

VICTORIA BRANCH – Charter – 16 October 1965

1932 February

Provincial Branch of British Columbia

On November 30th, 1930, the Annual Meeting was held in the Archives Rooms of the Provincial Parliament Buildings. The election of officers was held.

At this meeting arrangements were made to apply for affiliation with the Dominion United Empire Loyalists' Association in Toronto.

On March 12th, 1931, a General Meeting was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. E. C. Hart. The speakers were the Canadian-born Countess de Turczynowicz and Dr. Hart, both regular members of the Society.

May 16th - A meeting in commemoration of Loyalists' Day, May 18th, was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Adams. The speaker was Mr. Beaumont Boggs. This meeting was very well attended, members being present from Duncan, Sidney and Vancouver, B.C.

In June, during the convention of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, held in Victoria, a few of the members of the U. E. L. Society had the pleasure of meeting a member of the Dominion Association, Mr. W. S. Morden, K.C., who was a delegate to the Convention.

In July, the Society enjoyed a picnic at the country home of Mrs. N. deB. L. Shaw.

August 3rd - A telegram expressing the good wishes of the Society was sent to Mr. W. C. Mikel, K.C., on the occasion of the Pilgrimage to the Church at Hay Bay, Adolphustown, Ont.

October 14th, 1931 - A regular meeting at the home of Mrs. G. Marshall. The appointments to the General Council Committees were announced.

The speaker was Miss Clement who gave a very interesting address on the life and works of the late William Kirby, with special reference to his books and poems on the subject of United Empire Loyalists.

1932 August

Provincial Branch of British Columbia

On February 29th a most enjoyable meeting was held in the Y.W.C.A., at which thirty-eight members were in attendance. Some of these came from Duncan, Salt Spring Island and Cowichan. Papers of great interest were read by three of the Members- W. E. Losee, Esq., W. C. Risteen, Esq., and J. Percy Watson, Esq., telling, briefly, something of the history of their ancestors.

On the afternoon of May 18th a social gathering of the members and their friends was held in the old Craigflower School. This is the oldest school in the Province, and the building is now used by the Native Daughters of B.C. to preserve numerous relics of the early day in British Columbia. No programme was planned, as it was found that the members enjoyed an afternoon such as this to chat over the many stories of pioneer days. Tea was served by the Ladies' Committee.

1933 November Provincial Branch of British Columbia

During the past season the Branch held five Executive and three general meetings. At the Annual Meeting all officers were re-elected for another term and were highly praised for their splendid endeavours. Mrs. A. C. Ross was presented with the U.E.L. Decoration, suitably engraved and accompanied by a very kind letter from the members. Two very interesting family histories were read by Mr. C. W. Risteen and Mr. A. E. Jones and Col. Monk gave a notable address on the building of a flag. He submitted a design which he has built, embodying the various stages in history which affect the design. The members were very enthusiastic about this design and there was an interesting discussion on the question of a distinctive flag for Canada.

The meeting of March 10th, held at the home of Mrs. G. Marshall, was of especial interest. After a programme of music and recitation, Mr. W. G. Gaunce gave a remarkable series of word pictures - recollections of his eighty-three years of rich experience, the major portion of which was spent in the vicinity of St. John, N.B. A full account of this address was published in the St. John paper, upon the occasion of the Loyalists' Celebration in that city on May 18th, 1933.

Loyalist Day, May 18th, was celebrated at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Adams. The President, Colonel Monk, gave a very interesting talk stressing the historical importance of the day we celebrate. This was followed by a splendid address by Rev. Mr. Church along similar lines. A musical programme by Mrs. W. R. Gunn, Miss Joyce Adams, Miss Shotbolt, Miss M. Church, soloists, and accompanied by Mrs. Shotbolt, Miss Audrey Wood and Miss Edith Adams, was rendered to the complete enjoyment of the attending members. An original poem by Mrs. N. deB. L. Shaw, "A Loyalist Toast," was read and enthusiastically received. Tea was served by the Ladies' Committee, bringing a most enjoyable evening to a close.

The past season has brought the Branch in closer touch with the various other Branches across Canada, through correspondence, and the bond of common tradition and ideals has been greatly strengthened.

1966 April

This newly formed branch is meeting monthly in the Empress Hotel. They are a very enthusiastic group with a membership of sixty five. The newly elected President Col. J. W. C. Symons is assisted by Mrs. Olive D. D. Wilson and Miss Eleanor Watson.

1967 Spring

The Victoria Branch was reactivated in October, after a period of about fifteen years of dormancy. As a group we are far removed from the areas where the United Empire Loyalists first settled in Canada, and therefore must be content with individual reports from members who have been fortunate enough to visit these historical sites.

It has been brought to light that in 1939, during the visit to Victoria of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, that a tree was planted in Beacon Hill Park by the Victoria Branch, to honour the visit. It was decided to locate this tree and to refurbish the commemorating plaque.

Plans were made at the November meeting for the donation of the Canadian History Prize to be awarded to the student in Victoria who has achieved the highest marks in Canadian History.

By Eleanor Watson

VICTORIA BRANCH AWARDS HISTORY PRIZE

The Victoria Branch made plans at their November meeting for a fifty dollar prize to be awarded to a student in Victoria, who, at the end of the school year, has achieved the highest marks in the course on Canadian History. This prize is to be called, "United Empire Loyalist, Victoria Branch, Canadian History Prize."

1967 Autumn

In its final meeting before the summer vacation the Victoria Branch held its annual elections, at which time the complete slate of officers was returned for another year, by the unanimous vote of the membership.

Mr. A. J. Langmore, Assistant District Superintendent of Schools, gave a talk on Scholarships, Bursaries, etc., and explained how the Department of Education made its selections for assigning such awards.

1968 Spring

The Victoria Branch are planning a tour of the Maritime Museum, Bastion Square, for the January meeting. This will be a conducted tour and participants should glean much more information than from a normal visit.

Mrs. Olive Detlor Wilson of 3095 Harriet Road, Victoria, and Vice-President of the Victoria Branch. The picture (LG spring 1968) of Mrs. Wilson was taken at the Peter O'Reilly Museum which was recently opened by Lieutenant Governor George R. Pearkes. Mr. O'Reilly was the first gold commissioner of B. C.

1968 Autumn

A meeting of the Victoria Branch was held on September 24th in the library of the Maritime Museum. We are fortunate to be able to hold our meetings in this beautiful and historic building which was formerly the Court House.

A letter was received from Mrs. Margaret Bergin and her daughter, Mrs. Joan Palmer of Campbell River requesting that their membership be transferred from the Hamilton to the Victoria Branch and we are happy to welcome these new members.

It was decided to hold our next meeting November 19 at the Maritime Museum.

1969 Spring

The Victoria Branch President, Mr. C. B. Fisher, reports a worthwhile project in the award, for the second time, of a fifty-dollar bursary. The recipient this year was David R. Smelser, a student of Oak Bay Secondary School. The Branch President was invited to be present at a special Scholarship Assembly at the school to congratulate the winner. In a letter to Mr. Fisher thanking the Association for the bursary, David Smelser expressed his interest in the study of Canadian history and his admiration for those who helped to build the Canadian Nation.

1969 Autumn

A meeting of the Victoria Branch was held at the Maritime Museum with the President, Mr. C. B. Fisher, in the chair. Plans were discussed for a scrapbook to be prepared and sent to the Toronto Headquarters. Much pleasure was expressed by those present over the membership cards sent by Dominion Council. Guests were present from Edmonton, Quebec and California.

The guest speaker was Mr. Sidney Pettit, Professor of History at the University of Victoria. His topic was "Unrest in the Universities Today". The question and answer period which followed was conducted by Professor Cheffies of the University of Victoria assisted by Professor Pettit.

On May 12th the Victoria Branch held a dinner in the Mahogany Room of the Strathcona Hotel. Forty guests were seated at tables beautifully decorated for the occasion. The Canadian flag, Union Jack and B.C. Provincial flag formed a background for the head table, at which were seated: Miss E. Deane; Mr. Ainslie Helmcken, guest speaker; Mr. C. B. Fisher, President; Mrs. Olive Wilson; and Mrs. Gene Aitkens, Secretary. The highlight of the evening was the announcement that our charter had been received that day. The speaker, Mr. Helmcken, took as his topic "Youth and History". Mrs. Peggy Walton Packard was soloist and sang several groups of songs during the evening. We were pleased to welcome Miss Bessie Choate, Secretary of the Vancouver Branch, to our first dinner. Miss Choate's visit was deeply appreciated by all since this was the first occasion of having an official visit from the Vancouver Branch. We look forward to many exchange visits. We are hoping to make the dinner an annual affair. Much credit goes to our able secretary, Mrs. Aitkens, convener of the dinner, for such a successful and enjoyable evening.

1970 Autumn

The Victoria Branch meeting was held on March 17, 1970, in the Library of the Maritime Museum of British Columbia. Plans to establish a small library of books of interest to U. E. L.'s were discussed, but no immediate action will be taken. Mrs. Rossiter asked members to bring pictures and snapshots for our scrapbook on which she is working. Colonel Symons advised us that the Maritime Museum trustees had decided to raise the rent of the Library from \$5.00 to \$10.00 for an evening, starting next fall. We may have to look for less expensive accommodation. Plans were made for our Annual Dinner, and it was agreed that it be held in Holyrood House, operated by the Caledonia Society, on Tuesday, May 19th. Our speaker for the evening was Dr. W. C. Horning, one of our members, who is President of the Vancouver Island Philatelic Society, and his subject was "The History and Development of Postage Stamp Usage". He illustrated his talk with samples from his own very extensive collection. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Symons and her helpers. The Victoria Branch sent letters protesting any change in the name or date of Dominion Day.

The May meeting took the form of an Annual Dinner, held on May 19th in the Saltaire Room of Holyrood House. The guests were welcomed by the President, Mr. Fisher, the blessing was asked by Miss E. H. Dean from Salt Spring Island, one of the few members from the original group formed in 1941. Entertainment was provided by Mrs. Ruth Everely Jones, piano, Miss Vera Freiderick, Piano, violin and Comedy skit. The speaker, introduced by Col. J. W. D. Symons, and thanked by Dr. W. C. Horning, was Col. A. O. Hood, Chairman of Greater Victoria's Celebration for Centennial 1971. His topic was "The Form and Meaning of These Celebrations".

In July we were very pleased to have one of our members, Mrs. Mary L. Muncy of Victoria, visit the Dominion Headquarters in Toronto and several UEL members there while she was in the district attending the Crawford reunion.

1971 Spring

A regular meeting of the Victoria Branch U.E.L. was held in the home of Miss Marjorie L. Todd, 508 Island Road, in November. The President, Mr. C. B. Fisher, called the meeting to order with the singing of "O Canada". Guests were welcomed by the President, these included Mrs. Alexander Mallory, an Associate Member since the earlier Branch was formed; Mrs. Olive Detlor Wilson was the only one present who attended with her at that time. Mr. Alexander Mallory, a member of the Mallory family that founded Mallorytown, Ontario, is unable to come out any more. Another guest was Miss Brenda Storey, winner of the 1970 Canadian History Prize, came to thank us for making the prize possible.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The only business arising from the minutes was discussion of plans for our Christmas Tea. The Secretary reported the prices and arrangements given by two restaurants and the date set was Saturday, December 19 at 3 p.m.

Treasurer, Mr. A. D. Flowers, gave the year-end Report on Finances. After the two large expenses of Annual Dinner and History Prize were deducted, our balance stands at \$205.02.

Mrs. K. Mullard said that she and Mr. Mullard had recently seen the Maple Tree planted in Beacon Hill Park in the 1930's and that it had become a fine tree, but the plaque needs to be cleaned and the letters recoloured. Mr. Fisher said he would attend to this.

Mr. Fisher spoke briefly on loyalism and the Empire, with several members adding to his remarks.

1971 Autumn

The Annual Dinner of the Victoria Branch was held on May 18th in the Colonial Inn, with about forty-two members and friends attending. Colonel J. W. D. Symons was Master of Ceremonies in the place of Mr. C. B. Fisher, President, who was prevented from assuming his official duties because of an injury, although he was present. The tables were decorated with yellow tulips and lilacs, and small flags, including the blue and gold British Columbia Centennial flag. Out-of-town guests were welcomed, and included Mrs. Gordon Bland of Brampton, Ontario, an aunt of Mrs. Gene Aitkens, and Mrs. Hilda Cochrane of Vernon, B.C., a sister of Mr. C. B. Fisher.

Mr. Gorde Hunter, an outspoken columnist for The Victoria Daily Colonist, spoke on a number of currently controversial topics in his address, which was followed by a question and discussion period. Miss Andrea Mellis, an aspiring young music student, sang several delightful songs. The evening closed with the singing of "God Save the Queen".

A letter was sent to Her Majesty the Queen during her recent visit to British Columbia stating in part that "Our ancestors gave up homes and possessions in the American Colonies to live under the British Flag and Monarchy, and we, their descendants, were proud to follow their example, and affirm our love and loyalty to her".

We have received a reply from her Secretary thanking us for our expressions of loyalty.

1972 Spring

The November meeting was held at the home of Mrs. M.M. Anderson. Members were welcomed by the President, Mr. C. B. Fisher, and he noted particularly that Mrs. Mary Muncy had been on the Mohawk Valley trip, and that it was planned that she would talk on this at a later meeting.

It was a pleasure to have Miss Jill Craig of Mountview High School with us. She was the winner of the 1971 Canadian History prize. Very graciously she thanked the branch for making the prize available.

The guest speaker was the Honourable Mrs. Isobel Dawson, Minister without Portfolio in the provincial cabinet. She represents the McKenzie riding which boasts of 2500 miles of coast line. She spoke on Canadian history and citizenship using the people of many types in her riding, to illustrate her points. She has had a broad experience with Indians and Senior Citizens, not to mention young offenders. Incidentally the speaker was a descendant of U. E. Loyalists. She gave the names of Hart, Saunders, Flegg and Leonard as part of her loyalist background. After her talk there was an interesting period of questions dealing with her parliamentary work, her work with the Indians, and her means of travel in much of this undeveloped territory.

It was noted that another request had been received (from Major the Reverend J. D. L. Howson) for the setting up of a branch historical committee. This resulted in the appointment as members of such a committee of Mr. A. D. Flowers, CO!. J. W. D. Symons and Mrs. E. B. Coleman.

It was agreed that the branch should take out a membership in the newly formed British Columbia Genealogical Society.

It was noted that now while the branch was holding meetings in private homes, a problem has arisen in connection with the circulation of books. At least a partial solution was proposed by Mr. Crane, that he would prepare a list of titles which could be brought to house meetings. All books would still be available at the Maritime Museum.

It was agreed that a Christmas tea be arranged on Saturday, December 4th. Mrs. McElmoyle and Mrs. Kupitz agreed to canvass members later.

Colonel Symons presented a slate of officers for the year 1972, which was approved as follows: President Mrs. Gene Aitkens; Vice-president Miss Adrienne Rossiter; Secretary Mrs. Molly Greer; Treasurer Miss Adrienne Rossiter; Genealogist Colonel J. W. D. Symons; Program Director Mrs. Velva Rossiter; Refreshments Mrs. A. D. Flowers and Mrs. D. McElmoyle.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Fisher for his excellent service as president for three years and to Mrs. Aitkens for her three years' service as Secretary. It was agreed that the next meeting be held at the home of Colonel and Mrs. Symons on January 18th.

Refreshments were served under the able supervision of Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Muncy.

In all there were 23 persons present

The branch enjoyed a short and unscheduled visit from the national president, Mr. Michael Spohn. A group met with him at the home of Colonel Symons to enjoy tea and some informal chatter about the aims and objectives of the organization. Those present included besides the hosts and the guest, Mr. C. B. Fisher, Mrs. Greer and Miss Eleanor Watson.

A Christmas tea was held in the George Inn. There were 25 present. The tables were tastily decorated by Mrs. Flowers and Mrs. Gene Aitkens. While it poured rain outside - unlike Victoria - inside it was warm, cheerful and enjoyable.

1972 Autumn

A meeting was held in March at the home of Mrs. MacGregor-Greer and Mrs. Coleman with the branch president Mrs. Aitkens in the chair. After the 'Singing of "O Canada" the president welcomed the members and guests. There was an encouraging number of new members present including Mr. and Mrs. Fairweather, Mr. and Mrs. Barnes, Miss Mitchell and Mrs. Thornthwaite.

Mr. Flowers, chairman of the Historical Committee, reported that some advertising had been done in the local papers and had aroused some interest with new members, with the result that six new members were present at this meeting. Mrs. Aitkens reported that all "up-island" members had been circularized, asking them to endeavour to recruit new members. It was agreed that the bill for the advertising in the papers be approved.

It was reported *by* Mr. Crain that the library books which have been brought to each of the meetings had now been deposited in the Maritime Museum library until the next season.

There was some discussion relative to the annual Canadian history prize, it being suggested *by* Mrs. Aitkens that it be discontinued. As an alternative it was proposed *by* Mr. Flowers that a book dealing with the U.E.L. be presented to each high school. Eventually it was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance, but in the interval to put the money into a project to list the U.E.L. descendants in British Columbia.

Mrs. Aitkens presented a request from the national office for funds with which to purchase books. On a motion of Mr. Fisher and Mr. Flowers, it was agreed to send a donation of \$15.00. It was agreed on a motion of Mr. Fisher and Miss Rossiter to investigate the cost of having branch note paper printed. The president pointed out that according to the by-laws a Union Jack flag should be displayed at each meeting. Mrs. Artlett offered to donate one if the branch so wished.

It was announced by the president that the Annual Meeting of the branch would be held on September 19 at the Maritime Museum, and that the annual dinner would be held on Thursday, May 18th which is U.E. Day.

It was agreed that donations made *by* members to the scholarship fund should be returned to the members if so requested, if the prize is discontinued.

Mrs. Rossiter presented a paper submitted *by* Mrs. Artlett, dealing with the Burritts of Burritts Rapids near Ottawa, which was much enjoyed *by* all.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

The Annual Meeting (May 18) was set in the pleasant surroundings, much enjoyed *by* a splendid turnout of members and guests. The Faculty Club of the University of Victoria provides excellent facilities for functions of this kind, with a comfortable lounge, a pleasant dining room, good food and good service - not to mention a very convenient bar. It was a most acceptable centre for an annual meeting. Under the competent guidance . of the president, Mrs. G.M. Aitkens, the business agenda was completed with dispatch to the satisfaction of everyone.

The speaker was no less a person than Mrs. Doyle Klyn, now a resident of Victoria. Her name and fame will be known to Canadians all across Canada for her interesting and amusing column known as "According to Doyle", published regularly in Week End Magazine. Her talk to the branch was further proof, if such were needed, that her sort was not restricted to the printed word, and that her hobbies were both unusual and interesting.

Mrs. Klyn's main theme related to her collections. She urged her listeners to collect something, no matter what - as a lifetime interest. To demonstrate how a great variety of collectables are available, she exhibited samples from her own collection such as sadirons, charcoal irons, wood carvings such as a Welsh love spoons, salts and peppers, buttons, button hooks, shopping bags, sheet music. typographical errors, odd names of people and places. In several instances the audience was invited to give the purpose of the exhibited article, Several times the right answer was given, but there was one piece that stopped everybody. It was a crocheted circular item about 12" in diameter. She explained that it was very old but with modern plumbing no longer served any useful purpose. It fitted on the lid of the once popular chamber pot, and served to keep the lid from crashing against the pot "early in the morning". It was known as a silencer.

1973 Spring

Victoria Branch observed a minute's silence in memory of Mrs. Olive Detlor Wilson at its October meeting. Mrs. Wilson had reactivated the Victoria Branch in 1967.

Mrs. M. Jean Barron, a new member, was welcomed, and gave a brief sketch of the life of her UE ancestor, Colonel Richard Beasley.

A short talk on *The Loyalists of Gaspé* illustrated with maps, was given by Mr. A. D. Flowers.

The annual general meeting of the Victoria Branch was held at the home of Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Weld on November 21 with the president Mrs. Aitkens presiding and twenty-five persons present.

The slate of officers for 1973 is as follows: President Mrs. G. M. Aitkens; Vice-President Mr. Fairweather; Treasurer Mrs. Barron; Secretary Mrs. M. MacGregor-Greer; Chairman Genealogical Committee Colonel J. W. D. Symons; Chairman Historical Committee Mr. A. D. Flowers; Programme Committee Mrs. Dorothy E. McElmoyle and Mrs. Mary Muncy.

Mrs. Aitkens reported that she had spoken to the head school librarian concerning possible donations of books, and that he had expressed approval. Colonel Symons moved that a book be placed in each high school as funds became available, and that an inscription be placed in each book saying that it was given by the Victoria Branch V.E.L. Association. Seconded by Mr. Crain. Carried. Mrs. Aitkens said that donations for this cause would be welcome. The first book is to be "Honor Bound" by Mary Alice and John Downie, followed by "On Loyalist Trails" by John F. Hayes.

Victoria Branch met January 22 in the Maritime Museum with the President in the chair and approximately 30 present.

Mrs. Aitkens reported that ten copies of "Honor Bound" had been given to the secondary schools. Letters of thanks from Mr. Thompson of the School Board, and from one of the schools, were read.

It was learned that the Vancouver Branch wanted to dissolve but was unable to do so, according to the constitution.

Colonel Symons suggested that Head Office should write a letter of condolence to Prime Minister Trudeau on the death of his mother who was of Loyalist descent. The motion was carried.

Mr. Peter Cotton showed interesting slides of older Victoria buildings.

It is universally recognized that the extremities of any body are the hardest to serve; and yet away out here on the Pacific Ocean which is surely one of Canada's extremities, the Victoria Branch continues to thrive and to show increasing vigour.

Meetings with increasing numbers in attendance are held regularly month after month. The speakers and their subjects continue to draw encouraging numbers of members and guests. In fact in most instances when the meetings are held in private homes, much shuffling of the furniture is required to seat the assembly.

Fortunately from time to time the commodious quarters of the Maritime Museum Library are available to the Branch (courtesy of our stalwart Colonel Symons), and here there is plenty of everything that would be required by any meeting, including an exciting ride in an elevator that must be unique in Canada. Such a meeting was held on January 22nd. The attendance was well up in the thirties. Under the stimulating leadership of our golden voiced baritone, Colonel Symons the meeting was opened with O Canada! (The Mendelsohn Choir had better look to its laurels).

The feature of the meeting was a slide-talk by Mr. Peter Cotton, Victoria architect. These days Victorians are all excited by proposals, counter proposals, plans and cancellation of plans having to do with the preservation of old buildings. Mr. Cotton's contribution to the subject was a series of his own slides showing many old buildings that may or may not be preserved. The buildings shown were mostly familiar to the audience, but Mr. Cotton has a knack of sneaking up on his subject and catching it off guard- so to speak; so that in some instances the buildings were not too quickly identified. These odd angle, back door and roof top views revealed features not seen previously by the eye of the casual passerby, and added more than one note of interest.

Incidentally Mr. Cotton was wise-enough not to take sides with regard to the fate of any building. As a technically qualified citizen doubtless he will have many opportunities later to uphold (or to knock down) any of the buildings he showed the meeting. His talk was much enjoyed by everyone.

1973 Autumn

History can be a really dull affair unless the listener himself is in some way related to it or the historian is a gifted chronicler. The Victoria Branch, B.C. was fortunate in that both conditions applied to the paper presented on March 20th at the home of Mrs. W.A. McElmoyle by Mr. C.B. Fisher, a past president of the branch, which told the story of the branch from its inauguration on February 4th, 1927 to today. The actual incorporation was dated March 4th. The first president was Mr. Beaumont-Boggs and the secretary was Colonel T.B. Monk./

Down through the years, Mr. Fisher led his audience, naming names and pointing up special happenings. He noted that some links with the original meeting still remain. Miss Helen Dean who was the daughter of one of the founding fathers was still an active member although living on Salt Spring Island and being 92 years of age. Until recently she attended branch meetings in Victoria. Her long service has been recognized by the presentation of an Honourary Membership./ Other "originals" were in the audience in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. James Mullaro and Miss May Anderson.

At one time the branch was identified as the United Empire Loyalists Society of British Columbia but after this was changed so that only Vancouver Island was the responsibility of the branch.

In spite of the encouraging start it seems the branch soon fell into the established practice of other branches of being in financial difficulties. The annual fee was \$1.00, but only \$15.00 was collected that year. Out of this \$5.90 went to an advertising agency and \$6.00 for the rental of a meeting place. Only \$3.10 was carried forward to the next season. However some years later an even lower level was achieved when the treasurer reported the yearend balance of one four cent postage stamp.

In 1931 a decision was made to erect a memorial drinking fountain in Beacon Hill Park for the comfort of both man and beast. It is hoped that no man or beast has been holding his thirst to slake it at that fountain, for it was never built. Those were depression times and the fountain suffered the same fate as many other worthy projects.

A sly note in Mr. Fisher's history related to a garden party in aid of funds for the drinking fountain which took place in glorious weather on May 18th ! (that's Victoria for you). Seventy-five people attended.

In 1939 during the visit of King George and Queen Elizabeth, and in honour of the occasion the branch planted a tree in Beacon Hill Park with a stone marker at its base, which has prospered (the tree) and has added its touch to the beauty of the park.

The record shows that at various times the branch engaged in patriotic and welfare projects, such as were made possible under the War Charities Act and the Queen's Canadian Fund.

Mr. Fisher's story included reference to an officer of the branch who had a distinguished military record and who in 1947 or thereabouts set out on a great adventure. "Always of a courageous nature, at the age of 70 he went to England with the intention of sailing back to Canada in a ketch with only a 20 year old girl as crew. Unfortunately the gallant major was stricken with a heart attack at the Agnes which proved fatal."

In the detailed records presented by Mr. Fisher there were names of many people who had been active in the life of the branch. It would hardly do to end this review of an excellent paper without at least putting down the names of such people as these : Watson, Harmon, Adams, Mullard, Wilson, Church, Richards, Yardley, Gunn, Fahey, Jebor, Winslow, Packard, Walton, Forman, Pringle, Anderson, Hoig, Manzer, Ferris, Cunningham and Jakes.

One name that comes up prominently in the latter part of this history is Colonel J.W.D. Symons, Curator of the Maritimes Museum in Victoria. He became president in 1967, and since that time the branch has gone ahead like the proverbial "house afire". The impetus given by him has encouraged others to follow his example so that today, the branch is really a going concern. The presidents following Colonel Symons were Mr. C.B. Fisher and Mrs. Gene Aitkens, both of whom have done and are still doing a great service to the Loyalists.

The Branch held what is now known as the Annual U .E.L. Day banquet on May 15th at the Faculty Club of the University of Victoria. In every way the occasion measured up to the high standards already established, and as a matter of fact may well have exceeded them. For instance it would be difficult to find a more acceptable menu, including as it did Consomme au Sherry, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Legumes, Creme de Menthe Parfait, Cafe - which shows how far bilingualism has gone in Canada.

We even had a glass of red wine to toast The Queen. It was a very pleasurable occasion.

Our competent president, Mrs. Gene Aitkens presided graciously as usual and after welcoming the guests, called on the treasurer Mrs. Barron, to introduce the speaker, Miss Margaret Clay who for over 28 years

(1924-1952) had been head librarian for the City of Victoria. Miss Clay spoke on "Growing up in Victoria" As she had moved to Victoria in 1894 with her parents, she was well qualified to speak on such a subject.

Going back over almost 80 years, she took the audience back to conditions that were vastly different from those of today. She spoke of the many ships from faraway places that called so frequently at this seaport, how she and her brother used to run down to the docks to greet the visitors, of the language differences, and of the excitement

She told of Sunday school picnics to out-of-town places, and in particular of one experience when the children were taken in a special train on May 24th to Goldstream Park for a glorious day. An unexpected feature of the event was that someone forgot to send the train back for them at the appointed hour. However eventually the train did arrive, but not until midnight, and much to the relief of a lot of tired children. and a few worried adults.

She told of the many Indians who were everywhere on the streets, and of the retired civil servants from India who brought with them, and displayed with some pride the customs, manners and clothing of their previous place of residence. She referred to the great changes in the form of entertainment and recreation. In those days people made their own fun and lived a very rich life.

Amateur theatricals were popular even as they are today in this city. House dances were popular too and plentiful, and it seemed that everyone was gay.

Her story was a happy one and she made it very apparent that "growing up in Victoria" was indeed a great experience.

Miss Clay was thanked by Dr. Austin Wright who took advantage of the opportunity to congratulate her on behalf of the Branch for the honorary doctor's degree which had been awarded recently by the University of Victoria.

The President and members of the Victoria Branch received a letter of appreciation from Princess Anne for the branch's message of congratulation upon her engagement.

1974 Spring

The Victoria Branch, British Columbia, held its General Meeting on November 20 at the home of Colonel and Mrs. Symons.

The president, Mrs. G. M. Aitkens, presented Mr. Balmain and Mr. Fairweather with their membership certificates and welcomed the following guests: Mr. And Mrs. Hartney, Mrs. MacFadyen and Miss Mitchell. About thirty persons were present for this special event.

Mrs. Aitkens reported that Mrs. Barron had Christmas cards and hasti-notes for sale, and that she would also take orders for photographic reproductions of the U.E.L. Armorial Bearings.

Mrs. Aitkens announced that Mr. McAlpine was going on a visit to Nova Scotia and would be doing some work in the Archives there. He had volunteered to do research for any member, who needed facts checked there.

There was discussion over what the Branch should do in place of the prizes and books formerly donated to schools. It was proposed by Mrs. Weld that a committee be struck to look into the feasibility of presenting

books to a student of history graduating from the Faculty of Education, University of Victoria. Dr. Horning is to chair this committee and to co-op additional members.

Mrs. Aitkens then said that she was going to leave the question of whether or not to raise the fees to the next executive.

The slate of officers for 1974 was presented by Col. Symons chairman of the Nominating Committee: President, Mrs. MacGregor-Greer; Vice-President, Mr. Fairweather (also in charge of the library) ; Secretary, Miss Adrienne Rossiter; Treasurer, Mrs. Barron; Social Convener, Mrs. McElmoyle; Genealogist, Col. Symons; Historical Committee Chairman, Mr. Flowers.

Mrs. Flowers suggested the appointment of a corresponding Secretary, and Mr. Harris offered to help in the compilation of genealogies. Mrs. Aitkens then listed some of the tasks that Headquarters had been achieving, and thanked her executive, and those who had helped her.

Col. Symons then moved a vote of thanks to the outgoing president, for her valuable and devoted work and this was seconded by Dr. Horning, and carried by acclamation.

The meeting then closed with "God Save the Queen". Members were then shown an exhibit of historical documents and of early stamped envelopes.

Dr. Wright, a member of the Victoria Branch and formerly on the staff of the Loyalist Gazette, has been given the first Can-Am Civil Engineering Amity Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers. Our good wishes are extended to Dr. Wright for this very high honour.

The Victoria Branch of the United Empire Loyalists Association held their annual Christmas tea on Saturday, December 15 at the Oak Bay Beach Hotel.

There were over thirty people present, who were welcomed by the President, Mrs. Gene Aitkens. Among the guests were three from Vancouver, Mrs. M. Skilton, Mrs. Gay Husband, and Mr. Robert Bessey. These are president, genealogist and Secretary respectively of the Vancouver Branch. These were particularly welcome as the Victoria members well appreciated the compliments paid them in the effort and time involved in making the trip from Vancouver so near to Christmas.

The tea was organized and refreshments were served by Mrs. McElmoyle assisted by Mrs. Fairweather and Mrs. Muncey. Tea was poured by Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Roberts.

During the tea Col. Symons presented Mrs. Aitkens with a Staffordshire floral basket. This was given to her from the members in recognition and gratitude for her untiring and devoted service in the past few years.

1974 Autumn

The Annual Loyalist Day dinner of the Victoria Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada was held on May 16, at the Faculty Club of the University of Victoria and was preceded by a no host reception, attended by some thirty-one members and their friends.

The dining room was tastefully decorated with flowers, flags and bunting arranged by the Social Committee of Mrs. Dorothy McElmoyle and our hardworking and loyal Past President Mrs. Gene Aitkens.

We were very fortunate to have as our guest speaker Major General J. A. Tedlie, D.S.O., C.D., Canadian Army (Ret'd) who had been chosen to head the first Canadian Peace Keeping Detachment for duty on the island of Cyprus. General Tedlie's experience has been varied and distinguished and well suited to this difficult task. His talk was not only educational and enlightening, but contained many of those humorous human anecdotes which contribute so much to the success of such an important affair.

The menu was excellent. It was a most successful dinner.

The branch will be inactive until the fall, as far as formal meetings are concerned; however the Genealogical Committee will be available to help and encourage members particularly new members to obtain their certificates and the library will also be available to those seeking information.

The first meeting of the 1974-1975 season was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. W.A. McElmoyle on Beach Drive, Victoria, B.C., on October 8. The President, Mrs. S. W. MacGregor-Greer, was in the chair and there was a good attendance.

After a short business meeting which opened with the singing of "O Canada", membership certificates were presented to Mrs. Margie Rae and on behalf of her two sons. Mrs. Rae gave a very interesting talk on the hardships endured by her Loyalist ancestors in getting settled and established on Manitoulin Island in the upper part of Georgian Bay. The family operated a successful grist mill for many years. Mrs. Rae illustrated her talk with a map and produced stencils which were used to identify the bags of meal and grain with the name of the producer. She also mentioned many humorous events which indicated that life without radio and TV could be far from dull.

The branch obtained on loan from the Monarchist League a tape recording of a talk by Mr. Paul T. Neale of Queen's University entitled "The Loyalist Exodus". This was really a brief sketch of the history of the coming of the Loyalists which was clear and well received by the members.

With the singing of "The Queen" the meeting adjourned for the social hour while enjoying the delightful refreshments organized by the Refreshment Committee of Mrs. McElmoyle, Mrs. Munsey and Mrs. Fair-weather.

1975 Spring

The Victoria Branch held its Annual General Meeting in the Pavilion at Windsor Park, Oak Bay, on November 12. Oak Bay is one of the four core municipalities making up Greater Victoria. The Pavilion has adequate catering facilities and an excellent place to hold a meeting. The attendance was not as large as usual, as other important meetings of organizations to which a number of our members also belong, unfortunately, had been scheduled for the same evening.

Mrs. Aitkens reported that three applications for membership had been sent to the Dominion Headquarters and approval, with certificates, was expected in the near future. She also reported that three new members had joined and were busy working on their genealogies.

Mrs. MacGregor-Greer, the President, mentioned that the question of a prize from the Branch to a student at University of Victoria was still outstanding.

A letter had been received from Mr. McAlpine, who is now living in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, indicating that he wishes to retain his membership in the Branch, and would be happy to help, in any way possible, with any questions which might arise, in matters relating to the Maritimes. The meeting approved a

recommendation from Dominion Headquarters that the Branch appoint a member to the Public Relations Committee, to act on any such matters which may require attention. The Nominating Committee, with Dr. L. Austin Wright acting as Chairman, was pleased to report that all of the officers of the Branch had agreed to serve for another year. They were elected by acclamation.

The National Film Board's movie, "Canada and The American Revolution 1763-1783" was to have been shown at the meeting. However the projector decided to misbehave, and despite much prodding by various members, failed to cooperate. So this pleasure had to be postponed until a later date.

Full advantage was taken of the rare opportunity of the extra time available to circulate, converse and exchange views. This was followed by delicious refreshments served by Mrs. McEmoyle's most efficient committee.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA

One of the most enjoyable events of the year is the Annual Christmas Tea of the Victoria Branch of The U.E.L. Association which this year was held in the lovely home of Mrs. D.T. McLeod. Mrs. McLeod has arranged for her reception hall, dining room, drawing room and conservatory to be tastefully decorated in the Christmas motif and for refreshments to be served by her "girls".

There was an excellent attendance and among the many guests were the Madam Chairman of the local Branch of The Monarchist League and the secretary of the Vancouver Branch of The U.E.L. Association.

Pouring tea at the well-laden dining room table were Mrs. Symons and Mrs. Fairweather.

Persons wishing to become members of the Victoria Branch are asked to write Mrs. G.M. Aitkens, 1825 Quamichan Avenue, Victoria, British Columbia, V8S 2B4.

1976 Autumn

During the month of May the branch received much publicity when the Hudson Bay Co. allowed it the use of one of its display windows for a U.E.L. exhibit. Mrs. Gene Aitkens arranged the exhibit, which consisted, as its focal point a large print of The Loyalists by J.D. Kelly. Some copies of land grants and a painting of the U.E.L. Coat of Arms, done by Mrs. Aitkens, herself and some artifacts made an attractive display.

The Greater Victoria Public Library, through the cooperation of Mr. Carmichael, of the library staff, allowed the Victoria branch the use of one of its display cases for a month long exhibit. It was of a somewhat more patriotic nature. As well as paintings of the Canadian flag and the First Union flag, it had as its focal point a large painting of the U.E.L. Coat of Arms done by the president, Mrs. W. J. Rae. The printing underneath it explained the significance of the 13 daggers, the Indian tomahawk and the crown. In the case also were some books which were chosen and arranged by Mr. Carmichael and among which was an 18th century embroidery candle and an 18th century sewing bird. The U.E.L. purpose was printed under the Canadian flag and under the First Union flag was printed They drew lots for their land, / With their axes they cleared the forest / With their hoes they planted the seed of Canada's Greatness.

SECOND REPORT

The Victoria T.V. channel C.F.A.X. gave the Victoria branch a ten-minute interview during the noon hour May 28th when Mrs. W. J. Rae and Mrs. Gene Aitkens were interviewed by the commentator, Mrs. Ida Clarkson of C.F.A.X. It gave much information to the viewing public about The U.E.L. Association. How to become a member was explained and an invitation to join the local branch was extended. The viewing audience saw a large painting of the Coat of Arms and was also able to read for themselves the wording of the Purpose - done in large print on a poster. Some enquiries re memberships followed the interview.

In the fall issue of Canadian Children's Magazine published in Victoria is an article on The United Empire Loyalists, written by Mrs. Heather Siska of Victoria. She had several interviews with the president of the local branch who was able to assist her in many ways and who loaned to her a print of J.D. Kelly's painting The Loyalists which she has had reproduced in the magazine.

During the year the branch accepted with gratitude the gift of a First Union flag from Mrs. G. K. Weld. Three new members were added, namely, Rev. David Summers of New York, Lt. Col. H. H. Minshall of Qualicum Beach and Mrs. Evelyn Dickson of Nanaimo.

One member was lost by death, namely, Mrs. E. C. Coleman, the mother of the immediate past president, Mrs. McGregor-Greer .

The meetings of the Victoria branch are held in the homes of members. The agenda at each meeting includes the reading in unison of the Purpose.

1977 Spring

At the November meeting Professor A.L.C. Atkinson, a retired professor from Royal Roads, gave an illustrated talk on Heraldry. His work is recognized by the College of Heraldry and Dr. Conrad Swan is a personal friend and has visited him in Sidney, B.C. where Professor Atkinson lives, so he is a very knowledgeable speaker on Heraldry.

Each year the Victoria branch gives a book award to a graduating history student at the University of Victoria. This year the award was won by Miss Roberta Lee of Victoria who was a special guest at the November meeting and who chose to have The United Empire Loyalists -- Pioneers of Upper Canada by Nick and Helma Mika. Miss Lee, a Canadian citizen but also a member of the Victoria Chinese Community, is keenly interested in early Canadian history.

The February meeting was held in the home of Dr. Austin Wright and Mrs. Wright. Miss Florence Howden, President of the Vancouver Branch was the guest speaker, giving on the U.E.L. Convention held in Kingston, Ontario.

1977 Autumn

The Victoria Branch held its Fall activities with a meeting at the Rossiter home on Humpback Road.

The meeting was particularly interesting and enjoyable. The president, Mrs. W. J. Rae displayed pictures taken at Beacon Hill Park of the branch picnic held on May 28 to celebrate the Queen's 25th anniversary. The picnic was held in the northeast area under the maple tree which was planted in the park in 1939 by the Victoria U.E.L. Branch to commemorate the visit of George VI and Queen Elizabeth. At its base impressed in a cement block is the pertinent information. The one picture shows all of those members who are living today and were present at the planting of this maple tree in 1939, namely, Mrs.

Mae Anderson, Miss Queenie Tabor, Mr. J.H. Mullard, Mrs. Mullard and Mr. C.B. Fisher. The other picture records those members present on this visit. The third photo illustrated the U.E.L. Branch window display last April in the Tudor Sweet Shop at 2228 Oak Bay Avenue, Victoria. This effort brought fine comments and publicity for our branch.

In May Mrs. Rae, the president, was interviewed by Miss Clarkson on the C.H.E.K. television station. This was another effort to bring our branch before the public.

The Victoria Branch continues to donate a book award to a graduating student at the University of Victoria for academic performance in Canadian History. The 1977 award went to David Edward Lewis of Terrace, B.C.

A membership certificate was presented to our most recent member, Miss Eveline Restall of Victoria. A vote of appreciation was extended to our hosts, The Rossiters.

1978 Autumn

The Victoria Branch met on Sept. 12 at the lovely home of Mrs. Mollie MacGregor-Greer, Secretary and former President.

Miss Grace Mitchell, President, presented a copy of the beautiful pictorial *Loyalists of Upper Canada* by N. Mika, author and publisher, Belleville, Ontario, to Miss Mary C. Williams, the student with the highest honours in Canadian History at the University of Victoria. The President also presented a membership certificate to Mrs. Virginia Bartkow, Loyalist ancestor McLaughlin and welcomed the prospective member, Mrs. Elizabeth Brooke.

We are all very pleased to have Mrs. Gene Aitkens, our genealogist, return to our branch after her sojourn to England. Mrs. Aurelie Schrader kindly offered to be the branch's U.E.L. bicentennial representative and Mr. Jack Rogers, Dominion Chairman of the Bicentennial 1983-84 has been notified. An historical committee representative will be elected shortly. Mrs. MacGregor-Greer has written our letter about the Queen.

Mrs. Marjorie Rae, past president, gave a delightful and informal talk on the U.E.L. Convention held in May at London, Ontario. Mrs. Rae travelled the farthest of any delegate and was the first one to represent Victoria Branch at any Convention.

1979 Spring

The Annual meeting of the Victoria Branch was held in November and the new executive was elected to serve for eighteen months to be in accord with the Dominion Executive term of office.

In December we held our Christmas Tea at the beautiful home of Mrs. Marjorie Todd. There were forty-four members and friends present, among them our Member of Parliament, Mr. Allen McKinnon. Miss Mitchell, the retiring president, introduced the new executive. Everyone enjoyed the delicious tea, convened by Mrs. Phyllis Tingle, the Christmas Carols and the good fellowship.

In February Mrs. MacGregor-Greer gave us a very interesting talk on her recent trip to Spain.

We are working on plans for the Bicentennial and are looking forward to a busy and productive year.

The November meeting of the Victoria U.E.L. was held at the home of Mrs. W.J. Rae with Miss Grace Mitchell presiding. A welcome was given to Mrs. G.M. Aitkens, our genealogist, on her return from an extended stay in England and a prospective member, Mr. H. Avery Irvine, was also greeted.

Elections were held for the coming year, with the following elected officers: President, Mrs. Anne Needham; Secretary, Mrs. M. MacGregor-Greer; Treasurer, Mr. C.B. Fisher and Genealogist, Mrs. G.M. Aitkens. The latter is also our representative to act as liaison between the Central Historical Committee and our branch while Mrs. Aurelie Schrader is the representative for our Bicentennial celebration. Letters were received from our two M.P.'s endorsing the tentative plans for our coming bicentennial.

Obituary: **WILFRED JOHN RAE**

Mr. W.J. Rae died on February 14 in Victoria. Mr. Rae who was a member of the Victoria Branch leaves to mourn his wife, past president of the Branch.

Mr. Rae was born in Winnipeg, March 22, 1899, and grew up near Roblin, in the Shell Hiver area. He was awarded the gold medal in his undergraduate degree in science at the University of Manitoba followed by a masters degree at the University of Wisconsin in agriculture. Mr. Rae was named into the Hall of Fame of the agricultural museum for his work in the breeding and genetics of poultry during his 36 years on the faculty at the University of Saskatchewan.

His activities were varied but his contributions were notable, devoting much of his life from early years until his death to 4H clubs, attaining rank of major in the C.O.T.C. and contributing at all levels in his United Church to that of provincial delegate for Saskatchewan and the Senate of St. Andrews College of Theology at Saskatoon. More recently Mr. Rae completed a history of Oak Bay United Church, that will remain a lasting tribute to him and his family.

1979 Autumn

April meeting of the Victoria Branch was hosted by Mrs. Muriel Summers. Mrs. Aurelie Schrader, who teaches English at Comosin College, gave a very enjoyable talk on teaching English to New Canadians. Mrs. Schrader and Mr. Ross Warner were presented with their certificates.

On May 18 we held a smorgasbord dinner at Holyrood House. Our guests of honor were Mr. and Mrs. Marks McAvity and Mr. Abiota Williams. After dinner Mrs. McAvity gave an illustrated talk on Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific where she is Librarian. Mr. McAvity, a teacher there and Mr. Williams, a student from Sierra Leone, ably assisted her. They answered many questions and gave us a most informative and enjoyable evening.

The fall season started with a meeting at the home of Mrs. Schrader. Bicentennial plans were discussed. To make a record of the descendants of United Empire Loyalists living on Vancouver Island is one of our projects.

Each year we give an appropriate book to the top History student of the University of Victoria. This year it was won by Miss Emily Preston of Victoria.

Tea and a social hour was enjoyed by all.

Obituary: **L. A. WRIGHT**

Mr. L. A. Wright died in Victoria on June 15, age 91.

He came from eastern Canada to Deep Cove in the early 1960's and moved to Victoria in 1963. He was active in work with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and the Victoria Symphony Society.

A long-time member of the Engineering Institute of Canada, he was born and educated in Toronto, graduated from the university of Toronto in 1910. After graduation he worked for numerous engineering companies. He went to the Engineering Institute of Canada as general secretary and editor of the Engineering Journal in 1938, serving in that capacity for 20 years.

Mr. Wright was accorded numerous honours. Awards included the Centennial Medal, the Can-Am Engineering Amity Award and the prestigious Julian C. Smith Medal which was presented to him in 1975 by the Engineering Institute.

1980 Spring

In December we held a delightful tea at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S.W.M. MacGregor-Greer. It was convened by Mrs. Tingle, assisted by Mrs. Rossiter. There were twenty-five present and we all enjoyed the delicious tea and the good fellowship.

The regular February meeting was held at the home of Mrs. W.J. Rae. We welcomed two new applicants and after our business meeting we enjoyed an interesting talk on Greece by Mrs. Mary Allard.

Mrs. Rae reported on her progress designing a quilt to be made for the Bicentennial.

Mrs. Aitken, our genealogist, has been asked to speak on the United Empire Loyalists at the next meeting of the Victoria Genealogical Society

1981 Spring

At the September meeting of the Victoria Branch, held at the home of Mrs. Mollie MacGregor-Greer, Mr. Ross Warner was presented with his certificate and gave us a brief resume of his family history. We also presented a book to Mr. William Ross Younie, who won the highest marks as student of history at the University of Victoria.

Mrs. Muriel Summers reported on the 11th annual reunion in Seattle, of the Van Valkenburg family, many of whom were Loyalists.

Mrs. Isobel Artlett had attended the Burritt family reunion in Ottawa and Mrs. W.J. Rae reported on the annual meeting of the Association held in Toronto which she and Mrs. Anne Needham attended.

We met in November at the home of Mrs. D. McElmoyle. Mr. James Smith received his certificate and he and Mr. R.J. Rogers told us about their Loyalists' ancestry. We also held our election of officers. President, Mrs. Anne Needham; Vice-President, Mr. R.J. Rogers; Secretary, Mrs. Aurelie Schrader; Treasurer, Mrs. Helen Simpson and Genealogist, Mrs. Gene Aitkens who hopes to have at least two more certificates approved soon.

We also have a new affiliate member, Mr. Cyrus Happy of Tacoma, Washington, whose certificate was mailed to him.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. A.D. Flowers and to Mrs. Mollie MacGregor-Greer on the death of their husbands.

Albert David Flowers, B.Sc., M.A., passed away peacefully at his residence in Victoria, B.C., on November 20, after several years of ill health.

Mr. Flowers was born in Port Daniel, Gaspé, Quebec, in 1899, and served in both wars, being only sixteen when he went to France in 1915 as a stretcher bearer. He also served in the last war. His degrees were obtained at Acadia University. His career included the Army and Teaching professions, rehabilitation officer in Military hospitals and Meteorologist at St. Hubert airport. He published a book on the Loyalists of Bay Chaleur, and served as Treasurer and Genealogist in the Victoria Branch. His book published in 1970 has been a great asset to our Association mainly in assisting many persons to become members through the rare and valuable research Mr. Flowers did on the Gaspé Loyalists.

1981 Autumn

The Victoria Branch has had a busy and successful year. At the September meeting it was reported that William Ross Younie had won the book prize presented to a History student of Honours standing. At the November general meeting the slate of officers for the coming year was presented as follows: President, Mrs. Anne Needham; Vice-President, Mr. R. Rogers; Secretary, Mrs. Aurelie Schrader; Treasurer, Mrs. Helen Simpson; Genealogist, Mrs. Gene Aitkens; Social Convener, Mrs. Tingle. At the February meeting a Chinese Auction was held which yielded \$62.00 with chuckles all round. The April meeting was held in a community hall to enable the members to display antiques and artifacts from by-gone years in a "Salute to Our Ancestors". Everything from tintype photos, to handmade quilts, to family albums and Bibles were displayed and enjoyed by all. The May Dinner was held at the Post House Restaurant followed by a very interesting talk on "Captain Cook's Travels" given by Joyce Cierihue, H.D., a noted historian. The evening of festivity truly ending a busy year with a flourish.

1982 Spring

The Victoria Branch held its first meeting of the Autumn on September 15 at which time it was reported that Pamela Joy Glenn, was the recipient of The United Empire Loyalists, a winner of this year's History Prize at the University of Victoria. It was also at this meeting that the Executive declared support of a suggestion put forward by Mr. Tom Murray to endeavour to set up a special History Bursary intended to encourage research in the field of U.E.L. studies. Mr. Murray was to report back to the Branch periodically regarding the progress of the proposal. The Executive for the term 1981-82 was presented at the November meeting. They are as follows: President Mr. Robt. Rogers, Vice President Mr. Tomas Murray, Secretary Mrs. Aurelie Schrader, Treasurer Mrs. Helen Simpson, Social Mrs. Shirley Sandham. In addition to a Christmas Tea, a very enjoyable affair, the Association has welcomed several distinguished guest speakers. From among our own members Mrs. Evelyn Dixon gave an interesting account of her attendance at the Annual Convention and her visit to Upper Canada Village. Then in November Mrs. Dorothy Sweet of the Cornwall Family Society of Great Britain gave a talk on descendants of Cornish families in our area and lastly M. David Le Gallant spoke to the group on the fascinating subject of Heraldry in February. The Branch has truly spent a busy and rewarding Fall and Winter, and completed the year with our Annual Dinner in May.

1982 Autumn

The Victoria Branch closed its 1981-1982 year with its Annual Dinner. The Dinner was held at Holyrood House on the 4th of May, 1982.

After the dinner, Branch president, Robert J. Rogers, and guest of honour, Mr. John Eaman, presented Mr. Thomson his certificate. This certificate was in the new format and was the first such to be presented by the Victoria Branch. Mr. Eaman, the Dominion President, spoke on, "Loyalists and the Future."

The 1982-1983 year began with the executive meeting on the 28th of August. This meeting was held at the residence of the Branch Genealogist, Mrs. Gene Aitkens. At this meeting, a project was initiated in which it will be attempted to trace early settlers of Victoria whose ancestors were Loyalists. The objective of this project will be to produce a book which would show Loyalist descendants as participants in the city's history.

At the first general meeting, held at Windsor Park on the 16th of October, 1982, several new members were present. These included members of the Saville family and Catherine Smith.

Miss Jo Ann Whittaker, a third year Arts and Science student at the University of Victoria, was this year's winner of the Victoria Branch's book prize. Miss Whittaker was present to accept the book from Mr. Rogers.

It was decided that Victoria Branch should send a letter advocating the Canada Post issue commemorative stamps for the bicentennial years. Branch president, Mr. Robert J. Rogers, reported on the Annual Convention held at Waterloo, Ontario. Mr. Rogers was also able to display several items available from other branches as their bicentennial projects.

At the October executive meeting, Mr. Rogers introduced his proposal for the creation of a series of prints made from original oils specially commissioned for the Victoria Branch. The subject of the paintings will be the coming of the Loyalists to New Brunswick, and they will attempt to portray the event more realistically than such works in the past have done. These works will be done by a local artist known for his attention to detail. Mr. Rogers suggested that the originals be presented to Her Majesty, the Queen, as a gift from Victoria Branch.

The Victoria Branch was saddened by the passing of two of its members, Mrs. K. MacDonald and Mrs. Muriel Summers who passed away last summer. Mrs. Summers was a regular member of the Association and a descendant of the Van Valkenburg family of New Amsterdam (New York).

1985 June

Our Genealogist, Mrs. Gene Aitkens has been collating and editing - as our Branch Bicentennial project - the indexing of The Loyalist Gazette. This Index of 200 pages covers the issues for twenty years - from 1963-1983 - and has been truly a labour of love involving many, many hours of intensive searching. Assisting Gene in this truly needed task have been members: Mrs. Wilma Saville, Mrs. Shryle Sandham, Mr. Phillippe Vaucher and many others who gave of their odd days to this project.

The 1984 Index is presently being compiled and will be included in the purchase price of \$15.00 for the 20-year Index. When it is completed, it will be forwarded to the purchasers.

A great many members as well as historians and genealogy researchers will find this Index an invaluable aid.

The following is worthy of mention and an honour to the Victoria Branch. At the Annual Dinner, May 19, 1984, a presentation of commemorative plaques was made to Mr. and Mrs. Mullard and to Mr. C.B. Fisher who have been active members of the Victoria Branch for over 50 years.

1985 December

Our Speaker at our Annual Dinner this year was Mrs. Aline Nicolls, B.A., M.E. who spoke for 50 minutes on the trials and adventures of the Empire Loyalists in the Mohawk Valley and their struggle to reach Canada during the War of Independence. Her speech proved very interesting and informative.

Our Genealogist, Gene Aitkens has been very busy with indexing of the past years of The Loyalist Gazette and has now sold 57 copies of the Index and feels in spite of the rise in postal rates that we may still break even financially. Our President and delegate to the Convention in June, Mr. Orr, gave us a very interesting slide show and talk at the last meeting on the very informative time that he had there. We were very disappointed that the National President was unable to attend our Meeting in September.

1986 June

The index for "The Loyalist Gazette" for 1963-84 has sold 100 copies and made a small profit in the year that it has been available. Members of the Victoria Branch are presently working on one for 1985 in anticipation of publishing supplements in the future. Sales to individuals and to institutions, especially libraries seem to be about equal.

The Index Project has been made possible by a number of people, but has been largely the responsibility of Branch Genealogist, Mrs. Gene Aitkens, and Treasurer, Mrs. Wilma Saville.

As a branch with a small membership, Victoria Branch always takes pleasure in welcoming new members, and now congratulates three new members on having earned their certificates as Regular Members. Mrs. Hilary Foskett proved her descent from Thomas Flewelling (ca. 1730-1809) of Oak Point, Greenwich Parish, Kings Co., New Brunswick. Mrs. Mary Sandford also has a New Brunswick Ancestor, James Peters, one of the more prominent of the New Brunswick Loyalists. The third new member is Mrs. Maralynn Wilkinson, whose Loyalist ancestor is Frederick Keller.

1989 July

The first meeting of 1989 was held at Windsor Park on February 15th, with the new president in the chair. We were honored to have two relatively new members to our Branch receiving their Certificates. Both members have come to us from Central Canada Branches and both had two Loyalist ancestors, Youcks and Yoemans, both of whom had interesting histories. They met and married in Upper Canada.

Mr. Campbell Stuart, gave us a very interesting and informative talk on his ancestor Rev. John Stuart who was the first Anglican Rector in Upper Canada. His talk was illustrated with excerpts from the many books which have been written about Rev. Stuart's life first among the Indians of the Mohawk valley and then of his problems with the American Rebels, and finally his mission in Upper Canada. The climax for both gentlemen's talks came just as the meeting was closing. Mr. Stuart had found a reference in one of his books to the marriage of a direct Youcks ancestor with a direct Yoemans ancestor at which the Rev. John Stuart

officiated. An amazing coincidence—two members, one from Quebec and one from Ontario met in Victoria, and, by chance, received their U.E.L. Certificates together and find their U.E.L. history so closely linked.

We are looking forward to hearing about Mr. Stuart's second Loyalist ancestor, Hon. William Smith, Chief Justice of Upper Canada in September. Members enjoyed pouring over Mr. Stuart's valuable books after the close of the business meeting. Our Dominion 2nd Vice President, Mr. John Orr, gave us a report on the last council meeting. Our meeting was attended by some 28 members and guests which was gratifying to the president and to the speakers.

By Eleanor E. Sanderson, President

1990 Fall

At our February, 1990 meeting also, we were lucky enough to have Mr. Okill Stuart and Col. Wm. Smy attending. Mr. Stuart was organizing chairman for the very successful Loyalist Convention held in Lennoxville, Quebec, last year. Col. Smy, also before moving to Victoria, was heavily involved in the two years of planning which made it possible to have Prince Philip attend our Bicentennial as keynote speaker. They gave us an enthusiastic picture of the happenings at Lennoxville together with a lot of background information which would have been difficult to acquire from any other source. It was a spirited meeting and we found it difficult to terminate on time for the curfew when we must relinquish the Pavilion!

Our annual dinner was held on Saturday, April 28th, 1990. There were over 25 attending including our guests, the speaker, Mr. Grant Keddie and his wife. Mr. Keddie showed slides of early Victoria and of the exciting finds that he and other archaeologists were making on the Songhee property and in excavations in Oak Bay and Cadboro Bay. Workmen digging sewers had unearthed material which had given the archaeologists unexpected and valuable clues to Indian populations of some considerable size, earlier than had hitherto been believed. Dr. Keddie's tremendous enthusiasm communicated itself to his audience and we watched entranced as he showed Indian artifacts and explained their use. He was peppered with questions and we all left feeling we had acquired valuable

all left feeling we had acquired valuable knowledge and had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

By Eleanor E. Sanderson, President, Victoria Branch

1991 Fall

Our February meeting was a tribute to Upper and Lower Canada in their Centennial year. Our new PR and Program convenor, Bill Smy, invited folks from across Canada and we acquired five new members on the spot, with promises of several more who are working on their ancestry proofs. If anyone would like to join us this winter in "Lotus Land", please contact: Bill Smy, (604) 3857325; Campbell Stuart, (604) 655-4618; or Eleanor Sanderson, (604) 592-5707.

In March we held a Citizens' Forum meeting to discuss the *Spicer Commission* questions. This was a spirited and interesting meeting, particularly because of the wide difference in ideas between the long-term West Coasters and those newly-arrived.

Loyalty Sunday, the day before Canada Day, was Bill Smy's brainchild. We hope to make this an annual ecumenical event, including like-minded groups such as the Monarchist League.

1990 UEL VICTORIA BRANCH AWARD WINNER

Sandra Dyck of Chilliwack, BC won the Victoria Branch U.E.L.A.C book prize. She is studying certain Indian artifacts, hoping to publish her findings. The award is given to a senior at University of Victoria who excelled in Canadian history.

Sandra, of Manitoba Mennonite background, has parents originally from Russia. This summer she spent at the Heiltsuk (Indian) Culture Education Centre at Bella Bella, a very remote spot on the B.C. coast. She was delighted with the book, *United Empire Loyalists, Pioneers of Upper Canada* by Nick and Helena Mika. Another insight for her into the mosaic of Canadian life.

Regional Vice-President Mr. John Orr hopes to be able to present the 1991 Victoria Branch Award at one of the Vancouver Branch meetings this fall or winter. The recipient will be Jacobus Vroom of Maple Ridge, British Columbia. A graduate of the University of Victoria, he is now working on his M.A at Regent College in Vancouver and a visit to Victoria is not possible at this time.

By Eleanor E. Sanderson, President, Victoria Branch

1992 Fall

Our past year has been well-attended and membership has increased. One of our members received a special invitation to meet Queen Elizabeth in Ottawa and three members attended the 1992 Convention in Ottawa.

Thanks to the hard work of Col. Wm. Smy as Public Relations and Program Chairman, the branch has had much wider exposure with numerous calls for information and several prospective members came to meetings. During the year Mr. Doug Nelson gave us a wonderful slide show and talk on the Esquimalt Naval base, now in Greater Victoria. A member of the Canada 125 Committee spoke as did Graham Anderson, British Columbia's Heraldry representative for the Canadian Society.

For the first time, we joined 30 other heritage groups with a stall at the Saanich Heritage Fair. We were amazed at the variety of heritage organizations extant in Victoria. Our members who manned the booth were delighted with the interest shown in our organization by proven Loyalists and the public generally. Our second special event was a Church service held at Metropolitan United Church for Canada's 125th birthday. The flags of the Loyalists, Victoria Francophones, and of the Victoria Native Association were carried into church and the service included brief participation by all three groups. The minister's message "Unity". Our flag was proudly carried in our new standard made and donated by Peter Sandham.

Many of us would like to have been on hand when the Queen's statue was unveiled in Ottawa, as it was our Bill Smy who was credited with being one of, if not the prime mover in the negotiations which led to the decision to thus honour our Queen. Bill attended and enjoyed the later reception for the Queen.

By Eleanor Sanderson, Victoria Branch newsletter editor

1993 Fall

At last we Western Loyalists have an opportunity to give a West Coast welcome to our compatriots in Central and Eastern Canada. We hope all of members are thinking of ways to be helpful. Clodagh Bell (3935 Caerleon Place, Victoria BC V8N 4E5, Phone (604) 4776081) has already done a yeoman's job as Victoria coordinator and arranged an exciting three day program for those coming to Victoria after the

Annual General Meeting in Vancouver. At our Annual May Luncheon, we were particularly happy to welcome Chilliwack members President Lois Dickinson and Vona Smith from Vancouver.

The speaker was Brig. Gen. Gollner, CMM, CD, who spoke on his present assignment, the new organizational approach for the Militia. The emphasis is now on having the 1st Battalion of each Regiment made up of 90% Militia and only 10% regular service. He also brought out the close connection of the Canadian Armed Services with the Queen and the Royal Family. Each regiment takes pride in its Honorary Commanding officer, usually a member or a connection to the Royals.

By Eleanor Sanderson, Branch Newsletter Editor

1995 Spring

There were three Loyalist Lieutenant Governors of British Columbia; ALLAN NORTON RICHARDS 1876-81, a descendant of the founder of Brockville, Ont. TRAVERS STILLMAN BARNARD from Lennoxville, Que., and HENRI JOLY DELOTBINIERE, two Premiers: CHARLES AUGUSTUS SEMLIN and WILLIAM A. SMITH, alias AMOR DE COSMOS, a Loyalist from Nova Scotia, who fought for the amalgamation of Vancouver Island with the Mainland, and for Confederation, and was the founder of the colonist newspaper.

Among M.P.s and M.L.A.s were DR. ROBERT CARRALL, who was also the 3rd delegate to sign Confederation, and the 1st Senator from B.C. in 1871. Wm. A. Smith (AMOR DE COSMOS) held office as both M.P. and an M.L.A., and PAULINE JEWITT. Other early Loyalist descendants on Vancouver Island were: COL. CYRUS [CY] PECK won the VICTORIA CROSS. His widow ended her days in Sidney. Dr. E. C. HART, Victoria City coroner in 1931. DR WALLACE GUNN, Chief Veterinarian of B.C. G. HAMILTON HARMON, Manager of the Bank of Montreal, 1942, Dr. J. W. MACLEAN, Moderator of the United Church of Canada, ADMIRAL K.F.R. ADAMS, R.C.N., Victoria. PETER SKENE OGDEN, son of Loyalist Isaac Ogden, and a HBC man, whose name was given to Ogden Point. HENRY LAWSON, was Editor of the Colonists in 1887. son of a P.E.I. Loyalist. His daughter, Maria, wrote a History of Canada, and edited the Women's page in The Colonist.

Three other women who had an early impact on Vancouver Island affairs were: CECEILA SPOFFORD, daughter of Duncan McNaughton, a Nova Scotia Loyalist, worked with her husband to establish Victoria's First Baptist Church. Cecelia taught school, and furthered the struggle for Women's franchise in B.C. She fought for laws affecting family life and help for pioneer women, resulting in the Mother's Pension Act.

HELEN GRANT, wife of Captain William Grant, was the daughter of Nova Scotia Loyalist George Smith, a relative of Amor de Cosmos. She sailed the Seven Seas with her husband for thirteen years, became an excellent navigator, and coped with life at sea with one or two babies aboard. They eventually settled in Victoria, building a house close to Point Ellis, where the victims of the bridge collapse in 1896 were laid out on their lawn. MARIE DE BOU was among the first graduates of the Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing in 1892. She was a descendant of New Brunswick Loyalists. She married Chief Constable W. B. Bullock-Webster, of the West Kootenay District in 1900 and lived in Nelson until 1912 when her husband was called to the Bar and they returned to Victoria. Marie joined the Women's Auxiliary to the Jubilee Hospital, and continued as its President or a Life Member until her death. There are many more who escaped this list.

By Gene Aitkens, {Extracted from the November 1994 Victoria Branch Newsletter}

1997 Fall

Victoria Branch held their Annual Luncheon on May 14th 1997 at the Bay Street Armouries Officers Mess. Caterers served an excellent lunch and the affair was well attended. We had an extremely interesting speaker in Dr. Reg Roy who spoke on his latest book The Biography of Dr. David Lam, former Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. Dr. Roy has retired after a distinguished career as historian, professor and author of numerous books and his talk was much enjoyed by our members.

A presentation was made to veteran member Mr. John Orr in appreciation of his long and dedicated efforts for the United Empire Loyalists. Special notice was made of his faithful attendance at Dominion Council meetings with no cost to the Association and often at considerable inconvenience to himself.

On June 29th, the closest Sunday to Canada Day, members of Victoria Branch, at the invitation of Rev. John Allan, attended services at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in celebration of our annual Loyalist Sunday. Since its inauguration in 1992, our Loyalist Sunday has been held at three denominational churches. We would like to include both other denominations and locations in future years.

By Eleanor Sanderson, Branch Newsletter Editor

HERITAGE MONTH

To mark Heritage Month in February, Victoria Branch lined up appointments with three Grade 9 Social Studies (history) teachers in local schools, and one Grade 5 - Immigration class - visiting each in full period costume for about an hour.

With the help of a large map made by our Past President, Mrs. Gene Aitkens, Mrs. Eleanor Sanderson, another Past President, Mrs. Wilma Saville, our Genealogist, and Mr. Jolm Orr, Dominion Councillor - wonderfully supported by Chilliwack members, Ms. Lois Dickinson, Education Chair, Dominion Council, and Mrs. Shirley Dergatz, Branch President, who came to Victoria expressly for this purpose - our colourful ambassadors visited the classrooms in twos and threes... thus speaking to an estimated 135 students.

On the map, participants indicated the route their proven ancestors had taken to their new destinations in Canada, where they had settled, and how they had fared throughout their experience. Mrs. Saville made a particular hit with two dress maker dolls which, she explained, were not meant to play with but for dressmakers to show prospective clients the new fashions so settlers could choose the style of garment they wished to have made. Wilma also exhibited some of her own hand-dipped candles.

In addition, Ms. Dickinson presented background about the organization in Canada, while each delegation left, with the teacher, a kit which contained a reading list about VEL history, brochures about the local, provincial, and Dominion organizations, and instructions about how to make candles. "The pupils were genuinely interested, asked numerous questions, and took lots of photographs." Says Mrs. Sanderson, who clearly enjoyed the experience herself.

Ms. Dickinson expressed special interest in this experiment, adding that she had made valuable contact with one of the teachers. Both, she said, will assist her in developing an educational program for the Dominion Council.

Victoria Branch heartily congratulates and thanks all participants, including Vona Smith of Vancouver Branch, who assembled the costumes which Lois and Shirley brought to Victoria with them.

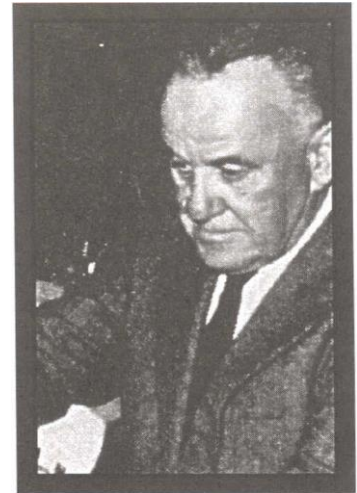
Other recent events at Victoria Branch include a Show and Tell Show of special UEL treasures belonging to local members at the Valentine and Heritage Week Social; the showing of two NFB films, Battle of the Plains of Abraham (1759), and Battle of the Chateauguay River (1813) - both provided by Mr. Arnold Smith; and the cheerful Christmas Tea held in our usual meeting place, the handsome Officers' Mess of the Canadian Scottish Regiment in the Pay Street Armoury.

Welcomed to the Tea were Dr. and Mrs. Peter Moogk from Vancouver. Dr. Moogk is our new Vice-President of the Western Region.

By Catherine Draper, Public Relations Officer, Victoria Branch

Mr. Charles B. Fisher

We are sorry to report the death of a long-time member Mr. Charles B. Fisher (Bart or Bud to his friends). He died October 22nd, Victoria. He was active in the Victoria Branch for many years and was the second president, following Co\ Symons when the Branch became active again under the new Charter. He also wrote the history of the original Group and charter ending with Mrs. Gene Aitken taking the chair in 1972. He had not been active for several years due to health and home commitments. He was well liked and respected for sound common sense by all who knew him.



In my April 1995 Newsletter the first page of Mr. Fisher's history was included. This seems an appropriate time to include the ending. Those who would like a full copy of this history please let me know and I will copy it for you. Just four pages.

By Eleanor Sanderson, UE,

1999 Spring

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY A NEW MEMBER, NOVEMBER 18, 1998

Thank you for this honour. Now I can make a copy of this certificate for a cousin in Ontario who originally told me of the UEL connection through my paternal great-grandmother. I had known about this folklore for years, but had never extended the research until now.

I can't speak for too long today first because of my voice and second, I can't tell you too much about Michael Carman himself. Actually, there are three Michael Carmans, so that might be appropriate for a seminar at a later date.

People say to me that it didn't take me long to prove my affiliation. There are several reasons for this. First, I worked at it diligently. I read, wrote letters, and waited for answers. I went to the Latter Day Saints library and to the Victoria Genealogy Society.

Second, I had help. I discovered that if I just listened to what Wilma Saville told me and then did it, then I could establish the links. I had to start with myself and attach each preceding generation. Other connections, although interesting, were not critical. At one point in the spring, I was bogged down. Hilary Foskett telephoned me and invited me to come over to her place and see what she had done on the Carman family. Hilary gave me some material which I was looking at later when I saw the name Martin Carman, which was vital. I had obtained that bit of information from Latter Day Saints, but never realized

its significance. I had help from the Victoria Public Library system. Last of all, my mother acted as a resource. She gave me the name of the church in which my father had been baptized. That saved me a lot of time, because otherwise, I would have been writing to every Anglican church in Ontario.

The third reason that I was successful in my research is that I had good antecedents. I was very surprised when Wilma told me that Carman could be German. Sure enough, I traced the name back to KIRMAN in Kehl in the 1600s. It was my pleasure to correspond with a genealogist in Germany, and now a Carman collateral cousin in Salmon Arm is having a fine time arguing with her about the inscription on a gravestone!

One day I was at a special interest group meeting at the Victoria Genealogical Society and got rather bored. I went out to look at a copy of *The Loyalist Gazette*. I flipped open the magazine to see an article on Michael Carman with a picture of their house in Iroquois, Ontario. It was built in the 1820s and is still standing. In the summer months Carman House is open as a museum. My letter to them was never answered. I can pass around the picture of Michael Carman. I don't think he is someone I would particularly want to meet, but you can judge for yourselves!

Last but not least, what helped me in expediting my application was paying for certificates. I spent over \$100 on certificates of baptism and research from Anglican churches in Canada and the United States. And it was exciting to learn that my grandmother had been baptized at Trinity Church in Boonville, NY. In the summer after I had submitted the application to Wilma, I phoned a group leader from the Victoria Genealogical Society. I told her what I had done, fully expecting some praise for my accomplishment. She simply asked me, "What next?". I was somewhat surprised and then told her that my uncle had completed extensive genealogical research on my mother's side of the family. They are American and fought on the side of the Revolutionaries. I am now busily involved in proving membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution. This is quite a rigorous process and it probably will take a year before I have that certificate. I would hope that one day, if I were very sophisticated in historical research, I could find the two families caught in opposing sides of the same battle.

Thank you for accepting me as a UE member.

Innes Rorkem, Victoria, BC

2003 Spring

PRESIDENT MYRNA FOX UE VISITS

This was the second visit of a Dominion President in so many years and so the Victoria Chapter, UELAC feels most richly blessed.

Myrna's visit took an altogether different spirit from that of William Terry UE's wonderful presentation. She had come to celebrate our 75th Anniversary. She gave an excellent talk on Queen Victoria, so important to the Branch. Myrna's warmth, charm and wisdom were a real boost to us.

Myrna was accompanied by our own Shirley Dargatz, V.P. of Pacific Region. Shirley has been so attentive to our Branch, that she is really a part of us. Dennis Webb, Pacific Councillor was with us to add leaven to any party. We had an outstanding Christmas Dinner. To help us really celebrate, some eight

UEs from Vancouver branch brought a warmth and joy that is always welcome in Victoria. The local committee worked hard to excel, and we were only a few short of sixty.

By Ainslie Avery UE

THE MANY PLACES AND FACES OF PRESIDENT MYRNA FOX UE ON HER PACIFIC JAUNT

UELAC President Myrna Fox UE visited British Columbia last December 5th to 8th to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Victoria Branch. She was accompanied by Pacific Region Councillor, Thompson-Okanagan President Dennis Webb UE and Pacific Region Vice-President and Chilliwack President Shirley Dargatz UE.

The celebrations began with lunch at the Vandusen Gardens with host, Vancouver Branch President Doug Jackson UE and members. Vancouver Branch is in its 70th year. Whitford Vandusen was a vice-chair of the MacMillan-Bloedel lumber business, and a descendant of Conrad Vandusen UE.

In Victoria, President, Rev Ainslie Avery UE and his gracious wife Min hosted an evening gathering. Then, attendance at the Victoria Branch 75th anniversary was above expectations, with guests from Chilliwack Branch, Vancouver Branch, and Dennis from Thompson-Okanagan.

We were made to feel so welcome. Congratulations Victoria! Myrna's speech mentioned in particular the importance of Queen Victoria. The celebrations included a special thanks to Jean Aitken UE for her long years of service. It is noteworthy that two of the earliest UELAC Branches were established in the far-flung regions of the Pacific West.

By Sunday, President Myrna Fox was at Shirley's residence in picturesque Chilliwack. A service at historic Carman United Church followed, and then a Christmas dinner and party wherein Santa looked strangely like Dennis Webb? Myrna was presented with daffodils.

Thanks to all who made President Myrna's time in British Columbia a memorable occasion!

By Shirley Dargatz UE

2004 Fall

At the February meeting Rev. Ainslie Avery UE gave a presentation on the French Indian War and the American Revolution, followed by an entertaining description of the trials of his loyalist ancestor, William Avery UEL, who left Cherry Valley, NY and settled in Elizabethtown, now Athens, ON. In addition, Maralynn Wilkinson UE spoke on her ancestor Frederick Keller UEL of Fredericksburg.

John Rudzik UE received two certificates, one for John Archibald UEL and the other for Samuel Tidd/Teed UEL. Also, for the first time, used books were displayed and made available to members through donation.

During March a branch newsletter was started again. At the April meeting, Al Huffman UE made a presentation titled "Rudolph Huffman UE and His Times". He described the movement of his ancestor into Essex County, ON and his being granted land in the New Settlement. He also spoke of the establishment

of the Church of England in the Western District, of the militia during the 1812 war and of Polly Jones, a Virginian girl, who was seized and adopted by Indians.

On May 15 Shirley Dargatz UE, Vice President, Western District attended the Spring Banquet and commemorated the arrival of the Spring Fleet. She spoke of the common bond in our roots, of the beauty of our country and of the hardships suffered by our ancestors. She ended by noting that the remembrance of the Spring Fleet causes us to re-examine the legacy left to us. Also in May a new web site was created for the branch.

On July 9, Douglas Grant UE, President of the UELAC, visited the branch accompanied by his wife Nancy UE and son Corcoran UE. An informal luncheon was held at which all attendees met and visited with him and his family. Doug spoke to the group about the recent strength being shown by the UELAC organization. He gave reasons for the establishment of the two projects, Centennial 2014 and Loyalist Burial Sites. He gave their objectives and the action plans for obtaining them.

During these months Eleada Grant, Carolyn Nordin, Roberta Fournier and Dorothy Nelson were welcomed to the branch as new members.

At the February and April meetings, moments of silence were held in remembrance of four former members, Mollie MacGregor Greer, John Lewis Orr UE, George Parry and Velva Rossiter UE.

By Al Huffman UE

2005 Spring

At the September meeting a letter from Miss Devon Carter, a University of Victoria history student, was read thanking the Branch for its 2004 Book Prize for History. Harold Morgan UE made a presentation describing his Loyalist ancestors Christian Riselay, Hannah Schauer, Adam Young, Daniel Young, Hendrick Windecker, Roelof Vandecar and Jacob Smith Sr. Unusual among these was Hannah Schauer who in 1778 brought nine of her children with her to Canada after her soldier husband had died. The AGM was held in November. The previous year's officers remained on the executive but the committee is now larger by one, Harold Morgan UE, Archivist/ Historian. The Rev. Dr. John Allan UE, former branch President, Past President and Past Past President, did not stand for office. President Al Huffman UE thanked John for his long and important service to the Victoria Branch and the UELAC. He also thanked Marjorie Allan and Min Avery for their fine work as social conveners. Wilma Saville UE reported that eight certificates were received since 15 Nov. 2003.

John Allan UE related the story of his ancestor Caleb Swayze who was shot and killed in 1782 by the Americans. He was serving as a spy for the British. His sons, Caleb (from whom John descends) and Richard came to Canada after the war. They were each given Loyalist grants of 500 acres near Beaverdams, ON. John's presentation was impressive - full of thrills, humour and pathos.

New members joining were Karen Borden, Gary Froom, Catherine Fryer, Ruth Isaac, Heather Oliver, Alexander Rudzik and Paul Servos.

The Christmas Tea was held in December. Everyone had a good visit and enjoyed a rousing carol sing. It was a nice ending for the Branch's 2004.

By Al Huffman UE, Branch President

2005 Fall

In January two more new members joined the Branch in addition to the seven reported in the spring *Gazette*. During the first six months, six Branch members received certificates. Wilma Saville and Al Huffman took part in a ten-minute interview on the Victoria CBC FM station on February 16th. Joanne Roberts conducted the interview. Among the subjects covered briefly were the size and composition of the UELAC and the Victoria Branch, what the UELAC does, who the Loyalists were, Loyalist history, the Loyalist Family Honour and how one joins the UELAC and conducts research to prove descent from a Loyalist.

On May 19th, Victoria Branch members Anne Gauvreau and Al Huffman spoke about Loyalists at Heritage Day at the 55+ Seniors Activity Centre of the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre. Anne has served at the senior level of 55+, including President, for several years. She spoke on Loyalists in the Maritimes while Al covered the subject for Quebec and Ontario. They invited attendees to take copies of our Branch brochure and to peruse reference material on display.

At the May banquet, Dr. Sylvia Van Kirk, a retired history professor, gave a presentation on Victoria's early social history.

Joan Clement and Maralynn Wilkinson undertook a project to place Loyalist displays in public libraries of the Victoria area. The first was shown at the Bruce Hutchison library from June 4 to 22.

It was a large display for a library and was quite impressive. Similar exhibits in other regional libraries are planned.

By Al Huffman UE, Branch President

2006 Spring

During 2005, the branch membership reached fifty and twelve certificates were presented

A Loyalist booth was entered at the Sooke Fall Fair, 10 - 11 September. We had decided to emulate some of the eastern branches that have been successful with similar booths. Of the many people who read and examined the exhibits, about twenty-four stopped to ask questions and take brochures of the Victoria Branch and of the UELAC. Eight thought they might be descended from Loyalists but so far our efforts at the fair, and afterwards, have not resulted in new members. We remain hopeful, nevertheless, and are happy to have been able to expose Loyalists and their history to residents on the shores of an island in the Pacific.

At our September meeting, Laura Ishiguro was presented with the 2005 Victoria Branch Prize in Canadian History that had been assigned to her by the Senate Committee on Awards of the University of Victoria. She spoke to the meeting about her studies and future plans. She is now in her fourth year in the Honours Program at the Department of History, plans to obtain her Masters and PhD degrees, and would like to teach at the university level. She spent the past summer researching genealogies of the Songhees Nation, a local aboriginal people.

At the AGM in November Paul Servos UE was elected Vice President and Catherine Fryer UE, Standard Bearer. Peter Sandham did not stand for office, the first time in over ten years. During his time in office he was presented with an Honourary Membership. All other officers remained the same.

In September, Sharon Starkey UE made a detailed and well-researched presentation on her loyalist ancestor, Lieutenant Solomon Johns UE and his wife, Susanna Bucklin. In November Karen Borden UE used a very nice display to exhibit features of her presentation about Cyrenius Parke UE, her Loyalist forefather.

In the last part of the year, Joan Clement UE completed listing genealogy books belonging to branch members for use in a unique virtual library.

By Al Huffman UE, Branch President

2006 Fall

The February meeting was held in the Nellie McClung Library where Beverley Watkins UE spoke on “*Making a Genealogical Scrapbook*” using her own scrapbooks for illustration. The audience was most interested and a long period of questions followed. The April meeting took place at St. Aidan’s United Church. Sharon Starkey UE spoke briefly and presented Loyalist memorabilia including a copy of the original UE Dorchester Resolution approved by Council in 1789 as well as information on Neil and Mabel Ferris, Victoria Branch members in the 1940s. Dr. Barbara Harris spoke later. Her topic was “*Around the World in the Vocabulary of English.*”. She described how English borrowed words from other languages. Her session was informative, entertaining and, at times, amusing.

On 24 and 25 March we had a Loyalist booth at a series of seminars of the Family History Centre of the LDS. We experienced a lot of interest at this event and hope that this interest will result in a few new Branch members.

Four of us attended the Pacific Region Mini-Conference at Fort Langley on 29 April. We visited the Fort Cum Museum and then gathered at the Conference Centre of St. George’s Anglican Church for a buffet lunch. There were draws for numerous prizes for just about everybody, an enjoyable Certificate presentation ceremony and a number of serious presentations that were kicked off by Doug Grant UE.

On 13 May our Spring Banquet was held at noon at the Traveller’s Inn City Centre. Shirley Dargatz UE conducted the presentation of two certificates to Catherine Fryer UE – Loyalist Ancestors: Robert Perry UE and William Rogers UE. The Spring Fleet was remembered. Then Shirley and Carl Stymiest UE reviewed projects of the four branches of the Pacific Region while strongly encouraging more participation in project activities.

by Alvin Huffman UE, Branch President

2007 Spring

September’s meeting was held at the Nellie McClung Library. Eryk Martin, a University of Victoria history student who received the Victoria Branch’s Prize in Canadian History, gave a presentation about his research on co-operatives of Vancouver Island that was very well received. Later Carl Hennigar UE received his Certificate for his Loyalist ancestor Christian Hennigar UE. Al Huffman UE made a presentation that was a review of the book, *The Seven Daughters of Eve* by Dr. Brian Sykes.

The November AGM was in the Garry Oak Room of the Sir James Douglas Elementary School. A minute of silence was held in remembrance of Phillip Leith DFC, UE, an honoured benefactor of the UELAC. Two certificates were presented, one to Dorothy Nelson UE for her Loyalist ancestor, John Jost Petrie UE, and the other to Michael Smith UE for his Loyalist ancestor, William Ketcheson UE. The amended *Constitution*

and Bylaws was approved. In the election of officers, Carolyn Nordin UE was elected treasurer. The former treasurer, Maralynn Wilkinson UE, was elected director. Maralynn had been treasurer for four dedicated years, an excellent period of service for which the members were most appreciative and thankful. Carl Hennigar UE and Joyce Huffman UE were also elected as directors. There were no other changes in the executive offices. The meeting's proceedings were capped by Carl Hennigar's presentation on the Loyalist, Christian Hennigar UE, who, during the American Revolution, fought with the 84th Regiment of Foot and settled in Hants County, Nova Scotia, in 1783.

Robert Kerr UE, a Victoria Branch member since 1996, passed away on 29 November. A number of our members attended his funeral on 07 December.

The Christmas Tea was cancelled because of the largest snowfall since 1996.

By Al Huffman UE, Branch President

2007 Fall

So far 2007 has been busy. A Loyalist display was exhibited at the Juan de Fuca library from 03 to 31 January. Our Loyalist booth was on display, with branch members supplying information at three events: Heritage Day, 03 February during Black History Month, the Senior Celebration Festival on 09 March and the Victoria Highland Games on a rainy 20 May.

New members, Betty Waterton, Eric Gee, Ken Atkinson and Michael Smith were welcomed at the meeting of 17 February. Elizabeth Aberdeen UE was presented with a certificate in the name of William Fairfield Sr. UE. The speaker was Dr. Richard Mackie who spoke on the fur trade and immigration in early British Columbia.

At the 21 April meeting Dr. Rennie Warburton spoke on racism and why it is so difficult to eradicate. During the month Donald and Catherine Whiteley joined the branch and Donald received a certificate in the name of Alexander Cameron UE. Branch members assisted in the planting of a Loyalist Garden on the Lower Causeway of the Inner Harbour on 26 April. The location of branch meetings was changed to the Traveller's Inn, City Centre.

Five branch members attended the 75th Anniversary of the Vancouver Branch on 06 May. We were honoured to have Peter John son UE, the Dominion President, as our guest at the Spring Banquet on 07 May. He presented three certificates: one to Catherine Fryer UE in the name of Loyalist Andrew Miller UE and another to her in the name of Loyalist Peter Van Camp UE; and one to Gerald Flowers UE in the name of Loyalist Joshua Beebe UE. Later, Peter spoke on the need to provide in certificate applications, details of where and in what aspect of the Revolution their ancestors participated. He also described some Loyalist Regiments, their service and their uniforms.

By Al Huffman UE, Branch President

2008 Spring

The 22 September meeting began with a minute of silence to remember former member Gene Aitkens UE: our Honorary President, past Secretary, President and Genealogist.

Shannon Lucy, the recipient of the 2007 UELAC, Victoria Branch Scholarship in Canadian History, thanked the branch and outlined her field of study in anthropology and BC history. New member Curtis

Hathaway was welcomed. Prior to the meeting Philip Huffman UE had obtained his certificate (Loyalist ancestor: Jacob Huffman UE). Guest speaker Karen Hoshal, President, the Black History Awareness Society, gave a lively history of the first black settlers in this area.

At the 17 November AGM, Michael Gee, David and Truda Jones, June Attfield and Bruce Bennet were first-time visitors. There was a minute of silence to remember former member Catherine Smith UE. New member Don Maxwell UE was welcomed and presented with two certificates (Loyalist ancestors: George Kentner UE and Elijah Grooms UE). The following were not present but obtained their certificates prior to the meeting: Gerald Flowers UE (Loyalist ancestor: Mary Secord Beebe UE); Janet Huffman UE (Loyalist ancestor: Rudolph Huffman UE), and Shirley Maxwell UE who received two certificates (Loyalist ancestors: George Kentner UE and Elijah Grooms UE). New members for 2008 welcomed were Dr. Julia Rose, Bruce Bennet, Bob Rose and Sandy Hathaway. Sandy and Curtis Hathaway are newlyweds, married on 09 November 2007.

At the election of officers all nominees were elected by acclamation. The following assumed the offices noted: Joan Clement UE – President, Sandy Hathaway – Secretary, Fran Rose UE – Newsletter Editor and Al Huffman UE – Membership. There were no changes in the other executive offices.

Dorothy Nelson UE gave an illustrated presentation entitled “*My Loyalist Journey.*” She talked about many of her ancestors and their lives but in particular, Joseph Petrie UE, and his grandson Joseph Hilts.

By Al Huffman, Membership Chairperson and Immediate Past President

2008 Fall

The first six months of 2008 were busy. The Branch’s Loyalist booth participated in four events: Heritage Day during Black History Month, Victoria Family History Seminar (LDS), Senior Celebration Festival and Victoria Highland Games. A goodly number of visitors registered at the booth during these times and asked for information on the UELAC and on making application for a certificate.

On May 2 some new roses were planted in the Loyalist Garden on the Lower Causeway of the Inner Harbour. Thanks to Vice-President Paul Servos, two plaques were installed there. One gives a short history of the Loyalist Rose and of Loyalists while a smaller one identifies the garden and acknowledges the generosity of the Greater Victoria Harbour Board for allowing the Victoria Branch the use of the site. The roses bloomed nicely during late June and early July.

At the February meeting, Joan Clement UE and her husband, Peter Green, gave an illustrated presentation of their train tour in India. During the April meeting Ken Atkinson described how he found account records of the store that one of his ancestors owned and operated in early Loyalist times in Ontario. He presented projections of these records with comments. One notation was that there were a lot of turnips sold. At the Spring Banquet in May, Dale Mumford, Community Relations Officer, Fort Rodd Hill, presented the histories of Fort Rodd Hill and other parts of the system of artillery positions that guarded Victoria-Esquimalt Harbour. From 1878 to 1956 this system evolved into a watchdog for Canada’s security and sovereignty of our west coast.

Forty-six copies of [The Loyalists, Pioneers and Settlers of the West](#) were distributed to ten school districts throughout Vancouver Island.

During April 2008, the branch membership reached fifty-eight.

By Al Huffman UE, Membership Chairman and Past President

2009 Spring

The fall session had a great start with a Mini-Conference in Chilliwack and Burnaby on 26, 27 and 28 of September. In Chilliwack on the afternoon of the first day we had a black powder shoot on a rifle range where many of us tried to emulate our Loyalist ancestors. On the second day there was a meeting and noon meal at the Carman United Church followed by a service in the sanctuary where Certificates were presented. In the evening the committee for the 2010 UELAC Conference met at the home of Shirley and Ken Dargatz. On the third day we went to the home of Grace and John Anderson in Burnaby where we enjoyed Loyalist period food and socializing. We thank the Chilliwack and Vancouver branches for this well-organized and eventful conference.

In past years we had a Christmas Tea at the beginning of December. In 2006 and again in 2007 this had to be cancelled because of poor weather. We decided to replace the event with a Proclamation Party held on 18 October. We enjoyed a buffet lunch, contests and bingo. We are going to do it again in October 2009.

At the AGM in November 2008 we were pleased to welcome three new members to the executive, Julia Rose and Eric Gee as Directors, and Curtis Hathaway as Standard Bearer. Catherine Fryer UE, former Standard Bearer, became the Treasurer and Joyce Huffman, former Director, became the Secretary. We thank retiring members, Carl Hennigar UE, Director, Sandy Hathaway, Secretary, and Carolyn Nordin, Treasurer, for their valuable service.

We are grateful to Eleanor Watson UE, a long-time member, for donating her library to this branch. It contains genealogical resource books that will be useful in our library.

By Al Huffman UE

2009 Fall

Membership Chair and Past President At the February 2009 meeting Col. (Ret.) John Eggenberger described the Oral History project conducted by the Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island and the University of Victoria. It is a course in graduate studies where students interview Canadian war veterans.

At the April meeting Fran Rose UE spoke on "*Some Queen's County New Brunswick Loyalists.*" During her presentation she distributed maps, photos and family history documents along with advice for doing research. Fran is editor of this branch's newsletter.

A successful garage sale was organized and conducted by branch members on 18 April. It was held in the Huffmans' garage in Dean Park. Members of this community hold garage sales each year together on the same day in April and it has become widely known. Our members generously donated so many items for the sale that they overflowed the double garage on to the driveway.

The Spring Banquet took place 23 May to commemorate the landing of the Spring Fleet. Carl Stymiest UE, Senior Vice-President, Mary Anne Bethune UE, Pacific Region Councillor, and Wendy Cosby UE, President Vancouver Branch, attended. Wendy Cosby spoke on Loyalist descendants Simon Fraser and Alexander Mackenzie. Wendy has been able to obtain the Loyalist UE honour for these famous men of

Canada's history and believes that the same should be done for similar famous Canadians in Canada's history.

Carl Stymiest presented UE Certificates to Catherine Fryer UE and long-time member Anne Gauvreau; and a Phillip Leith Award medal to co-recipient, Al Huffman. We were pleased to welcome guests David Avery UE and his wife Jumriang Avery. Their son, Arun, belongs to this branch. David and Jumriang live in Thailand and were visiting David's parents, former Branch President, Rev. Ainslie Avery UE and Min Avery.

By Al Huffman UE

2010 Spring

During the September meeting Patrick Craib, this year's recipient of our Scholarship in Canadian History, spoke on the history of the labour movement in the BC forest industry. The guest speaker, Yvonne Van Ruskenveld, of the Old Cemetery Society, spoke of UEL descendants in early Victoria, showing pictures of them, their homes and gravesites. Most of them had arrived during the gold rush. On 18 September Joan Clement made a presentation to the Sons of Scotland on origins of the Loyalist movement. Al Huffman spoke to the Campbell River Genealogical Society on 01 October concerning *"How to Identify and Prove United Empire Loyalist Ancestors, and Prove Descent from Them."* Inez Walker, Maralynn Wilkinson and Al Huffman managed our booth at a seminar of the Victoria Genealogical Society on 24 October.

At the November AGM, three new executive members were elected: Robert Ferguson, Vice-President; Irene Feir, Social Convenor and Thomas Murray, Director. Julia Rose had stood down from her position as Director. We wish to thank her for her service in that position. Wilma Saville, Branch Genealogist, reported on a busy 2009 when twenty-five UELAC certificates were obtained. The speaker at the meeting was branch member William Strauss who traced the settlement of ancestors of his wife, Kathleen Lynch, in the American Colonies and their migration to Canada as Loyalists.

Newsletter Editor Fran Rose wrote about a Captain Pawlett of the British army who was granted land in New Brunswick. During the Revolution he lost a leg before returning to England with his regiment. His grant, passed to his son, was returned to the Crown and re-granted to Loyalists including Fran's ancestor. An English woman, researching her village church history, discovered Pawlett Sr.'s gravestone hidden in the church, found Fran's article via the Internet and exchanged interesting correspondence with her.

By Fran Rose UE, Branch Newsletter Editor and Al Huffman UE, Membership Chair

2010 Fall

John Cameron UE and his wife, Mary, brought the rose that became the Loyalist Rose to the Cornwall area. Two of their descendants, sisters Patricia Cowan of Sidney, BC, and Ann Rainer of Vernon, BC, each asked for a Loyalist Rose. Joan Clement UE and Al Huffman UE presented one to Patricia on 11 May in Sidney and one to Ann in Vernon on 03 June 2010.

The 50+ Active Living Celebration took place on 05 March. Joan Clement, Wilma Saville, Catherine Fryer and Al Huffman staffed the branch's booth. The Highland Games followed on 22 and 23 of May. This event attracted an estimated 15,000 people. We had a busy day. Wilma Saville, Inez Walker, Don Maxwell, Catherine Fryer and Al and Joyce Huffman provided the staff for the booth.

At the meeting of 20 February Ron Nicholson of the Black History Awareness Society spoke on The Underground Railroad. Ron's great-grandfather Adam escaped from slavery in Virginia in the 1850s via the Underground Railroad and settled in the St. Catharines area of Ontario.

At the meeting of 17 April Don Maxwell told of his ancestors Kentner and Huff/Hough. An interesting part of his talk was how he had located, by dowsing, the graves of his ancestors in a family homestead gravesite that had been neglected and forgotten.

The speaker on 15 May at the Spring Banquet was Dale Mumford, Business and Community Relations Officer for Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse. He gave a detailed history of the Fisgard Lighthouse and many other lighthouses on Vancouver Island.

Spring activities closed with the UELAC AGM at Vernon, BC. Eleven of our members and one guest attended. The event was well organized, ending with a moving religious service which included some rousing hymns.

2011 Spring

After much deliberation, Victoria Branch has revised and amended its by-laws to better suit the times, purposes of the Association and needs of the Branch. This has been a major effort especially for the By-laws Committee headed by then-President, Joan Clement UE.

Members of Victoria Branch were particularly pleased to be able to celebrate the Vancouver Branch Fall Fleet Banquet at the Bessborough Armoury, Vancouver, BC, with the Vancouver Branch 24 October 2010. Wilma Saville UE was co-recipient of the Phillip Leith Award at this event. As Branch Genealogist for Victoria Branch for several decades, Wilma has exhibited an exemplary dedication and competence. For many, she has been the chief representative to individuals and to the public, epitomizing the high standards and value to the Association that all Branch Genealogists demonstrate. Through her efforts, twenty-eight certificates have been earned in the past year. Victoria Branch would like to extend its congratulations to Wilma's co-recipient, Ms. Mary Anne Bethune UE, of Vancouver Branch.

By Thomas A. Murray, Director



Victoria Executive Committee, elected 20 Nov. 2010 at the AGM L-R: Karen Borden UE, Archivist/Historian; Joan Clement UE, Past- President; Maralynn Wilkinson UE, Director; Robert Ferguson UE, President; Wilma Saville UE, Branch Genealogist; Thomas A. Murray UE, Director; Joyce Huffman, Secretary; Al Huffman UE, Chair Membership Committee; Fran Rose UE, Newsletter Editor; Aurelie Stirling UE, Director, and Catharine Fryer UE, Treasurer.

2012 Spring

The Branch Outreach Program continues to grow and prosper. We have found our presence at community events to be a good way to “*spread the word*” and garner new members. Al and Joyce Huffman are tireless supporters of the program in both finding venues and setting up the booths. In 2011 we added new venues in which to participate including Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Park’s July 1st celebrations (my personal favourite). The Park preserves an early military fort dating from the middle 1800s. Now please don’t think that the huge celebratory cake provided in any way influenced my choice of favourite venue. Oh well, maybe a bit!

The Branch was approached by Government House to enquire about the possibilities of joining forces for various events. Subsequent to the enquiry, I was invited to Government House for coffee with His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor. I went, expecting to be one of a herd, but was surprised to find the “*klatch*” consisted of His Honour, his Executive Director and me. The meeting was very relaxed (and, mercifully, I didn’t drag my tie through my coffee) and productive. During discussions, I mentioned the Loyalist Tree in Beacon Hill Park, of which His Honour was unaware. It was planted in 1939 by the Victoria Branch commemorating the historic visit of Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

I agreed to act as the liaison between the Branch and Government House. Subsequent to the meeting, I realized that this relationship should include the Pacific region, as His Honour’s responsibility is for the entire province. Quick correspondence between Shirley Dargatz UE, Regional Vice-President, and Region Branch Presidents concurred we should take a lead role in the relationship. I have great hopes for this relationship and the positive benefits for both parties that will result.

By Robert Ferguson UE, Past President

2014 Spring

Our second annual Loyalist Day on 22 July 2013 was celebrated with a garden party at the home of our President, Elizabeth Aberdeen UE. Vice-President, David Clark UE, read the Proclamation and gave the toasts to Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II and new baby Prince George born on that day. There was also a toast to our Loyalist ancestors.

In September we were invited by Michael and Norma Sealey, directors of the Saanich Pioneer’s Society, to hold our meeting at the Saanich Pioneer’s Log Cabin Museum in Saanichton. The Log Cabin was built in 1933 as a museum. They showed a film entitled *Saanich Peninsula Pioneer Days* starring Norma Sealey. Norma interviewed many pioneers of years gone by, especially from the Mount Newton Valley. We enjoyed looking at all the displays of artefacts in the museum.

Our annual general meeting was held in the Monterey Centre in Oak Bay on 16 November. Our guest speaker was the sister of our Branch Secretary, Wendy Cramer: author, Cynthia Faryon, who gave a very interesting talk on World War I, World War II, and War Brides.

Our student scholarship will be renamed the Alvin Huffman UE Canadian History Scholarship in honour of Al's dedication to the UELAC.

David Clark discussed the work he is doing with the stone and plaque to go at the bottom of our Loyalist Tree in the Mayor's Grove in Beacon Hill Park. We are waiting for final approval from The City of Victoria. It is our branch project for 2014. The oak tree was planted by the United Empire Loyalists of Victoria Branch on the evening of 29 May 1939 to commemorate the visit of Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. David also gave a brief update on the UELAC Conference 2015 being held in Victoria.

Most executive members were returned by acclamation. New executive members are Aurelie Stirling, President, and Wendy Cramer, Secretary. We have a new home for 2014. We will be meeting at The Lakes Grill, Howard Johnson Hotel at Royal Oak.

By Karen Borden UE, Branch Archivist/Historian

2014 Fall

The first meeting of 2014 was held at a new venue, the Howard Johnson Hotel. UEL certificates were presented to Mrs. Erika Goodridge UE and her three sons, twins Finnley and Brennan, and younger brother, Everett Goodridge UE, for Loyalist ancestor, Garrett Miller UEL.

David Clark UE gave a presentation on "Butler's Rangers Compared to WWII Pacific Coast Rangers." Our guest speaker for April was Jan Ross, Chief Curator of Emily Carr House. The title was "Peeking Behind the Curtain, Contradictions about Emily Carr."

In May we held our Spring Fleet Banquet. David Clark UE gave a talk and demonstration of the Brown Bess Musket used by our ancestors in the American Revolutionary War.

Betty Compeer UE made four UEL sashes to be used at our 2015 conference in Victoria. She also made two tablecloths for the tables in our booth. Betty and Frans Compeer UE took over our membership committee in time for our Canada Day booth at Fort Rodd Hill.

The highlight of the year was a picnic and unveiling of our new Loyalist monument on 22 July, BC Loyalist Day, in Mayor's Grove in Beacon Hill Park. It celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the UELAC and the 75th year commemoration of the visit to Victoria of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in May 1939.

Branch President Aurelie Stirling UE welcomed everyone and turned the program over to the master of ceremonies, former Mayor of Esquimalt Municipality and a member of our Branch, Darwin Robinson UE.

Our guests, the Honourable Judith Guichon OBC, Lieutenant Governor of BC, UELAC Dominion President, Bonnie Schepers UE, and Dean Fortin, Mayor of Victoria, addressed the gathering. The Lieutenant Governor unveiled the new commemorative stone at the base of the maple tree planted seventy-five years ago by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Victoria Branch Vice-President, David Clark UE, was responsible for getting the commemorative monument in place. It was financed by a UELAC grant and the generous donations of members of the Victoria Branch.

Our Dominion President, Bonnie Schepers UE, thanked the Lieutenant Governor and handed out memento certificates to the members. Our celebration cake was cut by the Lieutenant Governor, our Victoria Branch past president, Elizabeth Aberdeen UE, and the current president. It was a wonderful and historic occasion.

By Karen Borden UE, Branch Archivist/Historian



Her Honour, Judith Guichon, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of BC, and (right) Bonnie Schepers UE, UELAC Dominion President, with our new monument in the Mayor's Grove, Beacon Hill Park, Victoria, BC.

Photo by Bob Ferguson UE

2015 Spring

Our September meeting welcomed Nick Russell, author of [Glorious Victorians: 150 Years-150 Houses](#), celebrating Victoria's evolving architecture. He gave a power-point presentation on the restoration of the Ross Bay Villa on Fairfield Road.

On 05 October, the Victoria Branch was invited to attend the Vancouver Branch's Fall Fleet in Queen Elizabeth Park in New Westminster. Several of our members travelled there to witness our member, Maralynn Wilkinson UE, receive the Phillip E.M. Leith Memorial Volunteer Award presented by UELAC Dominion President, Bonnie Schepers UE. The award was shared with Dr. Gerry Brown UE of the Vancouver Branch who was away travelling.

Our Loyalist rose garden on the lower causeway has died and has been removed by new space near the Robert Bateman Centre. Alvin and Joyce Huffman are donating new Loyalist rose plants for the garden. They should be up and blooming by our 2015 UELAC Conference.

Kathleen Lynch UE unveiled a painting she had done of our Loyalist Day picnic in the Mayor's Grove of Beacon Hill Park, showing many of the members who attended.

The annual general meeting was held on 22 November. Dr. Warren Bell UE, of the Vancouver Branch, spoke on Peter Warren Dease, eminent explorer in search of the Northwest Passage and son of Dr. Bell's Loyalist ancestor.

The Alvin Huffman UEL scholarship award for 2014 will go to Alexander Barg, a University of Victoria history student.

Genealogist, Maralynn Wilkinson UE, presented a certificate to Diane Steranka UE for her Loyalist ancestor, William Sheets.

We look forward to welcoming you all to the UELAC Conference “Loyalists Come West” on 28 to 31 May 2015 at the Coast Victoria Harbourside Hotel and Marina, Victoria, British Columbia. • •

By Karen Borden UE, Archivist/Historian

2015 Fall

The first meeting of 2015 was in February. Our guests were the Belleville Greeters. They modeled clothing from 1800. Kathleen Burton wore an authentic gold silk dress. Linda Witham modeled a yellow cotton print dress. They both had petticoats and hoops, and their hats were from the same era. It was a very enjoyable demonstration.

In April, Emily Carr, played by Molly Newman, was our guest. She did a reading from *The Book of Small* by Emily Carr, played a banjo, and sang.

Our UELAC Conference, *Loyalists Come West 2015*, was a great success with one hundred and forty people in attendance. It was held at the Coast Harbourside Hotel and Marina in Victoria from 28 to 31 May 2015.

Co-chairpersons were Carl Stymiest, Vancouver Branch, along with Aurelie Stirling and Robert Ferguson from Victoria. Catherine Fryer, Victoria Branch, was the registrar and did a fantastic job. Registration was held on Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There was a genealogist and membership meeting that afternoon. In the evening a welcome reception was held at Government House where we were received by the Honourable Judith Guichon OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

We were welcomed by the Town Crier and treated to a wonderful array of appetizers.

On Friday there were two workshops:

- A Day in the Life of a Fur Trapper and
- Adding DNA to Your Genealogy and Family History Tools. That was followed by a buffet lunch.

In the afternoon, there was a tour of UEL graves in Ross Bay Cemetery, by John Adams of The Old Cemeteries Society.

A tour of Government House Gardens was also held where a blooming Loyalist Rose was discovered. There was as well a tour to Church and State Winery in Central Saanich. Each evening the hospitality suite was open until midnight with Jan Ouellett catering and other members helping. There was an exhibit room with many items on display and for sale.

The Friday night social was in the Coast ballroom. A Loyalist Fare menu and drinks from the 1700s were served. UEL certificates were presented to Alan Miller, Edmonton Branch, and Betty Compeer and Kirsten Schrader, Victoria Branch. The Leith Award was presented to Pat Kelderman UE, Thompson-Okanagan Branch. John Adams gave an interesting talk to finish the evening.

Saturday morning, the AGM was held, followed by the Dominion Council Meeting. Self-guided tours were available. Many people took the Harbour Walk and a trip to Fishermen’s Wharf, where the best fish and chips can be bought. There was also a walking tour, led by John Adams.

The Gala Banquet was at 6:00 p.m. with a piper leading the colour party and parade of dignitaries. Musical entertainment was by the Greater Victoria Police Chorus. Barb Andrew was welcomed as our new UELAC President. Bob Ferguson presented a picture to David Ellsworth for his many years of being a flag bearer and giving flags to the UELAC Branches. Aurelie Stirling presented Bonnie Schepers, retiring UELAC

President, with a native flute. A Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy Flag was presented to Carl Stymiest on behalf of David Hill-Morrison who was unable to attend. Bob Ferguson presented Albert Schepers with a picture. Carl Stymiest was presented with the UELAC Dorchester Award by Gerald Adair.

On Sunday, a church service was held in James Bay United Church with Shirley Dargatz officiating. Some UE attendees arrived by horse and carriage and most were in period outfits. Group photos were taken after the service and we returned to the hotel to disembark for home with many happy memories.

The last event until the fall was our Loyalist Picnic in Beacon Hill Park on 22 July. A total of thirteen members gathered for lunch and a social time.

2016 Spring

Our Fall meeting was held on 12 September 2015 at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Royal Oak. We had a surprise visit from Albert and Bonnie Schepers UE who were in Victoria to see their new grandchild. Bonnie presented our Branch Genealogist, Maralynn Wilkinson UE, with four certificates for Loyalist ancestors William Bowen UE, David Embury UE, Jacob Huffman UE, and Christian Keller UE. Our guest speaker, Liane Lyall, spoke on "The Importance of Family Histories" using Family Search. The Alvin Huffman 2014 Scholarship was presented to University of Victoria student, Alexander Barg, by Alvin Huffman UE. Kathleen Lynch UE showed us two of her lovely watercolour paintings: one of the Loyalist Rose Garden and one of Loyalists going to James Bay United Church. Kathleen gave us copies of the paintings and they were put in our archives album.

On 17 October, Aurelie Stirling UE, retiring Branch President, held a potluck lunch for our executive at her home. After lunch we walked to our Loyalist Rose Garden on the Inner Harbour to unveil the 1994, 80th UELAC Anniversary Plaque that finally has a home on the wall of our garden. Many thanks to Sheila Neapole, Manager of the Victoria Harbour Authority, Aurelie Stirling UE, and Bob Ferguson UE for making this happen. Aurelie presented Sheila with the book, Loyally Yours: 100 Years of the UELAC.





Victoria Branch Executive at the Loyalist Rose Garden.

Left To Right: Nadine Derick, Frans Compeer, Catherine Fryer UE, Irene Feir UE, Kathleen Lynch UE, Aurelie Stirling UE, Betty Compeer UE, Karen Borden UE, Bob Ferguson UE, Mary Lou Rowbotham.

Our AGM and final meeting of 2015 was on 14 November. Our guest speaker, Danda Humphreys, author and storyteller, gave an entertaining talk on Victoria's history. Joyce Huffman presented the Alvin Huffman 2015 Scholarship to University of Victoria student, Robert Kroeker, who thanked the group and gave a little talk on his studies. Mark Bernard UE and Mary Lou Rowbotham were elected Branch President and Branch Vice-President at our recent election, and the rest were returned by acclamation.

By Karen Borden UE, Branch Archivist/Historian

2016 Fall

Victoria Branch welcomed our new President, Dr. Barry Curran, at our February meeting. Dr. Curran was ratified and took the oath of office. He was presented with the President's Medal by Aurelie Stirling, Past President. His wife, Lynda Curran, was ratified as a Director of the Executive Committee and took the oath of office.

Our guest speaker was Commanding Officer Elect, Christopher Mackie, of the 78th Fraser Highlanders, Fort Victoria Garrison.

The 78th Fraser Highlanders were formed in Scotland and travelled to North America to fight in the Seven Years War. They joined with General Wolfe's expedition, fighting in the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, and were instrumental in the taking of Quebec City. Following the war, the regiment was disbanded but was later re-formed by Lord Lovat to fight in the American Revolutionary War before being disbanded once again. The regiment was not resurrected again until Expo 67 in Montreal. Research was undertaken to reproduce the uniforms and equipment of the 18th century soldiers and, since the 1960s, the organization has continued with garrisons/branches in most cities across Canada.

Christopher Mackie provided an entertaining and informative talk about Simon Fraser, 11th Lord Lovat, also known as the “Old Fox.” A brief history of the events and activities leading up to his impeachment and trial was given. During the impeachment process, he was not afforded any opportunity to defend himself; he had no lawyer, and could not question witnesses. The outcome was a foregone conclusion and eventually a guilty verdict was proclaimed. Simon Fraser was sentenced to death and beheaded in the Tower of London.

Our guest speaker for April was Melanie Arscott, Past President of the Victoria Genealogical Society. She gave an exciting talk on her history with genealogy and explained what the VGS has to offer members. Betty Compeer UE, of the Membership Committee, reported that volunteers at our information booths at the LDS Family Day and Seniors Expo had a large number of enquiries about the UELAC. Our next outreach was a two-day event at the Victoria Highland Games.

Our executive was invited to Tea to celebrate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday, 21 April 2016, at 2:00 p.m. at Government House by the Honourable Judith Guichon OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. There were remarks by the Lieutenant Governor and a Toast to the Queen. Members attending were: Aurelie Stirling UE, Betty Compeer UE, and Frans Compeer, Maralynn Wilkinson UE, Mary Lou Rowbotham, Karen Borden UE, and Elaine Gillespie UE, a member of the Kawartha Branch visiting her sister, Mary Lou. We enjoyed the Pipe Major, John Mager, Victoria Children’s Choir, and Lekwungen Traditional Dancers.



Queen Elizabeth II Birthday, from left: Frans Compeer behind Betty Compeer UE; Maralynn Wilkinson UE; Aurelie Stirling UE; Karen Borden UE; Mary Lou Rowbotham; Elaine Gillespie UE, Kawartha Branch.

Barb Andrew UE, Dominion President of the UELAC, was the guest of honour at a dinner on 13 May at Ithaka Greek Restaurant in Victoria, organized by the Compeers.

Our Spring Fleet was held in May with special guests, Barb Andrew UE, Carl Stymiest UE, Diane Faris UE, Christine Manzer UE, and Mary Ann Bethune UE. Barb Andrew UE spoke about her Loyalist ancestors. Carl Stymiest talked about his forefathers in New Brunswick. Two of our members, Wendy Cramer UE and Mark Bernard, spoke about their Loyalist ancestors.

Five members of the Victoria Branch attended our UELAC Conference in Summerside, PEI, 07 to 10 July 2016. They were: Karen Borden UE, Betty Compeer UE, Frans Compeer, Catherine Fryer UE, and Grace-Ellen Capier UE. Congratulations to Frans Compeer as he was sworn in as Pacific Regional Councillor at the UELAC Annual Meeting in PEI. It was a great Conference.

Our last event for the season was our Picnic in Beacon Hill Park on 22 July, Loyalist Day in BC. Afterwards, we paid a visit to our Loyalist tree that was planted in the park by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth during their visit in 1939.

By Karen Borden UE, Branch Archivist and Historian