

SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH – Charters – 2 June 1984; 19 June 2010

1932 August

Provincial Branch of Saskatchewan

PROVINCIAL BRANCH OF SASKATCHEWAN

G. Hamilton Harman, Esq., U.E., Regina, was elected President of the Saskatchewan Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada at the organization meeting held in the City Hall, Regina, on the evening of June 27, 1932.

Those attending the meeting were the Charter Members of the Saskatchewan Branch, who had petitioned the Central Council of the Association for authority to form a new Branch of the Association in that Province.

The officers elected were as follows:

Honourary President: Brigadier-General, the Honourable Justice Embury, C.B., C.M.G., V.D.,
U.E., King's Bench Division, Supreme Court of Saskatchewan.

Representative to the Central Council: Major Frank Whitmore, U.E.

Past President: Major P. C. Secord, K.C., U.E.

President: G. Hamilton Harman, U.E.

First Vice-President: F. L. Bastedo, Esq., K.C., V.E.

Second Vice-President: Donald Bradshaw Winslow, Esq., V.E.

Lady Vice-President: Mrs. Lorne Johnson, U.E.

Hon. Recording ~ Corresponding Secretary: Arthur T. Spohn, Esq., U.E.
2836 Retallack St., Regina, Sask.

Hon. Treasurer: Lt. Colonel Stephen B. Nelles, U.E.,
2912 Rae St., Regina, Sask.

Genealogist. Archivist. Historian:

George G. Whyte, Esq., V.E.,
2025 Garnet St., Regina, Sask.

Genealogical Investigating Committee:

George G. Whyte, Esq., U.E.
Mrs. Edith Marion Montgomery, U.E.;
Robert N. Flock, Esq., U.E.

1933 November

Provincial Branch of Saskatchewan

Since this Branch was established and officers elected, two general meetings have been held and a number of meetings of the Special Executive. The first of these gatherings was quite informal and afforded an opportunity for the members to meet each other and at the conclusion the members were guests of Mr. R. O. Kennedy, U.E., Manager of the Saskatchewan Hotel. At the next meeting papers and extracts covering incidents in the lives of their Loyalist ancestors were read by the following :-Mrs. H. E. Sampson, U.E.; Mr. A. T. Spohn, U.E. Mr. W. U. Pickle also read a paper on books and histories dealing with U.E. Loyalists.

Through the kindness of Mr. J. C. Secord, U.E., we now have a Loyalist calendar, giving the dates of important events that took place from the time the evacuation started from the American Colonies. The

Saskatchewan Branch is also indebted to Miss Elizabeth F. C. Rogers, U.E., for compiling a very interesting report on publications in the Regina Public Library on Loyalist subjects. In order that members might avail of their works, the report was issued in circular form and sent to members.

Anniversaries of such events as the Battle of Queenston Heights, and the Landing of the Loyalists in St. John have not passed unnoticed and suitable articles have been prepared from time to time and given to the Daily and Weekly Papers of the Province for publication on the anniversary dates. In addition, with the approval of the Provincial Department of Education and the assistance of the Superintendents, appropriate articles dealing with the Battle of Queenston Heights are prepared and read to the pupils of the Public Schools and Collegiate Institutes of the Province, in the cities of Regina, Moose Jaw and Saskatoon, and, while it is hoped this can also be extended to other centres of the Province later on, at present this is as much as we can accomplish. While Mr. S. L. Price, U.E., is responsible for most of these historical articles, Major Whitmore, U.E., Messrs. F. L. Bastedo, U.E., and G. H. Harman, V.E., have also assisted.

The Genealogical Department is in capable hands with Mr. G. G. Whyte, U.E., in charge and the family records of individual members are well recorded.

In spite of very difficult financial conditions, the membership, which now stands at over 40, and the financial records are kept in good shape by our Treasurer, Colonel Nelles, U.E.

Publicity throughout the Province is bringing us new members, but progress must be necessarily slow, until the country is more prosperous. However, our policy is, at present, to have those of Loyalist descent get in touch with us whether or not the joining fees are immediately available.

It is hoped that before long a branch can be established in Saskatoon and Mrs. Percy Stephens, U.E., has made some worth-while efforts in this direction. Mrs. Stephens is the only member of the Saskatchewan Branch living there, and she has rendered valuable assistance.

During the past summer our General Secretary, Mr. A. T. Spohn, U.E., called on the Honourary Corresponding Secretary of the Central Association in Toronto, Capt. H. H. Van Wart, U.E. The visit was much enjoyed by him and he was able to obtain information which we required on several matters.

Now that the summer season is over, meetings will be commencing again and during the coming year efforts will be made to organize the Ladies' Committee, as there are now sufficient lady members to make this possible.

1985 December

The Regina Branch is well-established, successful and growing and the meetings are being enjoyed by a faithful number of members and guests. A new member, Mrs. Mary Hastings, has recently joined the Branch. Mrs. Hastings is a sister of Mr. John Orr, president of the Victoria Branch. The present executive, Mrs. Margaret Dodson, president; Mrs. Donna Shorten, secretary treasurer; both from Regina, and Reverend L. Graham, vice-president, of Saskatoon, will continue in office until September 1986, when the next annual meeting will be held in Saskatoon. Rev. L. Graham and Mr. N. Warner are on the committee to begin preparations. Annual meetings will alternate between Regina and Saskatoon and the regular meetings will be held quarterly but on a flexible basis.

An appeal is made to persons having Loyalist relatives and friends living in Saskatchewan to communicate with Mrs. Margaret Dodson, President, Regina U .E.L. Branch, 175 McSherry Cresc., Regina, Sask. S4T 7B5.

1990 Spring

Due to distance and communication difficulties this year only two meetings were held in 1989.

March 5, 1989: We met in Prince Albert Sask. Historical Museum. John Mitchell spoke on seeking U.E.L. ancestors in Prince Edward Island.

October 15, 1989: We met in Saskatoon Will Inns. Our speaker was Rev. Dale Morrison, who spoke on his ancestry. He has four branches of UEL as great grandparents.

1990 Fall

Mrs. Kathleen BREWER, of Stoughton, Sask. now has SIX certificates proving her ancestry back to SIX different U.E.L. ancestors.

By Betty M. Coldwell UE, Secretary-Treasurer, Regina Branch

1993 Spring

Wilson Denny Johnston (1917-1992)

Ancestor: John Milroy, UE, and Adam Johnston, UE, past president of the Regina Branch (1988-1990). Pictured above is "Denny" in his ancestral Scottish regalia, as he piped the National UEL President at a Regina meeting.

Born in Saskatchewan, he served in the RCAP, 1941-45 as an instructor. He then attended the University of Sask., 1946-50, becoming a high school teacher, then Principal.

His many affiliations included: Kinsmen; Legion; and Masonic Lodge. He will be greatly missed by his family.

By Leonard E. Graham UE, President

1996 Fall

Our province-wide branch has had an active spring. On April 13 the Sask. Genealogical Soc. hosted a Family History Fair in Regina. The Regina Branch of the UELAC were invited to create a display to promote our association. Thanks to the contribution of time and UEL collections by our members it was a great success. Over 500 people stopped by our table, browsed through books and admired the UEL stamps, plates, family trees and other related artifacts. Brochures were distributed and many members came and stayed the day to visit and explain membership requirements.

May 4 found our members rallying again to contribute time and unneeded items at 'The World's Largest Garage Sale' in Regina. After a long day we had a modest profit.

Our June gathering began with a Chinese lunch at Stoughton, Sask. then on to Froude to visit the restored homestead of Logan and Shirley Bjarnason. On our arrival we had a British flag raising ceremony, ending with a toast to the Queen. Next, a tour of the one room home that Logan rebuilt with period material and furnished with his family's resurrected and restored pioneer farm items. We adjourned to the Bjarnason's home and were served, with the assistance of Logan's sisters, a bountiful lunch of biscuits, currant jam, gooseberry tarts and gingerbread cookies. The Bjarnason home is quite a museum in itself!

Our next meeting will be held in October at Saskatoon.

By Lorna Mackenzie, VE, Branch Genealogist

2001 Fall

THE FIRST LOYALIST DAY IN SASKATCHEWAN

Our flag at the Legislative Building, Regina. Photo courtesy of Logan Bjarnason. In early April, I had a call from Colleen SlaterSmith of Regina. She had recently discovered a Loyalist ancestor, and had been given my name as a contact. Something was said about the national UEL Day. Colleen suggested I ask for a provincial day, as many interest groups get a day declared by the Provincial Government. I wrote to Joanne Crawford, Minister of Culture and Youth. I also included a package of material relating to the Loyalists. I sent a similar letter and information to Brenda Bakken, MLA for my area, as well as the appropriate UELAC officers.

My letter was passed on to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Housing and Heritage, Ron Osika, and was acknowledged. Later, my request was granted and a certificate of proclamation was forwarded.

Our June meeting was slated for the 16th, and we broached the idea of changing it to the 19th and having a celebration. Each time we ran into a problem, I phoned Colleen SlaterSmith and she knew how to solve it. We are really indebted to her for helping make the day such a success.

Bernice Flett UE and Margaret Carter UE listened patiently to my many phone calls, offered encouragement and suggestions, and Bernice sent material on Ontario's UEL Day. She also sent a Loyalist flag in time for flying at the legislative building.

The 19th came quickly. My wife Shirley and I went in costume, as did Lloyd Redick and Margaret Carter. Lloyd wore my KRRNY uniform, while I wore a Butler's uniform. We had a 10:30 meeting and drove to Regina for 1:00. We have become used to the startled looks of people, and were not bothered by the reaction at the restaurant where we met.

One sight will stay with me forever. To see our flag, the First Union flag fluttering from the Premier's balcony above the main entry caused many excited and pleased comments. Ron Osika declared June 19th as United Empire Loyalists' Day in Saskatchewan. Our group was recognized. We were asked to rise. One could sense the pleasure and interest shown by the MLAs.

We then left for Government House. There we assembled at the flagpole for the raising of the flag and the National Anthem. Prior to that, Janice MacKinnon, MLA, historian and author, spoke about the Loyalists and their contributions to the founding of Canada. Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan joined us for the raising of the flag and tea in the ballroom. Following the Vice-Regal salute, the master of

ceremonies, Colleen SlaterSmith welcomed everyone and asked Dr. Haverstock to speak. Margaret Carter brought greetings and congratulations from the Manitoba Branch and the Western Region. Other dignitaries were welcomed, among them being the Monarchist League and the Order of St. George. A letter of congratulations was read from Dominion President Bill Terry. I also gave an address. Lucky Peggy Quillim from Strasbourg, Sask. was presented with her UE certificate (Daniel Green UE), at this time by Lorna MacKenzie, Branch Genealogist. Nelle Balkwill proposed the toast, and tea and cake were served; the cake having been decorated by Mary (Bjarnason) Mass and cut by Ruth Whitmore.

The following day Regina's *Leader Post* published an attention grabbing and thought provoking article on the day.

By Logan W. Bjarnason UE

2002 Fall

UEL DAY IN SASKATCHEWAN - YEAR 2

Driving to Regina, Shirley and I went right over to Government House to set up displays. The Loyalist Union flag was flying above the Legislature.

Once inside the session began. It was a surprise when Ron Osika stood, greeted our group, and read the member statement declaring *UEL Day*, a second year in a row. Another member, Mark Wartman stood, welcomed us, and went on to say how pleased he was that the day was being celebrated, as he was of Loyalist background too. He had many conversations with Betty Coldwell, a charter member, but sadly Betty passed away early this year.

From there we went to Government House to raise the flag Bernice Flett had sent the year before. After 0 *Canada*, each member drew a lot card out of a pail, and these cards explained where they would find their land (or chair at the tables), according to townships. Each card also included a Loyalist's name. A select few had their own ancestors' names on their cards.

Lorna MacKenzie and I presented Victoria Whitmore with her certificate.

Ken Fader read his poem, (submitted to the poetry project), and the event was enjoyed by all.

By Logan W. Bjarnason UE

2003 Spring

On Dec 7th, Shirley and Logan Bjarnason UE hosted a dinner for Regina Branch and Logan's relatives at their residence. The food was great, and the Christmas Tree was charming, (mid1930s Saskatchewan style, which meant poplar, not evergreen), and there were toasts aplenty.

Logan was also responsible for an impressive, large sign for Regina Branch, and Shirley and Logan obtained two large nutcracker figures, and transformed them into a Butler's Ranger and a King's Royal Yorker.

Earlier in the fall, Logan and Shirley joined members of Manitoba Branch for the visit of Her Majesty to the Forks.

By Logan W. Bjarnason UE

2003 Fall

ANOTHER GREAT UEL DAY IN SASKATCHEWAN

Ten Regina Branch members were among the invited guests at the legislature when the Earl of Wessex began his Regina visit. During his walkabout, he stopped and spoke to Shirley and Logan Bjarnason DE. They were in period costume and holding a draped Loyalist flag.

Later the members heard the Hon. Ron Osika proclaim June 19th as DEL Day. This City of Regina also proclaimed that week as *UEL Week* for us. The large Loyalist Flag was flying as the members left to go to Government House. There the flag was raised following the National Anthem. Special guest, Vesta Pickel UE of Regina, belying her 91 years, cut the cake for the tea. Vesta's father Weldon Pickel was a member of the Saskatchewan Branch in the 1930s, and their ancestors were Nicholas Pickel and Benajah Northrup of King's County NB. Poetry by Vesta and her sister Enid was read by Colleen Slater-Smith, along with taped music, *Come Celebrate* by the Hints of Harmony from Wawota and Merryfield.

By Logan W. Bjarnason UE

2004 Fall

United Empire Loyalists' Day 2004 in Saskatchewan became a three-day event.

On June 17, Regina Branch members sat in the visitor's gallery of the legislative building to hear words of welcome by Jason Dearborn UE, MLA for Kindersley. That was followed by Mark Wartman UE, MLA for Regina-Quappelle Valley, proclaiming June 19th as UEL Day. He also made mention of the cairn to be built on the legislative precinct. He invited all MLAs of Loyalist background to stand and then everyone in the house gave our group a standing ovation.

On June 18th, we began with a business luncheon at 11:30 a.m. A good discussion was had about the cairn project and then about the AGM in 2005. At 2:00 p.m., we met with Al Hansen at the cairn site. It is situated north-east of the legislative building, between a walking path and the edge of the Wascana Lake. We set up the full-scale model we had been asked to build. Leaving it there, we went to the legislature for tea and cake.

At 3:30 p.m., our group was back at the cairn site for a sod-turning ceremony. With a three-flag colour party and a growing crowd of curious on-lookers, we proceeded with the programme with Ken MacKenzie UE as Master of Ceremonies. Mark Wartman UE, Minister in charge of the Wascana Centre Authority and Saskatchewan Property Management Co-operation, and Margaret Dodson UE, Charter President of the Regina Branch, spoke to the group. Those taking part in the sod-turning were Vesta Pickle UE, Mark Wartman UE, Margaret Dodson UE and Logan Bjarnason UE. Reverend Derek Nicholls, of the Monarchist League, dedicated the site. While photos were being taken, Shirley Bjarnason handed out a memento of the day to everyone. It was a small spade fastened to a card showing the cairn. The large Loyalist Flag flew from the Premier's balcony for the entire three days. Members were encouraged to celebrate June 19th in their own community by decorating the graves of their Loyalist family members.

For a second year in a row, the City of Regina has proclaimed June 13 – 19 as United Empire Loyalist Week in Regina.

On July 3rd, Regina Branch members, Colleen Slater-Smith, Logan and Shirley Bjarnason and their niece, Kaylee Bjarnason, entered a float about the cairn project in Stoughton's fair parade. Logan and Shirley Bjarnason were judged first in the costume category. Everyone had fun !!

by Logan Bjarnason UE, Regina Branch President

2005 Fall

On May 18th, an enthusiastic group of members in period dress were in Regina to greet Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Our view was somewhat hampered as it began to rain and a sea of umbrellas appeared. Although we got thoroughly soaked everyone enjoyed the day.

It was our privilege to host the annual UELAC conference and unveil the cairn on the Legislative grounds in early June. On June 19th, Branch members met at Houston Pizza for a noon luncheon meeting. Following our meeting we adjourned to the cairn site. Once again a number of members were in period dress and, as people gathered, we passed out balloons and programs. The flags were placed beside the cairn. Logan Bjarnason UE welcomed everyone and led them in the singing of the Royal Anthem. Gerald Adair UE, newly appointed Prairie Regional VP, brought greeting on behalf of Dominion Council. Lois Griffin UE read a poem written by Elizabeth Richardson UE entitled "*LoyalWe Stand.*" Logan Bjarnason UE then spoke to the group, his topic being "*Milestones – A Loyalist Tradition.*" The group then joined in the singing of our National Anthem and the program ended with the retiring of the colours.

By Logan W. Bjarnason UE

2006 Spring

With provincial celebrations happening in most Saskatchewan communities, the Adair family of Maryfield decided to do some education and outreach during the celebrations in their village. Jen Schafer UE, Sandra Garrett UE, Karen Venaas UE and nephew Andrew Cowan donned period dress to ride on the float driven by Jen's husband Brian. They passed out balloons emblazoned with "Regina Branch UELAC". During the weekend there was also a large Adair family reunion.

As the New Year arrived, several members of the Regina Branch, some in period dress, attended the levy at Government House, hosted by her Honour, Dr. L. Haverstock, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. She is due to retire early in 2006.

By Pat Adair

2006 Fall

Following a luncheon meeting on April 15, James Atkins UE gave a presentation on his research on Loyalist ancestor Joseph Morden UE. He brought a covered cheese dish, a family heirloom, to show as well as a display board charting his ancestry. Part of the chart tied in with a branch of the Morden family who homesteaded at Handsworth, north of Stoughton. To add to the presentation, Logan brought an arrow back chair, circa 1840, that had belonged to that family and had been given to him by Ralph Morden in the early 1970s.

An article about the Loyalist, Ralph Morden UE, appears in the Spring 2005 issue of the *Gazette*. He is the brother of Joseph Morden UE, the Loyalist ancestor of Jim Atkins.

Regina Branch members celebrated their sixth UEL Day on June 19. A show and tell session about the 2006 Conference and holidays enjoyed by Gerry and Pat Adair and Logan and Shirley Bjarnason was part of the noon luncheon. Logan brought three loaves of bread made from flour ground at the Roblin Mill at Black Creek Pioneer Village. Members were invited to take part in a draw for these loaves by signing their names using a goose quill pen and soot ink. Logan's cousin at Elora had given him a crockery ink well, which he had on the table. Samples of the bread were served to entice those present to take part. The samples were served on a plate that had belonged to Logan's great grandmother and was given to him by the same cousin. This plate had been bought at Wexford in Scarborough.

From there, we went in costume to our Loyalist Cairn on the legislative grounds. Programs were handed around and the flags were paraded in as members and the public gathered to celebrate our sixth UEL Day. The Prairie Regional Vice-President, Gerry Adair UE, brought greetings from Dominion Council. Fay Smith UE of Moose Jaw read a poem followed by a short address by Regina Branch President Logan Bjarnason UE. After the program all present were invited to enjoy tea and cake in the members' lounge in the Legislative building. The Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation had posted a notice on their website about our celebration. Our large Loyalist flag flew above the main doors of the Legislative building. The *Leader Post* sent a reporter and photographer. This led to a number of inquires about membership and about our group.

On July 29, members in period dress attended the farewell for Her Honour, Dr. Lynda Haverstock, Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan. She has been our Patron for the last six years. Our newest member, Joan Mushka was presented with her certificate by Her Honour. Once again our appearance in dress seemed to be expected and appreciated

By Logan Bjarnason UE

2007 Fall

By Gerry and Pat Adair UE The sixth annual UEL Day in Saskatchewan was celebrated on 19 June 2007 at the UEL Cairn on the Legislative Grounds. His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor Gordon Barnhart, and his wife, Naomi, were in attendance. His Honour presented six Past Presidents with their miniatures and a certificate of appreciation from the Regina Branch. Those receiving their miniatures were Margaret Dodson UE (1984 – 1986), Leonard Graham UE (1986 – 1988 and 1992 – 1994) *posthumous*, Wilson (Denny) Johnston UE (1998 – 1990) *posthumous*, Kenneth Mackenzie UE (1990 – 1992), Wendell Johnston UE (1994 – 1996), and Nelle Balkwill UE (1996 – 1999).

Regina Branch is working toward putting out a book about any Loyalist descendant who came to the Province of Saskatchewan, whether as a pioneer or otherwise. We are seeking information about these descendants and their connection back to their Loyalist Ancestor. For more information or to send stories contact Gerry or Pat Adair at: gerry.pat "at" sasktel.net or phone 306- 646-4952.

By Gerry and Pat Adair UE

LOYALIST ROOTS IN SASKATCHEWAN

The Regina Branch of the UELAC is compiling an historical book about Loyalists who came to Saskatchewan. We invite people to submit their historical information about their Loyalist background. For further information please contact Linda Smith at 305-789-1996 or Gerry and Pat Adair at 306- 646-4952. You can also visit our web site, URL: www.geocities.com.

2008 Spring

The article submitted for the Regina Branch's seventh annual UEL Day celebrations on 19 June 2007 was written and submitted prior to the actual day. To set the record straight, only five miniatures and certificates of appreciation were presented that day. The family of Leonard Graham were unable to attend. That presentation was done on 15 September at the branch's meeting in Saskatoon. Her Honour, Naomi Barnhart, was unable to attend our 19 June celebration.

The seventh annual UEL Day in Saskatchewan began at the Loyalist Cairn on the Legislative Grounds. As the bagpiper, Gordon Wiles played, the colour party led the guests and His Honour to the cairn site. The piper then played the Vice Regal Salute. Master of Ceremonies, Ken Fader UE welcomed the assembled members and guests.

His Honour Gordon L Barnhart, assisted by Gerry Adair UE, Logan Bjarnason UE and Linda Smith UE, presented certificates, Past President's pins and roses to the five past presidents or their family. Those so honoured were the charter president, Margaret Dodson UE, Luella Johnston, widow of WD Johnston UE, Ken MacKenzie UE, Wendell Johnston UE and Nelle Balkwill UE.

The group then went to the lower level of the legislative building for refreshments, cake and ice cream. His Honour had lively conversations with many of the members and guests. The large Loyalist Flag fluttered outside from the Premier's balcony above the main doors of the legislative building.

The Prairie Region Conference was held in Calgary on 26 – 28 October. Regina Branch members in attendance were Gerry and Pat Adair, Lorna and Ken MacKenzie, Harvey Smith, and Logan Bjarnason. Gerry & Pat Adair and Logan & Shirley Bjarnason attended the Manitoba Branch's 75th Anniversary celebration on 3 November at Winnipeg.

Our branch's December luncheon with a gift exchange is becoming an annual event and was well attended.

The Levee at Government House in Regina on New Year's Day was enjoyed by eleven branch members. Those in Loyalist dress created the usual stir of interest and appreciation. Most had their photo taken with His Honour, our Patron, and his wife. Another highlight was to have your photo taken with the Grey Cup, on display there for the afternoon, flanked by two RCMP constables.

By Shirley and Logan Bjarnason UE

2011 Spring

Four sisters began their quest to find their roots. They knew that their great grandfather was Jacob Abraham Huffman and that he had been a pioneer near Baldur, Manitoba. They found that he was the grandson of Jacob Huffman UE and that his great grandfather was David Embury UE. His mother was Flora Bell, grand-daughter of William McCorquodale Bell UE and great granddaughter of William Bell Sr. UE.

The discovery led them to contact Gerald Adair UE (a proven descendant of the Bells and Emburys) of the Saskatchewan Branch. Baldur is only about 130 miles away from Maryfield, Saskatchewan, where the Adair families had homesteaded. Jacob Abraham's two nephews had married Adair girls. The sisters

travelled to Maryfield to research their common ancestors with the Adairs and certificate applications are well under way for Susan Minovitch, Judy Sanders, Sylvia Pugh of the Saskatchewan Branch and Ethel Sabbagh of the Victoria Branch. Susan, Judy, Sylvia, Ethel along with Gerry and Pat Adair, plan to attend Tamworth areas of Ontario.

Our annual Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings was enjoyed by twenty-two people and to ring in the New Year several members attended the New Year's Levee at Government House. Other annual attendees are starting to recognize us in our period clothing. There are always many photo ops and chances to spread the history of the UELAC.

By Pat Adair