

Trip to the Grand River Branch: 19 May 2013

On 19 May 2013 my wife, Grietje, and I attended the Grand River Branch meeting held at the Hampton Inn in Brantford. This was an opportunity to give back to others who benefited from my research for my seven Loyalist ancestors and to see my Young cousins receive their certificates for Adam Young UE. Being able to use our research to help others is a very rewarding task as I am sure many have discovered. It is a different kind of teamwork of benefit to anyone who can use it to help prove their relationship to a common ancestor.

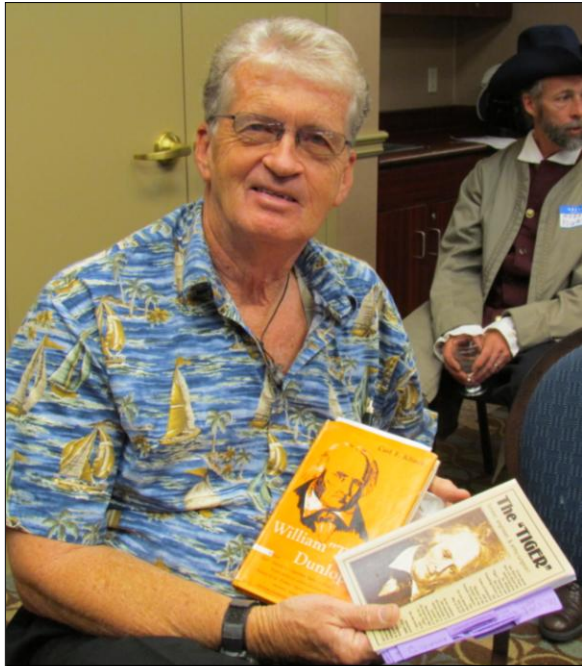
We were hosted overnight at the home of Gary Young UE who gave us accomodation, good food and great company as we discussed our Loyalist ancestors and caught up on family stories. Next morning cousin, Heather Hewson UE, and her husband, Glen, joined us and we drove to Hampton Inn in Brantford for the meeting and dinner to follow.



Beverley Balsh presided over the meeting at which I gave greetings from the Association and joined Cathy Thompson UE,



Grand River Branch Genealogist, in presenting certificates to four out of six Young siblings. I also presented a short version outlining the adventures of Adam Young UE, our common ancestor, who settled first immediately west of the “*Rangers Barracks*” on the west side of the Niagara River and later on the Young Tract at the Grand River.



The guest speaker at the meeting was Paul Carroll, author of *The Tiger*, the story of Dr. William “*Tiger*” Dunlop and his exploits during the War of 1812. This researcher, long interested in the maritime history of our Great Lakes and the battles fought off shore, could have spoken for many more hours if time had permitted.

Following Paul Carroll's presentation, various Branch Reports were given. Past Dominion President, Corresponding Secretary and Membership Chair of Grand River Branch, Bill Terry UE, congratulated the new members of the Branch and encouraged them to find ways to take part.

Grand River Web Master and UELAC Central West Regional Councillor, David Kanowakeron Hill Morrison UE, presented his latest version of a pamphlet describing the heritage of the Branch and how the Loyalists came from all walks of life, united under the belief that Monarchy is the best policy. He also described how to search for one's Loyalist roots and how the Loyal Haudenosaunee, having lost their traditional homelands to the Americans, migrated with their fellow-Loyalists to the relative safety of Upper Canada at a tract of land along the Grand River so that today the Six Nations of the Grand River is Canada's largest Native community. Grand River is honoured to include descendants of those unique Loyalists among its membership.

Many stayed for the hot buffet dinner following the meeting.

It has been a pleasure working with the members of the Grand River Branch at both the Branch and National level as so many members are active supporters of current events in the Grand River area.

Teamwork clearly encourages active members!

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