

SEASON'S GREETINGS



From U. E. L.

This is just a note to wish you a happy Christmas season and to thank all those who participated in our Christmas Tea on Nov. 29. It's regrettable that the tea was on Grey Cup Day...but when we chose the date at our Sept. 19 meeting, we thought nothing would on the 5th Sunday of the month! (so our apologies to Stan Dahl, Dick Merson and other sportsmen in our midst) But perhaps the date wasn't too inappropriate, we've advanced a few yards this year, and made a few goals.

In any event, our first Christmas Tea seems to have been a success. About 50 (or more) attended. The heritage setting was impressive...the music superb...the Gazettes arrived on time...Mrs. Santa (Vi Dickinson) was good fun...and the food held out. Did you have one of Bette Keller's Welsh cakes? They were just delicious and were intended ~~as to~~ show that there were Welsh Loyalists, and of course, like Bette, Welsh descendants in our community. Do read Loyalist Mosaic, one of our books available for borrowing. We also served "Her Majesty's Muffins" popular on her tours here, and hopefully, our new speciality.

The costumes at the tea were just wonderful. Maybe we'll have everyone decked out for the '94 Convention, after all. Phyllis Dahl's new Loyalist dress is a fine print typical of that era. And did you see her as with Stan's courtly help, she stepped graciously over the cement barrier in the parking lot? Very authentic! Unfortunately, some of our pictures didn't turn out, so if you have any, please let us know.

Thanks again to Laura Merson for convening the bake sale...and to all who baked. We made 90 dollars so congratulations are in order. Thanks also to Vera Webb and Phyllis Hill who looked after the kitchen, and to Art Keller for setting up the rooms, and to Bill Horne who (in Bob Bessey's Butler Ranger uniform) manned the door. We're especially grateful to Mary Van Horne who arranged the music and to her other trio members, Lera Crewe and Gwyneth Miliron. Mrs. Crewe felt right at home because she remembered she has likely U.E. ancestry! Thanks are in order as well for Councillor (formerly Alderman) Dorothy Kostrzewa who was invited to pour but ended up helping with everything, and then gave a good word for us at the Council meeting. (Too bad she couldn't have worn her costume then too.)

Congratulations to Madeline Barker, U.E. who obtained her certificate in the name of Daniel Keith, Queen's Ranger, N.B. Phyllis and Laura are happy that other family members are joining.

Welcome to Marian and George Baker of Surrey, our newest members, who are also members of BCGS. Mildred is already helping them with research about a Baker Loyalist in the Cornwall, Ont. area. Welcome also to Philip and Dawn Fralick..Phil may have Loyalist links with Dick Mackie, incoming V.P. of Vancouver Branch,

We were delighted to have so many visitors from Vancouver... Branch... Rebecca Fraser, incoming President, Joyce Tiplady, Secretary, Dick and Pat Mackie, and Vona Smith. We regret that Joan Fishleigh couldn't come because she's still recovering from that whiplash suffered enroute home from our April meeting.

Ray Aitken sends his thanks for his surprise birthday cake. He was just overwhelmed, and we were so glad he was able to be there for the big 90. He and his sister also received a parchment copy of their 3rd great grandfather's land petition. (and Gladys' Loyalist rose added a festive touch to her pink bonnet)

Andrew looked considerably better, and especially fine in his Airforce blazer. He was pleased with his certificate of appreciation inscribed to "Our first Genealogist." He'll always be the only one to hold that distinction and the certificate, so nicely presented by Phyllis Hill, now hangs in a place of honour in Andrew's T.V. room.

Doreen Todhunter reports our B.C. bird emblem pins are selling well, and there may be word soon of another possible money making project. We'd like to help with the '94 convention but all B.C. Branches are involved, not just us as could be ambiguously surmised from the current Gazette. Peter Moogk, just back from Dominion Council meeting in Toronto, reports that there is great interest in a bus trip from Calgary to Vancouver.

Bill Horne and our other genealogists will be busy with, hopefully, research developing from Harriet Kelly and Catherine Durling (Peter Fetterly) and Birch Van Horne. (Thorne ancestor, N.B., and Ont.)

We really have a happy association with Vancouver Branch and our reps enjoyed the Vancouver tea on Dec. 6 and Vona Smith's hospitality. We were delighted to see some Vancouver people whom we first met at our first U.E.L. event, the Vancouver Christmas Tea in 1979.

We extend our warmest appreciation to Lorna McLaren and the Board of the Chilliwack Academy of Music to the privilege of meeting there. As someone said, it made our heritage all the more enjoyable, and with the music, there was a real feeling of togetherness.

If you get this before Sunday, Dec. 13, look for the T.V. program on Black Loyalists and Sierra Leone.

***Please reserve Saturday, January 30 or Sunday the 31st (that 5th Sunday again) for our Annual General Meeting. Time, date, and place will be forwarded to you soon. It depends on our speaker and certificates.

Best wishes to all...and especially Rosemarie and Ed Curylo, now resident in New Westminster. It was good to see Rosemarie at the tea.

*For the Executive,
Laird Dickinson President*