

Christmas Comes Early to Sir Guy Carleton Branch UELAC

Ottawa, ON

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by Bonnie Schepers UE

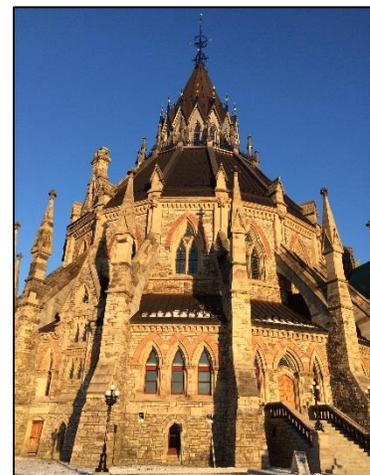


In 2014, it has been my privilege to participate in special 100 year anniversary events hosted by UELAC branches across the country. At the invitation of the Sir Guy Carleton Branch, it was fitting to end a year of celebration in the city of Ottawa, Canada's capital.

Sir Guy Carleton Branch has an impressive record of excellence in researching, documenting, and preserving the history of the United Empire Loyalists. On the 14th of September, a successful tour took place featuring the burial sites of 'Descendants of Loyalists in Beechwood Cemetery'. This 100th Anniversary project, developed under the direction of Sylvia Powers and Dorothy Meyerhof, includes a printed brochure with photos, information and biographies of Loyalist descendants buried at Beechwood Cemetery. A digital version of the [booklet](#) is available on the Sir Guy Carleton Branch website. The cemetery, established in 1873, is a National Historic site and in 2009 was designated the National Cemetery of Canada.

An ongoing project of the Sir Guy Carleton Branch is the Sir Guy Carleton Branch Library housed at the City of Ottawa Archives. The library collection includes over 900 books and items related to Loyalist history and continues to grow through purchases and donations. More details can be found on the Dominion website under the menu heading [Research Resources](#).

Arriving in Ottawa on Friday afternoon we had a taste of winter as temperatures reached a high of -6 degrees C. Even with the brisk winds it was a good opportunity to walk the grounds of Parliament Hill and take in the Centennial Flame and the statues that circle the Centre Block. The sandstone walls of the Library of Parliament glowed in the golden light



of the late afternoon sun. This is the second time I have been to Ottawa and each time I have felt pride in our country at this iconic century old site, the home of the Parliament of Canada.

The Christmas Social on Saturday was well attended and I had the pleasure of assisting Branch Genealogist



Gary Bagley in the presentation of two Loyalist Lineage Certificates to Bill Powers for his ancestors Rulif Ostrum and Col. William Marsh.

There was also plenty of time to renew acquaintances and to make new UEL friends. One special introduction for me was meeting Sherry Ruch. Sherry is the wife of John Ruch who wrote the chapter on my Loyalist ancestor for the Heritage Branch publication, The Loyalists of Quebec. Sadly John passed away in February of 2007 so we never met face-to-face.

I also appreciated the chance to talk with Mark Jodoin, author of Shadow Soldiers of the American Revolution: Loyalist Tales from New York to Canada. I first met Mark at the 2011 UELAC Conference hosted by the Col. Edward Jessup Branch in Brockville, Ontario.

Thank you to everyone at Sir Guy Carleton Branch for the warm welcome on a November afternoon that showered us with our first icy taste of winter. Bundle up everyone!



Executive Members of Sir Guy Carleton Branch, Ottawa ON with Dominion President Bonnie Schepers.

