

Trip to Chilliwack and Thompson-Okanagan Branches: 30 April to 08 May 2013

My wife, Grietje, and I arrived in Abbotsford, British Columbia, to chilly weather that quickly warmed up to unseasonably summer-like weather for the duration of our stay in British Columbia's interior. Staying with my cousin, Lynn Bokamyer UE, and her family, we toured the coastal areas between Steveston and White Rock, viewing many scenic agricultural areas in the Fraser Valley, and finally arrived for a delicious dinner prepared by our host. We stayed for the next few days with Ken and Shirley Dargatz, UE. Before leaving,



Lynn and Peter presented us with a Loyalist wall hanging with pictures saved on fabric quilted to resemble a log cabin motif. We will truly treasure this unique and thoughtful gift.

Grietje and I assisted Shirley Dargatz UE and Marlene Dance UE in setting up for the Regional Mini Conference hosted by the Chilliwack Branch on Saturday, 04 May, at the Aboriginal Gathering Place on the Campus

of the University of the Fraser Valley. The Haudenosaunee Confederacy flag, donated to the Vancouver Branch by David Kanowakeron Hill Morrison UE, was presented for the first time in this Aboriginal venue.

Branch Genealogists, Linda Nygard UE, from Vancouver Branch, and Marlene Dance UE, from Chilliwack Branch, assisted in the presentation of twenty-seven "UE" certificates by myself as the Dominion President, and Pacific Regional





Vice-President, Carl Stymiest UE. These presentations were especially meaningful to me as I was able to present certificates to my cousin, Lynn Bokamyer UE, her daughter, Lisa, and two granddaughters, Cassady and

Samantha, as well as to her brother, also my cousin, Bob Proctor UE, and his two sons, David and Michael. Marlene Dance UE received her UELAC certificate for her Loyalist ancestor, William Siprell Scur UE. Julie Stephenson UE received certificates for herself



and her mother, Marion Hill Stephenson UE, for their Loyalist ancestor, James Lee UE, and Julie received a certificate for her father, Carl Stephenson UE, for his Loyalist ancestor, Barnabus Hart UE. Christine Menzer UE and her cousin, Mavis Pickett UE, received their certificates for their Loyalist ancestor, John Manzer UE. The youngest recipient,

Brody Wilkinson UE, one-year old grandson of Vancouver Branch member, Janet White UE, certainly entertained everyone as he sported his tricorne hat. Brody's Loyalist ancestor is John Carl Senior UE.

Teamwork abounded as duties were shared between Shirley Dargatz and Marlene Dance who both very capably ran the certificate presentations, the MC duties and the business portions of the meeting. It was bittersweet to say good-bye to Carl Stymiest UE and Mary Ann Bethune UE in their capacity as Pacific Regional Vice-President and Pacific Regional Councillor but know that they will continue to be strong





supporters of the upcoming conference in Victoria, British Columbia, in 2015.

Linda Nygard UE and Catherine Fryer UE were both awarded with The Phillip E.M. Leith Memorial Award 2013 for their dedicated service to the Pacific region this past year. Diane Faris UE was elected as the Pacific Regional Vice-President, and Marlene Dance UE was elected as the Pacific Regional Councillor for 2013 – 2014.

Following the mini-conference Lynn and Peter Bokamyer hosted a barbeque for members of the Chilliwack and Vancouver branches as well as newly certified family members.

On Sunday, 05 May, Grietje and I attended worship service at Carmel United Church with Shirley Dargatz. We would be remiss without thanking Shirley and Ken for being gracious hosts and making our stay in Chilliwack truly memorable. We can't thank them enough.



We were picked up by Darlene Gerow Jones UE, who drove us up the Fraser Valley to Vernon. We were surprised to learn that Darlene's family relative, John Lawson Gerow, lived in Percy Township, Northumberland County, not far from our own home. At Cameron Point we met Pat Kelderman UE, another Young family cousin, and her husband, Rob, at their beautiful home.

On 06 May we toured the O'Keefe Ranch near Vernon with Thompson-Okanagan members, Sally Harrison UE, Darlene Jones UE, Pat Kelderman UE and William, the curator of the Ranch. This Branch, in existence since April 1995, was mentored by Chilliwack Branch and it was a

pleasure to perform our skit about Adam Young UE and his wife, Catherine Elizabeth Schremling, and to share stories for the afternoon, following an excellent catered lunch.

Without the teamwork of the four Branches in the Pacific Region as well as the input from the Branch Genealogists, Lynda Nygard UE and Marlene Dance UE, the opportunity to present certificates to these members who share my seven Loyalist ancestors would have been missed.



With warm memories and thankful hearts, we really felt part of your team as many hands worked behind the scenes to make our visit and the presentations possible.

Thank you all very very much!

Sincerely and loyally yours,
Robert C. McBride UE,
UELAC Dominion President 2011 – 2013