

# The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

CHILLIWACK BRANCH (B.C.)

April 1992

A Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association  
of Canada, Incorporated by Parliament, May 27, 1914



## OUR NEXT MEETING

SUN., APRIL 26

MUSEUM

2:00 p.m.

Speaker  
Branch Visitors

## SPECIAL MEETING

Our meeting on April 26 should be a highlight of our year. We are fortunate to have as guest speaker Lieutenant Colonel William A. Smy, OMM, CD, UE of Victoria who is writing a "Doomsday Book" of Butler's Rangers. Butler's Rangers were the famed Loyalist corps which settled the Niagara Peninsula. Col. Smy has already compiled a list of some 900 of these Rangers, many of whose names may be of ancestral significance to our Branch.

Col. Smy has been Commanding Officer of the historic Lincoln and Welland Regiment, considered the successor to Butler's Rangers. He has served at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa and was awarded the Order of Military Merit.

He is a former member of our Dominion Council and currently belongs to the Victoria Branch where he is Publicity and Program Chairman and contributes his military and genealogy knowledge.

Born in Welland, Ont., Bill has been a member of the St. Catherine's Branch and shares a link with the Maritimes

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through the Loyalist Dunham Family of New Brunswick.

Members of the Vancouver and Victoria Branches have been invited to attend this important meeting. Others with an interest in Loyalist or military history will also be welcome.

This is an opportunity for us to welcome our neighbour Branches, to build higher visibility, to see new displays at the Museum, and to learn more of our Ontario Loyalists.

Rosemarie Curylo, Alex and Dan Curylo, Doreen Todhunter, Ronald Todhunter, Linda Todhunter, and Bob Bessey (all of whom have their U.E.s) are amongst those descended from Butler's Rangers. We have another link in that it was a Butler's Rangers' uniform (courtesy of Bob Bessey) worn by Scott Roos at our Charter Night.

The meeting topic is further appropriate in this month when we have celebrated 50 years of the CFB's presence in our community. Join us in this tribute to past and present.



Chartered Oct . 18, 1990

#### OFFICERS

President:	Lois Dickinson
Vice-President:	Art Keller
Secretary:	Maureen Todhunter
Treasurer:	Bette Keller
Social Rep.:	Maribel Roos
Genealogists:	Andrew Webb
	Mildred Hall
	Bill Horne

#### FEES 1992

Fees for 1992 are \$25 as approved at our A.G.M. in February. This amount includes \$10 per capita to Dominion Headquarters, \$7.50 for two Gazettes, \$5.00 local fee and \$2.50 for local mailings.

1942

## CONGRATULATIONS

1992

Congratulations to CFB Chilliwack on their 50th Anniversary in Chilliwack. Art Hill is one of those first arrivals at the Camp. He has some interesting stories about the tent city and the nearby farmhouse where the men were quartered. Food was provided by the Empress Hotel and it was nothing to walk from Vedder to town or to Cultus Lake.

Art remembers the warmth of the people who opened their homes to the young soldiers...and the hospitality centres set up by the community's welcoming committee. One of these centres was a fine old house where Fraser Valley Credit presently stands...another was the now beautifully restored heritage home at the corner of Wellington and Edward Streets...and of course, there was the Sardis Community Hall where the dances took place.

After the war Art returned to Chilliwack where he was a long-time employee of the T. Eaton Company. One Valentine's Day just over 40 years ago he married Phyllis Zink of a pioneer Sumas (Greendale) family. Jacob Zink who came here well before the turn of the century had a real concern for people. He spoke eight languages, but he was always extremely loyal to his Queen. (Queen Victoria) Once he wrote to her in words like these: "My Dear Queen, your loyal subjects in this far-flung part of your territories, are suffering greatly because of rising waters..we need dykes. Can you possibly help us?" Such trust! Such pioneering spirit! This was also the spirit of the first men who established the camp which with Kingston and Gaagetown is a major home of the Royal Canadian engineers.

As we watched the historic parade re-enacting the original march from town to Vedder, we were thankful again for the Army's presence here and for the assistance of men like Art Hill for half a century. We remembered particularly another more sombre parade....the army trucks in 1948 rushing supplies and men to save the Rosedale dyke and Chilliwack from the flooding Fraser.... just one example of 50 years of service.



## OTHER LINKS

We should also note that Keith Wilson Road where the Army Camp is located is named for James Keith who came here from Havelock, N. B. about 1893. He was the grandfather of Phyllis Hill and the great uncle of Laura Merson. He had Loyalist roots through Daniel Keith a Queen's Ranger who received Loyalist land in New Brunswick.

James Keith seems to have reported that this was a land of promise because it was not long before he was joined here by his sisters and their families. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Alward (nee Sarah Dora Keith) who came in 1904 were the grandparents of Laura Merson whose mother Esther Pearl Alward married Gross Gorham. (another Loyalist name)

Another sister, Elmira, Mrs. U. B. Cusack, and a brother Morris Keith also made their way to Chilliwack in the early 1900's.

...And the other part of the road's origin stems from the Wilson family and the mother of our friend Beth McGillivray Little whose forefathers settled in Glengarry Cty, Ontario.

Another point of interest is the Evans Log Cabin now part of CFB Museum. This building circa 1858 is the oldest remaining structure in Chilliwack. Believed to have been built by the Royal Engineers of the Boundary Survey, the cabin has historical significance for the Wells and Evans families who are descendants of Loyalist William Casey of Ontario. The Evans family on whose property it was located, cared for the building all these years and only recently presented it to the Base for preservation and protection for future generations.



## CONVENTION '92

Ottawa: May 28--31: Hosted by Sir Guy Carleton Branch  
(celebrating 30 years) Theme: Unity Thru Understanding

Sessions on: Florida Loyalists, National Library, King's  
Name Project, L.D.S. Church Family History Centre, and  
by guest Lady Mary Teviot. Genealogy Seminar for  
Branch Genealogists.

DEADLINE SOON!

## INTRODUCING OUR EXECUTIVE

Art and Bette Keller are our Vice-President and Treasurer and Art serves as Membership Secretary. Both bring to our executive a wealth of experience and service in community activities including the Rosedale Athletic Club.

Art and Bette grew up in Chilliwack and graduated from Chilliwack High School. They were married in 1947 and have three children Norman now on the prairies, Glenda Fisher in Chilliwack and Maralynn Wilkinson in Saudi Arabia.

Art served in the Royal Canadian Navy in W.W.II and returned to live in Rosedale (where like his parents Ross and Hazel before him) he and Bette operated the Rosedale Garage. For thirty years

Art was a member of the Rosedale Volunteer Fire Dept., about half of this time as Fire Chief. Of this experience he says: "It was my greatest love in community service."

With their love of history, Art and Bette were justly proud when the Rosedale book "In the Shadow of Mount Cheam" won a B.C. Heritage award.

With daughter Maralynn, a librarian who researched in the East, Art first belonged to the Victoria Branch, U.E.L. When, inspired by Andrew Webb, we decided to form our own Branch, Art was one of our ten petitioners.

He is a direct descendant of Frederick Keller born 1760, Albany, New York who served in the King's Rangers. Frederick settled as a Loyalist in Fredericksburgh Township, Ontario. Art has also applied for a certificate in the name of Eberhart Weger.

Art is pleased to show his album of Keller Family history and was thrilled to attend the Convention in Cornwall and to visit family landmarks. Bette is of Welsh descent (she makes terrific Welsh cakes) and knows about her family from her father who lived to be over 100 years of age.

Art and Bette enjoy antiquing, square dancing and travelling with their camper. We enjoy the hospitality of their home, their encouragement for all, and their quiet good common sense.

### NOT INTERESTED? WHO SAYS?

"What relation am I to the first pioneer child born in Chilliwack?" (Edward Hinkley, Grade 7)

He meant Jenny Kipp who as the sister of Alma Kipp would be his great great Aunt.



CONGRATULATIONS to the Vancouver Branch which observes its 60th Anniversary with a luncheon Sat., May 2 at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, 3811 Point Grey Road. Lunch (Salmon or chicken) is at 12:30 and costs \$17.00. Let's be well represented...but please let us know by April 21. We are proud that the Vancouver Branch (Oct. 6, 1932) is with Victoria, one of the seven oldest branches in Canada. We are honoured that our president is to be the anniversary speaker.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to Dick and Laura Merson who on May 6 will have been married fifty years. Dick and Laura (nee Gorham) have been active in the community and our Branch appreciates their support. Laura is of the Daniel Keith family of N.B. while Dick who worked many years for the Municipality of Chilliwack, has roots in England and pioneer Chilliwack. His father came from England in 1911 at age 19, and his mother was born in Rosedale in 1892. Dick and Laura have four daughters. (including twins) Best Wishes to all!

#### BRANCH CLIPPINGS

On April 26 Dorothy Reid hopes to meet cousin Gordon Leonard a past President of the Vancouver Branch who has shared research on the Whites and Manzlers of N.B.....Dorothy and Phyllis Hill are working on an important High School Re-union....Gladys Van Baaren is now living in town.... Shirley Ann Dargatz spent Spring Break in Europe with the Sardis Secondary Band....Birch and Mary anticipate a trip to Alaska...Art and Bette and others worked behind the scenes at the Anniversary Tatoo last week....Tim Hinkley is seeking information on Isaac Kipp and Hannah Mead and the Fetterly Family for Wendy's U.E. ancestry...long time Victoria Genealogist Mrs. Gene Aitkens went to elementary school with Olive Kipp...Scott Roos completing his first year of music at Capilano College sang in a 150 voice choir's presentation of Brahms's Requiem. (in German too!).....our member Bob Bessey is a past president of Vancouver Branch... congratulations again to Mrs. Lucile Hooker of Vancouver who celebrated her 100th birthday in March...and our special thanks for the good time we had in Victoria.



GAZETTE: PLEASE PICK UP SPRING ISSUE APRIL 26.



## WHAT'S U.E.?

Bill Horne really cares about his U.E. which he received last June in the name of Chambers Blakney of Nova Scotia. He has changed his official signature everywhere to read William O. Horne, U.E. His new

His new signature has been a real advertisement and offers an opportunity to talk about our Loyalist heritage...but it's also caused a few problems! His bank phoned "We're wondering about this change of signature, Mr. Horn." Bill was on holiday several thousand miles away, but when he explained, the cheque passed and Bill now has a new signature on file. He has a new signature also for B.C.A.A., Eaton's and Woodward's and as an executive member of his club.

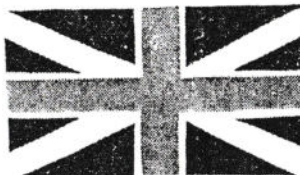
"That new signature has been a little lesson in history and I've been asked a lot of questions about it," says Bill who recommends the change to all of us.

As this is written we are hopeful that the U.E. certificate will soon be forthcoming for the other Bill Horne....Bill and Mary's son. He lives in Dartmouth but has applied for certification through our Branch but intends to transfer to Halifax--Dartmouth where Edward Morrissey, Regional Vice-President for the Maritimes, has already contacted him. We look forward to meeting Bill Junior (often called John) when, with his wife and daughters, he visits here in May.

In the meantime William O. Horne, U.E., is busily signing up other members of the family.

## THE LOYALIST FLAG

On May 11, 1974 the First Union Flag 1606 became known as the United Empire Loyalists' Flag. Composed of two crosses - St. George's Cross for England & St. Andrew's Cross for Scotland - it was meant to symbolize the unity of the two countries.

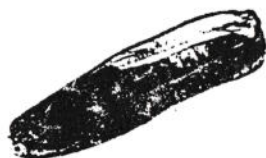


It was a replica of this flag which was presented at our annual meeting by Doreen Todhunter in memory of her husband:

STANLEY CASWELL TODHUNTER

## DID YOU KNOW?

What is the importance of this old shoe?  
What does it have to do with us?



Charlotte Hains was only ten years old when she went, against her father's wishes, to say good-bye to her Loyalist uncle and cousins. When she returned home, her father refused to admit her to the house. She ran back to her uncle who shortly boarded ship for New Brunswick. Charlotte embarked with him and never had contact with her immediate family again. In her travels she lost one shoe. The other shoe, pictured here, is displayed in the N.B. Museum...a silent tribute to a New York child who became part of the Loyalist cause. In later years Charlotte was known as the grandmother of Sir Leonard Tilley, the Father of Confederation who quoted that historic verse "He shall have Dominion from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth." (Psalm 72:8, July 1, 1867.)

Helen Higginson's mother was related to the Tilleys and donated some artifacts to the Gagetown Museum.

## "LOYALLY YOURS"

We appreciate receiving newsletters from other branches. This issue of Toronto's "Fidelity" lists some possible Huguenot names, of interest to Andrew and others who share this ancestry...there's mention of the 200th anniversary of Hay Bay Church where Mildred's Casey ancestors worshipped... Grand River Branch is the home area of Rosemarie's mother who visited us in September....Birch and Mary and others will be interested in the Cataraqui Loyalist Town Crier (that's Kingston) and the account of the dramatized story of Rev. John Stuart (1740--1811) the first Rector of St. George's Kingston, and the father of the Anglican Church in Upper Canada...we'll have more to tell of him if our plans proceed to meet sometime in our own historic St. Thomas Church. As you know, the original church dates to the time of the Royal Engineers, was brought by canoes from the head of Harrison Lake, and circa 1897 moved from Five Corners to the present location where some parts of it were kept when the present church was built..Victoria Branch president Campbell Stuart whom we met on March 18, is a descendant of Rev. John Stuart as is Okill Stuart of the Dominion Council and Council liaison for Conventions... Copies of the exchange papers are available for members to read. Just ask!