three members visited Ralph Cathline UE, Barrie. He served in World War Two with the 1st Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps, then took up rifle marksmanship and qualified for the Canadian Rifle Team to Bisley 12 times and represented Canada at the 1966 Commonwealth Games.

Members walked in the Queen's Birthday Parade, and Prince Andrew opened the Queen's Golden Jubilee Rose Garden. Loyalist celebrations at Queen's Park were sponsored this year by Toby Barrett MPP. Participants included Rev Grafton Antone with a First Nation's Prayer of Thanksgiving. Past Chief Carolyn King of the Mississaugas of the New Credit, John Warburton and Myrna Fox. Sunday's Loyalist Church Service was at St. David's with member Rt. Rev Michael Bedford-Jones officiating.

Governor Simcoe Branch displayed at Fort York on Canada and Simcoe Days to get a good start on our summer and fall programs.

-Doug Grant UE

### **2004 Spring**

**I**n August 2003 our annual bus trip took us east. We toured the Glanmore National Historical Site in Belleville - John W. Meyers UE's powder horn sits on a shelf there. At Tyendinaga over a lunch including a native recipe corn chowder soup, Chief Donald Maracle of the Mohawks gave a history of the Mohawks and their loyalty and military participation through the current times. We were enthralled with the Christ Church Royal Chapel and the many Royal connections. Our day ended with a tour of Macpherson House in Napanee.

Marching in the Cabbagetown Festival parade helped us reach out to the community; inwardly many of us enjoyed the tour and dinner at Scottish Rite in Hamilton, when Lloyd and Gloria Oakes provided the musical entertainment. We were delighted to have the site of the First Parliament Buildings come into public ownership, although we have yet to hear any details of site plans.

Our programs during this fall season have been outstanding:

Margaret Sault, Director of Research, Lands and Membership for the Mississaugas of the New Credit told us about their history and the status of their claims on the City of Toronto and Toronto Island.

John and Kay Chesser read excerpts from their book "In Consequence of Loyalty" which describes the life and times of a Loyalist ancestral family. It was wonderful to hear them reading names of places we had just visited on the George Anderson/Ed Kipp "Forts and Battlefields" bus tour. Each brought the other more to life. John Sewell presented his biography of William Lyon Mackenzie.

Member David Scott, lawyer and retired judge of the Ontario Court, an avid historian, described how the various wars in Europe and North America in the eighteenth century set the stage for the formation of Upper Canada and the legal system it first inherited. The challenge of creating a new government and legal system was daunting to John G. Simcoe in the 1790s - no trained people for example. We look forward to part two of his presentation.

-Doug Grant UE

## 2004 Fall

**H**istory is everywhere. Our August bus trip presented delights of Norfolk County. Simcoe, named for Governor Simcoe, has many restored buildings. The Eva Brook Donly Museum gave us a family history, a stroll through Norfolk history and a genealogical research lesson all at once.

Backus Conservation area's diorama depicts an environmental history of Long Point while the Backus Family farmhouse centres the historical village. The Talbot Trail winds past many historical sites from Long Point to Port Ryerse, where the Samuel Ryerse plaque adds to the Memorial Church. The caretaker's presence enabled an inside tour. The streets of Vittoria displayed many buildings of note but we longed for a local guide to add more colour to the written details.

President Colin Heath led our group in the Cabbagetown Festival Parade and Daryl Currie keeps us active in the Toronto Historical Association. Our branch meetings brought history lessons. Member David Scott provided a second chapter on the history of law in Upper Canada, from the shenanigans of our political leaders in the early 1800s to the Rebellion of 1837 and the subsequent Lord Durham recommendation for responsible government in Canada.

Honorary VP Dorothy Duncan used slides to show how people prepared for Christmas in early Ontario when there was little but celebrations meant much. Treats home-cooked by Dorothy from recipes in her book Nothing More Comforting: Canada's Heritage Food – gave us a real flavour for her topic, and provided the object of a raffle.

Region VP Fred Hayward provided education outreach tips before he metamorphosed into ancestor Irish Palatine Philip Embury. Philip journeyed from the Palatine to Ireland to New York City to the NY countryside. He is considered the father of the Methodist Church in USA.

We mourn the deaths of Executive member Barbara Hancock (Robert Land) and Past President (1962-63) Ken Benson ( Mathew Benson.)

Round every corner is more history. Just look!

by Lloyd Mellor

### 2005 Fall

Our wonderful speakers at regular monthly meetings brought us “*Some Deep History*” of Toronto, especially the Davenport Road, by Jane Beecroft, a sketch of “*Rev. John Stuart*” by Rev. Harold Shepherd, and “*Over the Don,*” a history of the east side of the Don River by Ron Fletcher. Between meetings, Gov. Simcoe Branch revels in special events and outreach activities. As a member of the Toronto Historical Association, we participate in Heritage Week in February.

This year’s event at York Gate Mall for a three-day weekend amongst many heritage displays brought many visitors, few of whom had ever heard of Loyalists, so it was an opportunity to educate the public.

Traditionally April is a potluck dinner. We try to support our fellow heritage groups and hold this dinner at Montgomery Inn. Wonderful food, good friendship, raffles, door prizes and an auction make this a fun evening.

We celebrated Loyalist Day with a Church Service at Weston Presbyterian Church, home church to the Heath family. Margaret Taylor organized the event and several Branch members participated in the service. Gov. Simcoe Branch hosted the congregation to lunch following. Canada Day found us again at Fort York, another sister heritage organization and one with which Gov. Simcoe Branch has been long associated. We expect to be host to part of Conference 2006. With Toronto Branch support, we are deep into planning for this conference and we hope you will join us next 1 - 4 June at the Holiday Inn, Yorkdale.

by Daryl Currie UE

### 2006 Spring

Our annual bus trip last August, as guests of Kawartha Branch, took us through a city tour of Port Hope by local historian and genealogist Peter Bolton. The Bluestone House, St. Mark’s Anglican Church and many more sites were brought to life by history and anecdotes provided by Peter. The byways by Rice Lake ended on Armour Hill in Peterborough where our Kawartha Branch hosts offered a barbeque luncheon. So many old friendships and common ancestors were explored over the delicious repast: We discussed: the Centennial Museum, Canoe Museum and Hutchinson House. In Lakefield we heard the history of Christ Church, largely funded by Samuel Strickland.

Our December meeting was a Saturday potluck where we welcomed a number of people who cannot make our mid-week evening meetings. Certificates were presented to Doug, Matt and Mike Warner, descendants of Christian Warner UE. Christian Warner was an American of Swiss decent, his ancestors having come to America in the early years of the Palatine migrations. They settled in New York, near present day Albany, where Christian Warner was born in 1754. During the American Revolution, Christian was captured at the Battle of Saratoga, New York, in 1777 and imprisoned as a Loyalist at Albany Prison. Fortunately, Christian was to “be released” in some form and made his way to Fort Niagara where he joined Butler’s Rangers in which he served as a Sergeant until the unit was disbanded in 1784. For his loyal service Christian received a large grant of land in Niagara Township near St. Davids. In 1783 he settled in a log house with his wife

Charity and his two children. Christian eventually had twelve children, three boys and nine girls, most of whom, along with their descendants, are resting in the Warner Cemetery in Niagara.

With much-appreciated help from Toronto Branch, we are working hard to develop UELAC Conference 2006 “A Capital Experience.” We hope you will share June 1 – 4 with us.

by Colin Heath UE, Branch President

## 2007 Spring

### Honouring John G. Simcoe

On 26 October 2006, the two hundredth anniversary of the death of John Graves Simcoe, who contributed greatly to the Loyalist cause during the Revolutionary War, and to Upper Canada as its first Lieutenant Governor, ceremonies were held at Wolford Chapel and at Fort York. The son of a naval officer who died when John was still a child, he attended Eton College and Oxford University. When 18, John was given a commission in the army as an ensign, and five years later he went to war. His regiment arrived in Boston in 1775, only two days after the Battle of Bunker Hill. While taking part in the siege of Boston, Simcoe purchased a captaincy. During 1776 – 1777, Simcoe received three wounds as he fought in the Long Island campaign, the capture of New York and the New Jersey campaign. Earning a reputation during the war both as a commander and as a military theorist, Simcoe was promoted to lieutenant, then to lieutenant-colonel.

Col. Robert Rogers recruited The Queen’s Rangers in 1776 mainly in New York and Connecticut. Consisting of ten companies of Loyalists, the Queen’s Rangers fought alongside the British Army throughout the American Revolution (1775 – 1781). In 1777, despite many casualties, the Queen’s Rangers helped defeat Washington at Brandywine Creek. On 15 October 1777, Lieutenant-Colonel John Graves Simcoe assumed command.

Simcoe turned the badly mauled Queen’s Rangers into one of the most successful British regiments in the war. According to Gavin Watt: “...*the Queen’s Rangers was probably the very best unit in the British Army during the war.*”

Fighting as reconnaissance and outpost troops, they were never defeated in battle. One advantage they had was the fact that they were the first British regiment to wear green uniforms, as more suitable for purposes of camouflage than red. They did escort and patrol duty around Philadelphia (1777 – 1778), fought in the Pennsylvania campaign, served as rearguard during the British retreat to New York (1778), fought at Perth Amboy, New Jersey – where Simcoe was captured but freed in a prisoner exchange three months later (1779 – 1780), at Charles town, South Carolina (1780), in the raid on Richmond, Virginia, with Benedict Arnold, in other raids in Virginia (1780 – 1781) and in the Yorktown campaign (1781).

A point of pride for the regiment is that when the British finally surrendered at Yorktown in 1781, the “*colours*” (banner) of the Queen’s Rangers were smuggled away, never to fall into enemy hands. Today those same colours are on display in Toronto in the officers’ mess of the Queen’s Rangers. As the finest Loyalist unit, they were awarded the title 1st American Regiment and enrolled in the British Army in 1782. In 1783, when the war was concluded by the Treaty of Versailles, the Queen’s Rangers left New York for Nova Scotia, where it was disbanded.

Simcoe returned to England in 1781 where, until 1791, he lived the life of a wealthy Devonshire landowner, experiencing love, marriage, the purchase of properties large and small and a steadily arriving

stream of children. His time in Upper Canada from 1792 – 1796 is celebrated for his contribution as a key founder of Ontario. Simcoe died in Exeter in 1806 before he could take up a new position as Commander in Chief of India. At Gov. Simcoe Branch, we celebrated the occasion at our November meeting, when speakers from the Grand River Branch presented “*Tea With Mrs. Simcoe*,” describing a few of the events the Simcoes experienced when assigned to Canada.

*Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an honour and pleasure to welcome you to Fort York National Historic site today [26 October 2006] on this solemn and celebratory occasion. On this day in 1806, a man, whose mammoth contribution to development of this Province and the City of Toronto, died leaving a legacy that is without equal in our local history. The name of John Graves Simcoe is synonymous with: founder, champion of law and rights, and innovator. It is with honest, heartfelt humility that we remember him today. I hope you will join us immediately after our flag ceremony for a reception where the City’s Chief Curator Carl Benn, along with others, will shed light on Simcoe’s life and legacy and to pay homage to him. Simcoe’s Fort York is still with us today because people remembered and cared. We will use this remembrance as a catalyst to fuel a re-birth of his Fort as we lead up to the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. It is indeed fitting that we stand here today in the Circular Battery at Fort York, just steps from where Simcoe established his first garrison in 1793. One can only imagine the view and the vision. Centennials and Bicentennials should not pass without event. Earlier today, the Fort’s flag was raised, then lowered to half-staff, in honour of Simcoe’s passing as testament to his contributions to this country, this province, this city. —Ken Purvis, Fort York.*

by Doug Grant UE

## **2008 Spring**

### **2007 Bus Trip to Prince Edward County and Adolphustown**

**P**rince Edward County, almost an island, presents many glimpses of water on Lake Ontario and in the many bays, which indent its circumference. Little prepares one for the strength of the maritime influence in the County’s development, when roads were uncommon and of poor condition. Mariner’s Park Museum, in the less-travelled southern part of the County, like a diamond in the rough, presents that history well. A brief welcome introduced us to independent exploration. Outside were: a lighthouse that had served South Bay but in a different location; Fort Kente and a number of larger items – life boats, anchors, chains, oars, life-vests and much more recovered over the years from various ship wrecks in the area.

Inside were many pieces, the oldest being a dug-out canoe, complemented by several smaller boats. A larger display described the cutting and storage of lake ice for summer refrigeration. Many smaller items from boats lost in the area were displayed alongside ship models, maps, smaller racing boats and other artefacts, related to this maritime environment.

From the fascinating built-heritage of Picton; Adolphustown and the Loyalist Cultural Centre presented the hospitality of the Bay of Quinte Branch, in the persons of President Brian Tackaberry and Manager Brant Zatterberg. They described the *Loyalist Landing Place*, the pioneer cemetery and the plans for the reconstruction of Casey House.

At Allison House, the Town Crier welcomed us with an invitation for tea. Brant Zatterberg acted as tour guide for the trip to Napanee. A stop at St. Albans the Martyr Church was followed by an informal

presentation by the custodian, at Hay Bay Church.

In addition we enjoyed many excellent speakers who discussed a variety of historical subjects, Christmas lunch organized by Toronto Branch, displays at Fort York for Canada and Simcoe Days. A highlight was participation in two Toronto *Historica* Heritage Fairs. We offered a prize to a Loyalist-related project at each. Both prizes brought invitations to visit the students' respective schools to present the prize. In both cases time was given to speak about the Loyalists to an auditorium full of students. Congratulations to the students and their schools.

by Daryl Currie and Doug Grant

### **2009 Spring**

**T**he 2008 annual summer day trip by bus took Governor Simcoe Branch to the southern shore of Lake Ontario, where we explored historic areas between Grimsby and St. Catharines, with stops also at Jordan Village and Ball's Falls.

The staff from the Grimsby Museum guided a walk to nearby sites, including the Nelles Millstone by 40 Mile Creek, the park by the museum, which displays the site of the first town meeting, the cenotaph and the town bell. The first log church at Grimsby was built by United Empire Loyalists in 1794, with services provided by visiting missionaries. The present stone church, St. Andrew's Anglican, was built in 1819, replacing a frame one which had been completed in 1804. The cemetery houses many of the town notables.

Two houses viewed on the tour were built by Robert Nelles UE. Robert was made a lieutenant in the Indian Department in 1780 and served during the American Revolution, leading raids into the interior of New York State. After the war Robert built mills and a store on the current site of the town of Grimsby.

A private tour of The Welland Canal Museum provided a glimpse into more of Ontario's past. The Hon. Wm. Hamilton Merritt, son of Thomas Merritt who had served under John Graves Simcoe in the Queen's Rangers during the American Revolution, was a key promoter of the Canal.

One of the branch meetings each year is held on a Saturday to allow those who can't attend an evening program to participate. Several children gathered to taste the potluck lunch, share the program, display their artistic talents while the adults learned about Loyalist Richard Beasley UE and then led everyone in a round of games.

A certificate noting him as Vice-President of Youth for the Branch was presented at this meeting to Adam Donnelly UE. The youth group enjoyed the round of prizes and Loyalist books for their artwork.

by Doug Grant UE

### **2009 Fall**

#### **LOYALIST DAY, 19 JUNE, IN TORONTO**

**K**aren Windover, President of Toronto Branch, planned Toronto's Loyalist Day celebrations for June 19 and kindly invited Gov. Simcoe Branch to participate. The Lieutenant-Governor David Onley invited one hundred and twenty members of the two branches to a reception in his offices at Queen's Park



where we enjoyed meeting His Honour and many members of both branches. Following the reception we gathered by the guest flag pole on the front lawn of Queen's Park for a ceremony to celebrate Loyalist Day.

His Honour David Onley spoke to us about the importance of the day. His remarks included: *“Forced to leave behind everything they had worked so hard to gain, still they brought to this land their determination and resourcefulness, a profound respect for the rule of law, and an unwavering loyalty to the monarchy. They were the qualities that led to the founding of our province and the establishment of an elected assembly. They are all reflected today in the motto on Ontario's coat of arms: ‘Loyal she began; Loyal she remains’.”*

Doug Grant presented four vignettes which reflected the travails of our Loyalist ancestors, Jo Ann Tuskin read an extract of a poem previously presented one hundred and twenty-five years earlier at the Niagara Centennial celebrations held there, Adam Donnelly and Benjamin Litner raised the Loyalist flag and Rev. Jim Houston led us in prayer adapted from the Loyalist Prayer written by Rev. Dr. Marc Smith UE. (16 March 1995)

*“Creator God, eternal source of life and love and all true loyalty, we stand before you as descendants of ancestors who heroically suffered adversity and loss out of loyalty to cherished principles. Grant us a spirit of gratitude for the heritage they have left us. Keep us steadfast in our struggle for justice and equality, and so come to be united with you, and all those loyal to you, in a homeland where no child is forced to live in poverty, where no family will be without a home and a decent income, where our youth will have hope, where all who seek refuge here will be welcomed from around the world, and where all differences can be settled without bloodshed, and peace will have no end. Amen.”*

## 2011 Spring

### CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS:

On Thursday, 9 December, President Daryl Currie UE and Secretary Jo Ann Tuskin UE were warmly welcomed at Westwood Middle School, near Carlaw and Mortimer Avenues, for a presentation about the United Empire Loyalists. Daryl's grandson, Adam Donnelly UE, attends this school and Daryl proudly described Adam's UE certificate to the students. Grade 7 teacher Tina Weinberg had arranged for all four classes of Grade 7s (about 100 students plus staff) to gather in the school gymnasium to hear about this part of our history.

Daryl opened the session by thanking Ms Weinberg, the Principal, and the staff for allowing us to speak to the group. Jo Ann then talked about the Loyalists, using a series of illustrations on the overhead projector. She discussed:

- Who, Where and Why – the Loyalists in general;
- Migration and Settlement;
- her own family's journey, as a specific example;
- Settlement in Ontario; and
- the symbols of the UELAC.

The students were very attentive during the presentation and participated well in response to the questions. They seemed to enjoy the presentation and in turn asked interesting questions at the conclusion. Ms Weinberg thanked Jo Ann and Daryl for coming to the school. She noted that this

interesting presentation provided the students with a visual expansion of their unit of study about the Loyalists.

Jo Ann did a similar presentation on Monday, 13 December at Terry Fox Elementary School, near Warden and Steeles Avenues in Scarborough. At both presentations, the students seemed to gain a new understanding of the Loyalist experience.

## 2011 Fall

Once again in 2011 Governor Simcoe Branch presented an exhibit at Toronto's historic Fort York on both of the summer's major celebration days: Canada Day and Simcoe Day and on the latter with help from Toronto Branch. This year though was a first – presentation of Loyalist Certificates at Fort York.

For several years, Colleen Martin has been the leader in researching and assembling the proofs for her family's descent from the Loyalist, Aeneas Shaw UE. Eight family members were honoured to receive their Loyalist certificates on Canada Day and one more on Simcoe Day. A second Loyalist ancestor was equally honoured on Simcoe Day. The following is the introduction to the ceremony and was for the benefit of the Fort York audience as much as it was for those being honoured.

*“250 years ago, the area where Fort York and Toronto now stand included a few First Nations villages and a lot of forest. A couple of years later in 1763, after the end of the Seven Years (French and Indian) War, Britain banned European settlement west of Montreal and in the Thirteen Colonies to the south of us, west of the Appalachians. This was one of the factors that led to the American Revolution.*

*By 1775, that first and messy civil war – The American Revolution – forced many who stood for the King out of their homes and into refugee camps: New York City and several in the area between Montreal and Quebec City, Carleton island not far from Kingston and Niagara. Some of these were also military posts.*

*British regular forces were supplemented by Loyalist regiments, one of which was the Queen's Rangers, arguably the best fighting unit of either side. For several years it was commanded by John Graves Simcoe. One of those who served under him was Aeneas Shaw who joined at the beginning of the War and rose to the rank of Captain.*

*The Queen's Rangers were disbanded at war's end; Simcoe returned to England and Shaw migrated to New Brunswick where he and his family progressed fairly well.*

*When Quebec was divided into Upper and Lower Canada in late 1791, Simcoe was named the first Lieutenant Governor offer of free land and also reformed the Queen's Rangers to be the core of the defence. Shaw answered the call and moved to Upper Canada. The Queen's Rangers saw little military duty but were instrumental in creating early infrastructure – starting Yonge Street to the north, Dundas Street to the west and Kingston Road to the east from this new village of York first started in 1793. Of course, most relevant to the celebrations, the Queen's Rangers constructed Fort York.*

*John Graves Simcoe accomplished a great deal in his short tenure in Upper Canada, as he departed for health reasons in 1796. His early anticipation of and preparations for war with the Americans paid off, but not for another fourteen years when the War of 1812 began. He is considered by most as the person who shaped Upper Canada which begat Ontario. It is he who many municipalities in Ontario honour by their celebrations of Civic Holiday by naming it Simcoe Day.*

*Aeneas Shaw was very active in Upper Canada, not only with the Queen's Rangers but in the Executive Council, Legislative Council and in local politics.*

*When the War of 1812 broke out, he was effectively in charge of the militia and, at age 73 or 74, was leading the militia during the attack on York in April of 1813.*

*Upper Canada was created by the Loyalists and the motto 'Loyal She Began, Loyal She Remains' reflects the nature of the Loyalists then and those who stood fast during the War of 1812."*

On Canada Day, it was an honour to present certificates to four third great-grandchildren, three of the fourth great generation and a fifth great grandson. On Simcoe Day, Richard Shaw, fourth great generation, received his certificate; and Hugh Potter received his Loyalist Certificate, having proved from his ancestor Abraham Upham UE, who, like Aeneas Shaw, settled in the Atlantic colonies, in Guysborough, Nova Scotia.

By Doug Grant UE , Branch President.

## **2012 Fall**

**S**outhern Ontario beats to the drum of the War of 1812 Bicentennial commemorations. The Gov. Simcoe Branch celebrations have been right in synch with topics directly related or connected to that war.

UELAC President Robert McBride told us about his ancestors, Jacob DeCou UE, and Jacob's son, Captain John, who participated in the War of 1812. The DeCou house, where Laura Secord ended her famous trek and presented information to James FitzGibbons, was situated near Thorold. Our Branch's annual bus trip, this year, was to War of 1812 sites (Lundy's Lane, Chippawa, Fort Erie) in the Niagara area, including the DeCou house. Although the house burned years ago, the lower few feet of the first floor walls have been kept in place. In a green forested area, with a splendid vista, the site must have had great appeal to the original DeCou settlers.

Regional Vice-President Sue Hines related the family story of her Loyalists, Jonathan and Marie Williams, whose son, Col. Titus, played a role in the War of 1812. Closer to home, Sandra Shaul of the City of Toronto, and David O'Hara from Fort York, described many of the Toronto plans for War of 1812 celebrations. They have been fabulous. One of the first official ones was a special evensong service at St. James Cathedral at which Governor Simcoe and Toronto Branches participated in period clothing. The rector of St. James, John Strachan, was a key negotiator during the capture of York by the Americans in April 1813 and St. James served later as a hospital during the remainder of the war.

Although our first Lt. Gov., John Graves Simcoe, returned to England in 1796, he had begun the preparations for the War of 1812. Iain Craig, a retired History teacher, retraced Simcoe's 1793 trip up the Humber River to Georgian Bay in a May presentation to the branch. Of course, Fort York, the construction of which was ordered by Simcoe, is Toronto's centerpiece for the War of 1812 activities. It is there that Governor Simcoe Branch celebrated both Canada Day and Simcoe Day.

A highlight of the year was Loyalist Day. We were fortunate indeed to have The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, His Honour David Onley UE, note the significance of 19 June 2012 – Loyalist Day – coincident with the War of 1812 activities; and equally important, the celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The event concluded with a visit to the display of photos and other memorabilia from the Queen's visits to Canada, held in the Lieutenant Governor's suite at Queen's Park.

By Doug Grant UE , Branch President.

**2015 Fall**

**Elizabeth (Libby) Hancocks UE, AOCA, CG**  
UELAC Dominion Genealogist,  
1972 – 1986 and 1998 – 2015

**E**lizabeth Hancocks UE, for nearly a quarter of a century Dominion Genealogist of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, died at Grace Hospital in Scarborough on 13 February 2015, after a short illness. She was 87.

Elizabeth was a research genealogist with more than a half-century of experience. A graduate of the Ontario College of Art in 1951, she first became interested in genealogy in 1962 as a result of the accidental excavation of a family cemetery during a construction project at Finch and Dufferin Avenues in northwest Toronto.

She was a founding member of the first branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society in Toronto, and has been a member of the UELAC since 1962.

Libby, as she was known to friends and colleagues, served the OGS publication Families as its Queries Editor from 1969 to 1978, and was fully familiar with the in's and out's of query genealogy.



She was the first non-USA citizen, ever to be certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists in the United States.

As she gained genealogical expertise, she became a member of the National Genealogical Society of Washington, D.C., and held the rank of Certified Genealogist for the Board for Certification of Genealogists in the United States. She was the first Canadian, indeed the first non-U.S. citizen, ever to be certified by that century-old organization. In 1985 she was elected to its Board of Trustees where she represented a Canadian professional voice in North American genealogical research matters.

The descendant of a Loyalist, William Casey UE of Rhode Island, she has always been vitally interested in Loyalist lineages, and played an active role in the affairs of the UELAC.

She was Branch Genealogist for the Governor Simcoe Branch (Toronto), 1965-1972, then Assistant Dominion Genealogist at the UELAC headquarters for several years. In 1972 she was named Dominion Genealogist, a post that she held until 1986. In 1977 she was awarded the Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Medal for her work on Loyalist pedigrees. She was again nominated Dominion Genealogist in 1998, a post she held until her death.

A professional researcher for hire, her work was accurate and methodical. She was researching in the 1970s when the Ontario Archives was just a room over the Sigmund Samuel Museum in Toronto, a time when researchers were handed original documents to check (no microfilm), and was indexing by hand long before computers gained ascendancy.

She has many genealogical books to her credit. She wrote the preface to Scottish Roots. She was compiler of Loyalist Lineages of Canada, 1783-1983. Her series County Marriage Registers of Ontario and Surrogate

Court Index of Ontario, Canada, 1858-1900, compiled with June Gibson, are essential tools for the study of genealogy in Ontario.

Her personal interest in Prince Edward County, in particular, has led her to publish much information on that area, including census and cemetery data.

She is also the author of the chapter on Famous Ontarians and The Shaping of Ontario for Loyal She Remains.

The standard research map set of Ontario, one of a genealogist's most useful briefcase research tools, was compiled by Libby.

Her later interests all revolved around Loyalist genealogy. She remained an active participant in the Association, and was recently given the Dorchester Award by the UELAC for her contributions to Loyalist history. She is survived by her husband of sixty years, George; son, Seaghan, and wife, Sandi; daughter, Shannon, and husband, Arastou Rafizadeh; son, Casey, and wife, Kim; grandchildren, Cristiona, and husband, Bill McKay; Alex, Stephan, Coral, Roya, and Emma; and great-grandchildren, Brydon, and Mikayla. She was loved and will be missed by all. Interment took place at Glenwood Cemetery, Picton, Ontario, on Monday, 24 August 2015, along with the 1812 Veteran plaque ceremony for her ancestor, William Johnson.

## 2016 Fall

### Loyalist Day, 19 June 2016

On a beautiful summer day, Toronto and Governor Simcoe Branches celebrated Loyalist Day at the guest flag pole at Queen's Park. The Loyalist flag, that is stored on the premises between Loyalist Days, was raised with pomp and ceremony appropriate to the occasion. Official remarks were given by Soo Wong MPP, Deputy Speaker of the House. Complimentary comments were offered by Julia Munro MPP. Julia had done considerable research into the Loyalist era and, as a possible UEL descendant, provided a deeper sense of what our ancestors had gone through at the time.

As is our wont here in Governor Simcoe Branch, we create a ceremony for the presentation of a Loyalist Certificate. This one was special in the sense that it was Loyalist Day, and the people who participated. The recipient was Joyce Deyong UE, who proved to her third great-grandfather, Andrew Denike UE. The Denikes were originally French Huguenots who immigrated first to Holland and then to New York; thus the spelling 'Ten Eyck' is sometimes seen.

Andrew was born in 1759 in New York. He served with the New Jersey Volunteers, received a grant of land in Kingston Township, and married Catherine Bird. He did not cultivate his land, but rather became a master mariner, obtaining a ferry permit in 1807, and gave assistance to the Royal Forces as late as 1812. In Kingston, he settled on Gore Street, built and kept a tavern that extended from Gore to lower Union Street, in 1808. In his later years, Andrew moved his family of ten to Fredericksburg, Upper Canada, and passed his last years in Marysburg Township, Prince Edward County, where he died in 1839.

Since his eldest son, Samuel, was killed in the War of 1812, it fell to Andrew Junior, the second son, to become the head of the family and he began to farm the land with his family.

After the ceremony, the group gathered inside Queen's Park for a reception, enjoyed by all.

By Douglas W. Grant UE

**WELL REMEMBERED - HEATH, Catherine Elizabeth Neilina (née MacMillan) UE**  
**30 Jan. 1923 – 02 June 2016**



Elizabeth died peacefully with family by her side. She was the beloved wife of the late Douglas W. Heath UE (2001). Catherine is survived by her children: Anne Neuman (Daniel), James, Margaret Taylor, Robert (Marivic), Colin, John (deceased 2012), daughter-in-law Jessica, sister-in-law Marion Heath, thirteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Her parents were James Lewis MacMillan and Catherine McCuaig of Lochiel, Glengarry County, Ontario. Elizabeth worked tirelessly for the church (Weston Presbyterian), community and WMS. A member of the Weston and Glengarry Historical Societies, she was also an avid Scottish Country Dancer. She travelled with Douglas to churches checking registers, graveyards and archives looking for elusive ancestors. She was a strong supporter of Clan McMillan and Governor Simcoe Branch UELAC. Elizabeth will be greatly

missed by family and friends.

**CONN, Marian Hamilton (Hart) BA, UE 02 March 1925 – 07 September 2016**

Marian died at Humber Heights Retirement Home in Etobicoke, Ontario, in her 92nd year. Beloved wife of the late Dr. Alan William Conn (1925 – 2010), eldest child of Alexandra Victoria (nee Hoard) and Douglas Hamilton Hart. Dear sister of Isobel (Hart) Davey, and predeceased by her brother, Don Hart (2014). Proud mother of four daughters: Nancy Heather (Doug Grant) of Toronto; Mary Ann (Dr. Robert Brody) of Shaker Heights, Ohio; Wendy Elizabeth (Bruce Weir) of West Bolton, Quebec; Heather Victoria (Frank McElroy) of Roberts Creek, British Columbia. Cherished grandmother of Elizabeth (Ahlgren) Matejka, Julia (Benton Foster) and Heather Ahlgren (Alex Jones), Matthew Hutchinson, Hartley and Ian Brody, Cameron and Corcoran Conn-Grant; great-grandmother of James and Claire Matejka of Cranbrook, British Columbia.



Born in Woodstock, Ontario, Marian graduated in Household Economics from Victoria College, University of Toronto, in 1947. She worked for two years at the Women's Institute, Department of Agriculture, in Northumberland and Victoria Counties, Ontario. After her marriage in 1948, she volunteered at the Women's Auxiliary (Hospital for Sick Children) for over twenty-five years, sewing and crafting items for sale in their 555 Shop. She was a lifelong member of the United Church of Canada and the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

She followed Al when his career took him to the northern Ontario town of Chapleau in 1949, to England in 1952-53, and then to the Toronto suburb of Mimico where they lived for forty-six years. They moved to the Village by the Arboretum in Guelph in 1999. Since 2013 she lived at Wellington Park Terrace, Guelph and Humber Heights, Toronto.

With her interest in history, art, old houses and antique furniture, Marian was always very proud of her Scottish and Loyalist heritage. As a child, she took piano lessons, passed her Grade VIII Royal Conservatory exam and appreciated classical music. She loved gardening, flower arranging, cooking, reading and sewing. CBC radio was the background of her daily routine, especially Morningside with Peter Gzowski. She taught herself to spin wool and to type, sending Christmas cards and letters to over 350

people. She also enjoyed foreign travel and journeyed with Al to five continents. A member of the Governor Simcoe Branch for many years, she proved her descent from Andrew Denike UE.

### **GRANT, Donald Raymond AACI UE 1921 – 2016**



Don Grant passed away on 03 November 2016 at the Wellington Hospice in Guelph at the age of 95 after a short illness. Don loved his family, especially his wife, Peggy (nee Margaret Warner 1923-2011). They leave sons: Doug (Nancy Conn) of Toronto, Gord (Kathy) of Oakville, Ken of Campbellford, and Al of London. He enjoyed and was proud of ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Son of Bert and Jean (Stewart) Grant, Don was brother to: Stewart (Joy, Cathie), Earl (Margaret), George (Dorothy), June Hill (Bill) and Dr. Ross (Doreen) of Kitchener, and brother-in-law to Ross Warner (Shireen) and Joan Fox (Charles).

Don was proud of his family heritage and proudly displayed his Loyalist Certificate as a descendant of George Sutherland UE of Glengarry.

Don was raised and schooled in St. Mary's. He enlisted in the RCAF in early days of WWII, was called up in 1940 and, in 1941, was preparing to embark to Europe when Pearl Harbour was attacked. He was immediately posted to the west coast of Canada where he served on numerous bases while doing anti-sub patrol. While on a leave, he married Peg on 04 September 1943 in Wesley United Church, Mimico (Toronto). A year later, when posted to Victoria as an instructor, Peg joined him. Don attained the rank of Flight Lieutenant before war's end in 1945.

Don and Peg then returned to Avonbank where they took over the family homestead farm which Don's Taylor forefather had taken up from the Canada Company in 1845. They were active participants in the Avonbank community. Don became President of the Perth County Federation of Agriculture.

In 1962 Don took a position with the newly formed Farm Credit Corporation (FCC). They sold the farm and moved to Campbellford, then to Woodstock in 1971 and finally to Guelph in 1977.

While in Campbellford, Don returned to his love of flying, buying a four-seater airplane. In Guelph, being not far from the University, they rented basement rooms to students, developing lifelong friendships with several of them.

Don earned his designation AACI as an appraiser. He retired from the FCC in 1983 and focused on his hobbies: woodworking (he had an extensive knowledge of trees and wood), gardening and, later, needlework. He and Peg enjoyed extensive travelling; meeting many who became good friends from places such as Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia. They often gave hosts small wooden personalized gifts that Don had made.

Don also volunteered, for twenty years for Meals on Wheels and the Red Cross. In mid-September 2016, Don fell and broke his hip. After a hip replacement, unrecoverable complications ensued. He chose to enter hospice in early October. On 02 November, after a big smile while saying goodbye to a great-granddaughter and a seemingly normal bedtime routine, he passed away peacefully in his sleep. Although the medication and his health made him tired, Don was always appreciative of the help he had received from staff at the seniors' home in Wellington Park Terrace where he lived, at Guelph General Hospital and at Hospice

Wellington. Staff consistently commented about how they enjoyed his company, his little stories, anecdotes, dry wit and, yes, even jokes, right until his last sleep. Don's extended family appreciated that too.

2017 Fall

Last Post :CURRIE, H. Daryl UE

Born on 30 November 1938 in St. John, New Brunswick, Daryl died on 09 July 2017 in Toronto, Ontario, at the age of 78 years, 7 months, and 10 days. He was predeceased by his wife, June Currie (Garrah); daughter, Heather Quai (Dennis); sister, Louise (Harley); and brother, Addison (Gail). He is survived by his children: Dale (Shelly), Susan Currie, and Linda Donnelly (Gerald); his sister, Gloria (Dave); his brothers, Blaythe (Ann), Milton (Donna), Duane (Sheila), and Richard (Mary); and his grandsons, Adam Donnelly, Noah Spataro and Jonah Spataro.

Daryl was a long-time employee of Canadian Pacific Rail, a Mason and a Shriner.

He was a faithful, dedicated, and hard-working individual who reached out and helped many. To the members of the UELAC Governor Simcoe Branch, he would best be remembered as the Membership Chair for many years, giving up that responsibility in September 2015. He always added a personal touch, a card, or telephone call. Daryl served as President of Governor Simcoe Branch twice, from 2002 to 2003, and again from 2007 to 2011.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Susan Currie's Terry Fox Walk (Toronto Beaches) would be appreciated.

*Doug Grant's recollections of Daryl Currie UE . . .* Daryl's passing was a shock to us all. He first joined the UELAC Fredericton Branch, as his Loyalist ancestor, Joshua Currey UE, had settled at Fredericton Junction and through whom Daryl received his Loyalist Certificate; and Governor Simcoe Branch in Toronto, to which he had moved as a teenager. When Fredericton Branch closed, he remained a member of New Brunswick Branch. A few years ago, he organized a ceremony there to install a new stone marker at Joshua's grave.

Daryl joined the Governor Simcoe Branch Executive right away and served with enthusiasm until the fall of 2015. He served twice as President but will be remembered by most for his role as Membership Chair.

Daryl was proud of his family. He helped many in his family obtain their UELAC certificates, including his daughter, Linda Donnelly, in 1997; and, probably at age one month, her son, Adam, received his at a branch meeting in 1998. Adam lived near Daryl and had just moved in with him quite recently after his parents, Linda and Gerald, had moved to Winnipeg. Adam was there when Daryl suffered a stroke. Daryl suffered another in the ambulance and did not recover. When he retired from the railroad, Daryl helped many others. At one point, he was doing things for something like fourteen charities and groups.

Daryl had no shortage of stories

He was proud of his Loyalist roots and equally so of the Masons, where he helped for many years in many ways. He was a driver for the Shriners' Children's Hospitals, often driving patients to Montreal, Erie, Pennsylvania, and even Boston.

I have been Newsletter Editor for many years and often Daryl, his wife, June, and I would sit around their kitchen table and stuff envelopes.

Daryl had no shortage of stories, many of which he shared as he and I drove together to Executive meetings. He also had opinions and would remain steadfast in his convictions.



All in all, he was a hard-working, kind, contributing person. Thanks so much, Daryl. Rest in peace.