

## HAMILTON BRANCH – Charter – 18 May 1937

### 1931 October

The Organization Meeting was held Wednesday, September 30th. at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, at the residence of Mr. Stanley Mills, 440 Queen Street South. Hamilton, Ont.

Over One Hundred and Fifty Members attended including a delegation of some Forty Members from the Toronto Branch of the Association.

The following Officers and Committees were elected:

*The Committee*

*President:* Mr. Stanley Mills

*Vice-President:* Col. F. P. Healey

*Lady Vice-President:* Mrs. E. I. Sifton

*Hon. Corresponding Secretary:* Major H. G. Barton

*Hon. Recording Secretary:* Dr. F. B. Bowman

*Hon. Treasurer:* Miss Gertrude Smith

*Publicity and Organizing:*

Dr. J. H. Bell. Mr. John A. Webber. Edwin W. Mills. Robert Land Smith. Arthur Moore. Major H. G. Barton. Col. F. P. Healey.

*Genealogical Committee:*

Messrs. Hedley Snider. E. F. Lazier. Col. H. G. Carscallen. Wm. P. Hamilton. H. H. Harvey. Judge Snider. Senator E. D. Smith. Dr. F. Hansel.

*Ladies Committee:*

Mrs. E. I. Sifton. Convener; Mrs. T. W. Lester. Mrs. J. A. Webber. Mrs. W. M. McClemon. Mrs. J. J. Grafton. Mrs. Armand Smith. Mrs. A. C. Turnbull. Miss Agnes E. R. Taylor. Mrs. Geo. Rutherford. Miss A. M. Hamilton. Miss Daisy Land. Miss G. Smith. Mrs. S. D. Biggar. Mrs. Carl Nunn. Mrs. Jas. B. Mundie. Mrs. Roy. Miss Isabel Land Mrs. Dr. Holbrook.

*Chaplains:* Rev. Dr. Hughson and Rev. Malcolm Bethune.

*Standard Bearer:* Miss E. B. Mackay. *Archivist:* Miss A. M. Hamilton.

*Legal Adviser:* Mr. Hedley Snider.

*Communications to be addressed:*

Major H. G. Barton.

Hon. Corresponding Secretary. Hamilton Branch.

United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

440 Queen St. South. Hamilton, Ontario.

### 1932 February

At 11:30 o'clock on the morning of Remembrance Day, Wednesday, November 11th, through the courtesy of the County and City Court House Committee, the United Empire Loyalists proceeded to Prince's Square, and planted a Canadian hard sugar maple tree in front of the Hamilton Court House. Judge Colin G. Snider, K.C., B.A., U.E., officiated. All Loyalists present grasped the tree, so that it may be truly recorded that this maple tree was planted by the United Empire Loyalists. This ceremony was in remembrance of the Members of Loyalist Families who served their King and Country during the Great War of 1914-18, and many of whom made the Supreme Sacrifice.

The First Regular Meeting was held in the auditorium of the Young Women's Christian Association Building, 17 Main Street West, Hamilton, November 12th, 1931, the guest speaker of the evening being Horace Hume Van Wart, M.Sc., M.A., LL.B., the General Corresponding Secretary of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. His subject was "The Loyalist Exodus to Canada - and Where and How to Trace Your Loyalist Ancestors." The address given by one of the recognized authorities on the subject was greatly appreciated by an extremely large audience.

### 1932 August

On March 21, 1932, a very interesting address entitled "Reminiscences of the Bay of Quinte Loyalists" was given by Magistrate W. C. Mikel, K.C., of Belleville in the Auditorium of the Y.W.C.A. before a large number of members and friends of the Hamilton Branch.

The speaker described the troubled times of 1770 on this continent and how the thirteen English-speaking Protestant Colonies rebelled against the King, while the lone French-speaking Roman Catholic colony remained loyal to the Empire and provided a base for operations during the war, and a haven of refuge later.

Magistrate Mikel told in part of the hardships and privations of the Loyalist families who preferred rude homes in the wilderness rather than live beneath the flag of a rebel state.

When the meeting adjourned refreshments were served by Mrs. E. I. Sifton and her Ladies' Committee.

A meeting was held in the Y.W.C.A. on April 18, at which a large number of members were present. The guest speaker of the evening was Lt. Col. Fred W. MacQueen, Past President of the Toronto Branch of the Association. Lt. Col. MacQueen chose for his subject, "Canada, Who we are, What we are, and What we stand for". He sketched the deeds of our Loyalist forefathers and wove their spirits into our own present day status.

Vocal numbers with harp accompaniment were rendered by the Misses Price and Mrs. Pearl White. Refreshments were served by the Ladies' Committee bringing to a close a most delightful evening.

Under the auspices of the Men's Committee an enthusiastic gathering of U.E. Loyalists and their friends enjoyed a Tulip Tea on Saturday afternoon, May 28. at 'Glenfern', the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Mills. The house was profusely decorated with the famed Darwin tulips and lilacs, and the numerous subdued lights and the soft music of an orchestra created a charming atmosphere. Mr. and Mrs. Mills received the guests and were ideal host and hostess. Among the guests were many out-of-town friends from the Toronto and Brantford Branches.

At the Hamilton Exhibition, May 30, to June 4, the Branch had a U.E.L. booth to represent the Association. Many treasured articles of furniture, dishes, chairs, spinning wheels, home-made plows and flint-lock guns were on display. The interest that the visitors expressed in these ancient pioneer objects was most gratifying and spoke volumes for the success of the booth.

### 1933 November

A very successful season has passed, extending from October, 1932, to May, 1933, which included six regular meetings besides a very pleasant afternoon gathering at the Davis Homestead at Freeman.

Under the presidency of Stanley Mills, Esq., the membership of the Branch has increased steadily, and there are now approximately 175 members, including honorary and executive officers. Considerable

interest is being exhibited towards the Association, and this speaks well for the type of publicity which the membership is sponsoring.

Several speakers of note have favoured the Branch throughout the season, dealing with topics pertinent to the aims of the Association and giving the members a greater insight into the early history of Canada.

A very active Ladies' Committee has added pleasantly to the success of all of the meetings.

A set of By-laws have been prepared for the Branch and these now govern the local organization.

A year of even greater activity is looked forward to and several interesting meetings have already been planned.

### **1963 April**

**D**uring the past years we have had illustrated talks on Upper Canada Village, Pioneer Village (Toronto), and other lands - Europe, Holy Land, Russia, the Mediterranean, Egypt, the Caribbean, Jamaica and Bermuda.

One evening we played "20 questions" with a panel of four posing as "Laura Secord", "Billy Green", "Stanley Mills", and "Lady Sara Maitland".

Two local films "Battle of Stoney Creek" and "Talbot Settlement" brought out a record crowd. "Canada in the Making" slides from the Confederation Life Collection of paintings represented a most interesting evening of discussion on politics and personalities.

Another programme of considerable appeal was "Heirlooms Night" at which there was a large selection of pioneer utensils and tools. In conjunction with our programmes of historical interest was the presentation of the Tweedsmuir Book by the Aldershot Women's Institute. Much of it was devoted to preserving local history with pictures of old landmarks long since demolished and references to the well-known families of Eastabrook, Fonger, Smoke, Hendrie, and Filman.

During the past year several Life Memberships were given to active workers and retiring workers - Miss Doris Schutz, Genealogist, Mrs. J. Bryce Mundie, ex-curator of Dundurn Castle, Miss Grace Smith, secretary for twelve years, Miss Mabel Kelly, treasurer, Mrs. Vivien Spack, past President and presently the secretary and Mr. Earl Buckley and Howard Williams past presidents.

### **1963 November**

**D**uring the first half of 1963, we have had some varied meetings including a "20 Questions" meeting. Mr. V. C. Jones gave a talk on United Empire Loyalist side of history with slides showing the wealth the early rebels managed to hold on to. Mrs. Metcalfe, curator of Dundurn Castle, talked on the changes to be made there and the inventiveness of the early builder. Mr. S. Honsberger gave his "World Tour" at the May meeting. There are plans for a dinner meeting in the winter.

By Mrs. V. M. Spack

### 1963 April

The Hamilton Branch is pleased to welcome our new members:  
Mr. Harvey Lutz, Sidney, B. C. (Davis, House, Lutz.)  
Mrs. J. J. Turnbull, 92 North Oval Hamilton (George Miller.)  
Mrs. Walter Souter, 149 George St., Hamilton (Chisholm.)  
Mr. Howard Fairclough, Hamilton (Loucks.)

By Mrs. V. M. Spack

### 1965 April

Since there was no Hamilton Branch news in the last edition of the Loyalist Gazette, we are including a report of its activities during the past several months. A meeting in the late summer was held at the home of R. Colin Mills. It was a very enjoyable open air meeting, in their spacious and lovely garden with forty people in attendance, including some from the St. Catharines Branch. Mr. Woodhouse spoke on the Smith Diary, while Dr. Dillane spoke at some length on the flag debate.

With regard to the visit of Sir John Johnson, he was met by the writer in East Aurora, New York and was driven to Niagara-on-the-Lake where the party was welcomed by the Mayor. Sir John and Lady Johnson signed the book and were then taken to a very fine luncheon at the Oban Inn and afterwards had a short tour of the extremely interesting Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum. They were then driven to Mohawk Chapel near Brantford, where the party was met by the Rev. Canon Zimmerman and two ladies from the Indian Reserve. Sir John Johnson was given a complete run down on the beautiful and extremely interesting stained glass windows in this remarkable old Church. after which Sir John talked with the ladies of the Reserve and was invited to return the next day to the big Indian Affair at Oswego. The day was bright and sunny and Lady and Sir John and Lady Johnson were welcomed by the Indian Chiefs and taken through all the Agricultural Exhibits, and the Long House and joined in a dance with the Indians, several of whom were in full regalia. The next day Sir John and Lady Johnson left for Ottawa and a few days later came back to Toronto where they attended a dinner given by members of the Dominion Council.

Of further interest to members of the U. E. L. Association, the city of Hamilton, in connection with the Centennial Celebrations, is re-organizing Dundurn Castle, the home of Sir Allan MacNab. The Dundurn Castle is being restored to its original condition in furniture and fixtures, as successfully as possible in that period of 1838, when the Castle was started. The Loyalists are represented on the Historical Research Board in connection with the above restoration in the person of Mr. Colin Mills.

At the October meeting the Hamilton Branch was addressed by Dr. H. G. Walton-Ball, of the Governor Simcoe Branch, who gave a very informative illustrated lecture on London and the West Country.

By R. Colin Mills

### 1965 November

The most memorable meeting of the Hamilton Branch was held at the Officer's Institute in April. The tables were gorgeous in mums of yellow and gold and decorations of log cabins, oxen and farm scenes appropriate to our history of pioneering. The speaker, Mr. Wm. McCullough was eloquent with an interesting story on Sir Allan MacNab and his own efforts to perpetuate the home and title at Dundurn. His biography of Sir Allan gave us a foretaste of the spectacle sound and Light which has been seen by hundreds at Dundurn this summer.

A Hamilton Branch member, Lansford Robinson has passed away. Captain Robinson served as President, flag bearer and trustee of the Branch, and was keenly interested in research of Butler's Rangers.

Two new members were welcomed into the Branch: Mrs. Harris Hutton of Caledonia (U.E.L. ancestors; Jacob Smith, Terryberry and Nelles, and Miss Florence McIntosh of Ancaster (Westbrook and Gage.)

It has been most encouraging to have had correspondence with Mrs. O. D. Wilson and others of Victoria, B.C., who are planning on forming a branch there. We have received requests for information to verify the U.E.L. background of Drake and Huff ancestors. Our Mrs. V. Spack has sent proofs to them. Mrs. Wilson is to be commended for forty new members being added. It was her idea to have their first meeting at the Empress Hotel on Queenston Heights Day, October 13th. Every success to Mrs. Olive DeVesey Detlor Wilson.

By Miss Grace J. Smith

### **1966 Autumn**

Our meetings held during the 1965-66 season have been very interesting, and much enjoyed by the members of the Hamilton Branch. It has been an active year with the addition of several new members to our ranks, and at the moment our chances for the recruitment of several more appear to be very good.

Captain Frank Jones gave us a very interesting talk on "A Hundred Years of Hamilton and District History", recalling incidents during the war of 1812 and the part played by the British regiments and the local militia.

The impact of the American Civil War resulting in the return of a British regiment, the Rifle Brigade, for garrison duty, and the re-organization of the Canadian Militia with the formation of the R. H. L. I. in this district, and its part in the Fenian raid was mentioned in his address. The building of the Great Western Railway, and later, the development of electric power were great factors in giving impetus to the economic growth of this area.

At our February meeting Mr. Lawless of Burlington gave us a very informative address on the similarities and differences of our educational system as compared to the U. S. S. R. While many similarities existed, the greatest difference was the stress the Russians placed on environment, while we still consider that heredity, and genetics still have a very important part to play in our educational system. Their schools have a political purpose which is to indoctrinate the young for a communistic way of life. The Western way is to permit students to develop in an educational system best suited for the individual in a free society.

Our March meeting was a very instructive talk by Mr. A. Fitchner of Hamilton on photography. He demonstrated how simple it is to develop our own negatives, and to be familiar with the many other important factors in the production of a good picture.

The annual dinner in April, held at the Officers Institute, was largely attended. Mrs Harry Huffman, our convenor, did her usual good job in making this event such a splendid success, as that of the previous year. The tables were attractive with appropriate Loyalist decor, a log cabin in a clearing with farm animals, and a Loyalist's wife at her spinning wheel. An added authentic touch was the homemade candles which our pioneer forebears knew so well.

Our speaker, Dr. Solandt, Chancellor of the University of Toronto, Doctor of Medicine, Vice-president of research at DeHavilland Aircraft and well known for his research on tank development during the last war, was introduced by Dr. Gordon Kelly. Dr. Solandt's address on transportation of the present and future was prefaced by a few reminiscences of his experiences in London during the air raid periods of 1940-41. Our speaker gained much experience on railway transportation when associated with the Canadian National Railway in the traffic and research departments. He drew comparisons between rail, motor car and airplane as to speed, cost, land requirements and safety statistics. Transportation is a foremost problem of all the industrial countries today. We are fortunate in Canada that we can learn from the successes and failures of the U.S. as they try to solve their difficulties in traffic and transportation. The advantages and disadvantages of subways, tunnels, monorails, hydro foils, hovercraft and the latest vehicles propelled by air pressure were all described. Appreciation for this splendid address was expressed by Dr. Dingwall.

Dr. Dillane spoke on the background, the true meaning and ideals of our United Empire Loyalist ancestors. Without our allegiance to the Crown, the letters U. E. L. have little significance. Dr. Dillane feels that our association should be more interested in sponsoring loyalty in these doubtful days, than in just the historical and genealogical delving, worthy and necessary as these may be.

The report of the June picnic held at Chiefswood will appear in a later issue.

By Grace J. Smith

### 1967 Spring

"Chiefswood," near Brantford, was the scene of our June outing. We were taken by the curator, Mrs. Smoke, on the interesting tour of this old home of Pauline Johnson, *U.E.* The Six Nations are to be commended for their restoration of this lovely old mansion built by Chief G. H. Johnson in 1853 as wedding gift for his English bride, Emily Howels. It is situated on Highway 54, near Middleport on the Grand River. One of our members, Miss Grace Trinder, gave an eloquent recitation of "The Song my Paddle Sings". Members with families and friends enjoyed their picnic beneath the fine old trees of "Chiefswood."

In October Mrs. Chester Nash of Stoney Creek, and President of the Women's Institute there, spoke of her recent visit to Britain where she represented our country at the World Convention of Institutes. Since Stoney Creek was the birthplace of Women's Institutes, Mrs. Nash was accorded special honour, being entertained at many country estates and presented to the Queen at the Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Occasions such as these keep alive the link which joins us to our mother country.

The death of Miss Grace Trinder, mentioned above, is a great loss to our organization. Miss Trinder was Assistant Director at Lynwood Hall since coming here from Calgary.

By Grace Smith

### 1967 Autumn

The annual dinner was held in April at the Officers' Institute. The speaker, Mr. Ralph Cowan, M.P. for York Humber and of U.E.L. descent, was introduced by Dr. Gordon Kelly. The topic chosen was "British Defence of Canada, 1776 - 1781 and 1812 - 1815."

Mr. Cowan had delved deeply into early military records filed in Ottawa. He found Colonel Stanley's book, 'Canada's Soldiers, 1604 - 1954' his chief authority. He was able to refute the oft heard comment that Canada would be part of U.S. A. had it not been for the loyalty of the Habitant since 1759. He stated that Cabot had raised the British flag on North America 57 years before the French came. The British acquired control and held military government of Louisburg until the Treaty of Aix-La-Chapelle restored it to France. As a result a naval base was established at Halifax in 1749.

By 1759 there were one and a half million English colonists in New England as compared with 60,000 French in Canada. France could not send reinforcements to Montcalm as British controlled the Seas. In the various attacks by American forces it was chiefly British troops who defended the country. The War of 1812 was really an extension of the Napoleonic War in Europe. Aware of the French attitude both in Canada and in France, Wellington released eight thousand troops for the defense of Canada. British naval strength under English speaking command and loyal men made success possible.

Mr. Robert Johnson and Mr. L. Merrill voiced appreciation to the speaker.

Members of this branch have contributed \$700.00 and friends of the organization an additional \$1000.00 for the John Graves Simcoe Memorial Fund.

At this meeting Mr. William McCullough was made Honorary Life Member to show appreciation for his work as an outstanding citizen and for his untiring efforts as chairman of the Dundurn Castle Restoration Committee which is Hamilton's Centennial Project.

### **1968 Spring**

**T**he Hamilton Branch, at their October meeting, were shown slides of Italy and Ireland by one of our Associate members, Miss Bernice Grayson. After the Annual Meeting in November the new officers were in charge. For entertainment Miss Norma Presslar showed slides of her recent trip to the Orient.

In December five of our members spent an enjoyable evening at the Toronto Branch's Christmas dinner at Hart House, University of Toronto. A talk of great interest was given in January by Miss Mary Farmer of the Hamilton Public Library. Her topic was "The Ledger of an Early Doctor of Barton and Glanford Townships." She told of treatments and medicines prescribed for early settlers in the district, the accounts being rendered in pounds, shillings and pence.

Mrs. Vivien M. Spack, Genealogist of the Hamilton Branch for many years died in April. Mrs. Spack was well known for her great service not only to her own branch but also to the members throughout Canada. The Association appreciates the outstanding contributions that Mrs. Spack has made to our permanent genealogical records.

### **1968 Fall**

**U**nfortunately the Annual Dinner at the Officers' Club had to be cancelled. The speaker was to have been Mr. Jamieson, a well known authority on antiques and a columnist for the Hamilton, spectator. Mr. William McCullough an outstanding citizen of Hamilton died recently quite suddenly. He had been made an Honorary Member of the Hamilton Branch last year.

### 1969 Autumn

Members of the Hamilton Branch have enjoyed a varied program this year. Miss Bernice Grayson showed slides of her summer trip to Russia, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Poland and Germany. Later Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Cunningham presented their slides of places in Britain not on the regular tourists' route. Earlier in the year Mr. Waters, Curator of Fort York, Toronto, showed two sound films, "Diary of Mrs. Simcoe" and "Defenders of Fort York". These were of much historical interest.

Mrs. James Edmonds brought a variety of glass goblets to one of the meetings. She is a collector of these and in her talk on Old Canadian Glass told of the great advances in demand and price of some of these early glass products. Of special interest to our group was the information about the Hamilton Glass Works-1865-1895, and the Burlington Glass Works, later the Dominion Glass Co.1875-1909.

Speakers on Indian Affairs completed the year's program. Mrs. Ralph Probert gave a talk on Indian Treaties and the Revised Indian Act, and at the dinner meeting Professor Charles M. Johnston of McMaster University and author of "Head of the Lake", spoke on problems of an historian in facing the Indian situation. His point of view is that the Indians should be judged on their own concept of their society and not through the white man's impression.

A joint picnic with St. Catharines Branch was held in June.

### 1970 Spring

Members of the Hamilton Branch enjoyed two meetings last fall. At one of the meetings Mr. Murray Thompson of Burlington took us on a magic carpet of slides to Gibraltar and Morocco. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson spent a year travelling in a camper through Europe, Africa and Asia. The beautiful slides taken during this trip, along with his excellent commentary, were of great interest and entertainment.

Later, we had another successful meeting when Dr. Noble of the Anthropology Department of McMaster, University, gave an illustrated address on Indian civilization in the southwestern part of Ontario from 6000 B.C. to 1650 A.D. Part of Dr. Noble's research work was done at Princess Point in Hamilton.

Many of the Hamilton members feel that time spent at Dominion Council meetings should be spent on (1) How to publicize the United Empire Loyalists' Association. (2). Ways of attracting more people to our meetings (3) Strengthening the traditions of monarchy in Canada.

### 1970 Autumn

The March meeting of our branch took the form of Bruce Trail Slides. The Bruce Trail Association was pleased that we asked them to do this. This ended our regular meetings.

We closed the season except for our picnic, with a very successful dinner party. The executive of the Imperial Daughters of the Empire, and the Head of the Lake, Historical Society, were our guests. The dinner at the Officers' Club was especially delicious. The speaker, the Hon. Angus MacLean, gave a timely address on the Erosion of Parliament. It was a speech to remember. Afterwards, it was moved that a summary of these wise and true words should be sent to all our branches. This newspaper resume is excellent:

"There are groups within Canada whose long-term objective is to bring the Canadian parliamentary system into disrepute, the Hon. J. Angus MacLean, M. P., told a Hamilton audience. He saw this process

as part of a world struggle for men's minds. Mr. MacLean, a former minister of fisheries in the federal cabinet is the member for Malpeque, P.E.I. He was addressing a meeting of the Hamilton Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada and the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, at the Hamilton and District Officers' Institute. While not himself a U. E. L. Mr. MacLean dates his Canadian heritage back to 1832, when his ancestors came to this country from Scotland."

Taking as his topic the erosion of our parliamentary system, Mr. MacLean said those who were trying to accomplish that erosion would be cheered by the Canadian's characteristic lack of pride in his own history and in his own traditions and his nation's accomplishments. He quoted Edmund Burke: "A nation is not an idea only of local extent and individual momentary aggregation, but it is an idea of continuity which extends in time as well as in numbers and in space. People will not look forward to posterity, who never look backward to their ancestors." Mr. MacLean stressed the importance of national symbols as a reminder of a nation's history, traditions, principles and hopes.

To downgrade those symbols, he said, was part of the way of subversion, which involved bringing into disrepute the system of government, respect for law, and order, and the values by which people lived.

"If we try to preserve our democratic rights of free speech and free vote against those subversives who would substitute force for reason, and who would transform our universities from institutions of information into institutions of indoctrination," he said, "it is we, they tell us, who are against democratic principles. "

Mr. MacLean also examined in detail the role of the monarchy, and its value to Canada. Canada was a constitutional monarchy by deliberate choice, Mr. MacLean pointed out. In the days of British colonies on this continent, the Americans broke with their past, but Canadians have repeatedly and deliberately refused to break with theirs. The increasing talk of republicanism was ascribed partly to an idea that people in republics were "freer". But it was not obvious the speaker said, that South Americans, Russians, Chinese or Hungarians, for example, had more freedom than Canadians.

Besides what he termed "an amiable, if rather fuzzy, desire to help the French Canadians", the speaker pinpointed two other sources of republican talk: "the carbon copy theory of Canada" and "the rubber stamp theory of the Crown". Both, he said, were deep-rooted but false. "The carbon copy theory" meant the idea that Canada should be a second United States. But, he said, the founders of Canada had set out to make a very different kind of country and had succeeded. The "rubber stamp theory" referred to the idea that the Crown or its representative must always follow the advice of the cabinet, no matter what the circumstances. Parliamentary responsible government, Mr. MacLean said, was flexible, effective--and dangerous. The opposition had no direct control. With the support of a majority, it would be possible for a cabinet to suspend parliament and establish a dictatorship except that the Crown could stop this. Mr. MacLean described the Crown as the "indispensable centre of the whole parliamentary democratic order". Mr. MacLean also disputed the idea that the Senate was "a useless appendage to a parliamentary system which survived from some earlier age."

One of the Senate's prime duties, he said, was to give second thought to legislation passed by members of parliament who had often had less parliamentary experience than the senators.

"But", he said, "probably the most important function of the Senate is to study problems through its committees, which are of special concern to the Canadian nation."

## 1971 Spring

Last fall we have had a happy and interesting time in our Hamilton Branch. To start off the season we were hosts to the Dominion Council Meeting on October 17th, 1970. We met at Dundurn Castle, the home of Sir Alan MacNab, who was Premier of Upper and Lower Canada from 1854-1856. This lovely home was restored as Hamilton's Centennial project and has beautiful landscape and waterscape views. Forty seven people toured this castle at 11 a.m. and at 1 p.m., sixty-eight sat down to a luncheon served in the dining room. The Dominion Council Meeting followed. In between this and the luncheon there was picture taking on the lawn.

On October 22nd our first meeting became Civic Night and the vivacious and charming controller, Mrs. Anne Jones, with pictures and sketches, showed us Hamilton of To-day and To-morrow. We all hope to live long enough to see Civic Square finished as well as our Theatre-Auditorium and new Art Library.

Our members do like to travel and hear about the journeys of others, thus we had a big turnout in November when Mr. Bernard Strong of Ancaster took us to the Far East beginning with Honolulu and Japan. His beautiful pictures and superb commentary made this a memorable evening. Four new members met with us that night and more are joining us in November.

New members are Melvin and Morris Devins. These two men are brothers with, of course, a common ancestor, who was Abraham Devins, born about 1743, settled in Genesee Valley, New York, and came to Toronto area, was given land August 24, 1796. Other ancestors were Abraham Devins Jr., Nathan Devins, farmed at Heathcote, John Devins, farmed at Heathcote, George Devins, farmed at Heathcote.

Another new member is John Alexander Aikman, who is the Branch Genealogist. His ancestors are Capt. John Aikman, U.E., married Hannah Showers, U.E., daughter of Michael Showers of Butler's Rangers; Alexander Aikman, born 1790, married Mary Springer, U.E., daughter of Richard Springer; John Alexander Aikman, born about 1817, at Hamilton; Dr. John Alexander Aikman, born 1840 at Hamilton, died 1884 at Ingersoll; John Griswold Aikman, born 1872, Decatur, Illinois, died 1923 at Hamilton.

## OBITUARY OF MRS. ISABEL M. ALTON

A memorial service was held in St. Luke's Church, September 27th, 1970, for Isabel M. Alton, beloved wife of the late Frank Alton. Mrs. Alton was the former Isabel Land, daughter of John H. and Mrs. Land, Hamilton, and a direct descendant of Robert Land, the first settler to make his home where the City of Hamilton now stands.

Friendly and helpful, Mrs. Alton became interested in YWCA first in Hamilton and later at Saskatoon, London, St. Thomas and St. Johns. Later, she engaged in family counselling and welfare work in Picton and Toronto. After her marriage she resided in Chicago until widowed. She then returned to Burlington where she became active in the work of St. Luke's Church and in the work of The United Empire Loyalists, and became Genealogist of the Hamilton Branch. In recognition of her work she was presented with a life membership. She was a member of the Dominion Genealogical Committee of the U.E.L.

For a number of years she researched the genealogy of the Robert Land Family and her efforts culminated in the printing of the record of this family in June.

by Mrs. Harold Burkholder

## 1972 Spring

Several prospective new members were welcomed at the Fall meeting of the Hamilton Branch. Miss Norma Preslar, the President, gave a greeting to everyone, especially to Mrs. Marlatt and her family; Mr. and Mrs. Wills; Mrs. Anna Shaver; and new members Douglas, Beverley and Alder Bliss, the family of Colonel Bliss.

Mr. Earl Buckley gave the report of the nominating committee for the coming year as follows: President, pro tern, Dr. J. G. Dillane; 1st Vice-president, Reverend Rolph Morden; 2nd Vice-president, Mr. John Bate; Secretary, Mrs. Harold Lampman; Treasurer, Miss Mabel Kelly; Assistant Treasurer, Mrs. Beverley Beard; Genealogist, Mr. John Aikman; Press Reporter, Miss Florence MacIntosh.

Dr. Dillane then took office and gave thanks to the retiring president, Miss Preslar. He welcomed a High School student, Miss Nancy McKerrigle who attended the meeting as part of her essay assignment on the Loyalists.

The speaker for the evening was Mr. L. L. Merrill who was introduced by Mr. Colin Mills as "Mr. U. E. L." His subject was 'Our Heritage - What Value'. Mr. Merrill gave an inspiring review of the British Heritage, especially in its form of government which is still unsurpassed for its integrity and humanitarianism. The world is beginning to suffer from the maligning and abuse of this form of government. Mr. Buckley thanked the speaker for his address.

The business reports of the November 25th meeting of the U. E. L. were held to a minimum in order to give as much time as possible to the special speaker of the evening, the Reverend James S. McGivern S. J. Mr. John Bate introduced Father McGivern and named some of his accomplishments. He is the historian of the Martyrs' Shrine at Midland, has published a book on family names, entitled 'Your Name and coat-of-arms' and has traced twenty-one ancestors directly back to the 'Mayflower'.

An enthralled audience listened as Father McGivern took them back to the early pioneer days of Ontario. A Franciscan friar, Joseph Le Caron arrived on August 12th, 1615, in fact the first missionary between the North Pole and Mexico. The first Mission at Sainte Marie, near Midland, Ontario, sent both missionaries and laymen into North America. Recognition is now being given to the descendants of these laymen. Sainte Marie furnished the first doctor surgeon, the first school, and of course, the first Church, the Shrine to St. Joseph. Father McGivern stated that the fur traders tried to destroy the Indian culture while the missionaries tried to spread their own belief in Christianity by living the life of the Indian. He then asked his audience to imagine a journey such as these dedicated men undertook. The mode of transport was canoe and the missionaries joined their Indian brothers at the necessary chore of paddling the canoe from dawn to dusk. They consumed a morning and an evening meal of dried corn pounded into flour with added appetizers of flies, caterpillars and rotten fish which relieved the monotony! They shared the hospitality of the Indian, lived in their longhouses which had no windows, no furniture and only a dirt floor. A bonfire burned in the middle for warmth and the smoke escaped through a hole in the roof. At least some of it did, most remained in the longhouse. Six to ten families lived together all the relations along with the dogs, rats and fleas. These dedicated men learned to love the Indian as a brother but the success of their mission was poor. There was only one adult convert in the first twenty-five years. It was not until eight of the brothers suffered martyrdom, three in New York and five in Ontario that Christianity began to take root as these showed their Faith by dying for it. In conclusion Father McGivern stated that there is no such thing as a 'new Canadian'. Many nations and races have added their own special heritage to this country. The early arrivals were not only of French origin but also there were Scottish and Italian priests. The first white child born here was a Viking, and Chinese and Japanese people arrived on the West Coast in the fourteenth century, and twenty-two years prior to the sailing of the 'Mayflower' there

were men searching for land in Canada. Most of these people have been faithful to their God, loyal to their country and good hard workers.

A most warm word of thanks was extended to Father McGivern by Mr. John Aikman.

### 1972 Autumn

The Spring meeting of the Hamilton Branch was held on April 23, at the L.O.D.E. Headquarters in Hamilton. The meeting opened with the singing of "The Queen". The President, Dr. J.G. Dillane, was in the chair and the Standard Bearer was Mr. E.J. Buckley. Dr. Dillane said that we were doubly honoured with the presence of the Dominion President, Mr. Michael Spohn, and also with our guest speaker, Mr. W.B. Hambly, President of the Toronto Branch.

There was a brief business period. There is an invitation extended to members to attend the 140th Anniversary of the Beaver Dams' Church at 2 p.m. on June 4. Several members wished to attend and Mr. Colin Mills was in charge of group visit to this old church in the Niagara area. Concern was expressed over the proposed demolition of the small house at Dundurn Castle. The battlements are also likely to be destroyed. Dr. Dillane suggested that Colonel Willis Moogk, Curator of Dundurn, be contacted to find out if anything can be done to save these historic places.

Mr. Michael Spohn then expressed greetings from Dominion Headquarters reminding members of the annual meeting in Ottawa. He then introduced the special guest, Mr. W.B. Hambly.

For the next hour a spellbound audience listened to Mr. Hambly's graphic description of life in Toronto seventy-plus years ago as seen through the eyes of a child. He gave briefly the history of "Cabbagetown". The original York was burnt in 1812, including the Parliament Buildings by the American invaders. Then a new city arose as "Toronto".

Cabbagetown was traditionally settled by the Irish. Coming to the area in the "Hungry Thirties" they planted cabbages instead of lawns giving the area its name. Mr. Hambly told how whole villages bought ships and sailed across the Atlantic - the journey taking 48 days. Then they finally arrived in Toronto. He spoke of the old St. Lawrence Canal, Port Hope, the first lighthouse and its keeper, the Indians who caught salmon in the Don, the flights of the passenger pigeons and when fifty cents bought a gallon of whiskey! Mr. Hambly's grandfather was a 'printer's devil' at a time when it took forty-eight compositors to make up a sixteen-page newspaper. He stated that his mother was a Quaker and the church was in the middle of what is now the Maple Leaf Gardens. He spoke of the Great Fire of Toronto which raged for six or seven days and firefighting equipment came from Hamilton, Cleveland and Buffalo.

What a store of memories Mr. Hambly recalled! He took his audience through streets of cedar blocks by carriage in summer and sleigh in winter. We rode on open street cars on the "Belt Line" and paid twenty-five cents for six tickets or if we were working men we got eight for the same price and even got eleven tickets for the same quarter if we travelled on Sunday. We visited the three original schools. We shopped at the stores, saw bear and deer hanging in the butcher shops, bought ice cream from the Greek ice carts and listened to the Hurdy Gurdy. Then we relived the seasons through the eyes of a curious and eager youngster. There was fishing on the Don and as soon as the weather warmed shoes and boots were discarded. Gangs appeared on every corner, there was a summer resort at Long Branch. There was the ice wagon to follow and the Boy Scouts held paper chases. Toronto supported two professional lacrosse teams. Steam engines drawn by horses galloped to the fires followed by boys on bicycles. There were boat trips to Niagara at the price of ten trips for one dollar. Every Saturday night the "Black Maria" arrived at the police station with its cargo of malefactors. Then with the Fall came the sham battles with

the volunteer regiments, the Exhibition, visits to farms at Woodbridge, the burning of leaves, Thanksgiving, preserving the harvest of fruit and the abundance of eggs and butter. Then to the ritual baking of Christmas cakes, to the fun of Halloween, the surprise parties, Mother's formal calling days and the preparation for them. What excitement over the first frost and the first snow. Snowpacks were worn which were moccasins of oiled leather. The stoves were lit, there was skating on the Don and out came the big sleighs and the ice boats. The joyous ringing of the church bells were all part of the preparations for Christmas. The home would be made ready for the house visits which started on the 24th of December and finished with the old year. Wine would be served to the ladies in the parlour and a "shot" for the men in the kitchen.

Mr. Hambly concluded with a brief look at Toronto today. It had had fine citizens in the past and there were fine ones now. There is much to be proud of in the new city and while one can look back with fond memories let us remember the many fine recent achievements.

Mr. Colin Mills thanked the speaker most heartily for his interesting and personal glimpses into the past and expressed his enjoyment and the pleasure of all present.

### **1973 Autumn**

The Hamilton Branch held its meeting at the L.O.D.E. Headquarters on January 26, 1973. The Flag was presented by Mr. E.J. Buckley during the singing of "The Queen". The minutes were read by the Secretary, Mrs. Harold Lampman. and the Treasurer, Miss Mabel Kelly, also reported. Miss Kelly brought to the attention of the members that U.E.L. Jewellery is for sale. Mr. Ranson Cooke, Vice-President, announced that the Annual Banquet will be held at the Board of Trade, Augusta and James St., Hamilton, on May 24th.

The February meeting will be cancelled in order that the members may attend the Head-of-the-Lakes Historical Society meeting on February 9. Past President, Dr. J.G. Dillane, was the speaker. Four delegates were appointed to attend the Dominion Annual Convention. They are Mr. John Aikman, Mr. L.L. Merrill, Mr. Colin Mills and Mr. E.J. Buckley.

Mr. John Aikman introduced the members to an historical "Show and Tell". The years rolled back and members showed treasures of a bygone age. Mr. Gordon Hendershot brought the counterpane of Catherine Beamer. Mr. Ranson Cooke brought a cup and saucer commemorating one of the earliest steamships to sail Lake Ontario. Mrs. A. McKee brought a detailed family history and an old letter. The Misses Hattie and Lottie Jones brought several pieces of pioneer china including the handleless cups that were customary in the early days. Mrs. John Aikman was a charming picture in her great grandmother's dress and shawl. The dress was a perfect fit and Mrs. Aikman gave the history of both dress and shawl and the occasions of their wearing. Old family sleigh bells were the contribution of Miss Mabel Kelly. The bells were graduated in tone and gave a melodic peal when shaken. Mr. Earl Buckley brought the audience back to reality with an early wooden hay fork. This useful article was carefully made and gave many years of service.

Thanks were expressed to Mr. Aikman and all who took part in the "Show and Tell". Members then enjoyed a social hour and further discussed the items shown during the evening.

Instead of the regular monthly meeting for February of the Hamilton Branch, members were invited to join the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society for a joint meeting on February 9th.

Dr. J.G. Dillane, Past President of The United Empire Loyalists' Association, gave a comprehensive address on the history of the organization. Dr. Dillane recommended a visit to the Adolphustown Museum near Napanee, Ontario, which has an excellent display of Loyalist Memorabilia.

The speaker was introduced by Mr. John Aikman and was thanked by Miss Mabel Kelly who holds memberships in the host and visiting organizations, as well as by Mr. Charles Carter, President of the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society.

At the March meeting Mr. Stuart Gilmor brought greetings to the meeting from Dominion Headquarters and reminded members of the Dominion Convention to be held in May.

The speaker for the evening was Canon W.J. Zimmerman, Chaplain to Her Majesty's Chapel to the Mohawks at Brantford, Ontario. He was introduced by Mrs. Harold Lampman as a man of dedicated service to God and the Indian people. He had spent twenty-eight years at Brantford and had been Principal of the Residential School until its closing in 1970. Married with a son and daughter, he and his wife were very welcome guests to the meeting.

Canon Zimmerman chose as his theme the History of the Six Nations as portrayed in the beautiful stained glass windows in the Chapel. Using coloured slides he took each window and told its story -- a story which started in the thirteenth century with the Confederation of the Five Nations in what is now New York State through the declaration of loyalty to the English Crown, the receiving of their precious Communion Plate from Queen Anne, then the heartrending years of the American Revolution when the Indian People decided that their loyalty was still to Britain and finally their coming to their own lands again in Ontario and Quebec. The final window is very modern and was given by Queen Elizabeth. It portrays the future Indian with his arms upraised and his eyes uplifted to Heaven with faith for the days to come for all Indian peoples.

President Rev. J. Rolph Morden thanked Canon Zimmerman for his enthralling talk and felt that there was much for us all to think about in the history of the Indian people which is so close to that of the Loyalists.

A social hour was then enjoyed while Canon Zimmerman informally answered questions.

## **1974 Spring**

**T**he Hamilton Branch held its first meeting of the New Year on January 24 in the I.O.D.E. Headquarters, Caroline and Jackson Sts., Hamilton.

The meeting opened with the singing of "The Queen" and the Standard Bearer was Mr. E.J. Buckley. The President, the Rev. Rolph Morden, said a few words of welcome to guests and members. It was with regret that the resignation of Miss Mabel Kelly as treasurer was accepted. She has been active with the Association for twenty-six years but urgent family affairs have forced her to retire. Mrs. John Aikman has accepted the position as treasurer.

A nomination committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. J.G. Dillane, others to be Mr. Colin Mills, Miss Norma Preslar and Mr. E.J. Buckley. The elections will be held in May, 1974.

Mr. John Aikman presented the new Hamilton branch By-laws. He thoroughly explained the changes and omissions and hoped that the new laws would be acceptable. The Rev. Morden thanked Mr. Aikman and his assistants for all the work that he had done in preparing the new By-laws.

Dr. J. G. Dillane presented Notices of Motions to be put before the Dominion Council.

It was suggested that as we have quite a few new members that name tags would be of great help in getting to know each other. Mr. Harold Lampman offered to provide name tags for the members by the next meeting.

The Rev. Rolph Morden then introduced our 'specialists in the Field of Loyalist artifacts', the Misses Lottie and Hattie Jones of Stoney Creek, Ontario, whose wide knowledge of Loyalist artifacts is well known. They have been consulted in the restoration and refurbishing of Dundurn Castle, Hamilton, and their home is a museum to those times. The ladies brought an extensive and varied selection of articles in general and daily use in an early Loyalist home. Miss Lottie Jones divided her talk into four parts dividing the articles in groups of those made of iron, those of tin, those of pottery and those of wood. The early blacksmith made the iron necessities of life; nails, hinges, latches, hoes, saws and for the housewife kettles, spits, anglehooks, many kinds of lamps, furniture, smoothing and hollow irons, apple parers and trivets. Then later gates, fences, weathervanes, fireplaces, cranes in fireplaces and roasting spits were made. In the 1840's grates came in with iron coal stoves, along with oil lamps and candlesticks.

The tin pedlar was welcome at most pioneer homes. He brought pots and pans, cookie cutters and candleholders. Elegant toleware flourished during the 1760's-1820's. with exotic painted flowers and birds on black trays and cannisters. From 1820 on stencils were used for the designs.

The Indians brought pottery to the new settlers. The Algonquin tribes in the area of Lakes Ontario and Erie made clay pots for cooking and storing. The Georgian Bay clay was suitable for these articles and the first Ontario potters were Samuel Humberstone and Son.

Not to be forgotten was the all important wood. Besides the actual home, many different kinds of rolling pins, cutlery boxes, bowls and utility boxes, spoon racks, carved molds and dough boxes were made, along with shoes, furniture -- tables, chairs, stools and cupboards.

Examples of all these kinds of articles were then shown by Miss Hattie and Lottie as well as early china, including the handleless cups, beautiful pieces of needlework, inkwells and bottles. The ladies were on hand to explain and answer questions.

A unanimous vote of thanks was given to the Misses Hattie and Lottie Jones for a most interesting insight into bygone days.

Lunch was served to guests and members.

### **1975 Spring**

**A**t the March 1974 meeting held at the I.O.D.E. Headquarters a large number of prospective members was welcomed by the Reverend Rolph Morden, President. Three certificates were then presented to the following: Mrs. George Hemingway (Ruth M. Walsh); Mrs. James Vernon (Dorothy Urquhart) McKee; Mr. William Eugene Hemstreet. B.A., B.Paed.

Mrs. Clow kindly provided the copies of 'A Canadian School Dedicated to the U.E. Loyalists', words by Dr. M.J. Keane and music by G. Sidwell.

A lively discussion took place regarding the fate of two loyalists' home in the area that face destruction. Mrs. Ruby Williams offered Harmony Hall, built by William Davis in 1800, at Albion Falls to anyone who would provide a new site and the care for it. Mr. Rymal Woolley, then said that the same fate was

facing the old Rymal home with its historic connections with William Lyon McKenzie. We are hoping that something can be done to save these old homesteads.

The speaker for the evening was introduced by Mr. John Aikman. He was Mr. Stafford Johnston of Kitchener, an authority on the life of John Brant. Mr. Johnston has been associated with the Kitchener Record and is a renowned Indian historian. Mr. Johnston said that he was facing the Loyalists with some trepidation as they were so very well informed on the history of the era, but he felt that so very little is known about John Brant. He was the son of the more famous Joseph and that seems to be the extent of one's knowledge. Mr. Johnston stated that he would divide his discourse in three parts: first, the bare facts; second, the fitting of these facts into history and thirdly, the sidelights of this rather remarkable man.

John Brant was the youngest son of Joseph who was married three times. Molly Brant was his aunt. John was born in 1794 and when his father died in 1807, John, though the youngest son was nominated by the senior women as War Chief of the Six Nations at the age of 17 years. When war broke out in 1812 the sons of both Loyalists and Indians joined forces to face the new threat from the south. After the war John entered politics and was a member of the Assembly of Upper Canada. A close friend of William (Tiger) Dunlop, John and William explored the area between Lake Huron and Kitchener and laid out a future highway. John Brant had both an Indian and a white education and was at home in the company of either.

Then came a graphic account of some of the important events of the War of 1812-1814. At the Battle of Queenston Heights the combatants were as follows: on the British side, 100 warriors led by John Brant (then 18 years of age), 400 British soldiers and a few settlers. On the American side there were 600 men with cannon. After the death of Sir Isaac Brock the British outlook was grim until the warriors of the Six Nations took over. There was a fast surrender of the Americans. They wanted no part of any warfare with the Indians. 958 Americans surrendered leaving the British in the rather embarrassing situation of having more prisoners than guards. During the war the Indians had the Americans under constant surveillance throughout the Niagara area. Unseen they watched every movement.

Then came the Battle of Beaverdams in 1813. Mr. Stafford outlined the events prior to the battle. The British army had withdrawn and all that was left in the area were scattered outposts manned by the Canadian Militia, the sons of Loyalists, at the most 35 or 40 men. John Brant and his warriors had been joined by Dominic Ducharme, chief of the Mohawks from Quebec and were very quietly boxing the American forces in on three sides, unheard and unseen, leaving the Americans with only the Niagara River behind them. Into this situation came Laura Secord bearing her important message for FitzGibbon. In no way deterring from the gallant deed that Laura Secord performed, it must have been very disconcerting for the Indians to have to deal with her and her cow before she unwittingly betrayed their presence. This they did successfully and the rest is history. There was a very rapid capitulation again by the Americans when they found out the situation into which they had been led. They wanted no part of Indian warfare again.

When peace came John Brant entered political life. His home was at Wellington Square now the site of the Joseph Brant Hospital, Burlington. He finds mention in several books of that era. W. Cattermole of Hamilton, Anna Jamieson in her famous Studies, in an 1831 edition of the Advantage of Emigration to Canada and Authentic Letters from Upper Canada published in 1833. When the Grand River Navigation Company was formed by W. H. Merritt (of the Welland Canal) to build a canal to Kitchener, then Berlin, John Brant protested against it as it would ruin the Indian corn crops and fishing. This canal did reach Brantford and ended in disaster. Large tracts of Indian land had been sold and the large trust fund accumulated by the sale of the land was invested in the Grand River Company. The Company went bankrupt and the Indian fund disappeared, leaving the Indians poverty stricken. John Brant died an early demise either from smallpox or cholera and a great man disappeared from the Canadian scene.

Vice-President William M Elliott thanked the speaker for a lesson in Canadian History which he hoped would never be forgotten.

On May 23 the President, Reverend Rolph Morden, welcomed the members and commented on the exceptionally large turnout.

Mr. John Aikman, Branch genealogist, then introduced seven new members: Mrs. Richard Browne, Mr. Gordon Long, Mr. Alan Long, Mrs. Nelia Henry, Mrs. D. Brown, Mr. Douglas McAlpine and Mr Thomas Tucker.

The Reverend Rolph Morden then introduced the Reverend A.G. Skelly, a close friend and colleague, of Ryerson United Church, Hamilton. The Reverend Skelly was born in Ireland and received his B.A. and M.A. from Trinity College in Dublin. Mr. Skelly chose as his topic "Ireland, Land of Laughter and Tears". He referred to the tragic situation which exists in that troubled land today, and said that there were no indications that things would improve and the problems will fester on for many years. He stated, in hindsight, that the Ulster Government should have recognized the minorities ten to twenty years ago. Then to change the scene he told several amusing stories. Mr. John Aikman thanked him for the information on the tragedy and laughter that is Ireland.

June 16th will represent the Anniversary of fifty years given in Service by Reverend Rolph Morden, our President. Mr. Morden will preach at Ryerson United Church on that date and Mr. Skelly extended an invitation to all to attend.

The first Fall meeting of the Hamilton Branch was held on October 24 at the L.O.D.E. Headquarters. Owing to illness of the President, Reverend Rolph Morden, the Vice-President, W.M. Elliott took the meeting. The following schedule of fees was accepted: \$8.00 per member or associate member, \$4.00 for spouse of said member and \$1.00 for children of members up to 18 years.

Dr. J. G. Dillane was then called upon to present a gift from the Branch to Miss Mabel Kelly who had resigned as treasurer after many years of faithful service because of family illness and commitments. Miss Kelly accepted a Royal Doulton figurine with much pleasure and recalled a few happy moments of her association with the Hamilton Branch and her continued interest in it.

Mr. Harold Lampman introduced the speaker for the evening. As promised Mr. Murray Killman was back with us. For many years he was the official artist with the International Harvester Company of Canada, an artist who proudly signs his work M. Killman U E. He was born, raised and lives in the Hamilton area and his U.E.L ancestors came from the Niagara area. He has combined history with his artistry and has many notable paintings of a historical nature to his credit, including the 'Battle of Lundy's Lane' and the 'Battle of Stoney Creek, both magnificent canvases. He is also an ardent conservationist and has a family project on twenty-six acres of preserve near Caledonia, Ontario. This and his art and work on the history of the Butler's Rangers are full-time occupations. Mr. Killman first acknowledged the presence at the meeting of Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Butler. Mr. Lorne Butler is a direct descendant of Colonel John. He then gave a brief Niagara-on-the-Lake. It was built in 1778 and was in fact the first U.E. colony. It is also probable that it was the seat of the First Parliament though Navy Hall has been recognized as such, both buildings being likely sites. Both the Federal and Provincial Governments have promised assistance in repairing and preserving the Barracks.

Mr. Killman then gave the story of the Butler Family. The U.S. home of Walter Butler in New London, Connecticut is a national site and it was here that John was born and raised. He was born in 1725 and later moved to the Mohawk Valley. He was an officer in the Mohawk Militia and served at Lake George and

Fort Niagara leading up to the defeat of the French. Raised to the rank of Colonel he was attached to the Indian Department. He was fluent in the Indian language and in all its variants and was an excellent interpreter. He became a very large landowner in the States having an excess of 30,000 acres. In 1775 he went to Rome, New York to attend the Council with the Indians. In 1777 he formed a corps of Rangers to assist General Burgoyne to act as spies for the British and also to patch up relations with the Indian Nations. In the spring of 1778 Butler had set up outposts in Ohio, Detroit and Wyoming. There were immense distances to be covered and outposts ranged through the Finger Lakes of New York. There were several very unpleasant and murderous episodes, including the massacre of settlers along the Mohawk Valley and also in Cherry Valley where Captain Walter Butler, son of John Butler was in charge. The British Army was at a great disadvantage in unknown country and against an American force that was very familiar with the surroundings. Thus Butler's Rangers became a very effective 'guerilla' force. Their purpose was to burn down and destroy anything that afforded help to the enemy, to eliminate food supplies and to harass the enemy on all flanks. They were extremely effective in raids -- about five rangers to thirty or so Indians, they were well camouflaged, well trained and devoted to their cause. Problems arose if the Indians were supplied liquor. Then all control over them was lost and they waged personal revenge and atrocities on both settler and soldier alike. The Rangers tried to destroy all liquor and were able to retrain the Indians most of the time. Six thousand troops were sent out by Washington against the British and it was a case of thousands against hundreds. There was a reward offered Butler's head but the reward was never collected. Butler's Rangers as well as the Six Nations Band of Indians were never defeated, in fact they saved Canada from total invasion. In 1784 the Rangers were disbanded and most of them took up residence as settlers in the Niagara area.

Mr. Murray Killman was thanked by Mr. John Aikman for a most interesting and informative account of what is perhaps, a very intriguing and controversial part of our history - heroes or villains.

An informal question and answer time then took place with Mr. Killman and all admired the excellent portrayal of a Butler's Ranger, painted by Mr. Killman in full uniform.

### **1976 Spring**

The general branch business was first on the agenda. Mr. W. Elliot led the proceedings, Mr. E. Buckley acted as flag bearer, and all were welcomed to the final meeting of 1975.

The financial status of the Hamilton Branch was read by the treasurer Mrs. E. Aikman, along with a report on the success of the Christmas card sales campaign. Dr. J. Dillane, chairman of the banquet committee, announced that he had succeeded in obtaining General Richard Rohmer (author of "Ultimatum: Oil or War") as guest speaker. This event is scheduled to take place during April or May.

Mr. Elliot presented a membership certificate to David Faux, branch publicity chairman and press correspondent, who accepted the document on behalf of his uncle, Jack R. Williamson. Mr. Williamson is descended from Lieutenant John Young of the Grand River who served in the Indian Department and Butler's Rangers.

The membership was reminded of the upcoming Dominion convention to be held from May 13 to 16 at the Bay of Quinte Branch, Queen's University, Kingston. This will be a fine opportunity to renew old friendships and meet new members from across the land. It is an extra bonus that the meeting is being held in the beautiful Belleville area.

Before the speaker for the evening was introduced, visitors and potential members Ethel Allen and Elsie Wingrove were welcomed.

Mr. J. A. Aikman introduced the speaker, his long-time friend and colleague, Mr. Jack Field who is president of the Niagara Historical Society. The topic which Mr. Field chose on this occasion was "Niagara-On-The-Lake".

For Mr. Field there is no finer place in this province in which to live. His enthusiasm for his subject matter was apparent throughout the historical tour he presented to us.

A summary of the talk is as follows:

Niagara-On-The-Lake was first called Newark and was located opposite the original Ft. Niagara at Youngstown New York.

The town was first settled by disbanded soldiers from Butler's Rangers who were quartered there during the winter lulls in the battle campaign routine. This never-rivalled courageous provincial corps formed the nucleus of the Niagara Peninsula Settlement.

Newark was the first capital of Upper Canada, and in the days of Lt.-Gov. J. C. Simcoe was a meeting place of all elements in society. In 1792 there were to be seen farmers, soldiers, trappers, traders, explorers, native people, and the hordes of "Late Loyalists" who were making their way north from Pennsylvania.

Some Newark landmark dates are 1792 when the Masonic Lodge was formed and when Reverend Robert Addison, an Anglican minister, arrived to attend to the spiritually starved people, and 1794 when the Presbyterian congregation was formed.

At this time the lake and rivers teemed with fish. Sturgeon and whitefish abounded. Nature displayed her bounty at every turn.

The people did not entirely suffer from an inadequate social life or a lack of the amenities of a "civilized" society. Formal balls were held on King George III's birthday when the crême of local society could parade their finery.

Just when the town was reaching a peak of culture, importance and sophistication the axe fell. The provincial capital was moved to York (Toronto) and Newark never fully recovered. Although for a time remaining reasonably prosperous, due to the Niagara River trade, the prosperity coup de grace was delivered to Newark in 1829 when the Welland Canal was built diverting traffic to St. Catharines. St. Catharines subsequently performed the final indignity by taking over as the district town.

The Niagara Historical Society operates a museum at Niagara-on-the-Lake and in it are housed a fine collection of relics relating to the early days of Niagara. A number of extremely valuable publications may also be purchased there. The winter hours for the museum are weekends from 1 to 5 p.m. Signs on the main street indicate the location of the museum.

### **FAMILY INFORMATION SOUGHT**

Readers are encouraged to send enquiries regarding ancestors to David Faux. If you have reached an impasse where it appears to be impossible to trace a branch of your family further, there may be people who have this information and would be more than willing to share it. It poses a great opportunity to meet remote cousins and exchange material. There are numerous people in the city who have spent long hours constructing family trees, it's merely a case of making contact with them.

Please use a format similar to the example below:

SAMPLE GENEALOGICAL QUERY

Doe John: born around 1801, married Mary, lived near Rymal Station, Barton Township in 1837.  
Wish to hear from anyone with information on the above. Mr. O. John, 001 James N.,  
Burlington, Ontario. Phone 911 1212.

Two books concerning the history of local families are now in the process of being compiled.  
Anyone who is connected with these families is asked to provide what information they have, thus  
enabling the authors to include as many diverse branches as is feasible.

Young family of Rickman's Corners.

Contact David Faux, 416 Upper Gage Ave., Hamilton, Ontario. Tel. 385-8850.

Smith family of Glanford Township.

Contact V. G. Smith, 996 Rymal Road East, R. R. 3 Hannon, Ontario. Tel. 385-5423. Application  
for Membership:

We welcome applications and enquiries.

Please write to: David Faux, U.E.

Publicity Director

Hamilton Branch

U.E.L. Association

416 Upper Gage Ave. HAMILTON, Ontario.

indicating the Loyalist family you are descended from. We will attempt to help applicants collect the  
necessary documents.

A panel format was used to elaborate on the theme for the January meeting of the Hamilton Branch.

The presentation was entitled "Up Your Family Tree" - how to become an effective ancestor hunter.

To begin the proceedings, Harold Lampman bid a special welcome to the guests present.

They included Mrs. Crozier and Mrs. Green. Both descendants of Adam Green. Mrs. Devitt who is  
descended from John Shaver: and Baby whose ancestor is George Baby.

The three panelists for the evening began a discussion designed to inspire and help those who wish to  
undertake the very difficult and often frustrating task of finding documents to prove family background. It  
was emphasized by all panelists that family tradition is interesting and can provide good leads, but is  
often notoriously unreliable.

Mr. David Faux introduced the topic with the assertion that when we wipe away the shroud of ignorance  
and half-truths by careful research we can take definite pride in the knowledge that we have part of  
certain specific original settlers of Canada within us, and their deeds become an aspect of ourselves.

Research into family background has associated benefits. It was stated that it can be a fascinating hobby  
with many puzzles to solve and researchers will undoubtedly encounter many people including relatives,  
that they would not meet otherwise. Furthermore, a collection of old family pictures and photocopies of  
original documents will become family heirlooms for future generations.

Mr. J. A. Aikman then showed a whole host of books that can be of help in the task. He indicated  
that we have access to many extremely helpful resource publications.

The final speaker was Mrs. Harold Lampman who presented a variety of records and anecdotes which  
gave the audience a feel for what they may turn up in their search.

Time was not available to discuss the resources available in the various archives, libraries and registry  
offices and it was decided to hold a session for this purpose at a later date.

Personal help from the panel resource material was then made available during the luncheon served by Mrs. G. Hemingway.

While the content and format of the meeting diverged from our usual policy of presenting guest speakers recruited from outside the Association, it was considered essential to encourage members who joined in the early days to produce the extensive documentation that is required of applicants today. Many things are valued in proportion to the amount of effort put into obtaining them.

*The United Empire Loyalist Association is a Canada-wide group with regional branches across the country. Our branch meets once a month at which time necessary administrative business is conducted, projects are planned, and a guest speaker presents a talk on a topic of Loyalist interest.*

*The Dominion Headquarters of the Association in Toronto, 23 Prince Arthur Avenue, includes the library with important documents relating to the Loyalist period, and also verifies the genealogy (family history) of each member.*

*In a manner similar to the various ethnic cultural clubs, the U.E.L. Association offers members fellowship with those Canadians whose background and values are similar to their own.*

*Members are encouraged to develop their interest in the history of their region and tours to various historic sites in Canada, and to the original settlements and battle sites in America, are organized for this purpose. The publication of family histories, annual transactions, and the preservation and collection of documents and artifacts relating to the Loyalist era are stressed as being worthy of our time and attention.*

The Mountain News, Hamilton

## **1976 Autumn**

The January meeting was in charge of the Branch Genealogists and took the form of a seminar dealing with how to go about searching out information regarding one's family line, and indicating the sorts of genealogical proofs that are needed to support an application. The meeting was well attended and a good deal of interest was shown by those present. In the work session following the presentation we examined a number of books from Hamilton Branch Library which gave information about our Loyalist forebears in this area. Of interest also was a large chart which showed the name of every Loyalist represented in Hamilton Branch, with information as to where he settled.

At the February meeting we were addressed by Mr. Jack Kingdon, the Curator of the Hamilton-Wentworth Pioneer Village. Using a series of slides Mr. Kingdon explained the origin of the buildings in the village, many of which date back to mid-nineteenth century. He also showed how the restoration of these was achieved. The meeting concluded with a contest in which Mr. Kingdon displayed a number of old pioneer articles and the audience was invited to name as many as possible.

In March, Mr. Lionel Merrill spoke to our group on the topic: "To dispel the myth that questions our Loyalist status". Mr. Merrill is an outstanding authority on Loyalist history and his address was well received.

The Annual meeting in May featured the election of officers for the coming year and the showing of a film in which we took a look at the position of settlers in the Niagara and Western Ontario areas when the

call to arms came in 1812. We saw that a number of recently arrived settlers from the L".~.A. were only too ready to leave the protection of their new homes and rally to the American cause, while those who were either Loyalists or the children of Loyalists remained loyal to Britain.

Our final meeting of the year took the form of a bus tour to old Fort Niagara in Youngstown, New York. About forty-five members and friends attended including a number of guests from the Grand River Branch. This was a most interesting trip, for it was to this old fort that the Loyalists came on their arrival in Niagara" and it was from here that Butler led his Rangers on their forays against the rebels. On our return trip we spent some time in the Jordan museum and in visiting the churchyard of St. Andrew's Grimsby where many of our Loyalist pioneers are buried.

### **1977 Spring**

**W**e opened the Fall season in October with several films depicting the way in which our Loyalist ancestors would have to have gone about the business of putting up a new home in the wilderness and beginning life. We opened the Fall season in October with several films depicting the way in which our Loyalist ancestors would have to have gone about the business of putting up a new home in the wilderness and beginning life anew. In addition to the films Mr. John H. Aikman who is in charge of the Outdoor Education Centre in Hamilton presented a talk explaining how the Staff at the Centre proceeds to teach pupils an understanding of the practical survival skills that our pioneer ancestors needed to live in the primitive conditions in which they found themselves. The meeting was well attended and there was a good discussion following.

At the November meeting, Mr. David Faux, another of our own members presented an illustrated talk dealing with century homes in the Hamilton area. He told of how the new settlers showed in their new permanent homes American and British influences in architecture - often displaying Georgian style with a later addition of Greek revival and in Victorian times becoming very ornate indeed. Often the very first home to be built was a crude affair, but with increasing prosperity a second home of stone, brick or cobblestone was erected. By 1850 there were a number of Scottish stone masons in the country and they built many fine stone homes. Mr. Faux also explained a number of ways in which old homes could be dated.

The January, 1977 meeting was held on one of the coldest, snowiest nights obtainable. Although our audience was somewhat limited in size it was most enthusiastic in its response to our speaker Mr. Paul Challen, head of the History Department at the Ancaster Secondary School. Mr. Challen brought several students with him from several grades, and they presented a most interesting picture of how a modern school can go about the task of making history come alive for its pupils. Each student made a presentation describing his or her personal research project. It was obvious that at least in one High School the students see the discovery of local history as a very challenging, personally enjoyable way to learn about our past. One of the participating students was the grandson of one of our members and a most interesting outcome was the statement of his intention of becoming a member as soon as possible.

### **1977 Autumn**

**G**reat concern was expressed at the March meeting of Hamilton U.E.L. Branch by our chaplain, Rev. Rolph Morden regarding the possibility of the separation of Quebec from Canada. In view of the seriousness of this situation the membership passed a motion that a letter be written to Dominion Council urging that it do all in its power to help rally the forces of Canadian unity.

The speaker for the evening was our Genealogist, Mrs. Betty Lampman. Her topic was "The clothing worn by our Loyalist Forefathers". Mrs. Lampman had done a great deal of research on a most absorbing topic. In the course of her well illustrated address, she exploded a number of myths which have been commonly held over the years. Her ability to make her subject come alive for the audience made this a most rewarding evening. It is a topic which other branches might be very interested in hearing.

At the April meeting we decided to purchase a number of copies of the Position Paper Report when it becomes available. These will be sold to the members and will be used during the coming year with the aim of providing material for group discussions that will ensure that every member of the Hamilton Branch is well informed on the background of the terminology used by the Loyalists, U.E., U.E.L., etc.

Our speaker for the meeting was Mr. Don Oliphant, a teacher community worker at Robert Land School in the city. He serves the area which was once the farm of Hamilton's first U.E. settler - Robert Land. This area has become an industrialized section of the city with all the attendant problems that accompany such an area. Through his work Mr. Oliphant has succeeded in reducing the instances of vandalism to almost zero, and in the process has helped the district recover its sense of community identity. He has also discovered many interesting facts about how the area grew from a farm to an industrial centre. He shared these discoveries with us through the slides he showed. He also showed how children can be encouraged to develop an interest in the history of the area in which they live.

Our Branch Annual Meeting was held on May 26, 1977. Mr. David Faux presented his progress report on the book we are preparing to mark the Bicentennial. This will tell the stories of the many Loyalist families who settled in our area.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. Mackay of the Hamilton Street Railway gave a most interesting slide-tape presentation of the development of the street railway system. His slides recalled many memories of bygone days as Hamilton grew from horse-drawn vehicles to electric street cars to modern diesel and electric buses. The officers for the coming year were elected, and Mr. Elliott turned the gavel over to Mr. Harold Lampman who will preside for the next two years.

Our final meeting for the season was a most joyous occasion. Mr. Colin Mills entertained the membership at a garden party at his home in Burlington. Over fifty members attended. While the weatherman proved obstinate and forced us indoors for part of the afternoon we were still able to partake of a most delicious and abundant buffet provided by Mr. and Mrs. Mills on the spacious lawns and in the gaily decorated rooms indoors. Union Jacks adorned the tables and red and white tablecloths gave a festive air to the occasion.

On this afternoon we inaugurated a program by which we plan to present special certificates of honour to selected members of the Branch and to the Association. Each member so honoured will also have his or her picture mounted in a Book of Honour with his signature and some details re his services. ... Those honoured at this time were Miss Mabel Kelly, Branch Treasurer for twenty-five years and a loyal supporter of Dominion Association through her most generous financial gifts.

Mr. Lionel L. Merrill – For fifty years Mr. Merrill has been a member of our Branch. He is among the most knowledgeable men in Canada on U.E. history. He has been President of Hamilton Branch and also of Dominion Council -- a lifetime of devotion to the Association.

Dr. J.G. Dillane: No one has been more active in the seeking out of new Branch members and in supporting the Association through his participation as officer and adviser. Dr. Dillane has been twice Branch President and served a term as president of the Dominion Association.

At the meeting we were also pleased to receive the gift of a new Union Flag as the U.E.L. flag from Mr. Earl Buckley, a former Branch President. The flag was received and dedicated with a prayer by our Chaplain, Rev. Rolph Morden. This prayer was so meaningful that we have enclosed it here with the thought that other Branches might like to use it on similar occasions.

*"Eternal God, who hast made all Thy works to show forth Thy glory and manifest Thy love and goodwill toward Thy people - on this significant occasion, when we have received the flag which is the imperishable symbol of the sacrifices and the blood, toil, tears and sweat of our forefathers, we humbly pray that the cherished causes that this flag represents may grow and prosper.*

*Cause us to realize that the freedom for which our fathers gave their last full measure of devotion must never perish from the earth. May the torch of liberty, justice and honour that they so bravely carried be passed on from generation to generation until at last the whole wide world will become a commonwealth, united by bonds of understanding, sacrifice, brotherly love, goodwill and peace.*

*Lord of the lands, beneath Thy ending skies,  
On field and flood, where ere our banner flies  
Thy people lift their hearts to Thee,  
Their grateful voices raise. May our Dominion ever be a temple to Thy praise,  
Thy will alone let all enthrone, Lord of the lands, make Canada -- united and free -- Thine own."  
Amen*

On February 3, 1977 Ethel Brant Monture was buried at the Six Nation Reserve as a U.E. Loyalist. This outstanding Indian Princess was a regular and active member of the Hamilton U.E.L. Branch up to the time she went to Rochester, New York for special studies on Indian Affairs. At that time Mr. L. L. Merrill arranged that she become an Honorary member.

Mrs. Monture was the great great-granddaughter of that famous Mohawk Chief Joseph Brant. She lectured on Indian Affairs in Canada and the U.S.A. and wrote many fine books. She was born on the Six Nations Reserve 82 years ago and was a retired associate of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews and served as the first president of the Ontario Agricultural Society.

## 1978 Spring

The first meeting in the Fall season took place on Sept. 17 at the Outdoor Conservation Centre near Greensville. The meeting took the form of a Pioneer outing and dinner. Mr. John Aikman who is a teacher at the Centre had set up huge iron cooking pots on wooden pole tripods and in these we prepared such pioneer delicacies as genuine pioneer stew and boiled Indian maize (corn). A hard working committee had prepared the stew ready for cooking, and we shucked the corn on the spot. While the meal was cooking Mr. Aikman conducted the group of almost 70 on a walk to the nearby ruins of the first paper mill in Upper Canada. We also had a demonstration of how the pioneers made cedar shingles for their homes. Mr. Aikman gave a most interesting talk on the problems faced by the pioneers as they sought to establish new homes in the wilderness -- even to making hand-dipped candles.

While all this was going on the social committee prepared the tables and the meal in true pioneer style. We wanted to try to recapture the original atmosphere of an old pioneer community get-together, and to enjoy what the land produced without the benefit of a waitress to cater to our every need. As a result we had a fine, pioneer picnic with everyone helping himself to the bounty, dipping with a ladle into the iron pots. The meal consisted of pioneer stew (but without rabbit, squirrel or groundhog as had been

threatened), stone milled bread from an operating water run mill in Ancaster, cheese, home-made Johnny cake, cider, harvest (pumpkin) pie; fresh tomatoes, Loyalist apples (McIntosh); other fresh fruits (grapes, pears, etc.) and boiled corn-on-the-cob.

During the entire program our new First Union flag was flown from a nearby hilltop. The meal was enjoyed in a delightful outdoor setting and good fellowship was the order of the day. While it is impossible to recapture Loyalist conditions we did feel that we recaptured some of the better social experiences, and learned at least a little about the actual conditions faced by our forefathers.

The October meeting was addressed by Mr. A. R. Petrie, an assistant superintendent with the Lincoln County Board of Education, he is a keen historian who has done much research on the Loyalists of the Niagara peninsula. In his talk he stressed the need for us to collect and preserve original records showing the stories of our forefathers. He also stressed the need for original and careful research, to avoid the publishing of errors which in time become accepted as fact.

In November we were informed that Miss Kelly and Mr. L. Merrill of our Branch had each received the Queen's Silver Jubilee medal in recognition of their services over the years. We congratulated them. Our speaker was Mrs. Esther Summers of Beaverdams who told us the story of Laura Secord as it really happened. Among myths she debunked was that of Laura and her cow. Laura did make a fine contribution to the British cause in her warning to Col. Fitzgibbon. In her old age she was finally recognized and was given £100 pension and listed as a veteran of the war of 1812. She died in 1863. Mrs. Summers answered many questions from those present.

### **1980 Autumn**

The members of the U.E.L. Association learned with regret of the death in Hamilton at Henderson Hospital on 10 September, of Dr. James George Dillane, M.B., D.O.M.S., F.R.C.S. (Can.), F.E. He was aged seventy-eight years. Dr. Dillane had been a member of the U.E.L. Association for twenty years. His Loyalist ancestor, James Kinsey, had settled in Simcoe County, and it was in that county that James George Dillane was born. He was an active member of the Hamilton executive until his death. He served the Hamilton Branch as President for several terms, and actively pursued the recruitment of new members. His interest in the Loyalist culminated in his serving as Dominion President in 1968-70. In this office, he had the honour of presenting the charter to the Saint John Branch in New Brunswick.

Professionally, James George Dillane was an eye specialist. He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1928. For thirty years, he practised in Hamilton; and served as head of the ophthalmology department at Henderson Hospital until 1960. His full retirement did not come until he was seventy-five. For five years, Dr. Dillane served with the Royal Canadian Army Corps during World War II. He was a member of the No. 15 General Hospital unit from Toronto, the first unit to go overseas. He saw action in North Africa and Italy and rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel. Other interests of Dr. Dillane included the Simcoe Foundation, the Church of the Ascension, and the Royal Hamilton Military Institute.

His wife, Thelma (Johnstone), his sons, Edward of Dundas and John of Burlington, and his seven grandchildren, have the comfort that comes from knowing that their beloved husband, father, and grandfather, had made a worthwhile contribution to the betterment of the world he lived in, utilizing his talents and energy in so many useful ways. The U.E.L. Association extends sympathy to them in their time of sorrow.

## 1981 Spring

In February 1980 our Branch held a social evening at which we paid honour to our Past Presidents. Each special guest received a Past-President's badge and in turn delighted those present with recollections of bygone days in the history of the Hamilton Branch. Those receiving badges were -- Mr. Robert Johnston, Mr. Harold Dennison, the late Dr. J.G. Dillane, Reverend Rolph Morden, Miss Norma Preslar, Mr. Colin Mills, Mr. W.M. Elliott, Mr. Harold Lampman. It is interesting to note that Mr. Johnston and Dr. J.G. Dillane also served as Dominion Presidents. Together these Past Presidents span forty years in the life of our Branch.

For several years we have been keeping a special book in which we place the pictures of the men and women of our Branch who have contributed greatly to its work. Each picture is accompanied by an article written by the person so honoured, in which he or she relates what the U.E.L. Association has meant in his or her life.

It was with great pleasure and gratitude that last November the Hamilton Branch presented a framed, coloured photograph of Miss Mabel Kelly to the Dominion Headquarters. Over many years Miss Kelly has been a dedicated Loyalist supporter. Her financial contributions have enabled the Association to place on permanent microfiche the family records of the members who have joined the Association since 1970. Miss Kelly and her sister, Cora Hubbell donated funds to establish the Hubbell-Kelly Memorial which assists the Dominion President in his visits to the branches. Miss Kelly's other gifts have made possible the purchase of equipment for the Dominion Headquarters and more recently funds to engage additional secretarial help. We are indeed proud to have Miss Kelly as one of our members.

At present we have three committees at work developing projects for the Bicentennial celebrations. One group is busy planning an exhibition of Loyalist art and artifacts to be held under the sponsorship of the Hamilton Art Gallery during October, 1983. We are hopeful that many children in schools of the area as well as many adult Loyalists from all over Ontario will plan to visit this exhibit. A second committee is preparing a book to be published in 1983 and which will contain accounts of the stories of the Loyalists who settled in this area. The articles are being contributed by our members who are descendants of the Loyalists. A third project is the publication of lists of the original Crown grantees for each county in the Niagara peninsula - Welland, Lincoln, Wentworth and Haldimand.

## 1981 Autumn

There have been three very interesting Branch meetings since January. In March we were carried back in time to early days in Hamilton through a slide presentation by Mr. Brian Henley of the Special Collections Section of the Hamilton Library. Our members were delighted to recall days around the turn of the century when life moved at a slower pace than today and was perhaps more pleasant. A bit of reminiscing often serves to help us see our place in the world today in a better perspective.

In April we enjoyed a visit from Mr. John Eaman, Dominion President, and his charming wife. We began with a dessert and coffee hour when we had an opportunity to meet and chat with our guests. Mr. Eaman presented us with the challenge to double our membership by 1983 - but only possible if every member will bring in at least one new person. The president spoke on the role that the U.E.L. Association can play in Canada in the years ahead. In May we had our annual business meeting and election of officers. We also heard a most informative talk given by Lt. Col. Wm. Smy of St. Catharines. He spoke on the story of the Butler's Rangers. Since a goodly number of our membership are descendants of the famous corps, the information was most welcome and timely. There was a lively question period following the presentation.

On the first Saturday in June about 40 members travelled by bus to Niagara-on-the-Lake which was celebrating its bicentennial. We spent a pleasant three hours on a boat trip up the Niagara River, the river that many of our Loyalist forebears had to cross at great peril to find new homes in Canada. Today we sailed on the river in comfort, enjoying a delicious lunch as we went. After lunch we spent an hour on a guided bus tour of the town, seeing old homes and buildings dating back almost to 1813 when the Americans destroyed the town by fire, not even sparing historic St. Mark's Church. Such tours as this help us to appreciate our heritage even more.

### **1982 Autumn**

The monthly meetings of Hamilton Branch have been well attended and very interesting. Our December, 1981 gathering was a Loyalist Christmas dinner attended by 60 members and friends, and hosted by the Dundas Historical Museum. This was an opportunity to enjoy early Loyalist fare and entertainment. An interesting talk on Loyalist Christmas practices was a highlight.

The February meeting took the form of a workshop for potential members and Associates who were learning to research their families. Following an introductory talk on genealogical procedures the group sat down on a one to one basis with Regular members who had some knowledge of how to proceed. When it came time to break for coffee we found it difficult to tear ourselves away from the research books. This venture proved a good way to develop interest and skills in family research.

In March we were entertained by a film on the War of 1812 and also saw and heard the slide/tape presentation loaned by the Shelburne Branch. This helped to prepare us for our visit there in 1983. Hamilton hopes to have at least a dozen of our members travel on safari to Fredericton to join the Bicentennial celebrations. April saw us gathered to hear Mary Beacock Fryer (Toronto Branch). She is an accomplished author of Loyalist historical books. We enjoyed her presentation dealing with interesting experiences she had while researching material for her books.

May was our Annual Meeting and election of officers. Brenda Brownlee, Curator of the Hamilton Military Museum gave us a fascinating account of the holdings of the museum. In June about forty of our group went by bus to Lundy's Lane cemetery. Here we listened to an account of the memorable battle that took place there on July 25, 1814. This was the last major battle on Canadian soil between the Canadians and Americans. We saw memorials to the dead of both sides, and also paid a visit to the grave of Laura Secord, the Canadian heroine. From here we travelled to the Old Beaverdams church to attend annual memorial service. Mrs. Roy Summers, the well-known local historian, made available large numbers of reference books and we had a fine time pouring through these. We had lunch near the old DeCew house where Laura Secord delivered her message to Fitzgibbon.

We are looking forward to October 1983 when Hamilton Branch will play host to a large exhibit of Loyalist art and artifacts. This is being sponsored by the Hamilton Art Gallery in the Gallery from October 20 to November 20. Although this is a year away, we hope everyone will plan to attend. Since the Loyalists began to settle in the Niagara Peninsula in 1783, we decided to use 1983 as the celebration date for our branch Bicentennial activities.

### **LOYALISTS HOLD FAMILY REUNIONS**

During the summer of 1982, the descendants of two prominent U.E. Loyalists gathered for separate family reunions.

The first of these reunions took place on July 3 at Dundurn Park in Hamilton where the descendants of Robert Land, about 500 in number, gathered together to celebrate 200 years of Ontario roots.

Brian Land, the reunion organizer, felt that this was the first time that the descendants of Robert Land had assembled in such a fashion.

Robert Land, an original member of Roger's Rangers who was also with Wolfe at both Louisbourg and Quebec, had settled with his wife in Cushutunk on the Delaware River in Pennsylvania when the American Revolution broke out.

Having worked as "an express" for General Clinton, he had to flee New York State and eventually came to the Niagara frontier in 1779, finally settling at the head of Lake Ontario, thus becoming the first white man to build a permanent dwelling in the area now known as Hamilton.

One famous descendant of Robert Land was Capt. Charles A. Lindbergh, the first to make a solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

The descendants of Daniel Burritt Sr. gathered in Burritt's Rapids, Ontario, on July 24. The first Burritt family reunion took place in 1980 and Ruth Burritt, a seventh generation Burritt in Canada, was so impressed by the response of the 1980 reunion, that she volunteered again to organize the 1982 reunion at which descendants of Daniel Burritt Sr. from across Canada and parts of the United States gathered in honour of their name sake.

Shane Andrew Burritt Gillespie, born on the day of the first Burritt reunion in 1980, was baptized during the 1982 reunion in Christ Church, Burritt's Rapids, which celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1981, and for which Daniel Burritt Jr. donated the land on which it now stands.

Dr. Walter H. Burritt, a descendant of Daniel Burritt Sr., invented, in the late 19th Century, obstetric forceps. Another famous descendant of Daniel Burritt Sr. was Augustus Burritt, President of the Toronto Stock Exchange at the turn of the twentieth century.

## **1984 December**

These events began with an exciting exhibit of Loyalist art and artifacts held at the new Hamilton Art Gallery in the autumn of 1983. During the month-long presentation, over 2,000 people visited the gallery and specially conducted tours were given to school children. Also held in the art gallery was a moving memorial service on Sunday, October 23, 1983, to commemorate the bicentennial of the arrival of the Loyalists in the Niagara Peninsula, many of whom settled in the Hamilton area. Platform dignitaries included municipal mayors and the chairman of the Hamilton Wentworth Regional Government who made a declaration of Loyalist Sunday. The honour guard and piper were members of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. The King's Royal Yorkers (recreated) served as the colour party. Vocal music was provided by the Hamilton Men Teachers' Choir. Both of these functions owe their great success to the untiring efforts of President John Aikman and supportive branch members.

The final public Loyalist event sponsored by the Hamilton Branch was a launching of the new Loyalist stamp on July 3, 1984, in cooperation with Canada Post and regional postal authorities. The ceremony was held at the Loyalist Monument in front of the Wentworth County Court House in downtown Hamilton. This monument was depicted on the ten cent commemorative Loyalist stamp issued some fifty years ago by the Canadian Government. Sharing in the program with President Hugh MacCrimmon, Past President John Aikman and local government, political and Loyalist representatives, were Hamilton Mayor Robert Morrow, himself of Loyalist ancestry, the Honourable Ellen Fairclough, a long time member of the Hamilton Branch and first female postmaster general of Canada. The occasion was marked

by the issuance and sale of unique Loyalist first-day covers and commemorative stamp folders. Also, a Loyalist display was set up in the lobby of the central post office where it will remain for public viewing for several months.

In spring 1985, Hamilton Branch is planning to publish a book dealing with the family stories of some fifty Loyalists who settled in the Niagara Peninsula, and whose descendants became members of Hamilton Branch. It will be about three hundred pages and there will be a genealogical chart for each family.

### 1986 June

Events for the 1985-86 season began with an invitation from the St. Catharines Branch to join them for a picnic and tour of the McFarland House at Niagara-on-the-Lake. This was an enjoyable and fruitful occasion and, hopefully, is a forerunner of closer social ties.

The first meeting with the President Dr. Hugh MacCrimmon in the chair was at our new meeting place, MacNab Street Church with nearly an overflow attendance. The speaker was Mr. David Owen who told the history in pictures of old Fort Erie in the Loyalist and post-Loyalist period.

Dr. Terry Crawley of the University of Guelph used his intimate knowledge of old Fort Louisburg to bring the account of this historic site to the Branch at its November meeting. His excellent pictures of the old town and photographs taken during its reconstruction, plus his own experience as a researcher there, added immensely to a highly instructive talk on the pre-Loyalist era in Nova Scotia.

The annual Branch Christmas dinner and party was held this year at Dundurn Castle, the magnificent home of Alan MacNab during his better years. The speaker, Miss Catherine Killin, Assistant Curator at Dundurn, gave a lively account of the Castle and its furnishings from its beginning to refurbishment as a living historical site complete with people and food of a bygone era in Canadian history.

A repeat visit by Dr. Hugh MacMillan UE, was the feature of the February meeting. The speaker, a descendent of the Nor'westers and a sponsor of the Nor'wester and Loyalists Museum at Williamstown, described the history of the North West Company and, especially, the role which Loyalists and sons of Loyalists played in the development of the Canadian fur trade. Dr. MacMillan's outstanding talk was enhanced by excellent slides of Loyalist Nor'westers, and vivid accounts of his own experiences while following the early canoe routes of the Nor'westers.

The March meeting featured a unique talk by Mr. Larry Woods, a Provincial Land Surveyor, who recounted the stories of the early surveyors in the Hamilton region, demonstrated the equipment which they used, and described the various problems which the surveyors faced in producing the early land surveys.

Speaker for the April meeting was Dr. Elizabeth Waterston of the University of Guelph, and recent co-author of The Diaries of Lucy Montgomery Ward. She chose for her topic, however, the story of John Galt on whom she is an international authority, and related his Canadian experience to Loyalist interests in a most fascinating way.

The Annual meeting for the 1985-86 season was held on May 22. It featured the official launching of a new book produced by the Hamilton Branch titled Loyalist Ancestors: Some Families of the Hamilton Area. Copies may be ordered from the Branch Secretary; Lillian Lomas, 1011 Lake Shore Blvd. E., Burlington, Ontario L7T 1V6 (phone: 416-522-8400) The price is \$25.00, plus \$2.00 for postage and

handling. (\$4.00 to U.S.A), or order from John Aikman, 87 Prince George Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario L9A 2W1.

### **1986 December**

**M**r. Ken Bennett, president of the branch commented on the keen and able executive and the loyal enthusiastic membership which bode well for the coming year.

A new location has been arranged for the monthly meetings, the basement auditorium of James Street Baptist Church.

Mrs. Ida Crozier recently presented our library with a copy of her latest book: Building our Pedigree - a record of the descendants of Francis Glover and of Samuel (Wright) Green.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Thelma Dillane, wife of the late Dr. George Dillane, past president of the branch and of Dominion Council.

Our new book Loyalist Ancestors of the Hamilton Area published last May is now about half sold out. We are counting on our members to promote the sale of the remainder. The price is \$25 plus \$2 mailing in Canada or \$4 to the U.S.A. Order your copy from Mrs. John Lomas, 1611 North Shore Blvd. East, Burlington L7T 1X8 or Mr. John Aikman, 87 Prince George Avenue, Hamilton L9A 2W1.

The guest speaker at the October meeting was Mr. Murray Killman who gave an illustrated talk on "The Evolution of Loyalist History into Art." Mr. Killman is an enthusiastic Loyalist with a special interest in Butler's Rangers. He is also a noted Canadian artist and has painted a number of pictures about the Loyalists.

The November speaker was Mr. David Owen who spoke on "The Lincoln Militia."

The Annual Christmas Dinner this year was held on December 5th at Christ Church. Bullock's Corners just above Dundas on Highway 8. After a fine turkey dinner catered by the church, two local historians recounted the history of both the church and community, seventy-eight members and guests attended.

### **1991 Fall**

**A**pril 25 Meeting, (James St. Baptist church). Our guests were David Putnam and his 10-year old son, Michael, who portrayed the Drummer Boy as they gave us a re-enactment of some military history. Mr. Putnam is a Corporal in the King's Royal Rangers of New York.

#### **JUNE EVENT**

Many Loyalists and their friends took part in a day-long trip to the Six Nations Indian Reservation, June 15th.

### **1996 Fall**

#### **LOYALISTS' RETURN TO DUNDURN**

**O**n a beautiful summer Friday, July 26, 1996, Gloria Oakes UE, President of Hamilton Branch and Bill Nesbitt, Curator of Dundurn Castle welcomed Association members to the newly restored *Cockpit* and the landscape restoration of the surrounding gardens. We were pleased that the Association

Past President Okill Stuart, UE, was present to officially unveil the restoration work. Many in period costume enjoyed fresh lemonade and baked goods from the kitchen of Dundurn while the music of the Giovane String Quartet enhanced the summer breezes.

Hamilton Branch contributed to the funding of the garden restoration as a visible reminder of the early Loyalist presence in the area. The Landscape Architect responsible for the project is Wendy Schearer. A plaque will be hung in the entryway of the Castle noting the Loyalists' participation.

The Loyalist, Richard Beasley, came into Upper Canada and settled at the Head of the Lake in 1777, on the land now known as Dundurn Park. Originally he built a log house with a fireplace and later more substantial homes as his fur trading with the Indians and his role in the Legislative Assembly and politics developed. In 1833 part of his estate was sold to Sir Richard Cartwright and later to Allan MacNab. The latter incorporated the Beasley homestead into the present day Dundurn Castle. Okill, Peter Hood, UE, (Grand River Branch) and Sir Allan MacNab's second wife, Mary Stuart, UE, share descent from Rev. John Stuart, UE.

It has been a busy summer for Hamilton Branch which has taken part in many area events as well as those celebrating the Sesquicentennial of Hamilton: "Heritage Live", Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum, Ancaster; Joseph Brant Museum's Strawberry Festival; "The Best Kept Secrets of Hamilton" at the Children's Museum; and the Victorian Picnic at Dundurn Castle. All events bringing out many queries of the Loyalists!

by Martha Hemphill, UE

## **1998 Fall**

A short review of a very busy year in Hamilton. In February of 1998, Dr. Catherine Tanser became President of Hamilton Branch. Past President, Gloria Oakes has done a fantastic job of reviving the energy of the Branch and continues to do so as Membership chairman and Editor of the newsletter.

Guest speakers during the year included: Neville Nunes, Estelle Pringle, Christine Nisan, Murray Aikman and Robt. Williamson. Following a lovely Christmas luncheon in the new Coachhouse restaurant at Dundurn Castle, a short history and tour of the museum was led by the curator, Bill Nesbit. Each year the Branch display is taken to the Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society Book Fayre in November and to the Burlington Museums Board Strawberry Social, July I, at Joseph Brant Museum.

Many members of the Branch celebrated Loyalists' Day at Queen's Park on June 18th and again the following day in Hamilton. The Hamilton ceremony, which was a joint effort of Hamilton Branch and the office of Hamilton Mayor, Robert Morrow, UE is described in the Loyalists' Day, June 19, section.

The month of June ended with a picnic at the Shaver Homestead in Ancaster. A pleasant afternoon was had by all, thanks to the graciousness of Shaver descendent Shirley Cranston and her husband Jack. They have done a remarkable job of restoring and maintaining the home of William Shaver, son of John Shaver, UE.

## **1998 LOYALIST DAY**

United Empire Loyalists' Day was celebrated on June 19th in Prince's Square in front of the famous Loyalist monument which depicts a Loyalist family looking to their new home in Canada after many years of war, after the loss of their land and possessions and in many cases the loss of loved ones. Fifer Michael McAllister, called those assembled to the statue. Butlers Rangers re-enactment members added colour.

His Worship Mayor Robert Morrow, UE, David Christopherson, MPP for Hamilton Centre, Bernice Flett, UE, Past Dominion President, Pauline O'Connor, President Hamilton Monarchist League, Gordon Hampton, President St. George's Benevolent Society in Hamilton, Col Richard Butson, G.C. recipient, Major Eileen Butson, Past President Defence Medical Association of Canada, were present.

President Dr. Catherine Tanser UE, introduced Mr. Colin Mills, descendant of the Mills family by whom the monument was designed and erected on May 23, 1929. Past President Lillian Lomas UE, placed the Loyalist wreath. Gloria Oakes, UE, immediate Past President introduced Bernice Flett UE, who spoke of the history of the Loyalist flag. Archdeacon Robert Grigg led in prayer for the Queen and dedication of the flag which Gloria Oakes presented to Mayor Morrow and the City of Hamilton. The flag flew at City Hall for the week. Greetings from the Mayor, closing prayer and O Canada! were followed by invitation to City Hall for a reception.

What a great achievement for the City of Hamilton to remember these first great Canadians two hundred years later!

by Dr. Catherine Tanser UE, Branch President

### **1999 Spring**

The Fall season opened with a research workshop for our associate members who needed assistance in gathering the needed proof to complete their Loyalist lineage. Several members who are descended from the Loyalist, Jacob Smith used this evening to network and share their collected material in hopes of completing the line. A very worthwhile evening!

Our first regular meeting welcomed Arnold Nethercott, UE in the persona of his ancestor, Rev. David Springer. It was appropriate that we held this meeting at the Springer House in Burlington. This charming Georgian house, that is now a bed & breakfast, was built by the Rev. Springer's grandson, David.

November welcomed Terrence Hicks, UE Regional Vice President, Central Canada, who shared with us his enthusiasm and love of early Canadian history.

Our Christmas Dinner was held on Dec. 5th at the historic Christ Church Anglican, at Bullock's Corners in Flamborough. The enthusiastic guests enjoyed a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Martha Hemphill, UE spoke of her Loyalist ancestor Titus Simons and his sons, Walter William, John Kingsley and Titus Geer Simons. The Simons family settled here and played an active role in the community. Members of the family are buried in Brock Cemetery that adjoins Christ Church Anglican. Gloria Oakes, UE and her husband Lloyd, led the assembled group in a Christmas sing along and we then toured the beautiful church.

### **1999 Fall**

The members of Hamilton Branch have been active this year throughout our community.

Participation in Heritage Days in Burlington led to new members at the site and through articles in local newspapers.

In June, the Branch presented a Loyalist flag during a church service to Bowman United Church in Ancaster. Peter & Abraham Bowman were United Empire Loyalists and the church was built on part of Peter's 200 acre farm. In 1996 the Church celebrated 200 years of Christian witness in Ancaster.

On Loyalist Day we once again marked the occasion at the Loyalist Statue in Prince's Square, Main St. E., Hamilton. A colour party composed of Butler's Rangers, women, children and natives were led into the Square by a fifer. Speeches by Mayor Robt. Morrow UE and Dr. Hugh MacCrimmon UE reminded us of the tie between our City and our Association. Afterwards we were welcomed at City Hall for refreshments.

The Strawberry Social at Joseph Brant Museum on Canada Day was a great success with many friends and potential new members stopping by our display table, and the season ended with a picnic at the Shaver Homestead in Ancaster. Thank you to Jack and Shirley Cranston for their hospitality.

### **2000 Spring**

On November 11th, 1999 Hamilton Branch UELAC made history when members participated in the Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Cenotaph in Gore Park, Hamilton, ON. We were honoured to have Veteran Gilbert Hutton to lay the first wreath in memory of those who remained loyal to Britain and died fighting during the American Revolution and those who died in the War of 1812. Mr. Hutton was flanked by a Colour Guard composed of Rick Peterson of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and Bev Nicol who represented Capt. William Caldwell's Company, Butler's Rangers.

As the Colour Party marched from the Royal Connaught Hotel to the Cenotaph, they were cheered by young people who later asked questions about the uniforms which they wore. Many veterans requested that they have their photographs taken with the members of the Colour Party.

The wreath donated by James Willis, was designed by our UELAC members of the Hamilton Branch and consisted of red roses, white lilies and blue carnations which represented the colours in the Queen Anne Union Flag. The words across the centre of the wreath were prominent: "Your Courage Has Given Canada Peace With An Ever Increasing Dignity." These words were suggested by our Dominion Historian, Elizabeth Richardson.

This activity is an example of what Canadians can achieve by working together. We may mourn the loss that our ancestors suffered, but we must remember the courage that was required in order that we might have peace in Canada today. WE SHALL REMEMBER!

Loyally, Catherine Weaver-Tanser M.D., UE, President, Hamilton Branch, UELAC

### **SECOND HAMILTON REPORT**

The fall season opened with a flag dedication at Bethesda United Church in Ancaster. Shirley Shaver Cranston's poignant story of her ancestor, William Shaver UE, caught everybody's attention.

Our first regular meeting welcomed Dr. Paul Tanser who outlined for us the background history of the American Revolution. Paul Nicholson gave us the youths' perspective on being a Loyalist descendant. This was followed up in October by our Dominion President, Ed Scott, who reviewed for us our mandate as descendants of the Loyalists. Nice to have the memory jogged once in awhile!

In November we welcomed Archdeacon Robert Grigg, our Branch Chaplain, who discussed the various resources examined in the process of proving Mrs. Grigg's lineage for her Loyalist ancestor, Daniel Dunham. Many helpful genealogical hints were provided.

Our Christmas Dinner was held on Dec. 4th at the historic Parish of St. Luke, in Burlington. The ladies of the Parish prepared the traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Music was provided by "Quintetto Medicina." A Christmas tableau, "Lot 17", was presented in the parish church after the luncheon. Amongst our membership we have Jonathan Frid who has starred in television and motion pictures. On Loyalist Day, he read the inscriptions on the Loyalist Statue in Hamilton and was so moved by the words that he wanted to bring them to life. Along with Ruth Nicholson, teacher librarian, and Bev Nicol, military reenactor, they researched Loyalist journals and family experiences to create a moving Loyalist story in two acts. The Loyalists were portrayed by Bev Nicol and Ruth Nicholson and neighbours' children Ethan Edwards and Hannah Ince were recruited to portray the Loyalist children. Narrated by David Woodward, Fred Hayward, Barbara Nelson and Marilyn Hardsand, the script followed the family, portrayed by the statue, from finding their assigned land through their first year to Christmas, free from the horrors of the American Revolution. It ended with the words, "A time for War. A time for Peace."

The annual meeting in January marked the end of Dr. Catherine Tanser's term as President. John Hammill is the new President. Catherine, teamed with membership chairman Gloria Oakes, has increased our membership to 160 in 1999. The highest in years! Keep bringing in your relatives!

We extend our thanks to Catherine for all the time and effort she put into the Branch during the last two years.

Martha Hemphill UE

## **2000 Fall**

**H**amilton Branch has been working at full throttle this spring with our new President, John Hammill. The Archives/ Historical Committee has been busy collecting, identifying and cataloguing our holdings. The Education Committee has been making class visits and doing preliminary work on our web site.

Fundraising became a focus in order to fund an expansion of our Educational and Outreach programmes. The Branch display has had many miles put on it this summer; to Niagara for the UELAC Conference, a weekend in June to mark the Battle of Stoney Creek, Loyalist Day at the library, Westfield Heritage Village, and to LaSalle Park for Joseph Brant Day - a first time participation at some of these events, but educational for us and the spectators we hope!

Speakers this spring included Sylvia Wray of Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Association on the settling of North Flamborough, Lt. Col. Robert Horning on the history of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, (RHLI), and Col. Richard Butson on "The Private Letters of Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton." We celebrated the birthday of Colin Mills UE who has been an active member of our Branch for over 70 years! Is there another Loyalist descendant of such long service?

Our branch picnic was held at Westfield Village, Rockton for the first time. Tours and picnic were enjoyed by all who attended - unfortunately in the teaming rain.

Our congratulations go out to Shirley Shaver Cranston UE, who received the honour of being named Ancaster's Citizen of the Year in recognition of her work in the Ancaster heritage circles, and to Fred

Hayward UE who became Dominion Council Education Chairman. Your fellow Branch members are very proud of you.

Martha Hemphill

### **LOYALIST DAY IN HAMILTON**

"None has had a nobler motive than the movement of the Loyalists in Canada." These words were spoken by His Excellency the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, Governor General of Canada, in 1958 when he dedicated the Loyalist Monument in Prince's Square, Hamilton.

At this location we celebrated the past and the future of Hamilton Branch. On Loyalist Day 2000 the main speaker was Colin Mills UE who gave us a brief history of the Monument that was unveiled before thousands on Empire Day, May 23, 1929. Colin's uncle, Stanley Mills UE, commissioned the work by Sydney March, the English sculptor who later created the Canadian War Memorial in Ottawa. A time capsule was placed in the base to be opened in the year 2000.

In the mid-fifties, however, when the old courthouse was demolished and the present building erected, the base of the monument was damaged and the time capsule exposed. On June 25, 1958, when the monument was officially dedicated, Mr. Edwin Mills placed a new time capsule in the monument base. In the spring of 2000, John Hammill, Gloria Oakes, Catherine Tanser, and Colin Mills met with Mayor Morrow and his staff to discuss and arrange the removal of the time capsule from the base of the Loyalist statue. The box held items pertinent to the second capsule of 1958. Copies of newspaper articles pertaining to the Statue, lists of members descended from Butler's Rangers (1931), a 1934 stamp of the Loyalist Monument celebrating the 150th anniversary of the coming of the Loyalists, along with a note from Edwin Mills UE, a history of Hamilton Branch by Gertrude Smith (1933), *The Mills and Gage Families 1776-1926*, by Stanley Mills UE (1926), and more.

On June 19th, 2000, Colin Mills and his wife Barbara inserted the updated replacement into the east side of the monument. The projected opening will be 2034!

by Martha Hemphill

### **2001 Fall**

2001 has had a busy start for Hamilton Branch. On Jan. 14, we took part in a ceremony at the Hamilton Cenotaph honouring Sir John A. Macdonald.

Heritage Week was next with displays at Mapleview Mall in Burlington and at Oakville Place. This was the first time for groups to present a Heritage Display in Oakville, thanks to the leadership of Fred Hayward UE, and it was well received.

Hamilton Branch hosted their fourth annual UEL Day at Prince's Square in downtown Hamilton. We were privileged to have Dominion President Bill Terry bring greetings to the assembly. Hamilton Branch President John Hammill UE did a fine job of chairing the ceremonies and presenting an overview of Loyalist Day. Featured speakers were Mayor Bob Wade and former Mayor Bob Morrow UE. always the costumed colour party, Bev Nicol UE, Rick Peterson UE and Frank Rupert UE, bearing flags was piped in and out in fine military style. Twenty-five members of the Tweedsmuir Middle School Band presented musical numbers. Impressive was the oral presentation prepared by four top academic Grade 8 students, giving an outline of the knowledge they had attained during their recent Loyalist study unit. We all enjoyed a lovely reception provided by the City of Hamilton after the ceremonies.

Special thanks to Past Presidents Catherine Tanser UE and Gloria Oakes UE who worked with President John Hammill UE in planning and organizing this special event.

Earlier in the day, John Hammill UE and Fred Hayward UE raised the Union Flag at Oakville Municipal Offices with Mayor Ann Mulvale in attendance.

Amongst all these events our regular monthly meetings were held on the fourth Thursday of the month at James St. Baptist church. A variety of speakers held our attention with very interesting presentations.

Our annual branch picnic was held at Battlefield Park in Stoney Creek. A fine lunch was enjoyed as well as tours of Battlefield House. As always, it was a fine afternoon of friendship.

Members of our Branch were honoured at the 2001 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards evening. Colin Mills UE was given a pin marking 50 years of active service to Hamilton Br. Needless to say a standing ovation from hundreds of fellow volunteers greeted this recipient.

Also receiving volunteer service pins were Ken Bennett UE, Hilda Grimwood UE, Lillian Lomas UE, Catharine Tanser UE and Gloria Oakes UE. Congratulations to all. We do appreciate the many hours and the dedication you have given to Hamilton Branch and to the UELAC.

-Martha Hemphill UE

## **2002 Spring**

On Nov. 25, 2001, the Hamilton Branch presented a Union Flag to St. Paul's Anglican Church, Glanford (Mt. Hope), to mark the 150th anniversary of the Church. John Hammill UE gave a brief explanation of the history and significance of the flag before presenting it to Bishop Clarence Mitchell for acceptance on behalf of the Church. It was dedicated by Hamilton Branch Chaplain, Archdeacon Robert Grigg. Earlier in the service, Bev Nicol UE in a Butler's Rangers uniform, talked to the children about his uniform and about Butler's Rangers.

The Hamilton Branch returned to St. Paul's on December 8th when over sixty members and friends sat down for the annual Christmas dinner. After dinner the history of the Church and community was presented, and Christmas carols were sung.

Other events of the season included a dinner cruise on the Grand River to get the fall meeting season off to a fabulous start in September. The speakers were Larry Rittenhouse on the Pennsylvania Germans, and Ron Brown on ghost towns (including some Loyalists ones!). We also took part in the wreath laying at the Hamilton Cenotaph on Remembrance Day, and we had a display at Waterdown Book Fair.

Our thanks to John Hammill UE for a job well done, as he ends his term of office as President in January 2002.

Martha Hemphill UE

## **2002 Fall**

The New Year started off with a flag presentation at Fifty United Church on Feb. 17 by Branch members Howard and Evelyn Walters. President Fred Hayward and Bev Nicol participated in the presentation during the annual Scout service at the Church.

The following day, The Hamilton-Wentworth Heritage Association honoured Harold McCollum, Bev Nicol and Ruth Nicholson at the annual Heritage day Ceremony at Hamilton City Hall. During Heritage week the Branch display was at Mapleview Mall in Burlington and Oakville Place, Oakville.

The fall and spring speakers are listed in The Hamilton Branch newsletter which is now being posted on our website [www.uel-hamilton.com](http://www.uel-hamilton.com).

May 26th was warm for the Branch picnic at Chiefswood Park, Onondaga. All enjoyed tours of the Onondaga Woodland Centre and Pauline Johnson's home.

On the June 1st & 2nd weekend, we participated in the Battle of Stoney Creek festivities at Battlefield House.

Loyalist Day was celebrated with a week of events focussing on flag raising in Oakville, Burlington and Hamilton.

We thank all who took part in making this a successful week.

Martha Hemphill UE

### **2003 Spring**

**O**ur November meeting marked the end of 15 years of meeting at the James St. Baptist Church in Hamilton and a move to Olivet United Church on Hamilton Mountain. Lots of interesting meetings were held at James St., the most recent being Myrna Fox and Janice Wing, with stories of how chance encounters develop into very interesting events and involvement in our heritage.

Many Hamilton members turned out to greet the Queen for the presentation of Colours to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders on Oct. 10 at Copps Coliseum, Hamilton.

Remembrance Day ceremonies were held at the Hamilton Cenotaph on Nov. 11, with Robert Nelson RCAF laying the wreath, accompanied by the Colour Guard, Bev Nicol and Rick Peterson Jr.

Four members of our Branch were honoured for their efforts on behalf of Hamilton Branch at the 2002 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards Presentation in October. Those recognized were Harold McCollom (20 years), John Hammill (15 years), Bev Nicol and Martha Hemphill (both 5 years).

Our annual Christmas Dinner was held at Christ's Church Cathedral, the oldest church in Hamilton. Carol singing in the Cathedral followed.

We are looking forward to Heritage Day activities in Burlington, Hamilton and Oakville in February and many interesting speakers for 2003. For more information, we invite you to visit our home page: [www.uel-hamilton.com](http://www.uel-hamilton.com). There are always two issues of our branch newsletter posted there.

At the end of the year, we remember those members who have passed away: Mabel May Richardson, Edith "Faith" Evangeline Wilson, Leeta Eunice Horning, Gordon Hunter, W.M. "Mac" Elliott, and Harold Lampman. All who have made a lasting mark on our memories and the Hamilton Branch.

- Martha Hemphill UE

### 2003 Fall

After 20 years the Hamilton Branch moved the meeting location to Olivet United Church, Empress and Prince George, Hamilton. We hosted some interesting speakers in the spring months, John D. Warburton, Peter Meyler, John Aikman and Ron Dale.

Heritage Week displays were held at Hamilton City Hall, Mapleview Mall (Burlington) and Oakville Place. Our picnic this year was held at the Earland Lee House where we had a delightful meal in the carriage house and then a tour of the property.

Loyalist Day in June saw a ceremony at the Loyalist Monument, Prince's Square in Hamilton. Our speakers this year were Hamilton Mountain MP, Beth Phinney and Peter Milliken. Mayor Bob Wade brought greetings from the City of Hamilton and the musical interlude was performed by a quintet from the Hamilton All Star Jazz Band under the direction of Russ Weil.

-Martha Hemphill DE

### 2004 Spring

The fall season started off with a luncheon at the Scottish Rite in Hamilton. Lloyd Oakes UE, Vice President of Hamilton Branch hosted the event. As well as being a long time Mason, Lloyd has also been organist and offered us a short organ recital on the Casavant organ. In his talk on the Barton Lodge, founded in 1795 it was noted that many of our early Loyalist ancestors were Masons.

Richard Beasley, Robert Land, John Aikman and Lloyd's own Loyalist ancestor, John Depew and son-in-law, James Wilson. (*Editor's Note: Don't forget Capt. Joseph Brant UE too.*) We were very pleased to share this interesting afternoon with members of other UELAC Branches.

We have welcomed to our meetings, Gavin Watt, who spoke on "Loyalist Experiences in the 1777 Campaign" and Bishop Ralph Spence who presented his very interesting talk on "Flags and Heraldry".

The Branch has participated in Remembrance Day Ceremonies and took our display to the Waterdown Book Fair.

Our Christmas luncheon was held at Dundurn Castle with a tour of the Castle in all its Christmas finery.

-Martha Hemphill DE

### 2004 Fall

Hamilton Branch's new President, Lloyd Oakes UE, has had a busy start to his term with an interesting trio of monthly meetings, featuring Bob Williamson on Isaac Brock; Fred H. Hayward UE and Lori Mifsud UE speaking about their Loyalist ancestors, Samuel Embury and Jeremiah Anderson respectively; and then Robert McBride UE and his wife Grietje McBride UE portraying Robert's Loyalist ancestors Adam and Catherine Young.

Heritage Day displays were set up in Burlington and Hamilton and drew positive attention. Gloria Oakes UE and Fred Hayward UE presented microfilm of the "Inspector General's Loyalist Registers" to the Friends of the Loyalist Collection at Brock University.

The weather on Loyalist Day once again co-operated with lots of sun. Lynton Ronald "Red" Wilson was welcomed as the keynote speaker. He emphasized the importance of teaching history to one and all.

Hamilton Branch and Peter George, President of McMaster University, announced the establishment of a new annual scholarship to support archival research in Canadian History for the period 1750 to 1850. The ninetieth anniversary of UELAC and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the dedication of the United Empire Loyalist Monument in Prince's Square, Hamilton, were truly celebrated with such a gift ensuring further studies related to Loyalist Heritage.

Past President Fred H. Hayward UE and Rev. Dr. John A. Johnston, chair of the Joint Plaquing Subcommittee of the City of Hamilton, unveiled a permanent plaque "dedicated to the Defenders of Upper Canada during the War of 1812, the United Empire Loyalists and the Six Nation Indians whose courage to uphold the Crown, God, and Country led to the beginning of a new Nation." Continuing the tradition, the City of Hamilton had again prepared the flowerbeds in front of the United Empire Loyalist Monument and around the new plaque with red geraniums, a nod to the work of the late Ruth Redmond of Lundy's Lane.

### **2005 Spring**

**A**midst the Heritage Day Celebrations at Hamilton City Hall on Feb 19<sup>th</sup> is the presentation of Hamilton Wentworth Heritage Awards. Hamilton Branch UELAC has nominated two members to receive awards this year: Frank Rupert UE and Martha Hemphill.

Frank Rupert has served the branch for several years as Standard Bearer at meetings and special events such as the Loyalist Day Celebrations. Frank is the descendant of Christopher Rupert UE who was a Lieutenant in the Ninety Six Brigade of Loyalists in the Southern Campaign. The Loyalists first settled in New Brunswick and then Blenheim Twp. In Oxford Co. Around 1826.

Martha Hemphill UE is a descendant of Titus Simons UE, Michael Showers Sr. UE and John Coon UE. She has been a member of the UELAC for 20 years and is a member of Hamilton and Toronto Branches. Martha is a Hamilton Branch Councillor, a member of the Programme Committee and assists members in doing their genealogical research. As a Toronto Branch member she has served as President, Trustee, Librarian, Genealogist, Membership and Programme Chair.

by Martha Hemphill UE

### **2005 Fall**

**O**ur Outreach activities over the winter months included participation in the Waterdown and East Flamborough Book Fair a Remembrance Day wreath-laying by Gil Hutton at the Gore Park Cenotaph Ceremonies, a Carlisle Church service and a service at the Warplane Heritage Museum at Mount Hope. Heritage Day in February was busy with displays in Burlington and Hamilton. HWAH Volunteer Awards were presented to Frank Rupert and Martha Hemphill for their service to the Branch. Branch members also staffed an outreach display at the annual Battlefield House re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek the first weekend in June.

As always our Christmas Lunch was well attended. This year the delicious meal was held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Carluke.

Loyalist Day was celebrated at the Loyalist Monument in Prince's Square, Hamilton. The 41st Regiment of Foot provided the Colour Party for our keynote speaker, The Honourable James Bartleman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. Many Hamilton politicians were in attendance, including Mayor Larry Di Ianni who brought greetings from the City. Kanowakeron (David Hill Morrison UE) presented greetings on behalf

of our Loyal Allies, and H.V. Nelles, the first L. Red Wilson Professor of Canadian History, spoke on behalf of McMaster University. Representatives of the Monarchist League of Canada, St. George's Benevolent Society of Hamilton and the Head of the Lake Historical Society also joined Noreen Stapley UE of the Col. John Butler Niagara Branch in laying wreaths at the base of the monument. In addition, the Loyalist Flag was raised at the Hamilton and Burlington City Halls, Oakville Municipal Offices and the Halton Region Headquarters.

We sadly inform you of the passing of several Branch members who contributed so much to the Hamilton Branch and to the UELAC:

Harold McCollom UE (26 Sept. 2004);  
Ellen Loucks Fairclough UE (13 Nov. 2004),  
Ken Bennett UE (28 Feb. 2005) and  
Margaret Devitt (25 May 2005).

By Martha Hemphill UE

## 2006 Spring

Another fall has flown by filled with many events in Hamilton. Once again, on November 11th, the Hamilton Branch UELAC took part in the ceremony at the Hamilton Cenotaph. World War II veteran Ken Turner UE laid the wreath on our behalf, accompanied by his colour guard, Rick Peterson UE, who dressed in the uniform of the 42nd Regiment, Royal Highlanders. The Students of Kilbride School were fortunate to have an excellent Remembrance Day assembly prepared for them by our Branch Secretary, Ruth Nicholson UE. Among the speakers was our Branch's member, Reid Dunham UE, who spoke of his experiences during World War II. Reid trained as a pilot and was part of the Royal Navy Air Force.

We held our Annual Christmas Luncheon at St. Paul's United Church in Dundas. Following a historical presentation by Clare Crozier in the sanctuary, the men's group prepared and served a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings!

We are sad to note the death of our Branch Chaplain, Archdeacon Robert S.C. Grigg UE on 27 October 2005. An avid genealogist, he assisted his wife Betty in tracing her line to Loyalist Daniel Dunham UE of New Brunswick.

On Saturday, 18 February 2006, Immediate Past President, Lloyd H. Oakes UE, was presented with a volunteer service award for his work with the Hamilton Branch UELAC. The citation states:

*"For leadership in the Hamilton Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada as President for two years, Vice-President for two years and pianist for a number of years and for his many years of dedicated service to both his church and his Masonic order."*

By Martha Hemphill UE

## 2006 Fall

June started off at Battlefield Park in Stoney Creek. Our display always draws the interested.

Loyalist Day was celebrated at the Loyalist Monument in Hamilton on June 19th. Our keynote speaker was Professor H.V. Nelles, the L.R. Wilson Professor of History at McMaster University. Rounding out

the program were greetings from Larry Di Ianni, Mayor of Hamilton, and from newly elected Central West Regional VP, Robert McCarey, and performances by the Hamilton All Star Jazz Band Brass Quintet.

Fund raising activities for the Loyalist Day festivities are aided by the sale of Loyalist roses from the garden of Branch member, Lillian Lomas UE.

The day before was our Branch picnic at President Lori Mifsud's home in Mount Hope. An unexpected highlight was being in the flight path of the Annual Mount Hope Air Show. We watched the Lancaster and Spitfires fly by!

Colin Morley and Martha Hemphill took the Hamilton Branch display on August 7th to the Joseph Brant Day at LaSalle Park in Burlington.

We sadly report the loss of Robert "Bev" Nicol UE who passed away on 4 March 2006. Bev contributed greatly to the Loyalist community as a Butler's Ranger re-enactor and as a classroom educator. He was pleased to find out that he descended not only from John Green, but from Nathaniel Pettit and Peter Gordon as well.

by Martha Hemphill UE

### **2007 Spring**

This summer, the City of Hamilton carried out a rejuvenation of the UEL monument. On 8 August the monument by Sydney March was lifted from its base for treatment and waxing as part of a new conservation plan for Hamilton's outdoor artwork. The monument's base received attention at the same time. Paul Wilson of the *Hamilton Spectator* drew our attention to the programme through his column.

In September Judith Hay, Richard Poaps, George Chisholm and Fred Hayward represented the Branch at the Trafalgar Township Historical Society's Family Heritage Day in Oakville. The day was designed to be fun and interactive and to help bring Oakville's history alive for a new generation.

The 16th annual Heritage Book Fair, sponsored by the Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society, was a great day, with lots of positive response to our Branch display.

Reid Dunham UE, a member of the Royal Navy Air Force during WWII, presented the Hamilton Branch wreath at the Remembrance Day services held at the Cenotaph in Gore Park, Hamilton.

Our Christmas social, on 2 December, began with a tour of Whitehern Museum, historical home of the McQueen family in Hamilton. This was followed by a traditional dinner at nearby MacNab Street Presbyterian Church.

By Martha Hemphill UE

### **2007 Fall**

On 7 February 2007, the Hamilton Wentworth Heritage Society honoured Gloria Oakes UE at the annual Heritage Day celebrations at Hamilton City Hall. Gloria was honoured "*for her leadership in the Hamilton Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada as Branch President for two years and Membership Chair for ten years as well as her leadership in enthusiastically raising the profile of the organization by encouraging Loyalist descendants to continue to research their family lineages and in the planning and organizing of our Loyalist day ceremony in Prince's Square for the past several years.*"

Hamilton Branch once again took part in Hamilton's Heritage Day programme while the Burlington Heritage Day 2006 committee was chaired by Hamilton Branch member Martha Hemphill UE. Both days were successful in raising the profile of our branch.

We have noted the passing of several of our members recently:

- William Gordon Brownlow CA, UE, a descendant of William May, Nicholas Smith and Elias Smith Sr.
- Phyllis McCollom BA, wife of the late Harold McCollom UE
- Catherine Hewitson, wife of the late William Hewitson
- Eileen Hodgson UE, a descendant of William Davis.

By Martha Hemphill UE

### 2008 Spring

Hamilton Branch celebrated Loyalist Day 2007 once again at the Loyalist monument in Hamilton. The Guest speaker was Lawrence Hill who spoke to us from "*The Book of Negroes*." Traditional spirituals were performed by the Stewart Memorial Senior Choir.

Frank Rupert UE and Ruth Nicholson UE present the Loyalist story at many public schools throughout the year. One school trip was to the Mackenzie Smith Public School in Acton.

The annual Christmas luncheon was held at the historic Scottish Rite. UELAC President Peter Johnson UE and his wife Angela were very welcome guests.

by Martha Hemphill UE

### 2010 Spring

#### **HAMILTON BRANCH'S 2009 YEAR IN REVIEW:**

January- Pat Blackburn represents us at Sir John A's birthday celebration. Membership is up 178 members this year!

February- Burlington Heritage week held a full day of seminars and exhibits at the Burlington Central Library. In Hamilton the Hamilton Wentworth Heritage Association presented Volunteer Awards to Gloria Howard and Reid Dunham for service to our Branch.

April- Fred Hayward, Marilyn Hardsand and Ruth Nicholson received Ontario Volunteer Awards for their service to our Branch. A heritage seasonal meal was served to branch members at the Scottish Rite in Hamilton. The menu was set by Dr. Dorothy Duncan: a delicious selection of foods from her latest book!

May-- The Historic Shaver homestead was the site of our potluck picnic. As always, we appreciate the Cranston family's hospitality.

June- 12th Loyalist Day ceremony at the Loyalist Monument. Ruth Nicholson presented a Union Flag to Christ Church United in Clarkson.

July- A month off!

August- Joseph Brant Day at LaSalle Park brought lots of attention to our display and many questions on our heritage.

September- Pat Blackburn and her education committee continued to astound us with the number of free educational presentations that they are making to schools and community groups: over fourteen schools and 500 students. Well done!

November- Getting the word out! Marilyn Hardsand, Jean Rae Baxter and Martha Hemphill tended to our display table at the Historical Book Sale in Waterdown. It's always a great venue. We also erected our first Loyalist Burial Site Plaque at Union Cemetery, Plains Road, Burlington. Big thanks to Doug Coppins and his committee for making this happen. The City of Hamilton erected a plaque marking the historic Smith Cemetery. Members of Hamilton branch were on hand to welcome Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall to Dundurn Castle.

December- Our Christmas luncheon was held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Carluke. A wonderful roast beef dinner and homemade pies satisfied all who attended. It was a time of fine food and fellowship. A big thank you to all the members of Hamilton Branch who have made all our achievements possible!

As well as the fun times, we have to report sad times, with the deaths of the following members: Hilda Grimwood, Margaret Hollingshead and Colin Emerson.

by Martha Hemphill UE

## 2010 Fall

An innovative program element was introduced this year at the April meeting. Using a Gong-show format, Program Chair Gloria Oakes and Branch President Ruth Nicholson introduced and described the Loyalist ancestor of selected members who had volunteered to show and describe a treasured artefact. Each presenter had a strict time limit that was set by the evening's gong-holder, Branch Genealogist Michele Lewis. Artefacts included a beautiful hand-hooked rug, a family Bible published in 1827, a musket used by a UEL ancestor, an ancient key to a pioneer home and a newspaper clipping describing a family tragedy. Each of these presentations excited considerable interest and proved to be a wonderful way to introduce members to each other.

Members of Hamilton Branch executive highlighted two of their successful outreach programs in Education and in Cemetery Plaquing at the Central West UELAC Regional meetings in London on 17 April 2010.

President Ruth Nicholson and Education Chair Pat Blackburn described the two different elementary school programs for social studies and history classes that we take into local schools using artefacts, props and stories to discuss pioneer life and highlight the Loyalist experience. This past year our education committee organized over forty school visits and the interest from area schools grows as word of the interesting sessions spreads.

Cemetery Plaque Committee Chair, Doug Coppins, described the branch's new plaquing program that involves the following steps: identify a local cemetery containing an original United Empire Loyalist grave; assemble full documentation proving the UE identity and the actual burial; write a full description of at least one Loyalist to be highlighted; secure permission to erect a plaque; plant the pole and secure the plaque; arrange an appropriate unveiling ceremony; invite community leaders, citizens and family members to the event; provide for refreshments; record attendance and finally ensure that many photographs record the event.

So far plaques have been unveiled at: Job's Lane Loyalist cemetery on Plains Rd., Burlington on 15 November (showcasing Thomas Ghent UE and Elizabeth Davis UE); Hamilton Cemetery on York Blvd on 18 April (highlighting Robert Land UE, the first known pioneer settler in Hamilton); Bowman United Church Cemetery in Ancaster on 7 May (highlighting John Smith UE); The Smith Family Cemetery on Kennedy Avenue, near Rymal Road and Upper James Street in Hamilton on 15 May and Bethesda United Church Cemetery in Ancaster on 13 June (showcasing John Shaver UE).

It has been most encouraging to discover that cemetery administrators are keen to accept the UEL plaques and that some family members are eager to share in the cost of the plaque. The handsome plaque is a great way to inform the community of the UELAC's existence and the program appears to have a positive impact on membership.

The incredibly evocative Loyalist monument in Princes' Square in downtown Hamilton was once again the site of our annual Loyalist Day celebration and wreath-laying ceremony on 19 June. A moving speech by award-winning history teacher, Nathan Tidridge of Waterdown, emphasized the importance of our heritage outreach programs and the need for improved history teaching in Ontario schools lest the next generation forget the basis and the very nature of their democracy and government.

The annual branch potluck dinner was held this year on 27 June on the estate of Dan and Dorothy Wentworth in rural Ancaster. The estate holds a running bed-and-breakfast operation called *The Duck Tail Inn* ([www.ducktail.net](http://www.ducktail.net)) and a private free-standing museum containing perhaps the largest private collection of antique hand-tools in Canada. Whimsical statues on every fence post and surrounding a large pond were just the trick to make even the weariest soul smile. The very dramatic firing of a large field gun (I had thought it was called a cannon but I was corrected) was demonstrated repeatedly by an experienced Royal Artillery re-enactor. This was well received by young and old. As always, in affairs of this kind, the food was excellent. Congratulations to the executive and the members of Hamilton Branch!

by W. Raymond Cummins, Branch Vice-President