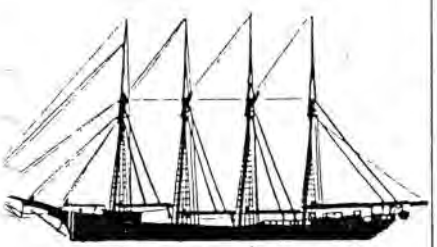
LINK UP

Volume 2 **May 1996** No. 2

Chilliwack Branch
The United Empire Loyalists Association
of Canada

Brig



Schooner, 4-masted

Ship, full-rigged

Illustration from Nova Scotia Vital Statistics from Newspapers 1769 - 1812 p. 108

Informal Luncheon Meeting May 19, 1996
1:00 p.m. Senior Rec. Center

SALUTE TO THE SPRING FLEET

U.E.L. Association By-Laws Article 6: Branches
6.08 Branches are requested to hold special ceremonies or meetings to commemorate: May 18, the Anniversary of the Landing of the Spring Fleet of the Loyalists at St. John, N.B. in 1783.

The Heroic Migration

What a vast, awe-inspiring panorama the United Empire Loyalist spring fleet must have presented to the few watchers on the rocky shore of what is now Saint John! We are accustomed to seeing many modern ships in port at one time - even so, we would be impressed by the spectacle of a fleet of square-rigged sailing vessels bearing up the bay with their human cargo of 3,000 men, women and children, everyone straining their eyes to see what their new homeland looked like.

Imagine the far-stretching billowing armada...the good ships Hope, Union, Aurora, Otter, Spencer, Emmett, Thames, Spring, Bridgewater, Favorite Ann, Commerce, William, Camel, Lord Townsend, Sovereign, Sally, Cyrus, Britain and King George...20 in all... the forerunners of several fleets that were to bring Loyalists from New York to become pioneers in our province, which was then part of Nova Scotia.

The historic first disembarkation began on May 18, 1783. The central peninsula of Saint John was then known as Parr Town: The West Side was Carleton. Together they had a population of 5,000 by the end of 1783. Thousands of other Loyalists settled up the St. John River Valley.

May 18th was the 213th anniversary of the day the first Loyalists stepped ashore--and it evoked memories of a proud and brave people who endured incredible hardships because they chose to say under the British flag. Many suffered acutely in the first winter, particularly because there were not enough log cabins to accommodate all the families; some occupied rough shacks and others tents insulated with tree boughs. Provisions from the beach had to be carried to the dwellings on the backs of the men. To transport goods from Upper Cove (Market Slip, the landing place) to Lower Cove in the South End, it was only possible conveniently by boat. For though the street lines had been run, and the trees cut, the stumps in some instances were not removed for years. The only thing they had plentifully, apart from courage and determination, was firewood - it was readily available from the streets and lots. This historic migration is one of the most dramatic chapters of Canada's early story.

From the Telegraph Journal, Saint John and the Loyalist Gazette Aut. 1969

The United Empire Loyalists' Association

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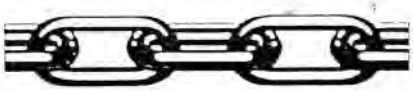
Newsletter
Editor: Lois Dickinson, U.E., C.M.H.
Producer: Judy Scholz, U.E.

OUR FRONT COVER

The illustrations are from a Nova Scotia Booklet we purchased as part of the Andrew Webb, U.E. portion of our Memorial Library. It seems fitting that two of the sketches are black because we know that there were many dark days for our Loyalist ancestors during and after the Revolution, aboard ship, and even after arrival in their new land.

Our May 19 meeting is a salute to them and the Spring Fleet.

Please pick up your copy of Dr. Wallace Brown's article on the Spring Fleet. *The Loyalists of the Maritime Provinces.* (As previously published in the Gazette, Spring 1983) It's another item to file in your U.E.L. folder as part of our plan to learn more Loyalist history.



LINKS WITH THE SPRING FLEET

Many of our New Brunswick ancestors were probably aboard - but we know for sure that Marian Patten's Loyalist forebear Seth Seeley arrived with the fleet and we assume that Ezekiel Seeley. Loyalist for Maureen Todhunter, U.E. also likely came at that time. Hugh Cowperthwaite, N.J. Volunteer was with the first landing. He is Lois' 3rd great grandfather and is buried in Sheffield, N.B.

Other Landings

While we honour this day we should be aware of previous Loyalist Landings.

Early Landings: Oct. 19, 1782 The First Fleet: - Nine transports and two frigates arrived at Annapolis on Oct. 19, 1782 with several hundred immigrants. May 4, 1783 - Sunday: Port Roseway (now Shelburne)

Books to Read

Bates, Walter Kingston, N.B. and the Loyalist of the Spring Fleet. pamphlet, 32 pages.

Robertson, Marion, King's Bounty, a History of Early Shelburne, N.S.

Wright, Esther Clark. Loyalists of New Brunswick.

Bell, David. Early Loyalist Saint John

CALENDAR LINKS

May 19 - Luncheon "Landing of the Spring Fleet"

May 19 - The Queen's Birthday Weekend. Let us sing our tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, remembering that she recently marked her 70th birthday.

June 17 - Leadership Team meeting at the home of Phyllis Sutton, U.E.

June 23 - Annual Strawberry Social at the home of Ken and Shirley Dargatz, U.E.

September - A possible Retreat and Conference (Mini Convention) in Merritt, mid-point for all Branches. Other Branches would be invited to participate if they so wished. At any rate we feel that sometime in the future we could have a fine visit to this community named for William Hamilton Merritt, a descendant of Loyalist Thomas Merritt, N.B. & Ontario. There's an historic hotel and the Chamber of Commerce is interested to assist us. A costume parade would be welcome. As one of our members said, "We want to make the Loyalist story known, we should go to some smaller communities." And someone quipped , "The idea has merit!" What do you think?

COMMUNICATION LINKS
S.O.S.
Memberships and *Gazettes*
DEADLINE TIME

Did you enjoy receiving your Spring *Gazette* by mail? We went out on a limb and ordered for a projected membership based on last year's numbers.

This is a reminder that if you have not paid your $30.00 membership by June 30 we cannot order your fall *Gazette*. Your membership money is allotted as follows:

Per capita to Dominion Association $15.00
2 *Gazettes* $7.50
Local Branch $7.50

This is a lesser fee than many national organizations expect. The *Gazette* is an outstanding magazine and our main means of learning Loyalist history, current concerns and news of other Branches. Don't miss the chance to renew, and remain a knowledgeable, participating member.

Check with Treasurer Vera Webb, U.E. if you're not sure what your status is.

Our thanks to *Gazette* editor David Dorward and Publisher Michael Johnson for the coverage we receive from issue to issue.

Wedding Bells

Our guest reader on May 19 is Kyla Thornton who on May 25 becomes Mrs. Brett Lounsbury. The wedding takes place at the historic Carman Church, long associated with the Thornton family. Kyla is the daughter of Tim and Marge Thornton (our computer designer for the Mini Convention) and hence the niece of our president.

Best wishes for very special happiness, Kyla, and thank you for taking time to be with us. We understand that the wedding theme is Cherubs, and we feel, with your participation here at such a busy time, you really are a "cherub".

(P.S. At our meeting she's taking the part of Sara Frost, a young mother on the Spring Fleet.)

HERITAGE LINKS

Congratulations to Dorothy Miller, Gordon Taylor and Doug Thornton whose certificates have arrived...and to Bob Armstrong whose application should soon be approved. We're hoping for a presentation ceremony for these descendants of John Thornton as we meet June 23 at the home of Shirley Thornton Dargatz, U.E. in Promontory, an area first settled by the pioneer Thorntons.

Certificates have also been approved for the children of Alisen Barkley, U.E. (Findlay Murdock) as follows: her daughter Dorothy Barkley, Vancouver; and her son Michael Barkley, of Holland who will be visiting here in July.

The family of Jack Aird, U.E. (more formally Col. William Jackson Aird, U.E.) will also receive certificates as follows: Jacqueline Diane Foster and Brian Gregory Aird. This continues Jack's long desired aim to prove his Loyalist heritage (now known to be Edward Hicks) and to extend it to his children.

Genealogist Mildred Hall, U.E. has worked long and hard and is to be commended for finding and interpreting additional proofs re John Thornton.

BRANCH LINKS

We've been branching out in fine style this past month with representatives attending functions as follows:

April 21: Underway at 6:30 a.m. for Kamloops where some 40 people celebrated the first anniversary of the Thompson-Okanagan Branch. We enjoyed the setting, the 1926 St. Peter's Church in Monte Creek...the luncheon convened by Mabel Fowler, U.E.....and the slide presentation on Louisberg by Peter Moogk, U.E.

We were especially pleased to congratulate former Chilliwack resident Grace Melville, U.E. (Merkley) who received her certificate, and Genealogist Chris Wright who was awarded an honorary Associate Member Certificate.

May 4 off to Vancouver for their Annual May Luncheon at the beautiful Heritage House now Perry's Restaurant, Port Moody. As usual we were happy to see Lucile Hooker, U.E., and other Vancouver friends. Chuck Davis, whose columns we've read over the years, was a delightful speaker and we're looking forward to his second *Vancouver Book.*

May 11 Up at 5 a.m. for Victoria's May Luncheon - which was arranged, by request "to provide some fun as at the mini-convention". Victoria members entered into the spirit of things and we had a great time. Vona Smith, U.E. who must have made two dozen costumes in recent years, took over assorted outfits and many of the members including President John Allen, U.E., Eleanor Sanderson, U.E., Genealogist Wilma Saville, U.E. took the opportunity to dress up. It was a very colorful day and we thank Vona and Joan Fishleigh of Vancouver for their participation. The luncheon was held at the Bay Street Armories and the Canadian Scottish Regimental Museum was most interesting. John Orr, U.E. received a certificate of appreciation for his assistance as Western Region V.P. Our appreciation to our hosts George and Dora Parry - and our best wishes to Victoria Branch now entering its 70th year, chartered in 1927.

"Every structure, every event, every person has a story."
Chuck Davis

Hats off to Bob Bessey, U.E. and Marge for attending in costume each of the May events (including ours!) What a great record. And further away we sent greetings to Col. John Butler Branch for their special weekend.

COMMUNITY LINKS

Chilliwack Library Open House Thursday May 23: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Be sure to drop in and see the newly renovated library, and of course, express your appreciation for all the wonderful assistance we received with research for Convention '94 and the assistance which continues almost every day for our ongoing projects.

We've all enjoyed the hospitality and the opportunity to meet on occasions in the meeting room. What would we do without the Library and that great staff?

Black Powder Meet

Wolfgang and Judy Scholz, U.E. spent a recent weekend at the International Black Powder meet held at Wells Gray Park over 120 kilometers from Kamloops. Eight marksmen came from Switzerland and Austria and the meet was a tremendous event. Wolfgang placed fourth in this competition.

Judy says the park was just gorgeous with an abundance of wild life and the flowers just coming into bloom. She was particularly impressed with the beautiful 137 metre high Helmcken Falls.

EDUCATION LINKS

The George Thornton story is getting around. Shirley has spoken to the Presbyterian Women's Breakfast meeting, the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society and the Retired Teachers Association.

As U.E.L. A.C. Education Chair, Lois Dickinson, U.E., C.M.H. put together an information package for Victoria Branch presented at their Spring Luncheon program which she had been asked to convene.

As a result of our Education project two years ago, Evans Elementary School is putting on a little play about pioneers Charles and Jane Wells Evans. (based on Archives research) Mildred Hall, U.E. is their descendant, with Jane Wells Evans the Loyalist link to William Casey. We were asked to provide some costume items.

A contact has also been made with a Mission Secondary School where Kristie Parker reports they've been studying in Grade 10, about Loyalists.

A slide show of our various activities, (including other branches) all age groups and focusing on costumes, has been prepared and will serve as a useful education tool. A brief costume guide for B.C. Branches condensed from various sources has also been prepared with input from The Costume Lady, Vona Smith, U.E., Doreen Todhunter, U.E., C.M.H., Phyllis Sutton, U.E. and Vera Webb, U.E.

If you don't have a costume, do pick up your copy of Costume Comments.

MEMBER LINKS

Our congratulations and special wishes to Mary Van Horne, U.E., home at last after well over a hundred days in hospital. Almost immediately after, she made it to the Woman of the Year Banquet. (She herself is a former Woman of the Year) In spite of her high hopes, she's not quite ready for Halifax-Dartmouth. If ever there was an indomitable Loyalist spirit, it's Mary! And the same goes for Birch. Birch Van Horne also has Loyalist ancestry.

Another indomitable one is our senior member Gladys Van Baaren who celebrates a birthday on June 12. She never fails to ask - Do we wear our costumes? What can I bring?

Bob Bessey, U.E. has provided some more library materials for us - and Lois' nephew-in-law in the east is rejoicing that from out in the west, Bob has found a possible Loyalist ancestor for him.

And by the way, we couldn't have chosen a better date for our May celebration, May 19 is Bob's birthday. Happy Birthday, Bob and thanks again for all your help and support.

Happy Weekend to Marlene Webb Brown, U.E., Matthew and Jesse who have now been in Chilliwack a year. She'll probably be making her fabulous pavlova. May 18 is Jesse Brown's 8th birthday with parlova and gingerbread men for his party.

Belated congratulations to Bob and Bea Armstrong, U.E. on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. It's great to have them both at meetings and to know that Bob's U.E. is in the works. They'll be our first documented U.E. couple!!.

Here's hoping K.C. (Kim) and Yvonne Jones recover from flu in time to get that bus on the road to Halifax.

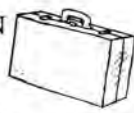
All the best to graduate, as of May 24, Scott Roos, U.E., B.M. Ed., University of Regina. Way to go Scott - it's well deserved after 5 long years.

Congratulations to Susanna Bowman, U.E., soon to be nine years old whose composition was published in her school's newsletter.

Chris Wright reports that in one year the membership of Thompson-Okanagan Branch has grown from 16 to 35. Four have received certificates. That's over 100% growth - keen competition for the rest of us!! Dennis Webb, U.E., President is off to the Convention and we've heard a rumour that Vera is making him a costume. At any rate, T. Ok's next meeting focuses on costumes and two of their stalwarts are seeking costume info.

Who will be the next man in our Branch to honour our heritage with a costume?

HAPPY TRAVELLING TO OUR CONVENTION DELEGATES...Shirley, Vera, Don, Alisen, Lois.



Two weeks prior to meetings please submit items for this column to Lois Dickinson.

FAMILY LINKS

Loyalist of the Month

In honour of The Butler Bicentenary May 11 - 13, arranged by Col. John Butler Branch, and remembering the talk on John Butler, given to us by Bill Smy, U.E., this month's Loyalist is a Butler's Ranger.

Hermanus House

We've always thought the name Hermanus House was an intriguing one. We've enjoyed learning about him from our member and his descendant Rosemarie Curylo, U.E. and her mother Marian Sutherland, U.E. of the Grand River Branch. Hence, it's natural now to write a bit about this interesting Loyalist.

Hermanus House (originally Haus) was of Palatine descent. His family came to New York in 1710 as a result of the Fanco Prussian War. 3,000 Palatines came at that time. They endured a terrible voyage, work in the tar camps, and extreme poverty, but eventually found happiness in the Mohawk Valley.

Hermanus House was one of the eight children of the original settler Christian Hauys who became naturalized Oct. 11, 1715. Then came 1776.

Several members of his family fought in the Revolutionary War but Hermanus and his brother - George supported the British. Hermanus as a private in Butler's Rangers. Hermanus married Margaret Walrad and settled in Clinton Township. Their daughter Anna Margaret House married Joseph Smith and became the fourth great grandfather of Rosemarie Sutherland Curylo. Rosemarie's mother, prior to her marriage was Marion Smith.

A particularly interesting descendant of Hermanus House was the grandson Hermanus Smith (1790 - 1872) who became one of the first doctors of pioneer Ontario - serving from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie, St. Catherines to Guelph and Burford. He later became a member of the Ontario Legislature.

He died on July 1, 1872 but had lived to see Confederation realized. With other members of the House family, no doubt he would be proud of the legacy maintained by the descendants of Loyalist Hermanus House.

Marian Sutherland is Archivist for Grand River Branch and her grandsons Theodore Alexander Curylo, U.E. and Daniel Curylo, U.E. appreciate the framed U.E. certificates. and the contribution of their mother and grandmother to the U.E.L. Association of Canada.

Condensed from *Grand River Branch Book*

HELP LOST

Does anyone know the whereabouts of the large navy blue volume (like a dictionary) of our book Loyalists of the Grand River Branch? It is currently missing and is a great loss. Please check to see if it is inadvertently in any of your resource materials.

HISTORY! WHAT HISTORY

A letter in *Maclean's* April 15, 1996 caught my eye recently. Written by Joe Stafford, it was titled, 'In Search of a Collective Identity."

We all lament the lack of emphasis placed on history in schools, and especially the neglect of the Loyalists. Here's what Stafford wrote: *A few years ago, a principal visiting from a Ukrainian school shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union noted that the Communists had tried to destroy Ukrainians' collective memory by denying them the right to learn their own history. In Canada, we do not need any assistance - we are undermining our own sense of identity by failing to teach our own history.*

Note Let's not forget that Gladys Van Baaren's ancestor was Abel Stafford. Whether she's related to the writer of the letter we don't know but we do know she cares about history.

From *Fidelity,* Toronto Branch
May 1996

A Slap in the Loyalist Face

While Loyalist descendants feel their heritage is somewhat overlooked at times, a reference in *Leisureways* Vol 2 (April 1996) provided little comfort in this respect. It is the magazine of the CAA (Canadian Automobile Association), and the piece in question was Jeremy Ferguson's "New Brunswick's Fundy Coast." He writes:

*The real building began in 1783 with the arrival of 14,000 United Empire Loyalists fleeing the United States, Liberty, Equality, etc. in favour of servility to a wigged and powdered British monarchy. (*p. 29)

How do you like that!?! I have written a letter to the magazine. Perhaps other members would like to express their opinions about the offensive passage. The address is:

Leisureways Magazine/Canada Wide
Magazines & Communications Ltd.,
801-2 Carlton St.
Toronto, ON M5B 1J3

From *Fidelity* May 1996

COSTUME COMMENTS

Some Suggestions for B.C. Branches

Preface

That day at the Heritage Fair, I was horrified to find my sister wearing a voluminous unbleached cotton night dress, circa 1867 from Ontario. On her head was a little night cap, and her long hair, usually upswept, hung down her back in a glorious braid. She peered over her finely rimmed gold half-glasses and she carried a candle in an antique pottery candle holder. I was horrified. "Granny" they called her - but she was the hit of the event. Everyone spoke to her and everyone heard about the importance of preserving our history.

I was horrified again when I arrived to see tickets at another heritage display and there was my sister decked out in an authentic 1890's costume complete with beaded black cape, high buttoned shoes and mourning hat (a la Queen Victoria). Her partner wore a flapper dress of blue velvet (my prized mini!) and rows of jangle beads. **I** wore my newest pant suit. **They** sold three times as many tickets as I did! I began to see that costumes make an impression and create fun.

I gradually began to make a few concessions to costumes - a hat or an antique brooch with Queen Victoria's picture and then we went to the Maritimes for the 1983 Convention and Tour. We walked up the ramp from the ferry at Digby, N.S. and there were the greeters - men, women, and children - in Loyalist costume - hands outstretched to welcome us. A prelude of the great hospitality to come. Suddenly, I felt part of a Loyalist family - part of history.

Everywhere in the Maritimes the costumes gave identity, from the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, the distinguished white haired George Stanley - in his turquoise blue velvet suit, to the servers in striped dresses and mob caps at the Shelburne Banquet. (Some of them were descendants of the Black Settlement of Birchtown).

Dorrine Macnab had the courage to wear her costume all during the tour. The Shelburne men had the courage to wear costumes for the re-enactment of the first Loyalist landing and I knew that somewhere, somehow, I would have a Loyalist costume.

But that didn't happen for seven more years. We just weren't "into" costumes in B.C. in those days - in spite of the Vancouver Branches 1983 Bicentennial Picnic when costumed Vancouver Loyalists and D.A.R.'s paraded through the Peace Arch. I didn't get there to see those costumes and only a few brave souls wore them to Vancouver teas.

Then came our Chilliwack Charter Night. It was decreed that I as M.C. must have a costume. The Loyal "decreers" produced one - a cotton dress - denim blue from the Salvation Army - a white cotton apron, mob cap and scarf, and I didn't mind that, despite my original aversion I was wearing a costume! So were all the other petitioners for the Charter, and while we hadn't known one another before, there was an instant camaraderie. Costumes thus became part of our Branch history and our on-going activities.

On to Convention '94 in B.C. The "decreers" decreed again, "How could we do less than Digby and Shelburne?" "Everyone must be in costume!" "I must have a new costume!" "You can't wear that old thing!" "You're the President!"

So it was that everyone was in costume. I'll never forget the wonderful sight of our members, all in costume, surging forward to welcome the Tour Bus. Abegweit, Halifax, Fredericton, Montreal, Ottawa, London, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary. There they were - Loyalists From Sea to Sea.There we were - Canada's newest Branch - and all of us very moved as we welcomed the others to B.C.

Since then, the costumes have assumed new importance. "They represent so much" says a member. "A meeting's not the same without them." As for me, I'm planning my third costume.

Lois Dickinson, U.E., C.M.H.

With appreciation to Vona Smith, Doreen Todhunter, Phyllis Sutton.