

## ST. LAWRENCE BRANCH

### 1978 Spring

The inaugural meeting of the St. Lawrence Branch of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada was held on October 16, 1977, at the Civic Centre, Morrisburg, Ontario. There were 53 who signed the attendance sheet for this first open meeting of the branch that was granted its charter on May 14, 1977. Many persons proudly displayed the name of their Loyalist ancestor on their name labels that quickly led to several finding common ancestry .

The chairman, Mr. Ian B. McMartin, Past President of the Glengarry Historical Society, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. He extended a welcome to all and thanked Miss Lynne O'Brien and Mr. Keith Casselman for their efforts for arranging for the meeting place and in providing refreshments. Mr. McMartin stressed the importance of our heritage and our duty to carry it on. Miss Lynne O'Brien, pro tern Genealogist, reported a membership of 23 and explained the fee structure.

Mr. John A. Eaman, 2nd Vice-President of The U.E.L. Association of Canada, was introduced as a native from the Wales area (Ingleside). Mr. Eaman brought greetings from the Association. He stated that all branches must increase their knowledge of U.E.L. history and how it fits into today's events. He referred to various families in the region who are Loyalists. He stressed that we have to perpetuate the spirit of the Loyalists and that we must emphasize unity at this point in the history of our country. He also stressed the importance of study groups. Our Bicentennial will be celebrated in 1984. The next annual Convention will be held in London at the University of Western Ontario on May 4, 5, 6, 1978. Mr. Eaman gave some suggestions on programs drawing on his experience of developing his own London Branch.

Mrs. Elizabeth Blair, Assistant Dominion Genealogist, was introduced. Mrs. Blair was proud to be a charter member of this Branch and very pleased with the number of applications she had received. She pointed out that most of the Loyalist ancestry of Loyalist descendants living in this;:' part of Eastern Ontario is from the 1st Battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York under Sir John Johnson which disbanded Dec. 24, 1783. Mrs. Blair explained how to complete the application forms and stressed the importance of providing proof of one's relation to each descendant of a Loyalist. She encouraged Us to write sketches of our ancestors and publish them. She further commented that persons should take pictures of landmarks along the St. Lawrence and make use of them at meetings. This will not go by unnoticed.

Mr. E. J. Chard, Editor of The Loyalist Gazette, and Chairman at the Dominion Headquarters was introduced as a charter member of this branch. Mr. Chard who was the one to initiate the formation of this branch brought greetings from the Dominion Headquarters. He stressed the importance of getting to know one another in order to build the spirit for a new branch. He remarked on the Association, branches from coast-to-coast, neighbouring branches, the U.E.L. flag, jewelry and matters of general interest. At this point the Secretary paid tribute to Mr. Chard whose efforts, many field trips and much correspondence and especially his strong enthusiasm were largely responsible for the formation and development of this branch.

The Chairman asked Mr. Chard to lead a discussion about the forming of an executive. It was moved and seconded that a nominating committee be formed to bring in a report at the next meeting.

Mrs. Wm. Dugan provided choices for the next meeting place and it was decided to meet on November 20 at 2 p.m. at Viscount Alexander School, Dover Road and Westmoreland St., Cornwall, Ontario.

All members introduced themselves and many gave their U .E.L. ancestor.

It was moved by Mrs. J. Webber and seconded by Mr. Alex Fraser that the meeting adjourn. Refreshments of coffee and doughnuts were enjoyed.

Many persons stayed to peruse and discuss the many books, charts and family histories that were on display and to socialize.

The second meeting of the St. Lawrence U.E.L. Branch was held on November 20, 1977, at the Viscount Alexander Public School. Dover Road and Westmoreland Street, Cornwall. There was an attendance of 63.

The meeting opened with the singing of The Queen. The Chairman, Mr. Ian McMartin, began the meeting at 2:30 p.m. He thanked Mrs. Lorraine Dugan for the arrangements of the building and the refreshments. Mr. Keith M. Casselman read the minutes and presented the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$199.84. On a motion by Mr. Howard McDonald and Mrs. Sara Fader the treasurer's report be accepted. The Chairman read a letter from Mr. E. J. Chard expressing his pleasure of the good turnout at the first meeting, and his regrets that he could not be present at this time.

Genealogist, Miss Lynne O'Brien, explained the procedure of the preliminary form, pointing out that a copy should be sent to the branch genealogist, and a copy to Dominion Headquarters, and another copy should be retained by the applicant. The Chairman said a newsletter would be coming out, and asked for news items.

He then requested Mrs. Thorold Lane to take over the chair for the election of officers. At her request Mrs. James Webber presented the nominating committee's report as follows: President - Mr. Ross Melvin Scott, Vice-Presidents Mrs. Donald Hare, Mr. Stanley McNairn and Mr. Ian McMartin, Recording Secretary Mrs. Yvonne Fleming, Corresponding Secretary - Mrs. Douglas Leitch, Treasurer - Mr.Keith M. Casselman, Genealogical Committee - Coordinating Chairman: Mrs. Elizabeth Blair; Area Genealogists - Miss Eva Baker, Miss Lynne O'Brien, Mr. Alex Fraser and Mrs. Leslie Wismer, Newsletter Secretary.

Mr. Mel Scott, took the Chair, thanked the members and asked for their cooperation. He said the Executive will draw up by-laws to be presented at the next meeting. He discussed fees and asked for discussion. It was moved by Mr. Graham Van Allen and seconded by Mr. Alex Fraser that the fees for our Branch remain at \$7.00 for a new member, \$5.00 per year renewal, and \$5.00 for a member on transfer or a member wishing to join from another branch without transferring.

Mrs. Alex Fraser, Chairman of the Glengarry Genealogical Society, spoke on the G.G.S., founded in 1974. Newsletters are sent from here to Australia. He mentioned their cemetery records and reported that the G.G.S. had received a Federal Canada Works Grant to employ three people for a year sorting out and indexing church records in their area.

Mr. Scott mentioned that the book "Loyalists in Ontario" by Reid is very helpful for reference purposes which is in the Cornwall Library. He requested various people to give their ancestry. Each one was introduced and spoke on a U.E.L. Ancestor.

Mr. John Pescod, Cornwall Alderman, showed a land claim of Sgt. John Prescott (sic) of the East half of Lot 17, Concession I, dated 1777. Seven generations of the Pescod family have grown up on this land. The site of the present school is on land formerly owned by the Pescod family. Mrs. Webber told of the Wm. Wood family. Miss Mary Mack reported about the Matthias Snetsinger family. Mr. Stan McNairn

spoke of his ancestors and urged a personal approach to history. Mr. Alex Fraser showed a chart of the Fraser and MacDonald families. Mr. Kenneth Annable and Mrs. Yvonne Fleming also spoke briefly about their ancestors. Mrs. Fleming had papers regarding Henry Hawn and information about the Alguires and Houghs. Mr. Scott showed an antique smoothing iron belonging to Harold Pescod.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. and a fellowship hour followed. Mrs. L. Dugan supplied enjoyable refreshments of cookies and coffee.

## **1978 Autumn**

**T**he St. Lawrence Branch held a general meeting on June 11th in the Board room on the Upper Canada Restaurant, Upper Canada Village.

Mr. R. H. Johnston, Communications Officer for the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, gave a brief history of the St. Lawrence Parks Commission. That 135 people are employed year round, and during the summer season, 650 to 700 are employed. Upper Canada Village opened in 1961 and since then, 44 1/2 million people visited one or more of the St. Lawrence Parks Commission sites. Mr. Johnston showed the film entitled "St. Lawrence More than a river". The film was released three years ago and covers all activities in four seasons in Upper Canada Village and Fort Henry. The film won the Maple Leaf award the first year for a film on tourism.

The Minutes were read by Mrs. Mildred Leith, and the treasurer, Mr. Keith M. Casselman gave the financial statement.

Vice-President Mr. Stanley McNairn informed the gathering of the successful information booth that had been set up on June 9th and 10th at the Cornwall Mall in conjunction with the S.D. & G. Historical Society. Mr. McNairn gave a credit to the President, Mr. R.M. Scott and the members who staffed the booth who had many inquiries about the U.E.L.

Mr. Casselman explained that the Branch had been granted a Young Canada Works Program of \$5862.00 and that four students had been selected and would begin work June 12<sup>th</sup> and continue for 10 weeks. The students would be working under the leadership of the Branch Genealogist, Miss Lynne O'Brien, copying church records, tombstones, interviewing elderly people in Stormont and Dundas.

Mrs. Elizabeth Blair, Dominion Assistant Genealogist of Toronto, explained that an investigating committee of three people took over applications and that there is a lot of work done in Dominion Headquarters regarding applications.

President, Mr. R.M. Scott, stated that the members approved recently will be presented with their certificates on Charter Night Saturday, September 16th at the Treasure Island Restaurant, Ingleside.

Mr. E.J. Chard, of the Dominion Headquarters and Editor of the Loyalist Gazette, reported that it usually takes three years to develop a branch and that our branch has been progressing steadily. The main themes should be our history, heritage and preservation of our roots. Mr. Chard also told of the recent London Convention, and stated that the Convention will be held in Toronto during the last weekend of May 1979.

Mr. Ken Annable, Genealogist of Sir Guy Carleton Branch, Ottawa, reported on his search in England for members of his Loyalist family. Members and non-members were urged to encourage others to fill in applications and send to the Genealogist, Miss Lynne O'Brien, Morrisburg.

Mrs. Helen Lane was thanked for the arrangements for the meeting, and the meeting adjourned, followed by refreshments. A group of three girls were hired under a Young Canada Works Grant to copy records in this area to aid in the preservation of the United Empire Loyalists history. Their office was situated in the home of Miss Lynne O'Brien, herself being a devoted member of the United Empire Loyalists of St. Lawrence Branch, her actual title being that of Genealogist.

The girls, Cathy Cameron, from St. Andrews with one year at Ryerson and the University of Toronto, Robyne Dunham from Ingleside and St. Lawrence College, Cornwall, Pamela Smithson from Morrisburg, and St. Lawrence College were employed from June 12th to August 18. They were a tremendous aid in the preservation of Canada's past as it was when the UEL came on the scene.

Miss O'Brien got her start in genealogy when she began digging into her own past and was inspired by Dr. Will Deeks. The UEL involvement came later. She received a great deal of help from her cousin Mr. Keith Casselman of Morrisburg. Now Miss O'Brien is involved with people all over North America and other parts of the world who have traced their own history back to this area.

Lynn O'Brien has been very successful with her own genealogical tracings, having gone back as far as 1615 and through more than 2,000 relatives on one side and 1,200 on the other. The sources for information come from names on tombstones in local cemeteries, newspaper clippings of births, deaths, weddings, and anniversaries.. Other facts from scrapbooks, libraries, census, other family trees, family bibles and the Ottawa archives.

OBITUARY - Miss Eva Baker died on November 2. She was a main support for our new branch and very active for our charter. She was endeared to us all and will be greatly missed.

## **1979 Spring**

**T**he annual meeting of the St. Lawrence Branch of The United Empire Loyalists' Association was held October 29 at the Nor'westers and Loyalists Museum in Williamstown. Mrs. Wilfred Johnston, Chairman of the Museum Committee, welcomed the Branch to the Museum.

After the treasurer's report by Mr. Keith Casselman, the Genealogist, Miss Lynne O'Brien, reported that the Branch had a display at the Morrisburg Chamber of Commerce Trade Fair, with branch members looking after the display which was well received by the public. Miss O'Brien also thanked members for their contributions to the Branch and recommended that all members visit Upper Canada Village next year. The Genealogist also reported that there were 86 others working on their applications.

President Mr. R. M. Scott presented certificates to Mrs. Yvonne Fleming, Mr. Delbert Feader, Mrs. Irene Haldane, Mrs. Vera Strader, Mrs. Muriel Van Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Van Allen and Miss Iva Whitaker.

The nominating committee put its recommendation before the gathering. -- Since the executive only assumed office in the Spring of 1978, they were asked to continue for another year. President, Mr. R. Melvin Scott (Cornwall) ; Vice-Presidents - Mrs. Violet Hare (Iroquois); Mr. Ian McMartin (Martintown), Mr. Stanley McNairn (Long Sault); Secretary, Mrs. Mildred Leitch (Cornwall) ; Assistant, Mrs. Yvonne

Fleming (Long Sault), Treasurer, Mr. Keith M. Casselman (Morrisburg); Genealogist, Miss Lynne O'Brien (Morrisburg); Associates, Miss Eva Baker (Ingleside) and Mr. Alex Fraser (Lancaster).

Mr. Scott informed the gathering that Miss Eva Baker was a patient in Winchester Hospital. Since the meeting Miss Baker, a 44-year-member of The United Empire Loyalists' Association, passed away, leaving a vacancy in the Executive.

A newsletter will be sent to all members the first part of 1979, with the next meeting, May 6, 1979 at the Iroquois Civic Centre. A pot luck supper is planned for that meeting, and a guest speaker will be from Montreal.

Following the meeting everyone travelled a short distance to the St. Andrews Church where Mr. Edwin McDonald told the group about the church which was built in 1812. Rev. John Bethune established, the first Presbyterian congregation in Upper Canada in Williamstown in 1787. In the 192-year history of the congregation, only nine ministers have served, with Rev. Bethune being there from 1787 until 1815, followed by Rev. John McKenzie 1818 to 1855. A tour of the cemetery surrounding the Church revealed the burial place of many prominent in the public life of this country as well as five of St. Andrew's ministers who are buried there.

Returning to the museum, the members toured the building, followed by refreshments served by the Social Committee.

### **BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

In June of 1784 Sir John Johnson, Colonel of the King's Royal Regiment of New York, settled the Scots of his First Battalion along the north shore of the St. Lawrence River in what became the Township of Charlottenburgh. The settlement continued north along the Raisin River for eight concessions. Sir John established the village of Williams town on the Raisin River naming it after his father Sir William Johnson. He built a Manor House now owned by the government which houses the village library. An historical plaque marks the spot on the banks of the river where he built both saw and grist mills to assist the settlers.

The Rev. John Bethune came to this area in 1786. He had served as chaplain with the North Carolina Loyalist Regiment at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. He was taken prisoner at Moore's Creek and after some time was released with his comrades in an exchange of prisoners.

Making his way to Nova Scotia he became the chaplain of the 84th Regiment, first known as the Royal Highland Immigrants Regiment.

He came to Williamstown in 1786 to become the pioneer Presbyterian minister of what is now Ontario. Besides organizing churches at Williamstown, Martintown, Summerstown, Cornwall and Lancaster his church records show that he made trips as far west as Elizabethtown; 2379 baptisms are recorded, as well as many marriages. He bought a piece of land adjacent to the church on which he built a house, which is still in use. After his death Mrs. Bethune sold it to David Thompson, noted cartographer, who lived there for awhile.

Rev. John Bethune died Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1815, after a continuous service in that area for twenty-eight years. He is buried in the cemetery adjoining the church as are many of the Loyalists of the King's Royal Regiment of New York and their descendants.

*- by Mrs. E. Blair.*

## 1979 Autumn

The growth in the membership of the St. Lawrence Branch during its first year was made clear at the meeting on May 6. Genealogist, Miss Lynne O'Brien of Morrisburg, reported there were 82 members, with 30 others working on their applications. Certificates were presented at the meeting to Marjorie Mallory Garrett of Prescott; Jean V. Mount and son Ross H. Mount of Montreal and Anne Webber of Newington. Juan Cameron, Washington, D.C.; Mary Drennan, Guelph; Beatrice Haldane, Iroquois; Doris J. Holmes, Winchester; Bessie Shaver and Roy Shaver, Ingleside; and Mary Shoemaker, Arizona.

The May meeting, arranged by Vice-President Mrs. Violet Hare was held on Sunday afternoon at the Civic Centre, Iroquois, with the President, Mr. Mel Scott of Cornwall in charge. A minute's silence was observed for deceased members Miss Eva Baker, Mr. Arthur M. Loucks and Mr. Redvers P. Rupert.

Plans were announced for the first anniversary dinner, September 29, at the Winchester Community Centre. The guest speaker is to be Gavin Watt, U.E. of King, Ontario, a member of His Majesty's Re-created Provincial Regiment 1st Battalion, King's Royal Regiment of New York. This should be an interesting meeting as many members of the Branch are descendants of the men who served in the original 1st Battalion of the Regiment. They settled with their families along the St. Lawrence River in the three Counties of Dundas, Stormont and Glengarry, the area covered by the St. Lawrence Branch.

Mr. Gerry Rogers, Secretary of Heritage Branch, Montreal and president-elect, was the guest speaker dealing with the history of the Caughnawaga and St. Regis Indians and their contribution to the Loyalist cause during the Revolutionary War. He showed maps of where Indians lived in the St. Lawrence Valley and slides of the villages today. Mr. Rogers was thanked for his informative talk by Mr. Keith Casselman, the treasurer of the St. Lawrence Branch.

Mrs. Helen Lane of Ingleside, covenor of the social committee, planned the potluck supper that followed the meeting. A visitor to the meeting was Hilda Jackson, of the new Kingston Branch.

### Obituary: **MRS. ELIZABETH E. MORRISON UE**

Elizabeth Edith Morrison UE passed away in Cornwall on June 30th, 1979, in her 103rd year.

The devoted wife of the late Philip Morrison, who predeceased her in 1942, she leaves to mourn her loss a son, James of Kingston, and a daughter, Helen (Mrs. Edwin McMillan of Etobicoke); a granddaughter, Nancy Jane (Mrs. Frank Pope) of Etobicoke, and five great grandchildren: David, Larry, Richard, Suzanne and Michael Pope and several nieces and nephews.

The only daughter of the late Elizabeth Stethem Blackburn and Augustus Kerr Blackburn of Wales, Ontario, her paternal great-great-great-grandfather was Colonel John Nairne of Edinburgh, Scotland and Murray's Bay, Quebec. Colonel Nairne was the first British Seigneur in Canada, receiving his Seigneury from General James Murray in recognition for his military services at the battle of Louisburg in 1758 and the siege of Quebec in 1759.

Her paternal grandmother was Sarah Baker, youngest daughter of Loyalist John Baker, whose family settled at Santa Cruz, Stormont County, on the St. Lawrence River in 1780.

Elizabeth Edith Blackburn was born at Wales, Ont., on May 5, 1877 and after her marriage to Philip Morrison resided at the Morrison homestead, Iroquois, Ont.

## 1980 Spring

The Loyalist heritage was celebrated in grand style on Saturday evening September 29 as 144 members and guests of the St. Lawrence Branch gathered at the Winchester Community Centre for the First Annual Charter Night Dinner.

A colour party of the Royal Yorkers led by its young fifer, Gavin Watt, Jr., presented the flag after which the President, Mr. R.M. Scott welcomed 144 members and guests.

Mr. George L. VanKoughnett of Montreal, Past President of the Heritage Branch introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Gavin K. Watt. B.A.Sc. Mr. Watt gave an excellent and rousing speech on the history of the founding of the Royal Yorkers. Mr. Watt, attired in authentic costume, is Lieutenant commanding the recreated Colonel's Company of the King's Royal Regiment of New York, or K.R.R.N.Y. He outlined the founding of the Royal Yorkers: 1775-1783; stating that of 1200 men in the Royal Yorkers, 60% were German Palatines and they stood up for what they believed in. Mr. Watt is the person mainly responsible for recreating the King's Royal Yorkers; the largest Regiment to defend Canada during the Revolution; the first anglophone regiment raised in Canada.

Mrs. Helen Ault Lane presented Mr. Watt with a box of cheese from the Ault's cheese plant in Winchester.

Prior to Mr. Watt's speech Mrs. Lois M. Macdonald of Ottawa on behalf of Mrs. Wilda Baker Parkinsons and Mrs. Marie Baker Gordon, presented the branch with a podium and charter frame on behalf of the ladies' aunt, Miss Eva Baker. Miss Baker was a member of the F.E.L. Association for 44 years.

Mr. E.J. Chard of the Dominion Headquarters and editor of the Loyalist Gazette, was honored at the dinner, as he was named Honorary President of the St. Lawrence Branch. He was instrumental in starting the local branch. He said that the branch had grown to presently 116 members in two years of its development, an accomplishment greater than any other branch in Canada and he thanked those persons who had shared in its formation. The phenomenal growth is due in large measure to the exceptional ability and leadership and goodwill of Mr. Scott. the President. Mr. Ian McMartin, second Vice President. presented Mr. Chard with a certificate which read, "Mr. E.J. Chard has been made an Honorary President of the St. Lawrence Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. This certificate is awarded in recognition for his outstanding service rendered in the formation of this branch. R.M. Scott, President: Mildred Leitch, Secretary."

Mr. Gavin K. Watt was specially honoured having nominated Mr. Watt to receive this honour along with a plaque for his work with the United Empire Loyalists' Association in putting F.E.L. before the public and making people aware of the history of Canada.

For members recently approved, certificates were presented to the following by Mr. Chard and Mrs. Elizabeth Blair, Assistant Dominion Genealogist; and Lt. Col. of the Regiment. Mr. Kenneth Annable of Winchester and Ottawa; Mrs. Audrey Bailey of Kingston ( treasurer of the newly formed Kingston Branch); Mrs. Verna Bedingfield of Ingleside, Mrs. Hinda Droppo of Ottawa, Mrs. Florence English of Iroquois; Mrs. Doris Holmes of Winchester, Mr. Thorold Lane and Mrs. Helen Ault Lane of Ingleside; Mr. Nelson McNairn and father Stanley of Long Sault, Mr. Elmer Meek of Williams town, Mrs. Eva Moorehead and Mr. Charles Roberts of Iroquois, Mr. Carl Whittaker of Hudson Heights, Que. and Williamsburg. The following were unable to be present to receive their certificates - Mr. Samuel Ault, Mrs. Essie Bole, Miss Carol Ann Casselman, Mr. Mahlon J. Casselman, Mr. Allan Mallory, Mr. Leroy Strader and Mr. David Snyder.

Mr. Gerry Rogers, President elect of the Heritage Branch, issued an invitation to all members to the national convention to be held in Montreal May 17th to 20th, 1980.

Winchester, Community Centre Manager, Mr. Frank Morgan, welcomed everyone to Winchester and expressed his wish that the Loyalists would return to Winchester again.

Sherriff Frank McBride of Peterborough thanked the Winchester Ladies Arena Auxiliary for the lovely meal.

President Mr. Scott stated that the members of Parliament, Samis, Villeneuve and Lumley sent their regrets at being unable to attend; also regrets from Mr. John A. Eaman, President of the Association. The Branch was formed in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Counties in 1977 and now has 116 members, with 13 more preparing their applications.

This past summer, for the second straight year, the branch received a Young Canada Works Project Grant from the Federal Government. Four capable students compiled and typed births, marriages and deaths from church records of Stormont and Dundas Counties, thus making more information available to the Branch files and for people searching their family trees.

St. Lawrence Branch held its annual meeting on Nov. 4 at the Masonic Temple in Cornwall with 50 members in attendance.

A minute's silence was held for a new member Randy Merkley of Prescott, who was killed in a car accident.

Mrs. Mildred Leitch read a letter of appreciation from Mr. E.J. Chard, who was presented with a plaque in September as Honorary president of the branch. Mr. Gavin Watt thanked the branch for the special presentation made to him in September, and wished the branch all the success possible.

Miss Lynne O'Brien of Morrisburg gave the genealogists report - 118 members in two years, one of the fastest growing memberships in the 22 branches across Canada. She urged all members to help others to submit their applications before the spring meeting.

Three certificates were to be presented: Morley Becksted of Shawana; Bill Farrel of Smiths Falls and Allan Mallory of Mallorytown.

President Mel Scott introduced the guest speaker, Judge John R. Matheson of Perth. Colonel Matheson, C.D., M.A., LL.M., U.E. is a County Court Judge for Lanark County, also Honorary Vice President of the national U.E.L. Association. Judge Matheson spoke about his ancestors who settled in Glengarry County, and where many descendants still reside. Judge Matheson pointed out that the Loyalists believed in duty, honour and country, and some gave their lives to follow these beliefs. He elaborated on the willingness of the Loyalists to work on behalf of their country whenever the need arose; something people today should continue to do.

Vice-President Stan McNairn of Long Sault thanked Judge Matheson for his informative speech, reflecting the present into the picture of the past.

Mrs. Helen Lane of Ingleside presented the nominating committee's report. President Stan McNairn, Long Sault; first vice-president Vi Hare, Iroquois; second-vice Ian McMartin of Martintown; third vice Mildred Leitch, Cornwall; secretary Beryl Morrison 01 Ingleside; treasurer Keitp Casselman, Morrisburg;

genealogist Lynne O'Brien 01 Morrisburg; past president Mel Scott of Cornwall; Honorary president E.J. Chard.

Mr. Stan McNairn took over chairing the meeting, and thanked the members for electing him as president. Mr. Scott presented Mr. McNairn with a gavel, made of wood taken from the Van Allen farm in Dundas County where his mother was born. The inscription read - Presented to the U.E.L. Association, St. Lawrence Branch by R.M. Scott, President 1977-1979. Mr. McNairn announced that the 1980 Annual Convention unfortunately through no fault of the Heritage Branch would not be held in Montreal as previously announced.

Mrs. Lane proposed a standing ovation for our first president Mr. Mel Scott.

Mr. Ian McMartin related some of the accomplishments Mr. Scott and his wife Jean had made in the two years in office. As first president he had to blaze new areas - and being president is like an iceberg, you only see 10 per cent of the iceberg or the job, the rest is done behind the scenes. Miss O'Brien then presented Mrs. Scott with a token of appreciation on behalf of the first executive. Mr. Scott exemplified outstanding leadership and his hearty goodwill, insight Mrs. Lois M. Macdonald of Ottawa presented to Mr. R.M. Scott, Branch President, a podium and charter frame in memory of Miss Eva Baker, a member of the Association for 44 years.

and sensitive understanding during those formative two years of the branch attracted Loyalist descendants mainly from the three eastern counties but also from all of far eastern Ontario. In appreciation for his lasting contribution to the U.E.L. he was presented with a Past President's jewel. Mr. Keith Casselman pinned the jewel on Mr. Scott.

The first pro tem executive, chairman Ian McMartin, treasurer Sally Fader, secretary Keith Casselman, and president Lynne O'Brien extended their thanks to Mel and Jean Scott for the past 2 years and wish them every success in the future.

Mr. McNairn presented Mr. and Mrs. Scott with a book entitled "United Empire Loyalists" on behalf of the 1977-79 executive; followed by a corsage and boutonniere from Mrs. Mildred Leitch. The Scotts, both pleasantly surprised, responded with words of thanks to all involved.

## 1981 Spring

Members and friends of the St. Lawrence Branch, U.E.L. Association, enjoyed an all-day program in and around Upper Canada Village on Sunday, June 15, 1980. The purpose was to reunite all whose Loyalist ancestors who had shared the common experience of the American Revolution, and came to Canada as refugees. It was a day to remember our pioneer ancestors, to get acquainted in the easy atmosphere of the Village, and to appreciate our Loyalist Heritage in Today's World.

Beginning about 9:30 a.m. a young piper, Andrew Buchan, played airs outside, as registration of 90 took place in the St. Lawrence Parks Commission Board Room. Our genealogists were there to advise and give out informative literature during the morning: Miss Lynn O'Brien assisted by Mrs. Myrla Scott, Mrs. Mabel MacLean and Mrs. Reta Marquette. Our Secretary, Mrs. Beryl Morrison, was responsible for registration and Mr. Keith Casselman, our Treasurer, looked after membership. Mrs. Yvonne Fleming and Mrs. Kathleen McNairn sold Loyalist Plaques with U.E.L. Armorial Bearings in full colour, and books descriptive of our historical heritage.

Because of wet weather, the beginning of the program was shifted from the Battle of

Crysler's Farm Monument on, the "Mound," to inside the Battle of Crysler's Farm Museum. Our piper kept our spirits up as we moved inside.

Our President, Stanley McNairn, told about the dedication of the Crysler Farm Monument in 1895 when over 6,000 persons were present, including the Prime Minister of Canada and some members of his cabinet. The original inscription reads: "In honour of the brave men who fought and fell in the Victory of Crysler's Farm, on November 11, 1813."

Mr. McNairn introduced Colonel W.J. Patterson in charge of historic sites for the St. Lawrence Parks Commission. Colonel Patterson described briefly the battle array at Crysler's Farm as depicted on the large panoramic map display covering the entire south wall of the museum. He went on to give a biographical sketch of Colonel Morrison, in command at the time of the Battle - a little known British professional soldier. An air of realism was lent the occasion by a most interesting exhibit: A new bronze statue of Colonel Morrison astride his charger, directing his troops: "Action speaks forth from it."

The sun came out beautifully. To the skirl of the pipes, we all made our way to the Loyalist Mohawk Memorial Hall. The Union Jack, flag of the British Empire, flag of George the Third, our Loyalist flag, was flying high there. Our President spoke briefly about the significance of the Flag in the location: It was dedicated to commemorate the life and exploits of Sir John Johnson, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the King's Royal Regiment of New York, and so on, title on title.

Mr. McNairn introduced Mr. G.A. Rogers, President of the U.E.L. Heritage Branch, Montreal. Mr. Rogers dealt mainly with the part played by Indian Loyalists, members of the Iroquois Confederacy, and their participation in the Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812 - 14. For many of us, it was an enlightening experience!

We were most fortunate to have with us Mr. Newton Stacey, in full uniform of the K.R. Regiment of New York, often referred to as the "Royal Yorkers." He described the uniform, and said that because of the green jacket the K.R. Regiment of New York was sometimes referred to as the "Royal Greens." He said many members in those days possessed little or no uniform! Everyone was greatly interested in his loading and firing his flintlock musket, which spit fire and smoke from the black powder when it went "Boom."

The Reconstructed King's Royal Regiment of New York has played an important part in helping to dramatize, along with other such regiments, the part played by our Loyalist ancestors in the Revolutionary War, and later in the defence of what became Canada.

Again, the pipes were played and we moved on to the Loyalist Memorial Cemetery, constructed under the direction of James Smart, as a place of reverence and solitude. Monument markers of many pioneer settlers and some of their descendants were encased in old brick and stone walls, marked according to the communities along the St. Lawrence River in which they had lived. Mr. McNairn spoke about these communities, now "The Lost Villages" flooded out of existence by the St. Lawrence development, but remembered here, with a section of this Memorial Cemetery devoted to each. Remembrance was made in silent prayer: "A minute out our busy lives, in tribute!" Our piper played "Amazing Grace," and the morning program was at an end.

After lunch, Miss Barbara Snyder spoke about Loyalist artifacts: She explained that any object owned, used, or made by a Loyalist was a Loyalist artifact. Few have survived after almost 200 years. Artifacts, she explained, help to reveal the way of life of those who made and used them. Miss Snyder was thanked by our Vice-President, Mrs. Violet Hare.

Our 1980 Spring Meeting was held in the Village Church (a Heritage Building from Moulinette). "Faith of our Fathers" was sung without accompaniment, as with our pioneer ancestors. Business of the meeting was abbreviated. One item, our major Bicentennial Project, the reprinting of the History of the King's Royal Regiment, by Cruickshank, with index and supplementary material by Gavin Watt, was approved unanimously, subject to consent for copyright privilege by the Ontario Historical Society. The presence, and words of encouragement, by John Eamon, Dominion President of the U.E.L. Association, were much appreciated.

Mrs. Mildred Leitch, Vice President from Cornwall, paid tribute to a founding member, Mrs. Vernet Fader of Cardinal, Ontario, recently deceased. Mrs. Leitch read a poem of remembrance, and prayed.

Colonel Patterson spoke on "Our Loyalist Heritage." He said that most Loyalists originated in the British Isles. They believed in Constitutional Monarchy; they stood for law and order, and they had a strong sense of democratic rights and freedom.

Mr. R. Melvin Scott, Immediate Past President, expressed our gratitude to Colonel Patterson for his most important contributions: his help in organizing, in guidance and his most interesting talks during our Loyalist Day at Upper Canada Village.

Mr. Ian McMartin, our Vice President from Glengarry, thanked Mr. Gerald A. Rogers, President of the U.E.L. Heritage Branch, Montreal, and Mr. Newton Stacey of the Reconstituted King's Royal Regiment of New York for the important parts they had played in making our day a memorable occasion. They were each given a Loyalist Plaque as a memento of the occasion.

Mr. McMartin thanked our President, Mr. Stanley McNairn, for all the extra effort he had put into making our Loyalist Day such a success.

From the church, we went to Chrysler Hall. Colonel Patterson described two new exhibits there: One had to do with Governor Simcoe, the other about early tinsmithing.

All agreed the day had been most enjoyable, and enlightening. They appreciated more than ever their Loyalist Pioneer Heritage!

### **ST. LAWRENCE BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING**

**T**he Annual Meeting of the St. Lawrence Branch, U.E.L., was held in Salem United Church, Summerstown, on October 26, with 50 members and 5 visitors present.

The Second Vice-President, Mrs. Mildred Leitch conducted an "In Memoriam" service for the late Ian McMartin who had been accidentally killed shortly after our Spring Meeting on June 15. This was followed by one minute's silence in his memory.

Genealogist Lynne O'Brien reported that we have 140 members and she had six more applications in process.

Guest speaker was Mr. Gerald Rogers, President of the Heritage Branch of Montreal. In introducing him our President, Mr. Stanley McNairn, exhibited an album of pictures which Mr. Rogers had taken of Upper Canada Village and had given to our Branch. He was sincerely thanked. As a mark of our appreciation, Mrs. Mabel MacLean presented Mr. Rogers with a basket of jams and jellies made mostly from wild fruits of Glengarry. As it was Mr. Rogers' birthday, he was also presented with a very large birthday cake which was cut and distributed during the social hour.

Mr. R.M, Scott. Past President and Chairman of the Nominating Committe, presided and called on Mrs. Helen Lane to read the slate selected which was as follows: Honourary President, Mr. E.J. Chard: Past President. Mr. R.M. Scott: President, Mr. Stanely McNairn; Secretary, Mrs. Beryl Morrison: Treasurer, Mr. Keith Casselman: and Genealogist. Miss Lynne O'Brien.

## 1981 Autumn

### ANNUAL CHARTER NIGHT

Our third Annual Charter Night Dinner was held on September 12. at Trinity Memorial Church Hall, Cornwall. Ontario. with well over 200 members and friends present.

Bishop Strachan Memorial Church is located on an original Crown Grant. Its Bicentennial will be celebrated in 1984. Most Loyalists of the Cornwall area were buried in the old Anglican Cemetery here. until 1831. The Reverend John Stuart. a Chaplain in the King's Royal Regiment of New York. later as the Bishop's Commissary. would have been responsible for the appointment of the Reverend John Strachan to the Cornwall mission. Thus. Loyalist attachment to this place was one of the reasons for holding our meeting here.

The meeting was under the chairmanship of Stanley McNairn. president of the St. Lawrence Branch. The invocation was by Vice-president Mrs. Mildred Leitch. Among honoured guests were: Mayor Gerald Parisien. City of Cornwall: the Honourable Ed Lumley. Minister of State for Trade; Mr. Osie Villeneuve. M.L.A.; and Mr. George Samis, M.L.A. All spoke with understanding and feeling about our heritage, especially the part played by our pioneer Loyalist ancestors.

A V.I.P. of another era was unveiled by Mrs. Kay McNairn, and stood as Head Table Guest: Sir John Johnson! This historical figure was made by Mrs. Betty MacDonald, known far and wide for her interpretive, prize winning dolls.

Canon Bain Peever made us welcome and referred to the historical Loyalist connections of Trinity Memorial Church. Dominion President John Eaman brought greetings from U.E.L. Dominion Council. He referred to the warm reception received on his recent visit to the Maritimes and enthusiastic plans for their Bicentennial celebrations in 1983. Other groups present were introduced: From Heritage Branch, Montreal; which was well represented, from Sir Guy Carleton Branch, Ottawa; Colonel Jessup Branch, Prescott and Dominion Headquarters, represented by Mrs. Elizabeth Blair and Mrs. Joyce Bradford from Toronto. Mr. K.J. Chard, Chairman and Editor, and our Honorary President, sent greetings and

good wishes. Introduced were members from Cornwall Township, Lost Villages. and Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Societies. Some members of the City of Cornwall Bicentennial Committee were also present.

An excellent harvest style roast beef dinner was served by Trinity Anglican Church Ladies' Guild. Vice President, Mrs. Violet Hare, thanked the ladies.

Vice President, Mr. Douglas Warner, introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Elinor Senior, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. He referred to her experience in military history, and particularly to her recent book: "British Regulars In Montreal," published by McGill University Press.

Mrs. Senior spoke on "The Problems of Early Settlement of Cornwall." She referred back to the period, before Loyalist settlement, when in the first survey, Cornwall area was Township Two. She spoke of the Loyalist regiments, and men anxious to get back into civilian life. Riverfront lots were prized - being on the waterway for travel. Lots were limited to 100 acres, somewhat more for officers: no seignory-type grants as some had expected!

Everyone found Mrs. Senior's speech most interesting, particularly because of new revelations and insights. Past President Melvin Scott thanked Mrs. Senior. He spoke of the great interest in her history of Cornwall to be published in 1983. As a token of our appreciation, Mr. Scott gave Mrs. Senior the gift of a Loyalist plate. Mrs. Scott gently surprised Mr. Senior by her quip about "Men's Lib," and a gift to him of a Loyalist plaque. The Seniors were delighted and made fitting response.

President Stanley McNairn described "Charter Night" as the occasion on which St. Lawrence Branch honours members who have documented their pioneer Loyalist ancestry, who appreciate their heritage of principles and values, and whose aim is to keep the Loyalist flame burning brightly on the Canadian scene.

Miss Lynn O'Brien, St. Lawrence Branch Genealogist, assisted by Dominion President John Eaman and Mrs. Elizabeth Blair, Assistant Genealogist from Dominion Headquarters, presented fourteen certificates from the U.K Loyalist Association of Canada, indicating fully documented proof of lineal descent from Loyalist ancestors had been made: Mr. Milton Anderson, Williams town; Mrs. Jean Andrews and her sister, Mrs. Judith Armstrong of Ottawa; Mr. Earl Ault and Mrs. Dorothy McDonnell, Cornwall; Mr. Allan Hickey of Florida; Mr. Charles Roberts of Iroquois; Mr. and Mrs. George Sanders of Cornwall; Mr. Sterling Warner. Four members were not present to receive their certificates: Lt. Col. E. Amidon of Michigan; Mr. Frederick Armstrong of Quebec; Mr. Paul Cartwright of Minnesota Mr. Leo Merkley of Arizona.

St. Lawrence Branch applied for a grant under Summer Canada - 1981, Student Employment Program. The project was named "Contributions of Loyalists to Canada, 1784-1984." As a result, three college students were employed to work mainly on church records. Miss Lynne O'Brien, with assistance from Mr. Keith Casselman and Mr. Mel Scott, set up and supervised the program. Information already available was organized for easy access to persons searching for their roots.

Miss O'Brien presented John Eaman with three sets of church records from our area, covering years 1838-1891, for use at Dominion headquarters. Copies will also be given to the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society for their archives.

Our St. Lawrence Branch president Stanley McNairn in his remarks. invited all organizations. groups. and individuals. such as assembled for this meeting. to join together in planning for. and celebrating the

Bicentennial of the Coming of the Loyalists. 1784 - 1984. He described this as a prelude to the Bicentennial of establishment of Upper Canada (Ontario of today) in 1791.

It was further suggested that we join with other branches, municipalities and organizations in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec, and extend invitations to the thousand 'upon thousands of persons with roots in this older part of Canada, to come back "home" for the Bicentennial.

## 1982 Spring

The annual meeting of the St. Lawrence Branch was held on October 25 at the Old Stone Church Hall, St. Andrews West, Ontario. Eighty-one members and interested people attended the meeting, including 15 members of the Cornwall Historical Society.

Mrs. Mildred Leitch read an "In Memoriam" to two members who passed away -Mrs. Bessie Bole of Ottawa and Allan John Mallory of Mallory town, followed by a minute's silence. Secretary Beryl Morrison announced that the Col. Edward Jessup Branch extends an invitation to its meeting on November 25, at the Brockville Public Library when Mary Beacock Fryer will be the guest speaker.

President Stanley McNairn gave the Branch accomplishments during the past year and plans for the future, outlining the Branch's Bicentennial ideas for 1984. He asked that anyone wishing to go on the bus trip to the Mohawk Valley next September to give one's name to Mrs. Beryl Morrison. Mr. Keith Casselman, treasurer, read the financial report followed by Miss Lynne O'Brien's genealogist report. 160 members and three pending in the branch's march towards 200 members. She stated that people from all over the USA and Canada had visited her seeking information on their roots, many looking for Loyalist ancestors.

Miss Anne Webber of Newington introduced the guest speaker, Murray Barkley, B.A., M.A., the Branch's historian and archivist, of Avonmore, who spoke on "The Loyalist Tradition in Canada: Some Bicentennial Reflections."

Mr. Barkley stated that it was not his intention to instill pride in the Loyalist, something which most members already naturally shared, but merely to present some of the major ways in which the Loyalists had been portrayed and enshrined by subsequent generations of Canadians over the past two centuries. It was Mr. Barkley's contention that by concentrating exclusively upon the first generation Loyalists themselves, that this focus was too narrow to explain the dramatic changes in the way the Loyalists had been perceived. He answered eight major charges levelled against the Loyalists by their critics including the claim that they and their descendants had played no major role in Canadian history, by ~isting large numbers of Canadian Loyalist descendants of national or international renown, including Dr. Norman Bethune, J. S. Woodsworth, Harold Innis, Northrop Frye, Pierre Berton, Charles Lindbergh, Thomas Alva Edison, and our own Prime Minister Elliott Trudeau.

Mr. Barkley concluded by noting that the Loyalists had come from over :JO different ethnic groups and that their multicultural diversity had formed a microcosm' of the pluralistic society which Canada today enjoys. Mrs. Mabel MacLean thanked Mr. Barkley for his interesting talk and presented him with a gift. The nominating committee of Mrs. Helen Lane, Mrs. Anne Webber and Mel Scott presented the following names for the 1981-82 executive.

Honorary president E. J. Chard, North Bay: Immediate Past President Stanley McNairn, Long Sault: President Mrs. Violet Hare, Iroquois: 1st Vice-President Mrs. Mildred Leitch, Cornwall: 2nd Vice-President Douglas Warner, Cornwall: 3rd Vice-President Brigadier-General Wm. J. Patterson, Cornwall:

Secretary Mrs. Florence English, Iroquois; Treasurer Keith M. Casselman, Morrisburg; Branch Genealogist Miss Lynne O'Brien, Morrisburg; Auditors Graham Van Allen, Morrisburg and Thorold Lime, Ingleside.

Mr. Mel Scott, past president, held an installation ceremony for the new executive.

Immediate Past president Stan McNairn was presented with the President's Jewel by Mel Scott. Mrs. Hare thanked Stan McNairn for his work in the past two years as president and presented him with a gift.

Mrs. Leitch presented Mrs. Kay McNairn with a gift and thanked her for her help assisting her husband. Mr. McNairn thanked the gathering for their co-operation during his term of office and said he would be still on the Branch executive and was co-chairman of the Souvenirs Committee of Dominion Council at Headquarters.

New President Mrs. Vi Hare announced that Mel Scott would be a director. as would be each immediate past president. Mrs. Hare also called an executive meeting for November 2. at her home in Iroquois.

Branch member and local resident of St. Andrews West. Edwin McDonald told the group about the cemetery across the road from the church. It is burial place of Alex MacDonell (oldest stone) who was killed by a falling tree in 1799 and of Simon Fraser and his wife Catherine Macdonell and of John Sandfield Macdonald. first premier of Ontario. Mr. McDonald conducted a tour of the church after the meeting.

Mrs. A. Beaudette gave a history of the church hall that had been compiled by Lorne Wheeler. The hall was built in 1792 which served as a church until 1860 when a larger and more impressive building was erected. The hall is the oldest remaining stone structure in Ontario, serving as a hospital during the War of 1812 and is used several times a week for meetings.

The meeting concluded with a pot luck supper.

## **1982 Autumn**

### **HISTORY JESSUP'S CORPS**

**T**he spring meeting of the St. Lawrence Branch was held in May at the Board Room, Upper Canada Village with about 75 interested persons and members in attendance.

Brigadier-General W.J. Patterson, third Vice-President introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Phil Dunning, Superintendent of Interpretation and Education Services at the Village, spoke on "Jessup's Corps". In authentic uniform of the Corps, Mr. Dunning, along with slides, gave the history of the Corps and explained the uniform and equipment. He told of the hardships of the Loyalists, and answered questions from the group. He explained the workings of the "Brown Bess" musket, the food available to a soldier, and the difference between uniforms of the different Loyalists Corps. It was a highlight of our meetings.

The Branch Genealogist, Miss Lynne O'Brien explained that the branch was nearing the 200 member mark. She mentioned that the branch has a copy of land records of Williamsburg township, and soon will have the census for same covering years 1851, 1861, 1871, and 1881.

The Bicentennial committee will be meeting June 7 at the home of president Mrs. Donald Hare of Iroquois, and will find out the status of the re-printing of the Loyalist book for 1984.

Stanley McNairn and Beryl Morrison reported that there will be two buses taking the tour of the Mohawk Valley in early October. Mr. McNairn reported that Mr. Gerry Rogers of Heritage Branch, Montreal will be speaking at our June meeting on the Mohawk Valley. Anyone interested in going on the tour should attend the meeting, June 13, 2 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, South Lancaster.

Past President R. Melvin Scott presented Past President Stanley McNairn with the president's jewel.

The meeting closed with the retiring of the flag, and a luncheon was served. Many of the members availed themselves of the chance to ask Mr. Dunning numerous questions.

The June meeting of the St. Lawrence Branch was held Sunday, June 13 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall, South Lancaster. St. Andrew's celebrated its 195th anniversary June 27.

About 60 members and friends attended the meeting which featured a slide presentation by Gerry Rogers. Mr. Rogers, president of Heritage Branch, Montreal, showed slides of the proposed bus tour to the Mohawk Valley at Thanksgiving weekend. Branch Archivist Murray Barkley, Avonmore, thanked Mr. Rogers for his informative talk and presented him with a gift on behalf of the branch.

President Violet Hare of Iroquois thanked Mr. Rogers for the President's insignia, which she received from the Heritage Branch to further strengthen harmony between the branches. A minute's silence was held for members Richard Hubert of Connecticut and Ethel Ostrom of Maxville, who recently passed away. Miss Ostrom was in her 101st year at the time of her death.

Genealogist Lynne O'Brien reported the membership to be 198. Miss O'Brien surprised President Vi Hare and Treasurer Keith Casselman when she appeared with a decorated cake having the Loyalist flag on top, for their birthdays during the past week.

The indoor picnic was announced for August 8 in St. John's Lutheran Church, Riverside, following the church service. A tour of the church and cemetery will follow, as well as a tour of Trinity Anglican Church.

### **GENEALOGY LIKE GIANT JIGSAW PUZZLE**

**U**pper Canada Village - Eight researchers spent Sunday, July 18 helping interested people sort out their family histories.

Arriving with armloads of books, lists of information and accumulated knowledge stored in their memories, the researchers - three from Ottawa, two from Prescott and others from Morrisburg and Iroquois - took part in genealogy day sponsored by the St. Lawrence Branch. Lynne O'Brien, chief genealogist of the local branch, said that the day was spent with a steady flow of visitors from Montreal, Lachine, Ottawa, Nepean, Smiths Falls, Brockville and other local communities offering them advice and encouragement in their search for their ancestors. Miss O'Brien was named to her post in 1977 with the St. Lawrence Branch and since then has assisted hundreds in tracing family lines while also dating her own ancestry back to the 1600s. She said she will try to help anyone trace one's lineage. She has received requests from throughout Canada and the United States. Most out-of-town requests have come from British Columbia and California from descendants of those who went west seeking their fortune, however, Michigan residents are a close third.

Persons wishing information should get as much background as possible from older family members or sources such as, church record); or family Bibles. They should keep with one surname at a time to avoid

confusing the issue. She finds putting persons in touch with one another who are working on different branches of the same family often gets results. If she is still stumped, Miss O'Brien said she recommends paid researchers who may charge up to \$8.50 an hour. Although she does not charge for her help, the branches gladly accept donations for the amount of time involved in searching for information. It is suggested that enquirers always send return postage. For genealogists themselves there is the joy of supplying information to someone who may have been searching for years.

A major problem is that many early records have been lost or destroyed. Local Methodist and Presbyterian Church records prior to 1858 are missing. Many of them were kept in private homes and may have been lost or burned.

Miss O'Brien said that the genealogy day was held because of inquiries from local persons. It was an informal meeting where people could share information.

### **1984 December**

The St. Lawrence Branch had two bicentennial projects. June 24th was "Loyalist Appreciation Day" at Trinity Anglican Church, Cornwall. The branch donated a Loyalist Flag to the Church on its 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The other project was the reprinting of Cruikshank's History of the King's Royal Regiment of New York, with the addition of an index and Muster Rolls by Gavin K. Watt. The book was on display at the Convention this spring. If you have not ordered one yet, please send \$16.00 to the treasurer, Mr. Keith Casselman, P.O. Box 1029, Morrisburg, Ontario, K0K 1X0.

### **1985 June**

The St. Lawrence Branch held a remarkably fine 1985 U.E.L. Convention. It will be reported on in the next issue of this periodical.

### **1985 December**

A plaque honouring the United Empire Loyalists was rededicated at the Simon Fraser Centennial Library, Cornwall. Among those participating in the ceremony were Lyall Manson, Past-President of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society, Mr. Stanley McNairn, a Past-President of the Historical Society and of the St. Lawrence Branch of the U.E.L. Association; Mr. John Eaman, a Past-President of the national association; and Mr. Dennis Carter-Edwards, President of the Historical Society.

#### **LOYALIST PLAQUE AT SIMON FRASER LIBRARY**

The spirit of the Loyalists was duly honoured in a ceremony re-dedicating a plaque at Simon Fraser Library, Cornwall, Ontario, in June this year.

This plaque, which had hung for many years in the Cornwall post office, was re-dedicated by the Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry Historical Society as part of the U.E.L. Association of Canada's four day convention. It was unveiled by Mr. John Eaman, a native of Cornwall area and a Past President of the U.E.L. Association. The inscription credits the Loyalists with defending the settlement, the province of Quebec and with laying the foundation of the province of Ontario. This plaque was mounted with the

flags of our history - the Loyalist, the Union Jack, the Red Ensign, and the Maple Leaf and placed in a lighted alcove of the library.

Mr. Stanley McNairn, Past President of the Cornwall U.E.L. Branch pointed out that the Loyalists brought few material goods but they did bring a determination to survive and carve a place for themselves out of the wilderness.

The Rev. Steve Olson of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church commended the Association for making sure the past is not forgotten and our heritage is preserved. He quoted from a prayer "inscribed in the Covenanters' Church in the Maritimes - part of which was: Father God, we keep forgetting what our forefathers have done for us; we eat food from farmlands we did not develop; we enjoy freedoms we have not earned ... make us grateful for our heritage.

On this program Mrs. Mildred Leitch, President of St. Lawrence Branch, and the remarkable host of the Convention presented the library with the new edition of the branch's project book, The King's Royal Regiment of New York containing the regimental rolls prepared by Mr. Gavin K. Watt and the branch.

### **1986 December**

**I**n these days when everyone seems against everything, it is reassuring to remember we stand for something - loyalty to God, Queen and Country. Not only should we never forget it but we should let others know where we stand" - quoted from our branch president. Bill Patterson.

Since our last branch news we have had three outstanding events. The first was our Memorial Service at Martintown in August when members led by the Loyalist flag paraded into St. Andrews United Church, itself a 180-yearold place of worship. This was followed by a picnic lunch and a tour of the village finishing with a talk on historical points of interest by Mr. Marland Murray. We then moved to St. Andrews West for more local history.

Our Annual Meeting was on Sunday, October 19th at the Iroquois Civic Centre. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the secretary, Beryl Morrison, who is 87years old. Mildred Leitch gave the treasurer's report and George Sanders, the auditor's report. Genealogist Lynne Cook explained the naming of Dundas County and reminded members of the branch's aims: to learn the history of our area and to visit historical places in the three counties by changing the site for each meeting. She reminded the gathering that since the Loyalists had settled 213lots along the river, there ought to be lots of descendants to swell our numbers, which now stand at 368 and place us No. 1 in membership in the entire Association. Nine new memberships were handed out at this meeting. The guest speaker was Florence English former secretary of the branch. who gave an interesting account of the history of the town of Iroquois. It will be printed in Volume 5 of Loyalist Ancestors. The meeting closed with a pot luck supper.

The eighth Annual Charter Night Banquet was held on September 27th at the Cornwall Civic Centre. Mr . Gerry Grant brought greetings on behalf of the Mayor of Cornwall and Mr. Ralph McKenzie, the Warden brought greetings from the United Counties. Mrs. Lynne Cook. genealogist presented certificates to new members with the assistance of Association past president Gwen Smith and branch president Bill Patterson. Special old-fashioned entertainment was rendered by two groups. During dinner, music by Muddy York of Toronto was enjoyed by all. Following the banquet Muddy York and The New Johnstown Assembly dance group entertained the gathering and invited members to join them in doing old-time dances.

We are sorry to report the loss of valued members. Mrs. Elizabeth Blair of Toronto passed away on May 12th. She was at one time the Dominion Genealogist and as a charter member of our branch assisted in approving our first members. She was descended from John Cameron who emigrated from the Mohawk Valley to Lot 6 on the 4th concession of Cornwall Township. Barbara Dawn ( Farrell ) Latourell passed away at Smith Falls on July 15th. Mrs. Latourell joined the St. Lawrence Branch two years ago. The sympathy of the branch is extended to her daughter Valerie and to her parents, Bill and Velma Farrell. Barbara was descended from John Farrell of DeLancey's Brigade.

Mr. Noble Villeneuve MPP for Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry reported that our branch is to receive a Heritage Development grant of \$877. for the 1985-86 fiscal year.

At a meeting earlier this year, we had as guest speaker Mr. Philip Dunning, a member of the re-created Jessup's Corps, who came in full uniform and gave an illustrated lecture on the Loyalists' first year in Upper Canada. Everyone present was delighted with the fresh interest he brought to our background.

More books have been added to our branch library. We now have Hank Jones' 'The Palatine Families of New York' a two-volume, fully documented study of all 847 families who arrived from Germany by way of Great Britain in 1710, 1350 pages. We have also acquired parish records of St. Andrews West, 2 volumes, and also photocopies of the census records for nine townships for the period 1785-91.

We also held a Genealogy Day on June 7th at the Morrisburg Civic Centre. It brought researchers from the Montreal, Ottawa, and Brockville areas and even three people from the American west coast who traded information and sought advice on new sources. The genealogist Lynne Cook receives enquiries from as far away as Western Canada and U.S.A.

Have you heard of the old-time way children were named? The St. Lawrence Branch News in its section called "Tracer's Trivia" describes the custom of naming boys in order of age after the paternal grandfather, maternal grandfather, and father, and the eldest girl after maternal grandmother and so on. Also it mentions the fact that Loyalists used a dozen variants and nicknames for "Mary" and "Margaret". This column may help researchers to solve their May mysteries!

## **1996 Fall**

One hundred and seventy-six years after his death, the bones of a young UE Loyalist were returned home and reinterred in a moving ceremony at Riverside Heights near Upper Canada Village on 28 July 1996. William Johnson Munro (1781-1820), son of Captain the Hon. John Munro UE, of Matilda Township, had left his career in the North West Company to establish himself as merchant and innkeeper at Bas-Caraquet, New Brunswick where he died at age 39 and was buried on his property. The story of how descendant Henry Munro and his wife Velema of Washington State made the long trek to recover his remains and restore them to the family plot in Ontario is printed elsewhere in this issue of *The Gazette*.

At the ceremony, relatives and clansmen of the deceased were joined by members of the St. Lawrence Branch to mark the reinterment. Carson Elliot of St. Matthews Presbyterian Church presided at the ceremony and was joined by Ian Munro of Kanata (Clan Munro), Allison Prosser of Morrisburg (president of St. Lawrence Branch), and Bruce Bateman of Cornwall, piper.

## **ARCHIVES OF UPPER CANADA VILLAGE CLOSED**

In preparation for an ambitious theme park expansion program, the St. Lawrence Parks Commission has closed the archives and genealogical reference centre of Upper Canada Village and laid off its long-time personnel. The move represents a substantial change in the direction and interpretation of the village

which was established during the flooding of Several of the old Loyalist villages during the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1957.

### **DR. HENRY LICKERS - CHARTER NIGHT SPEAKER**

The annual Charter Night banquet of the St. Lawrence Branch (14 Sept. 1996) at Ingleside was addressed by Dr. Henry Lickers of the Department of Environment, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Dr Lickers, with his staff of fifteen persons conducts research and policy initiatives dealing with the contamination of the St. Lawrence River in the border area between Cornwall, the St. Regis settlement, and Massena, New York.

Dr Licker's surname is derived from the historic native name of his family as "The Lickers of Salt" because of their domination of the salt trade in the Confederacy. He gave an vivid account of the warm relations of the United Empire Loyalists of the Mohawk Valley to their Indian allies in the Revolutionary War. He called on members of the UEL Association to continue to strengthen their old alliance with their native brothers-in-arms of two hundred years ago. The Loyalist Hymn which opened the evening, he said, was called "The Good Queen's Hymn" by his great-grandmother from Thayendanaga who had such an influence on his own vivid historical memory. He recalled that the old friendship was dramatically demonstrated during the gambling jurisdictional troubles of a few years ago when Cornwall families gave refuge to 10,000 citizens of Akwesasne who had to evacuate the reserve for some days.

### **1997 Fall**

#### **1998 FALL LOYALIST MOHAWK VALLEY TRIP**

Sir Guy Carleton Branch of Ottawa and S1. Lawrence Branch are undertaking to lead a four day 1998 Loyalist Fall Trip to the Mohawk Valley on October 2, 3, 4, 5, 1998. It will be dedicated to the memory of Gerry Rogers. Edward Kipp and George Anderson are organizing this tour.

The aim of this trip is to acquaint Loyalist descendants with some of the Loyalist genealogical sources and historical sites in the Mohawk Valley.

The Mohawk Valley Loyalists were mostly Scottish Highlanders and Palatines. During the Revolution many went to Canada. Other Loyalists joined the King's Royal Regiment of New York and Butler's Rangers. The tour will visit Guy Park, Fort Johnson, the Johnstown historic sites, the Walter Butler House, Schoharie Creek Crossing, Fort Hunter, Queen Anne's Parsonage; the Old Stone Fort Museum, the 1743 restored Lutheran Parsonage, and the Schoharie Reform Church in Schoharie; Stone Arabia churches, the Old Palatine Church, the Old Herkimer Cemetery, Herkimer Home, Oriskany Battlefield and Fort Stanwix.

It will begin in Ottawa and travel south via Morrisburg to Cornwall to pick up participants. From Cornwall the tour will head south through the scenic Adirondacks via Saranac Lake, Lake Placid and Saratoga Springs to Johnstown. The return trip will be from Rome to Watertown, to Morrisburg, Cornwall and on to Ottawa.

The trip will be open to Loyalists and their friends. The number of people will be limited to 47 people. This four day trip will probably cost \$300.00 in Canadian Funds per person. This fee will include transportation, accommodation and admission to each site. Meals and health insurance are not included. Participants should have their own health insurance.

If you are interested, please contact Edward Kipp (613) 824-1942 or George Anderson (613) 226-6348.

You can register now (immediate payment not required) by writing, telephoning or e-mailing: George Anderson, 64 Saginaw Cres., Nepean, ON K2E 5N7 e-mail: andrewl@magma.com A deposit of \$150.00 is due by April 30, 1998.

The balance is payable by July 31, 1998. If there is insufficient interest, all monies will be refunded.

By George Anderson Editor, St. Lawrence Branch News

### 1998 Spring

One hundred and two people attended Charter Night at St. Andrew & St. Marks United Church, Long Sault, on September 27, 1997. The head table guests were piped in and toasts were proposed to the Queen and our Loyalist ancestors.

Dr. James Pendergast spoke on the Eastern Ontario Iroquoian culture and said: the Champlain Sea covered the land to about the height of the Parliament Buildings about 11,000 years ago; men hunted large animals like mammoths; around 6000 BC Archaic hunters sought deer and caribou with ground slate spears; a woodland Point Peninsula culture evolved around 1500 BC; the cultivation of land began around 1000 Be. Pottery was also introduced; Jacques Cartier encountered the St. Lawrence Iroquoians at Hochelaga in 1535; they were dispersed when Champlain came. At the excavation of the Maynard Iroquoian village in Eastern Ontario, trenches were bulldozed across the site to determine its perimeter and the top soil was scraped off revealing village lodges 21 feet wide and with at least two hearths. Villages such as Maynard, occupied for about 12 to 20 years, had to be abandoned because of soil depletion and ever-increasing distances from firewood. A new site would be chosen in an open sandy area near an old beaver pond with dead cedar. The cedar poles were used for palisades and lodges.

UE certificates were presented to: Gary Douglas Cote, (James Dingwall); Pamela Dawn Smithson Ropars, (William Casselman); Paul William Hope, (William Casselman); Gwen McMillan, (Joseph Hanes); Betty Barkley, (Wilhelmus Casselman); Charles Clifton Barkley, (Peter Barkley); Richard Aaron Barkley, (Peter Barkley); and Charles Michael Barkley, (Peter Barkley).

By George Anderson, News Editor

### 1998 Fall

St. Lawrence Branch held its annual Genealogy Day at Morrisburg, Ontario on August 8, 1998. Over one hundred people from United States, Quebec and Ontario came to look at Loyalist records, local histories, family genealogies, family genealogical charts and transcripts of church records to search out their roots.

Helen Kenyon of Canton, New York came searching for the Merkleys. She has been working on her genealogy for four years. She has extensive documentation and colourful maps showing the emigration of her ancestors from the Palatine to the Mohawk Valley and then to Dundas County in Eastern Ontario. Helen found her Merkleys near Morrisburg, Ontario. This Loyalist Family was also one of the founding families of Williamsburg, Ontario.

Lynne O'Brien Cook, the St. Lawrence Branch genealogist, was assisted by Allison and Marian Prosser, Sandra Shouldice, Mary Van Ryswyk and Keith Casselman.

Lynne is a charter member of St. Lawrence Branch. She has been the Branch genealogist since St. Lawrence Branch was formed in 1977. Lynne is probably the longest serving genealogist in the United Empire Loyalists' Association.

By George Anderson

### **Twentieth Anniversary for St. Lawrence Branch**

Over a hundred Loyalists gathered at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Williamsburg for their Twentieth Annual Charter Night Banquet on Saturday, September 19.

Scrapbooks created by Branch Archivist, Keith Casselman and Honorary President, John Chard and photo albums created by Florence English and Marsha Shouldice helped members look back with pride on the accomplishments of the last twenty years.

Also on display from their archives in Morrisburg, was the original sign-in book from their first meeting held on October 16, 1977. After a busy first year, President Melvin Scott organized a Charter Night Banquet to be held on September 16, 1978. Members who had received their Loyalist Certificate before this date are considered to be Charter Members. Nineteen Charter Members were honoured Saturday night. They are: Keith Casselman, Nina Casselman, John Chard, Lynne Cook, Mahlon Cook, Gerald Duval, John Eaman, Yvonne Feming, John Gordier, Violet Hare, George S. Hickey, Mildred Leitch, Beth Ann Merkley, Harold Merkley, Nelson McNairn, Stanley McNairn, Douglas Warner, Norman Warner and Iva Whittiker.

Special certificates were also presented to Stanley McNairn and Lynne Cook. Both were recognized as having made an outstanding contribution to the United Empire Loyalists' Association. Stanley served on the local and national executives, steadfastly promoting local and Loyalist history. Lynne Cook has served her branch as genealogist for twenty years assisting hundreds of applicants complete the paperwork necessary to affix the initials U. E. after their name. This, the only inherited tile in Canada, signifies that you are not only a descendent of a Loyalist but are likely to be an avid researcher into family and Canadian history.

Commenting on the photos taken at meetings held in communities throughout Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, President Sandra Shouldice said, "Time and time again you see a relaxed and friendly gathering where the flag flies proudly in the background. Our membership has a deep love of country, an immense pride in their heritage and an amazing knowledge of their history.

"This depth of knowledge with regards to loyalist and local history was quite evident in our program this year as we shared in the 40th anniversary of the Seaway. At our first meeting in Hallville we saw a video on the relocation of Iroquois (available to members). Next during a ceremony celebrating Ontario's first ever United Empire Loyalist Day, members were able to place a wreath at the Loyalist Memorial at Upper Canada Village containing Loyalist roses grown on a farm that had been in the same family from its original grant. At our annual picnic in Long Sault members Al Prosser, Cliff Hart and Peg Barkley told first hand about losing family homes to the flooding. I hope this sharing of knowledge will continue at our final meeting this year at. After church service at 9: 15, we hope to have good attendance at our meeting 10:30 to 12:00, potluck lunch to follow. Those attending will be invited to "show and tell" about something that is part of family history or pertains to the loyalists of this area."

St. Lawrence Branch is particularly proud of the fact that the Ontario Government has designated June 19 as United Empire Loyalist Day and that they gave financial support to an Educational Resource Package prepared by the National Association. This resource package is available to schools who are now imple-

menting the new Ontario Curriculum which has a Loyalist unit as an integral part of the program. Several members of the branch are proposing to visit classrooms to share their interest and enthusiasm for this important segment of Canada's history.

### 1999 Fall

We were pleased to welcome President Edward Scott UE and his wife Vera to our first gathering this March. Our local newspaper quoted him as saying " The Association's prime objective is to promote Loyalist history in schools." To forward that end Resource Packages have been prepared to help grade 3 and 7 teachers. Ed was thanked for the Association's donation to the John Johnson Manor by committee members Archibald McDonell and Doris Ferguson.

This year, our branch has adopted our own version of a "Heritage Moment". We enjoyed last fall's 'show-and-tell' meeting so much that we decided to draw on the expertise of our members on a regular basis. Mabel Maclean shared a letter written by Nancy Jean Cameron on May 18, 1785 to Mrs. Margaret McPherson outlining the sufferings of the Loyalists upon fleeing New York for Glengarry. The Ladies of Dundas provided an excellent lunch.

Dr. Edward Kipp of Sir Guy Carleton Branch spoke to some 50 members at our Annual Meeting in Ingleside. He gave an excellent slide presentation recounting the 1998 Loyalist Trip to the Mohawk Valley. This trip, which he and George Anderson organized, is an important link between Canadian and American historians as indicated by the welcome given the Loyalists at a Friendship Dinner hosted by Lewis Decker and at a tea given by the DAR. Maurine Casselman shared a "Heritage Moment" by displaying her work as Master Weaver well known at Upper Canada Village and local colleges.

Peg Barkley held a memorial service in memory of members Joyce Gibson, Nina Casselman and Jean Dobson. The meeting ended with refreshments served by the Ladies of Stormont.

St. Lawrence Branch's Annual Picnic was a very special one this year. Because Ontario's second United Empire Loyalists' Day fell on a Saturday, members were able to gather on the spacious lawn of Sir John Johnson's Manor House in Williamstown and share a delicious potluck lunch. During our "Heritage Moment" Archibald McDonell briefly outlined the history of St. Mary's Church in Williamstown and some of its notable sons.

Members of St. Lawrence Branch at the gates of St. Andrew's United Church in Williamstown where they held a Memorial Service on June 19, 1999.

Members Doris Ferguson and Earl Sandilands, along with others who serve as "Friends of the Manor", guided us through the unveiling of a restored nineteenth century field gun. Earl Sandilands, Kaz Grzegorek and the late Buddie MacNaughton worked on this project for several years.

Following the picnic, St. Lawrence Branch members reconvened at St. Andrew's United (Presbyterian) Church. We were greeted at the gate by Doris Ferguson, who read from the Plaque, placed there in the 1970s.

*"Tread softly stranger, Reverently draw near,  
The vanguard of a nation Slumbers here."*

Our flag bearer, Mahlon Cook aided by Marianne Davis stood near as Gary Cote, Branch VP planted two Loyalist Roses at the entrance to the churchyard where his Loyalist ancestor, John Dingwall, is buried.

Mabel MacLean led us through the churchyard to the grave of Rev. John Bethune who established on this site the first Presbyterian congregation in Upper Canada. Mabel MacLean conducted a Memorial Service first reading the history of the Loyalist Rose. We sang the Loyalist Hymn and, while Jessie Lafave played "Amazing Grace", a wreath was placed before Rev. Bethune's stone. After a moment's silence, a list of known Loyalists was read and descendants were invited to place a flag at their stone. Following the service, VP David Anderson led us through the churchyard giving an interesting account of those represented by the Loyalist stones. Doris Ferguson led us inside the church and related its history in some detail. The warmth of her remarks made it clear that she is one of a long line of parishioners who have cherished this church and will never allow its history to be forgotten.

By S. Shouldice, President, St. Lawrence Branch

## 2002 Fall

This spring Past Dominion President William Terry spoke on the Association Armorial Bearings at the Branch Annual General Meeting. Allison Prosser also announced the new executive: Honorary President - John Chard, Past President Sandra Shouldice, President - Captain Michael Earner, First Vice President - Robert Weaver, Secretary - Janet Anderson, Treasurer - Sandra Shouldice, Genealogists - Mabel MacLean and Lynne Cook, and Editor - George Anderson.

In July, Branch members joined Mayor Brian Sylvester of Cornwall and the S.D. & G Historical Society and Town Crier Wes Libby to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee at the Cornwall Art Gallery. A photography exhibit of her four past visits to Cornwall was also opened in her honour.

The Branch held its annual summer picnic at the Lost Villages Museum. Jim Brownell, President of the Lost Villages Museum spoke on Ault Park, the home of the Museum. Maggie Wheeler, author of "The Violent End" spoke on her mystery, which takes place in Aultsville, one of the Lost Villages. It was also announced that a seventeen-year-old member, Sheena Earner UE has been awarded the Guides Chief Commissioner's Gold Award for her work in the Guides, self discipline, and community dedication. She has also earned the Commonwealth Award.

Sheena is the daughter of our President, Capt. Michael Earner, CD, UE and Pamela Earner UE. Sheena Earner has also volunteered to be St. Lawrence Branch's new web master.

By George Anderson

## 2003 Spring

In July our potluck picnic and mystery party was at Ault Park, the lost villages historical site. Margaret Wheeler, author of *A Violent End* gave a presentation on her book.

Our Annual Charter night was on Sep 21 st, with over one hundred in attendance. Several certificates were presented, Edward Kipp spoke about the Mohawk Valley tours, and Queen Golden Jubilee pins were distributed, courtesy of Bob Kilger, MP for Stormont, Dundas, Charlottenburgh and Joe Jordon, MP for Leeds.

The fall meeting was held at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Williamstown. The speaker was Rosemary Rutley of Old Crone Publications, who spoke about her company's books, especially, *Voices of the Lost Villages* compiled by Helen Stewart and edited by Rosemary. The book is about St. Matthew's

Presbyterian Church and the German Loyalist woman who first brought a minister to the location. A copy was presented to the Branch. John and Kay Chessers donated a copy of their recent book to the Branch. (*Editor s Note. See the book reviews.*) George Anderson spoke about Gavin Watt's *Rebellion In The Mohawk Valley*, which the Branch has for sale, Sandra Shouldice talked about her trip to Toronto to see the Queen, and Doris Ferguson reported on her trip to the Mohawk Valley with the Sir John Johnson Manor Group. Our webmaster Sheena Earner taped the meeting and asked questions for a high school project, which along with photographs and animation will become a production of over ten minutes.

The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medals were presented in December. (*Editor s Note. See the article about them.*)

In February we meet with the Cornwall LACAC (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee) Fair at Cornwall Square. On May 4th we look forward to hearing Gavin Watt.

By Michael Earner UE

## 2004 Spring

**I**n July George and Janet Anderson decided to resign from the branch as Newsletter Editor and Secretary. George also resigned as 1st Vice-President of the Dominion Council. They will be sadly missed by the executive, as they were great supporters of the branch and the UELAC in whole. In the interim we have recruited Carol Goddard as the Newsletter Editor and Doris Ferguson as the Secretary.

Shaun Wallace gave an excellent presentation of the KRRNY at our summer picnic and links to the Crysler's Farm Battlefield re-enactor weekend. Shaun came in period 1st Bttm. KRRNY uniform with his son. He talked about the clothing and what camp life would be like. I brought along my new CANPAT (Canadian Forces Disruptive Pattern) uniform to show the difference of periods.

The Crysler's Farm Battlefield Re-enactor weekend 12-13 July was well worth the effort. We met many branch members and visitors from across North America. We even got a salute from the Butler's Rangers re-enactors on a march past. I like to thank my daughter Josee (age 10) who volunteered her time and tried to drum up business in the slow periods by marching the UEL colours in front of the tent (her own initiative). We have been invited to participate in next year's re-enactment weekend. They plan to attend the war of 1812 next year, and hope to go to the Loyalist battles again the year after.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Charter Night in September was a huge success. We had 40 certificates to give out of which 7 were for Clifford Hart, 2 for Sandra Shouldice and another 2 for Lynne Cook. Our guest speaker or I should say speakers were limited in time. Our main speaker the Dominion UELAC President Myrna Fox was very pleased and overwhelmed by the response to our dinner and the hospitality we gave her. She presented the Branch with a framed congratulation on our 26 years since our charter was approved and talked about some of the projects at Dominion Headquarters such as the burial project. We presented her with a few loyalist books from local interests. All attending past presidents gave a two-minute recollection of their tour of office and we even had John Chard our Honorary President give his best wishes and some recollections of our beginning. We even had some singing entertainment from some Sir Johnson descendants.

The fall meeting 02 Nov 2003 was at the St. James United Church, Avonmore ON. We had some extra guests at the meeting to hear Murray Barkley UE. His presentation was on the Palatine Loyalist and how many of them ended up settling this area. He gave an outstanding presentation with overheads of many points of interest in genealogy and places, which he visited when he went to Germany on his search. We like to thank Glenn Dafoe for his donation of the use of his sound suite. One topic of discussion was an

article about someone taking pictures at a cemetery in Toronto and invading privacy. In the end of the article it is best to ask for permission and ensure that no living person is in the background who has not given permission for his or her picture to be taken.

The LACAC heritage fair is on again at the Cornwall Square on 21 February 2004 and we will be out to man a table to show our colours.

By Capt. Michael C. Earner CD, UE

## **2004 Fall**

**O**n May 2nd, 2004 we held our Annual General Meeting at Heritage Golf Club, just outside of Lancaster, Ontario. Patrick Coyne, local historian, spoke about the settlement of the watershed of the Nation River in Eastern Ontario. A new Executive was sworn in at this meeting.

On Loyalist Day the St. Lawrence Branch held a successful display in the Cornwall Community Museum in the Wood House in Cornwall, Ontario. Many members of the Executive dressed up in period costume and one of the displays was a genealogical chart of John Crysler, UE.

On Saturday, July 10, Mike Eamer, Past Branch President and Treasure, his daughter Josee and Carolyn Goddard, Branch President, set up a display at the Battle of Crysler's Farm re-enactment. There were many visitors to the display, including one gentleman who is a re-enactor from Florida who portrays a Loyalist Regiment that settled in New Brunswick.

July 11 saw the annual Picnic held this year at the Iroquois Locks. After a wonderful luncheon and a short meeting, the group was presented with a demonstration of dousing techniques as applied to the cemetery. Also Lynn and Mahlon Cook demonstrated how to make it easier to read older gravestones by the use of various substances, none of which are harmful to the stones.

A number of members of St. Lawrence Branch have had family reunions this summer. Also, there have been a number of new gravestones erected in honour of Loyalist ancestors.

All in all it has been very busy in the St. Lawrence Branch, so we are all taking a well-deserved break for a few weeks until things start up in the fall.