

With a change in Dr. Bonnie Henry's directives for outdoor gatherings and confirmation from the City of New Westminster that we could use Queen's Park Picnic Shelter # 2 the celebration of our 10th Loyalist Day went ahead. It was so good to be together!



The continued uncertainty of Covid-19 and caution about indoor gatherings means that - at the time this newsletter was prepared - your Branch Executive is not planning in-person meetings or public presentations. We thank you for understanding and hope that you will all remain safe.

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Pages 2 - 4: Researching Loyalist William Schurman. Interview with Marjorie Schurman

Pages 5 & 6: Photo collage of the 2021 Loyalist Day picnic.

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Page 8: 5th Anniversary of the UE Collection at the BCGS Library

Interview with Marjorie Schurman- Additional Branch member with Vancouver and a Primary Branch member with Nova Scotia.

PL: Your Loyalist William Schurman and his family settled in Prince Edward Island. I realize you are still looking for adequate proof of John as son, and William as grandson and we wish you luck with that search. As you were growing up were you aware of your Loyalist heritage? Did family members talk about it?

MS: I did not know that we were Loyalists until about 1973 when Ross Graves' two volume treatise on "William Schurman, Loyalist of Bedeque, and his Descendants" arrived at our home in Toronto. There had been a questionnaire in 1970 asking about us all and I didn't think much of it.

The Schurman book clearly shows the relationships to William from about 1635 in New Rochelle (NY)**** and then from William and his wife, Elizabeth Hyatt, down the generations to me and my 2 (younger) siblings.

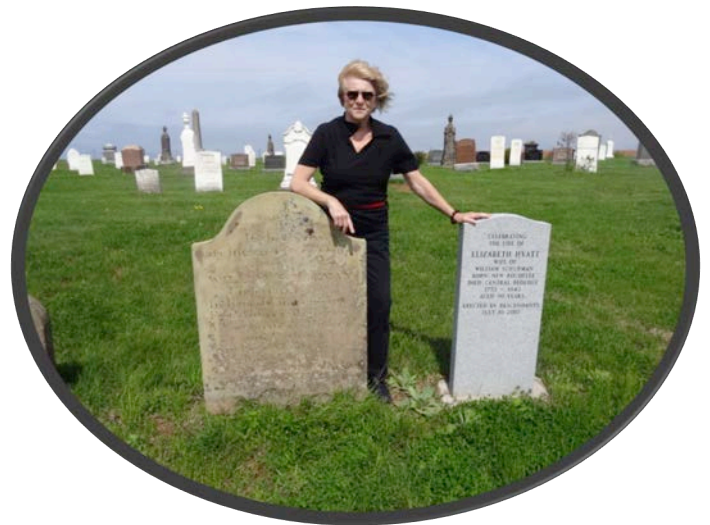
My father did not seem to know much nor show interest in family history. Dad said we might be German but he didn't know.

The origin of the family appears to be the Netherlands and thus the name should be pronounced with a "hard" SCH; but Dad accepted the "soft" Sch (pronounced Sherman) when he was in the Air Force and Ontario in the 1940s.

PL: There were fewer Loyalists who settled in PEI than other areas of the Maritime Provinces or Ontario. Have you been able to learn as much as you want about William and his wife? Is there anything you could share with our readers?

MS: William and Elizabeth and some of their children arrived first in Shelburne, Nova Scotia; but continued on to PEI (at the time called "L'Isle Saint-Jean) replacing the Acadians who had been forcibly expelled in 1758).

Marjorie at William Schurman's gravestone next to Elizabeth's much newer stone



Had William and his friends petitioned for land in NS, Bryan Belfont, my husband's 5x great grandfather, John Parr, Governor of Nova Scotia would have been the signatory. Before discovering John Parr and his appointment in 1783, my husband's family had no stories or indication of this Canadian connection.

My ancestors and a number of other Loyalist families settled in the Bedeque area with lots of intermarriages. (see photo of Cairn in Central Bedeque)

It was William & Elizabeth's youngest son, John, who sold the PEI land bequeathed to him by his father, William, some years later, and re-located to the River Philip, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia. He was the only one of his generation who moved off the island and that line of the family has mostly stayed in NS through the generations to that of my father.

I have not spent time in the PEI archives to see the documents and artifacts housed there by Ross Graves after the completion of his book. So, a research trip to Charlottetown is on the books whenever we can travel again.



I have been to Bedeque and found “Schurman Point Road”; I have met Paul, a Schurman cousin still living in the area, who was responsible for fundraising and erecting the gravestone for Elizabeth Hyatt; I have visited New Rochelle and found a park which had been a Schurman farm; and I have visited La Rochelle, France where my Huguenot ancestors boarded a ship bound for the new world in 1699 and married into the Schurman family.

PL: Both volumes of William Schurman, loyalist, of Bedeque, Prince Edward Island, and his descendants are available to borrow in **the BCGS Library in Surrey, BC**. Are you aware of this book and do you think it would help you and the Nova Scotia Branch genealogist who is working with you?

MS: I am glad to know that the set is available in the Lower Mainland. If any of the members have a query that could be answered by the book, I would be happy to oblige.

This prized book set has a prominent place on my book shelf so that frequent referral is easily accomplished.



Sisters Jean (left) and Marjorie (right) with author Ross Graves.

The NS genealogist referred me to a book frequently used by Schurman descendants seeking UE verification. I found the book, “An Island Refuge” and had a good laugh because the portion on William Schurman and family was quoted directly from Ross Graves’ book!

PL: As often happens you have discovered another two family lines during your research.... Rhindress and Purdy..... Where did these families settle and how is that research coming along?

MS: Rhindress and Purdy families settled in the Ramsheg Valley. I believe that there are a number of Loyalist ancestors in my tree. However, I will establish the documentation for Rhindress (my paternal grandmother) and for her grandmother, the Purdy line (my 2x great grandmother)

The Purdy line is quite straightforward as they settled in Nova Scotia and stayed there. The NS Archives has an excellent on-line resource for searching.

One glitch in my Schurman research has been the difficulty in accessing PEI archives on-line for actual documents. For example: I can find the Inventory of property for William Schurman; but not his will which would name John, his son, as a beneficiary and therefore confirm the parent/child link.



Photo credit for illustration above:
<https://peiheritagebuildings.blogspot.com/2012/01/william-schurman-house.html>



Left: Marjorie at the Bedeque Harbour Monument in Bedeque, Prince Edward Island.

On Canada Day 1985, the descendants of the United Empire Loyalists commemorated the landing of their forefathers with a six-foot monument in Bedeque's Central Park. Lieutenant Governor J. A. Doiron unveiled it with the assistance of Premier James Lee, and Paul H. Schurman and Lee Campbell, chairmen of the Bedeque Harbour Loyalists Committee. Mr. Schurman is a descendant of William Schurman who led the first Loyalist settlers to Bedeque.

(Ref: The Loyalist Gazette, Vol. XXIII, No. 2, December 1985.)

Photos from the 2021 Loyalist Day picnic.
Be sure to join our private Facebook
Group - *UELAC Vancouver Branch* - to
see more.



Top left: Display of Loyalist Day buttons. Center Left: Our youngest picnic attendee, Desmond.

Top right: 2nd Vice-President Chris Wilcott UE sports 2019, 2020 and 2012 Loyalist Day buttons plus his UE pin and ribbon which had not been mailed with his WOLCOTT certificate.

Center right: Mary Harris UE all smiles after Coco and Linda presented her UE pin and ribbon for her 3 Loyalist certificates for BABCOCK, POWLEY & POWLEY.

Lower Right: Paying attention to the special information being shared by our Genealogist.



Six more certificates researched and approved for Glenn Smith UE. Nicely displayed and presented by President Coco Aders-Weremczuk and Genealogist Linda Nygard UE as 2nd Vice President, Chris Wilcott UE and Glenn's wife Margaret look on. Certificates for Loyalists Christopher and Joseph Hanes and Christian Hartle were awarded to Glenn in 2019 and 2020.



Glenn Smith UE newest certificates

- 1. Loyalist John Hartle**
- 2. Loyalist Christian Hartle**
- 3. Loyalist William Empey Sr**
- 4. Loyalist Valentine Cryderman**
- 5. Loyalist Daniel Prentice**
- 6. Loyalist John Cross**

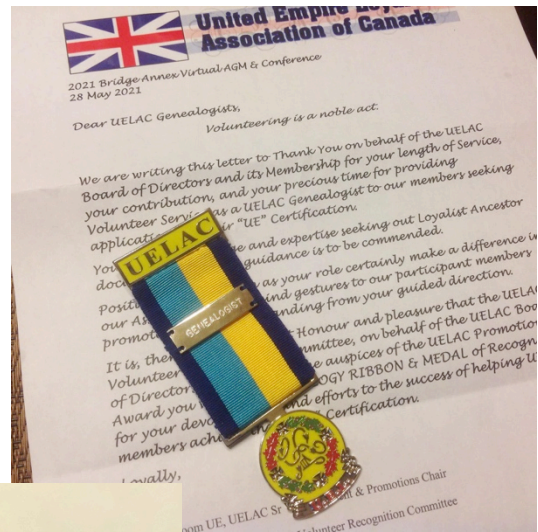


Report from Linda Nygard UE, Branch Genealogist.

During the past 16 months, a number of members earned their certificates. Some certificates I mailed while other members came to my home. Glenn Smith received 6 certificates at our 2021 Loyalist Day Picnic. (See page 6 of this newsletter for a photo and list of Glenn's presentation)

I have 2 certificates to present in the Fall when it is safe to meet again.

- Carl Stymiest UE for Loyalist William Wishart
- Christine Wright UE for Loyalist John Bailey Williston
- Marty Wilson UE, his son Brett Wilson UE and two grandchildren Christian and Sophie for Loyalist Joseph Field
- Cheryl Hillis UE for 1. Loyalist John Smith; 2. Loyalist Peter Gordon; 3. Loyalist Nathaniel Pettit
- Chris Wilcott UE for Loyalist Abner Wolcott.
- Mary Harris for Loyalists Jacob Powley, Benjamin Babcock and Francis Powley
- Tom Babcock UE for 1. Loyalist Jacob Powley; 2. Loyalist Benjamin Babcock; 3. Loyalist Francis Powley
- Stephen Schweyen UE for Loyalist John McCowen
- Bob Leonard UE for Loyalist Jeremiah Storm
- Jan Young UE for Loyalist Abial Haskins
- Nancy Fetterly Johnson UE for Loyalist Peter Fetterly
- Denny Lloyd UE for Loyalist Conrad Sills



Cheryl Hillis UE



Jan Young UE

Above.
Letter and pin sent to all UELAC Branch Genealogists at the time of the 2021 Dominion conference. Linda Nygard UE proudly wore her ribbon at the picnic. See the UELAC Vancouver Branch Facebook post of June 11, 2021 for a larger photo.



Looking back to September 16, 2016

Happy 5th Anniversary of the dedication of the UELAC Collection at the BCGS Genealogical Library.

The BCGS Genealogical Library was originally named after Walter Draycott, a past member who made a sizeable donation towards establishment of the library in the early 1990s. The Society was able to purchase the current building in 1996 and provide a permanent space for its genealogical collection that now includes over 18,000 books, magazines, maps and other printed materials and is one of the largest in the province.

Vancouver Branch members - identify yourself as a paid member for 2021 to enjoy the library free of charge.

<https://www.bcgs.ca/library>

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The Pacific Loyalist is your newsletter. Suggestions, comments and stories are always welcome.

Please contact the current editor - Christine Manzer - cemanzer@mac.com

Photographs taken at meetings and events by our Branch photographers may appear in this newsletter. Those who do not want their photos used should let the photographer know.

Vancouver Branch Executive February 2021 – February 2022

President & Director: Coco Aders-Weremczuk

1st Vice President & Director: [vacant]

2nd Vice President & Director: Christopher Wilcott, UE

Past President: Christine Manzer, UE

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Membership: Glenn Smith, UE

