

SIR JOHN JOHNSON CENTENNIAL BRANCH – *Charter – 16 Dec 1967*

1968 Spring

The Cultural Centre, Cowansville, Que., was the scene of a historic meeting on Saturday, June 8 1968, when the Sir John Johnson Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada received its Charter.

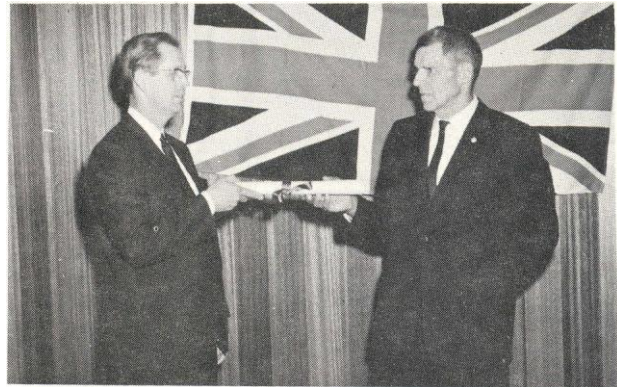
The reception room was decorated with flags' and large baskets of spring flowers.

Mr. Murray Mason, President was in the Chair. Ceremony was opened by the Standard - Bearer, Mrs. C. H. Riordon, bringing in the flag.

Mr. Mason introduced Mr. E. J. Chard, of Pickering, Ontario, the Immediate Past President of the Dominion Council and Editor of 'The Loyalist Gazette.' He congratulated the Sir John Johnson Branch on 125 members which is the largest membership of anyone Branch ever receiving a charter.

At the Annual Meeting' of Dominion Council in April, Messrs. Reginald Hawke and Elden Spencer, who live in Toronto, but are members of this Branch, were its representatives and Mr. Spencer was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Dominion Council.

Mr. Chard then presented the Charter, which was accepted by Mr. Mason on behalf of the Branch. A hearty welcome was given to Mr. Howard Warner, Vice - Pres. of Dominion Council and Immediate Past President of Sir Guy Carleton Branch, Ottawa, and to Mrs. Warner. He brought greetings from their Branch and also very kindly brought their George III flag which he had presented to his Branch.



Mr. Mason told the meeting that it was on June 9th, 1784 that several boats loaded with Loyalists and their families set sail from Quebec City for the Bay of Chaleur. The names of their boats and passengers are preserved in the Ottawa Archives. Among these were the Caldwell families, and it was a great pleasure to have two representatives of this family at the meeting, Mrs. Gordon Hamilton of Ormstown, and Mrs. Wm. Papke of Montreal. At New Carlisle there was a lovely "Caldwell Manor" House which like the one in Missisquoi Co. has long ago disappeared.

Mr. Edward Struthers, of Stanstead, Que. born in Missisquoi Co. and a well - known historian was the guest - speaker for the day.

He portrayed the story of the Loyalists in Quebec Province, especially the ones who lived in vicinity of Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River. He was thanked by Mr. Donald MacCallum, Mayor of Noyan, whose historic old stone house built on the Richelieu by his Loyalist ancestors is as lovely today as when it was built in 1832. Mr. MacCallum told of the old seignioral tax which was \$7.00 a year per 100 acres. Mr. Mason asked the "Couriers" to bring in the Greetings to be read by the corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Rhicard. These are the Junior or teenage members of our Branch; Neil Broadhurst and John Vaudry of Lennoxville, Miss Freda Mason of Fordyce and Robert Perkins of Farnham's Corner, Robert, whose ancestor was Elias Truax was not able to be present. Mrs. Moore told the meeting that the boys (present)

were descendants of the Savage families of Shefford County. John Vaudry was proudly wearing the U.E.L. Medal which had belonged to his Loyalist ancestor Captain John Savage whose name is engraved on the Medal, Miss Freda is a descendant of John Fordyce who came to N.S. in 1784, later moving to Quebec to the little community which now bears his name.

A wire was received from Sir John and Lady Rosemary Johnson of Kent, England sending their best wishes for the ceremony. Dr. Sterling Spicer, U. E., co-founder of the Colonel Edward Jessup Branch of Prescott, Ont., sent his greetings, and a tribute from his own pen telling of the honour of having the letters U.E.L., attached to our names. The beauty of these words was intensified by the reading of Mrs. Richard. Mrs. E.H. Spencer, on behalf of the members, presented a corsage to Mrs. H. Moore with thanks for her work as Genealogist.

Mrs. Moore paid tribute to her co-chairman, Mrs. B. Tremblay and her committee for their great help, and to Mr. Chard, who was instrumental in coming to Eastern Townships in 1967, and rousing interest in the U.E. L. movement and who for the past six months has never slackened his interest and help in ways too numerous to mention; also to Mr. Kenneth Benson, Dominion Genealogist, who has done a tremendous amount of research for our members; thanks also were extended to C.G. Lyon of Winnipeg Branch, to Mrs. J.B. Owen of Carp, Ont. and to Jack Hawley of Sutton.

A roll-call for forty-two Loyalists of Quebec Province was called, and their descendants gave their names and home towns. Refreshments were in charge of Mrs. J. Ellis of Dunham. Her committee had arranged a beautiful buffet table centred with a huge "Charter" cake in the form of a large book on which were the following words: "Welcome to the members and guests of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the U.E.L. on the occasion of the presentation of their Charter, June 8th, 1968.

Miss Julia Wehr, of Montreal, descendant of Lieut. Christian Wehr of Jessup's Corp of Loyal Rangers, and the oldest member a very "young" eighty - six, cut the cake. Silver baskets of spring flowers flanked the cake. Coffee was poured by Mrs. E. H. Spencer and Mrs. Murray Mason. The Guest book was in charge of Mrs. Mary McCutcheon and 100 registered from Ontario, Montreal, Ormston, Laculle, Noyan, Hudson and all sections of the Eastern Townships.

1969 Spring

A well-attended meeting of the Branch was held on the afternoon of October 19th. in the Anglican Church Hall at Lennoxville. A highlight was a display of original historical documents and antique articles brought by Mr. H. R. Derick from his personal collection.

Mr. Waymer Labaree of Sherbrooke was the guest speaker. He illustrated his talk on the Early Settlement of Compton County, a subject on which he has done considerable personal research, by locating places and trails on a large wall map he had prepared. He left us anxious to learn more of the coming of our ancestors into the Eastern Townships.

Among other business, it was agreed that an artistic membership certificate, suitable for framing, be printed for the members. A coloured background sketch will suggest the problems overcome by the Loyalists opening up a new land. It is hoped that the certificates will be ready at the time of the branch annual meeting which will be held at Stanbridge East early in June.

1970 Spring

The Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch held a very successful and interesting meeting during the Fall at Clarenceville, Quebec, at the Protestant School with over thirty members and two visitors present. The President, Mr. Don MacCallum, welcomed members. Reports from the Secretary, Mrs. W. B. Bradshaw, and from the Treasurer, Mrs. Arsene Galipeau, were read. It was agreed that Mrs. Ruby Moore, our Genealogist, send our Newsletters occasionally to all members informing them of our branch activities and gently reminding anyone in arrears to pay their dues, as those over two years in arrears will be dropped.

Mr. Herb Derick of Lennoxville who is compiling lists of names on the gravestones in all the Protestant cemeteries in the Eastern Townships, gave a very interesting talk on what had been accomplished, and hopes eventually to cover the whole province. This is a tremendous task and Mr. Derick deserves all the assistance that he can get from anyone who will go into these cemeteries and copy down the names and dates that are on these gravestones. Before doing so, however. One should contact Mr. Derick at Lennoxville. The U.E.L. is compiling these lists in conjunction with all Historical Societies in the Eastern Townships. It was moved and adopted that these lists should be deposited in The Archives of the Brome County Historical Society in Knowlton, Quebec, and in The Archives of the Missisquoi County Historical Society at Stanbridge East, Quebec.

Mr. Derick also gave a talk on the renovation of the old 3rd Concession Cemetery at Noyan where there were more than 300 stones at one time. He believes that there are more Loyalists buried there than in any other cemetery in the Province as it was on the direct route that so many of them took when entering Canada.

Mr. Murray Mason described getting the gravestone of Colonel Sir John Johnson from Mount Johnson, Quebec, and transporting it to Stanbridge where it is now in the museum. We have been granted permission by the Missisquoi County Historical Society to have it placed in a niche in the wall when this part of the museum is bricked in next year. The old stone is in a bad condition and much of the lettering is hardly discernible so that re-lettering of the stone would be practically impossible. It was therefore moved and passed that a suitable plaque be placed beside it and paid for by our Branch.

Don MacCallum read a very graphic account of the funeral and burial of Colonel Sir John Johnson written by Andrew Collard in a recent issue of the Montreal Gazette.

1970 Autumn

The Annual Meeting of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of The United Empire Loyalists' Association was held on Saturday, June 6, 1970, at the Archives Building of the Brome County Historical Society in Knowlton. Since June 8, 1968 was the charter meeting of our branch, the annual meeting is held on the Saturday nearest this date.

Over fifty members from different sections of Quebec and New York State attended. The meeting opened with the singing of "O Canada", and Mr. C. D. Rhicard, in the absence of the Standard Bearer, Neil F. Creller, brought in the Canadian Flag, and the Union Banner was also in its standard.

The President, Mr. Donald MacCallum, welcomed the members and guests and asked for a moment of silence in tribute to Mr. James Savage of South Stukely, who had passed away since our last meeting. He asked the Secretary, Mrs. Rhicard, to read the newspaper account of Mrs. Audrey Bradshaw Craighead's Honours which she had won as top student at Sir George Williams University, Montreal, and also winning one of the coveted Woodrow Wilson Awards which entitles her to attend any university she chooses. Mrs. Craighead is a member of this Branch.

Mrs. Arsene Galipeau, Treasurer, gave the yearly report, showing a comfortable balance after all bills were paid.

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. Bradshaw, reported 130 members in good standing, ten Associate, and two Life Members.

Five new members since last October, one of whom, Mrs. Byron Brown of Stanstead, was present, and given a hearty welcome. Mr. Darby Livingstone of Albany N. Y., was thanked for his fine Family genealogies which he has contributed to our Archives.

Genealogist Mrs. Moore reported a busy year with research, Mrs. Tremblay and herself having visited the Public Archives at Ottawa, where they obtained much valuable information. Mrs. Moore also visited Archives at Montpelier, Vermont, and also made many trips to County Courthouse at Cowansville delving into old records helping applicants to determine if they were eligible to become members. This involved a great amount of correspondence.

A Newsletter was sent out in December to all members.

The Cemetery Lists have been put into folders, and are on file at the Missisquoi Museum. With the guidance of the President, Mrs. Moore was given permission to purchase any U. E. L. books which will be needed for reference.

Mr. E. J. Struthers, a member of the Dominion Historical Committee, and Mr. H L. Derick discussed the merits of placing some type of marker on the graves of the original UEL. ancestors. The matter was tabled until next year, when possibly more can be learned in this respect.

As there seemed to be some confusion as to when our Branch dues are to be paid to Dominion Council, it was moved by C. D. Rhicard and seconded by K. D. Tree that this matter be cleared and paid when due. Members were pleased to receive their copies of the spring Gazette which is always keenly enjoyed. It was agreed that our Annual Picnic be held in conjunction with that of The Missisquoi County Historical Society, held some time in July, and the St. Jean Military College and Fort Chambly will be visited possibly with a side trip to see the home built by Sir John Johnson at St. Matthias. The semi-annual meeting will be held in Dunham Anglican Church Hall in October.

A lovely oil painting of the home of Sir John Johnson, painted by Mrs. Gwendolyn Norris Fuller and presented by her is to be sent to the Dominion Headquarters in Toronto. Mr. Don MacCallum framed and presented a picture of Sir John Johnson to be hung in the Museum at Staribridge East. Both were congratulated and thanked for their efforts. Mrs. N. Loomis also presented copies of some old deeds to the Archives.

The chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Bernard Derick, then submitted the following slate of officers for 1970/1971 for approval: Past President, Mr. Murray Mason, Cowansville; President, Mr. Don MacCallum, Noyan; Vice-President, Mrs. Andrew Johnstone, Hudson Heights; Recording Secretary, Mrs. C. H. Riordon, Dunham; Treasurer, Mr. Stuart Hawke, East Farnham; Correspondence Secretary, Mrs. Wm. Bradshaw, Bedford. The President thanked the past Executive and Mr. C. Rhicard for taking the chair for the election of officers.

Mr. Murray Mason introduced the speaker, our President, Mr. MacCallum, who gave a very interesting address on "Early Loyalists in Quebec". Mr. MacCallum has probably done more research on this subject than any one in the County and deserves a great deal of credit for his efforts. He was warmly thanked by Mr. Darby Livingston of Albany, N. Y.

The President welcomed three of our youngest Loyalists: Robert Perkins, Hurdon Hooper and Gerald Johnson. It is good to see some of the younger generation taking an interest in the U. E. L. The President also thanked Mrs. Marion Perkins, Miss Marion Phelps and Mrs. Robert McCutcheon who were in charge of the refreshments, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. A most enjoyable meeting was brought to a close by the singing of "God Save the Queen".

It has been learned since the meeting that one of our members, Mr. Eldon Spencer of Toronto, has been named Chairman of The Adelaide Louise McLaughlin \$125,000 Trust Fund given by Colonel R. S. McLaughlin of Oshawa., in memory of his wife, Adelaide, to finance our National Headquarters. Eldon is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Spencer of Cowansville, Quebec. Also appointed for a 3-year term as one of nine Councillors to the Dominion Executive is Mr. R. V. Hawke, Thornhill, Ontario, so this Branch is quite well represented at Dominion Council. News reports are prepared by Mr. K. D. Tree, the publicity chairman.

The Annual Picnic of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was held on July 25, 1970, at Fort Chambly when members had a very interesting outing and an opportunity to renew acquaintances. Following the picnic the group toured Le College Militaire at St. Jean, Quebec.

1971 Spring

The Autumn meeting of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, Stanbridge East, Quebec, of The United Empire Loyalists' Association was held in the conference room of the Anglican Church in Dunham. The flag was presented by Mr. Neil Creller, followed by "O Canada". President Don MacCallum opened the meeting. Applications were accepted for membership from Miss Dara Brown of Stanbridge East and Mrs. David Carr of Montreal. Two honorary memberships were considered.

A letter from Sir John Johnson of England was read expressing regrets at being unable to attend the meeting as the invitation was several weeks in reaching him and did not give him time to make the necessary arrangements.

A bronze plaque to commemorate the entry of the U.E.L.'s to Canada was brought to the meeting by the president. Inscription on the plaque in both English and French read as follows:

"One of the first United Empire Loyalist settlements was formed here during and after the American Revolution 1775-1783. Many soldiers and others were transported by the warship Maria."

This plaque is to be erected in the park near the Anglican Church Grounds at Noyan, Quebec, at the next annual meeting, which is on the first Saturday in June.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. William Taylor, president of the Missisquoi County Historical Society, for his efforts in securing the plaque through the Provincial Minister of Cultural Affairs and the Commission des Monuments Historiques.

A satisfactory financial report was presented by the treasurer, Mr. Stuart Hawke. A gift of fifty dollars was gratefully acknowledged from Mrs. Geo. Tremblay to help pay for a plaque in honour of Sir John Johnson whose gravestone is to be replaced beside the wall of the museum in Stanbridge East.

A letter from Dominion Headquarters of the U .E.L. was read asking for donations from our branch to secure a bona fide U.E.L. insignia from the College of Arms in England. As this is a rather costly project,

a lively discussion followed and it was moved by K. D. Tree and seconded by Murray Mason that a more equitable plan would be for each branch to be assessed on a per capita basis.

Mrs. Bradshaw reported 150 regular, 10 associate and two honorary members. Members in arrears for two years will not receive their copies of The Loyalist Gazette, and their membership will be dropped. Another contentious issue was that of a Toronto-based group known as "Canadian Loyalists" whose slogan seems to be "One Language for All of Canada" and is being confused by many as being the U.E.L. There is nothing in the by-laws to suggest that the group is unilingual in any way.

A letter from Mrs. Clifford Rhicard and a copy of the new by-laws were presented.

Mrs. Ruby Moore gave a very interesting talk on her research in the Archives in Concord, New Hampshire, and in Ottawa.

Mr. MacCallum pointed out that the Seignory Tax in Quebec ends this year. He suggested that there must be several persons in the Ormstown-Huntington area who would be eligible for membership. Several families who entered Canada through Noyan and Lacolle settled in that district.

A question period followed and later lunch was served by the ladies.

A vote of thanks was accorded Mrs. C. H. Riordan for securing the use of the basement in All Saints Church for the meeting which was brought to a close with the singing of God Save The Queen, accompanied on the 1887 organ by Mr. A. W. Johnston of Hudson, Quebec.

1971 Autumn

The Annual Meeting of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of The United Empire Loyalists was held in the Town Hall at Noyan, Quebec, at 10:00 a.m. on June 12, 1971, with many members and guests present. The meeting opened with the singing of "O Canada" after Standard Bearer Neil Creller had presented the flag. President Don MacCallum occupied the chair and asked for a minute's silence in respect to two highly respected members, Mrs. Hooper and Mr. Hunter, who had passed away during the past year. He also extended greetings to Miss Savage of Holden, Mass., a direct descendant of Captain John Savage, and to Mr. Riordan, Durham. Minutes of the last meeting were read by Mrs. Riordan, seconded by Mrs. Fuller and accepted.

It was brought out at the meeting that practically all the Loyalists who eventually spread throughout the Eastern Townships had to take the Oath of Allegiance at Missisquoi Bay. Our branch at present has two Honorary, three Life, 132 Regular and ten Associate members. Applications of seven new members were accepted, and Mrs. Neil Creller's application as an Associate Member was presented. Mrs. H. Mahannah was thanked for having typed a complete copy of Thomas' History of the Eastern Townships and sending same to The Dominion Headquarters. This great contribution entailed a tremendous amount of work.

Mr. Herb Derick, chairman of the Cemetery Committee, reported that several cemeteries were recorded in 1970, and he hoped that more work would be accomplished in 1971.

President MacCallum thanked Mr. Wm. Taylor for his effort in securing the plaque from the Historic Sites and Monuments to be unveiled in the afternoon. Mr. Norman Simpson was also thanked for the superb job he did in getting the lovely old boulder on which the plaque is placed and building the cement base for it. In spite of the hard work entailed it was evidently a labour of love for Norman.

K. D. Tree reported that Sir John Johnson's gravestone was in place in the outside wall of the museum in Stanbridge East, and that as soon as the plaque is placed in position the job will be completed.

The gravestone of Sir John Johnson has been brought from Mount Johnson and repaired after it was broken by vandals. It has been set into a brick wall, and Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada has bought a bronze plaque and placed in the brick frame; wording is as follows:

1742 - 1830
Sir John Johnson
Indian Commissioner and a foremost Loyalist from New York State,
who led the Loyalist Regiments during the Revolutionary War.
Buried at Mount Johnson, Que.

Erected by the Sir John Johnson. Centennial Branch of The United Empire Loyalists.

President Tree, of. the Missisquoi County Historical Society, extended an invitation to the U.E.L. to join them in a cavalcade picnic to the Canadian Rail Transportation Museum at Delson, Que., the latter part of August - date to be set later. An invitation was given everyone to visit the old Truman Derick house across the street which has been restored by the two persons who now own it. This gesture was much appreciated by all who visited it. The house is now for sale.

President Don MacCallum thanked his executive and members for the splendid co-operation they had given him during the past two years and Herb Derick thanked Don for the very efficient service he had rendered the U.E.L. as president of this branch. Mr. Clifford Rhicard presided over the election of officers for the ensuing year which resulted as follows: President, Mr. Herb Derick, Lennoxville; First Vice-President, Mrs. A. W. Johnstone, Hudson; Second Vice-President, Mr. Hollis Hooper, Sutton; Treasurer, Mr. Stuart Hawke, East Farnham; Recording Secretary, Mrs. C. H. Riordon; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. B. Bradshaw; Genealogist, Mrs. J. Moore, Stanbridge East; Assistant Genealogist, Mrs. Geo. Tremblay, Stanbridge East. Mr. Herb Derick, the new president, mentioned that Mrs. Poaps, Stanstead, was ill and regretted that she was unable to attend the meeting. He also informed the meeting that a copy of all cemetery records are sent to Mrs. Ruby Moore and deposited in the Archives at the museum in Stanbridge East. Everyone was then asked to stand and identify himself after which Mr. Struthers gave an interesting short talk on Remember Baker, for whom the American Daughters of the Revolution erected a monument on the former Ben Naylor farm along the Richelieu in 1929. Mrs. Byron Brown, Stanstead, extended an invitation to the U.E.L. members to hold the semi-annual meeting at Stanstead in the old red brick schoolhouse on Route 5, which was unanimously accepted. Meeting closed with singing of God Save The Queen, with Mr. Johnstone at the piano.

1972 Spring

United Empire Loyalists Meet At Stanstead Palatinate and Loyalist Emigrations Studied

A large number of members of Sir John Johnson Branch, United Empire Loyalists, and guests from the area met in the Council room of the Registry Building, Stanstead, P.Q., on October 23 where all were welcomed by the branch president, Herbert Derick of Lennoxville, and on behalf of the Boundary communities by E.J. Struthers, mayor of Stanstead village.

Two historic papers were given, one by Mrs. C. (Frances Embury) Harris of Magog and the other by Mr. Struthers.

Mrs. Harris gave The Palatine Story. The first migration of "some of our ancestors" began in 1709 in the Lower Palatinate of Germany, she said, thence to England, to County Limerick, Ireland, to New York State and finally to homes in Canada.

Rev. Bowman Tucker wrote of these Protestants in the Lower Palatinate: "Their characters - solitary like the mountains, reflective, self-contained, strong and resolute - were fitted to receive and retain the doctrines of liberty."

Mrs. Harris, in her account, took the assembly back to the early days of the migration in the vicinity of Spires, the town where the term "protestant" had originated and near Worms where Martin Luther had taken his stand against the corruptions of the Roman church, and the families who lived under the hills along the tributaries of the River Rhine.

The two German provinces were known as Palatinates, Upper and Lower. Hardships were noted through war which ended in 1684. King Louis of France revoked the Freedom of Protestant religion in 1685, with war still in Lower Palatinate. In the face of exorbitant taxes, disgusted with their rulers and the King of France, between perhaps 15,000 persons fled the country, later to arrive in England.

The winter of 1708-1709 in the Palatinate ;was long and bitterly cold, and talk went on for a long time of leaving. None could speak English, but events happened suddenly and after a night of terror, it was in April, 1709, that the migration began to move in earnest on the great River Rhine, flocking by early June into the Dutch port of Rotterdam, then to England where the refugees were camped on open heaths or commons, one of which was Blackheath.

Palatine women and children with their meagre belongings in more than 100 wagons and the men afoot, on August 9 passed through London on their way to Chester, a distance of about 120 miles, where they embarked for Ireland. It took them about 24 hours to cross in schooners to Dublin.

They settled on farms and grew flax, hemp, oats, potatoes and wheat and earned a reputation for the high quality of their produce.

It was in 1720, after the death of a major benefactor, Lord Southwell, that changes came about and, for economic and innate independence as well as sentimental reasons, they opted for America and The New World. Some friends were already in America.

Uncles and cousins whom they had never seen were in New York and Pennsylvania. It was on August 18, 1760, that the ship Pery, after a voyage of 63 days-three days fewer than the Mayflower took-arrived in New York from Limerick with a number of German-Irish whose fathers had settled on the Emerald Isle 50 years earlier.

Mr. Struthers' story concerned the migration to the Eastern Townships from the seigneuries of Faucault, Noyan and St. Armand.

He mentioned that frequently the Townships are described as having been settled by United Empire Loyalists. True, he said, a number of these Loyalists did come to the Townships, but the greater number went to these three seigneuries near the present United States border, along the Richelieu River and Missisquoi Bay.

The reason for this trek was that at the end of active fighting in the American Revolutionary War in 1781, the European population of Canada did not exceed 120,000 people, of whom 75 per cent were of French origin. Quebec City, Montreal and Three Rivers were the only important towns in Lower Canada, and Upper Canada was a vast, unexplored wilderness.

French seigneuries had been surveyed from the 1600's and early 1700's along the St. Lawrence River, up the Richelieu and Lake Champlain, nearly as far as Burlington, into what is now Vermont, and quite far up the Chaudiere River. Some regions were only minimally settled. Thus the lands east and west of the Richelieu seigneuries were uninhabited wilderness areas at the end of the Revolutionary War. There was no survey in the Eastern Townships area until that of Barnston in 1793, a 10-year lapse of time from the end of the war.

Loyalists began arriving in great numbers in Canada, and it was imperative that place be found for them. Governor General Frederick Haldimand, on May 26, 1783, gave a letter of instruction to surveyor-general Samuel Holland, probably the first survey ordered in what is now Ontario. It was for the area around Cataraqui and Kingston.

Major Holland had an interesting history, having been born in Holland on an unknown date and buried in Quebec in 1801. He was a true Loyalist and engaged in many surveys in the American colonies. He came to Canada after the war and became surveyor. general of Lower Canada.

His son, Samuel, was killed with a pair of dueling pistols March 29, 1795.

Mr. Struthers' story was of Sir Frederick Haldimand's experiences as Governor-General of Canada from 1778-1786, Lord Dorchester, Sir Guy Carleton in 1786 and the passing of the Constitutional Act in 1791. He reported that the Townships was opened to survey in 1793 with Barnston, Hatley and Stanstead surveyed in 1793, Brome and Compton in 1797 and Brompton in 1801.

Jesse Pennoyer was a grantee of Compton County, and Pennoyer's Mills was an early name of Waterville. Mr. Struthers noted several names and activities of our early pioneers of the Townships.

Of the three seigneuries of Noyan, Foucault and St. Armand and from Merrill Denison's book *The Barley and the Stream*, mention is made that it was in the summer of 1782 that a party of 197 Loyalists, then camping at Burlington, agreed to come to Caldwell's Manor, the name given Foucault. There were no land grants given the Loyalists in the three seigneuries, so they purchased land.

Colonel Henry Caldwell announced January 1, 1784, in the *Quebec Gazette* his possession of land, sufficient for settlement of several families, he was willing to "let out" on most reasonable terms. This was an area of some 50,000 acres, mostly laid out in lots of 100 acres. The purchasers had to pay annual dues even to recent years.

It was from the three seigneuries that survey petitions were made for land in the Townships, many from Loyalists and others not. From these petitions much information was derived that has been valuable from a historian's perspective and some of which was given by Mr. Struthers in his address.

In addition to British and American Loyalists, there were several Palatine families in the three seigneuries. One family, the Dericks, were so numerous that nearly every resident had some family connections. Mr. Herb Derick, the branch president, has a record of over 2,000 descendants of that family.

The talk continued about a Sociological study of early families, and the names in our history.

Mr. Mason thanked Mr. Struthers for his paper, as well as Mrs. Ruby Moore and Mrs. Harris.

Mr. Derick, who presided at the meeting, spoke on the historical note, reading from historic books short items, and called upon Mr. J.D. Ferguson and Mr. A.E. Curtis, president and executive president of the Stanstead Historical Society, both of whom spoke briefly.

Mr. Derick said an executive meeting of the Sir John Johnson Branch would be held shortly. He asked the members to consider the suggestion made to make a summer celebration of a weekend United Empire Loyalist meeting in the Richelieu Valley ~here so many early events took place. This would likely be in June and will be one of the items of business on the executive agenda.

Remarks of appreciation were expressed to the local members of the U.E.L. for making it a pleasant gathering. Visitors toured the Stanstead Historical Museum and enjoyed refreshments served.

The Sherbrook Record



— Photo by Graetz Bros., Montreal

Mr. H. R. Derick, President of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, Quebec, unveils a plaque on November 14, 1971, commemorating the Johnson Bell at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Chambly, Que.

Plaque reads:

“Johnson Bell
original St. Stephen's Belfry Bell (1822-1885)
Donor — Sir John Johnson (1742-1830) 2nd Baronet of New York
and a founder — supporter of this church

Proscribed by the Continental Congress for ardent Loyalist sympathies, his estates confiscated, he led his retainers overland to Upper Canada. He raised and fed the King's Royal Regiment in forays along the Hudson and Mohawk River Valleys from 1776 to 1780, in conjunction with Butler's Rangers and Joseph Brant. Leader of the United Empire Loyalist . . . Superintendent General of Six Nation Iroquois and of the refugee American Loyalists . . .

A Member of the Lower Canada Legislative Council . . .

Provincial Grand Master of the Masonic Order . . .

He died in Montreal in 1830 . . .

The Johnson Family Crypt is Located
35 Paces Due South of this
Marker.”

The annual meeting of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was held in St. James Anglican Church Hall, Bedford, Quebec. Incidentally St. James Church had very recently celebrated a 140th Anniversary. In spite of inclement weather and the domicile of our members in some instances a great distance the attendance was very gratifying.

Several new members were reported. Mr. Marc Dussault, Stanbridge East, a descendant of Christian Wehr, Philipsburg, Quebec, 1777, was presented with a Life Membership by his great-aunt, Miss Julia Wehr.

Reports showed that one of our main projects - recording old cemeteries - is meeting with good response and results but more volunteers are needed. Mr. H. Derick, Box 186, Lennoxville, Que., Chairman, will be happy to provide instructions.

Following the business meeting the President, Mr. Derick, introduced Mr. Laurie Allison, Librarian at Bishops University, who addressed the meeting stressing the importance of obtaining and keeping all historical data of the Eastern Townships mentioning the excellent facilities available at Bishops where anyone willing to lend any historical data it will be microfilmed and returned to the sender thus providing permanent records which will be on file in Bishops Historical section. The library at Bishops is open daily and the facilities are available to the public. Mr. Allison also spoke of the greatly increased interest in local history clearly shown by the forming of the many Historical Societies in the Eastern Townships, some of the older ones being the Missisquoi County Historical Society at Stanbridge East, Que., The Brome County Historical Society at Knowlton and the Stanstead County Historical Society at Stanstead.

Mr. E.J. Struthers moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Allison for a very interesting and informative address. Refreshments and a social hour brought the meeting to a close.

Sunday, May 28th, 1972, our members were privileged to attend the 2nd Annual Commemorative Lay Service at St. Stephens Church, Chambly, Que. We heard addresses from Colonel J. Ralph Harper, O.B.E., and Mr. Frederick Cass, Q.C. Both were most interesting. In his short remarks the Rector, Rev. T.A. Ramsey, B.A. Sc., B.D., welcomed everyone and said he was sorry to note that the Bell which had been placed in the churchyard (Gazette, Spring 1972) had been tampered with by vandals, but the slight damage done was in the process of being repaired and would be finished shortly.

After the service all guests were invited to Randall Hall for tea at the invitation of St. Stephen's Women where there was a further address by Miss Kahn-Tineta Horn, after which we went to see historic Johnson Manor in nearby St. Mathias, courtesy of Mrs. Mildred Stephens.

The President of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch and Mrs. Frances Embury Harris wish to mention that the report in the Spring Gazette of 1972 regarding the fall meeting at Stanstead in 1971 neglected to mention that source material for the talk on the Palatines by Mrs. Harris was drawn from Mrs. Eula Lapp's excellent book, *To Their Heirs Forever*, currently in print. The reference was mentioned during the presentation of the talk but was not recorded by the press correspondent. We wish Mrs. Eula Lapp, the author of this fine authentic book, *To Their Heirs Forever*, which is a 'history of the Palatines, to know of our appreciation for her invaluable authentic resources.

1973 Spring

The semi-annual meeting of this branch was held at Frelighsburg, Quebec, with an excellent attendance. A box lunch preceded the business meeting which included the presentation of certificates to three new members namely: Mrs. Edith J. Craighead, Mr. Royce Chamberlin and his daughter, Miss Patricia Chamberlin. A panel discussion by Mr. H. Derick, Mr. D. MacCallum, Mr. M. Mason and genealogist Mrs. Ruby Moore, was followed by a special Evensong Service in Bishop Stewart Memorial Church of the Holy Trinity. The rector, the Rev. R.W. Toase gave the history of the church. The first services were held in a

tavern by the Rev. Charles J. Stewart who then built the first church. That building was in use from 1808 - 1880 when it was demolished to make way for the present building. All the material which could be salvaged from the original church was used in the Chapel beneath the present large and imposing edifice.

The members heard with great regret of the passing of one of their most revered members, Mr. E. H. Spencer of Cowansville.

With the death of Mr. E. H. Spencer on January 1 ended 180 years of the Spencer family in Missisquoi County. We wish to extend sincere sympathy to his son, Mr. E. E. Spencer of Dawlish Ave., Toronto, a senior trustee of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. The president, Mr. Herbert R. Derick has been very much in demand as a speaker throughout 1972, having addressed several county Historical Societies. The branch members are active in research and in recording old cemeteries, about 80 of which have been completed.

The annual meeting will be held at the Brome County Historical Society Museum at Knowlton at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 9, 1973.

1974 Spring

The site of the Battle of Chateauguay, half mile south of Allan's Corners, Chateauguay County, was the place chosen for the Annual Meeting of this branch on August 25, 1973.

Members met in cars at Noyan church to form a cavalcade which was led by the President, Mr. Donald MacCallum. An imposing monument was erected on this spot in 1895 to commemorate the battle where a few hundred Canadian and a small band of Indians, led by Lieut.-Col Charles de Salaberry, repulsed the attack of a large American army which attempted the invasion of the Province in 1813.

From there we went on to Brooklet, near Howick, where we ate our lunch on the spacious lawn of Mr. Leslie Rennie. Mr. Rennie had kindly invited the members to visit his STORE MUSEUM which includes the original log cabin built by his ancestors, a large farm house filled to overflowing with antiques including a bed slept on by King Edward VII. On the premises there is also an old pioneer church, the "Black Church" which Mr. Rennie had moved here to preserve it for future generations. This was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

From there the tour continued on to Ormstown, Covey Hill and Hemmingford, which is the apple-growing section west of the Richelieu River. Here we stopped at one of the roadside stands and loaded the trunks of the cars with purchases of apples of our choice.

The semi-annual meeting of this branch was held at Sutton, in Brome County on October 13, with the President, Mr. D. MacCallum, presiding. Although this was not a large meeting, the attendance being only around twenty-five members, there was a good representation from the large area this branch includes, with members from Hudson, Montreal, Lennoxville, Granby, Noyan and neighbouring towns.

We were pleased to hear a report of the first meeting of the newly formed "Heritage Branch Montreal" which was given by Mrs. Fuller, an active member of our branch. Genealogist Mrs. Ruby Moore presented two new approved applications from New Brunswick. These were voted upon and accepted as members of this branch. We have three new Life Members this year to date. Mrs. Moore was invited to visit the CBC studios, Montreal, this summer to make a tape on the United Empire Loyalists of Missisquoi County and to tell something of the work of our branch. This she did very capably as evidenced by the many who heard

it recorded later. Members were pleased to learn that the Vermont Genealogical Society in their Summer Newsletter had printed on the front cover a picture of the Chandler Cemetery, one of our pioneer cemeteries, where the slab monuments have been placed in a brick wall similar to those at Upper Canada Village.

Mr. P.J. Shepard of the Cemetery Committee reported that the restoration of three cemeteries in the Abercorn vicinity has been nearly completed. One cemetery in Dunham area was catalogued.

The Chairman of our Affiliated Members, Dr. Carroll M. Salls, Ph. D., has donated a copy of his fine family, the Salls' genealogy to our library and also one to the Dominion Library, Toronto. A letter of thanks is to be sent to Dr. Salls for his generous gift.

The President, Mr. MacCallum and his wife had visited the home of Sir John Johnson at Williamstown, in Glengarry County this past summer and pictures they had taken were passed around. The business concluded, the flag was retired by Mr. Creller and the meeting closed by the singing of O Canada with Mr. Johnston, Hudson, at the piano.

Members enjoyed their picnic lunch at a long table tastefully set with flowers and white linen cloths and were served coffee or tea by their hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Shepard. A vote of thanks from the group was tendered them by Mr. M. Mason. The meeting being held in the Hall of Grace Anglican Church, Mr. Shepard kindly conducted the members through the adjoining interior of the historic old stone church telling some of the history of the church and its contents.

The members dispersed afterwards, some to visit the restored cemeteries and others taking roads to enjoy the Fall Foliage.

1974 Autumn

The annual meeting of this Branch was held in the historic old United Church at East Farnham on June 8th, just six years to the day when this Branch received its Charter.

This church had been built in 1867 by the Free-Will Baptists and the New Connection Methodists and was called a Union Church for many years. Thirty-one members signed the guest book.

The members and friends gathered in the basement of the church where Mrs. Laurence Fuller had arranged a splendid display of old pictures and oil paintings of East Farnham painted by herself, and Quaker bonnets and other wearing apparel owned by her grandmother.

Picnic lunches were enjoyed at the tastefully laid tables and the East Farnham ladies served tea and coffee.

Meeting opened by the President Mr. Donald McCallum, in the church. Flags were brought in by the Standard Bearer, Neil Creller, and all joined in "O Canada" with Mr. Johnston at the organ. Guests were welcomed from Ontario, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Livingston, Prescott, and Miss Louise Beck, Toronto. Reports were heard from the Committees, the treasurer stating a working amount in the treasury. Mrs. Tremblay reported on the interesting day spent at Chambly on June 2nd where the members enjoyed visiting old historic homes, among them the De Salaberry Manor House, home of the victorious leader in the Battle of Chateaugay in the War of 1812. Genealogist, Mrs. Moore, reported only three new members since last annual meeting, but there are three applications pending. The amendments to the By-Laws were tabled until another annual meeting.

Mrs. Laurance Fuller gave an interesting account on the annual meeting in Toronto which she and Mrs. Bradford had attended. Mrs. Fuller also gave a most worthwhile address on the Quakers of East Farnham,

their meeting houses, their customs, how their church services were conducted. The first meeting house was built in 1823. There is a large granite marker on the site of the meeting houses. This address is to be mimeographed and made available to members.

Several of our members are descendants of these early Quakers.

Mr. Stuart Hawke took the chair for election of officers; Mr. C. Rhicard, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, read the slate and it was accepted as read.

All executive were returned to office. Mr. N. Creller moved a vote of thanks to the Executive.

Meeting closed with the singing of "The Queen".

LAY SERVICE AT ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, CHAMBLY

After the Lay Service was concluded, Mr. Feast chairman of St. Stephen's Historical Committee, introduced guest speakers, R. A. J. Phillips, who is Executive Director of Heritage Canada and John King curator, Chateau de Ramezay. Phillips spoke on Heritage Canada - and what it means, and King spoke on Sir John Johnson, which was most interesting to the members of this Branch.

Mr. King gave the whole life History of Sir John, from the time Sir William Johnson, Sir John's father came over from Ireland to take charge of his uncle's (Sir Peter Warren) vast estates in the Mohawk Valley, until Sir John's death in Montreal and his burial at Mount Johnson, Que.

At the conclusion of the service, refreshments were served by the Anglican Church Women of St. Stephen's Church.

Our president, Mr. Donald MacCallum, was guest speaker at Brome County Historical Society on August 17th. Mr. MacCallum gave a very interesting and informative talk on "The Coming of the Loyalists to Canada". In his treatment of the story many sidelights were brought forward which tied together the facts history books have taught us, making a more comprehensible description of what really did take place at the time. Mr. MacCallum lives in the ancestral home on the banks of the Richelieu River over which the Loyalists travelled, therefore one can understand how much tradition and nearness to the scene have helped and inspired him to seek out the truth.

How significant the part played in the Loyalist story by two events in the American Revolutionary War, namely, Montgomery's failure to capture Quebec in 1775 and the next year the British success at winning the naval Battle of Valcour Island, was stressed by the speaker. The result of these successes was very important as the Loyalists had a way to travel up the River Richelieu to St. John's and Quebec in safety. Mr. MacCallum showed two large copies of original sketches obtained at the Public Archives showing the ships which the British used to carry troops up the River into Lake Champlain for raids into the Mohawk Valley. One of these full rigged sailing vessels was the Lady Marie, named after Sir Guy Carleton's wife.

1975 Spring

The Autumn meeting of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was held in the Anglican Church Hall of West Brome on October 19 at 10.30 a.m. The President, Mr. Donald MacCallum presided and welcomed the members and guests.

The minutes of the June annual meeting were read by the treasurer, Mrs. Edith Shufelt, in the absence of the secretary, Miss Anne Hawke.

A moment of silence in tribute to three deceased members of this Branch -- Mrs. R. Craighead, Mr. Ed Struthers and Mr. Frank Libby -- was requested by the President. Mr. Libby lost his life in a fire that destroyed his home which contained wonderful antiques and historical papers. Mr. Struthers was born in this county, at Noyan, and was a World War I veteran. He was twice severely wounded and lost an eye in 1916. Being a noted historian, he was often called upon to speak in public and to assist at seminars. During World War II he was on loan to the Bank of Canada and to the Dept. of Finance at Ottawa and Montreal.

Three members from New Brunswick gave notice of transfer to the Fredericton Branch. The genealogist, Mrs. R. Moore, reported that two new members, Mr. Charles McCaw and Mr. Peter Allnutt, have been accepted. A resolution was passed that Dr. Carroll Salls, a member of this branch at Arlington, Virginia, be given an Honourary Membership for his generous donation to this Branch of the Salls Genealogy which he compiled.

A letter was read from the secretary, Miss Hawke, saying that she could no longer serve in this capacity due to unforeseen circumstances. Everyone was very sorry to hear this as she will be hard to replace. Miss Marion Phelps, Curator of Brome County Historical Museum, replaced Mrs. Mary McCutcheon who was to have given a talk on Daniel Scott, one of her ancestors who had settled in this area and on the Pettes Family who also were among the earliest settlers. Miss Phelps displayed articles which these pioneers had invented and manufactured and a map of their era which made her talk most interesting. She was thanked by Mr. Glen Brown, M.L.A. for Brome County, whose ancestor was a Pettes.

Mrs. R. Moore, told of her recent trip with Mr. and Mrs. M. Mason to Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, where she and Mr. Mason had learned more of their ancestors, the Fordyces.

The presentation of a Life Membership to Mrs. Roberta Wheland from her mother, Mrs. Mary McCutcheon, brought the meeting to a close after which the members enjoyed their picnic lunches, coffee and tea being furnished by the members of Mrs. McCutcheon's family.

The group then embarked in their cars to visit the two old cemeteries, the Scott and Pettes Cemeteries, which are on land donated by these early settlers for this purpose.

1976 Spring

A meeting of the executive was held in the museum at Stan bridge East, Quebec, on March 19 with the president, Mrs. Gwendolyn Fuller in the chair. Those present were Mrs. Joyce Bradford, Mrs. Ruby Moore, Mrs. Beryl Tremblay, Mr. Stuart Hawke, Mr. Clifford Rhicard, Mr. Neil Creller, Mr. Charles McCaw, Mr. Mac Bradshaw, Mr. Kenneth Tree, Mr. Donald MacCallum and Mr. Murray Mason. Minutes of the previous meeting were read by the secretary, Mrs. Joyce Bradford, and moved correct by Mr. Donald MacCallum, seconded by Mr. Charles McCaw.

Mr. Neil Creller was appointed chairman of the nominating committee for officers to be elected, with powers to add, at the next annual meeting.

The genealogist, Mr. Charles McCaw, reported that letters have been sent out to prospective members and that there should be follow-up action. Mrs. Ruby Moore added that applications for the Best family were nearly ready.

It was decided to hold the Annual Meeting on June 6, 1976, in Stan bridge East, gathering at 10.30 a.m. for service in the Anglican Church with a box lunch followed by a business meeting in the church hall. On June 12, 1976, we are invited for a picnic at Como.

The treasurer, Mr. Stuart Hawke, reported that receipts for the year to date amount to \$519.75, expenses \$339.99 and the present balance is \$763.00. Two Life Memberships have been received, one from Mr. Edward Allen and one from Mr. Edward Luke. Securities held by the Branch are to be placed in care of the Treasurer.

From the cemetery committee Mr. Charles McCaw reported progress on recording names in the large cemetery at Pigeon Hill. Mr. Murray Mason volunteered to do the small cemetery at Hunter's Mills. It was suggested that we should visit cemeteries in the area where Loyalist ancestors are buried. It was pointed out that there is no memorial on the grave of Christian Weir. The meeting expressed its willingness to consider purchasing a marker. The matter was left for future consideration when estimates would be available. Miss Julia Weir has donated the sum of \$10.00 towards the project. Mrs. Arsene Galipeau is chairman of the committee.

The Corresponding Secretary thanked Mr. Stuart Hawke for doing the mailing of The Loyalist Gazettes during her absence.

The meeting heard with sorrow of the passing of our Honorary President, Sir John Johnson. It was suggested that his son and successor, Sir Peter Johnson, be invited to be Honorary President. Heads were bowed in a moment's silence in memory of the three members we have lost through death: Mrs. Riorden, Miss Lila Primmerman and Sir John Johnson.

Members were invited to watch for the article in the Sherbrooke Record Annual written by Mr. Kenneth Tree on Stanbridge East in which he refers to the U. E. L. The following possible activities were suggested by Mrs. Fuller: a quilt; a book prize to be offered for the best essay in English and one for the best in French by students of Massey Vanier High School on a subject bearing on a Loyalist aspect of local history.

At the Annual Meeting the charter should be on display.

Mrs. Fuller volunteered to bring a copy of the U. E. L. crest, also a poster showing the aims of the organization. Mrs. Fuller volunteered to donate a painting to be raffled as a fund-raising activity. Tentative plans were drawn up for a picnic to be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Mason, Cowansville, on August 7, 1976. Hopes were expressed that a tour will be arranged to visit Johnstown, New York, and vicinity, perhaps in September.

A new list of our membership should be compiled and enough copies made to send one to each of the other branches.

Mr. Charles McCaw, branch genealogist, asked the following to serve on his Genealogical Committee: Mrs. Ruby Moore, Mr. Donald MacCallum, Mr. Herbert Derick, Mr. Clifford Rhicard and Mr. Murray Mason. The president declared the meeting adjourned.

1976 Autumn

PILGRIMAGE HELD TO UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST CEMETERIES

The Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch held a Pilgrimage to Loyalist cemeteries on August 28, and unveiled a marble marker to Lieutenant Christian Wehr in the Philipsburg Cemetery, in the Eastern Townships.

At a meeting earlier in the year Arsene Galipeau and Mrs. R. Moore were appointed to choose a marker and to see that it was erected. They chose a small piece of Philipsburg marble with a Stanstead granite base, and it was suitably engraved with the following inscription' - "Lieut. Chrisitan Wehr, 1732-1824 - United Empire Loyalist.....

It was erected by the Sir John Johnson Branch and great great-granddaughters Miss Julia Wehr and Mis. Arsene Galipeau. It was erected in the plot set aside for soldiers, some of whom had been buried there in 1785. A large basket of red, white and blue flowers were placed beside the stone, which was covered with the George III Flag under which Lieut. Wehr had serve. The President of the Branch, Mrs. Laurance Fuller, welcomed the guests, and Mr. Charles McCaw, genealogist, read a paper on the life of Lieutenant Wehr, after which the marker was unveiled by Lieutenant Wehr's descendant, Mrs. Madeleine Dussault. The latter acted as proxy for her great-aunt, Miss Wehr, who is 94 years old, and Mrs. Galipeau, both of whom were unable to be present. Mrs. Dussault thanked the Branch for this tribute paid to her ancestor. The Standard Bearer, Mr. Neil Creller, assisted Mrs. Dussault at the unveiling. The genealogist, Mr. Charles McCaw, asked for volunteers to assist him and his wife in recording the names off the monuments in the Pigeon Hill cemetery. There were no volunteers.

Mr. Paige A. Knight, President of the Missisquoi Historical Society, brought greetings from the society, and congratulated the U.E.L. on the work they were doing to preserve our heritage.

Reverend Canon Selwyn Willis, former Rector of St. James Church in Stanbridge East, gave a very inspiring prayer, and dedicated the marker to the memory of Mr. Wehr, and all the other loyal pioneers who settled the area.

Small white flags with the letters U.E.L. in red and blue were placed on some of the Loyalist graves. Mrs. Fuller placed the first one on the grave of John Ruiter, acting as proxy for Eunice Ruiter Baker of Ottawa. Mr. Ruiter was Thomas Dunn's Land Agent, born 1740, died i797 and' his brother, Philip, were among the very first settlers in Philipsburg. Hundreds of Deeds were drawn up by Notary Chaboillez at John Ruiter's house.

Miss Patricia Chamberlin placed the flag on her ancestor's grave, John Saxe. He settled on Rock River, where he built a mill, had a store and post office there. Early settlers from this area went to Saxe's Mills for their mail. Other Loyalists buried there were Ludovic Streit, Conrad Best and Isaac Mann.

The cavalcade proceeded to St. Armand Cemetery where many Loyalists are buried.

Mrs. Gordon Wade placed a flag on her ancestor's grave, Garrett Sixby. Mrs. Wade is the sixth generation of this family to live in the lovely old brick house. Mrs. Moore told the gathering of the work done by Mr. Wade and the people of Philips burg to restore this lovely bit of God's Acre to its present fine condition, and a hearty clap of hands was given to Mr. Wade who keeps it mowed and well cared for. Mrs.Clifford Rhicard did the honours for her ancestor, John Buckus, who had served in Burgoyne's Army.

Peter Miller, a very early Loyalist at St. Armand, was remembered by Mrs. Joyce Bradford placing the flag for Mrs. Charles Buchanan, who was not able to attend due to illness. Mr. Miller helped to build the Methodist Church at Philipsburg. His beautiful old stone house stands today as a symbol of the type of work he did. One quaint stone is noted in this cemetery, its only inscription being "Dear Old Grandma".

All joined in singing "O Canada" .

The cavalcade then proceeded to the Pigeon Hill cemetery under the guidance of Mr. Clifford Rhicard. There were over 800 monuments in this cemetery. Mrs. Frances Harris of Magog, direct descendant of Samuel Embury, placed a flag on his grave. He was the son of Philip Embury, the first Methodist preacher in North America, who built the first Methodist Church in New York City which still is a noted landmark there. Samuel modelled the Philipsburg Church very much like the one his father built in New York. There is a lovely stained glass window in the church erected to his memory. A descendant of his sister, Catherine, Mrs. Phoebe Hyde of Hudson, Que., also placed a flag. Mrs. Hyde is a member of the Heritage Branch - Montreal. Mr. George Hawke, ancestor Treasurer Stuart Hawke, was named. Clifford Rhicard, a Vice-President of the Branch, paid tribute to his ancestor, Joseph Reichert, who came here from Brunswick, New York. He was the father of thirteen children. Clifford has his Commission for the militia in which he served.

Previous to the cavalcade the members had enjoyed a picnic lunch together in the United Church Hall, Philipsburg. Mrs. Fuller thanked the Cemetery Committee for their cooperation.

Granby Leader-Mail

On June 6, the annual meeting of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was held in the Anglican Church Parochial Hall at Stanbridge East, Que.

Due to many other activities on that date, such as the large regional service at Owl's Head ski lodge and several other events in the district, attendance was rather small.

The members attended the service in the church and partook of communion administered by Rev. John Carr, the incumbent. He gave the members a very warm welcome, hoping to become better acquainted with their aims and objectives as time goes on. He spoke kindly of our ancestors, pointing out the trials and hardships they endured to settle this so called wilderness.

Following the church service, the members repaired to the church hall and partook of a box lunch at the tastefully decorated tables.

Lunch, having been finished, the president Mrs. Gwendolyn Fuller asked for a few moments of silence in memory of the following members who had passed away during the past year: Miss Lila Primmerman, Mrs. Ernestine Riorden and Sir John Johnson, our Honorary President.

Was grieved to hear that Sir John's wife Rosemary had also passed away, but was pleased to report that Sir Peter Johnson, Sir John's son has agreed to be Honorary President, following the death of his father. Mrs. Fuller presented a cheque for a life membership for her son, Mr. L. B. Fuller of West Brome: Two other Life Memberships had also been taken last year, as well as a recent one by Mrs. Ruby Moore.

A memorial is to be erected over the grave of Christian Wehr, one of the first Loyalists, at the cemetery in Phillipsburg, by our Branch.

In the absence of the treasurer Mr. Stuart Hawke, Mr. Murray Mason read the treasurer's report, which showed the financial affairs to be in a very healthy state. A report of the annual meeting which some of our The Loyalist Gazette members attended at Kingston, Ont. was given by Mrs. Fuller and appreciation was given Mrs. Ruby Moore and Mr. Don MacCallum for setting up the display from our Branch at the meeting of Dominion Association.

All members were invited to a picnic at "Greenwood", home of Mrs. Phoebe Hyde at Como, Que., on the Lake of Two Mountains, held on June 12. An invitation to a dinner, arranged by the Heritage Branch U.E.L., Montreal, at the Ste. Helene de Champlain restaurant on St. Helen's Island to be held on Oct. 1st was extended to our members.

Mrs. Fuller displayed a first draft of a pictorial certificate she is preparing to be presented to life members of the Branch. She also presented a painting she had done, suggesting that it be raffled as a fund-raising activity.

Mr. Charles McCaw reported on two new members and also reported on the progress made on Xeroxing the names all ready completed of the Pigeon Hill cemetery, over 200, but there are still over 600 to be documented. He also showed slides of many of the cemeteries in the district. These slides were greatly appreciated. A new category of members known as Friends of the UEL Association was approved at the Kingston meeting, that is, the convention meeting held by the Dominion Association in May, making it possible for individuals who have been unable to prove their descent from a Loyalist Ancestor to become a Branch member, but without the right to vote or to hold office. This resolution should give a good boost to our membership as many historically-minded persons will now be able to join the U.E.L. and partake of our activities which they will find very enlightening historicallywise.

Application forms to join the Association may be obtained by writing to Charles W. McCaw, Abercorn, Que. J0E 180.

It has been decided to donate a prize to the student of Massey Vanier High School for the best essay on the United Empire Loyalists, the gist of which is nor to be copied from historical books.

It has also been suggested that the members of our Branch join in a pilgrimage cavalcade this fall, to visit as many cemeteries as possible where Loyalists are buried.

Possibilities of designating a Loyalist Day, something after the pattern of Decoration Day as practised by our cousins to the south of us is being considered, when a suitable' marker will be placed on each Loyalist grave.

Head of the nominating committee Mr. Neil Creller presented the following slate of officers for 1976 which were duly elected. Hon. President - Sir Peter C. Johnson; Past Pres., Mr. Donald MacCallum; President, Mrs. Gwendolyn\ Fuller; Vice Presidents, Mr. Mack Bradshaw and Mr. Clifford Rhicard; Genealogist, Mr. C.W. McCaw; Recording Secretary, Mr. Murray Mason; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Joyce Bradford; Treasurer, Mr. Stuart Hawke.

Thus a very successful meeting was brought to a close with a vote of thanks being given to St. James Church for the use of their hall.

PICNIC HELD

The report of this annual meeting would not be complete without mention being made of the picnic to Mrs. Hyde's lovely home in Como, which was held a week after the annual meeting.

June 12 four members of the UEL left Stanbridge East and joined twelve other members from Montreal, Toronto and Hudson at the home of Mrs. Hyde, (Greenwood) at Como, Que. on the shore of the Lake of Two Mountains. After a tour of her lovely grounds and flower garden we were invited into the lovely old

home which actually is a museum with its many oil paintings of family ancestors and priceless antique furniture.

We were comfortably seated in the living room and as Mrs. Hyde was leaving the room she said, "When I return from upstairs as the ghost of Margaret Switzer, one of my ancestors of 200 years ago, I will relate some of the experiences of the generations of my ancestors during those 200 years, on my visits back to earth, through each generation."

Needless to say we were all held spellbound during the duration of her monologue, which took considerable time, given without notes of any kind, relating their happenings, some pleasant and some sad. She was appropriately gowned in a dress of some 200 years ago and one could immediately discern her acting ability when she started to speak.

At the conclusion of this monologue, which surely was the highlight of the day, we enjoyed our picnic lunches at tables on her spacious lovely grounds. This concluded, we were given a conducted tour of this old home abounding in history and antiquity. Mrs. Hyde was given hearty votes of thanks by everyone; on leaving their journey home.

Sherbrooke Record.

1977 Spring

Mrs. Gwendolyn Fuller, President, has recently returned from a holiday in the U.K. During her travels, Mrs. Fuller was entertained by Sir Peter and Lady Caroline Johnson. Sir Peter Johnson is now our Honorary President. Mrs. Fuller was privileged to read part of the first Lady Johnson's Diary. Lady Johnson was contemplating her long journey on foot from New York State to Montreal. Her thoughts were on types of foods that would be light in weight to carry on her journey. Sir Peter Johnson plans to publish this diary.

Mrs. Jean Irma Boyd of Quincy, California read in the Autumn issue of The Loyalist Gazette that a relation of hers was mentioned at the Christian Wehr Special Pilgrimage. Later that afternoon, at the Pigeon Hill Cemetery there were Memorial U.E.L. flags placed on many early graves of United Empire Loyalist settlers. At the grave of Samuel Embury, Mrs. Frances Harris of Magog, Que., was invited to place one of these flags on her ancestor's grave. Mrs. Jean Irma Boyd recognized this as being one of her ancestors. Letters have been exchanged between these two persons.

Many items reported in The Loyalist Gazette concerning families have resulted in the formation of lasting friendships and correspondence between relatives.

On March 18 we held an Executive Meeting at Stanbridge East, Que.

1977 Autumn

Last summer our best achievement was the pilgrimage to three Loyalist cemeteries in August and the placing of a marble stone in memory of Christian Wehr. This season we had the planting of two small trees, one at either side of the Sir John Johnson Plaque, in the grounds of the Cornell-Missisquoi Museum on April 23rd in honour of Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee, also planting a Scotch Pine in the Philipsburg Cemetery on the same day in honour of the Queen's Silver Jubilee. During these 25 years, we have had a serene, happy and prosperous Canada. We live in the midst of plenty here in our beloved Canada.

Our Annual Meeting took place on June 4th in Abercorn, Que. We assembled at 12 noon, to partake of a picnic lunch on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. McCaw. We later moved to the Town Hall in Abercorn for our meeting. We heard rumours that the B.B.C. were to come to the meeting. The B.B.C. stayed through the meeting and interviewed us afterward. It will be shown in the United Kingdom and Europe. Agenda was as follows: Welcome and Presentation of Colours; O Canada; Prayer; Silence to remember four valued members: Miss Kathleen Moore, Honorary Member; Mrs. Byron Brown of Stanstead, Mrs. Buchanan, Cowansville and Miss Mabel Westover; Minutes of last Annual Meeting; Treasurer's Report; Secretary's Report, Corresponding Secretary's Report; Cemetery and Pigeon Hill Committee; Public Relations; Prizes for Historical Essays - one for French pupil and one for English pupil in Massey-Vanier Regional School; Tree-Planting Report.

Mrs. Fuller introduced the speaker of the afternoon, Miss Alice Lighthall, C.M. Miss Lighthall was decorated by our Governor-General Jules Vanier with the Order of Canada. She was presented with the Queen's Coronation Medal which she was wearing. She served as a V.A.D. during WWI in France, is a gifted poet and has had a play produced on C.B.C., was President of the Women's Art Society, The Women's Branch of the Antiquarian and Numismatic Society, Canadian Guild of Crafts, and Westmount Historical Association. Miss Lighthall is an authority on Indians and Eskimos and has had trips to the Arctic. She was director of Heritage Quebec. Mr. Donald MacCallum thanked Miss Lighthall.

After the President's Report Mrs. Beryl Tremblay presented a birthday gift to Mrs. Fuller.

Nomination Committee report: Honorary President Sir Peter Johnson; Immediate Past President, Gwendolyn Norris Fuller; President, Mr. Murray Mason, Cowansville, Que.; Vice-President, Mr. Donald MacCallum; Treasurer, Mr. Stuart Hawke; Genealogist, Mr. Charles W. McCaw, R.R. 2, Abercorn, Que.; Public Relations; Cemetery and Pigeon Hill Prizes; God Save the Queen; Retiring of Flag. Adjournment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT By Mrs. Gwendolyn Fuller

We welcome three new members: Miss Isobel C. McCaw, Mrs. Harold Nelson, Mr. Winston Orr. I have the honour to report to you some of the highlights of my two years in office. I visited Toronto on April 21, 1977, to attend the reception at the Parliament Buildings given by the Lieutenant Governor, The Honourable Pauline McGibbon, in honour of the Governor Simcoe Branch of The United Empire Loyalists, their families and their friends. It was all very beautiful. Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, mentioned that it was the real birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. The floral decorations were very fine and the uniforms were so brilliant that the scene was memorable. The many pleasant conversations which I took part in, were extremely enjoyable.

The next evening I attended with a party of friends the Silver Jubilee Dinner and Ball sponsored by thirteen Loyal Societies. This took place at the Royal York Hotel where I stayed -- about 700 or 800 attended. The beautiful gowns of the ladies and again the uniforms of many of the men attending added to the lustre of the occasion. As soon as the head table were seated after being led by a piper the Lieutenant Governor arrived with her piper and Guard of Honour. Her Majesty, the Queen sent a message, by cable which was read to all, wishing us a Happy Time, and her Portrait on the wall was illuminated all evening. There were two special speakers, Mr. John Robarts and Sir Edwin Leather, who was Governor Bermuda. There was a military band and two orchestras for dancing.

On Saturday, April 23, I attended the Dominion Council Meeting at Adolphustown, Ontario, driving from Toronto with the Dominion President Stuart Gilmor, and Mrs. Jean Goodger, Secretary, Mrs. Donna Knight, Treasurer and also President of the Toronto Branch, also Louise Beck of Governor Simcoe Branch,

and my very good friend. At the meeting I presented the gift of Mrs. Ruby Moore, the lovely wall-hanging depicting Queen Elizabeth II at the Coronation, with Prince Philip.

Next year, on May 5, 6, 7, the Convention will be at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, hosted by our London Branch. In 1979 the host will be Governor Simcoe Branch, Toronto.

Each president received a free copy of the tremendous work of Dr. Allan Walters and Committee on "Nomenclature". Copies may be bought at Headquarters for \$3.00 each, or \$3.50 mailed. All are urged to make a study of this and to have workshops.

I must thank every member of my executive, and indeed all members for all your assistance and willing understanding. We are most grateful for the beautiful Church Services we had, and where we have had the use of so many pleasant Church Halls, with coffee and tea provided.

Today we thank Mr. and Mrs. McCaw for their gracious invitation. We appreciate all of these, and Rev. Mr. Eddy and Rev. Mr. Willis. Rev. Dr. Willis for so kindly officiating at the day of Tribute to Christian Wehr, which was, to me, the most important work accomplished by the Branch. This program was done completely by Mrs. Ruby Moore assisted by Mrs. Dussault, Mrs. Arsene Galipeau and Mrs. Andre Verville, and Miss Julia Wehr. Thank you all.

I appreciate also, Mrs. Ruby Moore's work in arranging the Tree-planting Program. I was not able to be here on that day (April 23) as I was in Toronto, so I must publicly thank those who carried out this work for me.

Our two prizes offered for Historical Essays -- one for a French pupil, one for an English pupil of the Massey Vanier Regional School, is a new venture this year and I feel, a very important one.

Another important event was the awarding, last October I, of the Most Meritorious Heritage to Mrs. Ruby Moore -- A great Honour to a Great Lady. We are proud of your wonderful work!

The Bay of Quinte Branch will be making a tour of Quebec on July 1. I hope that we may extend a friendly hand to them when they call in Stanbridge East on the 3rd.

A new Branch will be opening in the vicinity of Cornwall and Morrisburg, Ontario. A close neighbour -- let us exchange meetings. it will be called "St. Lawrence Branch".

The Pilgrimage to Mount Johnson (Mont. St. Gregoire) was most enjoyable. Mrs. Joyce Bradford, Miss Lighthall and I were there along with Chambly Historical, The Richelieu Valley, De Salaberry. Readings of tribute to Sir John Johnson's memory were read in English and in French. Rev. Mr. Ramsey of St. Stephen's Church in Chambly made the Prayers of Remembrance when a sturdy stake of heavy metal was placed at the spot where the Memorial Cairn had been originally. It was a most moving occasion -- such a beautiful spring day with a huge orchard surrounding the spot and fruitful fields and meadows. There are fine farm buildings -- a peaceful and worthy spot.

On May 14th I was again in Toronto for the Annual Meeting. There was no Convention this year, but a concentrated and solid meeting. There were the usual reports and voting. As the afternoon session opened, I was called upon to present the beautiful blue Quebec Flag which was donated by Mrs. Ruby Moore in the name of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

Mrs. Joyce Bradford and I drove to Toronto with Mr. George van Koughnett.

At Mount Johnson

*How many autumns had he viewed
The tapestry of woods around the Mount
When Indians from far and wide Came to his home to barter skins
And smoke the pipe of peace beside
Did he envisage how these braves
Blood-brothers of their paleface chief
Would carry his remains in stalwart arms
The thirty funeral miles from river shore
To the top, to rest forever in its cairn
Each year, in autumn maples flaunt
Their rose and golden banners to acclaim
And weave a jewelled halo to his name.*

By Gwendolyn Norris Fuller

Obituary: **MISS ISABEL C. McCaw**

Miss Isabel Catherine McCaw, who died on July 3 at age 87 in Cornwall, Ontario was for many years in her younger days a reporter for the Montreal Star. Some of her outstanding articles following World War I dealt with the political and military situation in the Balkans, some of which she had witnessed at first hand.

As an ambulance driver with the Scottish Women's Hospitals' Motor Ambulance Column, attached to the Serbian First Army, she had personal experience of that small army's amazing capture of enemy strongholds on 7,000 foot highmountain ridges and "the subsequent pursuit which swept Bulgars, Austrians and Germans out of their beloved Serbia like chaff before the wind."

She also served in Greece and Macedonia and earned the ribbons of the Serbian gold "za Roznu sluzbu", First Class, which was equivalent to the British D.S.O., the Serbian Great War Active Service Medal, the Scottish Women's Hospitals' Medal, the General Service Medal and the Victory Medal. She was twice mentioned in despatches.

Miss McCaw, a graduate of McGill University, was the daughter of William McCaw, a noted Montreal insurance man and sportsman, and his first wife, Catherine Blacklock. As a descendant of Captain Ronald Macdonell (Leek), King's Royal Regiment of New York, who settled in St. Andrew's West, Ontario in 1784, she became a member of The United Empire Loyalists' Association and was a member of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. She is survived by her step-sister, Miss Gladys W. McCaw of Montreal and a nephew, William H. Calkins of Wilmington, Delaware.

1978 Spring

On October 15th the semi-annual meeting of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was held in Stanbridge East with members in attendance from various parts of the Eastern Townships and special guests from Dominion Headquarters in Toronto Mrs. Elizabeth Blair and Mr. E. J. Chard, and the Heritage Branch in Montreal, Mr. Malcolm Loucks, President, and Mrs. Joyce Bradford.

During the short business meeting, chaired by President Murray Mason, winners were announced of the History Essay Contest sponsored by the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch for the students of Massey Vanier High School. Prize winners are Dianne Berreault of Brigham and Gillian Horn of Sutton. They

receive copies of "A Portrait of Quebec" by Belowden Davis and "Loyalist Legacies", a publication of the Missisquoi Historical Society.

An ongoing project of the branch is the recording of information from cemetery tombstones around Missisquoi County, especially those where the stones have been broken, fallen into disrepair or vandalized. It was announced that the Pigeon Hill Cemetery has now been completed and headway has been made on the graveyard at Hunter's Mills.

The guest speaker, introduced by Mr. Glen Brown, was Mr. Stuart Gilmor, Dominion President, who made Stanbridge East his first stop on a tour of the branches of the organization. He told the gathering how delighted he had been to discover during a visit to the Missisquoi Museum earlier in the day that he had forebears in this area and had viewed a uniform on display that had been worn by Col. Henry Arthur Gilmour, a cousin of his father, during the battle of Eccles Hill against the Fenians in 1870.

Choosing as his topic "The Unity of Canada" Mr. Gilmor discussed the deep divisions in our country today, and remembering the 50,000 Loyalists who settled here following the American Revolution, he urged us all to take a stand and declare "for a united Canada". He reviewed the guidelines which urged: recognition and pride in our heritage of multiculturalism; justice rather than bigotry; acceptance of regional differences, necessity for certain central controls; a denial of the Associate States concept; a welcoming attitude to Quebeckers throughout Canada and an effort to get acquainted and to communicate our beliefs in the benefits of Confederation.

Mr. Gilmor was thanked by Mrs. Robert McCutcheon of West Brome who presented him with a copy of the local history "Loyalist Legacies".

Music was provided by Mrs. Bernice Moore at the piano and Reverend Flummerfelt on the trumpet. The meeting closed with the serving of refreshments.

1978 Autumn

On June 10, the annual meeting of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was held in Bedford at the home of Vice-President and Mrs. Mac Bradshaw, with thirty members attending from various parts of the Townships, Montreal and Hudson.

Following a picnic lunch on the grounds, the business meeting was held indoors in the recently renovated old home which had been built in 1889 as the original site of the F.W. Jones Beekeepers' Supplies business. Mr. Bradshaw related the history of the house which had stood vacant from 1917 until he and his family undertook to restore it in 1974.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Don MacCallum in the absence of the President, Mr. Murray Mason. A special welcome was extended to new member, Mrs. Hope Cotton Jenne of East Farnham who was presented with her Membership Certificate.

Mrs. Jenne traces her descent from the Reverend John Stuart of Kingston, Ontario, who having come to Canada in 1781 was Chaplain to the 2nd Battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York and father of the Upper Canada church.

Congratulations were extended to Mrs. Ruby Moore who is a recent recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal in recognition of her invaluable contributions to the work of the United Empire Loyalists over the years and the medal was formally presented by Mr. Neil Creller on behalf of the Association. Warm congratulations

were also extended to Past President Mrs. Gwendolyn Fuller who was recently honoured in Ottawa where she was invested as Dame of the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem.

Thanks were extended to Mr. Neil Creller who is retiring as Standard Bearer for the Branch and to Mr. Stuart Hawke who is relinquishing his' office as Treasurer.

Mr. and Mrs. MacCallum reported on the 1978 Dominion Conference of the United Empire Loyalists' Association which was held in London, Ontario from May 5th to 7th on the campus of the University of Western Ontario. Seven members from the Sir John Johnson Branch attended. Plans are underway for the celebration of the Loyalists' Bicentennial year in 1984. The 1979 convention will be hosted by the Governor Simcoe Branch in Toronto the last weekend in May.

Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Flora Rhicard, the following slate of officers was elected for the new year: Honorary President, Sir Peter Johnson; Past President, Mr. Murray Mason; President, Mr. Donald MacCallum; First Vice-President, Mr. Mac Bradshaw; Second Vice-President, Mr. Stuart Hawke; Secretary, Mrs. Margaret Mahannah; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Beryl Tremblay; Treasurer, Mrs. Edith Shufelt; Genealogist, Mr. Charles McCaw, Abercorn, Que.

- The Sherbrooke Record

Mrs. Gwendolyn Norris Fuller, Past President of the Branch spent six weeks during the summer in UK at the Congress of Organists held in Yorkminster and in Paris attending the International meeting of the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem.

1979 Spring

The 1978 summer outing of the Branch was held at Port Chambly on the Richelieu River where a tour of the old fort followed a picnic lunch on the grounds. Earlier some of the members had attended morning service at historic St. Stephen's Anglican Church at Chambly, originally the garrison church where Sir John Johnson and his family had worshipped for many years.

In October the semi-annual meeting was held at the United Church in Brigham, Que. following attendance at the morning service and a lunch in the Church Hall. Members Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Hawke had arranged a most interesting display of photos and antiques illustrating the history of the Brigham area.

The Branch was pleased to receive a generous cheque from Mrs. Carol Johnson, mother of our Honorary President Sir Peter Johnson, and it was decided to put it towards the restoration of old cemeteries. Most of the neglected cemeteries in the area have now been put in good condition, with a few remaining to be recorded. Other activities included the sponsoring of a history essay competition for both English and French High School students and the purchasing of books on local history to be donated to the Dominion Headquarters for their Quebec reference shelves.

We welcomed three new members during the past year: Mrs. Hope Cotton Jenne of East Farnham, Que. (Ancestor: John Stuart); Mrs. Helen Flowers Humble of Montreal (Ancestor: Robert Flowers Sr.); and Mrs. M. Stuart Beck of South Daytona, Florida (Ancestor: Robert Caldwell). We regret the passing of two valued members during the summer of 1978: Miss Julia Wehr of Montreal and Mr. Lloyd Bullock of Clarenceville, Que.

1979 Autumn

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch annual meeting was held on June 9 at the memorial Hall in Sutton, the last meeting for retiring president Mr. Donald MacCallum. Mrs. Gwen Fuller reported some of the highlights of the Dominion Convention held in Toronto in May, and also gave a talk concerning her great grandfather, Mr. Harlow Miner and his experiences in northern Ontario in search of silver.

The new officers of the Branch were accepted: Past president, Donald MacCallum; President, W.M. Bradshaw; Vice-President Mr. Stuart Hawke and Mrs. M. Mahannah; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Audrey McCaw; Treasurer, Mrs. Edith Shufelt; Genealogist, Mr. Charles McCaw; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Beryl Tremblay; Standard Bearer, Mr. Clifford Rhicard; Publicity, Mrs. Audrey McCaw; Historians, Mr. Murray Mason and Mr. Donald MacCallum; Social Conveners, Mrs. W. M. Bradshaw and Mrs. Murray Mason.

An interesting feature of this meeting was an exhibition of historical items brought by the members, mainly interesting objects which had been in use in the home many years ago. These included a stone bed warmer, an old tuning fork, butchering knives, a kerosene lamp globe warmer, and Mr. MacCallum's model of the ship Maria, which saw Revolutionary action on the Richelieu River.

Attention was drawn at this meeting to the Branch's acquisition of The Young and Allied Families in Missisquoi County, compiled by Bernard C. Young and printed by B. Harford Way, Fairport, N.Y., 1979. Encouragement should be given to those who are willing to produce other such compilations.

Illustrating their enthusiasm and friendship, on July 2 several) members of the Sir John Johnson Centennial branch, two of whom were Mr. Murray Mason and Mrs. Ruby Moore, were on hand at the United Church at Philipsburg to welcome members of the Bay of Quinte Branch returning from a bus trip to Vermont. The official welcome was given by the minister, the Rev. Keith Eddy and his wife and by Mr. Mac Bradshaw, Branch president. Philipsburg Chapel was erected in 1819 and this year is marking its 160th anniversary of continuous use. The memorial windows of the church, each commemorating a Loyalist family, were much admired by the visitors. The address given by the Rev. Keith Eddy was skilfully presented and, dealing as it did in part with the Samuel Embury family, was of great interest. In gratitude for the fine welcome given them, the Bay of Quinte Branch presented a gift to the church, accepted by Mr. Allan Field, the treasurer.

A third event of interest to members of the Branch and auguring well for a year of good fellowship was the annual picnic on Sunday, August 12, 1979, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald MacCallum of Noyan.

1980 Spring

The Sir John Johnson Branch was delighted to welcome Mrs. Carol Johnson and her daughter Mrs. Wanda Weycham, mother and sister of our Honorary president, Sir Peter Johnson of England. The ladies were vacationing in Canada and spending a few days in the Montreal area. Our President, Mr. M. Bradshaw motored them out from Montreal to the Missisquoi Museum at Stanbridge East where a tea was held in their honour. They were escorted on a tour of the Museum which houses much Loyalist memorabilia as well as the gravestone of Sir Peter's ancestor, Sir John Johnson.

1980 Fall

On June 7th, members of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch met in the Senior Club Room of the Emmanuel United Church in Cowansville for luncheon and the Annual Meeting. They were warmly welcomed by the Minister, Rev. Surjiniata, who commended the group for its interest in history, stressing that it is our knowledge of the past that helps us to understand both the present and the future.

Mr. Donald MacCallum of Noyan reported that much work has been done on the foundations of gravestones in the old Steel-Graves cemetery, and the dedication will take place at the Branch's annual picnic in Noyan on August 10th. Mr. MacCallum's story on Captain John Steel, buried in this cemetery, is included in the new publication of the Missisquoi Historical Society.

In the report of the Genealogist, seven new members were welcomed: Mrs. Doris Jones McIntosh of Bedford, Mrs. Elizabeth Jones Skinner of Lachine, Keith Edward Jenne of Rothesay, N.B., Carl Caleb Cotton of Chateaugay, Que., Charles Edward Cotton of Cowansville, Que., Richard Hall Cotton of Dunville, Ont., and Mrs. Cora Hazard of Sutton, Que.

Mrs. Ruby Moore reported that the annual Essay Contest sponsored by our Branch was well received and attracted many fine essays on local history from all over the area. Prizes of money were awarded to several students from Massey-Vanier High School, Cowansville. A donation was made to the Building Fund for the new vault at the Missisquoi Museum at Stanbridge East.

Officers elected for the new year 1980-1981 are: President: Mac Bradshaw; 1st Vice-President: Margaret Mahannah; 2nd Vice-President: Gwen Fuller; Rec. Secretary: Audrey McCaw; Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Keith Scott; Treasurer: Mrs. Edith Shufelt; Genealogist: Charles McCaw; Historian: ____, Standard Bearer: Clifford Rhycard; Social Committee: Mrs. Esther Mason, Mrs. Lucille Bradshaw, Mrs. Dorothy MacCallum, Mrs. Cora Hazard and Mrs. Chester Adams.

For membership in this Quebec Branch write to Mr. Charles McCaw, R.R. I, Abercorn, P.Q., J0E 1B0.

1981 Spring

Our Semi-Annual Meeting was held on October 26th at the Masonic Hall in Clarenceville, Que. following a pot luck lunch and a Silent Auction at which the donation of items by members raised a most welcome amount to bolster the coffers of the Branch. During the meeting a standing ovation was accorded our Past President, Mrs. Gwendolyn Fuller, who was recently honoured by the Heritage Branch as a recipient of a very special honour in recognition of her many contributions to the Association. Mr. Clifford Rhicard noted that \$51,000.00 had been collected for the new Archives at the Missisquoi Museum in Stanbridge East which has now been completed. Much satisfaction was expressed at the success of this important project which provides fire protection for valuable historical records. This museum, in addition to its many other functions, is the headquarters of our Branch.

The Genealogist announced that Mr. Thomas Chadsey of Ottawa, formerly of Bedford, P.Q., has been accepted as an Associate member.

Mr. Murray Mason and his daughter Freda were warmly thanked for their efforts last summer in recording the gravestones in Christ Church cemetery, Sweetsburg and for the list which he presented to the Branch. Most of the old cemeteries in the County have now been recorded and the Missisquoi Museum has a cross index of names for ready reference to assist family researchers.

There is a new, active and burgeoning association in Southern Quebec called the English Speaking Townshippers Association, which is helping to foster interest in our local heritage. It is "a movement to promote English language interests and to encourage English-speaking Townshippers to participate fully in the life and development of Quebec." It is not directed against our French-speaking fellow-citizens. "Most of us understand and sympathize with many of their aims and we wish to ensure the continuation of the harmonious relationship which has existed for generations

Aims include the encouragement of the English population to take active part in public life and support existing local institutions, to make direct approaches to the Provincial Government to solve problems that deeply concern us such as broader access to English-language education, improvement of French instruction in our schools, services in English for our unilingual elderly, handicapped and sick, and improved Government attitudes towards English-language libraries, theatres, museums, etc. The Association, now a year old, has over 6000 members, all proudly sporting our Eastern Townships tartan membership buttons, and regional tables have been set up in Waterloo, Richmond, Cowansville, Magog, Bedford and Melbourne. The Association publishes a quarterly newspaper entitled "Townships Crossroads" and has permanent offices in Sherbrooke at 31 KingSt. West and in Cowansville at 200 Davignon Boulevard.

During the summer, students working for the Association tended to a number of neglected burial grounds, sifted through 3500 photos gathered by the Eastern Townships Heritage Foundation, listed historical sites, acted as Museum guides and made reports on local health services.

1981 Autumn

Following within a week of Dominion Convention in Ottawa which several of our members were able to attend, our Branch gathered in Bedford. Quebec for our 1981 Annual Meeting.

A moment of silence was observed for the memory of four deceased members: Messrs. Chester Adams. Carl Cotton. Andrew E. Johnstone and Calno Primmerman. President Mac Bradshaw welcomed new members: Mr. A. Sidney McGaw of Sutton. Ancestor Ranald Macdonell: and Mr. Leon James Darrah also of Sutton. Ancestor Jacob Best. The Genealogist also announced the following new Associate Members: Mr. Thomas A. Chadsey of Ottawa. Mrs. C. B. Henry of Binghampton, N.Y., Mr. Sinclair McIntosh of Bedford. Que.. Mr. Ralph W. Rogers Jr. of New Kensington. Pa. and Mrs. Jean Scott of Cowansville. Que.

It was a particular pleasure to welcome as Guest Speaker, Mr. Gerald Rogers. President of Heritage Branch. Montreal. whose topic. "Where Your Ancestors Came From", was both informative and enjoyable. Mr. Rogers described with the aid of maps and well-chosen coloured slides. the areas in Europe. Britain and America from where the majority of our ancestors emigrated. He emphasized the differences in background of the various groups - German. Dutch. French Huguenot, British. etc. and the historical reasons that prompted their moves to this continent. His fine pictures of the Mohawk Valley indicate how well the Americans have preserved their historic sites and houses. representing both sides in the American Revolution.

Warm appreciation was extended to Mr. Mac Bradshaw as he relinquished the Presidency. Officers for the new year were elected as follows: President. Donald MacCallum. Noyan. Que.: 1st Vice-Pres.. Mrs. Gwendolyn Fuller of Montreal; 2nd Vice-Pres.. Mrs. Margaret Mahannah of Cowansville. Que. : Genealogist. Charles McGaw of Abercorn. Que.: Corres. Secy.. Mrs. Keith Scott. R.R. 2. Cowansville. P.Q.; Rec. Sec. Mrs. Audrey McCaw. Abercorn. Que.. Treasurer. Mrs. Edith Shufelt of East Farnham. Que.

Since last report we have been pleased to have members of the Heritage Branch, Montreal, join us for two of our functions, the summer picnic in July and our semi-annual meeting in September.

Our President, Donald MacCallum and wife Dorothy hosted the picnic at their home in Noyan, Que. The MacCallum farm is very historic, settled in the Loyalist days, and is located on the banks of the Richelieu River near the Vermont border. Later in the afternoon a cavalcade of the visitors drove over to the New York side to visit the ruins of Fort Montgomery. built during the war of 1812, and known as "Fort Blunder" as it was built on the wrong side of the international boundary.

On September 26th we were delighted to welcome our Dominion President. Mr. John A. Eaman and Mrs. Eaman to our semi-annual meeting in Stanbridge East, Que., and were happy that they could visit our Eastern Townships at a season when the glorious fall foliage colours were- at their best.

Mr. Eaman introduced by Mr. Gerald Rogers, President of Heritage Branch, addressed us on the topic of "Loyalists in the 1980's" and based his comments on a quote from Sir Winston Churchill: "Let your traditions be a rudder, not an anchor. in the voyage of life". He spoke of the future of the Association as well as the role of Loyalists in the days to come and spoke enthusiastically of plans underway for the Bicentennial celebrations which will enable us to perpetuate, dramatically, the story of our Loyalist ancestors.

Mr. Eaman was thanked by Mr. Murray Mason, and as a small token of our appreciation was presented by Donald MacCallum with a copy of "The Voice of Pike River", the latest publication of the Missisquoi Historical Society. Following the meeting members paid a visit to the Cornell Mill Museum which is also the official headquarters of our Branch.

1982 Autumn

The Annual Meeting of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was held on June 12th, in the Archives Building of the Brome County Museum in Knowlton, Que. Members and friends gathered in the Tea Room area for a picnic lunch and toured the Museum prior to the meeting.

The guest speaker, Mr. Gerald Rogers, President of Heritage Branch in Montreal, was invited again this year by popular request. He described, with the aid of fine coloured slides, his visit last autumn to the Bicentennial celebrations and battle re-enactment at Yorktown, Virginia, as well as his tours of the restored plantations at Jamestown and Williamsburg. Mr. Rogers was thanked by Mrs. Robert McCutcheon of West Brome who presented him on behalf of the Branch with a copy of the new history book published by the Missisquoi Historical Society.

As the business meeting commenced a moment of silence was observed in memory of two deceased members: Mrs. Marion Perkins and Mr. Clarence Hawley.

The Genealogist, Mr. Charles McCaw, introduced the names of two new Regular Members: Mrs. Jean A. McCaw of Sutton (Ancestor: Jacob Best) and Mr. Cameron A. McCaw (Ancestor: Ranald Macdonell) of Burlington, Ont. A new Associate Member is Miss Clare Snasdell-Taylor of Lachine and Abercorn.

On behalf of Heritage Branch, Mr. Gerry Rogers formally presented to Mr. Donald MacCallum an insignia to be worn by Branch Presidents during their term of office. This symbolic gesture, which is one of Heritage Branch's bicentennial projects, is an expression of fellowship and good will between branches and was much appreciated.

The following slate of Officers was elected for the new year: President: Donald MacCallum, Noyan, Que.. First Vice-President: A. Sidney McCaw, Sutton, Treasurer: Mrs. Edith Shufelt, East Farnham, Rec. Secretary: Mrs. Audrey McCaw, Abercorn, Corres. Secretary: Mrs. Jean Scott, Cowansville, Hospitality Convener: Mrs. Teddie Ruiter, Cowansville, and Genealogist: Mrs. Jean Darrah McCaw, Box 401, Sutton, Que. JOE 2KO.

1984 December

LOYALIST DAY AT MISSISQUOI BAY

In 1784 Governor Haldimand was adamantly opposed to settlement by the Loyalists at Missisquoi Bay at the north end of Lake Champlain, right on the border of the new United States. He threatened to send a "superior force" to drive them off. Many had already laid out lots, built huts and cleared land for farming and they were determined to stay, "whatever the consequences". The Government cut off their provisions for an entire year, but finally gave in to the defiant determination of these hardy pioneers who remained to found the Eastern Townships of Quebec.

As a bicentennial tribute to the arrival of these Loyalists on the shores of Missisquoi Bay, a day of celebration was held at Philipsburg on Sunday, July 8th, 1984. It was highlighted by a re-enactment of the confrontation between the Loyalist settlers, led by Hermanus Best (played by Sidney McCaw, President of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch) and the forces of Governor Haldimand represented by the Fraser Highlanders from Montreal.

The day began with a special Loyalist service held in the Philipsburg United Church, originally a chapel built in 1819 and associated with Philip and Samuel Embury, and the oldest former Methodist Church building still in use in the Province of Quebec. Rev. Keith Eddy was assisted by several "original Loyalists" in costume, who related the story of their background, struggles during the revolution and eventual settlement in the Philipsburg area.

Moving to the park on the shore of the Bay, visitors witnessed the landing of a pioneer family on a woodenpegged raft built by Loyalist descendant John Rhicard, a log-squaring display, a ceremonial tree-planting and a march-past by the pipes and drums of the Fraser Highlanders. The Town of Noyan provided a float depicting a Loyalist homestead and visitors were invited to tour a number of pioneer homes in Philipsburg and St. Armand, including a restored log cabin dating from about 1784.

The Day was planned by the Townshippers Association with the assistance of our Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the U.E.L. It was well covered by the media and was proclaimed a great success by the hundreds of visitors - both French and English - who attended.

1985 June

The speaker at our semi-annual meeting was Mrs. Margaret Ellis of Dunham, Que., who gave an excellent illustrated talk on the many historic homes of this Loyalist-founded town. In November our Genealogist, Mrs. Jean McCaw, presented a paper at the Quebec Family History Society in Lachine on the subject of "Loyalists of the Eastern Townships and Subsequent Settlement on the Crown Lands".

We are pleased to report that sales of our Bicentennial book, "Loyalists of the Eastern Townships of Quebec" have exceeded our expectations.

1985 December

Mrs. Audrey McCaw, Genealogist, autographing book, Mr. A.B. McCaw, President, Mr. Charles W. McCaw, a Past President, and Mrs. Dorothy MacCallum, wife of Immediate past president, Mr. Donald MacCallum.

Our Annual Meeting was held this year in Bedford, Que. at Wesley United Church. The mid-June meeting followed a luncheon catered by the United Church Women, and was attended by forty members and friends. Two guest speakers provided an interesting contrast in historical topics: Professor David McDougall of

Concordia University, Montreal, told the story of "John Schank's Navy" at the time of the American Revolution and Phoebe Hyde of Como, Que., President of Heritage Branch, dramatically portrayed the life of her Loyalist Ancestor, Margaret Switzer Embury Lawrence.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of several members recently deceased: Eldon Spencer, Ralph Savage Broadhurst, Christie Anne Hawke, Paige Pineo, Phyllis Harris, Mrs. Donald Blinn and Clifford Rhicard. The Genealogist, Jean McCaw, introduced the following new members who have joined since June, 1984: Harris Shufelt, East Farnham, Que., Ancestor: George Adam Shufelt; Mrs. Marjory Sutton, Lindsay, Ont., Ancestor Wm. Brisbin; Mrs. Isabel Meada Fraser, Hudson, Que., Ancestor Philip Luke; Ronald Martin, Bedford, Que., Ancestor George Rouse; Miss Viva Joyce Tozer, Verdun, Que., Ancestor Christopher Pearson; Mrs. Outler Jesse Robinson, Sacramento, California, Ancestor Jacob Best; Eleanor Page of Knowlton, Que., Madalene Darrah of Sutton, Que., Maureen Garrity of Pointe Claire, Que., Kenneth Hamilton of Granby, Que., Thomas Chadsey of Ottawa and Okill Stuart of Montreal, also a member of Heritage Branch. Mr. Jared Russell Tozer of Verdun, Que., a Life Member of this Branch, has recently been successful in proving his ancestry from Christopher Pearson.

There has been much increase in interest in the Townships and in family research since the publication of our Bicentennial Book: Loyalists of the Eastern Townships of Quebec and the Secretary reported that, with just a few remaining copies to be sold, the project has also been a financial success.

Murray Mason of Cowansville was Chairman for the Election of Officers. The Executive for the 1985-86 season are: Honorary President: Sir Peter Johnson, England; President: A.S. McCaw, P.O. Box 401, Sutton, Que. JOE 2KO (area code 514) 538-2345; VicePresident: Kenneth Hamilton, 55 Church St., Granby, Que. J2G 482,372-7558; Treasurer: Mrs. Freda (Teddie) Ruiter, 130 William St., Cowansville, Que. J2K 1K8, 263-3145; Secretary: Mrs. Audrey McCaw, R.R. 1, Abercorn, P.Q. JOE 1BO, 538-2465; Gazette Secretary: Mrs. Jean Scott, R.R. 2, Cowansville, Que. J2K 3G7, 2633402; Genealogist: Mrs. Jean McCaw, P.O. Box 401, Sutton, Que. JOE 2KO, 538-2345.

Our Branch summer picnic for 1985 was held on July 7th in conjunction with Pioneer Day (Fete du Pionnier) at Philipsburg, Que. on the shore of Missisquoi Bay. It began with a Loyalist Day service at Philipsburg United Church, closely associated with the Loyalist Embury family, and the day's activities included a picnic, a log-working exhibition, a visit from the regiment of Fraser Highlanders, Bagpipes and Scottish Dancing and various pioneer exhibits.

1986 June

Our previous semi-annual meeting was held in Stanbridge East. Forty members attended the meeting which followed a Pot Luck luncheon at noon.

Nine new Regular members and one Associate member were welcomed by the Genealogist, Jean McCaw. Mrs. Sheena Fraser McGoogan, Frederick Ian Fraser, Wm. A. Ross Fraser and Mrs. Elizabeth Mead Fraser Hall - all descended from Loyalist ancestor Philip Luke; Paige Knight, ancestor Peter Miller; Richard Arthur Martin, ancestor George Rouse; Mrs. June E. Tozer McCom and Mrs. Sybil Orian Tozer Barrett, both with ancestor Christopher Pearson; Mr. Wm. Eric Savage Pollard, ancestor: Capt. John Savage. Our new Associate member is Mr. Frederick R. Fraser. Mrs. Anna Harvey has received her certificate for third line of descent from ancestor Johannes Mock.

The Secretary reported that all copies of our Bicentennial book, LOYALIST OF THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS, have been sold and that the project proved to be a financial success in addition to the interest it generated.

President Sidney McCaw reported on the Annual Picnic which was held in conjunction with the Loyalist Pioneer Association at Philipsburg. He extended hearty congratulations to our members Ruby Moore and Flora Rhicard and her late husband Clifford Rhicard who recently received Parks Canada Centennial Awards for their contributions to local heritage. Also to member Don MacCullum and his son Bruce who have received special Century Certificates for their property at Noyan which has been in the family for 200 years. Congratulations were also expressed to member Major Hurdon Hooper of Fredericton, N.R. who was presented in August with the Chief of Defence Staff Commendation for his role in saving the life of an accident victim in this area.

Instead of one guest speaker, seven of our members took turns relating stories about their Loyalist ancestor, and this innovation was much enjoyed. Phyllis Hamilton spoke on Peter Miller; Eric Pollard on Capt. John Savage; Keith Scott on Daniel Scott; Anna Harvey on Christian Snyder and Hermanus Best; Meada Fraser on Peter Krans who married the daughter of Philip Luke; Ian Smith on Johanne Valentine Mock; and Mrs. Blanche Johnstone on Bishop Charles Inglis and Dr. John Haliburton of Nova Scotia.

1986 June – Second Report

On June 7th, 1986 fifty members and friends attended our Annual Meeting which followed a luncheon catered by ladies of Trinity Anglican Church, Cowansville. New members welcomed to the Branch were: Kathleen D. Palmer of Cowansville, Ancestor Peter Miller; Clarence Arthur Smith of St. Jean sur Richelieu, Ancestor Isaac Yerex who settled in Adolphustown, Ont., Paige Evan McCole of Calgary, Life Member, Ancestor Christopher Pearson of Gaspe. Also welcomed were Mrs. Phyllis Owen of Weir, Que., a longtime member who recently documented her descent from Benjamin Reynolds; and Mrs. Blanche Johnstone, also a longtime member, who has documented her descent from Bishop Charles Inglis of Halifax. Member Anna Harvey has documented a third line from Johanne S. Mock. Genealogist Jean McCaw also welcomed as an Affiliate Member Lieut. Col. Robert F. Galer of Columbus, Georgia, also a member of Toronto Branch; and two new Associate Members, Mr. Fred Fraser of Hudson, Que. and Mrs. Olive Pollard of Brome, Que.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of member Viva Joyce Tozer. The following members were honoured with the presentation of flowers: Mrs. Gwendolyn Fuller on the occasion of her 90th birthday, a Past-President of our Branch; Mr. Edith Shufelt, Charter Member, for her long service to the Branch, especially as Treasurer for many years; Mrs. Audrey McCaw who retires as Secretary after seven years' service. Bouquets were presented by Miss Janet Shufelt, grand-daughter of both Mrs. Shufelt and the President and grand-niece of Audrey McCaw.

Mrs. Flora Rhicard, with the aid of excellent slides taken by herself and Mr. Paige Knight gave an interesting and informative talk on the history and structure of the Yamaska River which winds through this part of the Eastern Townships. Mrs. Rhicard was thanked and presented with a gift by Jean McCaw.

The following slate of Officers was elected for the 1986-87 season: Hon. President: Sir Peter Johnson, Bt., Past-Pres: Donald MacCallum, President: A. Sidney McCaw, Box 401, Sutton, Que. J0E 2K0, 1st Vice-Pres: Kenneth Hamilton, 2nd Vice-Pres: Eric Pollard, Treasurer: Freda Ruiter, 130 William St., Cowansville, Que. J2K 1K8, Secretary: Mrs. Olive Pollard, R. R. 1, Brome, Que. J0E 1K0, Genealogist: Mrs. Jean McCaw, Box 401, Sutton, Que., J0E 2K0, Gazette Secretary: Mrs. Jean Scott.

1986 December

On August 20th, after a trip by ferry boat from the mainland to the Island, a group of twenty-four members of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch gathered on Ile-aux-Noix for a picnic and tour of Fort Lennox, located on the Richelieu River a few miles from the American border. Ile-aux-Noix has played an important part in Canada's military history especially in the 18th and 19th centuries. In 1921 it was designated an historic site and today is a well maintained and pretty National Historic Park with knowledgeable bilingual guides to show Fort Lennox to the public.

The semi-annual meeting of the Branch was held on October 19th at Granby United Church when forty-five members and friends enjoyed a pot-luck lunch. The members who attended the church sermon, entitled "Never Give Up", could have applied to our Loyalist ancestors. After the Presentation of the Colours and singing of GOD SAVE THE QUEEN, a minute of silence was observed in memory of the mother of Sir Peter Johnson, our Honorary President. President. Sid McCaw. introduced the speaker, Miss Marion Phelps, Archivist of Brome County Historical Society. whose topic was LEON LALANNE. N.P.. FIRST RESIDENT PRACTISING NOTARY FOR THE DISTRICT OF BEDFORD. (The District of Bedford included the present counties of Brome, Missisquoi and Shefford.) Miss Phelps told of his years in practice...1799-1845 and that his records are a good source for genealogical research in this area. Residing in Frelighsburg, he travelled throughout these newly-granted townships as well as to the Seigniories of Caldwell, Christie and St. Armand. Many of his letters to other prominent settlers proved to be as amusing as they were interesting. Audrey McCaw thanked the speaker and presented her with a small gift.

The business meeting followed and the president Sid McCaw called the meeting to order with a short address. The treasurer, Teddie Ruiter, reported a successful four months. The genealogist, Jean McCaw reported that Blanche Johnstone, of Hudson, has proved her second line of descent from Loyalist ancestor, Dr. John Haliburton, whose son Brenton Haliburton, was Chief Justice of Nova Scotia. A new Associate Member, Mrs. Elizabeth Hayes of Marblehead, Massachusetts was recorded as joining the Branch. Those working on their documentation are Sharon Faucher, William Hunter and several others. Phyllis Hamilton, our new Publicity Director, is working on a second line of descent from Loyalist ancestor, Daniel Scott, and Eric Pollard, our Second Vice-president, is proving descent from Johannes Mock as his second line.

Ruby Moore donated a silver tray for which tickets were sold and Mrs. Dorothy MacCallum was the lucky winner. A silent auction was held and well supported. The group signed a get-well card for Paige Knight. Gerry Rogers' suggestion of another trip next year to the Mohawk Valley was well received.

1988 April

The Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch had a busy year in 1987 and has plans for more exciting projects in 1988. The Annual meeting was held June 13, 1987 at Knowlton Legion Hall with 40 members present to celebrate our branch's 20th birthday with a luncheon and special cake. Mrs. Blanche Johnstone gave an interesting talk on her ancestor. Bishop Charles Inglis. 1st Bishop of Halifax. Mrs. Audrey McCaw spoke on Sir John Johnson's life and connection to the chapter. Joyce Bradford of Toronto also presented a demonstration of typical loyalist clothing. The new officers for 1987-88 were presented and installed. The new president. J .K. Hamilton, taking over from Sid McCaw who has served so well for the last four years.

The summer outing was a very interesting tour of Fort Chambly and area. including St. Stephen's Anglican Church, where Sir John Johnson worshipped. followed by a picnic and 1.5-hour boat cruise on the Richelieu River.

October 18, 1987, was the semi-annual meeting date and it was a pot luncheon in Sutton, Quebec. This was preceded by a memorial church service celebrating the Bicentennial of Bishop Charles Inglis, Loyalist, who started the Anglican Episcopate in Canada. The guest speaker was Dr. Robin Burns of Bishops' University whose topic was "Loyalists and Canadian History:"

Our membership continues to grow in spite of losses through death and we look forward to a successful and enjoyable year

By J.K. Hamilton, President

1988 Fall

Obituary: **MISS MAY SCOTT** of Cowansville, Quebec

On Friday, March 4, 1988, May Scott passed away at the B.M.P. Hospital, Cowansville, after a brief stay. Born at Sweetsburg, Quebec on July 31, 1913, fourth daughter of the late Landon Scott and Alice Westover. Miss Scott first received her education in the rural school at Scottsmore and Sweetsburg, later at Heroes' Memorial High School, Cowansville, and graduated from Macdonald College, Ste-Anne de Bellevue.

Before taking up her teaching career she lived on the home farm, Scottsmore Road. She taught her entire 35 years in the Eastern Townships at Sutton Junction, Dunkin, Mansonville, Beebe, Bedford and her last ten years at Parkview High School, Granby, retiring in 1968. She then returned to Cowansville to spend her retirement years and was very interested in keeping up the Scott Genealogy, these records having been kept since the year 1635.

March 31, The Record, Sherbrooke

Obituary: **GWENDOLYN (NORRIS) FULLER** UE. L.Mus., DLJ)

At the Montreal General Hospital on March 31, 1988, after a short illness bravely borne. Gwendolyn Norris Fuller passed away in her ninety-second year. Born in 1896 in Quebec's Eastern Townships, Gwendolyn Norris Fuller was active in the preservation of historical family and ancestral data. She graduated from McDonald College in Montreal with a Teacher's Diploma and taught for ten years. She was an accomplished musician and organist, with an L. of Music degree from McGill University. She was a singer and singing teacher and was active in painting as an artist (both portraits and landscapes) and teacher.

She was a Dame of the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem and Past President of the Sir John Johnson Branch of the United Empire Loyalists. A number of other accomplishments included Past President of the Women's Art Society, Past President of the Women's Branch of the Antiquarian and Numismatic Society and past member of the Casavant Society.

April 2, 1988, Montreal Gazette

1989 Feb

The semi-annual meeting of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the UEL. Association of Canada was held on October 23, 1988 at Dunham United Church Hall. 58 members and invited guests gathered

at noon to greet old friends over a glass of wine. Seventy-five people including the Yamaska Valley Barbershop Singers sat down to a delicious pot luck dinner.

Following the meal the Yamaska Valley Barbershop Singers presented a very enjoyable concert This was followed by an historical sketch entitled, "The Other Side of the Coin," a story of Jane Campbell's ordeal and survival after the Indian raid on Cherry Valley, New York. The monologue was performed by Phoebe Hyde of Heritage Branch and proved very interesting to all.

The business meeting was conducted by President Ken Hamilton and proceeded with minutes read by Phyllis Hamilton in the absence of Secretary Olive Pollard. Treasurer's report by Teddi Ruiter showing a healthy financial state. The Genealogist, Jean McCaw, reported on an upcoming Genealogy day to be held in Lennoxville, Quebec to help prospective members to process their membership applications. Our total membership is now 130 including regular and associate members. We have 3 new Associate Members: Mrs. Alice Burg, Vanderhoof, B.C. Mrs. Evelyn Lewis and Mr. Edmund Lewis of Cowansville, Quebec. Four regular members have been sent to Dominion Headquarters and 4 other people are working on their regular memberships.

Our branch has received a contribution of an extensive literary collection of the late Gwendolyn Fuller. Among these is the fascinating "Journal of Lady Polly Johnson." telling of her escape with her children from Albany. New York to Long Island.

Okill Stuart reported on preparations for the Dominion Convention to be held at Bishop's University. Lennoxville. Quebec in May. 1989. Heritage and Sir John Johnson Centennial Branches are looking forward to hosting this event for our organization.

The meeting closed with a general feeling that it was indeed an interesting and productive afternoon.

The *Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch* was very proud to be the first branch to have the pleasure of a visit from our new Dominion President, Lieut. Col. Frank Cooper. Col. Frank Cooper was welcomed by branch president, Ken Hamilton. at our annual meeting on June 11th, 1988. There were 45 members and guests present at a catered dinner in Trinity Anglican Church Hall in Cowansville. Quebec. We were also pleased to have Lieut. Col. Bill Smy. Dominion Treasurer, with us as well as a sizable delegation from Heritage Branch in Montreal.

Since the branch genealogist, Jean McCaw was unable to be present the following newly documented members were introduced by Audrey McCaw:

1. Vincent de Lourdes Leonard - ancestor – Capt. John Savage
2. Thelma Soule Gage - ancestor Timothy Soule
3. Ida Soule Clow - ancestor - Timothy Soule
4. Phyllis Buchanan Hamilton - ancestor - Daniel Scott - 2nd line ancestry
5. Todd Larry Westover - ancestor Randal Macdonell
6. Cynthia Chamberlin Lichtblau - ancestor - John Saxe
7. Gavin Darrah Anderson - ancestor Jacobus Best, Sr.
8. Eleanor Pollard Grenier - ancestor Capt John Savage
9. Rebecca Harvey Boiney - ancestor Hermanus Best

New Associate Members - Howard Dawson of Lachine. Quebec and Dr. Maurice Friot of Florida.

President Ken Hamilton. wife Phyllis and Vice President Eric Pollard and wife Olive attended the Dominion Convention on June 3rd and 4th, 1988 at Black Creek Village, Toronto. Ken Hamilton gave a short report

on the event which was followed by a more extensive report by Okill Stuart on the approaching 1989 Convention to be hosted by Heritage Branch and Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch at Lennoxville. Que.

Col. Frank Cooper then spoke to the meeting concerning his hopes and aspirations for the U.E.L. organization. He emphasized the need for increased visibility in the community and encouraging more youth involvement and interest.

Five of our members attended a garden party at "Greenwood, .. Como. Quebec where Phoebe Hyde of Heritage Branch entertained us so graciously on June 19th.

The summer outing for our branch was a picnic at Lake Stokely in Orford Park on August 11th. Thirty-five members and guests enjoyed a beautiful day in a beautiful setting.

In the past year our branch lost one of its past presidents and most active members, Gwendolyn Fuller. A delegation from the branch attended the graveside service on April 5 in Cowansville, Quebec and presented the U.EL. flag in her honour. She will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered.

By Phyllis Hamilton, Publicity Convenor

1990 Spring

Our branch was honoured to co-host with Heritage of Montreal, the annual convention of the Dominion Headquarters Association at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Quebec on May 18-22, 1989. This event capped 2 years of progressively intensive organization on the part of a committee chaired by Okill Stuart, a member of both branches. Now that it has taken place so successfully we can truly say that the pleasure was indeed ours, to have so many members from across Canada come to visit our part of the country, and we hope to have them appreciate, what we as well as our Loyalist ancestors, love about the Eastern Townships of Quebec. His Royal Highness, the Prince Philip, gained many admirers during his gracious visit.

The annual meeting of the branch was held at the Anglican Church Hall in Stanbridge East, Quebec on June 10th with 52 members and guests attending a catered luncheon. Following the meal the group was entertained by a local square dance group called "The Brome Squares." During the business meeting a minute of respectful silence was observed for 2 recently deceased members, Mrs. Rebecca Boiney of Essex Junction, Vermont, U.S.A. and Mrs. Gladys Darrah of Sutton, who would have been 100 years in August, 1989. The branch genealogist reported 122 regular documented members, 44 associate and 1 honorary member. President Ken Hamilton reported on his past 2 years as present and thanked all who had helped our branch to so successfully host the convention. A short ceremony followed in which the responsibilities of the new officers were explained to them and the chain of office was passed from Ken to the new president, C. Arthur Smith of St. Jean-Sur-Richelieu, Quebec. The decision to support the establishment of a new branch of the U.E.L. located in Lennoxville will be a project for the future.

The branch summer picnic was held on August 2 at the beautiful century farm of Don and Dorothy MacCallum, on the banks of the Richelieu River at Noyan, Quebec, near the American border. The stone house was built for Daniel MacCallum in 1832 at a labour cost of \$294.00. The original settler here was Capt. John DeWar who served in Sir John Johnson's K.R.R.N.Y. and was involved in the raids made on the Mohawk Valley and Johnson, N.Y. He acquired the land in 1784 from the "Sieigneurie de Foucault" later known as "Caldwell's Manor" - now Noyan, Quebec. The 44 members present enjoyed a tour of the house, the old barn erected 1786 and the old loyalist cemetery nearby.

The semi-annual meeting was held on October 1, 1989 at St. John's Anglican church in West Shefford (now Bromont), Quebec. Once again we were blessed by a beautiful warm day as 60 members gathered at the 168 year old parish for a service conducted by the branch members. Loyalist Captain John Savage and his associates were the first settlers in the Shefford County and at 80 years of age he was the founder of the first St. John's church built here in 1821. The present brick church was constructed in 1889 when the original wooden church was demolished. The bell and baptismal font date back to the first church. Following the church service, all retired to the cemetery for a short memorial service at the newly erected cairn in honour of Capt. John Savage, his wife and the other pioneers who first settled in Shefford.

A delicious pot luck dinner was served in the hall and then a most enjoyable program of slides of the national U.E.L convention was presented by Gerry Rogers, U.E. of Heritage Branch, Montreal. The day's activities concluded with the business meeting, conducted by president Arthur Smith. Our membership has now increased to 130 regular documented members, 41 associate and 1 honorary member. It was decided that one of our projects for the future will be to work in collaboration with our local historical societies to see that our old cemeteries are properly maintained and to prevent neglect or desecration of these. We feel that we owe this to our ancestors who struggled so hard to build this country. "Lest they be forgotten."

By Phyllis Hamilton UE.

1990 Fall

On May 18, 1990, Ruby Laduke Moore died at Le Foyer Sutton, after months of slowly declining health. With her passing, Brome-Missisquoi lost one of its best known and respected citizens.

It was largely at Ruby's initiative that the Sir John Johnson Branch came into being. Negotiations with Dominion headquarters which began in 1965, led to an inaugural meeting in 1967 and culminated in presentation of the Branch's charter in 1968. Through these formative years Ruby was the guiding light and administrative force. She served for several years as genealogist and, in effect, the branch's historian. Following retirement from office, she contributed much as advisor to those who followed, and as an enthusiastic member.

The Annual Meeting of the branch was held on June 9, 1990, at the Knowlton Legion Hall. A delicious roast beef dinner was served to 53 members and guests.

Following the meal we were privileged to have Gary Schroder, historian and genealogist from the Quebec Family History Society, as guest speaker. He explained the sources of genealogical research available to us and emphasized that Quebec has the richest variety of easily accessible genealogy resource material in all of Canada, including duplicates of all parish registrations from the 17th century. Vice President, Vincent deLourdes Leonard, sent Mr. Schroder with a copy of the new Missisquoi Historical Society publication, "Business in Missisquoi".

A few moments silence were observed for recently deceased members; Edward Luke of Cowansville, Mrs. Isabella Craighead Jackson of Bedford and Mrs. Ruby Laduke Moore of Sutton, Quebec. Mrs. Moore was the founder of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch in 1967 and charter member and first genealogist thereof.

Many members of the branch attended the memorial service for Ruby Moore in Stanbridge East United Church on May 25, 1990. Our flags were displayed during the service conducted by the Rev. Blair Corcoran of Bedford, Quebec, and flowers from the branch were placed in the chancel. Past President and close

friend, Sid McCaw, U .E., of Sutton read the eulogy prepared by friends Paige Knight UE, and Wesley Gage of Stanbridge East. Ruby's enthusiasm and knowledge will be sadly missed.

Past President, Ken Hamilton, presented genealogist, Jean McCaw UE, with a lifetime membership in appreciation for the past eight years of dedicated work spent helping so many of our members to document their Loyalist ancestry.

Jean presented her report showing a total of 132 members with the following newly documented members:

1. Glenn Taylor of Phoenix, Arizona whose ancestor is Gilbert Hyatt, founder of the city of Sherbrooke, Quebec.
2. Lionel Jurd of Sawyerville, Quebec whose ancestor is Col. Edmund Heard, founder of Newport Township.
3. James Corcoran of Cleveland, Ohio, whose ancestor is Capt. John Savage, founder of Shefford Township.

President C. Arthur Smith presented the branch with the membership award received by our branch at the National Convention. We documented forty new members for which we received fourth prize both for numbers and percentage of increased membership.

The President reported on the activities at the spring U.E.L. Dominion Convention held in Oshawa, Ontario in May. Phyllis and Ken Hamilton, Eric and Olive Pollard, plus Arthur and Isabel Smith attended and found it very interesting and enjoyable to meet old friends.

Past President. Ken Hamilton, presented the following slate of officers who were declared duly elected:

Honourary President, Sir Peter Johnson, BL
President. C.A. Smith UE
Vice President Vincent Leonard UE
Treasurer Freda Rüter
Secretary & Publicity Phyllis Hamilton UE
Gazette Secretary Evelyn Lewis

On July 18, 1990, our branch held their summer picnic at the summer home of our President on Drummond Point, Lake Memphremagog. This land originally belonged to Judge, the Honourable L.T. Drummond, K.C. who was probably best known for the part he played in the abolition of Seigniorial Tenure in the Province of Quebec. He served on the Seigniorial Court in 1855. President Arthur and Isabel Smith hosted a delightful get together for 30 members and friends on a beautiful summer day.

Following the outing a delegation attended the granting of their charter to the new U.E.L. branch of "Little Forks" at Lennoxville, Quebec. Past Dominion President, Lieut. Col. Frank Cooper of Ottawa made the presentation which was followed by a social gathering at "Uplands Museum". President C.A. Smith presented a George III flag and standard to the new branch from the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch.

The branch continues to document the cemeteries of the area and hopes to complete the Shefford County, Granby area in the near future. These records will then be presented to the interested historical societies.

A series of histories of many of our Eastern Townships' churches is being published in a local newspaper and appears to be inspiring a keen interest. Lest this heritage be forgotten it is hoped that if there is sufficient interest, a book may be assembled.

By Phyllis Hamilton UE

1991 Spring

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada was held on October 28, 1990 at Grace Anglican Church in Sutton.

Many members attended morning prayer service at 11 a.m., and following this, a delicious pot luck meal was served in the Church Hall and enjoyed by 50 members and friends of the branch.

After lunch the group was treated to an interesting talk and slide presentation by Gerry Rogers of Heritage Branch of Montreal. The theme was "The Loyalist Migration" and Gerry helped us to visualize the journey of our religiously persecuted Palatine ancestors who travelled from the Frankfurt area and Heidelberg and Stuttgart and on down the Rhine to Amsterdam. From Amsterdam they sailed to London and were settled by Queen Anne in camps, until many of them were able to emigrate to Ireland and America. In America, many of the German immigrants proceeded "to the Mohawk Valley in New York. At the time of the American Revolution they remained loyal to the English king and as a result suffered great losses. Once again they emigrated-this time to Canada. Mr. Rogers also showed slides of the Welsh, Irish and Scottish lands that many of our ancestors left behind as they journeyed to a new land. The pictures of Sir William Johnson's home and of Johnson Hall, as well as the Butler House in the Mohawk Valley, were very interesting as Gerry explained the history surrounding them.

President Arthur Smith thanked Gerry Rogers for the very informative presentation and a token of appreciation was presented to him later in the program.

A successful silent auction of old and new treasures was presided over by Teddi Ruiter.

At the business meeting which followed, genealogist, Jean McCaw, reported that the Branch membership is now 132, with 4 new applications for membership sent to Dominion Headquarters for certification. Three other people are researching their loyalist background for membership.

The cemetery committee continues to research and document the local cemeteries with results being deposited in museums.

Mr. Herb Derick related recent correspondence he has had with a contact in New York State concerning Loyalist background and also showed a very interesting Register from the Gilead Lutheran Church. This shows birth records from 1777 to 1879 including many Loyalist ancestors.

It was suggested that our Annual meeting be held at Philipsburg, Quebec and the date will probably be June 8th, 1991. Members will be notified in the branch Spring Newsletter.

Mrs. Beryl Hauver Tremblay, one of the co-founders of this Branch, passed away on November 19, 1990. Although not active in recent years, her interest and dedication will be remembered with appreciation and sorrow at her loss.

By Phyllis Hamilton UE

1991 Fall

The Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch held their Annual Meeting in the Legion Hall at Philipsburg, Quebec on June 8, 1991.

Sixty members and friends enjoyed a roast beef dinner served by the Legion Auxiliary. Among our guests we were honoured by the presence of the retired Bishop of Quebec and Chaplain Emeritus of Bishop's College School in Lennoxville, the Rt. Rev. Timothy J. Matthews. We have all been saddened by the recent death of this great clergyman.

The business meeting chaired by our President, C. Arthur Smith, followed. The genealogist, Jean McCaw of Sutton, reported that due to transfers and cancellations our up-dated membership is 99 regular members, 34 life and affiliate members, 31 associate and one honorary, making a total of 130.

Eric Pollard reported that the documentation of cemeteries in the Granby area is continuing and Phyllis Hamilton reported that the histories of the early churches in our area being published weekly in one local newspaper and seem to be stimulating historical interest by the readers. Plans for a bursary to be offered at the elementary school level for essays emphasizing the Loyalist influence in settlement of our Eastern Townships area were inaugurated with Evelyn Lewis of Cowansville being in charge of this.

Mr. Milton Peters of the Brome County Historical Society, spoke to us of plans being considered for celebration of the Bicentennial in 1992 of the founding of the Eastern Townships following the proclamation by Governor Alured Clark authorizing the survey.

The following new officers for 1991 -1992 were installed by Norman Stone of Granby:

- . Honourary President- Sir Peter Johnson, Bart.
- . Past President-C.A Smith
- . President Vincent de Lourdes Leonard
- . 1st Vice President- J.K. Hamilton . Secretary- Phyllis Hamilton
- . Treasurer- Freda Ruiter
- . Genealogist- Jean McCaw
- . Gazette Secretary- Evelyn Lewis

Following the meeting, an interesting historical sketch on the escape from the rebels of Lady Polly Johnson was performed by Phoebe Hyde of Heritage Branch. Since it was based on a copy of a journal given by one of Sir John Johnson's descendants to one of our members and through her to our branch, it proved especially fascinating as the story unfolded before us.

The Annual Summer Outing took place on July 17th in the form of a picnic at the summer home of our past president and his wife, Arthur and Isabel Smith. Thirty people enjoyed a beautiful warm day at Drummond Point on the shore of Lake Memphremagog.

On August 13th, 20 members of our branch journeyed to St. Jean sur Richelieu to attend the American Canadian History Forum celebrating the 325th Anniversary of the establishment of the 1st fort there in 1666. Historians from Northern New York, Vermont and Southern Quebec attended the seminar conducted at the College Militaire Royale de St. Jean and we all learned much as we participated in this "hands across the border" approach to our history.

Two of our members also conducted a group of seniors from Montreal on a tour of the Loyalist area of the Eastern Townships on August 7th. It seemed to inspire a great deal of interest as they journeyed from Sherbrooke to Stanbridge East and viewed the route the early settlers travelled on their way up from Missisquoi Bay and St. Armand, Quebec.

Two other members served on the Publication Committee for the Brome County Historical Society's Volume 8 of "Yesterdays of Brome County" now available for sale.

By Phyllis Hamilton UE

1992 Fall

Our branch held its annual meeting in Philipsburg, Quebec on June 8th, 1992. Fifty members and friends attended the dinner and meeting. Many visited the Philipsburg United Church on Missisquoi Bay which is the original old stone Methodist Church built by Loyalist two hundred years ago. It is now considered to be the oldest such church in continual use in Canada.

As this was our branch's twenty-fifth anniversary, a special birthday cake was cut celebrating the event. Mr. Murray Mason, our first President, paid tribute to the late Mrs. Ruby Moore and Mr. E. J. Chard of Toronto who were responsible for the inception of our branch. Mr. Frank Winser proposed a toast to the past executives.

President Vincent Leonard asked for a minute of silence in memory of Mona Charters who passed away last year. Jean McCaw, genealogist, reported new members including Mrs. Coila Smith Corey whose Loyalist ancestor was Peter Hawley, Grantee of the Township of Sutton and Mr. Craig Dash of Barbados whose ancestor was Jonathan Sewell, Chief Justice of Quebec.

Mrs. Evelyn Lewis reported on the Loyalist Essay Contest in which First prize was won by Amanda Gagnon and second prize won by Carol Lee Bowles. Audrey McCaw of the Book Committee reminded members of the reprint of our 1984 "Loyalists of the Eastern Townships". To order one, contact the Knowlton Museum, Brome Missisquoi Historical Society, Arlene Royea or Marion Phelps.

Past President Arthur Smith took the floor for the election of officers. Mr. Norman Stone of Granby spoke of the Savage Family Reunion in Bromont, Quebec on July 10th to 12th. Everyone agreed that a most pleasant and congenial afternoon had been spent with members and friends.

1994 Spring

The year 1993 was an interesting and eventful one at our Branch. Our annual meeting was held in Philipsburg, Quebec on June 5th where 53 members and friends enjoyed a roast beef dinner followed by a very informative talk by Mme. MariePaule Labreque, historian, who spoke on "The Loyalist Influence and the Formation of the First Six Counties of the Eastern Townships.

Mme. Labreque has been a delegate on the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations; is a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Museum of Canada; has been honoured by the Eastern Townships Research Centre at Bishop's University and a recipient of the Governor General's Commemorative Medal in 1993. She has written several books on the history of Acton Vale, Quebec.

It was interesting to learn that when the Loyalists came into the French Counties, the French did not like the English laws of inheritance. The English believed you could have a will and leave your estate to whomever you wished and the French thought this was immoral and that half your estate should go to your wife and the other half to your children. Each seigneur had his own notary and the Americans though this was wrong because notaries put deeds in cupboards and no one ever saw them again. The French did not like the idea of Registry Offices so in Lower Canada at that time there were no central offices where anyone could go and "snoop" as they thought.

In 1829, six counties (Sherbrooke, Shefford, Stanstead, Megantic, Mississquoi, Drummond) were formed with 84 unpaid Deputies for half a million people.

Our annual summer picnic was held at the Brome County Historical Society Museum in Knowlton, Quebec. This and the Mississquoi Museum in Stanbridge East, Quebec where the picnic was held the year before, are marvellous sites "to do a little research." Both have displays pictures and books on sale for all of by-gone days. At the picnic in Knowlton the members were interviewed by Jennifer Ludden, of American Public Broadcasting, for the United States radio stations.

Our semi-annual meeting, in October, was at Granby United Church in Granby, Quebec. A Communion service by Rev. Tom Edmonds was followed by a pot luck meal in the church hall. Lawyer Clarence Fiske, related many amusing anecdotes of oral history related to his memories of farm life in Glengarry.

Participation in Townships Day at Brome helped increase our membership by three to 127. New members are: Elizabeth Baker of Bedford [George Hauk]; Adelaide Lanktree and Louise Hall of Farnham [Jeremiah Spencer, ancestor of both).

Our Branch is working on the publication of *Country Churches*, the histories of many Protestant Churches in Bedford District, Eastern Townships. We have compiled fascinating histories, which might be lost, and can now be passed on to new generations, purchased as gifts or sent to other parts of the world. If interested contact Mrs. Phyllis Hamilton, Country Churches, 55 Church Street, Granby, Quebec J2G 4S2.

By Mary-Gordon Leonard, Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch

1994 Fall

Obituary: **Herbert Ray Derick**

Eastern Townships Herbert Derick of Lennoxville died recently in his 78th year. He will be buried on February 12 in the village of Noyan, Missisquoi County, Quebec, where he was born on September 2, 1916.

The Government of Quebec's first Regional Industrial Commissioner for the Eastern Townships, Mr. Derick was well known for his interest and involvement in industrial development and in a number and variety of historical and other organizations.

He was the eldest son of a fifth-generation United Empire Loyalist family which settled in the Richelieu valley during the American Revolution. Family members served in the armed forces during the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the 1837-38 Rebellion, the Fenian Raids and Red River Rebellion, Northwest Canada 1885 Rebellion, both World Wars, and in peace-time militia.

Mr. Derick's formal schooling was in Lacolle and Bedford, Quebec, in a society which placed high value and emphasis on service to God, King and Country. An active athlete and outdoorsman from an early age, he was a fully bilingual Canadian and Quebecer.

Shortly after the outbreak of World War II, he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He served as a Wireless Air Gunner in Coastal Command, flying some 579 hours in 55 wartime operational missions in B-24 Liberators and Whitley heavy bombers of Royal Air Force (RAF) 11 B.R 58 and 86 Squadrons and Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) 11 B.R. Squadron. He was promoted seven ranks, to Flying Officer during the war. Honourably discharged in 1945, he received the Operations Wing, 1939/45 Star, Atlantic Star, Defence Medal, Canadian Voluntary Service Medal with clasp, and 1939/45 War Medal. In 1993, the

Governor General of Canada awarded him the Canadian 125th Anniversary Medal, which was presented to him by the Hon. Jean Charest, M.P. for Sherbrooke and Deputy Prime Minister of Canada.

In 1946, Mr. Derick joined the Government of Canada as an immigration officer at Lacolle, Quebec. In the early 1950s, he was promoted to the Immigration Department's district office in Montreal, where he served as Assistant Regional Settlement Supervisor, arranging for new Canadians to settle on farms and in commerce and industries in southern Quebec. In 1959, he represented Immigration at the Canadian Consulate in Chicago, Illinois.

In late 1959, he joined Southern Canada Power Corporation in Montreal as Assistant Industrial Manager. In 1964, he moved to the Government of Quebec's Department of Industry and Commerce. Based in Sherbrooke, he served as Quebec's first Regional Industrial Delegate for the Eastern Townships.

By the time of his retirement in 1981, Mr. Derick's efforts to encourage the development of new industries and jobs in southern Quebec had assisted in the creation of some 50 new and expanded industrial operations and thousands of new jobs. He was extensively involved in the creation of municipal industrial parks in the cities of Sherbrooke, Magog, Lake Megantic and many other communities throughout the Townships.

In 1967, he served at the Expo 67 Montreal World Fair as the Quebec Industry and Commerce representative of the International Trade Centre. He was a long-time member of the Industrial Commissioners Association of Canada and of the Association des commissaires industriels du Quebec, of which he was a former Director.

Mr. Derick served a large number of organizations as a member and volunteer. A member of the Anglican Church of Canada (St. Thomas Church, Noyan, Que. and St. George's Church, Lennoxville, Que.), he was a founder and Warden of Trinity Church, St. Bruno, Que.

An avid outdoorsman and conservationist, he was a long-term member of the Compton County, Hereford (past-President), and Highlands Fish and Game Clubs. Following his retirement, he worked as a volunteer Auxiliary Game Warden for the Quebec Government.

In 1967, he was a founding member of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada; he is a past-President of that Eastern Townships branch.

He was a long-time member of the Compton, Stanstead, Brome and Missisquoi Historical Societies, and the founding President of the Lennoxville Ascot Historical Society and this Canadian Legion.

He was a member and past-President of Royal Branch 11 of Lacolle, Que. for more than 40 years. He was a member of the Wireless Air Gunner's Association of Canada and was a member and past President of the Lennoxville Rifle Club, where he assisted for many years with the youth section. He was a member of the Lower Canada Arms Collectors Association and Military Collectors' Association of Canada, and was awarded the latter association's service medal in recognition of his research and articles on various subjects related to Eastern Townships military history.

An avid genealogist, he exhaustively researched and completed a definitive genealogical history of the Derick and related families.

Over the years, he was the author of numerous articles on Eastern Townships history which was published in regional newspapers and various historical and other journals. He was a long-standing member (of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada.

Mr. Derick is survived by his wife Lucille M. (George) Derick of Lennoxville, Que.; son Brian and wife Catherine and their son of Nepean, ant.; daughter Jane and husband Steven Heiter of Ottawa, ant.; and son John of Ottawa, Ont.

WESTWARD HO THE LOYALIST GO by Jean Darrah McCaw

For the first time in eighty years the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada held their annual convention in British Columbia from May 19th through the 22nd. Also for the first time the incoming President for 1994-1995, Okill Stuart of St. Lambert, is a Quebecer. On Monday the 16th a large group arrived in Calgary, to be welcomed at the University with a cocktail party and reception by members of the Calgary Branch. The next morning two large buses were filled to capacity for the trip through the beautiful Rocky Mountains. Volunteer guides provided commentaries of history, lore and legends.

The Toronto Branch, having planned the tour, was represented by Doreen Macnab who kept track of passengers, wheelchairs, canes, cameras and luggage on both buses, counting heads at each stop. The scenery was breathtaking, Banff and Lake Louise especially. At Kicking Horse Pass, where a train was going through the spiral tunnels, everyone was able to witness this amazing engineering feat, which the Canadian Pacific Railway undertook in order to overcome the steep mountain grades. The night was spent at the Stockmen's Hotel in Kamloops where everyone enjoyed talking to old friends as they shared dinner and looked forward to the next day.

On Wednesday morning everyone boarded early and the buses headed into a very different terrain from the majestic mountain scenery of Rogers Pass. We followed the Thompson and then the Fraser River to Hell's Gate Canyon. This awesome gorge has been an obstacle to transportation from the days of the first explorers. There was a feeling of sharing history with Simon Fraser, David Thompson and Alexander MacKenzie. These were places where many perished during the gold rush days. History was made at Craigellachie where the last spike was driven to finish the railway line to the Pacific. The theme of the 1994 convention was "From Sea to Sea" and the completion of the railroad was the beginning of a united Canada 'from Sea to Sea.' Later that afternoon the group was welcomed by the Chilliwack Branch. Each lady was presented with a fresh rose, given to them by members dressed in Loyalist costume. That evening the group attended a beautiful reception and dinner, put on by the Culinary Class of the Chilliwack Secondary School and members of the Branch. The program included a special ceremony to celebrate the 80th UEL Anniversary and a welcome to British Columbia. During breakfast on Thursday morning, hosted by the Women's Promontory Institute, the Town Crier, Gordon Taylor, read a proclamation stating that the week of May 17th to the 24th had been declared Loyalist Week by the British Columbia Legislature.

On the way in to Vancouver a short stop was made to visit the old trading post at Fort Langley and then on to the University of British Columbia. Following registration and the pleasure of a brief rest, everyone was escorted that evening to the Vancouver Museum. There we were welcomed by the Vancouver Branch and shared a buffet table. The annual general meeting was held on Friday the 20th, followed by a Salmon Feast at Brock House and a costume parade. The following day was taken up with seminars and interesting lectures. That evening the annual banquet was held at the University Faculty Club where everyone enjoyed the elegant setting and the excellent meal. The guest speaker, the Honourable Janice Potter MacKinnon, Saskatchewan Minister of Finance and a leading scholar in Loyalist history and author of several books, shared the wartime experiences of Loyalist refugee women. Our new President, Okill Stuart, again reiterated his intention to publicize the Loyalists and remove the stigma that "they are the best kept secret in Canada".

On Sunday morning those who had planned on attending the Victoria Branch functions, crossed to the Island by bus and car from the Tsawassen Ferry Terminal to Swartz Bay. At Butchart Gardens many rolls of film were used to record the beautiful flowers. Then on to the Queen Victoria Inn for registration and a general spruce-up before attending the very impressive Loyalist Service at Christ Church Cathedral. There Okill Stuart and his brother Campbell, President of Victoria Branch, read the lessons. That evening everyone attended a reception and buffet at the beautiful old Oak Bay Beach Hotel where Campbell Stuart welcomed everyone to Victoria and participated in the unveiling of a commemorative plaque.

The next day on May 23rd, everyone gathered at the Sticky Wicket Pub for brunch and to watch the annual Victoria Day parade from this choice vantage point. In the afternoon many boarded the London double decker bus for a city tour. On Tuesday morning the bus left on a mini tour en route to Nanaimo and the return ferry crossing to Vancouver. On the way they visited Goldstream Park, the Malahat Lookout, the Native Heritage Centre, the beautiful murals in the town of Chemainus and enjoyed a delicious lunch before catching the ferry. They arrived at the Delta Inn for a late supper and early retirement to prepare for departure the next day for various destinations across Canada. The Convention and the experience of enjoying so much together, has resulted in a reawakening of fellowship and of sharing a common heritage of Loyalists across Canada.

1995 Spring

The Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch held their semi-annual meeting on October 23rd at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hall in Cowansville, Quebec and were privileged to have ~s a guest speaker, Mr. Denis Lewis of Morrisonville, N. Y., USA. He was introduced by Norma Stone, UE. With the demonstration of slides the speaker told us of the forts along the route extending from Lake George through Lake Champlain to the Canadian border and continuing on the Richelieu River to Sorel on the St. Lawrence River. This was considered to be the super highway of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries and much of our settlement and history took place along this route.

Mr. Lewis explained how many of the forts were constructed and then later destroyed. These included Crown Point, Port Ticonderoga, Fort William Henry, Fort Edward, Fort Isle aux Noix, Fort Chambly, and Fort St. Anne built on Isle La Motte in 1665-66. Fort St. Jean became the entry point for many of the Loyalists coming north to Canada because of the facility of this route.

It is interesting to note that the United States has voted to create a Heritage Corridor in this area. It is hoped that Canada will also preserve their part in the construction of these fortresses. This is an important beginning in the history of our country and especially the Eastern Townships. Vice-president Clayton Smith thanked the speaker and presented him with a copy of the branch book Loyalists of the Eastern Townships.

1995 Fall

Our Branch held its 1995 Annual Meeting at the Legion Hall in Philipsburg, Quebec on May 27th, following a roast beef dinner catered by the ladies of the Legion Auxiliary.

Ken Hamilton extended a special welcome to Dominion President Okill Stuart, President Robert Wilkins of Heritage Branch and his wife Maura, and to several visitors from Ottawa. A tribute was paid to a former branch genealogist and long-time member, Charles McCaw, who had died in March.

The guest speaker, Donna Boyce of Sutton, gave a most interesting and informative talk on "The Home Children" a group of British children who came to Canada from shelters in England between 1872 and 1902. Mostly orphans, they were dispersed from the Knowlton, Quebec Distributing Home to local farm families where they helped with the work load. Despite some mistreatment, most grew up to become good citizens and an asset to Canada.

In September 1994 our branch participated with a display at Townshippers' Day at Bishops University in Lennoxville and in May our Genealogist Jean McCaw was guest speaker at a meeting of The Group of Seven Historical Societies on the topic of "Loyalist Women".

By Audrey M. McCaw, Branch Publicity

1996 Spring

Our branch's summer picnic was held on August 2nd on the grounds of the Brome County Museum in Knowlton, Quebec. Members and friends from all parts of the Townships and Montreal enjoyed the first cool day in several weeks. President Clayton Smith extended a welcome and invited everyone to tour the Museum. A note of interest is that Phyllis Hamilton of Granby, Secretary of the host branch, is author of a book on "Country Churches" which is presently in production and will provide a valuable historical record of mainly Protestant churches in the western part of the Townships.

Our Semi-Annual Meeting on October 29th was held the day before the Quebec Referendum in the Knowlton United Church. Rev. Dr. Bum Purdon, in the service prior to the luncheon, emphasized the importance of the vote to take place the following day and prayed for a just and peaceful solution. Fifty-five members and friends gathered in the church hall for the meeting, including our National President, Okill Stuart and Heritage Branch President Robert Wilkins and wife Maura from Montreal and Little Forks President Beverley Loomis and husband Milton from Lennoxville.

The guest speaker was Mrs. Suzanne Schanz who is a member of the Montreal Camera Club and a professional photographer. She specializes in nature and wildlife and entertained the gathering with two of her beautiful projections.

Marion Phelps, Archivist of the Brome County Historical Society, spoke of the present concern of historians in the sad condition of the Samuel Gale monument on Gale Mountain, and the importance of this memorial to a prominent Loyalist. During the American Revolution Gale served the British Government in a number of capacities and was twice imprisoned in the U.S. Following the war he served the Government of Quebec as Provincial Secretary to Governor Prescott and was leader of the Associates applying for land grants in the Farnham area, where he and his family settled. He is considered a Founding Father of the Eastern Townships. Because of vandalism the memorial plaque has been removed to a wall of the Archives building at the Brome Museum, but the monument itself badly requires restoration. Our branch hopes to work with the Museum in the preservation of this memorial to a worthy Loyalist.

Genealogist Jean McCaw reported a total of 118 members in the branch and introduced two new associate members: Carolyn Bowen and Robert Strange.

By Audrey McCaw, Publicity Convenor.

1996 Fall

Highlights of our Annual Meeting of June 15, 1996, in Philipsburg, Quebec, were a tribute to Okill Stuart, retiring National President and a report of the trip by two of our members to the Dominion Convention in Halifax.

Robert Wilkins, a member of our branch as well as President of Heritage Branch, Montreal, expressed the group's pride and appreciation to Okill Stuart for the time and effort he has given to his office as National President over the past two years. His dedication has lead to a more efficiently functioning organization with a higher profile in the media.

Jean McCaw reported on the 'Loyalist Loop' tour of the Maritime provinces which preceded the Annual Meeting in Halifax. She and Audrey McCaw greatly enjoyed the beautiful countryside, the well-conducted visits to Loyalist sites and the warm hospitality of the Saint John, Fredericton, Abegweit and Halifax-Dartmouth branches.

The guest speaker, Dr. Derek Booth of Bishop's University and author of the two-volume Railways of Southern Quebec, gave a very informative talk on the important role the railways played in the development of the Eastern Townships.

Also in June, our Branch, under the "convenorship" of Evelyn Lewis, sponsored a field trip by students of Heroes' Memorial School in Cowansville to visit Loyalist sites in Missisquoi County. twenty-five students, four parents and one teacher enjoyed a day's bus tour to the Museum at Stanbridge East, cemeteries with Loyalist graves and a visit to the home of a Loyalist descendant, Mrs. Iris Guthrie, who recounted tales of past lifestyles and showed artifacts and treasures inherited from her Loyalist forebears. During the trip the students were given information, which had been compiled by our Genealogist, Jean McCaw, concerning the Loyalist settlement of the Townships. The enthusiasm of the students augurs well for future outings of this kind.

On August 14th, a beautiful summer day graced the Branch's annual picnic, held on the grounds of the Missisquoi Museum at Stanbridge East. Members enjoyed the fellowship and a visit to the Museum which this year featured "A Day in the Sun: Pleasures, Pastimes and Leisure Pursuits in Missisquoi County".

Following the picnic several members drove to Mount Gale in the Bromont area for a visit to the grave site of Loyalist Founding Father, Samuel Gale, whose remote and crumbling monument is of concern to local historians.

By Audrey McCaw.

1997 Spring

Thirty-one members and friends of the Branch held their usual summer outing on the grounds of the Missisquoi County Historical Society Museum at Stanbridge East, Quebec, on 14 August 1996. Following a picnic lunch eaten outside beside the old Cornell Mill pond and dam, the group enjoyed a tour of the museum with its interesting display entitled "A Day in the Sun". The gravestone of our Branch's namesake is mounted on the front wall of the building, after having been rescued from a farmer's field in Mont St. Gregoire (previously called Mount Johnson). Following the lunch, past president Ken Hamilton expressed the group's sadness at losing a valued and much loved member, Audrey McCaw, who has since moved to Gibsons, British Columbia and presented her with a gift from the Branch. Later in the afternoon, a committee of members visited the site of the monument to Loyalist Samuel Gale to assess the repairs that are required, as our Branch has expressed an interest: in aiding the Brome County Historical Society in its restoration. It is proposed to organize a working picnic for next summer's outing with this project in mind.

On November 17th, 48 members and several guests gathered at Trinity Anglican Church in Cowansville where they attended morning worship followed by a catered dinner and the semi-annual meeting of our Branch. We were fortunate to have as our guest speaker a young man with a Loyalist background, James Manson, who is writing his doctoral thesis on the Loyalist settlement of the area. He emphasized the close connection between the history of the State of Vermont and the history of Southern Quebec and how events determined much of the flow of this history. His talk proved to be very enlightening and provoked an interesting question and answer period. Robert Wilkins, president of Heritage Branch of Montreal and

also a member of our Branch, expressed the group's appreciation and presented the speaker with the Branch's book, Loyalists of the Eastern Townships.

Editor's Note: this book notice appears here at the request of the submitter.

Another highlight of the meeting was the launching by one of our members of a recently published book titled With Heart and Hands and Voices which documents the histories of some 80 Protestant churches scattered between the Richelieu River and Lake Memphremagog in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Written by Phyllis Hamilton with contributions from several other Branch members, the 320 page, soft-covered edition also relates the development of each community, with a special focus on the original Loyalist settlers as they carved farms from the forest and then together built the churches that became central to their spiritual, social and cultural life. It tells of the struggles and hardships suffered by the clergy as they followed the incoming settlers into an untamed wilderness. Also included are 78 black and white photos of the church buildings, taken by local photographers or drawn from the archives of the Province and the Missisquoi and Brome County Historical Societies. The book retails for \$32.50 plus \$5.00 shipping charges and can be obtained from the publisher Price-Patterson Ltd., Box 711, Victoria Station, Westmount, Que. H3Z 2Y7. Tel: (514) 935-8154.

By Ms. Phyllis Hamilton

1997 Fall

Fifty-three members and guests celebrated our Branch's 30th Anniversary on 17 May 1997. At the annual meeting, special tribute was paid to Murray Mason, our first President, who passed away recently.

Robert Wilkins, President of Heritage Branch, introduced Mr. Gary Schroder who gave a lively talk on record-keeping and finding information.

The late Gerry Rogers, Heritage Branch, gave a book The Last Invasion of Canada - Fenian Raids. 1866-1877 to Robert Wilkins to be presented to the Massey-Vanier High School Library.

We were joined on our 7 August 1997 picnic by Marion Phelps who has devoted her life to the history of this district and her time to the Brome County Museum, site of the picnic. The museum generously gave us room to keep our records and books, available to members and friends.

By Evelyn Lewis, Branch Publicity

OUR BRANCH SCHOOL PROJECT

This is the second year that Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch has sponsored a school trip for the Grade 4 students of Heroes' Memorial School in Cowansville. This year the trip took place in May.

After studying material dealing with the Loyalist history, the class visited Philipsburg. This was the first settlement in the Eastern Townships and was established against the wishes of the Haldimand Government in Quebec. The settlers were Loyalists who wished to stay in Quebec. There are still descendants living in the Eastern Townships of these hardy individuals who forced the government to survey the Crown Lands into townships. They were Christian Wehr, Conrad Best, Christian Hauver, Adam Deal, Hermanus Best, John Ruiter and several others.

John Ruiter became Agent for Thomas Dunn, who finally sold them the land where they wished to settle, on the shores of Missisquoi Bay on Lake Champlain. When John Ruiter died, the duties were taken over

by John's son, Philip. Philip Ruiter became Justice of the Peace, District Commissioner for the Trial of Small Causes, school master, Inn Keeper, Church War den and Post Master. It was Philip Ruiter who gave the town the name of Philipsburg. He died at age fifty-four in 1820.

The children also spent some time at the Missisquoi Museum in Stanbridge East where they learned more about Loyalists, visited the store and the exhibition of the 100th Anniversary of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, which was celebrated in Hamilton, Ontario in June.

In Mr. Elder's letter of thanks to the Branch, he remarked that the children had greatly benefitted by both the studying and information which had been gained from the trip.

Our thanks go to Murray Gunson, Principal, Mr. Elder, teacher, who accompanied the children and to Evelyn Lewis who coordinated the event.

By Jean McCaw, UE, Branch President

1998 Spring

The Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch hosted a special "12-Noon Luncheon" at Epworth United Church. Fellow Loyalists came from as far away as the Niagara Region. Saturday's get together featured live musical entertainment as well as a few words from guest speaker, Bernice Flett, Dominion UELAC President.

In October, members of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch met at Grace Church Sutton, first to attend the Church Service at 10.30 a.m. and afterwards to meet in the Parish Hall. The guest speaker was Mr. Leslie McKorkill. His topic: Several Pioneer Families in Farnham, Quebec. He had researched letters and diaries of the Allsopp and McKorkill families from a collection at Brome County Historical Archives.

Genealogist, Phyllis Hamilton, reported one new member, Barbara Johnston, (Edward Savage), of Waterloo. She reported that all of the genealogical records and library have now been moved to a room in the Court House Building of Brome County Historical Museum. The Book Committee Fund provided a new rug for the room. Thanks to Ken Hamilton and Eric Pollard for installing it.

President, Jean McCaw, reported for Evelyn Lewis, Chair of the Bursary Committee, that the students from Heroes' Memorial School in Cowansville, had enjoyed the bus trip, a visit to Missisquoi Museum and other Loyalist sites. The Book Committee will finance another trip next year and it is hoped to interest another school in participating.

Dick Eldridge, Board Member and Past President of Brome County Historical Society, reported on the Gale Monument Restoration Committee. The Branch will donate \$200.00 toward repairs estimated at \$4,000.

1998 Fall

The Annual Meeting of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the UELAC was held at the Royal Canadian Legion building in Philipsburg, Que. This is an appropriate place to hold our meeting as it was at Philips burg (Missisquoi Bay) that the first Loyalists defied the government and insisted on staying in Quebec. The meeting, which was held on June 6, 1998, was well attended and a roast-beef dinner was

enjoyed by all. At the beginning of the meeting the President, Jean McCaw, called for a minute of silence to remember the following members who had passed away since our last meeting: Norman Stone, Joyce Bradford, Jared Tozer, Meda Fraser and Iola Stote. We were fortunate to have Mme Marie Paule La Breque as our guest speaker. She spoke on her research on literature which had been published on Quebec history in the French language and found very few references to Loyalists in these records.

The Annual Meeting began with the election of officers for 1998-99. Richard Eldridge and Brian Allen are representing the Branch, joining a group from the Richelieu Valley Historical Society who are in the process of arranging to place some suitable type of memorial stone at the site of the burial crypt of Sir John Johnson on Mt. St. Gregoire (once known as Mount Johnson). The man who was responsible for bulldozing and levelling the site of the family vault, where seven members of the Johnson family are buried, has become very remorseful about his part in this. He, M. Lasner, was Mayor of St. Gregoire at the time. The vault had been vandalized prior to this. The owner of the property, M. Meunier, wanted the land cleared in order to plant an orchard. The stone marker was found in the field and, in 1970, the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch members retrieved this and placed it in the wall of the Missisquoi Museum. The present owners of the property, Mr. & Mrs. Fraser, are working with the committee and will approve of this being done on their property. We hope to see this terrible mistake in our history rectified sometime in the near future.

By Jean McCaw UE,

1999 Spring

The Semi-annual Meeting of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was held on Oct. 18th at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Knowlton. Mme. Nicole Poulin, Secretary of La Societe de Restauration du Patrimoine Sir John Johnson, was the guest speaker. She had a great deal of information about Sir John's life while he owned the Seigniorship of Monnoir. She talked about the aims of both the Societe d'histoire de Haut-Richelieu and the Patrimoine Sir John Johnson. Our Branch has two representatives, Dick Eldridge and Brian Allen, who have been attending the meetings. They have applied for a tax number and hope to raise enough money to cover the expense of unearthing the vault and building a new one. She said that the government will be sending an archeologist in the spring before permission to continue will be forthcoming.

Mme Poulin was thanked by Ken Hamilton and presented with a book.

The President, Jean McCaw, took the chair to welcome everyone and asked those present to sing 'O Canada' in both languages. The meeting continued with the report of Treasurer, Adelaide Lanktree. She asked members to pay branch dues in December as per-capita dues must be sent to Dominion Headquarters in January. One new Associate Member, Charles Harbec, was welcomed and Phyllis Hamilton said that there are others working on their documentation.

Several members from Heritage Branch attended the gathering, including the President of Heritage, Robert Wilkins and wife, Maura.

SIR JOHN JOHNSON VAULT DAMAGES /NOTE TO READERS:

Maybe you are not aware of the activities which have taken place with regards the vault of Sir John Johnson on Mont St. Gregoire. Mr. Lasnier, the Mayor of St. Gregoire and the bulldozer operator at the time, is feeling very remorseful at having buried the vault all those years ago, even though he was directed to do this by the owner of the orchard M. Meunier. The French-language papers have been full of this story but it was only in October that *The Gazette* of Montreal ran the story. The first group to get

involved was the Societe d'histoire du Haut-Richelieu in St. Jean..This group then founded la Societe de Restauration du Patrimoine Sir John Johnson. Our Branch is represented as are two of the other historical societies in the area. We are collecting contributions to help with the cost of unearthing and rebuilding the crypt. As far as we can tell the remains of six or seven people are in the vault.

Jean McCaw UE, Branch President

TREASURER'S NOTE

We now have a CIBC bank account in which to receive donations, from members and Branches, towards the project for Restoration of Sir John Johnson's vault at Mount St. Gregoire. We will acknowledge all donations and hold them until the Patrimoine receives its charitable organization number, then an official receipt will be issued to the donor. This way the UELAC, as well as the contributor, will receive recognition for funds donated by the Loyalists.

Cheques can be made out to "Sir John Johnson Branch Restoration Fund" and mailed to Mrs. Adelaide Lanktree, 140 Main Street West, Farnham, P.Q. J2N 1K6.

Some members of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch at the site of the buried vault of Sir John Johnson Sunday evening, Dec. 13th, the restoration project was featured as the lead story on CFCF (channel 12) 6 p.m. news and again on CFCF 11.30 news. We are happy with the media coverage of the project.

Adelaide Lanktree, Treasurer, Sir John Johnson Branch UELAC.

1999 Fall

Our Branch held its annual meeting on June 5th at the Legion Hall in Philipsburg, Quebec. Thirty members enjoyed a roast beef dinner catered by members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch. Instead of a guest speaker for the occasion, four of the branch members related the history of their Loyalist ancestry. The group found the information about John Saxe, Peter Miller, Adam Best, George Hawk & Timothy Soule very interesting. This colloquium was followed by the business meeting which opened with a few moments of silence in memory of Paige Knight and Flora Rhicard, two active members who had contributed much to our branch since its inception and who passed away in February and April respectively. They will be greatly missed. Genealogist Phyllis Hamilton announced the addition of five new associate members to our branch and several others who are completing their documentation toward regular member status.

The business meeting continued with a report from member Dick Eldridge, the representative to "Le Societé de Restauration du Patrimoine Johnson". He stated that plans for restoration of the Johnson burial site are progressing slowly but steadily, with a 'Certificate of Location' being obtained for the vault area and we are awaiting the visit of the government appointed archaeologist to ascertain if people are buried in this site.

Brian Allen announced plans for a Loyalist Breakfast to be held on June 12th on the grounds of the Brome County Historical Society Museum at Knowlton, Quebec. The proceeds will be used to help pay for the renovations on the restored Samuel Gale Monument which is situated on Bromont Road between Cowansville and Granby. A roadside sign has also been installed to call attention to the gravesite of Loyalist, Samuel Gale, who was instrumental in helping many of the early Loyalist families to gain legal access to their claims for land in the area.

Member Carol Soule, who is in charge of our school education program, reported that this year, pupils from Grade 5 at Butler Elementary School in Bedford, Quebec travelled by bus to visit the Missisquoi County

Historical Society Museum at Stanbridge East, Quebec. They were shown many artifacts in displays pertaining to Loyalists and their early settlement of the Eastern Townships of Quebec. They also visited an early Loyalist home where the present descendant related stories of the Loyalist family and their hardships and struggle to start again after losing everything in the American Revolution because of their loyalty to the British King. Before the trip the students were taught about the Loyalist migration and following the trip they submitted essays on the subject. Their teacher, Mr. Dieter Steiche, said the children had thoroughly enjoyed and benefited greatly from the trip. Therefore, our branch will continue to offer the program to local schools in the hope that Loyalist history will become more widely understood by today's generation.

It was decided at the meeting that instead of our usual annual picnic, the branch would conduct a cavalcade on Aug. 25th. We will travel by individual cars to the site of the proposed restoration of the Sir John Johnson burial crypt on Mont St-Gregoire and afterwards proceed to Fort Chambly. We will be given a short discourse on its history, view a video and then gather for our picnic lunch in the park beside the Chambly Rapids. Following lunch we will be given a guided tour of Chambly village which will include many old and beautiful buildings and a visit to historic St. Stephen's Anglican Church, originally built in 1820 as a garrison church, and where Sir John Johnson was a parishioner. Also included will be the Charles de Salaberry House, built in 1814 by the hero of the battle of Chateauguay. We will then proceed to St. Mathias, on the Chambly Basin of the Richelieu River, to visit the home that Sir John Johnson built for his son in 1820. This will be followed by a visit to the church, built in 1784, and to the cemetery, which were both classified as historical monuments in 1957.

By Phyllis Hamilton UE

2000 Spring

Our proposed Cavalcade was held on August 25th when branch members spent a very enjoyable day travelling to Mont St. Gregoire to view the latest efforts at restoring the burial site of Sir John Johnson. We then went on to Fort Chambly for a tour of its heritage buildings followed by a picnic beside the Chambly Rapids. Our group then visited St. Matthias where we were fortunate to be given a tour by the present owner of the house that Sir John built for his son John in 1820. A member of the local congregation also gave us an excellent history and tour of the old Roman Catholic Church and cemetery, both now classified as historical monuments.

During the fall season work continued on the restoration of the Mont St. Gregoire burial site of Sir John Johnson. Following the archaeologist's report, which revealed that the site actually contains human remains, work has been suspended until weather permits further construction in the spring.

The Semi-Annual Meeting was held on November 14th at St. Luke's Anglican Church in Waterloo, Quebec where members were treated to a delicious casserole dinner catered by the men of that congregation. The guest speaker was Mr. Hank Avery, a local school teacher, who kept the group spellbound with his talk about the Black Loyalists who came to our area with their master Colonel Phillip Luke, and whose burial ground at St-Armand he has been trying to have recognized and restored as an historical site.

The meeting was presided over by President Jean McCaw and proceeded with Dick Eldridge giving an update on the Sir John Johnson Restoration Project. We all look forward to continuation of the work in the spring. It will be an expensive undertaking. Our branch is grateful for the donations that we have received from other branches and individuals and it is to be hoped that this interest will continue and we will receive more contributions from interested parties and possibly from the government.

Associate Member, Charles Harbec has collated a very interesting display of photographs of Sir John Johnson and many of his homes, which was on display at the meeting and will be permanently housed in the Brome County Historical Society Museum at Knowlton.

Our branch regrets to report the loss of active members, Keith Scott, a descendant of Loyalist, Daniel Scott; Frank Winsor, descended from Loyalist, the Rev. John Stuart; and former president of our branch, Associate member, Clayton Smith; as well as former pianist, associate member, Isabella Beattie; all of whom have recently passed away and will be sadly missed.

By Phyllis Hamilton UE

2001 Spring

Roy Lewis, the Regional Vice-President of Central Division - Eastern Section, was the guest speaker at our Annual meeting held on June 10th at the Sutton Legion Hall, where approximately 40 members enjoyed a roast beef dinner catered by the Legion members. We were pleased to welcome two descendants of Sir John Johnson, Mrs. Marjorie Curtis and her brother Ed Dorion and wife Esther. Mr. Lewis, explained the corporate structure and improving financial situation of Dominion Association. He also mentioned how the organization is striving to stimulate interest in the contribution of the Loyalists to Canadian History by introducing an educational program into the schools. We look forward to having this program in our Quebec schools. Our Branch is already sponsoring a spring school tour in which, after being given information about the Loyalists and especially the local contributions to the settlement and development of the Eastern Townships of Quebec, the students are taken to visit local historical sites and museums and to meet descendants of the original Loyalist settlers. This spring two groups of students from Butler Elementary School in Bedford, Quebec enjoyed the outing and reported back to their school by writing essays about what they had learned.

Mr. Lewis told us the story of his own Loyalist ancestor, William Lewis, who arrived at Cataraqui in 1783 and of the intriguing manner in which he had been able to find information about this early settler. From an autobiography written by William's son, Thaddeus, Roy re counted many humorous incidents that befell his relative, a Methodist saddlebag preacher.

President Jean McCaw presented regular documented membership certificates to Richard and Anthony Eldridge who are descended from Loyalist, Robert McGinnis, who first settled at L'Acadie, Quebec in 1784.

Several members of our branch participated in the foundation of a newly formed Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network, which took place at Bishop's University, Lennoxville, Quebec on June 23 through June 25, 1999. Funded by a grant from the Ministry of Canadian Heritage, as the newly elected president Dick Evans said: "This network promises to bring people in the organization in contact with each other to share everything they have and to encourage wider enthusiasm for the whole diverse Anglophone heritage across Quebec." There were people attending from; Lac St-Jean, the Lower North Shore, Gaspé, Magdalen Islands, Outaouais, Northern Quebec, Montreal, the Chateauguay Valley and across the Townships. Our branch sponsored a display of information and pictures about Sir John Johnson, portraying his role as a most important Loyalist.

Dick Eldridge reported that the restoration and repair of the Samuel Gale Monument has been completed. The branch took part in a rededication service on Sunday, October 1st 2000. A Cavalcade left from the Brome County Historical Society museum in Knowlton and visited the Gale monument that honours the

memory of Samuel Gale who died in 1798. As secretary to Governor Prescott, Gale was responsible for many Loyalist families being able to acquire their legal claims to land grants. We also travelled to the Collins Monument, (commemorating the arrival of the first settler to Brome County); the Brome Monument (recognizing the opening in 1793 of the first stagecoach road from St-Armand on Missisquoi Bay to Austin Bay on Lake Memphremagog); and the early Tibbit's Hill stone schoolhouse built in 1846-47. Here, two former schoolteachers and members of our branch, Louise Hall UE and Adelaide Lanktree UE welcomed the visitors.

Dick Eldridge also presented a report from the government archaeologist on the continuing work at the Sir John Johnson tomb restoration site. It is slowly progressing and the branch appreciates all the support received from headquarters and other interested persons. A more complete report on the progress will be published in the next issue of *The Gazette*.

A group of our members and friends enjoyed a trip on July 14th, 2000 to the site of the Austin Monument at Gibraltar Point on Lake Memphremagog. This large engraved stone commemorates the first settlement in Bolton in 1782 by Loyalist Quaker, Nicholas Austin. After the visit and talk given by Jean McCaw and Richard Eldridge we all retired to the grounds of the Abbey at St-Benoit du Lac for a summer picnic.

At our fall meeting, held on October 15, 1999, the Branch was privileged to hear a presentation by Kevin O'Donnell from Tele-Quebec. This presentation was taken from a program called "Quebec Mosaic" which is a series of five programs designed to introduce pupils in the Quebec school system to geographic and economic backgrounds of different regions of Quebec. The series features the experiences of Quebec's English speaking community and aims to "bring the past alive" by basing each program on the adventures of real life historical figures. We were treated to viewing "The Eighth Wonder of the World: Building the Victoria Bridge." The slide presentation made us aware of the tremendous problems involved in striving to relieve the winter isolation of Montreal and the remarkable engineering feat accomplished under severe weather conditions to erect this bridge that was finally opened on Dec. 17, 1859 and named in honour of Queen Victoria. It remains the first and most remarkable undertaking of its time.

The Branch is sad to report that charter member and past president of the Branch, Donald MacCallum of Clarenceville, Quebec passed away on July 22, 2000 and Iris Larocque, UE of Sutton passed away on August 18, 2000. They will be greatly missed by our members.

By Phyllis Hamilton UE

2002 Spring

At our Annual Meeting 2 June 2001, we heard the interesting speaker Richard Evans, President of the newly formed umbrella network of historical and heritage associations in Quebec, which is called QAHN (Quebec Anglo Heritage Network). The aims and purposes of the organization are to coordinate all of the historical, genealogical and heritage societies of the province in order to produce more effective communication between them.

At this meeting a memorial tribute was paid to the late Margaret Doherty Ellis, a founding member of our Branch, who passed away on 11 March 2001. She was a descendant of Loyalist Andrew Ten Eyck, one of the original land grantees in the Township of Dunham, the first township to be granted in the Eastern Townships of Quebec in 1796. She will be greatly missed and always remembered by our Branch. We also regret the passing of Donald Fadden of Brockville, On. and Stanley Emrick of St-Armand, QC.

Our Branch is very proud that five of our members have received civic honours during the past year. Evelyn Beban Lewis received an award as an outstanding volunteer in the communities of Brome-Missisquoi and Phyllis & Ken Hamilton and Marion Phelps also received medals for volunteerism in Shefford County.

These honours were recommended by the Townshippers' Association. At the spring meeting of QAHN, Marion Phelps became the first person to receive an award named in her honour, showing appreciation for her long term and outstanding contribution to the preservation of Anglophone Heritage in the Province of Quebec. Our Branch genealogist, Jean McCaw, became the fourth member of the branch to receive the prestigious award of Companion of Meritorious Heritage, presented to her by Heritage Branch of Montreal.

The restoration of the Sir John Johnson burial site continues to be a top priority of our Branch but, as in many projects of this type, the wheels of law turn very slowly and legal documentation takes time. The committee continues to push ahead and hopes to present results by next summer.

Three branch members, Adelaide Lanktree, Louise Hall and Phyllis Hamilton attended the Annual QAHN Conference, held in June 2001, at MacDonald College Campus in Ste-Anne de Bellevue, Quebec, where our organization was prominently acknowledged.

The sponsorship of an annual Loyalist heritage bus tour for elementary school students of the area continues to be our foremost effort to promote education concerning Loyalist background of the communities of the Eastern Townships. Several Branch members also participated in a "Story Telling Event" in West Brome on August 18-19, where our display created considerable interest and we hope increased membership. On October 14, 2001, we held our fall meeting at Waterloo's St-Luke's Anglican church, where the men of the congregation served a delicious casserole-salad lunch and the guest speaker was the previous rector, the Rev. Wilbur Davidson, who spoke to us about "Country Churches Past, Present and Future." A very thought provoking message in view of the fact that so many of our old historic church buildings are being closed.

The year 2002 represents the 35th birthday of our Branch and we hope to have several special functions to celebrate this achievement. Information concerning these events will be circulated through the Branch newsletter.

By Phyllis Buchanan Hamilton UE

2003 Spring

The Branch held their semi-annual meeting on November 2, 2002 in Brome Village, Quebec where 39 members and friends attended the morning worship at the St. John the Evangelist Anglican church, built in 1859. Following the service all enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by the church members and served in their church hall.

We were pleased to welcome as our guest speaker, the renowned Quebec Historian, Mme. Marie-Paule Labrecque. She related numerous interesting stories of Jesse Pennoyer, the man who was entrusted with surveying much of the land granted to incoming Loyalist and early American settlers of the Eastern Townships of Quebec.

Beverley Corcoran was welcomed as our newest documented member, tracing her descent from Loyalist, William Sowles (Soles).

We were all interested to hear from Mme. Nicole Poulin (President of the Societe d'Histoire de Haute Richelieu) that the restoration of the Sir John Johnson burial vault project is progressing well. Further

Archaeological research, conducted with the help of grants from both Provincial and Municipal Governments, showed evidence of more bodies than originally anticipated and the Quebec Ministry of Culture has now designated it as an Archaeological Site as well as being considered an Historic Site. News of the recovery of the church bell, presented by Sir John Johnson in 1822 to St. Stephen's Anglican church in Chambly was exciting information to the Branch. The bell was stolen in 1970 from its site on the church grounds and recently returned anonymously to the Chambly Fort Museum who graciously returned it to his original site.

The Branch members are looking forward to the Annual Meeting, which will be held as usual as close to our Charter Date as possible in the month of June. Members will be notified by newsletter.

By Phyllis Hamilton UE

2004 Spring

Forty-two members and friends attended the Branch semi-annual meeting held on November 2, 2003 at All Saints' Anglican church in Dunham, Quebec. The Rev. Arnold Godsoe conducted the service. The guest speaker was, Heather Darch, UE, BA, MA, curator of the Missisquoi County Historical Society, who showed slides and spoke on "Along Heritage Trails in Missisquoi."

At the business meeting that followed, genealogist Jean McCaw reported four new associate members. The UEL Quebec Web Site will be publishing both news and photos relating to the Loyalists, which promotes the message given by the Prince Philip when he spoke to the AGM hosted by our branch in conjunction with Heritage Branch at Lennoxville in 1989: "Canadians must not hang from their laurels," but should feel proud of their Loyalist heritage and build on that pride by reporting any news of Association activities to the public.

A History & Geography Task Force and the School Boards of Quebec are preparing a document on Loyalists for children ages 12 years and younger which will be placed on the schools' web sites.

The branch was happy to welcome member, Okill Stuart who proudly showed the tie that he had received on May 31, 2003, when he was invested by Her Excellency Lise Thibault, Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, as an Officer of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

The restoration of the Sir John Johnson burial site is on hold until spring break up when decisions will have to be made concerning the actual restoration of the crypt.

Following the meeting, Ken Hamilton conducted the drawing of the winning tickets for a raffle held by the branch to raise money to support our various ongoing projects. The branch wishes to thank all those who locally participated and 'the ones from away' who contributed to the cause.

Our spring Annual Charter Meeting will be in June and it is hoped that our new Honorary President Sir Colpoys Johnson will be able to attend, as he mentioned in his acceptance of the honorary tradition.

By Phyllis Hamilton UE

2002 Fall

On June 1, 2002 our Branch gathered at the Legion Hall in Philipsburg, Qc. for our Annual Meeting. Several members attended the official opening of the Milby Schoolhouse on June 22nd, when the special project of the Little Forks Branch was completed. Their Branch is to be commended for such an important and well-conducted accomplishment.

Our Branch continues to sponsor local school tours of Loyalist sites in the area with a commentary of the historical background. We are also continuing to contribute to the Loyalist gravesite documentation project. The Restoration of the Sir John Johnson Burial site Project is progressing slowly but it is anticipated that archaeological work will be completed this fall with the assistance of a sizeable grant received from the Quebec Heritage Department.

The highlight of our year so far was the special dinner on August 17th at the Mystic, Quebec Europa restaurant, when 48 members and several prospective members, enjoyed an exciting day celebrating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding and chartering of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. We were so pleased to welcome John Chard UE, who, along with Mrs. Ruby Moore UE, archivist of the Missisquoi County Historical Society, instigated the process which saw the accumulation of 125 members over 5 months in late 1967. Mr. Chard related many early memories of branch activities and of the first executive committee of the Branch, which included Murray Mason UE, the first president, and Don MacCallum UE, who succeeded him.

Following Mr. Chard's talk, Jean McCaw UE related a history of the Branch over the last twenty years.

Mrs. Myrna Fox UE brought, along with her best wishes, an interesting exhibit of pictures and artefacts to celebrate the Queen's Fiftieth Anniversary year.

A special moment of the afternoon occurred when the beautiful birthday cake decorated with the Loyalist insignia was cut by Mrs. Esther Mason, the only original charter member who was able to attend the celebration.

We of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch look forward to a future, which will be a successful continuation of our past thirty-five years.

By Phyllis Hamilton UE

2003 Fall

The Branch held the Annual and Charter Meeting on June 14, 2003 in Philipsburg, Quebec. The forty-seven attending were treated to an interesting talk by Lewis Kreger UE, who, having continued the research of the late Allan Stratton, author of *The History of Alburgh Volumes 1 & 2*, was well qualified to speak about the Loyalists of Alburgh VT. Mr. Kreger has also written a book titled, *Alburgh: The First Twenty Years* which related the stories of those Loyalists who first settled in that area, believing it to be on British soil, and who were forced to move when Vermont became part of the United States.

Genealogist Jean McCaw UE reported three new documented members, (see the *Certified Members Update*), and four new Associate Members: Gail and Ronald Gibbs of Knowlton, Audrey Blinn Paige of Stanbridge East, Raymond Ostiguy of Ottawa and Shawn Wallace of Morrisburg.

The annual summer picnic will be held August 13th at Alburgh VT at Lewis Kreger's home. We look forward to a good day and lots of interesting conversation.

Once again the Sir John Johnson Burial Site Restoration is in a waiting mode, now that the archaeological survey is completed. The committee is striving to raise money to go ahead with the actual restoration of the crypt. The Branch is holding a raffle in order to raise money for sponsoring our school trips to Loyalist sites. The winning tickets will be drawn at the semi-annual meeting in October.

The Branch is also submitting an exhibit for the Townshippers' Day at Cowansville, September 13th. We anticipate spreading the word about the Loyalist connection and hope to develop more interest in membership.

The Branch also relayed condolences to the family of the late honorary President, Sir Peter Johnson, 7th Baronet of New York. We hope that the new baronet, Sir Colpoys Johnson will continue the tradition of standing as our honorary President.

By Phyllis Hamilton UE

2004 Fall

The Annual meeting was held on June 19th with a good attendance of 43 members and a few friends. All enjoyed a roast beef dinner served by the Legion Auxiliary members at the Legion Hall in Philipsburg, QC. Michel Racicot, president of the Cowansville Historical Society spoke about the first Loyalist family to settle in the Cowansville area. John and Henry Ruiter, whose ancestors came to America after being forced to leave their homes in the German Palatinate on the shores of the Rhine River joined a Loyalist military unit in 1776 and following the Revolution settled in Caldwell Manor at Philipsburg, Quebec. Jacob, son of John Ruiter was granted land in the Cowansville area and arrived there in 1798 with his wife and small son and began the settlement which has grown into a thriving town today. During the meeting, homage was paid to Esther Mason who passed away recently and was the last charter associate member belonging to our branch.

The Sir John Johnson vault restoration committee reported that a decision has to be made as to whether the tomb will be reconstructed or a monument or plaque be placed on the site. At a press conference held at Mont St-Gregoire (near the site of the Johnson vault) on April 16, 2004, it was stated that the two objectives of Phase 1 of the restoration of the vault had been met. The archaeologists confirmed the site of the vault and in two separate excavations recovered, indexed and analyzes 858 human bones.

These bones are presently resting at the University of Montreal in the office of the osteo-archaeologist Gerard Gagne. They will be transported to Quebec City to be placed under the care of the Quebec Ministry of Culture and Communications until we have completed the plans to return them to their proper resting place. This is a first archaeological excavation of this type and the registry number is Bifg-1.

The Government has declared the vault area an historic site and the owner of the apple orchard, where the site is located, has verbally given us the site and an access route to it. Our next step is to obtain the legal deed for the site after which we will be able to proceed with plans for the restoration of the vault.

Branch president, Adelaide Lanktree UE and her sister, Louise Hall UE, branch treasurer, descendants of Thomas Spencer, their third great grandfather, attended the anniversary celebrations in Abercorn, Quebec when a plaque honouring the Loyalist pioneers of the settlement was unveiled on June 26th. In the photograph are also Betty Boroski and Rose White, who are American descendants of another of the Loyalist settlers, Alexander Griggs. The bilingual plaque reads as follows:

A Tribute to the Pioneers of Abercorn, listing the original settlers as:

Jeremiah Gibbs
Richard & Thomas Shepard
Alexander Griggs
Peleg, Daniel & Richard Spencer
Ephraim Hawley
Thomas Spencer
Josiah Sanborn
Joseph Tibbitts

Below is the following message:

These Loyalists formed the core of the population of the village of Abercorn and Sutton Township in 1792. In 1799, Thomas Shepard built the first gristmill in the area, and the little hamlet was known as Shepard's Mills until 1848 when the first post office opened. Abercorn was incorporated as a village municipality in 1929.

Our branch plans to hold the annual summer picnic at the Missisquoi County Historical Society museum in Stanbridge East, QC on August 19th as the society is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. The branch is also pleased to announce that John Chard has accepted an invitation to be patron of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC. With his foresight, dedication and support he inspired Quebec Townshippers of Loyalist descent to work together to organize a United Empire Loyalist branch, which they named Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch and the charter was granted on December 16, 1967.

By Phyllis Hamilton UE
2005 Spring

Instead of a guest speaker at the November meeting of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, we enjoyed a special treat in listening to our own members recounting short histories about their Loyalist ancestors.

Hope Jenne gave an illustrated talk about her ancestor, the Reverend John Stuart, who was famous for his work with the Loyalist settlement around Kingston Ontario and the establishment of the Anglican Church there.

Carol Soule spoke about Adam Sagar (who came from the American colonies to settle in Pigeon Hill in 1791) and the part he played in its settlement.

Roderick Riordon introduced his ancestor, Lieutenant John Robinson, son of Sir Beverley Robinson, who moved from vast estates in Virginia to New York and then to Saint John, New Brunswick (1783) with other Loyalist families where he became a great influence in the life of that city.

With pictures and humour, these stories proved that history is not a dead subject.

Thanks to Okill Stuart and Hope Jenne, descendants of the Reverend John Stuart, Sir John Johnson Branch, were able to provide illustrations for Ronald Cooksey's book about Loyalist Anglican Clergy. Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch records have been greatly enhanced by the addition of books, letters, photos, newspaper articles and other materials pertinent to the history of our branch donated by E. John Chard, Freda Mason Smith and the Estate of the late Gerry Rogers. We treasure these valuable donations to our archives.

The Teacher's Resource *The Loyalists Pioneers and Settlers of Quebec* provides much valuable information about the Quebec Loyalists. This year Louise Hall and Mary Riordon of the Education Committee are excited about working with Louise Smith of Heroes' Memorial School in Cowansville. Louise Smith's

grade five and six class will study Loyalist history, visit either Brome or Missisquoi Museum, prepare a project and give a presentation to Sir John Johnson Branch in the spring.

By Evelyn Babin Lewis UE

2005 Fall

Our Branch held their annual meeting on 25 June 2005 in Philipsburg, Quebec. The Legion Auxiliary catered a delicious roast beef dinner for the forty-five members and friends who attended. Fred Hayward, Chairperson of the Dominion Outreach / Education Committee, and his two granddaughters, Aidan and Emily Brownlee, entertained the meeting with an interesting dialogue between two young girls from opposing factions of the American Revolution. Dressed in period dress, the girls expressed some of the problems facing Loyalist and Rebel families. Fred Hayward, also dressed in period attire, reenacted the part of his ancestor, Samuel Embury UE, a Palatine Loyalist, who was responsible for building the old stone Methodist church located next door to the Legion Hall in Philipsburg.

Several new associate members were welcomed to the Branch and documented membership certificates were presented to Iain Campbell Best and his son, Iain Philip Best, who are descended from Loyalist, Jacob Best UE.

The Vault Restoration Committee continues to research title to the Sir John Johnson property on Mont St-Grégoire and it is hoped that the legal access to the site will be certified by September. Plans can then be made as to the type of construction of the restored vault that will be feasible.

Branch member, Lewis Kreiger presented the Branch with numerous copies for sale of a new book entitled From the Richelieu Seigneuries to the Eastern Townships written by Edward J. Struthers and edited by Lewis Kreiger. Our president, Adelaide Lanktree UE has also been in contact with Ron Cooksey who has just completed a book, entitled Teaching Lessons of Loyalty. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel's Mission to the Americans-. This book has photographs of the Rev. John Stuart, submitted by Branch member, Hope Cotton, a descendent of Loyalist, John Stuart UE. We look forward to receiving this book of Loyalist heritage.

By Phyllis Hamilton UE

2006 Spring

The annual church service of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC was held in St. James the Apostle Anglican Church in Stanbridge East, Quebec, on 18 October 2005. The Venerable Archdeacon Peter Hannen, who is a member of Heritage Branch, conducted the service that highlighted Loyalist history. Special mention was made of the UELAC Annual Convention, held at Bishop's University in Lennoxville in 1989, when Prince Philip was the honoured guest.

After the service the fifty-one distinguished guests, members and friends enjoyed a delicious dinner in the church hall. Those present included persons from Quebec, Ontario, Vermont, New York and Florida.

Dominion President Doug Grant UE gave a most informative PowerPoint Presentation outlining the objectives of the UELAC. One was left with the impression that the UELAC is indeed in very good hands. Branch Genealogist Jean McCaw UE thanked Doug for his presentation and presented him with a copy of *"The Loyalists of the Eastern Townships"*.

Three members of Sir John Johnson Branch have died in recent months. An ecumenical memorial service was held for 52-year-old Marc Dussault UE, a descendent of Loyalist Christian Weir UE. Freda Ruiter UE passed away in her 94th year. She was Branch Treasurer and a talented, affable auctioneer at our fund raising campaigns for a number of years. Elizabeth Baker UE was also a long time member of Sir John Johnson Branch. She was a descendent of Loyalist George Hauk UE.

At the official opening of Townshippier's Day held in Bedford, Quebec on 17 September 2005, Okill Stuart UE was introduced as a Past Dominion President of the UELAC and Louise Hall was introduced as an Outstanding Townshippier. Townshippier Association President Heather Bowman is a descendent of the Rev. John Stuart. Sir John Johnson Branch had an interesting display in the heritage section.

CIME has bought Verger Monnoir where the Sir John Johnson Vault is located and is keenly interested in working with La Société de Restauration du Patrimoine Johnson. The committee met on 30 January 2006 and will be able to proceed more rapidly now that the sale of the property has been completed.

By Adelaide Lanktree UE, Branch President

2006 Fall

The Annual Meeting of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC was held at the Philipsburg Legion Hall on 10 June 2006 where forty-eight members and friends gathered to enjoy a delicious roast beef dinner.

Louise Smith and three of her Grade 5 and 6 Cowansville Heroes Memorial Elementary School students provided us with a fascinating audio-visual slide presentation about the Loyalists. The pupils had spent considerable time and effort in researching the presentation that was greatly enjoyed and appreciated. Photos of the decorative Ruiter mill wheel segments that adorn the ceiling of Cowansville's Emmanuel United Church were of special interest to Ruiter descendants who were present. Louise Smith and the students were introduced by Genealogist Jean McCaw and thanked by Education Convenor Louise Hall. Louise Smith said that she would continue to expand the project in September.

Genealogist Jean McCaw named thirteen new Associate members. Nine of these members who were present were introduced and warmly welcomed by all. A number of them are working on their genealogies to obtain documented membership in the UELAC.

A moment of silence was held for deceased members Dorothy MacCallum, Darby Livingston and John Philip Dash.

Jean McCaw announced that the Branch's library in the former Court House would be open on Sunday afternoons during July and August. Jean was also pleased to say that the Brome County Historical Society has agreed to store the Branch's important documents in its safe in the Court House.

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch held a summer picnic on the grounds of the Brome County Historical Society. As well as enjoying a time to socialize and share lunch together, we toured the museum and visited our library to view the many new volumes displayed on the shelves.

By Adelaide Lanktree UE, Branch President.

2007 Spring

On 12 November 2006 many of our members and friends attended our annual church service. The most inspiring service was held in All Saints Anglican Church in Dunham and presided over by the Venerable Wallace Sparling.

Following a delicious dinner served by the Anglican Guild, we held our Semi-Annual Meeting. Genealogist Jean McCaw UE introduced six new members, making a total of 93 members, a 119% increase over the 2005 membership. Great news!

Joan Ruiter Lee UE was presented with her documented certificate in the presence of her family. Her Loyalist ancestor, John Ruiter UE, was the founder of the town of Cowansville.

Work on the restoration of the Sir John Johnson vault at Mont St. Gregoire has resumed and the committee has begun negotiations with CIME, the new owners of the apple orchard where the vault is located. CIME is cooperative and agree in principle with the project. We provided an account of what was accomplished in Phase One of the reconstruction of the vault. We will give them information about the life and achievements of Sir John Johnson and a written statement of our Phase Two objectives.

We had our share of sorrow as two members died. Dick Eldridge UE, our Immediate Past President, died on Christmas Eve after a long and courageous battle with cancer. As a Past President of the Brome County Historical Society, Dick was instrumental in the restoration of the Samuel Gale Monument on the slopes of Gale Mountain in Shefford. He was also treasurer of the Johnson Vault Restoration Committee and we are sorry that he did not live to see the completion of the project. Audrey Bradshaw Craighead UE, a charter member of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, died on 26 October 2006. A retired schoolteacher and an active volunteer in the community, she also will be greatly missed.

In January and February many of our members attended a series of lectures given at Brome Missisquoi Historical Society by historian Jimmy Manson UE. One of particular interest was *A study in Perseverance: Captain John Savage and the settlement of Shefford Township*. Jimmy gave a vivid account of the life of John Savage and told how he prevailed in spite of serious deprivations and setbacks. Jimmy Manson UE is an Associate Member of Sir John Johnson Branch and he is currently documenting his Loyalist ancestry through the Manson family.

A Black History Month Exhibition, held at Missisquoi County Historical Society for the month of February, that brought the lives of Black settlers in this area to light, was of great interest to our members. The exhibition entitled, "*The Mystery of the Ruiter Ledgers of Philipsburg, Quebec 1799 – 1811*," was presented courtesy of The Missisquoi Historical Society and Robert Galbraith and his wife, Phyllis Montgomery.

As we look forward to celebrating our fortieth anniversary we are reminded of the saying, "*We have to know who we are today and look forward to what we may be in the future.*" It is important that our Branch of the UELAC continues to flourish. Every member of the Branch is extremely important and each one, as well as President Adelaide Lanktree UE and her Executive, needs to be congratulated for a very successful year.

By Evelyn Beban Lewis UE, Branch Publicity

2007 Fall

The annual meeting of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was held at the Legion Hall in Philipsburg, Quebec. Forty-three members and guests enjoyed a delicious roast beef dinner served by Legion Auxiliary members. Guest speaker, Owen MacCallum, grandson of Donald MacCallum UE, who served four times as Sir John Johnson Branch President, was accompanied by members of the family including great grand daughter, Renée MacCallum. Owen also brought along a replica of the *Lady Maria* made by Grandfather Donald. The *Lady Maria*, a patrol ship on Lake Champlain, was used to assist in relocating Loyalists evicted from the United States during the American Revolution. Donald bought the ancestral family farm where many times our branch held our annual Loyalist picnic. Donald was Mayor of Noyan for thirty-two years. MacCallum Park, where the plaque commemorating the Loyalist settlement in Caldwell Manor is located, was named after him in 1984. After Owen's talk, President Adelaide Lanktree UE called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence in memory of Richard Eldridge UE, President of Sir John Johnson Branch from 2000 to 2003, who died on 24 December 2006, and for Stanley Soule UE, who died on 5 March 2007.

Following are excerpts on the update of the restoration of the Johnson Vault given by Raymond Ostiguy.

"Following the acquisition by CIME (Centre d'Interpretation du Milieu Ecologique du Haut Richelieu) from Marie Deschenes of the property upon which the Johnson Family Vault is located, a meeting was arranged with the new proprietors at the site on November 13, 2006. The meeting was held in CIME's offices in the former Deschenes residence. CIME, owner of the top portion of Mont Saint-Grégoire since 1994, is receptive to plans to protect, preserve and restore the Vault. The Société de Restauration du Patrimoine Johnson was asked to prepare a brochure on the importance of the Johnson Family and the occupancy of the seigniorial manor house, windmill and vault on the site. It is clearly recognized that common values are shared by the two organizations. CIME has maintained, and exploits for visitors, a network of interpretive trails that closely mirrors the pattern used by the Johnson family.

While the details of a formal agreement have yet to be concluded, there is a general agreement that the entry to the site will be at 16 Chemin du Sous Bois Saint Grégoire, Quebec, the road that leads to the main parking lot where the point of departure for access to the vault will be located. A plan with various alternatives is now under consideration. When settled, it will be presented to CIME for further discussion."

Nominating Chairman, Eric Pollard, presented the slate of officers for the coming year and the following were installed by Evelyn Lewis: Patron, E. John Chard; Honorary President, Sir Guy Johnson; Past President, Adelaide Lanktree, President; Roderick Riordon, Vice-President, vacant, Secretary, Phyllis Hamilton; Treasurer, Louise Hall; Genealogist, Jean McCaw; Assistant Genealogist, Michel Racicot. After retiring president, Adelaide Lanktree, passed the badge of office to Roderick Riordon and Roderick made a brief speech, the flag was retired and the meeting adjourned.

A celebration of our branch's 40th anniversary was held at the Auberge West Brome on 18 August 2007. Michel Racicot gave a most interesting Power Point presentation of the branch's history. Further details of this special event will appear in the next issue of the *Loyalist Gazette*.

By Adelaide Lanktree UE, Branch President

2008 Spring

On 18 August 2007 the Fortieth Anniversary of the branch was held in Auberge, West Brome, with an attendance of over fifty people, a dinner and presentation. Among the special guests were Fred Hayward UE, Vice-President, Dominion UELAC; Okill Stuart UE, Past President of Dominion UELAC

and Robert Wilkins UE, President of Heritage Branch. Fred Hayward presented Sir John Johnson Branch President, Rod Riordon UE, with a Certificate of Congratulations from Dominion President, Peter Johnson UE.

The main event was the presentation of a CD titled, "*The First Forty Years*" relating the history of our branch, the people and events that shaped it. Both the CD and a booklet by the same name, also compiled by Michel Racicot, are for sale; proceeds going to our education program that pays for teachers and schoolchildren to visit local museums and learn more about the Loyalists.

Jean McCaw UE and Adelaide Lanktree UE were pleasantly surprised to be presented with their Past President pins.

A church service in a true country church and delicious dinner prepared by the ladies and gentlemen of Brome Anglican Church preceded the October meeting. Mr. Raymond Ostiguy gave an informative and interesting talk on the history of Sir John Johnson, a man to whom Canada, and especially Quebec, owes a great deal of debt and respect for what he did for this country. We felt a great deal of pride having our branch named after him. Mr. Ostiguy was also thanked for what he has done and continues to do to have Sir John's crypt restored on Mon Saint Gregoire, formerly called Mount Johnson.

It was with regret that the branch accepted Jean McCaw's resignation as Genealogist after her many years of faithful service. Many owe her a great deal of thanks for her help in obtaining their UEL certification. She passed the reins to Michel Racicot who has assisted her in recent years.

We were saddened by the deaths of Ardice Buchanan UE and Laurance Ben Fuller UE.

Thanks to the executive who meet often to make sure that the members are kept well informed and the meetings made interesting.

Please visit our website, www.uelac.org/sirjohnjohnson , to learn more about our branch.

By Evelyn Beban Lewis UE, Publicity

2008 Fall

At the Annual Meeting of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch held in Philipsburg on 17 June 2008, members Marven Beattie and Lorraine Gosselin were proud to receive their UELAC documented certificate membership from Genealogist Michel Racicot.

Our guest speaker, Lorraine Gosselin UE, gave an interesting power point presentation on her Loyalist ancestor, Christian Wehr UE.

She followed his career as a Loyalist soldier and then his settlement in the Philipsburg area of Missisquoi Bay. After the meeting some members gathered at Christian Wehr's grave in the Philipsburg Cemetery.

Members spent a few minutes in silent memoriam for our late Genealogist, Jean McCaw, who passed away in February. She will be sadly missed as she contributed greatly to our branch.

Phyllis Hamilton, Louise Hall and Adelaide Lanktree attended the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) Conference on rural cemetery conservation at Stanstead. One of the guest speakers, Heather Darch

UE, Curator of the Missisquoi County Historical Society, gave a most informative power point presentation about cemeteries in Brome and Missisquoi Counties.

Bernard C. Young gave our branch a copy of his new book, Loyalism in the Hoosick Valley. This book will be very useful to our branch as it contains information on a number of Loyalist families who settled in our area. (See Phyllis Hamilton's book review on page 51 in this issue of *The Loyalist Gazette*.)

On a beautiful sunny day in August members gathered at the home of Louise Hall and Adelaide Lanktree for our annual picnic. After wandering around admiring the lovely garden all enjoyed their picnic lunches at picnic tables in a shady area of the lawn. We were pleased to welcome Little Forks President, Bev Loomis, and her husband, Milt, and Heritage Branch President, Robert Wilkins, and his wife, Maura. After a leisurely lunch and lots of friendly chatter, many of the group visited the well-attended and colourful Farnham Heritage Day Celebration of 150 years of railway history in Farnham. A lot of work went into organizing this Heritage event and we are proud that our members Louise Hall and Adelaide Lanktree are Farnham Patrimoine committee members.

By Phyllis Hamilton UE, Branch Secretary

2009 Spring

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch members attended their annual church service and semi-annual meeting in Granby United Church on 2 November 2008.

Guest speaker, Heather Darch UE, regaled the members with the fascinating story of "*The Brotherhood of Cogniac Street*" dealing with counterfeiting in this area in bygone days.

Okill Stuart UE and Robert Wilkins UE presented Heather with a Loyalist chair for the Missisquoi Museum in Stanbridge. Heritage Branch had been entrusted to find a home for the chair north of the American border. The members decided that the chair should be housed in Missisquoi Museum, the original home of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch.

President Rod Riordon UE and Genealogist Michel Racicot UE were most graciously received when they attended the Battle of Plattsburgh in September. The week-long annual event commemorates the British American battle in the War of 1812.

Phyllis Hamilton UE and Adelaide Lanktree UE thoroughly enjoyed the UELAC Conference in Saint John, N.B. For them the highlight of the conference was seeing Fred Hayward UE, a dual branch member of our branch, installed as the incoming UELAC President.

Journalist Mark Jodoin, our first new member in 2009, is keenly interested in preserving the history of our Loyalist ancestors. Mark gave our branch six copies of the October 2008 issue of the *Esprit de Corps* magazine [Volume 15, Issue 9, pp. 24 – 31] that contains his article "*Shadow Soldiers, Sir William Johnson*."

For the third time the Johnson Bell, cast in London, England in 1812, has found its niche in Saint Stephen's Anglican Church in Chambly, Quebec. Sir John Johnson donated the bell to Saint Stephen's in 1822. When Saint Stephen's decided to purchase a larger bell in 1885 they gave or sold the Johnson Bell to Ahuntsic Anglican Church. When Ahuntsic's Montreal north-end church closed, the bell was returned to Saint Stephen's. In August of 1971, Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch unveiled the mounted bell and

a plaque on the grounds of Saint Stephen's. The bell received much publicity when it was stolen in 1975. Miraculously, on 22 March 2002 the bell was returned and was stored in a locked office in Saint Stephen's Randall Hall. In 2008 Fred Agley devised a mantle and the bell now stands near the altar in the sanctuary of the church. Craig Rogers, the most recent recipient of a certificate, is the son of Manitoba Branch Vice-President Peter Rogers. The Johnson Bell in Saint Stephen's Anglican Church in Chambly, Quebec. One of our parishioners, a passionate man who yearns to keep history protected for the future, Mr. Fred Agley, restored the bell as well as possible. It now hangs on its new mantle in the church near the altar, along with a summary description of its history. Photo courtesy:

By Adelaide Lanktree UE

2009 Fall

Set on the enchanting shores of Lake Ontario, the 2009 UELAC Conference which celebrated the 225th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Loyalists at Adolphustown was most impressive for our six members who were present. The numerous well-organized events led us to reminisce on the mixed emotions that the Loyalists would have felt as they arrived on the shores 225 years ago. Congratulations are extended to the Bay of Quinte Branch who hosted such an impressive conference.

The Annual General Meeting of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, held in the Philipsburg Legion Hall, was well attended. After partaking of a delicious meal we were captivated by our guest speaker's talk. The topic chosen by Bob McBride UE, Editor of the *Loyalist Gazette* and Central East Region Vice-President, was "*An exploration of the Relationship between the UEL and Freemasonry in Upper Canada.*" Of particular interest to us was Sir William and Sir John Johnson's Masonic contributions. The new regalia that Sir John had ordered arrived to be worn for the first time at Sir John's funeral. A 225th Anniversary cake commemorated the 1784 arrival of the Loyalists in the Philipsburg area of Lake Champlain.

A perfect day for a summer picnic greeted members of our branch as we gathered on the lawn of the Brome County Historical Society in Knowlton. Member, Mark Jodoin, had copies of his newly published book, *Shadow Soldiers of the American Revolution Loyalist Tales from New York to Canada*. Mark was pleased to answer questions in reference to his book and many enthusiastic members bought copies. Following an enjoyable picnic lunch, members toured a very interesting Loyalist exhibit in the museum. As usual the Fokker DVII World War I biplane was a great attraction.

Negotiations are progressing with CIME (Centre d'Interprétation du Milieu Ecologique du Haut Richelieu) the owner of the apple orchard where the Johnson Vault is located. Ray Ostiguy, a lawyer who is also a branch member as well as a member of Johnson Vault Restoration Committee, gave CIME a copy of a deed in which Sir John Johnson willed the one acre site of the Johnson Vault to three of his heirs. CIME will give the deed to their lawyer and a subsequent meeting will be scheduled in September. We have had the vault area cleaned, draped in a plastic sheet and covered with sand.

By Adelaide Lanktree UE, Past President

2010 Fall

Following a tradition of many years, our Annual Meeting was preceded by a roast beef dinner at the Philipsburg Legion Hall. We then opened the meeting with an interesting and timely power-point presentation by our genealogist, Michel Racicot, outlining the history of the Brome Missisquoi Perkins Hospital, that serves much of our area, this being its centennial year. The talk was based on his recent

book, *100 Years of Caring: 1910-2010*.

The Vault Committee then reported that an agreement had been reached with CIME (Centre 'Interprétation du Milieu Écologique du Haut Richelieu) for a 99-year lease of a parcel of land around the Sir Johnson burial vault at one dollar per year. Once the details are settled, we shall be able to start planning the reconstruction of the vault.

In August, we had our summer picnic, attended by some forty-five members and friends, at the newly-renovated Walbridge round barn in Mystic. The twelve-sided barn was built in 1882 by Alexander Walbridge and patterned on a twelve-sided railway roundhouse, complete with turntable. The barn contained twelve hay mows each of which could be filled by turning the hay wagon toward the appropriate one and removing its load with a hay fork raised by power from a nearby water wheel. When empty, the wagon could be turned to drive out frontwards.

Walbridge was a true entrepreneur who built a foundry and machine shop and put up many of the local buildings. With a spur line from the Southeastern Railway (later the C.P.R.) he was able to do machining for the railway but later lost all his money when the C.P.R. was unable to pay its bills.

The renovated barn and its surrounding grounds make an ideal spot for a summer outing. The area is protected by the Walbridge Conservation Area Limited and is now affiliated with the Missisquoi Historical Society.

This year Rob Young attended with his team of oxen, of particular interest since oxen were the primary beasts of burden used by the early Loyalists.

Louise Smith's Grade 6 class in Cowansville's Heroes Memorial Elementary School was this year's Loyalist education teacher. Louise Hall and Adelaide Lanktree were invited to a power point presentation in which the students presented interesting information that they had researched using Mark Jodoin's book, *Shadow Soldiers of the American Revolution*, as a valuable resource.

Congratulations to nonagenarians Hope Cotton and Ed Jenne who celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on 06 August 2010. Hope's Loyalist ancestor is the Rev. John Stuart UE.

We extend our sympathy to Olive Pollard on the death of her late husband, Eric Pollard UE, a descendant of Loyalist John Savage UE.

Eric William Savage Pollard UE was born in Granby in 1924 and attended the local high school. After graduating, he joined the RCAF but never served overseas. A long-time employee of Bell Canada, he joined the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the UELAC in 1985 and was an ever-ready helper whenever needed. Eric was active in the Boy Scout movement in Granby, serving as leader for many years. His community involvement continued with his service to St-George's Anglican Church in Granby until he moved to Brome where he continued to actively serve St- John's Anglican Church in that community. Sadly Eric passed away on 07 July 2010 after a short illness. Since Eric served on the executive of our branch for many years, his assistance will be greatly missed. Eric's Loyalist ancestor is John Savage UE.



2011 Spring

On 25 August, shortly after our Annual Picnic at the site of the Walbridge Round Barn in Mystic, we manned a table to promote the UEL at the Townshippers' "Seniors in the Park" event in Davignon Park, Cowansville. This was held to familiarize residents with some of the activities available in our area. The event took place thanks to the collaboration of the Townshippers' Association, the Corporation de développement communautaire de Brome-Missisquoi (CDC), the BMCSG and the Town of Cowansville. Some two hundred and fifty people aged 50+ were present.

On 10 and 11 September members of the branch attended the tenth Annual General Meeting of the Quebec Anglo-phone Heritage Network (QAHN) held at Orford. This was a two day meeting consisting of a panel discussion and a number of presentations concerned with the preservation of the English heritage in Quebec. One of the speakers of note was Louise Abbott, author and film producer, who spoke on "Breathing Life into Local History." Some of our members also attended the Commemoration of the Battle of Plattsburgh that was one of the final battles of the 1812 war. The commemoration has become a major annual event in Plattsburgh. On 26 September, we greeted some fifty-three Loyalist members of the Mohawk Fall tour at the site of the Sir John Johnson burial vault on Mont St. Gregoire (formerly Mount Johnson).

We ended our activities for the year with our Semi-annual meeting held on Sunday 03 October, a lovely, sunny fall day. We started with a communion service at Holy Trinity Church, Iron Hill, conducted by the Rev. Allan Gault, following which we gathered in the church hall for an excellent turkey dinner. The business meeting began with an interesting talk by Matthew Farfan, a local author and historian, who discussed historical happenings in Quebec's Eastern Townships, using some of his extensive collection of photographs and postcards to illustrate particular events. He also brought some of his books both for reference and for sale.

Sir John Johnson Burial Vault

Although discussions with CIME (Centre d'interprétation du milieu écologique du Haut-Richelieu), the proprietor of the land upon which the vault is situated, are on-going, a preliminary agreement has permitted the surveying of the terrain associated with the vault and installation of markers establishing its limits. This advance opens the possibility of starting the reconstruction of the vault in the coming year. This will be a major and, consequently, expensive undertaking.

By Roderick Riordon UE, President.

2011 Fall

Our year started off with enthusiasm for the rebuilding of the Sir John Johnson burial vault on Mont St. Gregoire now that the land had been surveyed in the previous fall. We prepared a detailed proposal to make the vault reconstruction a UELAC 2014 legacy project. To this end, our Vice-President presented it to the 05 March Dominion Council Meeting where it was well received and a grant of \$30,000 was committed. Negotiations concerning some outstanding details are continuing. Meanwhile, the original steel door and lock for the vault have been rebuilt and painted.

The UELAC Annual Meeting in Brockville, hosted by the Col. Edward Jessup Branch, was attended and much enjoyed by twelve of our branch members. Our hosts treated us to some of the many historic

sites in the Brockville area and to some memorable meals, particularly the dinner cruise through the Thousand Islands and a great Gala Dinner on Saturday evening. The city of Brockville, situated on the St. Lawrence River, has played an important part in Canada's history especially for the resettlement of Loyalists following the American Revolution and again in the defence of the country in the War of 1812. Indeed, Brockville is named for Major General Sir Isaac Brock who was killed in battle at Queenston Heights in October 1812. This was emphasized by the various fortifications and battle sites that we visited on the tours offered.

Our Branch's Annual Meeting was held in Philipsburg, Quebec on Saturday, 18 June, a pleasant summer day. We began with an excellent roast beef dinner provided by members of the Philipsburg Legion. We then began our business meeting with a talk by Ray Ostiguy, an active member of the Vault Committee, who described Sir John Johnson's activities in establishing many settlers, including Loyalists, in Lower Canada and particularly in Quebec's Eastern Townships. Following the talk, the President read a letter of greetings from Sir Guy Johnson, our Honorary President and descendent of Sir John Johnson. A short business meeting concluded our activities.

On 03 July, the Veterans Coalition of Vermont organized a picnic at the home of Fred Gilman on the shores of Lake Champlain. Our branch was invited and a number of our members enjoyed the lovely summer weather and lakeside site.

On Sunday, 17 July, family members from across Canada and friends, including several Loyalists and American friends, gathered at the home of Associate member, Fred Gilman, to celebrate his 90th birthday. A remarkable display of the highlights of Fred's life of devotion to family, friends and country was a focal point for reminiscing. Among the flags adorning the shores of Lake Champlain were those of both the RCAF and the American Air Force, reminding us of Fred's contribution during World War II.

By Roderick Riordon UE, President and Adelaide Lanktree UE, Past President.

2012 Spring

Since September 2011 several meetings have been held with representatives of CIME on the part of the Sir John Johnson Vault Restoration Committee (*La Société de Restauration du Patrimoine Johnson*), including one attended by Mr. Bernard Hébert of the Longueuil office of the *Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine de Québec*. The meetings have been cordial and positive. According to Mr. Hébert however, the Committee's plans to reconstruct the vault on the remaining foundations (seen as a "reproduction" and not a "restoration") is now inconsistent with the current view afforded to the protection of archaeological sites. As a result of this new information, the Committee now seeks to build a permanent structure "over" the foundations in order to protect them and to serve as a depository within which the remains of the Johnson family may be returned and re-consecrated along with the artefacts.

Dr. George J. Hill, an associate member of our branch, has published a new book, titled John Saxe, Loyalist (1732-1808) and His Descendants for Five Generations. It tells the story of the Loyalist, John Saxe, and of his children and their descendants – some of whom were very successful, while others were ordinary men and women who eked out a living on the frontier. Some settled in Canada and were loyal to the Crown, others were American Patriots, some heroes in the War of 1812 and the Civil War, and some were distinguished in public service, law, business, the arts, and government.

The eighty-ninth Annual Session of the Grand Chapter of Quebec was held in Granby, Quebec on 13 and 14 October 2011. Members of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC took an active part in the

proceedings. Wesley Larocque was a Grand Guard; Brenda Stone GGCCM on Membership; Adelaide Lanktree, the Worthy Grand Patron's Grand Page; Evelyn Lewis, newspaper correspondent; Heather Larocque, Credentials and Registration; and Marjorie Newell, Scrutineer and Unfinished Business. Beverley Howman was presented with her 60-year membership certificate and Heather Larocque with her 50-year certificate. Others with more than 60 years of membership are Louise Hall, 63 years and Evelyn Lewis and Adelaide Lanktree each with 62 years of membership.

The 38th Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner was held on Wednesday, 26 October 2011, at the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch (R.H.R.) Armoury, on Bleury Street in Montreal. Among those present were Dominion President Robert C. McBride and his wife Grietje. Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was well represented that evening: members Roderick Riordon, Adelaide Lanktree, Gerald Thomas, Louise Hall, Michel Racicot, and Mark Jodoin. A number of the Heritage Branch members present are also second branch members of the Sir John Johnson Branch. These include: Okill and Sylvia Stuart, Robert and Maura Wilkins, Gary Aitken, and Doug Page. We all had a wonderful time and enjoyed the evening.

By Roderick Riordon UE, President

2012 Fall

Members of our Branch attended the QAHN (Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network) Annual Meeting at Champlain Regional College in Saint Lambert. Michael Cooper was this year's recipient of the Marion Phelps award for being a long-time heritage volunteer. Michael gave a Powerpoint presentation of his current project, the restoration of the Fairbairn house in Wakefield.

Following a long tradition, our Annual General Meeting, our 45th, was held at the Legion Hall in Philipsburg on June 16th. UELAC Dominion President, Robert C. McBride UE, and his wife, Grietje McBride UE, were guests of honour. After a delicious roast beef dinner, Bob talked to us about the exploits of his ancestor, Captain John DeCou, in the War of 1812.

Gerald Thomas was elected as Branch President and Linda Howman as Secretary.

A number of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch were guests at Fred Gilman's Annual Picnic honouring American and Canadian Veterans held at his home on the shores of Lake Champlain.

Our Branch had an information table at the Townshippers "*Picnic in the Park 50+*" that was held in the Davignon Park in Cowansville. Twenty-two local associations had exhibits at the well-attended picnic. Information awaited all participants from our cultural communities. It was a day of fun, activities and a free lunch.

By Michel Racicot, Branch Genealogist

2013 Spring

Last summer, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) launched a project called Significant Objects for Telling Identity (SOFTI): English Quebec through 100 objects. With this project, QAHN aims to collect the stories of 100 objects that together will create a portrait of Quebec's English-speaking communities, past and present. These 100 objects and their stories will be placed on a specially designed website and DVD for distribution across Canada. This website will be launched in March 2013. Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch has submitted such an object to the SOFTI project: the Gravestone of Sir John Johnson.

In 1830, Sir John Johnson was interred in the family vault on Mount Johnson (now known as Mont Saint-Grégoire), near the village of Saint-Grégoire. The vault was accidentally bulldozed sixty years ago. Fortunately, Sir John's stone survived. Later, the gravestone was transported to Stanbridge East, where it was placed at the Missisquoi Museum. On 03 December 2012, we received confirmation from QAHN that our submission has been chosen and will be included in the SOFTI project.

Even though it has no link to the SOFTI Project, it is very interesting to note that a two-page text titled, *Commemorating a Loyalist – The restoration of Sir John Johnson's Burial Vault*, written by Jessica Campbell, appeared in the magazine, *Quebec Heritage News*, Winter 2013, published by QAHN. The author outlines the life of Sir John Johnson, the story of the burial vault, and its restoration project.

Townshippers' Day is a bilingual autumn festivity that attracts some 5,000 to 10,000 visitors. Organized by the Townshippers' Association, T-Day highlights the cultural identity of the Townships' English community.

Each year, a different community in the Eastern Townships hosts the event and, in 2012, T-Day was held in Farnham on September 15th. Why Farnham? Kate Wisdom, Community and Cultural Coordinator of the Townshippers' Association, wrote in the Fall/Winter issue of *Townshippers*: What made Farnham take an interest in hosting Townshippers' Day? The spark was lit during a conversation with Farnham personalities Louise Hall and Adelaide Lanktree, two sisters who are well-known for their work with the United Empire Loyalists and Farnham Heritage. Louise Hall was named an Outstanding Townshipper in 2003 and is also recognised for her work on the BMP Hospital "Petit Musée" Museum project (in Cowansville).

At T-Day, our Branch had a display table attended by Branch members: Adelaide Lanktree, Heather Darch, Gerald Thomas, and Michel Racicot. They were later joined by our Treasurer, Louise Hall, who was accompanied by Heritage Branch members Okill and Sylvia Stuart and Robert and Maura Wilkins. In the afternoon, Louise Hall and Adelaide Lanktree, along with Robert Wilkins and Okill Stuart, gave a long and very interesting interview to Jacqueline Czermin, CBC Breakaway host (photo). They talked about the reconstruction of the tomb of leading Loyalist Sir John Johnson that was destroyed more than fifty years ago, hoping, that in 2014, Sir John's resting place will finally be restored with honour and pride.



By Michel Racicot, Branch Genealogist

2013 Fall

Annual General Meeting

Members and guests, including Myrtle Johnston UE, UELAC Central East Region Councillor and Roy Lewis UE, UELAC Central East Region Vice-President, both from Brockville, gathered at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall, in Philipsburg on 15 June 2013 for lunch and the Annual General Meeting. Following “Grace,” said by Evelyn Lewis, everyone enjoyed a delicious buffet luncheon, prepared by members of the Legion. The guest speaker, Mr. Roy Lewis UE, proposed a toast to the Queen with everyone responding “To the Queen” as they raised their glasses. Linda Howman UE thanked the members of the Legion for the lunch on behalf of those present.

Rod Riordon UE, in the absence of President Gerry Thomas UE, called upon Genealogist Michel Racicot UE to introduce the guest speaker. Roy Lewis has retired after 43 years as a journalist, photographer, composer and editor. Mr. Lewis, who is the descendant of the Loyalist William Lewis UE, lives with his wife, Helen, in Athens and plays a very active part in Colonel Edward Jessup Branch as well as on the national executive. He gave us a most interesting talk about the UELAC, its mission, its projects, news about the 2013 Dominion Conference and the UELAC Centennial in 2014. Adelaide Lanktree UE thanked Mr. Lewis by presenting him with a book. Rod Riordon UE then proceeded with the Annual General Meeting.

QAHN SOFTI Project

In September 2012, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) launched a project called “Significant Objects for Telling Identity (SOFTI): English Quebec through 100 objects.” With this project, QAHN aimed to collect the stories of 100 objects that together would create a portrait of Quebec’s English-speaking communities, past and present. This project was realized in partnership with historical societies, museums, community groups, and individuals across Quebec, Canada. It is a portrait of the English-speaking communities of Quebec, in all their diversity.

The official launch of QAHN’s much-anticipated “100 Objects” website took place on 26 March 2013 at Uplands Heritage and Cultural Centre in Lennoxville (Sherbrooke), Quebec. Members of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, Michel Racicot, Heather Darch, Adelaide Lanktree and her son John, were present at the launch. Heather Darch was the SOFTI Project co-manager. Also present were Beverley and Milton Loomis of Little Forks Branch.

This new website, <http://100objects.qahn.org> contains photos of artefacts, stories, essays, and an historical timeline. It identifies resources for further research. It also offers six audio-visual capsules that help bring selected stories alive. While browsing through this website, please take a special look at these objects:

#13, “Gravestone of Sir John Johnson-1830,” presented by Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch;

#20, “Sampler by Adela Hyatt,” submitted by Little Forks Branch;

#56, “Yard of Silk,” presented by branch member Michel Racicot, President of the Cowansville Historical Society;

#7, “Whaler’s Try Pot”;

#21, “The Boyle Family Bible,” submitted by Branch Member Jim Caputo, President of Heritage Gaspé; and finally,

#5, “Loyalist Coat,” presented by the Missisquoi Museum, Stanbridge East, Quebec

QAHN Annual General Meeting

Branch President Gerry Thomas and Genealogist Michel Racicot attended the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) held in Stanstead,* Quebec, on 01 June 2013. The meeting took place at Golden Rule Lodge, the oldest continuously-operating Masonic Hall in Quebec, built in 1860.

Founded in 2000, QAHN is an organization engaged in promoting the preservation of the cultural and natural heritage of Quebec. It aims at promoting a greater understanding of the history of Quebec's English-speaking communities. Branch members Louise Hall and Adelaide Lanktree attended in 2000 QAHN's founding conference held at Bishop's University, in Lennoxville. Our branch has been a core member of QAHN since the beginning.

Following the business meeting, participants visited the Anglican Church next door to the Lodge, a church famous for its stained glass. After the visit, we crossed the street to the Colby-Curtis Museum where we were greeted by a tour guide. At lunch time, we all went to the La Vieille Douane Restaurant, a converted customs house, where we were served a delicious four-course meal. During the launch, the Marion Phelps Award, which is given each year to an outstanding volunteer in the heritage field, was presented to William Young as founding executive director of Greenwood Centre for Living History. This is an historical house museum, whose roots date back to 1732, located in Hudson, on the shoreline of Lake of Two Mountains. This award is named after Marion Phelps who was an honorary member of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch (*see text "In Memoriam"*).

In Memoriam

Marion Louise Phelps UE (1908-2013)

Marion Louise Phelps UE, a long-time historian, curator and archivist of the Brome County Historical Society at Knowlton, Quebec, passed away peacefully on 02 January 2013. She was born on 09 February 1908 in the Township of Stukely, Shefford County, the daughter of William Walter Phelps and Maude McDougall.

Marion went to school at the Blake Schoolhouse, the Stukely Village Stone School, and later, the Waterloo High School. After obtaining her teacher's degree at the School for Teachers, Macdonald College, in 1927, she taught one year at St. Jovite, one year at Ste. Agathe, one year at Farnham, and three years at Waterloo High School. Then she taught at the Heroes' Memorial High School in Cowansville, Grades 4, 5 and 6, full-time from 1933 to 1964. After retiring, she came back to Heroes' Memorial, teaching arts part-time until 1969.

In 1959, she was named Curator of the Brome County Historical Society Museum, a position she kept until the late 1980s. She then became Archivist of the Brome County Historical Society, a function she kept until March 2005, when she finally decided to retire.



In 2001, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) inaugurated the "Marion Phelps Award." The first recipient was Marion Phelps herself. The award is given annually to an individual for his or her

“Outstanding long-term contribution to the protection and preservation of Anglophone heritage in the Province of Quebec.”

Marion was a great friend of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch since its beginning in 1967. In October 1969, in recognition of her worthwhile contribution to our branch, Marion Phelps was made Honorary Member of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. Through the years, our genealogists have always benefitted from her invaluable assistance in the documentation of Loyalist lineage.

Edgar John Chard UE 1922-2013)

E. John Chard UE passed away suddenly at the Kingston General Hospital on Friday 17 May 2013, in his 91st year. Son of the late Clarence and Rita Chard, he was predeceased by his brother, Richard Chard.

John Chard was not only a great friend and supporter of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, he was also the Patron of many UELAC branches. In 1966, John Chard, then President of the UELAC, became concerned that there was no branch in the Province of Quebec and especially no branch representing the descendants of those Loyalists who had settled in the Missisquoi County. In 1967, he came to Missisquoi and met Ruby Moore, genealogist of the Missisquoi County Historical Society, and several Loyalist descendants. Later, he made this comment on his first visit in Missisquoi: *It soon became evident that there was support for a gathering of the Loyalist descendants.* John Chard's initiative was successful. On 16 December 1967, the Dominion Council granted a Charter to Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. His friendship and support will be sorely missed.



Norma Williams Purssell UE (1920-2013)

Norma Williams Purssell UE, née Derick, of Kentville, Nova Scotia, passed away Wednesday, 23 January 2013 at home. Born in 1920 at Noyan, Quebec, she was a daughter of the late Archibald Williams and Sarah Estella (O'Connor) Derick. She is survived by a son, Allan, in New Minas, and by a sister, Dorothy Weir, in Kentville. She was predeceased by her husband, Eric Walter Purssell.

Norma was a proud UEL. She became a regular member of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch in 1968. Her Loyalist Ancestor was Philip Derick (Derck) UE, who served in Major Rogers' Corps of King's Rangers. In 1784, Derick was still listed as a Captain in Henry Ruiter's Company of Loyal Rangers. He settled at Caldwell Manor in 1783.

2014 Spring

Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration 2013

The 199th Anniversary of the Battle of Plattsburgh, one of the most strategic battles in the War of 1812, was celebrated in September. The highlight of the celebrations was the Battle of Plattsburgh Parade that took place on Saturday, 14 September. The Grand Marshals of the parade were Okill Stuart UE and his wife, Sylvia (see photo). Okill is the Past President of Heritage Branch and was the UELAC Dominion President 1994-1996. Branch members, Gerald Thomas UE, Rod Riordon UE and Michel Racicot UE, were present at the parade. Both Okill and Sylvia are also branch members of Sir John Johnson Centennial

Branch. That Saturday night, the Concert Band of Cobourg, Ontario, was featured in a concert in the beautifully restored Strand Theatre.

Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner

The 40th Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner was held on Wednesday, 23 October, at the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch (R.H.R.) Armoury, on Bleury Street in Montreal. The guest speaker was Sam Elison who spoke on "The Scottish Loyalists and their Contribution to Canada." A graduate of the London School of Economics (BSc Honours) and McGill University (MA in Education), Sam Elison had a long career as a high school history and economics teacher. On retiring, he became an adjunct professor of Education at McGill, teaching Canadian history to secondary teachers. He is the author of numerous works in history and economics and a frequent contributor to the *Montreal Gazette*.

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was well represented that evening. Among those present were: Roderick Riordon UE, Adelaide Lanktree UE, and Michel Racicot UE. Also present were Heritage Branch members Okill and Sylvia Stuart, Robert and Maura Wilkins, and Gary Aitken who are also Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch members.

Restoration of the Sir John Johnson Family Burial Vault

In 1967, the UELAC formed its first branch in the Province of Québec and this new branch chose to honour both Canada's Centennial and Sir John Johnson, a great Loyalist, by naming the branch, Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. Since the Province of Québec was the home of Sir John Johnson for so many years and many members of his Regiment came to live in this part of the country, it seemed most fitting that this new branch be named in his honour.

Sir John died in January 1830 and was buried beside the remains of his wife and four of their children in the family vault on the south side of Mount Johnson. It is this crypt that was accidentally bulldozed fifty-six years ago and is now being restored. In 2011, the Restoration of the Sir John Johnson Family Burial Vault was accepted as a UELAC 2014 Centennial Project.



Before



After

The construction of the new burial vault at Mount Johnson (now known as Mont Saint-Grégoire) near Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu in Quebec is finally underway. Since the fall of 2013, a metal chamber, embedded in a cement base, nestles in the slope of a hill immediately in back of the foundation of the original Johnson Vault. The restored, original metal door secures the entrance to the vault. To replicate the original façade of the new vault, the stone mason worked from a photo of Henry R.

Bunnett's 1885 painting of the original vault. A niche over the door will house a black granite stone bearing the inscription "Sacred to the memory of The Honourable Sir John Johnson who departed this life on the 4th Jan. 1830, aged 88 years."

The bones of the members of the Johnson family who were buried in the vault will be returned from Quebec City and will repose in two ceramic urns fashioned specifically for this purpose.

We are most grateful to the UELAC for their financial support and for naming the Sir John Johnson Vault project a UELAC Centennial project. We greatly appreciate the initiative of Jean-Paul Lasnier who, on learning that the structure he had been hired to bulldoze, was Sir John Johnson's burial vault, set about to repair what he said was the worst mistake of his life.

Landscaping will be attended to in the spring and commemorative plaques will be installed. We look forward to the re-dedication ceremony that will be held Saturday, 23 August 2014. Please join us then!

By Michel Racicot, Branch Genealogist

2014 Fall

2014 is an exciting year for both the UELAC and Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. The UELAC is celebrating its 100th Anniversary and, as part of its celebration, presented Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch with a donation that greatly aided in the restoration of the Sir John Johnson Funeral Vault on Mont Saint-Grégoire, formerly Mount Johnson. The Re-consecration Ceremony was held on Saturday, 23 August. Saturday, 14 June 2014, saw twenty-one members and friends gather at the Canadian Legion Hall in Philipsburg, Quebec, for the Branch Annual Meeting. Prior to the meeting a delicious roast beef dinner, prepared by the members of the Canadian Legion, was enjoyed by all. Robert Wilkins UE said Grace, Okill Stuart UE proposed a Toast to the Queen and, following the meal, Edwina Jenne Bougie, thanked the members of the Legion for the meal on behalf of the members. President Gerald Thomas UE welcomed everyone, especially Robert and Maura Wilkins and Okill and Sylvia Stuart from Montreal and three from the USA: Bill Glidden, Gene Hicks and Linden Witherall. Wesley Larocque presented the flag and Robert Wilkins led the members in the singing of God Save the Queen. At the beginning of the business meeting, Past President Roderick Riordon UE introduced Michel Racicot as the guest speaker. He presented a very interesting and informative Power Point presentation on the Johnson Family Burial Vault. Adelaide Lanktree thanked him. During the meeting, President Gerald Thomas gave a very informative report of the UELAC Annual General Meeting in Toronto that he attended. Genealogist, Michel Racicot UE, reported that the following members had received their UE certificates: Susan Savage Baumann (Loyalist Ancestor: Edward Savage), Irene Derick Beerwort (Loyalist Ancestor: Philip Derick) and Dr. George James Hill (Loyalist Ancestor: William Irish).

**LOUISE HALL UE AND ADELAIDE LANKTREE UE,
RECIPIENTS OF THE MARION PHELPS AWARD**

Every year since 2001, the Marion Phelps Award is presented by the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN)

in recognition of outstanding long-term contributions by an individual for the preservation and promotion of Anglophone heritage in the province of Quebec. This year the presentation ceremony took place during QAHN's annual convention on 07 June in historic Stanbridge East in the Eastern Townships. For the first time the Marion Phelps Award was presented, not to one individual, but to two individuals, two sisters, Louise Hall UE and Adelaide Lanktree UE, both of Farnham, Quebec.



Sisters Adelaide Lanktree UE and Louise Hall UE were the recipients of the Marion Phelps Award by the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN). From left are: QAHN President Simon Jacobs, Adelaide Lanktree, Louise Hall and Michel Racicot.

For several decades, Louise and Adelaide have contributed much towards the preservation and promotion of anglophone heritage and have been among the finest examples of true volunteerism. In 1992 Louise and Adelaide, descendants of Loyalists, Jeremiah Spencer UE and Edward Savage UE, joined Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. Ever since, they both have been very active members of the branch. Louise has been our treasurer since 2003. Adelaide was branch president from 2003 to 2007 and has held different functions on the executive board. Louise and Adelaide are truly deserving of the Marion Phelps Award. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to both of them. It is an honour well-deserved.

Report by Michel Racicot UE, Branch Genealogist, and Evelyn Lewis UE, Branch Publicity.

2015 Fall

On Saturday 20 June 2015, at 11:30 a.m., members and friends of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch gathered in All Saint Anglican Church Hall, in Dunham, Quebec, for the Annual General Meeting and Luncheon. Reverend Sinpoh Han, Rector of the church said Grace. The members, seated at tables of eight, decorated with vases of spring flowers were treated to a delicious dinner. During the meal, Fred Gilman proposed a Toast to the Queen. Edwina Bougie, on behalf of the members, thanked the ladies of the church for a meal enjoyed by all. Adelaide Lanktree then introduced Michel Racicot who presented a very informative and interesting Power Point presentation of the restoration of the vault and the burial of the remains of Sir John Johnson ceremony held on 23 August 2014 at Mont Saint-Grégoire, Québec. Heather Larocque thanked the speaker.

Past President Roderick Riordon, in the absence of President Gerald Thomas, asked Flag Bearer, Wesley Larocque, to present the flag and the members sang God Save the Queen. He then welcomed everyone especially visitors from Vermont, New York and Ontario. Gene Hicks from Vermont spoke about the launching of the Royal Archives Project to digitize and catalogue more than 250,000 papers of personal documents of King George III. The results of this project will likely transform our understanding of the

Georgian Period, especially events during the American Revolutionary War. Anne Redish, UELAC Central East Regional Vice-President from Ontario, addressed the members with greetings from central office. The greetings were followed by a short business meeting that included the election of the Executive for 2015-16: Past President Roderick Riordon, President Gerald Thomas, First Vice-President Michel Racicot, Second Vice-President Marven J. Beattie, Treasurer Louise Hall, and Secretary Evelyn B. Lewis. The meeting closed with the members standing to sing “O Canada” and the flag was retired by Flag Bearer, Wesley Larocque.

By Evelyn B. Lewis

The Gravestone of Sir John Johnson Repaired in 2014

By Michel Racicot

In 1969, the Missisquoi Historical Society granted permission to have the gravestone of Sir John Johnson placed in a niche in the wall of the Missisquoi Museum when the new section of the museum building was to be bricked the following spring. The gravestone, that had been removed by vandals some years past from the door of the Johnson Family funeral vault, had lain for several years under a tree near apple storage at Mount Johnson, now Mont Saint-Grégoire. The stone, that bears the barely-legible inscription, Sacred to the memory of the Honourable Sir John Johnson who departed this life of the 4th Jan. 1830, aged 88 years, was installed in 1970 in the outside wall of the Missisquoi Museum at Stanbridge East, where it remains today, but the old stone was in such bad condition and much of the lettering was hardly discernible that re-lettering of the stone was practically impossible to do. It was therefore decided that a plaque would be placed beside it. This bronze plaque reads as follows: 1742–1830 – Sir John Johnson – Indian Commissioner and a foremost Loyalist from New York State, who led the Loyalist Regiments during the Revolutionary War. Buried at Mount Johnson, Que. – Erected by the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of The United Empire Loyalists.

Over the years, the niche where the gravestone is housed, had crumbled and began to pull away from the museum wall and, if nothing was done to repair it, the gravestone would eventually fall and break. During the summer of 2014, Branch President Gerald Thomas undertook the project of having the niche repaired. That was done successfully.

The Gravestone of Sir John Johnson is also part of QAHN’s Identity of English-speaking Quebec in 100 Objects. For more information on the history of the gravestone, please visit QAHN’s website: <http://100objects.qahn.org/content/gravestone-sir-john-johnson-1830>.



Ruby Glenna Laduke Moore
(1908-1990)

Twenty-five years ago, Ruby Moore left us for a better world. Today, let us remember her as the moving spirit behind the formation of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch in 1967.

“It is Ruby Moore that we have to thank for having the initiative in 1966 to respond to the request of the representative from the Dominion Headquarters in Toronto, Mr. E. John Chard, that a United Empire Loyalist Branch was formed here in the Townships. Ruby Moore had the foresight to see that Missisquoi County was the natural place to start such a movement since so many of the early settlers here were Loyalists.” —Marion L. Phelps, the late curator of the Brome County Historical Society.

During the summer of 1967, E. John Chard UE, UELAC Dominion President, visited the Missisquoi Museum at Stanbridge East, Quebec, where he met Ruby Moore, genealogist of the Missisquoi County Historical Society. He soon realized that Mrs. Moore had a remarkable knowledge of the history of the region. Several years later John Chard made this comment on his first visit in Missisquoi: “It soon became evident that there was now support for a gathering of the Loyalist descendants, but according to a universal custom, they relayed the work of finding prospective members onto one person, Ruby Moore. They could not have made a better choice.”



In 1975, Ruby Moore retired as Genealogist of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. She had served the Branch as Genealogist since its inception in 1967. In a newsletter dated 01 October 1975, Branch President Gwendolyn Fuller wrote: “Perhaps some of you may have heard that we had a dinner party in honor of Ruby Moore, on July 21 at my home and Ruby was surprised by a presentation of a purse, by all present. Perhaps this is a good opportunity to praise our great and noble worker, Ruby Moore, for, without her ability, her enthusiasm and her willingness, there probably would not be such an important branch as the

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. We can never forget all she has done for the branch – not only as Genealogist, but throughout.”

Ruby Laduke Moore died on 18 May 1990. She was a descendant of Loyalist, John Fordyce UE, a pioneer settler of Fordyce Corner, a small hamlet today part of the town of Cowansville, Quebec, where Ruby lived for years. —

Michel Racicot, Genealogist

2016 Spring

The Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner was held on Wednesday, 28 October at the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch Armoury on Bleury Street in Montreal. The guest speaker was Alan Hustak, long-time Montreal Gazette journalist, now retired and author of various books. He presented a very interesting talk on the Reverend Frederick G. Scott, senior chaplain of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division during World War I and father of the famous Canadian poet, Francis Reginald Scott. Among those present was Anne Redish UE, UELAC Central East Regional Vice-President, who brought us a message from our newly-elected Dominion President, Barbara J. Andrews UE. Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was represented by Past President, Roderick Riordon UE, President, Gerald Thomas UE and First Vice-President, Michel Racicot UE. Also present were members: Robert and Maura Wilkins, and Okill and Sylvia Stuart.

The Beattie family originally came from Scotland and lived three generations in Ireland before coming to America and settling in 1828 on what became Beattie Road in Dunham Township, Lower Canada. ViewMount House, built in 1960 beside the old family stone house, was the home of Arthur and Gladys Beattie. Today it is the home of their son, Marven J. Beattie, Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Second Vice-President and descendant of Loyalist, William Bull UE. From the house, the view of the mountains is breathtaking. In one glance, you can see Jay Peak, the Round Top, Mont Echo, Mont Glen, Mont Foster, and Mont Orford and several others. On 06 August, about twenty of us came to see this scenic view and had a very enjoyable picnic. Thank you Marven for the warm welcome!

On 12 September, members Gerald Thomas UE, Adelaide Lanktree UE and I participated at Townshippers' Day held at Brome Village, Quebec. Townshippers' Day is one of the largest annual events for the English-speaking community of Quebec Eastern Townships. Created in 1979, T-Day is a cultural festival and information fair held annually in different towns and villages of the Eastern Townships.

On 09 December, our Branch submitted the application of “Sir John Johnson, Colonel, six battalions Eastern Townships Militia” to “Graveside Project – Honouring Veterans of 1812.” Our application was approved. We intend to hold a special ceremony in June 2016 on the site of the Johnson Family Vault at Mont-Saint-Grégoire. For more information, visit the website: <http://www.1812veterans.ca/>

By Michel Racicot UE, Branch First Vice-President and Genealogist

Last Post: GLIDDEN, Gordon William (1937 - 2016)

Our great friend and Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch member, Gordon William “Bill” Glidden, 78, of Plattsburgh, New York, died Monday, 11 January 2016. Bill was born in Fort Edwards, 10 May 1937. After graduating at Russell Sage College, Albany, New York, Bill worked in various technical and marketing positions with General Electric and Sun Oil Company. He joined the Army National Guard in 1964, retiring in 1986 with the rank of Major.

Bill was active in military history and civic organizations including the Kiwanis Breakfast Club, New York State Military Museum, Clinton County Historical Association, Sons of the American Revolution and Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC. For years, he was Deputy Town Historian of the Town of Plattsburgh, New York.

Bill is survived by his wife, Martha Bachman; step-children, Brett Smith and Marisa Sargent; grandson, Gregory Smith; great-granddaughters, Brooklyn and Arabella Smith; his brother, Gary D. Glidden.



Bill Glidden (left) and Doug Grant at Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Semi-Annual Meeting held in Stanbridge East, Quebec, on 16 October 2005. Doug Grant, then the UELAC Dominion President, was the guest speaker at the event.

2016 Fall

By Evelyn Beban Lewis and Michel Racicot UE

Members and guests of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch enjoyed two very special occasions in June 2016: the 49th Branch Annual General Meeting and Luncheon and a “War of 1812 Plaque Unveiling Ceremony” in honour of Sir John Johnson.

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Annual General Meeting

The 49th Annual General Meeting and Luncheon of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was held on 11 June 2016 at the Lakeview Inn “located in the heart of the authentic Victorian village of Knowlton near Brome Lake.” During the luncheon, a special ceremony took place. Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch has been active since 1967. Through these forty-nine years, the Branch has benefitted from the support of many people and organizations and, at the luncheon, we especially wanted to recognize and thank three important partners of our Branch. During the summer of 1967, John Chard UE, then UELAC President, came to visit the Missisquoi Historical Society (MHS) museum at Stanbridge East where he met Ruby Laduke Moore, genealogist of MHS. Several years later, John Chard UE made this comment on his first visit in Missisquoi: “It soon became evident that there was now support for a gathering of the Loyalist descendants.” Since that first meeting, the MHS has been a great partner of our Branch. In appreciation for this support, Branch President, Gerald Thomas UE, and First Vice-President, Michel Racicot UE, presented a cheque of \$1,000 to François Reid, MHS President.

In 1967, Ruby Moore had the help of Marion Phelps, the historian, archivist and curator of the Brome County Historical Society (BCHS). In 1969, in recognition of her worthwhile contribution to the Branch, Miss Phelps was made Honorary Member of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. She helped many members find their Loyalist ancestors. For many years now, you can find the Branch’s library and archives in the archives building of BCHS. Branch President, Gerald Thomas UE, and First Vice-President, Michel Racicot UE, presented a cheque of \$1,000 to Donald Gray-Donald, BCHS President For his help and support all these years.

A more recent friend of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was also recognized during the luncheon, Centre d'interprétation du milieu écologique du Haut-Richelieu (CIME), the owner and guardian of the land where Sir John Johnson Family Burial Vault is located. Since the Branch was founded in 1967, the restoration of the burial vault has been one of our most important goals. This goal was finally attained in 2014 and could not have been done without the help of CIME. In recognition of all their help, Branch President, Gerald Thomas UE, Branch Vault Committee Chair, Raymond Ostiguy, and First Vice-President, Michel Racicot UE, presented a cheque of \$1,000 to Renée Gagnon, CIME General Manager and Michelle Durand, CIME Executive Secretary.

War of 1812 Veterans' Plaque Unveiling Ceremony

On 09 December 2015, Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch submitted the application of "Sir John Johnson, Colonel, six battalions Eastern Townships Militia" to "Graveside Project – Honouring Veterans of 1812", a project whose mission is to recognize nationally the graves of the veterans of the War of 1812. The application was approved.

A War of 1812 Veterans' Plaque Unveiling Ceremony honouring Sir John Johnson took place on Thursday, 23 June 2016, at the Johnson Family Burial Vault in Mont-Saint-Grégoire, Québec, in the presence of ninety members and guests of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC, of Heritage Branch UELAC, of the Glengarry, Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum, Williamstown, Ontario and members of the Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry and of the Canadian Voltigeurs.

At the nearby Erablière Charbonneau, the visitors were treated to a talk by Branch President, Michel Racicot UE, about the Burial Vault and its history. He was followed by Branch Member, Raymond Ostiguy UE, who not only talked about Sir John Johnson's role during the war but also presented four other members of his family who participated actively in the War of 1812 and whose remains rest in the Johnson Family Burial Vault: (1) his son-in-law, Colonel Edward Macdonnell, Quarter-Master General to the Forces serving in North America, (2) his son, Captain Robert Thomas Johnson, 100th Regiment of Foot, (3) his son, Lieutenant-Colonel John Johnson Junior, 6th Battalion of the Eastern Townships Militia, and (4) his son, Lieutenant-Colonel Adam Gordon Johnson, 6th Battalion of the Eastern Townships Militia, Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs and Lieutenant-Colonel of a Body of Indian Warriors. At the end of the luncheon, Mac Robertson, on behalf of the Glengarry, Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum, presented a cheque of \$500 to Michel Racicot to help the Branch in the upkeep of the Vault site.

WELL REMEMBERED - KREGER, Lewis Steven **10 December 1935 – 05 May 2016**



Lewis Steven Kreger, age 80, died peacefully in his sleep at home on 05 May 2016, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on 10 December 1935, in Princess Anne County, Virginia, the youngest of five with four older sisters. After a stint in the Air Force he earned a BA from St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland. He and his wife, Roberta Kreger (nee Michaud), lived in Portland, Connecticut, for more than forty years.

On his retirement from a career at IBM, he co-founded a small networking company just as the internet was taking off. Lewis grew up a waterman, sharing his passion for boating, fishing, and crabbing, and all the beauties of nature with family and friends. His interest in genealogy led him to research American Revolutionary history, especially of the USA–Canada border region. He had a love for good food and was an accomplished, creative cook. Lewis was a

brilliant and generous man with a large extended family. In addition to his beloved wife, Roberta, he is also survived by six children and four grandchildren.

Lewis Kreger was a member of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch for many years and participated regularly in the Branch activities. On 13 August 2003, our Branch Annual Picnic was held across the border in Alburgh, Vermont, where we were greeted by Lewis and his wife, Roberta, at their historic summer home, the old schoolhouse. He will be greatly missed by all of us. Our deepest condolences to Roberta and family.

This obituary was published in **The Middletown Press, New Haven, CT, on 09 May 2016.*

2017 Spring

On 29 October 2016, our Branch held their semi-annual meeting at Cowansville with twenty members attending. At noon, we all gathered at the Restaurant O Patio where a delicious “Late Breakfast” was enjoyed by all. After the breakfast and preceding our business meeting, we were entertained by our guest speaker, Bee Santori, on “‘Nigger Rock’: What is it? Where is it? How did it get its name? Why is it so important to our history?” During a thirty-minute presentation, Bee Santori shared with us his knowledge and experience on “Nigger Rock.”

Born Egidio Santori in Italy, Bee Santori immigrated to Montreal, Canada, with his family in 1953. After obtaining a degree in Special Care Counseling, Bee worked for over thirty years with “special needs” individuals, both children and adults. His career did not prevent him from getting interested in storytelling and creative writing as early as 1970. Every autumn, Bee has been teaching Creative Writing at the Missisquoi Community School that takes place in Cowansville, Quebec. For more than ten years, he has also been very interested in the saga of “Nigger Rock” that took place in St. Armand, Québec, on the land of Loyalist, Philip Luke UE. Bee has written two books, under the pen name Grampa Bob, on that subject: *Birdie: The Saga Of Nigger Rock* in 2007, and *Pilgrimage To Nigger Rock: In Search Of Miss Birdie* in 2015. Here is a condensed version of Bee Santori’s “Nigger Rock” presented at our semi-annual meeting.

“NIGGER ROCK! Oh what a terrible word. This is what many people say. As a matter of fact, there is a woman (a McGill student), who has recently petitioned the province of Quebec government to have this name changed. According to her, there are 11 places, in the province, with the offending “N-word,” two of which are Nigger Rock, and Niger River, and the government has agreed. It only took 1000 names on the petition, imagine this. [*Editor’s Note: Niger River near Sherbrooke, was officially spelled with two ‘g’s between 1986 and 2006.]*

What is happening here, I believe, is that we are in the process of hiding history. As far as I am concerned, this is more than unfortunate: it is a discredit to the events of the past, and to the people who made these things happen. How sad.

*How did I get involved in this issue? By coincidence, I happened to see the Nigger Rock poster and, next thing I knew, I had written a rhyme with the info that I had been given. Following this, a book came to fruition. *Birdie: The Saga Of Nigger Rock*. Because of my book, I got to know some of the people in Saint Armand who are part of the “Centre Historique De Saint Armand” and the rest is history.*

*In my attempt to help them with their cause, I published a second book, *Pilgrimage To Nigger Rock: In Search Of Miss Birdie*. Since then, some progress has happened, with regards to the rock, although the process is very slow going. Nigger Rock; What is it? Where is it? How did it get its name? Why is it so important to our history? What stories does it tell, if any? What is it that we want to do with it? How does it connect us to the past?*



Before we answer these questions, let us turn back the time to 1775, the American Revolutionary War. During this war that was fought against the mother country, Great Britain, many people remained loyal to the king, George III. These people became known as the Loyalists. Amongst them were men the likes of Sir John Johnson, and Philip Luke. Once the Rebellious Americans won the war, these Loyalists, along with their families, were expelled and, in return for their loyalty, the King granted them land in what is today Canada. Both Sir John Johnson and Philip Luke ended up in what is today the Province of Quebec.

When these Loyalists came north, they brought with them as many possessions as they could, and that included their slaves. Slaves were categorized as possessions; they were equated with chattel. Thus begins our story in the Seigneurie of Saint Armand.

Philip Luke, son of Johannes Luke and Geesje LaGrange, was born on Sunday, 09 December 1753 in Bethlehem, New York. On 27 March 1776, he married Eystie Vanderspaan, daughter of Philip Vanderspaan and Mareitje Jensen. Eystie was born on Wednesday, 14 July 1756, in Athens, New York. They had eight children.

Philip, a man of means, had remained loyal to the crown during the American Revolution. He served with Butler's Rangers. Following the defeat of the British, he, as were other Loyalists, was exiled to Canada, more specifically, Saint Armand, Quebec, where he was granted land by the king. It is here that Philip and his wife, Eystie, raised their large family.

Amongst the many possessions that Philip brought with him were his slaves. The land that Philip was granted needed to be cleared in order for it to be used for planting profitable crops. This became the work of the slaves. At the same time, the Luke family decided to get into the potash business. This went hand and hand with the clearing of the land. The Lukes were not the only ones to get involved in the potash business.

Many of the other settlers did likewise. In the 1820s and 1830s, the ash trade was one of the most important trades in Canada, and worth a great deal of money. Along with farming, this is how the Luke family was able to stay financially afloat.

Although the Lukes did not treat their black workers badly, none of them received wages for their work. They were allotted clothing, a place to live, and a small parcel of land on which to grow their food for personal consumption. Having no money, nor education, these people had no other choice but to stay where they were, even once they were free. In fact, they were free on paper only. In the census of 1851, it was recorded that no fewer than 283 blacks lived in the area of Saint Armand. They were involved in various occupations.

Majestically standing on the Luke property, was a large limestone rock. This rock became and is still known as Nigger Rock. It was the setting for many a story. There it still stands, mighty and proud, awaiting a human voice to unlock these stories. In the past, it was customary for a white family, especially land owners, to reserve for themselves a special spot on their land where their loved ones would be buried. These cemeteries were often surrounded by stone walls, iron and / or chain link fences, often with iron gates. These were not only meant to be decorative elements, but these barriers also helped to keep animals away.

Blacks, especially slaves, were not accorded such a dignity. They were usually buried haphazardly wherever the land was really not fit to be used for anything else. And so it was with the Luke household, at least until it was decided to give the slaves a specific place of rest, that is, at the base of Nigger Rock. Other than the rock, there were no markers such as grave stones, crosses, etc. Lore has it that the Luke slaves, including other black people who worked for the Lukes, are buried at the base of this rock. Thus a group was formed to see to it that the rock will be recognized as an historical, and I would add, sacred site. Nigger Rock is a huge limestone rock that sits majestically on the former Luke estate.

With the issue of Nigger Rock, there have been, and still are, many hurdles to cross, and many roadblocks to overcome. It has become a long and arduous battle that is slowly being won. This woman, who wants to have the name changed, has only set the process back a little. For me, there is no turning back. I aim to be part of the force that is demanding to give those former slaves and other blacks, who once lived, toiled, and, most likely, died in St. Armand, the respect and honor that they truly deserve.

How does Nigger Rock connect us to the past? It is a monument to PEOPLE, heroes of long ago, who were instrumental in setting the foundation for a most vibrant town, Saint Armand. Their contribution, their stories, their spirit, must be preserved. I, for one, will continue to be a crusader to have Nigger Rock keep its name, and to have its rightful name in history."

Asst. Editor's Note: I agree with keeping accurate historical names if it shows the ignorance and racism of the past. Decades ago when the play, Showboat, was playing near where I lived in Toronto, there were large protests because they used the N-word. Meanwhile, a larger theatre in Toronto was running the play Romeo and Juliet, in which Friar Laurence gave a potion to fake Juliet's death, which led to the two committing suicide. No protest was mounted about portraying a religious man conspiring in what many consider a deadly sin. Should the arts try to "sanitize" the words of the past? Should we portray Nazis speaking "nice words" to those in concentration camps?

Keep history alive or we are likely to repeat it. —Michael Johnson

By Michel Racicot UE, Branch President

Well Remembered: POLLARD, Olive Johnston (1925 – 2016)



At Knowlton House (Town of Brome Lake, Québec), on 26 December 2016 at the age of 91, passed away Mrs. Olive Johnston Pollard, beloved wife of the late Eric Pollard UE of Brome. She leaves to mourn her brothers: Warren (Bill) Johnston of Halifax and Dorson Johnston of Brome, her nieces and nephews and many friends. She was predeceased by her brothers and sisters: Alice, George Clayton (Jean), Doreen, Gladys and Bruce.

For more than twenty years, Olive and her husband, Eric, were not only members of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch but they also took an active part in all our Branch activities. For several years they both served on our Branch executive. Olive will be sorely missed. Our deepest condolences to her family.

2017 Fall

The Fiftieth Annual General Meeting and Luncheon of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was held on 10 June 2017 at the new hall of Centre de santé EuroSpa in St-Ignace-de-Stanbridge. To celebrate this event, forty-four members and friends accepted our invitation including several family members of former branch presidents.

After a delicious meal and before the business meeting, Branch President Michel Racicot UE recalled a few highlights of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch since 1967:

“We are here today, fifty years later, to celebrate all that has been done by the members of our Branch, past and present. It all started in 1966 when John Chard UE, then UELAC Dominion President, became concerned that there was no branch of the UEL Association in the Province of Quebec and especially no branch representing the descendants of those Loyalists who had settled in Missisquoi County. In 1967, John Chard UE came to Missisquoi and met Donald MacCallum of Noyan who suggested a visit to the Missisquoi Museum at Stanbridge East where Mr. Chard met Ruby Moore, Genealogist of the Missisquoi Historical Society. A founding committee was formed.

This committee decided to name the new branch “Sir John Johnson Branch” in honour of Sir John Johnson, the Loyalist leader, who had resided in the area for many years and had its burial place in the territory covered by the new Branch. Later, the word ‘Centennial’ was added to the name to become the ‘Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch,’ in order to also commemorate the 100th year of Confederation. The official application for a charter was made to the Dominion Headquarters in Toronto and the Charter was granted on 16 December 1967.

Fifty years later, looking back on the history of the Branch, it is impressive to see the quantity and quality of the many projects realized by the members of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. I will just remind you of two projects in which Sir John Johnson Centennial played a successful role.

First, the 1989 UELAC Conference was held at Lennoxville, a joint project by Heritage Branch and Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. In 1987, at Dominion Council, Okill Stuart UE, of Heritage Branch, had indicated that Heritage Branch and Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch were willing to host the 1989 Annual Conference and AGM. Okill Stuart’s proposition was gladly accepted by the Council, but they were stunned when Okill then named the proposed Guest of Honour, His Royal Highness, Prince Philip.

After going through all the necessary steps, the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada issued the official notice of the visit of His Royal Highness. Finally, this great weekend arrived after two years of planning, preparation and hard work. The Conference was held on the Victoria Day Weekend at Bishop's University in Lennoxville.

As expected, Prince Philip arrived exactly at 9:40 a.m. Saturday morning, and was welcomed by the Association. That evening, 517 people attended the Black-Tie Banquet with Prince Philip as Guest Speaker. After the Conference, the following comment was later published in The Loyalist Gazette: 'In all modesty, the 1989 Conference is probably one of the most successful in recent times.'

The second project: The Restoration of Sir John Johnson Burial Vault at Mont-StGrégoire. In November 1968, members of the new Branch visited the site where Sir John Johnson Burial Vault once stood. At a meeting of the Branch, held during the autumn of 1969, Murray Mason reported getting the gravestone of Sir John Johnson from Mont Saint-Grégoire and transporting it to Stanbridge East where it was placed at the museum.

At the Branch annual meeting on 05 June 1999, the Branch Vice-President, Richard Eldridge UE, reported that plans for the restoration of the burial site were progressing slowly and they were still awaiting the visit of the government archaeologist to ascertain if people were buried in this site. In 1999 and 2000, two digs were done and a total of 851 bones and bone fragments were found.

In November 2009, Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC proposed that the UELAC adopt the vault restoration as a 2014 Legacy Project. On 05 March 2011, the UELAC accepted the proposition and approved a major grant to support the vault restoration project.

Finally, in 2014, forty-six years after the first visit made by Branch members, a new metal vault was installed on the site. Stones were excavated from the site to cover the foundation of the original vault.

All of this led to a unique and special event that took place on Saturday, 23 August 2014: the Ceremony of the burial of the remains of Sir John Johnson and members of his family at Mount Johnson (today Mont Saint-Grégoire), attended by more than 125 people. The remains of Sir John Johnson and Lady Johnson were brought to the vault in a funeral procession.

Looking back at its history, it is easy to see why Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch had such a successful first fifty years, and today we are here together not only to celebrate the past but also to continue the work done by our predecessor."

By Michel Racicot UE, Branch President