

The Party Girls of 1778 go to School

The Calgary Branch of the UELAC was asked to make a Loyalist presentation at a school in February. In December and January, Stephen Davidson had published his 3-part series of the *Party Girls* in *Loyalist Trails*. With Stephen's permission, Linda McClelland put Stephen's information into script format to be used at the school.

On February 2nd, 16 grade 7 students made up into 2 "platoons" marched into the classroom. This was an add-on by the teacher (Charles Hunter) who said that his students had done this once before and it would set the scene. It did. Since both "platoons" wanted to be Loyalists, paper/rock/scissors decided the outcome. David Hongisto had made both loyalist and "patriot" flags to be handed out to the students. Printed cards also helped to distinguish the 2 sides.

The Script: Coincidentally, there was a part for everyone. The 8 girls fashioned their own turbans from lengths of stretchy fabric and 6 of the boys donned fleece tunics to become knights. A "platoon" leader became John Andre. The patriot wore a buckskin jacket.



John Andre opened the scene by describing his plans for the party.



The 6 jousting “knights” then ran several times past each other before kneeling in front of the girls who they would escort to the ball. The girls completed the script by reading what became of them after the party.





On Stephen's request, we stressed the fact that unlike the people in the script, most loyalists were not wealthy.

After the skit Linda McClelland and David Hongisto told their ancestors' migration stories following the war. The routes were marked on a map.

The lesson appeared to be both fun and informative.

Anyone who would like to use the script for a school visit can obtain a copy from Linda McClelland at hughlin@telus.net.