



Bicentennial Branch Quarterly

October - November - December 2010

Branch Charter est. 1984 Volume 3 - Issue 4

United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Regular Branch Meeting

November 6, 2010

1 p.m.

Church of the Epiphany - Kingsville

Guest speakers: Robert and Debra Honor UE

Branch President's Message

It gives me great pleasure to write this column as President of the Bicentennial Branch UELAC. I anticipate few changes during my two year tenure, but we shall see how the future unfolds. If at anytime you would like to speak to me do not hesitate.

Currently we are in the midst of membership renewals. In order to keep the services of the Dominion Office at the high level provided to us until now, it is necessary that each Branch membership increase by \$5.00. We, the Branch Executive, had a lengthy discussion regarding this increase and agree that we must pass it along to individual members and families. We will be posting at each meeting an explanation of how our dollars are divided between the Dominion Office and our Branch, and how each group spends its money. The Bicentennial Branch is waiving this increase if your renewal is done before December 31, 2010. Don't miss this very good deal!

Let me remind you that this is a volunteer organization, and thus it is necessary that all members actively participate to make it work. There are many opportunities within our group to take part in keeping the Bicentennial Branch alive and thriving. Positions currently vacant on the Executive include: Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Vice-President. If you

would like a description of what each position entails, just ask and an Executive member will describe it. There are only four Executive Meetings each year, and I assure you they are fun. We are also in need of volunteers to help with serving refreshments and cleaning up after each meeting.

I will be placing a sign-up sheet at each table at the next meeting, and asking that anyone willing to assist in any capacity, including an Executive position, sign it indicating area of interest and a telephone number. Please, think about these positions and consider responding. Incidentally, these positions may be filled by either UE or Associate Members.

Finally, if you have any names or suggestions for programs please pass them along. This includes any offers that you might personally make for providing a program. We request that each be submitted in writing, so that the Executive can respond to it thoughtfully.

Once again, on behalf of the Executive and Membership, we thank Margie Luffman, Past-President for her hard work and dedication over the last eleven plus years. We will be calling on her for advice and guidance in the future.

~Pat Haynes UE, Branch President

September 18, 2010
Branch Annual Luncheon
Kingsville Ontario
by Bonnie L. Schepers UE

The mood was one of anticipation as members and guests met at the Church of the Epiphany in Kingsville, Ontario for our annual branch luncheon. A number of interesting artifacts collected from the Matthew Elliot site, displayed by our guest speaker Kirk Walstedt, captured the interest of everyone as they arrived. Thank you to the forty six members and guests who joined us for a delicious meal provided again this year by the ACW.



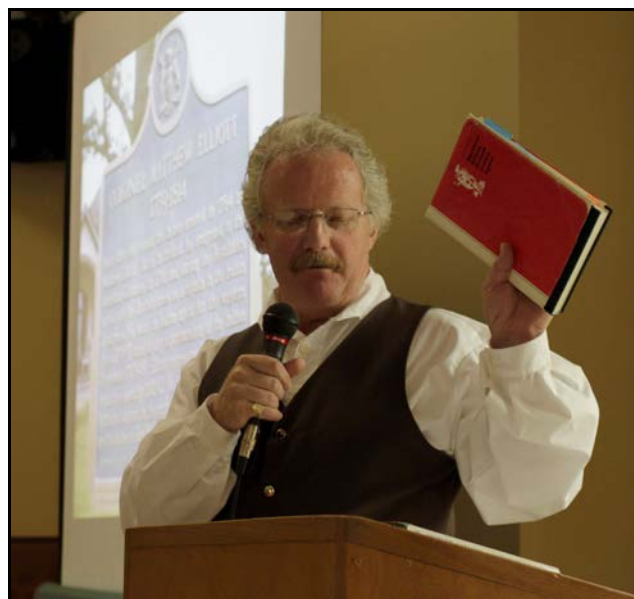
Kirk Walstedt with Branch President Pat Haynes UE

In our twenty sixth year, the focus of Bicentennial Branch is on membership and participation. The strength of our branch depends on the willingness of members to offer their talents and abilities at the executive level and as advocates for the mission statement of the UELAC. Our goal as an association is to preserve, promote and celebrate the history and traditions of the Loyalist epoch in Canadian history. Your membership in Bicentennial Branch affirms your support of this mission statement. At the branch AGM in May we welcomed Pat Haynes UE as Branch President. We are currently in need of a Branch Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, and Secretary.

Pat Haynes made a special presentation of the Past President's Jewel to Margie Luffman UE who has diligently served as Branch President for twelve years. Margaret and Jack Lewis received a certificate of congratulations from Dominion President Fred Hayward, in recognition of their 67th wedding anniversary on July 29, 2010.

We were delighted to have Kirk Walstedt, Vice President of the Essex and Community Historical Research Society as our guest speaker. After graduating from Essex District High School, Kirk Walstedt received an Honours BA in Anthropology and Archaeology from the University of Windsor in 1976 and a Law Degree in 1992. Prior to obtaining his Law Degree, Kirk was a member of the Maidstone Township Council and its Reeve from 1978 to 1994. During this period he participated in a number of archaeological expeditions and excavations in the Middle East and in Southwestern Ontario. One of these projects was the excavation at the Matthew Elliott site. Currently Kirk practices Municipal, Administrative and Land Use Planning Law, and is Chair of the Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Appeal Tribunal for the Province of Ontario. Throughout his career, Kirk's heart has never strayed far from his roots in Essex County. Local Essex County history and family history are of paramount importance to him.

Kirk shared some of the details of his personal involvement in an archaeological dig at the Matthew Elliott site in the 1970s. Along with Simon Girty and Alexander McKee, Matthew Elliott is described as a colourful and resourceful character who served the British Indian Department at Amherstburg following the American Revolutionary War. In 1784, Elliott was ceded a tract of land along the east bank of the Detroit River at Amherstburg, eventually owning over four thousand acres, a prosperous home and a number of slaves. Today, Elliott's land is marked with a historic plaque just outside town along Rd 20, opposite the south end of Boblo Island.



Kirk Walstedt speaks on the history of Matthew Elliott

In 1788, although he was illiterate, Elliott became a justice of the peace for the new District of Hesse. In the 1790s, Elliott's efforts were spent in helping to organize Indian tribes to oppose American military operations along the (Miami) Maumee River in Ohio. Elliott distributed British supplies to the Indians and was present at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in August of 1794.

From records on file at the Windsor Community Museum we read that, "In 1796 he [Elliott] was appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs but was dismissed in 1798. From 1798 - 1808 Elliott served as a representative of Essex County in the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. He was reinstated to the Department of Indian Affairs in 1808 when the threat of war became more imminent. Elliott was very active in the War of 1812 on the side of the British. In 1813 the British evacuated Amherstburg and Elliott and his family moved to Burlington. During his absence, Elliott's farm, now consisting of over 4000 acres, was ransacked by Americans." A photograph taken in 1922 shows what remained of Elliott's abandoned home. Matthew Elliott died 7 May 1814 in Niagara at the age of seventy five.



Matthew Elliott House in 1922

Artifacts found during Kirk's historical dig of the site included artillery buttons, trade silver earrings, marbles and beads which would have fallen through the floor boards of the house. He also has a number of potsherds and clay pipes. Kirk brought along an 1805 Indian trade musket, a cavalry sword and a powder horn (c 1815) featuring the repulse of the British at Fort Stephenson.



Kirk's interests extend beyond the history of the Revolutionary War. As a result of having Canadian ancestors who fought for the Union Army in the Civil War, he is a member of Robinson's Battery, Company C of the 1st Michigan Light Artillery and participates in Civil War re enactments throughout the summer months in the mid western United States. One of Kirk's great great uncles served in Battery I of the 1st Mich. Light Artillery.

Our next branch meeting is November 6, 2010. We encourage you to renew your 2011 branch memberships at this meeting. On January 1, 2011 annual branch membership fees will increase by \$5.00 to reflect the increase voted on and passed at Dominion level.

Anniversary Congratulations - 67 years



Margaret Lewis UE (left) is presented with a certificate of congratulations by Bonnie Schepers UE on behalf of Dominion President Frederick H. Hayward UE.

All is Not Lost

The Real Life Drama of Sleuthing for a Family Heirloom - submitted by Michael Hereford UE

Sometimes a word or phrase heard in conversation or the mention of a remembered family heirloom is enough to spark a curious mind into action. Such was the case when member Michael Hereford turned the pages of *Our United Empire Loyalist Ancestry*, a book written by his grandmother.

The earliest information I have regarding John Chester is contained in a document which, until recently, was the property of Florence Ferris, nee Chester. It had been handed down from generation to generation until it came into her possession. When she heard what I was attempting and Graham's interest in the matter she presented him with this priceless heirloom. It is John Chester's Discharge from the army and reads as follows: HIS MAJESTY'S PROVINCIAL REGIMENT, called *Loyal Rangers* whereof *Edward Jessup Esq.* is Major Commandant,

This paragraph from my grandmother's book, stood out in my mind and for years I wondered what happened to this priceless document. I wanted whoever had it to please make me a copy so I could show it at my UEL meeting. The last I knew of this heirloom, it was in the possession of my cousin Graham Bell, whom I had not seen or heard from in more than 40 years. I knew he joined the U.S. marines; however I was in public school when we last saw each other. How could I find this heirloom?

The first step I took was to contact my cousin Nancy, in England, as years before she had sent me a detailed family tree; if anyone would know it was Nancy. As expected, she gave me some leads and I began writing letters. Unfortunately, none were answered. A few years went by and then I received a phone call from my cousin Graham. Yes, I could have a copy! In fact, the next time he was going to be in Canada he would drop in for a visit. Unfortunately more years went by and Graham never came.

However, luck was upon me, or so I thought. I received a letter from a lawyer saying it was mine and would be mailed to me if I could help my cousin with some family information so he could apply for a pension. I quickly completed the form and waited in anticipation for the package. It never came.

After several phone calls and letters over the course of a year, Graham's lawyer finally informed me that it

was in the office all wrapped up and ready for mailing when, for some reason, Graham took it home with him and that ended that. All hope was lost.

Then one day I received a disturbing phone call. Apparently Graham was in a coma and I was the only relative they were aware of. They wanted to know if Graham had a wife or any children. Unfortunately, I did not know the answer and after quite an upheaval, I was asked if I would accept responsibility as the next of kin for a 'do not revive' decision. I was actually on the phone with a lawyer who was in court and the judge agreed to accept me as next of kin.

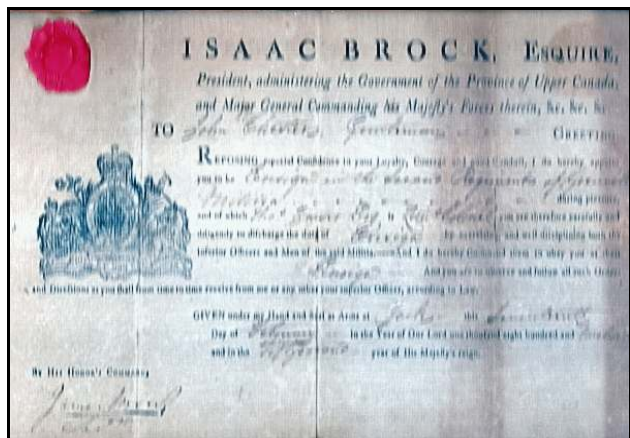
For the next four weeks many calls were exchanged as Graham's condition improved and then relapsed. A bizarre situation got even stranger. I received a call from a Ms. "B" who claimed to love Graham. She said they were about to marry and now he was taken away and they wouldn't tell her where he was. I did some investigating and everyone I talked to made it clear that Ms. "B" and the people she was with did not have his best interests at heart. More disturbing calls came with accusations of foul play. According to Ms. "B", the woman who was taking care of him had a "no-good" boyfriend and they were up to no good. They, in turn, phoned to plead their case. More calls ensued from Ms. "B" asking for my help as they were in love and planning to get married.

At this point the lawyers and police locked up his place tightly. I was told things had disappeared, but they remembered an envelope addressed to me and that's how they knew who I was. They gave me a special code to call the hospital for updates. One time I called and to my surprise, was told he had been moved to a nursing home where he was recovering. When I called the nursing home, I was put on hold while they went to get Graham. Eventually he came on the phone and told me they were trying to keep his girlfriend from him. I was actually more interested in the fact that he was alive. I found him to be a little abrupt and wondered what was going on.

After everything that had happened, I resigned myself to the fact that Graham's life was more important than my UEL memorabilia.

Several months later I received an email from a secretary in the lawyer's office informing me that there was a package addressed to me and did I want it. Could this be? I responded yes and was told it would be mailed right away. A month went by and I inquired where it was. Well, they hadn't got to it yet. Another month and I called again. The secretary told me she wasn't sure how to send it to Canada due to customs regulations so I

quickly answered that they could send it to a friend in Michigan where I would pick it up. To my delight, and I am sure to all those reading this, my quest was now complete!



Discharge Paper of John Chester

John Chester - United Empire Loyalist

John Chester was born in the Parish of Albany in 1762 and at the age of twenty-one had served two years in His Majesty's Provincial Regiment called The Loyal Rangers under Major Commandant Edward Jessup Esq. John Chester received his discharge papers, 24 December 1783.

In 1784 John Chester settled in the Township of Augusta on the St. Lawrence River. Chester received one hundred acres East side in the Second concession (Lot. no. 10) in the seigneurie number seven dated at the Province of Quebec, 24 May 1785.

By 1802 John Chester and his wife Phoebe and their five children were living somewhere along the Rideau River in the vicinity of Merrickville. Their names appear on the census roll of Montague County as inhabitants of Wolford, Oxford, Montague, and Marlborough in 1802, 1803, 1805, 1806, 1817. John Chester served as Ensign in the Second Regiment of Grenville Militia in 1812 as appointed by Isaac Brock, signed James Brock, J.P. A burial marker in McGuigan's Cemetery, Wolford Twp shows that John Chester departed this life, 19 May 1839.

Source: Loyalist Burial Site Project

Recipe for Success!

by Bonnie L. Schepers UE

A three page spread in the food section of the September 13, 2010 issue of Hello Canada featured sisters Moira Sanders and Lori Elstone, along with cousin Beth Goslin Maloney, whose roots run deep in Essex County. The recent release of this beautiful collection of prizewinning recipes in **The Harrow Fair Cookbook** brings attention to the historic Harrow Fair (1854) and to the bounty of fresh produce grown in the nurturing climate of Essex County. The authors have approached their work with a loving touch infusing it with the warmth of heart, home and community.

In the foreword to the book, Chef Anna Olson recognizes the part history plays in Lori and Moira's success. "Their hearts are so connected to Essex County, to their family roots, and to the need to share the traditions that give country fairs their worth, and I admire and respect those qualities that are so effortlessly ingrained in them." And it was easy to see the family enthusiasm and pride when I met with them at the fairgrounds on opening night.



What a pleasure to learn that their mother is Sharon McDonald UE of Harrow, a member of Bicentennial Branch UELAC, and obviously thrilled with her daughters=success. Their cousin Beth, who contributed in marketing and design, is the daughter of Sharon's identical twin sister, Karen. These accomplished women trace their lineage to Loyalist Frederick Keller, a soldier in the King's Royal Regiment New York.

Congratulations to Lori and Moira and their mom Sharon! I can't wait to get into the kitchen with this beautiful book. For information on how to purchase the book and to learn more about the authors go to www.theharrowfaircookbook.com.

The Pastorius House - 12 Main Street E.

by Bonnie L. Schepers UE

Like many of you this past summer, I have followed the restoration of the Pastorius House on Main Street East in downtown Kingsville. My interest in this historic hotel extends beyond my delight in seeing a historic site acknowledged and appreciated. Walter Pastorius, the man who designed and built the Pastorius House, was the brother of my great grandfather Elihue Hiram Pastorius.

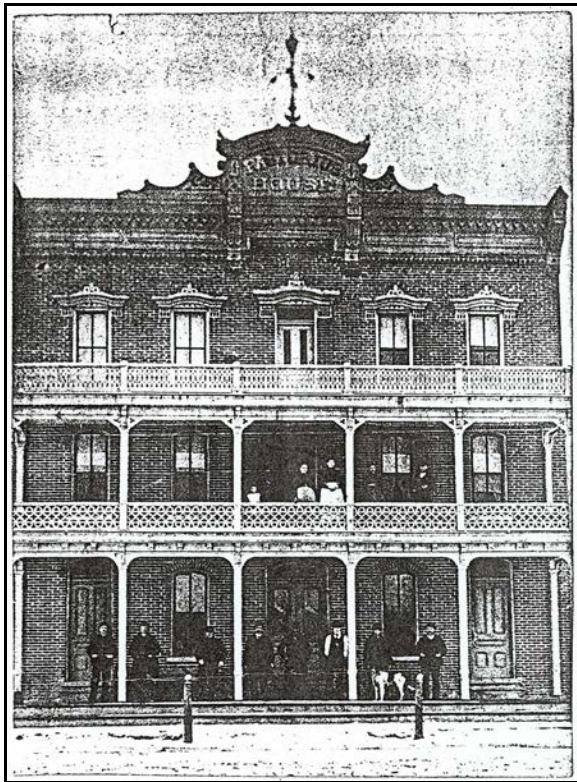


Photo taken by S.X. Photo of Essex between 1889 and 1899

In February of 1885, a fire destroyed the wood frame Commercial Hotel that stood on the site for thirty one years. The new two-storey hotel that opened in July 1885, was designed by owner Walter Pastorius and built by J.W. Drake with bricks from the Miner brickyard. According to an article in the Amherstburg Echo, views from the roof included seventeen miles of the country, the whole of the village, the grove, the harbour, the lake and Pelee. Improvements undertaken in 1889 included a third floor and an elaborate new sign.

When Walter Solomon Pastorius died in October 1895, his wife Charlotte (Quick) Pastorius continued to run the hotel.

The Essex County Business Directory of 1899 lists Walter's son, James Eustace as proprietor. A newspaper advertisement written at the time describes the Pastorius House as follows:

The Pastorius House, Mr. J.E. Pastorius, proprietor, can boast of thirty well-furnished sleeping apartments, good bath rooms, large dining room and an excellent table, not to mention a well stocked bar and courteous service. The hotel is centrally located, being connected with the railroad depot by a bus. The rates are \$1.00 a day; special by the week. Special rates are also given to summer guests. Mr. Pastorius has given great satisfaction as chief of the Kingsville Fire Department, which position he still holds. We might just say that the hotel has a reputation second to none in the County of Essex.

In 1903 the hotel was purchased by Frank Stenlake and renamed the King's Hotel. One hundred and twenty five years later in the fall of 2010, it will open as the King's Hotel Inn and Suites.

The man responsible for this transformation is Phil Towle who has put his energy and half a million dollars into returning this historic building to its former glory. The inn will offer eighteen suites on three levels, a restaurant featuring the original stone wall, a bar with an adjoining outdoor patio and an outdoor pool. In returning the hotel to its 1903 name and incorporating a look similar to the original facade, Towle's restoration respects its storied past.



The new King's Hotel will serve up modern comforts and luxury while offering a charming nod to the past on Main Street in Kingsville, Ontario.

Distant Cousins See Eye to Eye



The branch luncheon on September 18th provided an opportunity for distant cousins Adam Gaines and Alexander McCormick to catch up on their shared Loyalist ancestry. Adam and Alex are both descendants of Loyalist Alexander McCormick; and that, as Will Shakespeare would say, is the long and the short of it!

Conference 2011 Brockville

Conference 2011 "[Catch The Spirit](#)" takes place in Brockville and the surrounding region of the St. Lawrence River and the 1000 Islands. Hosted by the Col. Edward Jessup Branch, the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada's AGM and Annual Conference will be held from June 2 to 5. Registration starts January 2011.

The annual conference is a great opportunity to connect with members from across the country and participate in activities celebrating the history of our Loyalist ancestors. An excellent Conference introduction video clip is available for viewing on the 2011 Conference website [here](#).

Please mark your calendars and join us in June!

A Day of Remembrance - November 11



Heverlee War Cemetery, Leuven Belgium

For That Tomorrow

I stand here alone with loved ones to hand;
my tributes to lay on this salient land.
The voices within as mem'ries unfold
of a comrade at peace now who shall grow not old.

A tree gives me shade in gardens so fine;
a stone with inscription that goes beyond time.
The headstones are neat in rows marching past
and the names of the fallen, forever will last.

A son kneels to touch his father's cold stone;
a tear in his eye for a friend long since gone.
A woman stands proud, with medals on show,
for a husband who died that his children might grow.

Recorded in stone and gun metal grey,
those heroes in silence look down as we pray.
The standard is dip'd, the flowers are laid
then the music is sounded and homage is paid.

They left us a torch to carry with pride
and hope for a future where peace can abide.
I dream of a life, that's lived without fear,
it is for that tomorrow our people lie here.

© June 2006 Nigel J.C. Turnbull
nigel@remembrancedaysong.com
Inspired by a pilgrimage to WWII (World War Two)
Cemeteries around Monte Cassino in Italy where Veterans
laid tributes and honoured the memory of their fallen
comrades.

The Bellevue House - Amherstburg

On November 6, 2010 at our regular branch meeting, Robert and Debra Honor UE will be speaking on the history and significance of the Bellevue home. The following Letter of the Day appeared in the Windsor Star on June 23, 2010:

In relation to Amherstburg's civic pride in its heritage, I agree that it is alive, but I am less certain as to how "well" it is.

An Amherstburg jewel, the Bellevue House, built in 1816, was declared a national historic site in 1959, and is one of the few remaining examples of Georgian architecture in Ontario.

Perhaps the most important historical home in Amherstburg, Bellevue, was designed by and residence to Catherine Reynolds, one of Ontario's first native-born painters.

It was built by her brother, Robert Reynolds, who was the commissary to the British garrison at Fort Malden, and ultimately, they were two of Amherstburg's proudest and long-devoted citizens.

Bellevue's tranquil elegance along the Detroit River calls out to all who pass by, and its significance to Essex County, indeed, to Canada, is recognized by the blue metal sign that only hints at its value displayed in the midst of its current sad state.

This treasured Canadian keepsake has the shameful distinction of making the list of the Top 10 Endangered Places by the Heritage Canada Foundation. This is nothing to be proud of.

In assembling needed knowledge and resources, we bid the Amherstburg Town Council - and all levels of government - to partner with us to apply our hearts and minds to embrace the civic challenge of reviewing Bellevue's future.

The cultural light of Bellevue House offers each of us a new experience of pride in heritage that goes far beyond the battlefields and forts of the War of 1812.

Judy Ouellette Bezaire
Vice Chair, Friends of Bellevue
www.bellevueamherstburg.com



Congratulations to Margie Luffman UE who accepted the Past President's Jewel from Pat Haynes UE at the September 18, 2010 meeting. Thanks Margie!

Calendar of Events

October 30, 2010 - Dominion Council Meeting, Toronto

November 6, 2010 - Regular Branch Meeting, Kingsville at 1 p.m.

November 11, 2010 - Remembrance Day

March 5, 2011 - Dominion Council Meeting, Toronto

March 12, 2011 - Regular Branch Meeting

April 16, 2011 - Central West Regional Meeting, London

May 14, 2011 - Branch AGM

June 2 - 5, 2011 - Dominion Conference & AGM

Contact Us:

website: www.uelbicentennial.org

email: info@uelbicentennial.org

genealogist: genealogist@uelbicentennial.org

If you have a newsletter item you think would interest our membership please write to Bonnie at newsletter@uelbicentennial.org.

BICENTENNIAL BRANCH MEMBERSHIP 2011
UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



It's time to renew your 2011 Branch Membership.

On January 1, 2011 annual branch membership fees will increase by \$5.00. Act now and renew your 2011 annual membership at the 2010 rate of \$50.00 for individual membership and \$70.00 for family membership.

This includes 4 Quarterly branch newsletters and two Dominion Loyalist Gazette magazines (Spring and Fall) plus 4 branch meetings per year. Branch membership also provides access to the research services of our branch genealogist. Please make your cheque payable to **Bicentennial Branch UELAC**. Enhance your membership by becoming more involved. We welcome your questions on volunteer opportunities.

Take a moment today to complete the attached form and mail it with your cheque to:

Dianne Noble UE
R. R. #1 9E Conc. 10
Cottam ON
N0R 1B0

2011 Branch memberships must be paid by March 15, 2011. To avoid postage costs bring this completed renewal form along with payment to the November 6, 2010 branch meeting.

Bicentennial Branch UELAC
2011 Annual Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Individual membership before January 1, 2011 \$50.00 \$_____ or

Family Membership before January 1, 2011 \$70.00 \$_____

Yes, I would like to volunteer with Bicentennial Branch UELAC _____

Email address: _____