

LITTLE FORKS BRANCH – Charter – 3 February 1990

1991 Spring

Little Forks Branch received its charter on July 15th, 1990. We hope to publish details and photographs for the next issue of the *Gazette*. Congratulations were sent from Arnold W. Nethercott, U.E., President, UEL Association of Canada.

Little Forks Branch members of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, including associates, affiliates and friends, numbering close to fifty, were treated to a scenic and historic bus trip Saturday, September 22nd, that encompassed portions of Compton County, Québec, and the upper corners of the states of New Hampshire and Vermont.

The group congregated at the Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society at Uplands in Lennoxville at 9:30 a.m. and proceeded to Eaton where they were joined by the Branch's Honourary President, Lionel Hurd and the local genealogist, Mildred Waldron, and others, the meeting point being the Eaton Corner Historical Museum. There they were welcomed by the museum's curator, Diane Gilliam, and enjoyed refreshments of home-made donuts and coffee while viewing the museum's memorabilia collections. Some household items defied identification and required the assistance of the Curator. The route we followed was planned by Lionel Hurd and his most interesting commentary brought into focus people, places and incidents of former years. As the road unfolded, the passengers were informed about Josiah Sawyer, reputed to be the first settler in Eaton and from whom Sawyerville obtained its name; of the Honourable John Henry Pope, Minister of Mines and Railroads, whose personal effects brought into being an international railroad system, the Maine Central Railway which is still surviving, and of Isaac Lindsay the first permanent resident of Clifton, who gave his name to Lindsay's Pond.

We visited the Methodist Church (now United Church) of East Clifton. The beautifully grained ash pews of the church, which allow no middle aisle were admired by all.

Mr. Hurd related the story of the Connecticut River which divides New Hampshire and Vermont, of the small communities of Beecher Falls, Canaan, and West Stewartsville, half way between the Equator and the North Pole, in New Hampshire. Nearby Lake Francis in New Hampshire is man made, a make-work project initiated by President Roosevelt during the Depression. Passing through these historic settlements brought deeper appreciation of the hardships endured by early settlers, many of them Loyalists, as they sought a new life in a new country.

One of the tales Mr. Hurd recounted revolved about Indian Stream and Wilderness Area of the three Connecticut Lakes. It was here in 1759 that Rogers Rangers were set upon by a band of Abenakis Indians and in the skirmishes that followed there were many casualties on both sides. As the bus wound its way homeward, a visit to Magnetic Hill left the passengers perplexed as to whether there really was a magnetic force pulling at the bus or were they experiencing an optical illusion. Chartierville was noted as the site of placer gold mining, still sporadically worked, and a beaver dam in the centre of a placid pond drew photographers out of the bus to the water's edge. The drive through Happy Valley, known now as the Eaton River Valley, brought the Maple Leaf Cemetery into view. Passengers disembarked in a misty rain to look at old tombstones and to read the brass plaque gracing one corner of the cemetery. The plaque was an expression of the County Compton's appreciation for the important contribution of generations of the Hurd Family to the quality of life of Compton County residents.

Miss Mildred Waldron's commentary centred on East Clifton, once a close-knit community of 118 families as opposed to the 12 families of today. High Forest shares with East Clifton an elevated area, extremely isolated in early days, now staunchly dedicated to preserving their identity. Miss Waldron related amusing anecdotes about the meanest man in town who would not allow his wife to wear shoes. Once, accompanied by a friend, when she dared to venture to another town and bought some dishes, he smashed every one of them when she returned. There was the story of an Irish wake when the corpse was left in the custody of a lone mourner who removed the body from the coffin and propped it in the corner of the room, at the same time administering strong drink, perhaps in an effort to restore life. Miss Waldron stressed that although there were many hardships, the bitter cold winter predominating, there were many compensations in happiness derived from shared experiences and the fellowship obtained from helping each other.

Passengers showed their appreciation with hearty applause for an enjoyable and memorable trip.

Charles Sheppard, U.E., President of Little Forks Branch and Beverley Loomis, U.E., Branch Genealogist, organized the trip. Lionel Hurd, U.E., a HONG KONG VETERAN, planned the route.

1991 Fall

This September, Glenn Taylor was a guest at the City Hall in Sherbrooke where he signed the Honour Guest Book and was presented with a lovely book of photographs of the city of Sherbrooke. In attendance were members of Little Forks Branch, several historical and genealogical societies, the Mayor of Ascot, the Mayor of Lennoxville, members of Bishop's University. CBC and local television were there to film the event.

Members of our Branch were very happy to have had Glenn visit us and leave such a mark on our community. Our newly-formed Branch certainly received great publicity!

Bev. Loomis, U.E., Genealogist

Gilbert Hyatt's line

[Editor's Note: The following article from September 13, 1991, appears courtesy of Dan Hawaleshka and The Record, Sherbrooke, Québec]
Sherbrooke Finds Its Founder
By Dan Hawaleshka

LENNOXVILLE – Get the balloons and party hats out – Ascot has bicentennial to celebrate in 1992.

Until Thursday there had been some doubt whether Ascot's 200th birthday should be celebrated next year or in 1996. The problem was conflicting historical documents.

But with the recent discovery of a direct descendant of Gilbert Hyatt, who first surveyed Ascot and founded Sherbrooke, the controversy has been put to rest – and none too soon at that.

Glenn Taylor, 74, is a retired newspaperman from Phoenix, Arizona. But more important in the Eastern Townships is Taylor's relationship to Gilbert Hyatt. The founder of Sherbrooke was Taylor's great-great-great grandfather. Taylor is Hyatt's first direct descendant to be traced in living memory.

ORIGINAL PAPERS

Taylor, brought with him a wealth of original documents passed on to him by his family.

In an informal ceremony he handed over those valuable pieces of local history to the Bishop's University Archives.

Among the documents are two petitions by Gilbert Hyatt's wife, Anna. In about 1825 the widow Hyatt – Gilbert died in 1823 – twice petitioned government officials at Château St-Louis in Québec City, asking them to reimburse her for her late husband's survey of Ascot Township, which included much of what is now Sherbrooke.

At the time Château St-Louis was the administrative centre of the province of Lower Canada, situated where the Château Frontenac Hotel now stands.

LOWER CANADA

A Lower Canada's official's response settled the centennial mystery.

In the official's letter, supplied by Taylor and turned over to Bishop's, Anna Hyatt is flatly told not to expect reimbursement for work conducted in – and this is the clincher – 1792. The bureaucratic reason was that too much time had passed.

"Well, now you can celebrate," Taylor said to the delight of university officials and local historians.

"It's a nice find for us," said head librarian William Curran.

Bishops' historian Professor Robin Burns was equally pleased with the documents.

"They're invaluable," Burns said. "The fact that they survived for 200 years and came back from Arizona – it's extraordinary."

Jonathan Rittenhouse, president of the Eastern Townships Research Centre at Bishop's, appeared equally pleased as he carefully stacked each document Taylor handed over.

SAFE STORAGE

University archivist Anna Grant will see to it that everything is properly stored in the library's new archives, where a "controlled climate" ensures document longevity.

Taylor's revelations didn't stop there. Until recently Gilbert and Anna Hyatt were thought to have four children. But that total was incomplete.

“I have court proof that they had six children,” Taylor said Wednesday at Uplands Museum, where he spoke to members of the Little Forks United Empire Loyalists of Canada and Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society.

Another mystery Taylor’s documents help solve was whether the old mill at the end of Wellington Street in Sherbrooke was a sawmill or a grist mill. The answer: a grist mill, which gave rise to Sherbrooke’s original name – Hyatt’s Mill. The town was renamed Sherbrooke in 1816.

RETIREMENT HOBBY

A better descendant couldn’t have been found. After retiring from the newspaper business in 1984, Taylor took up a new hobby – family history. He meticulously combed through family documents, often transcribing them on his home computer.

When he turned them over to Bishop’s, the papers were neatly catalogued, transcribed and protected in acid-free plastic envelopes.

Taylor’s active mind and sense of humour charm those he meets.

Taylor’s visit is his first to Eastern Canada. The trail which led him to the Eastern Townships started about two years ago, when his research prompted him to write the Stansbridge East, Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the United Empire Loyalists.

A reply referred him to the Lennoxville Loyalists and one of its members, Beverley Loomis.

Loomis and Taylor exchanged many letters. The correspondence led Taylor here.

Loomis’s husband Milton is vice-president of the Lennoxville Loyalists. And he has a special family connection to Taylor.

How Many Greats?

Milt Loomis’s great-great-great grandfather was Cornelius Hyatt, Gilbert’s brother.

When Loomis and Taylor met Wednesday at Uplands, the first thing Loomis said was: “Hi, cousin.”

Hi, indeed. Neither relative of the Hyatt family could figure out their exact relationship, but it seemed they were both happy to make each other’s acquaintance.

At Uplands, Taylor was welcomed by Lennoxville Mayor Duncan Bruce and Ascot Mayor Robert Pouliot. Bruce warmly thanked Taylor for his contribution to the area’s history, and marked the occasion by presenting Taylor with a copy of Kay Kinsman’s book of water-colour paintings.

The Ascot’s Women’s Institute gave Taylor volumes one and two of a historical account of Ascot – detailing local history from 1803 to 1969.

Although he’s only been here two days, Glenn Taylor has made an important contribution to the history of the Eastern Townships.

Submitted by Bev Loomis, U.E.

LITTLE FORKS BRANCH OF U.E.L. HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

The Ascot-Lennoxville Historical and Museum Society's headquarters, Uplands, was the scene of the first annual meeting of the Little Forks Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada on Sunday afternoon, February 3.

A capacity audience heard President Charles Sheppard give a glowing report on the increasing membership, the interest and activities of this newest branch of the U.E.L. Association. Following the business meeting, Robin Molson of the Canadian Heritage of Québec, an organization established for the preservation of buildings and lands of historical importance in Québec, gave a most interesting address focusing on the twenty-five holdings of the Heritage. Of particular interest to the Lennoxville area is the proposed restoration of the Huntingville Church, the first Universalist church built in Canada.

1992 Spring

At a meeting of our Branch, 10 May 1991, in the Lennoxville-ascot Historical and Museum Headquarters, Uplands, members were addressed by guest speaker Esther Stovald Barnett. Mrs. Barnett obtained an M.A. in history from Bishop's University, Lennoxville. The focus of her thesis, *Loyalists of the Gaspé* was also the subject of her most interesting talk. Mrs. Barnett is presently working on a history of Milby, one of the first areas settled in the Eastern Townships of Québec.

Lionel Hurd, Honourary President of Little Forks Branch and a Hong Kong veteran, is among those being interviewed by the CBC for the production of *The Valour And The Horror*, a three-part television series relating the stories of men who fought in world War II.

Submitted by Charles Shepard, U.E., President, Little Forks Branch

1992 Fall

CENTENARIAN HONOURED

Our branch honoured a Centenarian during our bicentennial of the Township of Ascot. She is Alice Laurel Merrill Benson, born 28 November 1891 in Martinville, to Henry Merrill and Mara Elta Parsons.

"Laurel" is a great granddaughter of Abraham Hyatt, a Loyalist. Mara Elta Parsons was a daughter of Abner Parsons and Thankful Delia Hyatt (daughter of Abraham Hyatt and Thankful Cartwright).

1993 Fall

HIGHWAY RENAMED IN HONOUR OF GILBERT HYATT

On June 7th, our Branch co-hosted an important event in the history of the municipality of Ascot – the naming of the portion of Route 143 that runs through Ascot – as Gilbert Hyatt Highway. Near the covered bridge at Capelton, just off Route 143, roughly seventy people suffered through the heat and humidity to watch the unveiling of eight panels that described the history of the township, settled by Gilbert Hyatt. The panels will enable people to remember and live another part of the history of Ascot.

Present at the ceremony was Mr. Glen Taylor, a direct descendant of Gilbert Hyatt, who flew in especially for the evening, all the way from Phoenix, Arizona. This was only the second time Mr. Taylor had visited the area, but he said that each time he has been touched by the warmth and hospitality of the people.

Reprinted with permission of Patricia Ball, Editor, *The Township Sun*, Lennoxville, Québec

1994 Spring

The Branch held its December meeting, followed by a Christmas buffet, at the Club House of Lennoxville Golf Club. Guests were Gerry Rogers and Okill Stuart of Heritage Branch, Montreal. Okill reminisced of early days when he attended B.C.S. and played golf on this course. Nine future Loyalists were present.

Our new young Loyalist member, Miss Stacey Loomis, UE, gave a most interesting talk on her experiences as “visiting cousin” at King’s Landing, a restored Loyalist village in New Brunswick, this past summer. When Stacey returns next year she will be referred to as “next of kin”!

Submitted by, Bev Loomis, Branch President

1994 Fall

The local members of Little Forks Branch are busy preparing for the moving and restoration of the little Hyatt one-room school-house, circa 1820. We have been quite successful to date receiving funding for this venture. We have held two fund-raisers also: a Garage Sale and Bake Sale in May and a Beef Barbeque in July. We are fulfilling (Sec.(e), Art. III of the Constitution of The U.E.L. Association of Canada, “To erect, construct and repair buildings, monuments, memorials and also to purchase real estate and other things that may be considered desirable to perpetuate the memory of the United Empire Loyalists” – as many attending this school were children and their descendants of Loyalists.

We have received permission to move this building approximately 600 feet down the road and place it beside the St. Barnabas Anglican Church. Both buildings have been declared Historical Sites and will thus complement and protect each other. We plan to mark the original site with a plaque and have a small picnic area for tourists. The Milby Covered Bridge, built in 1872, is just a short distance down the road and so we are creating an historical hamlet.

Submitted by Bev Loomis, UE, Branch President & Genealogist

1995 Spring

We've all heard stories of White children kidnapped and raised by Indians. Here's such a tale with a different twist! It's set in the 1770's and the source is *The North Hastings Review*, Madoc, 21 September 1893.

In June 1746, Jonathan Dore, a boy twelve years old, was told by his father, who was at work with other men in the field, to sit on the fence and keep a sharp lookout for Indians, who were suspected to be not far away. This was in or near Rochester, N.H. The boy sat whistling on the fence. The Indians all at once came in sight. He gave the alarm and the men all escaped, but before he could get down from the fence the Indians seized him. His father saw him captured and carried off, but could do nothing. Eleven years afterward the Fort William Henry massacre occurred. Among the New Hampshire soldiers who escaped was a Dover man, who declared confidently that he had seen Jonathan Dore. He had often been at Mr. Dore's home and knew Jonathan well. He was sure he had not been mistaken in his identification.

When the massacre became general, after the surrender of the fort, the Dover man ran for the woods and was closely pursued by an Indian. His pursuer gained upon him so fast that he turned at last and faced him, to meet his unavoidable fate. The uplifted tomahawk was just descending upon his head when he recognized amid the paint and costume of an Indian, the eyes of Jonathan Dore. The recognition seemed to be mutual. The Indian dropped his tomahawk at his side, and walked slowly back to the fort.

Such was the story of the returned soldier, but it gained little credit. Two years later, however, Jonathan Dore suddenly made his appearance in Rochester after an absence of more than thirteen years.

He had been treated kindly by the St. Francis tribe, to which his captors belonged. He had married an Indian, and indeed had almost forgotten that he was descended from another race. He bore a part in all the cruelties at Fort William Henry. A white man, whom he was pursuing, turned upon him just in time to arrest the descending tomahawk, and then Dore saw a face which had been familiar to him in childhood.

Memories of his father's fireside and the happy scenes of his boyhood rushed upon his mind; his arm fell and he walked back to the fort and took no further part in that horrible tragedy.

From that time he thought continually of his boyish home, but his wife and children bound him to the Indians with ties that could not be severed. Then came Major Rogers and his Rangers, intent upon avenging the Fort William Henry butchery. Dore was absent in the field husking corn. Hearing a general discharge of muskets, and knowing that an enemy was upon the village, he kept himself concealed, and from his hiding-place witnessed the massacre that followed. Then the village was set on fire, and after the flames subsided he ventured forth.

Among the ruins he found the bodies of his wife and children. He buried them in one grave, and with them his attachment to the Indians. As soon as possible he made his way back to Rochester.

He settled in Lebanon, Maine, married again, and spent there the remainder of his days, famous for his marksmanship, especially with the bow and arrow, and known to everyone as "Indian

Dore”. The site of Fort William Henry on Lake George is now a rebuilt fort and tourist trap. Major Robert Rogers and his Rangers camped at Little Forks (Lennoxville) during the St. Francis raid. ‘Little Forks’ is where our Lennoxville area U.E.L. Branch obtained its name.

1995 Fall

VETS UNIMPRESSED WITH HONG KONG AWARD

By Dwane Wilkin, *The Record*

[Editor's Note: Capt. E. Lionel Hurd, UE is one of our Honorary Vice-Presidents]

SHERBROOKE – Four decades after their initial requests for an official decoration, Canadian veterans of World War II's Battle of Hong Kong are finally getting their due.

But the veterans fight for fair compensation for hardship continues, though their members have dwindled to 350.

Liberal MP Lawrence MacAuley, Secretary of State for Veterans Affairs, announced last week that a special silver bar, featuring the words “Hong Kong” in raised letters will be awarded survivors of Canada's earliest and least successful military engagement of the war.

Some of the awards are to be presented during the VJ-Day 50th anniversary celebrations in Ottawa on August 11. The decoration represents the first and only special recognition that veterans of this ill-fated, landmark battle have ever received.

“It's too bad we couldn't have got it before,” said Bury resident Oswald Clark, one of the dozens of surviving Hong Kong vets living in the Townships. After his capture, Clark spent the rest of the war working as a slave in Japanese shipyards.

“I appreciate it, but it's not going to make us give up.”

“It took a heck of a long time. We have been asking for this for 38 years,” said Roger Cyr, national president of the Hong Kong Veterans Association. “The answer we always got was that Canada doesn't have the authority to give out an award that's British.”

The Japanese invasion of the British colony began on Dec. 7, 1941, (Dec. 8 in Hong Kong), quickly running over a poorly-equipped Allied resistance composed mainly of British, Canadian and Indian troops.

When Allied surrendered Hong Kong two and a half weeks later on Christmas Day, 290 Canadian soldiers lay dead and 493 had been wounded. Some 264 survivors would die in prisoner-of-war camps following the years that followed, subject to systematic brutality at the hands of their captors.

About 200 of the 1,975 Canadians were shipped to Hong Kong from Vancouver in October, 1941 were recruited from militia units in the Eastern Townships, including the 7th-11th Hussars Regiment, which amalgamated with Québec City's Royal Rifles in 1940, joining recruits from the Gaspé and northern New Brunswick.

The Veterans Association filed a claim before the United Nations eight years ago for compensation from the Japanese government for their mistreatment of the Hong Kong prisoners.

In prison camps in Hong Kong and later in Japan, the Allied prisoners were subject to forced labour, torture and murder. They were fed only starvation rations and were constantly humiliated by their captors, who had been taught that to surrender was sub-human.

Many of the survivors still suffer long-term physical effects of their imprisonment due to chronic malnourishment, overwork and the beatings.

The association's demand of \$20,000 per veteran is being promoted by the War Amputations of Canada.

"Thus far our claim has been unsuccessful," Cyr laments, "- largely because Canada refuses to support us in the international community."

The Canadian government maintains that it signed away all rights to such claims when it approved a peace protocol with Japan after the war.

For most Canadians World War II ended with the fall of Adolph Hitler's Berlin in early May, 1945. The prisoners from Hong Kong had to wait another three months until Japan surrendered.

"We're about the last to celebrate the 50th anniversary," said Sawyerville resident Royal Rifle vet Lionel Hurd. "We were in the first battle of the war in which Canadians were involved, and we didn't get out until after it was all over."

Hurd, now "past 88", is a former president of the Hong Kong veterans, and is looking forward with wife Kay to the survivors' annual reunion in Ottawa August 10 to 14.

The decision to issue the Hong Kong decoration comes 18 months after Canada issued special decorations for veterans who participated in the Dieppe raid. The silver bar will be affixed to the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal.

Submitted by Bev Loomis, President, Little Fork Branch

1996 Spring

The following is a copy of a transcript given to our Branch from a fellow member, Francis Loomis, who tells us how his children lived for one week as "Young Loyalists".

"LET'S PLAY OLD FASHIONED"

Those words generate as much enthusiasm in the Loomis children as Christmas or Easter, This year the joy will be doubled as the whole family--Mom, Dad and all five children will "play" old fashioned for a whole week during the coming Christmas Holiday Season. Of course their log home helps considerably to create the right atmosphere!

This "game" is a serious one and a very good way to identify with the lives of our forefathers. Daddy even had to build an out-house and a dry sink to make things more authentic. All plastic and modern utensils and modern clothing are put away for this week when no electricity will be used. The food must be such as could have been found in a root cellar or at the general store of those days.

During winter, refrigeration is easy, they use the back door step, but during summer they make a box fridge packed with a wet sawdust liner so evaporation can keep things cool. No more Tupperware -- out comes the cheesecloth tied with string to glass jars for the leftovers. Meals are planned well ahead so as to take advantage of daylight to work in. Oil lamps make the evening cosy, but it's harder to really "work" in the kitchen, so Young Loyalist, Stacey, organizes and accomplishes her day's work in daylight.

Stacey has her "children" (who are really her four younger sisters and brother) haul the wood and water from outside. It takes a lot of wood to keep her wood burning stove oven at 350 - 400 degrees for the many home baked goodies she and the children produce: pies, scones, bread, cookies, etc. Somehow food cooked on a wood stove really does taste better!

Just ask the neighbours who have dropped in for "tea" and tasted her wares! A home-made soup boils in the pot on the back of the stove to add to the delightful smells coming from the kitchen.

Probably, none of us realize how much water we waste in our modern lives as well as she does. Her "children" haul water by the bucketful and she wastes none, yet still uses a considerable amount for cooking, dishes, hair washing and etc.. Laundry day is the worst though, as she has her Great Grandmother's boiler on the stove and she slashes the clothes with Grandma's old laundry stick -- still stained with "blueing".

The children have also tried their hands at candle-making, butter churning and soap making.

Eleven year old Michael, sits by the warm stove, whistling and whittling toys for his little sisters - who play nearby with dollies, puzzles and books -- that is, when they are not kept busy helping with the household chores.

The older girls mend Grandma's old quilt, sew new aprons or bonnets and generally keep busy mending Great Grandma's and Great Auntie's old clothes which they wear with great pride and loving thoughts of those who worked so hard - living, instead of playing old-fashioned.

This activity has become a tradition as the Loomis' have been "playing old-fashioned" one to two weeks each year since 1990. They love visitors, so do feel free to drop in on us any time - even if it doesn't fall on an old fashioned week, the children will give you a tour of the premises and an animated description of how it was... in the "good ole days".

The Loomis Family; Francis, Susan, Stacey, Jackie, Michael, Cora and Jennifer. These children are direct descendants of Loyalist Abraham Hyatt, Sr.

Obituary: **Duncan Bruce UE**

Duncan Bruce passed away peacefully at his home in Lennoxville, Québec on 18 December 1995 in his 77th year.

Mr. Bruce, a descendant of John Farlinger, KRRNY, was a member of the Little Forks Branch. At the time of his death, he was serving the UELA as Dominion Councillor. He was also the treasurer of Patrimoine-Ascott-Heritage, an organization formed by the Little Forks Branch to move and restore the Hyatt one-room schoolhouse in Milby, Québec.

He was born in Huntingdon, Québec in 1919. In 1941, he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy and served until the end of the war. After the war, he settled in Lennoxville, Québec to work as

an accountant.

Mr. Bruce served on the Lennoxville town council for over twenty years, including two terms as mayor (1985-1993). He was involved in the planning of Prince Philip's visit to Lennoxville and the UEL Convention at Bishop's University in 1989. He retired from municipal politics in 1993.

Mr. Bruce was a member and a volunteer for a number of organizations including the Army, Navy and Air Force Veteran's Association Unit 318, the Lennoxville Curling Club and the Lennoxville Optimist Club. He was an elder and the treasurer of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Sherbrooke, Québec for over thirty years. He was also the president of the Lennoxville Ascot Historical and Museum Society.

He was actively involved, along with his son David, in the operation of Bown Industries, a Lennoxville building supplies company.

Duncan Bruce is survived by his wife, Louise Burnell Bruce, their three sons, James (Lise Doyon), Larry (Pat Breton) and David and three grandchildren, Christopher, Robert and Richard.

1996 Fall

Last spring I circulated forms for the Canada Day Youth Award Contest to all Branches. To date, I have not received any news as to whether there were any winners in other Branches. Our Branch sponsored Benjamin Hunting under Item #2: "Promotion of Canadian Values-- Literacy Awareness and Advancement We are proud to announce that he won in our area. (The other two fields were "Community Participation" and "Environmental Initiatives".) On Canada Day, July 1st, at the celebrations held in the City of Sherbrooke, the Hon. Jean J. Charest, M.P. for Sherbrooke and Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada and the Right Honourable Lucienne Robillard, Minister of Canadian Heritage and of Citizenship and Immigration, presented Ben with a certificate and a beautiful book on Canada, which they both autographed, a wonderful keep-sake.

Benjamin, a student attending Bishop's College School had won the Sherbrooke Record "First Prize" for writing by a high school student. His article was published in his school literary magazine, Inscope, which is the only magazine of its kind to win a prize from Canada in a world-wide school contest. His article has also been published in a magazine called "First Fruit", sponsored by the Jewish Public Library Publications in Montréal and he was honoured by this group.

There was also the Canada Day Poster Contest, in which we had no entries, but 8-year-old Emily Brazill of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island won. Congratulations Emily!

Submitted by Bev. Loomis, UE

1998 Fall

Bev Loomis, UE is delighted to report that a Young Loyalist won the Grand Prize for the under 13 years category in the Create a Townships 'Centsation' Coin Design Contest. The winner was Melissa Sutor, 11, from Compton. Her winning entry featured a Loyalist soldier, and the all entries were judged by a panel representing the Eastern Townships Research Centre,

Bishop's University, the Townsippers' Association, and the Sherbrooke newspaper, *The Record*. Of course, Bev is also delighted because Melissa is one of her granddaughters!

2000 Spring

We are making great progress with the Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse Project. The new cement basement is now mortared to the school building using the original stones, which were moved down from the former site. The woodshed has been reconstructed and a fire exit from the basement placed in the rear of the building. A steel beam, properly engineered, has been placed under the centre of the school building and rests on the existing cement wall, which eliminates the need for supporting posts. The electrical entrance is installed and the wire is buried from the road to the school building. The wiring is completed in the basement. Two men were hired to assist Milt Loomis, Project & Restoration Manager, to work on the woodshed and in the basement -- a room which will be available to the community. They have insulated and framed the walls for the kitchenette and bathroom. The cement floor is poured, covered by a layer of plastic, Styrofoam insulation and pressed wood sheeting, and is now ready for the final covering. The ceiling has been fully insulated by blowing on liquid foam, the only method to successfully insulate, because of the many support timbers under the 178-year-old building. We have spent our present funds, so "things have to come to a halt." As soon as we get further funding, we hope to be able to "plasterboard" the walls and install the ceiling tile. Milt is busy in his workshop making the wainscoting to go around the meeting room -- out of cherry lumber. This room should be very comfortable and cozy -- a Meeting Hall, making the school not only an historical building upstairs, but one that is beneficial to the community. It would be great if we could complete the 'downstairs' before spring, which would enable us to concentrate on the exterior and interior of the school itself this summer. It is quite a treasure, as we now have documented proof that the school was in operation in Sept. 1822. We are delighted to have received financial assistance from the UELAC for the restoration of this historical Loyalist building, as we are now living up to one of the mandates of the Association. We are very pleased that we now have our new Municipality, the government and other organizations aboard, and we plan to approach many Foundations.

Young Loyalists' Involvement

Our Young Loyalists participated in the Branch Christmas Craft & Bake Sale. They raised nearly \$100 and our Branch cleared over \$600.

Last year, students attending Linda Allen's Grade 10 Canadian Studies class at Alexander Galt Regional High School, Lennoxville wrote about their Loyalist backgrounds. Shawn Young wrote four poems associated with the seasons in the life of a Loyalist fleeing to Canada. They were accompanied by some beautiful watercolour paintings Ryan Smith did an extensive genealogical search and found out some interesting details, which he recorded. Chris Rose wrote in the voice of a Loyalist settler in a journal that he bound himself in leather. A sketch of a ship adorned his project. Mrs. Allen informed me that she is, once again, teaching Loyalist history and should have further material this year.

Bev Loomis UE

2001 Spring

Little Forks Branch had a display at the Québec Anglo-Heritage Network Conference held last June at Bishop's University in Lennoxville. It was a three-day function and there were representatives from across the province. What a wonderful opportunity to meet so many contacts from other historical branches!

We continue to work at fund raising for the restoration of the Little Hyatt One-Room School House, built by Loyalists, so we are living up to one of the mandates of the UELAC. We certainly appreciate the financial assistance, which we have received from our "Mother Association".

2002 Fall

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE HYATT SCHOOLHOUSE

Years of hard work culminated in an impressive ceremony on June 22nd, when Little Forks Branch officially opened the Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse. The schoolhouse is located in the settlement of Milby, south of Lennoxville, and approximately 100 miles east of Montreal. Little Forks Branch raised over \$140,000 for the restoration of the school, but interestingly, of this amount, under \$20,000 was spent in actual labour costs which clearly demonstrates the extensive amount of volunteer labour that went into the project.

The school is of historical significance to the UELAC. Milby, originally known as Hyatt Settlement, was first settled by Loyalists including Cornelius Hyatt who donated a parcel of land for community school. Loyalist settlers constructed the building that now has the distinction of being one of the oldest in the region.

Many speakers praised the efforts of President Bev Loomis and her husband, Milt, who for the last 10 years spearheaded the restoration of the schoolhouse that had been all but abandoned. The restoration was carried out through Patrimoine-Ascott Heritage, a non-profit registered charitable organization.

Bev and Milt Loomis sold me the dream and today we celebrate, said Robert Pouliot, former Mayor of Ascott and director of Patrimoine-Ascott-Heritage.

Robert Wilkins, President of Heritage Branch and his wife Maura McKeon Wilkins made two presentations to Little Forks Branch for use in their displays at the school. The one presentation, an 1881 photo of nearby Sherbrooke, had originally been owned by Maura's late father, Desmond McKeon, and the second presentation was a 19th century map of the region.

Among the members of the UELAC expressing congratulatory messages were Dominion President Myrna Fox, Roy Lewis, vice-president of Central Region East, Phyllis Hamilton, Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, and former Dominion Presidents Bernice Flett and Okill Stuart who offered a blessing for the Union Flag presented to Little Forks Branch. Mayor Gerry Boudreau of Waterville and George Comtois, SIGEC, also extended congratulations.

Melissa Suitor of Compton used her Loyalist ancestry for a school topic at Alexander Galt Regional High School. Melissa made three transparent boxes as if the information was displayed in a museum. The first had a picture of the family. The second had the mother's diary, which she had to leave behind when they fled in the night. The last was the story of the journey, making a

shelter with bushes, and how her little sister travelled in a bag on the horse. Her idea came from being the descendant of a Loyalist.

By Ray Lewis UE and Bev Loomis UE

2003 Spring

After fulfilling our dream of restoring the Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse and holding the official opening June 22nd 2002, we have continued to be very active.

The Milby Women's Institute have returned to their former meeting place, where they held a delightful meeting in September. Since they owned this building for 42 years, we hope that once again, that they will enjoy using the school. Last Fall, these ladies donated two flowering crab apple trees and we held a special tree planting ceremony with tree planting expert Chuck Neville in attendance, along with Nathalie Arnold, attaché to David Price MP, and members of Little Forks Branch. We have also transplanted a BC Fir, begun as a seedling on Canada Day 1996, and we have named it our Golden Jubilee Tree.

We held our annual Christmas Meeting and Dinner at the La Paysanne Motel, and our Draw raised over \$500, which will be put towards the school's operating expenses.

A Garage Sale and Bake Sale is set for May 24th as a fund-raiser, and a Beef B.B.Q on July 26th, when Horst Dressler and his re-enactors will be back. Ed Blake will be on hand with his two-horse hitch and carriage to offer nostalgic rides to nearby Milby Covered Bridge. Please join us, and see what we have achieved with restoring a once-dilapidated building. Our Guest Book displays signatures from as far away as England, Austria, Australia, along with Canadian and U.S. visitors. Please support us as we must strive to raise money to build an out building to store our extra items.

2004 Fall

Bobby Hull: Special Guest at Little Forks

One can never say that Little Forks Branch goes half way with anything and when the Branch held a fund-raising barbecue last July they had, as their special guest, hockey superstar Bobby Hull.

Dark clouds and rain preceded Mr. Hull's arrival on July 18 at the Mechoui barbecue and sports memorabilia charity auction held at the Hyatt Schoolhouse in the Eastern Townships of Québec near Sherbrooke east of Montréal. The rain stopped a short time before the arrival of Mr. Hull and perhaps was an omen of what was to come for the fund-raiser was a success with the branch, raising in excess of \$2,000.

It was not by chance that Mr. Hull suddenly appeared in the rural community of Milby where the historic Hyatt Schoolhouse, restored by Little Forks Branch, is located. In years gone by, he had business dealings in beef cattle with Milt Loomis, husband of Bev Loomis, president of Little Forks Branch. Milt and Bev have maintained contact with Mr. Hull over the years and he accepted their invitation to attend the barbecue. Despite his phenomenal hockey career, Mr. Hull never abandoned his farming roots and continues, even to this day, to deal in purebred beef cattle.

Upon his arrival, Mr. Hull circulated among the approximately 150 people attending the event and graciously posed for pictures as well as signing many autographs. He also chatted with Roy Lewis, councillor for Central East Region. Both men are originally from the western end of the Bay of Quinte in south-central Ontario.

Among the items sold at the auction was a framed colour photograph of three hockey greats each of whom wore number nine for their respective teams. In the photograph, Mr. Hull is on the left, Gordie Howe is in the centre and the great Québec hockey star, Maurice (Rocket) Richard is on the right. Along the bottom of the print were three mounted pucks autographed by each of the stars.

A delicious barbeque followed the auction. Members of Little Forks Branch were particularly pleased with the success of the auction as well as the excellent coverage they received in local newspapers and on CBC radio.

In May, a second session of "Sharing Family History" was held in the meeting room in the basement of the Hyatt Schoolhouse. During the day, six speakers presented stories of their ancestors who settled in the Eastern Townships.

President Bev gave the final talk of the afternoon on the Stacey family. A high point of the day was having Donald Patriquin, Professor of Music at McGill University, along with his wife and two of his prime singers sharing some musical selections which will be heard at the presentation of *Louisa* next April and May at the Sunshine Theatre in Knowlton, Québec. Louisa Stacey is a great grandmother of Milt Loomis.

Both Bev and Milt had the opportunity to attend the annual conference of The United Empire Loyalists' Association held in Peterborough in early June and congratulate the Kawartha Branch on the efficient running of the four-day event.

Little Forks Branch was pleased that one of its members, Jim Bruce, was appointed as Dominion Treasurer. Jim follows in the footsteps of his brother, Larry, who served as Dominion Treasurer a few years ago.

President Loomis is also grateful to the Association for approving a second grant of \$1,500 to assist with the operation of the restored Little Hyatt Schoolhouse.

2005 Spring

Our traditional Christmas meeting included a dinner and raffle for the many prizes donated by local merchants to help defray the costs of maintaining the school and property.

We are working hard to save the name "Gilbert Hyatt" on our section of provincial highway Route 143. It was named in 1992 for Loyalist Gilbert Hyatt UE, leader of the survey party, who was granted the Warrant of Survey for the Township of Ascott and who, with forty associates, opened up this area. Gilbert then moved to Upper Forks, called Hyatt Mills, now the City of Sherbrooke. We are receiving great support from many local historical groups and from our sister UELAC branches.

We have just been informed by the Commission of Toponymy that the Municipality of Waterville

has never filed a request with them to eliminate the name, so "Gilbert Hyatt" is still registered with the Provincial Government. The highway is also known as Route 143. Although Waterville has now removed the signs, it appears to have been an illegal act. We hope to restore the name signs. Our dossier grows. Copies have been sent to Premier Jean Charest, Vice-Premier and Deputy for this District of Saint-Francois Mme Monique Gagnon-Tremblay, and to Mine Lyn Beauchamps, Minister of Culture and Communication. Mrs. Marie-Paule LaBreque, a respected 85-year-old local historian who wrote Gilbert Hyatt's biography for the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Vol. VI*, is lending support. We are most grateful.

The school is now buttoned down for the winter. An Antique Farm Machinery group hopes to purchase land adjacent to our 1 1/2 acres on which to hold their annual show. They wish to use our facilities.

We will have a Garage & Bake Sale in May to sell many possessions donated from the estate of our late member Jean Dawson. We plan to host another "Sharing of Family History" event as the last one was greatly enjoyed.

The musical "*Louisa*" will be mounted in April/May. Louisa happens to be my husband's great grandmother. Her family settled early in this area. They provided lumber for the building of Bishop's University.

We hope to have a student tour guide at our little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse again this summer to welcome visiting tourists.

2005 Fall

Local members of Little Forks Branch continue to be quite active. In April, members were honoured at Volunteer Night in Lennoxville and during April and May put great effort into filling two chartered 56-passenger buses to travel to Knowlton to attend the musical *Louisa*. It was a wonderful world premiere musical, but of course I may be prejudiced as Louisa is my husband's great grandmother. Donald Patriquin, Professor of Music who composed the music for *Louisa*, hopes to take it to other theatres in Canada and possibly the USA.

The Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse was officially opened for the season, May 2nd, to oblige the Milby Women's Institute to hold their spring meeting and our summer student began her duties on July 3rd. Jennie, dressed in period costume, mans the school five days a week, Wednesday to Sunday, 1:00-7:00 p.m. To-date she has had many visitors, some paying a visit after viewing our school on the web site. The summer student is hired through a six week Federal Government Program--HRDC.

On July 11th, we participated at Friendship Day in Lennoxville with a display table and enjoyed sharing our Loyalist information and photos covering our activities to the many visitors. Saturday July 18th saw us actively trying to make a buck at our huge garage sale held on the school grounds. The first customers arrived at 6:00 a.m. and continued until 5:00 p.m., netting us over \$500.

We celebrated Canada Day by sharing our 30' x 60' tent with the Bury Historical Society who was desperate to have a shelter where they could offer strawberry shortcake as their fund-raiser. The tent, bearing our logo, gave us great exposure, along with a monetary donation, and has appeared in many of the photos taken by the local news media.

During the time of all the above-mentioned events we have struggled to keep the Loyalist "Gilbert Hyatt" name on a 5.5 km. section of the provincial Highway 143 -- a very stressful but meaningful endeavour. We have been encouraged by the tremendous support of many organizations, including the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. We certainly appreciated receiving the news of the ruling taken by the Toponymie Commission that "the Gilbert Hyatt name remains on our highway". Even though the Municipality was notified in April, they have failed to re-erect the Gilbert Hyatt signs, but instead have recently erected new signs bearing the name "Rte. 143" on the already numbered provincial Highway 143. At present, the Dossier has been handed over to the OLF, Office de la Langue Française to enforce the law. It has been remarked that we are fighting like true Loyalists!

2006 Spring

Little Forks Branch has continued to be very active managing and welcoming visiting tourists to our "Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse" along with having a summer student serve as tour guide, through the HRDC federal program.

We have received a beautiful antique pump organ and an antique sewing machine from member Grace Hyaet Cote UE. These belonged to her mother, Edith Mary Johnson Hyatt UE, who is also the mother of members Edward, Mary and Irene and the late Marjorie, Dorothy and Lloyd. Charles and Edith's seven children enjoyed the music played on this organ while their dad accompanied her on his violin.

The organ is in beautiful condition and is an asset to our meeting room where "Happy Birthday" tunes can ring out should a member's birthday coincide with the date of our meeting. The lovely pedal sewing machine cost \$45.00, circa 1900. It is told that Edith made her own clothes since she was twelve years old and she sewed clothing for all her children. If we ever get an exterior building or museum where we could hold demonstrations on different clothing exhibits, this machine will fit in beautifully with the weaving loom and spinning wheel that we have.

For the past year we have struggled to protect and maintain the historical Loyalist Gilbert Hyatt name on our section of provincial Highway 143. We see no need for its removal since it has been there for fourteen years. We enjoyed having UELAC Dominion President Doug Grant UE along with his wife, Nancy, visit our Branch in October. They were overnight guests of Milt and Bev Loomis UE. A luncheon was held at our schoolhouse following which President Doug gave us a slide presentation entitled "State of the UEL Dominion" illustrating what is being done to increase awareness of our Loyalist heritage and of the UELAC itself. From this inspiring presentation we gained eleven new members, several more shortly after and I am presently working with another seven.

In December we held within our Branch a Christmas Drawing, a new idea. The drawing of the many prizes, graciously donated by the local merchants, took place at our annual Christmas Dinner and Meeting held on December 20th, at our little restored schoolhouse which had been decorated for the occasion. It made for a very cozy and private atmosphere.

We plan to engage a summer student again this year. Her/his schedule usually begins the end of June following the school closure and she or he will be on hand for six weeks. If anyone wishes to visit the "Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse" our tour guide would be most happy to meet you.

Bev Loomis UE, Branch President

2006 Fall

Four members of Little Forks Branch were pleased to attend the annual Conference and AGM in June in Toronto. Branch members feel it is an honour to have fellow-member Jim Bruce UE continue to serve as UELAC Treasurer. Thank you Jim for all your dedicated services which benefit the growth of the UELAC.

Little Forks Branch continues to be very active with many activities. The Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse was opened Saturday, April 1st., to allow the nearby Compton Historical Society to hold their Spring meeting. A work bee was organized June 22nd. to erect our 30' x 60' tent on the grounds behind our schoolhouse to accommodate the Waterville United Church Parishes which consist of Waterville, North Hatley and Hatley who held their annual Sunday School Picnic and Outdoor Worship service on June 25th. Mr. Glenn Coates brought along his electric keyboard and the music and hymn singing filled the valley on the beautiful sunny Sunday morning. Many new visitors enjoyed the privilege of seeing the restored one-room schoolhouse. (Insert Photo)

Jennie Loomis is back again serving as a tour guide for a six-week duration funded through the HRDC federal program. Her hours are 1:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. We hope that our new signs, recently constructed and painted by our members and installed on Highway 147, will bring more tourists and history buffs. In one of the local tourist magazines our school is noted as an "architectural jewel".

We are very happy to be involved with the restoration of the Dufferin Heights Veterans and Early Settlers Monuments, thus living up to one of the mandates of the UELAC. There are Loyalists listed on the plaque. As we work along with other committees that are involved, the UELAC is receiving great publicity--very much needed here in the province of Québec. A big thank-you for the financial support received from Branch 2014 Committee, through which we were able to meet our anticipated goal of \$1,000. (See photo.)

We acknowledge with great appreciation the \$3,000.00 grant and continued support received from the UELAC in helping us to meet our annual expenses and maintenance cost of nearly \$4,000.00 for the Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse. Through our own fund-raising efforts we were able to raise an additional \$1250.00 and through sheer determination we shall endeavour to see the fruition of our project.

By Bev Loomis UE, Branch President

2007 Spring

Members of Little Forks Branch have participated in a number of activities. We prepared the school basement for a special Family Reunion that attracted many new visitors and, while there, they visited the classroom above. All were very impressed and it was a plus having our summer student on duty.

In August our Tent was erected on the spacious lawns of the Elmwood Inn in Lennoxville, the former residence and parsonage built by the Rev. Lucius Doolittle. The first Anglican Church in

this mission of the Diocese of Québec was called St. James' Church (1822-1845) and was built adjacent to the property on which the Elmwood Inn stands today. Loyalist Cornelius Hyatt is listed as a pew holder in this church. This church was replaced by the present St. George's Church in 1845 and Rev. Lucius Doolittle served the parish of both St. James' and St. George's for some twenty-nine years. Among his many interests was that of higher education. He founded Bishop's College School in 1837 and was co-founder of Bishop's College with Bishop George J. Mountain, third bishop of Québec. Due to our name on the Tent we received great exposure!

In September, members participated in Townshippers' Day activities that were held in Richmond. We had a very colourful booth, attracting a continual stream of visitors. Many expressed great interest in joining the UELAC and we were able to assist many researchers with our books.

We had the opportunity of selling copies of Dr. Robert Paulette's book, *The Eastern Townships*, featuring his photographs; commissions from sales went to our school.

A very impressive ceremony took place October 16th, with the unveiling of the Early Settlers and the Veterans Monuments at Dufferin Heights and we were extremely pleased to have had Okill Stuart UE present. Little Forks Branch and the UELAC were given a sincere "thank-you" for their financial participation.

Several members attended Armistice Day in Lennoxville and observed members George Beaulieu UE and Edward Hyatt UE placing the Little Forks wreath at the Cenotaph. This was our first year to participate with the laying of our own wreath.

Over the summer months members undertook the task of building a monument, to list the names of those who were buried in the first cemetery in Ascot Corner, that was bulldozed over in the late 1930s, with only a few tombstones, but no bodies, moved to a new burying ground to make way for the new highway. Since we have a list of burials of this first cemetery, given to me in 1953, we shall have the names laser etched on black granite and fastened to this monument along with three other plaques. We continue to search for Loyalist families noting the possibility of the Lothrop, Winslow, Hall, Willard and Rolfe names -- very early families of this area. We have canvassed descendants of these pioneer families along with others, who have been very generous, so we have covered all our expenses to date. We plan to hold the unveiling in late May or early June to be prepared for the tourist season and cordially invite everyone to join us.

We are continuing our struggle to have the "Gilbert Hyatt" road signs re-installed on our section of Provincial Highway 143. It's not dead yet!--for it is still listed in the *Official Gazette of Québec*. There was never any need for the municipality to remove this historical "Loyalist" name. This was done illegally and now seems to have become a political issue. We are paying close attention to the outcome of the Park Avenue story in Montréal as it is quite similar and, should they win their fight, it will certainly help us.

Text by Bev Loomis UE

2007 Fall

Local members of Little Forks Branch, along with members of the Mégantic-Compton Cemetery and Church Association, undertook the task of restoring the Ascot Corner Pioneer Cemetery located in Ascot Corner, Québec. This involved clearing of brush along the fence line, repairing the fence, cleaning the many blackened tombstones, epoxying those that were broken along with straightening many that had fallen over and filling in cavities with top soil which

needed to be seeded. Earlier in the year a large monument, a masonry structure, was built not only to encase the two Stacey tombstones, that of George Stacey and his wife, Eliza Dobson, but also to hold four etched black granite plaques. One 24 x 36 plaque lists the early pioneer burials that were in the first cemetery prior to the moving of the remains to the present one back in 1956. Another lists George and Eliza's children and who they married, while another shows the Stacey Grist and Sawmill envisioned and drawn by their daughter Louisa herself while still in London, England, and the Holy Comforter Anglican Church with a short bilingual story of the Stacey family. During the past months we have received great coverage through the local news media along with the *Montréal Gazette*, the Québec Heritage News and CTV National News.

The celebration of the unveiling of the monument took place Saturday, June 16th under a beautiful blue sky, although warm the cool waters of the St. Francis River flowing in the background combined to make a wonderful setting. Bev Loomis UE, President of Little Forks Branch, welcomed all dignitaries, descendants and guests who had travelled a distance to join in this memorable occasion, stressing that there could be Loyalists or their descendants buried in this cemetery and that she was looking forward to doing the research now that the strenuous work is completed. Keith Bennett, President of the Mégantic-Compton Cemetery and Church Association, also welcomed the many visitors and spoke of the gratification that he along with others had in having helped to clean up one of the many cemeteries under their umbrella. Rev. Barbara Ward, descendant of one of the families buried in this cemetery, gave a very impressive talk and the blessing prior to the unveiling of the monument. In closing, Donald Patriquin, retired professor of music at McGill University who composed the music for the musical "*Louisa*", along with Mary Gaulin White and Cora Loomis (both were involved in the musical) sang "We are all united in Hand and Heart and so will ever continue" -- the famous words expressed in the last letter received from Mr. Stacey, Sr. in England written to his son George living at Drighlington in Ascot Corner prior to his death. It is to be noted that Louisa was a daughter of George & Eliza Stacey, great grandmother of members Milt and Francis Loomis. Following this, all were invited to the Ascot Corner Municipal Town Hall where a beautiful cake to commemorate the event, donated by Sandra Hewlett of Pennsylvania, also a Stacey descendant, was served along with a glass of cold fruit punch. A huge surprise to all was that Don Patriquin, on his keyboard, along with Mary White, dressed in the same costume that she wore in the play, re-enacted many of the scenes to the delight of many, while the video of the musical carrying the same scene was playing on TV. Copies of the "*Louisa*" DVD are available at a cost of \$20.00, plus shipping.

The Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse was opened and within two weeks sixty visitors were welcomed by tour guide Katrina Grey. On August 31st a group of senior citizens from another area visited the school. Our little one-room schoolhouse is included on the Townships Trail "Chemin Cantons" for visiting tourists coming to the Eastern Townships.

Bev Loomis UE

2008 Spring

Our Branch has received excellent favourable comments following the restoration of the Ascot Corner Pioneer Cemetery, located in Ascot Corner, Québec. Through the CTV News coverage we continue to receive many queries from descendants of these early pioneers, which gives us great exposure. We are thrilled to have received a copy of the DVD covering the operation performed in this cemetery.

A group of seniors from the Wales Home in Richmond, many of whom were retired

schoolteachers, visited our little schoolhouse last August and what an active and enthusiastic group. One, performing as a teacher, conducted a class, while many filed into the old school seats/desks.

Last fall, members participated in Townshippers' Day, which was held at Bishop's University where we had a very colourful and attractive booth.

Our Branch received a copy of the CD, "Township Trails/Chemin Cantons," along with a map following my participation with this project. I told of the stretch of Provincial Highway 143 named after Loyalist Gilbert Hyatt UE who first settled in this area, that the designated name has been since removed, his important role in opening up this part of the Townships having been the Leader of the Survey Party and awarded the Township of Ascott in 1792, along with the story of the Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse located in Milby. These CD's, along with the map are available to visiting tourists at a cost of \$ 25.00.

Both Little Forks Branch and the Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse can be found on the Québec Heritage website <http://www.townshipsheritage.com>. For the schoolhouse click on "Feature Articles," then "Schoolhouses of the Eastern Townships", then "Navigate" and our school-house is No. 5 on the map. Simply click on No. 5. Little Forks Branch is located at another site.

Our schoolhouse, along with a very interesting write-up by a previous school-teacher Betty Havard Taylor who taught there from 1935-1937, is featured in the recently published book, *Days to Remember -- One-room Schoolhouses in the Eastern Township*, published by the Canadian Federation of University Women, Sherbrooke & District. We are also featured in the book, *Guide Pratique, Destiné aux Municipalités -- Canada's Historic Places in the Province of Québec* published by Culture et Communications Québec.

We held our annual Christmas Meeting, Dinner and Drawing, December 15th, in the Meeting Room at our Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse.

By Bev Loomis UE, Branch President

2008 Fall

Members of Little Forks Branch continue to keep busy with their many various activities. Our Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse has actually come alive this summer. As of July, we have hosted four bus groups, numerous individuals arriving by car, bicycle and on foot from the nearby campsite. This is a great opportunity to publicize Loyalist history to many who have no knowledge of the Loyalist settlement in this area. We are recognized in the Sherbrooke Tourism Book and are on the Chemin des Canton/ Township Trails CD.

We were happy to welcome the Westfield Heritage Village bus group from Rockton, Ontario and were pleased to have been able to serve a noon luncheon to all. The Compton Historical Society is making our community room beneath the schoolhouse their permanent meeting room. Their third meeting was held on August 2nd, a perfect way to advertise our school.

In the spring, we moved and planted forty-seven large (8 feet to 10 feet) Fraser Fir Spruce trees along both sides of our 1 1/2-acre perimeter of land, beginning at the two upper corners and continuing half way down the field. Since we have been given about seventy-five cedar rails, we

shall be continuing with a cedar rail fence to the road. We have constructed a 12 foot by 20 foot storage shed of vintage design, which has been very much needed to store our tent, weaving loom and accessories along with other donated antiques which are needed to put on planned demonstrations for visiting classes of schoolchildren. To add a bit of humour to our site we have also included an outhouse, which also serves as a cover-up to a dripping well pipe. The work has all been done by volunteers without a penny being spent on labour. A very happy feat!

We continue to hold necessary meetings and hope to hold a fund-raising barbeque this fall.

By Bev Loomis UE, Branch President

2009 Spring

Our 2008 summer was busier than ever due to work being performed on our school property and not having a summer student to man the schoolhouse. When on the site, members welcomed many visitors who came in groups, families and as individuals. We enjoyed interesting visits from many retired professors from the University of Sherbrooke who took a keen interest in learning, through a visual window, how the old building had been constructed and looking at old photos and artefacts that we have collected.

Several ladies from the Golden Age Club in Lennoxville chose our school site for their annual picnic during which time they shared many amusing stories of when they attended a one-room schoolhouse.

The nearby Compton Historical Society continues to use our "Loyalist Meeting Room" in the basement for their monthly meetings. They enjoy using the kitchen facilities and we appreciate the many new visitors that they bring along to see our one-room classroom.

Several members were present at the Remembrance Day Parade and Service held at the Cenotaph in Lennoxville. Member George Beaulieu UE, who also serves as Dominion Vice-President of the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada, escorted Mrs. Mary Shepard, widow of the late Charles Shepard UE, first President of Little Forks Branch, in the laying of our wreath.

Plans are underway to have a Loyalist re-enactment take place in Lennoxville, titled "Opening up the Townships" in July 2010.

Our annual Christmas Meeting, Dinner & Drawing took place on December 21st, ending our year in fine style. The schoolhouse is now buttoned down for the winter.

By Bev Loomis UE, Branch President

2009 Fall

Our members' donations, along with the UELAC Grant, help to maintain the Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse property.

We are most appreciative for the support of Lloyd George's family who have awarded us with the funds received from the sale of their Dad's book, *Twasn't Just Luck - My Life & Times*, an autobiography written by I. Lloyd George. Lloyd attended this little school and tells many fond memories of growing up in this community along with amusing anecdotes of past school days

while attending this school.

In 1942, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, was a fighter pilot, and flew "the Mossie" (De Havilland Mosquito) serving on many missions and fortunately returned safely at the end of the War in 1945. His final wishes were to have part of his ashes buried in the cemetery across from the school. In short, he returned to his roots.

The Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse was opened April 4th for the Compton Historical Society to hold their first meeting of the season. Six members attended Volunteer night in Lennoxville and in May we welcomed four Bus Tour Groups to see our treasured schoolhouse. All four hundred, being very impressed, gave us great words of encouragement. June was a busy month as the Compton Historical Society held their second meeting and brought along many guests who were anxious to see the schoolhouse.

On the 9th we hosted the Eastern Townships Chapter of the Federation of Historical Societies for the usual meeting and following lunch we enjoyed the talk given by our guest speaker, Mr. James Knutson, whose talk was "The Arrival of the Swedish Immigrants to the Eastern Townships, ca 1880". Milt and I were happy to have been joined by fellow-member, Jim Bruce UE, to attend the UELAC Annual General meeting in Napanee. We continue to recruit new members to our Branch and are very happy with the increase this year.

During this same time we have been busy building and erecting a four-foot by ten-foot Interpretation Panel on the grounds at the school which will tell the history of the first one hundred and twenty-five years of the area. While several work on the construction part, others have been doing research, gathering pictures of the seven covered bridges along with the facts (noting that the last remaining covered bridge is near our schoolhouse), the churches, early establishments such as grist and saw mills, a carriage factory, etc. Since we are in Québec the verbiage must be bilingual ... an added task!

For further information please view the Townships Heritage web site at www.TownshipsHeritage.com and click on "Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse."

By Bev Loomis UE, Branch President

2010 Spring

Many activities took place during the past summer in our Little Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse and on the grounds.

Over the weekend of August 12th a Family Reunion and Hayride took place and on Aug. 15th a wedding reception was held under the tent; both events bringing many new visitors to see our school.

The Compton Historical Society continued to hold their monthly meetings at our schoolhouse as they love the environment and it is very handy with kitchen and powder room facilities. The Comptonalles rented the tent and grounds to hold a Pioneer Market Garden bringing more than 500 visitors with most visiting our historical schoolhouse. They had even engaged an impersonator representing Loyalist Gilbert Hyatt UE, who gave a very interesting historical text on the opening up of this part of the Townships.

In September, our Branch participated at Townshippers Day by having a booth where we promoted the Loyalists and the early history of the area. It is of great interest to have John Thorne Weyland, an early settler of this area and second great-grandfather to member Milt Loomis, to be included in James Elliott's book titled Strange Fatality - The Battle of Stonev Creek. 1813 in which Lieutenant Weyland was wounded having taken a musket ball in his left bicep.

We have completed the building and erection of the Interpretation Panel, which we plan to unveil this June. Many hours were spent in researching and compiling the history of the area, along with photos for both sides of the panel, and then having it translated into French, as it must be bilingual here in Quebec. Following the mounting of the panels, they were covered with sheets of white Masonite until the official unveiling.

This structure made a great area to decorate for the holiday season in December. Green garland with lights flowed around the panel and a large wreath with a bright red velvet bow hung in the centre.

Our Christmas meeting, dinner and drawing was held in the schoolhouse on Sunday, Dec. 20th, with a good attendance and, on the 26th, a local family rented the meeting room for their family Christmas dinner which was followed by a horse-drawn wagon ride as there was not sufficient snow for a sleigh. Imagine the delightful sound of the bells as the horses trotted along the country road. A real Christmas scene! The schoolhouse is now closed for the winter.

We continue to market copies of the book, T'wasn't Just Luck. My Life & Times, an autobiography written by the late Lloyd George who flew the Mossie in World War II. The family has donated the funds to our schoolhouse in memory of their Dad who attended this school as a young lad.

We were successful in increasing our membership last year and hope to continue to do so. A wedding is planned under our tent June 26th, and following the wedding while photos are being taken and prior to the reception, many will have the opportunity to visit the school.

By Bev Loomis UE, Branch President

2010 Fall

As with all other Branches the month of January consists of collecting Membership Dues and forwarding Per-Capita Dues to Dominion Headquarters with the reports for the March Council Meeting and the spring issue of the *Loyalist Gazette*.

In February and March our main objective was fund raising. We must raise sufficient funds (\$4,000) to meet our annual operating and maintenance expenses involved with the restored schoolhouse and property. We also recruited new members for our Branch.

April 5th saw the opening of our little schoolhouse when the Compton Historical Society rented the meeting room beneath the classroom to hold their first meeting of the season. Four Branch members attended Volunteer Night for a dinner and recognition evening hosted by the Municipality of Waterville. Tax Rebate Forms were filed along with an application to Canada Summer Jobs with hopes of acquiring a summer student to man the schoolhouse over the summer months and to welcome visiting tourists. It was with great sorrow that we learned of the tragic

traffic death of member David Garfat. He leaves behind three children and several members of his family who are members of Little Forks Branch.

In May our ledger was prepared for our chartered accountant so our Charitable Annual Returns could be filed. Our first Branch Newsletter went out to all branches. A twenty-fifth wedding anniversary party was held in the schoolhouse meeting room resulting in great merriment.

June became an extremely busy month with the C.H.S Meeting back at the school. The following Sunday we held the unveiling of the Interpretation Panel, an exciting event attended by UELAC President Fred Hayward with his lovely wife, Margaret, C.E. Regional Councillor Roy Lewis and President Robert Wilkins of the Heritage Branch with his lovely wife, Maura. The 4' x 10' Interpretation Panel gives a very descriptive history of the first 125 years of the area.

There are many photos of churches, schools and the seven covered bridges that existed at one time. The one remaining covered bridge is located near our property. The panel is located outdoors and thus offers visitors the freedom to read the documentation at their leisure during the day or evening, hot sun or rain, as it is protected with a shingled roof and is situated on a 10' x 20' cement wheelchair-accessible platform.

The next weekend a two-day Antique Garage Sale was held under the tent which brought many visitors to see our schoolhouse. On June 26th a wedding took place under the tent. Two hundred guests enjoyed the beautiful outdoor ceremony. The school was open for many guests to admire while waiting for the bride and groom to have their wedding pictures taken, some in front of the schoolhouse, others near the covered bridge.

New brochures have been printed showing a panoramic view of our Interpretive Centre.

By Bev Loomis UE, Branch President

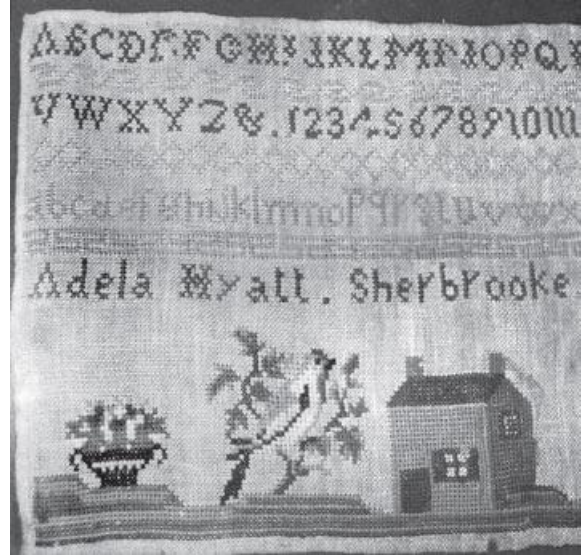
2011 Spring

The 20th Anniversary year of the branch has been a memorable, significant and productive one; one that President Bev Loomis and her husband Milt can be very proud of. It took a lot of perseverance, passion and hard work to reach this milestone and it will take the same qualities and more to take this branch another two decades. Bev Loomis remarked in an interview recently: *"I remember the marvellous children's story, 'The Little Engine that Could' from my childhood and still today, when faced with difficulties, often find myself remembering a picture of that little engine chugging down the mountain saying, 'I knew I could, I knew I could!' "* This milestone was also reached thanks to the generosity and energy of Grace Hyatt Côté. Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she struggles to live in a retirement home.

2010 highlights included two unveilings ceremonies and the publishing of a first-ever commemorative full-colour newsletter entitled *Townships Crier*. Both unveilings were held outdoors under the giant white tent that stands on the lot beside the Hyatt one-room schoolhouse. The first ceremony, in June, saw the unveiling of a large covered interpretation panel that required innumerable hours of historical research to produce and was attended by Dominion President, Fred Hayward UE, as well as by Roy Lewis UE. The second ceremony, two months later in August, saw the unveiling of a granite plaque for Lloyd George who attended the school in the 1930s. (See complete page in the Fall 2010 *Gazette*.)

Finally in December, the branch issued, for the first time ever, an interesting newsletter to commemorate the special anniversary for the branch. Great newsletters all have one thing in common: they display style and personality. This was certainly the case here. Feedback was so positive for the *Townships Crier* that plans are underway to issue a newsletter every six months for the membership, which now stands well over 80. Editor Terry Loucks UE remarked to himself: “A newsletter is the paring knife of communication tools. It seems simple, but is not, and is easy to take for granted. Handled well, however, it’s a highly capable tool.” Since a great majority of our members live quite a distance away, this newsletter will become the reader’s best friend, so to speak, and make them feel closer and in touch with *their* branch.

A rare and valuable needlework sampler was donated to the branch at the Christmas dinner meeting. This 1851 Loyalist family heirloom was created by Adela Hyatt, a daughter of Loyalist Cornelius Hyatt UE, and was donated to the branch by Mrs. Thelma Middleton, a daughter of Edward Hyatt who passed away in 2010. Samplers are sought after by collectors and prices range from several hundred dollars to more than \$5000 for samplers with coloured threads and pictorial elements. Their historical role has been that they are a method of recording information, among other uses.



**SAMPLER WORKED BY ADELA HYATT IN SILK
ON LINEN, 1851, Compton, Quebec**

Adela P. Hyatt (her middle name is believed to be Parthenia, after her mother Parthenia Canfield) was born 13 November 1816, married Samuel Powers 09 January 1840, and died 10 February 1858. She was a sister to Milt Loomis’ great great grandmother, Aurilla Hyatt, and a daughter of Loyalist Cornelius Hyatt UE. For more than two centuries, the making of samplers was part of a young American woman’s education. Authority Mary Jaene Edmonds has determined that samplers were created in American classrooms according to the instructions of teachers. Edmonds has connected numerous samplers back to the influence of private schoolmistresses, whose teachings can be seen in the selection of patterns and the methods of execution. Genealogical information was a favoured topic of sampler makers.

A wooden plaque has been made to add name plates of teachers and students from the 1930s who attended the Hyatt one-room schoolhouse. We are thankful to have received interview tape recordings of past teachers (like 93-year-old Mrs. Havard) – oral history that was carried out by the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) for their book, Days to Remember – the One-room Schoolhouse.

God willing, perhaps five members of the branch will be able to “*Catch the Spirit*” in Brockville in June. Plans are on the drawing board by 83 year-old Milt Loomis, as inspired and active as ever, to create another interpretation panel, this one made of steel, interactive, incorporating a new high-tech automated bilingual audio/visual tour guide system, so that visitors, self-guided, can enjoy a rich, fun and educational touring experience (in case we are refused by the government for a summer student.) We aim to communicate the stories that make our site so unique. Since we own such a large plot of farmland, why not start to create a Loyalist garden,

starting with the Loyalist Roses. Of top priority is to replace the old cedar shingles on the one room schoolhouse. A super Mechoui is also in the planning stages for May with the objective of selling two hundred tickets as a fund raising project. Tent rental is also going well as we struggle to survive and keep the small Little Forks country branch alive and happy. It is beside the little red one-room schoolhouse.

Terry Loucks got a press pass in anticipation of the Governor General's visit to Sherbrooke on 24 January 2011.

By terry Loucks UE, Branch Secretary