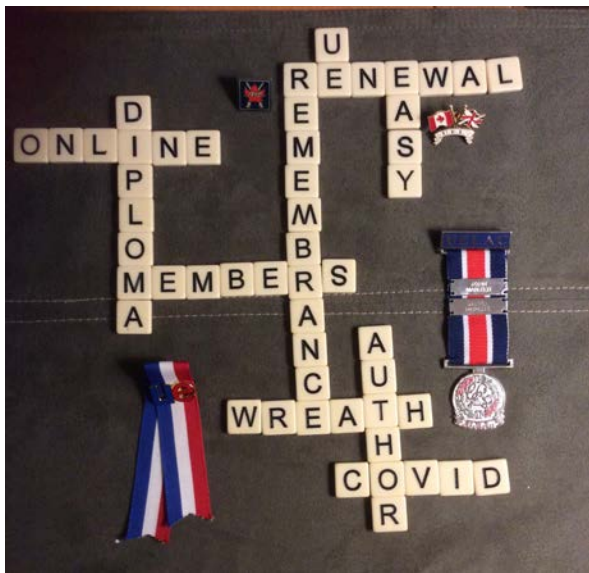


November 2020 update
 for Vancouver members
 during the
 COVID-19 pandemic.



Inside Contents

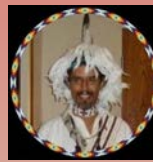


Remembrance Day 2020 and
 Find a Grave tributes. Page 2

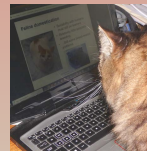
Welcome to UELAC.ca



Membership renewal time!
 Report from Membership
 Meetings. Page 2

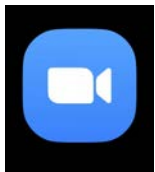


Correspondence from our
 newest "Additional Branch"
 member. Page 3



Two interviews with Branch
 members Diane Faris UE &
 Gerry Brown UE Page 4 – 7.

Save the date. Tuesday evening November 17, 2020 at 7:00 pm PST –
 Branch meeting via ZOOM.



The invitation will say: Carl Stymiest is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Everyone will be sent an email with the link to the Zoom meeting. There will be a Meet and Greet time from 7 – 7:30. The meeting will be called to order at 7:30. Our special speaker, Gino Simeoni of the BC Yukon Last Post Fund will join us prior to the Branch reports.

He will share the early history of the organization and the goals they have for continued work across Canada.

Expect to have fun and meet members from across the country!



LAST POST FUND
 FONDS DU SOUVENIR

A Respectful Remembrance Day with COVID-19 precautions.

The UELAC Vancouver Branch wreath will be pre-placed on our behalf at the Bonsor Park cenotaph in Burnaby by the Legion Poppy committee. We are grateful to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 83 for including us in their printed program, their website and their Facebook page for 2020. Be sure to look for these mentions and share with others.

We are descendants of those who fought in the American War for Independence on the side of the British Crown (King George III). Subsequently many of those families settled in Canada and were active in the War of 1812.



For a tribute to more recent veterans with a UELAC Vancouver connection, see:

<https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/982077?page=1#sr-48327680>

If you have a family member you would like to add to this virtual cemetery please contact Donna Aurorae Little UE at and she will be happy to make that happen.

Renewal of your UELAC membership for 2021 can be done online beginning November 2, 2020. Log in to <https://uelac.ca/> - It is a secure website. **** Members section** of the UELAC.ca website is *not* accessible by the public.



Your Branch Executive encourages you to use this method to pay your renewal but please be assured that we will be able to accept your payment in a more historic way if needed. Reach out to Glenn at smithglenn039@gmail.com

In the lead up to November 1st our **Membership Chair, Glenn Smith UE** President Christine Manzer UE and Treasurer Diane Rogers will have attended three Dominion-wide Zoom meetings to keep on top of the new system. The database really does a great job of keeping track of our membership numbers and the per-capita amounts that are paid to the Dominion UELAC office.

If you paid for 2020 either via this system or by sending a cheque to Glenn you have a record in the database. Your email address is used. If you have any trouble logging in or accessing your account for the first time please get in touch with Glenn or Christine.

Thanks very much for the gracious welcome; it's an honour to be a small part of one of the UELAC's most active and committed Branches.

As you may know, I've always admired the dedication of the Branches of Pacific Region. With the vast majority of historic Loyalist locations based primarily in the eastern part of Canada, it's much to the credit of the members of the Pacific Region to demonstrate enthusiasm and pride for their Loyalist ancestors.

Vancouver Branch has consistently been a notable presence within the heritage groups of their immediate area. From participation in Fall Fleet, Simon Fraser Day Heritage Festival, BC Highland Games, Multicultural Festival and other opportunities for high visibility, Vancouver Branch members have shown extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit. Embracing Loyalist history and heritage while engaging in social activities which include all ages of UEL's is a key factor raising awareness and self-pride among younger generations.

Working to advance and maintain knowledge of the United Empire Loyalists, Vancouver Branch's donation of its Loyalist library to the BC Genealogical Society's Walter Draycott Library showed enlightened initiative, which resulted in benefit not only to the Vancouver Branch membership, but also members of the BC Genealogical Society. By doing so, this valued and valuable collection may be preserved, with the knowledge and information it contains to be vicariously shared with the general population. Knowledge withheld is wasted; knowledge shared is a gift beyond measure.

As we all face one of the most challenging epics of our Association, the need to reach out and maintain connections via new methods and technologies becomes an imperative. Change is often intimidating and seemingly formidable. At times such as this, it can form a wall, unwittingly divisive as a result.

But change can also form a blueprint for and of the future. COVID-19 has caused many to rethink the status quo and by doing so, UELAC might be watching a natural progression of our Association. Although we miss the personal interaction and camaraderie, we might also see opportunities to connect and share in ways we might have overlooked.

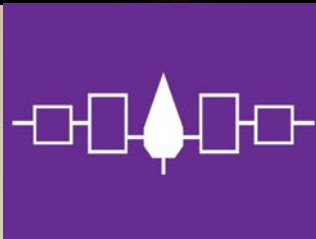
As I sit here 'behind rebel lines' in New York state, prevented from crossing the border into Canada, it gives me a great deal of satisfaction and warmth to be able to easily become an Additional Branch member of a Pacific Region Branch I've always admired and respected. Knowing I'm able to join with my friends of Vancouver Branch and by extension, Pacific Region, gives me a great deal of assurance that despite possibly being a lone Loyalist, I'm far from being alone.

My very best wishes to Vancouver Branch for continued success, as you bring the spirit of the Loyalists alive in BC. With any luck, I look forward to greeting everybody in person in 2023.

*Welcome to our new
Additional Branch
member Dave.*

Correspondence from David Kanowakeron Hill-Morrison UE

- Loyalist ancestor - Joseph Thayendanega Brant
- UELAC Central West Region Councillor
- Webmaster: Grand River Branch





Interview conducted via email by Christine Manzer UE with Gerald Richardson Brown UE, about his new book, *North to Crying Rock*.

CM How did you come up with the title of your third book, North to Crying Rock?

GRB When I first conceived the idea for the book I envisioned an earthquake destroying Vancouver and people moving up into the mountains to build a new community. The backstory for this was a futuristic re-enactment of the Loyalists coming to a wilderness and building new lives. I named this new community *Alpinada*. But Indigenous people already occupied the “wilderness” of the Loyalists. The book is set in the future when global warming would have had its effect on everybody. So I worked those ideas into the story. The result is a story where earthquake refugees live among Indigenous refugees who had to abandon their village on the coast because of flooding, and built a new

village in a river valley; their traditional hunting grounds. The earthquake refugees live on one side of the river and the natives live on the other side. These two communities are under the control of a very rich Grand Chief called Alex whose goal is to bring together the two different cultures now living on the river. The book is also a love story between two mature people. Given this new concept I re-named the book, *North to Crying Rock*. Crying Rock is my translation of the Indigenous word for waterfall.

CM What is the time frame of this new work?

GRB The story takes place in the indefinite future, say 10-20 years hence.

CM How do you select the names of your characters?

GRB It is difficult. Names have to reflect the nationality, race, gender, time period and personality of the character. I have a book of Christian names by nationality but it is of no use for surnames. For this book I tried to create names of Indigenous characters that respected their languages but were not associated with existing ones. I had to create a new clan to keep the book in the category of fiction.

CM Is there a Loyalist connection?

GRB My three books are loosely tied together by a sea chest of memories brought to America by Loyalists in 1738 and added to through the generations. In this book I refer to those memories by feedbacks.

CM How do you find the time and discipline?

GRB This virus has helped keep me inside with little else to do. I make notes when I get an idea, usually first thing in the morning. I sit down and write when I get the energy. No discipline! My fourth book, *María: The Rebel's Wife* is now back and forth with my editor.

CM How did publishing your first book, Road to Ganneious change your process of writing?

GRB I hope it has made my writing more readable.

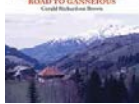
CM How can our readers obtain a copy of North to Crying Rock?

GRB Today from, www.conundrumpress.com, or write to g.brown@shaw.ca. When it is in general circulation it will be available by order at any bookstore, Amazon, or your favourite bookseller.

From the author of *Road to Ganneious* and *The Villager* comes the story of a future: *North to Crying Rock*.

Grieving for his dead wife and his lost world, a retired professor flees an earthquake-ravaged city that was his home, and goes north into the mountains to live with his cousin in an Indigenous community high above a flooded fishing village of the Kwakwaka'wakw People. Here, in a refuge from climate catastrophe, the professor finds life and love again. Cedar, a gentle artist, re-awakens his soul only to later reject his friendship. He meets an English widow who teaches the children of Crying Rock and Kwanatlenay the mysteries of the English language. Over several months, she and the professor become soul mates in adventure and partners in mature love. As their love deepens, she discovers the dark secrets of his past in which the ghost of a dead wife haunts their relationship.

ALSO AVAILABLE:



Book 1:
Road to Ganneious
ISBN 978-1-894994-68-2

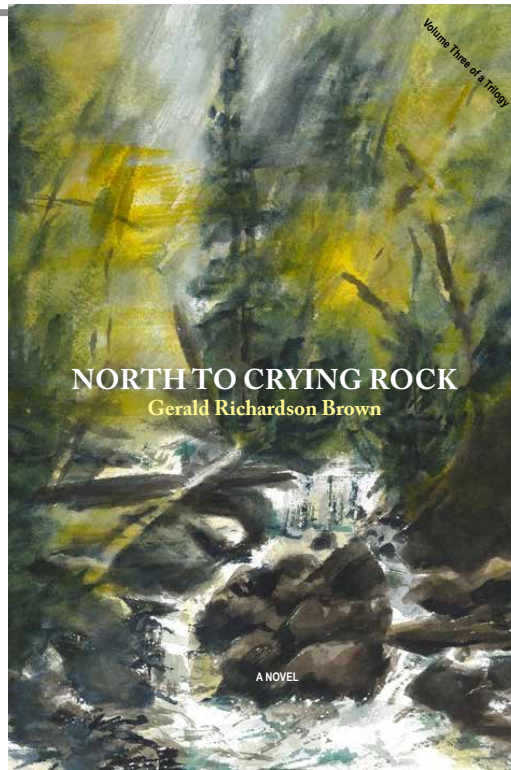
The life and times of the ancestors of one Canadian family in their journey from deep in the mountains of Austria to the shores of Hay Bay on Lake Ontario.

Book 2:
The Villager
ISBN 978-1-77262-019-1

The story of a village boy growing up in a time of hardship and a foreign war. Years later he returns to re-connect with his true self.

Conundrum Press
ISBN 978-1-894994-XXX
Historical Fiction / \$20

NORTH TO CRYING ROCK
Gerald Richardson Brown



Editor's note:

I was my privilege to read a copy of Gerry's newest book. It was hard to put down. Gerry's career as an academic in the field of Engineering is evident when the subjects of power dams and bridges are part of the story. His sensitive treatment of displacement following a natural disaster, ageing and hospice care make the story very plausible through all 220 pages. I highly recommend the book to each of you. Christine.

As seen on our UELAC Vancouver Facebook page:

Thank you Carl for showing how easy it is to promote our Loyalist heritage. Made in Canada comfortable facemasks are available from UELAC Promotions.

<http://www.uelac.org/promotion/items/mask.php>



Diane Faris UE has successfully completed a Post Graduate Diploma in International Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

CM: Diane, I am pleased to be able to share the success of your post-graduate diploma with our readers. Currently you are serving as the Vancouver Branch Past-President and as a Trustee for the Dominion UELAC. But you have also been busy with academic study. Many might not know that your life-long passion for animal welfare has been the motivation behind your dietary choices, some of your travel adventures and over the past few years your online study towards this diploma.



I read that the programme is intended for high calibre students with a biological background. Can you begin by telling us where you got your undergraduate degree and what your major was?

I completed my Bachelor of Science degree, with a major in Biology, at Capilano College (now Capilano University) and UBC.

The University of Edinburgh is not within driving distance. How did you discover the programme and how long have you been taking the required courses?

I knew I wanted to go back to school when I retired, so prior to retiring in May 2017, I started searching online for courses that interested me. I wasn't necessarily thinking of doing a course online but came across this one in Scotland that really interested me, and it was offered exclusively online. I started in the fall of 2017. Once I was registered, I was on the email lists that went out to all students, whether studying online or at the campus. The emails advertising student-organized "day trips" to Lough Lomond or the Lakes District in England made me painfully aware that I was not within driving distance of the University of Edinburgh.

Did you ever meet "face to face" with the other students and if so, was the time zone difference an obstacle?

The first two courses had group assignments. They let us choose our group, based on time zones. What worked best for me was to partner with students in the UK. As this is a part-time programme, many of them worked during the day and wanted to meet for the group work in the evening UK time. That turns out to be mid-morning here, so it was perfect for me. The university also had some live sessions (sort of like Zoom meetings) so we could ask the professor questions. That could get confusing, as the UK also has daylight savings time, but do not change their clocks at the same time we do. First time around I got confused about the time difference and was almost an hour late for an hour-long class. Fortunately, all the session was recorded so I could view it later.

I feel it is helpful here to add a quote from the website: "The programme aims to develop your understanding of how scientific evidence can be applied to give insight and improve animal welfare standards worldwide while also enhancing your knowledge of scientific study and research."

When you chose your elective courses did you find yourself drawn to the domestic animal or the wild animal focus?

My focus was on domestic animals, but sometimes the two overlap. I did one assignment on a programme at the University of Washington in Seattle where they train Conservation Dogs. I saw a demonstration of these dogs when I was on vacation in the Galapagos Islands. The dogs there were trained to locate an invasive Giant African Snail that conservationists were trying to eradicate from the islands. Conservation dogs can also be trained to find scat (poop) of a particular species of wild animal being studied. These days, with advances in DNA technology, there is much the researcher can learn from the scat, and it is one of many non-invasive ways to study wild animals without causing stress or negatively impacting their well being.

Can we assume that as a retired person this interest and resulting diploma is not intended to find you a new career, but do you expect to put your knowledge to practical use? Post-COVID-19 would there be a volunteer opportunity where your diploma would be a great benefit to an organization?

Prior to the pandemic, I was volunteering at the Wildlife Rescue Association in Burnaby, helping to nurse injured birds back to health so they could be released back into the wild. When it is safe to volunteer again, I'll either resume volunteering there or look for another animal-related charity where I can put my skills to good use.

Do you enjoy online learning enough to do something similar in the coming years or do you have other plans?

I'm a great believer in life-long learning and always knew I'd study in retirement. So, yes, although I intend to take a bit of a break, I am already exploring some options, either online or in a classroom, for continuing to pursue my many academic interests.

Thank you for your inspiration to each of us to keep our brain active and to never underestimate our ability to study and improve our literacy and skills.



Watch for the Christmas newsletter in early December with an announcement of a Zoom meet and greet planned for the second Sunday afternoon in December.

December 13, 2020 at 2 pm.

Plan ahead – mark your calendar. Find your favourite, oldest or most sentimental Christmas ornament to share with the group.



**See you at the Zoom meeting
Tuesday, November 17th.**

Be sure to reach out to Glenn Smith or myself (cemanzer@mac.com) with Membership renewal questions if needed. Best wishes and stay safe. *Christine.*

