

**To Picnic or not to Picnic?
 That is the question.**

As we await Dr. Bonnie Henry's directives and confirmation from the City of New Westminster about the use of the Queen's Park Picnic Shelter # 2 we are in no doubt that BC Loyalist Day is still a special occasion for us. Please watch your email for picnic news from Coco, our Branch President. Your Executive is on it! Save the date! Sunday afternoon July 25, 2021



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The bronze sculpture (shown in the photo to the right) is displayed in the Royal BC Museum in Victoria. It depicts Alexander Mackenzie's painted notation on a rock showing the date July 22, 1793. Sir Alexander Mackenzie son of a Loyalist was known for accomplishing the first east to west crossing of America north of Mexico. His father and uncle joined the King's Royal Regiment of New York as lieutenants. By 1778, for his safety as a son of loyalists, young Mackenzie was either sent, or accompanied by two aunts, to Montreal.

The four Pacific Regional Branches of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada celebrate **BC Loyalist Day** on July 22 each year. A celebration is often planned for the closest Sunday to the 22nd of July by each of the branches.

In 2012 Sunday July 22nd was proclaimed as BC Loyalist Day by his Honour, Steven Lewis Point OBC (Xwě lī qwěł tēl) the 28th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.



Photo credit: Wendy Cosby UE. Used with permission

Descendants

Many years ago,
Long before you or I were born,
There were those who searched the sea
Weathering heavy storm.

The waters rose and fell,
Sickness was no surprise,
When land was reached at last
They kissed the ground and praised the
skies.

But their journey did not stop,
Across wilderness, they trekked west,
And I can't speak for you
But I would want some rest.

Yet still, they kept on going,
Determination in their blood,
Forts and tents and houses
Raised just above the mud.

But they couldn't sit for long,
There was work to still be done,
The threat of deathly cold
Had them always on the run

Small towns soon turned to cities,
Progress was being made,
Log houses became homes
And there those families stayed.

Fast forward just a little,
200 years and more,
Those people haven't left
Just as stubborn as before.

And here we stand today,
Strong hearts within our chests,
Thanks to those few people
We get to write the rest.

© Kirra Little UE



UELAC Pacific Region uses Zoom events to learn and keep connected.

Thirty-eight members from Pacific Region Branches, including 12 from Vancouver enjoyed Zoom-time together for the Spring Fleet hosted by Victoria on Saturday morning May 15th. Guest speaker for the event was **Stuart Lyall Manson UE**. He is an independent historian who co-owns an historical research firm located in Ottawa. He lives in the loyalist city of Cornwall, Ontario. He has over a dozen members of the [King's Royal Regiment of New York](#) - Loyalists primarily from the Mohawk Valley of New York - as his ancestors.

He spoke to us about his most recent book – *Sacred Ground Loyalist Cemeteries of Eastern Ontario*.* This book, the first of two volumes with the second one still to be released, discusses individual Loyalists, their families, and others who are interred in five notable loyalist cemeteries situated in the Eastern Ontario counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. The book is based on extensive and thorough primary and secondary source research.

The Pacific Region Spring Fleet gathering was the first group to view this presentation that is different than what he presented to the UELAC 2021 conference. Stuart shared 6 interesting characters from each chapter of his book. The brief look at each individual teases us with just enough detail to want to purchase the book and to learn more about “the bitter tongue” of Elizabeth French or John Degroat, Rebel Loyalist who was a former drummer boy in the Continental Army.

* Published by Global Heritage Press, Ottawa, 2021
ISBN 9781772401714 (Vol. 1 softcover)

The Victoria planning committee for the Spring Fleet asked Vancouver Branch Poet Laurite to read one of their poems for the Zoom event. Descendants is just one of Kirra Little's tributes to our Loyalist ancestors. More of Kirra's work can be found on our Branch website.



annual meeting

(/'any(ōō)əl/ /'mēdiNG/)

n. a meeting that a business or organization has every year to discuss issues and elect new officials

The whole UELAC Pacific Region is delighted to hear that Carl Stymiest UE was elected to the position of Dominion Vice-President at the May 29th Annual General Meeting. Carl will continue with his positions of Vancouver Branch Archivist, UELAC Dominion Archivist and UELAC Volunteer Recognition & Awards Chair. Our new Dominion President is Patricia Groom from the Bridge Annex Branch

Congratulations Carl!

Read more about Carl's dedication to the Association and see his 2015 Dorchester Award photo at this site:

<http://www.uelac.org/Honours-Recognition/bio/Dorchester-Carl-Stymiest-2015.pdf>

Other Pacific Region changes following the AGM

Frans Compeer from the Victoria Branch is now our Pacific Region Vice President and Christine Manzer UE of the Vancouver Branch has become the is Pacific Region Councillor.

Frans continues in his leading role in the active Membership committee guiding many to learn the new CiviCRM database through Zoom meetings. Christine assists on both the Archives and Scholarship committees at the Dominion level.

Remaining as a UELAC Trustee is Diane Faris UE. Diane also has the added responsibility of the Credentials committee.



Frans Compeer (left); Christine Manzer (right) photo by K. McConnell, official photographer 2017 Fall Fleet



Carl Stymiest (left) Diane Faris (right) photo taken by C. Manzer at the PEI conference in 2016

A history lesson with BCGS

Events in North America :
Leading up to the
American Revolution



- 1756 The Seven Years War with between Britain and France, was known as the French & Indian War in N.A.
- Many colonists fought for the British including George Washington
- 1763 End of the war - resulted in England now having absolute maritime dominance as well as full control of the explored area of North America.



On May 12th the British Columbia Genealogy Society's Zoom meeting's featured presenter was our own **Marlene Dance UE**. She spoke to a large group including Vancouver Branch members who had all received an invitation because of the Vancouver Branch's Affiliate member status with the BCGS.

The American Revolution UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS - THIS IS THEIR STORY.

The BCGS Newsletter introduced Marlene: "Marlene Dance has over 47 years of experience. She started at a time when phone calls, personal interviews and written letters were the only way to put together a family tree. Then the Internet burst upon us in 2000 which provided a wealth of information easily to researchers. Marlene has researched her father's side back to their arrival on the ship "Ann" to Plymouth, Mass. in 1623. Over the past 10 years, Marlene has presented to many genealogy associations, service groups, LDS Church Genealogy workshops and has had two genealogy articles published nationally. She facilitates the monthly meetings of the Sardis Library Genealogy Workshop Group. Marlene has offered sold out genealogy classes with ElderCollege since 2009. She serves as the President of the UELAC Chilliwack and has been Chilliwack Branch Genealogist since 2013."

The Zoom "chat" below - from a BCGS member in response to Marlene's excellent history lesson was typical of the reactions. *"So much great info. I didn't know a lot about the loyalists before but since both my family and my husbands family has been in Canada for many generations I will look into it a little closer."*

Thank you Marlene for sharing our Loyalist story.



Artwork created by Daniel Li, a member of the Heritage Fair Alumni and speaker at our UE meeting in 2019 at Bonsor and 2020 via Zoom .

The 2021 **Vancouver Regional Fair** was held online through Zoom on May 22nd, 10:00am-2:00pm. At this event, a handful of outstanding students, who had been selected through classroom fairs in elementary schools, presented their projects 3 times.

Branch members have attended Vancouver City Schools to adjudicate participating classes for 10 years. In 2021 UE members were online to listen to the participants allowing the students and teachers to continue this valuable program. 2021 saw 200 students, 25 adjudicators involved in 7 fairs.

Present from the Vancouver UELAC Branch at the Regional Fair on a Saturday were Carl, Coco and Christine. Thank you to Diane R, Diane F and Janet who took part at the individual school level.

The fair included a very interesting workshop and quiz by Jessica Quan from the **Vancouver Heritage Foundation**, a presentation from the Alumni Team and award announcements.

The program was coordinated this year by Leona Lam, a Heritage Fair Alumni just finishing high school. Her dedication and work over the past 3 or 4 months can best be summed up by a comment from a grade 6 student from Tscumseh Elementary School who responded "It's really inspiring" when asked about the work done by the Heritage Fair Alumni team.

<http://bcheritagefairs.ca/about/>



At our last in-person meeting on September 17, 2019 at the Bonsor Center we welcomed Alicia Carnevali UE who drove from Seattle to meet us. Linda Nygard & Christine Manzer presented her UE pin and one for her daughter. The pins had not been mailed with the certificates to ensure they were not damaged. The article below is a follow up on the Loyalist Rose article that appeared in the Spring issue of The Pacific Loyalist.

Photo included with Alicia's permission.

The Loyalist Rose, Alicia's Loyalist discovery and words of praise for our Branch Genealogist.

PL: Your Loyalist John Cameron, who settled in Ontario, was mentioned in the Spring newsletter article about the Loyalist Rose. As you were growing up were you aware of your Loyalist heritage? Did family members talk about it? If not, how did you make this discovery?

AC: Whilst growing up, my father enthusiastically told his children we were connected to the Campbell Clan. He was a proud Scot and always reminded us of our Scottish heritage. My grandmother, Dora Alice Campbell, mentioned her father, Clinton Herbert Campbell, was a member of the Royal Regiment in Canada. Dora talked about her mother, Catherine Campbell, of having "royal Scottish ancestry". Catherine's obituary read, "of famous Scotch Ancestry". Our old Scottish family Bible had the birth registries of Catherine and Alexander Campbell's children and their marriage certificate listing Thurso, Ontario. This was the extent of our Campbell ancestral knowledge.

A wonderful encounter occurred in January 2015 when Dr. Price Cameron sent an email saying, "we have a significant autosomal DNA match, and I match his Cameron relatives as well". Price asked, "was I aware of my Cameron ancestry, which surely is there somewhere?" I requested parental help in gathering information from our Scottish family Bible for clues. I sent the list of known ancestors to Price. He wrote back saying a genealogical brick wall had been circumvented since I now know that I have Lochiel Cameron ancestry. Price introduced me to Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel, my 8th great grandfather, and encouraged me to join [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) to start building my family tree. Since then, my tree has grown quite large and continues to leaf out. My ancestral journey has been an enriching and educational experience. I am extremely grateful to Price, my cousin, reaching out that winter day. Fortunately, I was able to share with my father, Dwight Alan Slater, news about his 7th great grandfather who was born at Kilchurn Castle, and the ancestral Lochiel home Achnacarry Castle, before he passed away in 2016. He was delighted to learn we were connected to Clan Cameron and that I had a great interest in our Scottish heritage.

PL: Have you been able to learn as much as you want about John Cameron? Is there anything you could share with our readers especially those who also have Loyalists who settled in Stormont County, Ontario?

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AC: Once I started building my tree, I could better understand the connection to the Cameron ancestors Price was sharing with me. He introduced me to Mary Cameron of Glen Nevis, a great granddaughter of Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel, and wife of John Cameron of Clunes. Price explained, Mary and John were expelled from upstate New York in 1785 for having been Loyalists and went to eastern Ontario. Price descends from this couple as well.

In 2017 Price explained since John Cameron of Clunes is a Loyalist, and my 5th great grandfather, I could apply to become a member of the **United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada**. I chose the Vancouver branch directly north, and Linda Nygard kindly and promptly responded to my inquiry. Linda is a gem. She patiently taught me about genealogy proofs and tirelessly researched on my behalf. I became a member in May 2018 and included my daughter, Sophia Rose, for membership. I appreciate Linda who has continued to assist me with questions about my Cameron ancestors, and for the friendship that has blossomed along the way. It was Linda who introduced me to The Loyalist Rose. It is meaningful to know my 5th great grandparents, John Cameron of Clunes and Mary Cameron of Glen Nevis, carried the rose 230 miles to Cornwall their new homeland. One day, I hope to visit the significant site of my Cameron ancestors.

PL: Alicia, your daughter Sophia has Rose as her middle name. Is this a coincidence or has this lovely name been handed down through the generations?

AC: Roses are my favorite flower, and I hope to add The Loyalist Rose to my two rose gardens. Sophia was given the middle name Rose after its beauty, and the classic simplicity flowed well with her long, rhythmic, Italian last name. Now that I know the significant ancestral connection, I look forward to seeing The Loyalist Rose in the Ottawa Valley and Victoria's Inner Harbor.

Recently, Dr. Price Cameron sent me a copy of Daniel Campbell's Civil War Diary. Daniel was a Union soldier and a brother of Catherine Campbell; they were the great grandchildren of John Cameron of Clunes' and Mary Cameron of Glen Nevis'.

The beauty of an ancestral journey are the discoveries one finds along the path, connecting to ancestors who walked ahead, offering an opportunity to learn about the time and place they once lived.

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

Treasurer & Director: M. Diane Rogers

Secretary & Director: Linda Drake, UE

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