

THE LOYALIST LINK-UP

CHILLIWACK BRANCH
THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

"A LITTLE *LINK-UP*"
News bulletin

SPRING LUNCHEON
MAY 23, 1998

U.E.L. A BEAM TO HERITAGE

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

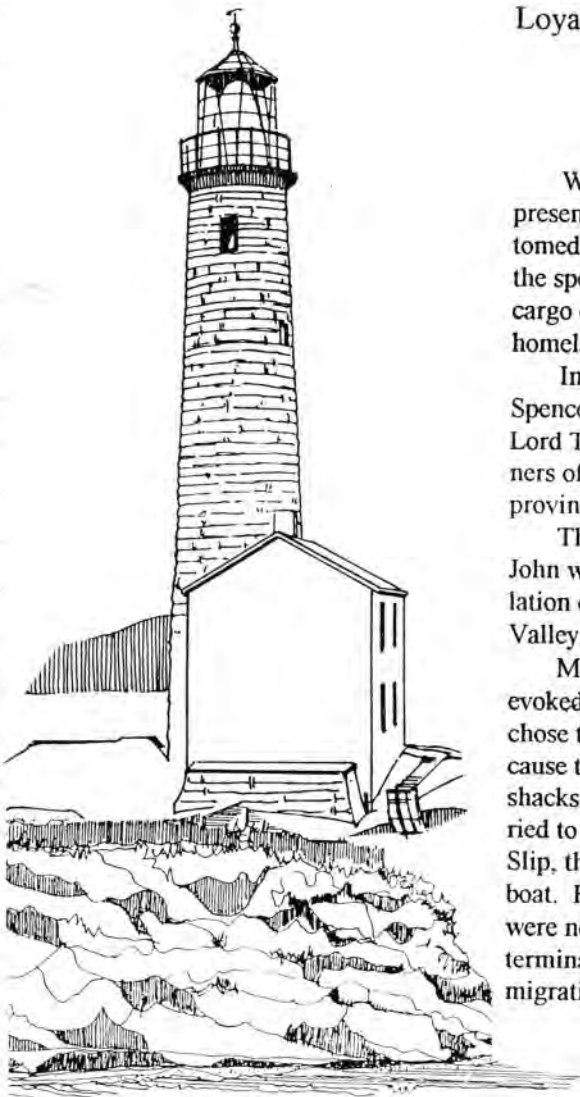


Illustration from Nova Scotia
Vital Statistics from
Newspapers 1769 - 1812
p. 108



Reprinted by request from *Link-Up* May 1996



Our Theme: U.E.L. A BEAM TO HERITAGE

From this theme come a number of lighthouse facts which suggest analogies that can be applied with imagination to our search for our U.E.L. heritage. Lighthouses are landmarks...they can avoid hazards...they mark a route...they read out of fog.

As we honour today those Loyalists who arrived in Saint John 245 years ago and as we look forward to the first Loyalist Day in Ontario on June 19, may we continue to shed light on our heritage and register a place in Canadian history for us and our family members.

Our cover sketch is the Lighthouse at Race Rocks near Victoria. Established in 1860 it is one of the two oldest in B.C. The oldest on the Atlantic are at Louisbourg 1734 and at Sambro Island in the mouth of Halifax Harbour 1758.



Today's Landings: -

1. Chilliwack Museum: Display of 1948 Flood;
2. Annual Parade of Ships on Sticks to Salish Park;
3. Luncheon meeting at Canton Gardens.

Other Historic Dates:

Oct. 19, 1782: The First Fleet arrived at Annapolis

May 4, 1783: Arrival at Shelburne, N.S. (then Port Roseway)

May 18, 1994 - Two tour buses of U.E.L.'s arrived in Chilliwack from Calgary via Fraser Canyon for Convention 94 in Chilliwack, Vancouver and Victoria.

May 20, 1776 - the birthday of Simon Fraser, (of Loyalist ancestry) - a date first discovered by Barbara Rogers of the B.C.G.S. about five years ago and reported in their newsletter at that time.

Important Calendar Links

June 7 - Jerry Brown U.E.L.'s birthday.

June 12 - 90th birthday of Gladys Van Baaren.

June 11 - 14 - Conference '98, Kingston, Ontario. Our Branch expects to be represented by President Shirley Dargatz, U.E., Councillor and Education Chair Lois Dickinson, U.E., Dorothy Barkley, U.E. a past resident of Kingston, Audrey Maclean, U.E. (Loyalist ancestor John Holmes of Kingston), and her husband Dr. Bruce Maclean, a graduate of Queen's University, and Birch Van Horne, U.E. and Mary Van Horne, U.E. We carry five votes.

Late July - Plan now to be here for certificate presentations to the children of Michael Barkley U.E. from Holland and the children of Rae Barkley, U.E., Vancouver.



Member Links

Barbara Wilson and her husband are moving to Shelburne...Frances Lynne Phillips, U.E. likely has the first such licence plate in B.C. - FLP U.E....Wagar family reunion is planned for August...our youngest member Morgan Dagenais Todhunter U.E. at 3 1/2 is riding her first little bike and thinks the Buckerfield's fire was unbelievable...Ken McIntrye U.E. is now a Sargeant in Air Cadets and wonders if his Butler's Rangers uniform could have stripes...Scott Roos U.E., B. Mus. Ed. has accepted a full time instrumental secondary school teaching position in Sask....rays of sunshine go out to Phyllis Hill U.E. and Marjory Roberts U.E...congratulations are sent to new members Pat McKay, U.E. and Mabel Wilson U.E. and to Art Keller, U.E. for his third certificate...Secretary Judy Scholz U.E. enjoyed lunch with us on Secretary's Day...James Bowman, U.E. has won marksmen's honours in Air Cadet Air Rifle competition and Susanna Bowman, U.E. has won honours in Highland Dancing.

Becky Merkley, Grade 6, Abbotsford was on Channel 8's Success Maker for excellence in mathematics... Vona Smith,, U.E. back from Thompson Okanagan's Third Anniversary meeting in Penticton is en route soon to Kingston as a Vancouver delegate...the Thornton family will be gathering at Carmen United Church Sunday Mmay 24 to witness a communion set being dedicated in the name of their grandparents George Israel and Rebecca Thornton. Appreciation to Peter and Angela Johnson for their five years outstanding service as Dominion Genealogists. Best wishes to Peter Johnson U.E. who has volunteered to be editor of the *Gazette*. We have always looked forward to reading the Toronto Branch newsletter *Fidelity* which Peter has edited for many years and we look forward to his work with the *Gazette* and further examples of his artistic ability. Greetings and congratulations to all Ontarians for June 19, the first United Empire Loyalist Day which came about as a result of a private members bill from Harry Danford, MPP.

*We Wish
you a Happy
Birthday!*

Happy Birthday Gladys

Gladys Van Baaren - born June 12, 1908 at Rosedale, B.C.
Her Parents: Robert Aitken and Mary Ann Stafford, born Berkley, Ontario.
Her Occupation - Hairdresser
Her Husband A.B. "Mac" Van Baaren deceased 1984.
Her children- Robert "Bob", Sylvia in Kamloops.



Her Hobbies: Collecting and preserving history, painting her mural of homes in Camp River is now an important historical document. At age 89, she recently spoke about it at a gathering of seniors.
Her Community Service - nearly 60 years as a well loved Sunday School Teacher. Her Service to U.E.L.: Faithfulness, (only 2 meetings missed in nearly 8 years) Enthusiasm: always asks when's the next meeting? Has two costumes and wants a third; Encouragement: cards, notes of appreciation and frequent calls: Blithe Spirit; hospitality and wonderful pineapple squares
Family History: Stafford family settled in Connecticut in the 1600's. Abel Stafford came to Ontario in 1795. His petition (with an accompanying letter) states that he was always true to the British cause and suffered because of it.
Gladys holds Honorary Associate Membership No. 2 (one of only 6) from our Branch.

HAPPY SUMMER TO ALL

Historic Links with Kingston

William Newby 1862 - 1945, founder of the well known Chilliwack family, is reported to have worked on Queen's University and Kingston Penitentiary prior to coming here in 1883 (Chilliwack Archives)
The Ryder Family: The descendants of John Ferris Ryder and his brother Cory Ryder pioneer settlers here from Kingston have U.E.L. links through John and Daniel Ferris of Kingston. Madge Herron is excited that we've found this fact.



Hardy vote of thanks to Bernice Flett for her 2 years as president "with service above and beyond the call of duty"



UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 13, 1998
KINGSTON, ON

The past two years have been among the most challenging and perhaps the busiest of my life. When one thinks back to what the Association faced in June 1996, we realize that since then much has been accomplished because of a team of dedicated workers and supportive members. It has been a most rewarding experience to work with the Executive and with the Committees.

We are at a crossroads as we approached the new century. We are in a position to move ahead and grow and make our organization into the vibrant association it deserves to be. You have been given the tools for acquiring members; we have begun an education programme for the young; we are trying to build up our public image; we have made good starts in all of these areas.

Of course, more needs to be done. There are still millions of Loyalists to find and encourage to join the Association; there is research to do and books to be written; there are sites to be marked and restoration to be done. We are in the position now to fulfill our mandate.

"Our history belongs to all of us. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to pass on to them an understanding of our heritage and the strengths it has given us." So says Sydney Wise of Carleton University. We do owe it to our descendants to keep Loyalist history alive. But we owe it to our Loyalist ancestors too. The first United Empire Loyalists Day will be one step in recognizing our debt to those hardy souls who tamed the wilderness and built this country.

Two years ago, I promised that we would begin. We have accomplished that. Now comes the hard part - to sustain the efforts of the past two years. Our ancestors met their challenges with loyalty, courage and faith. We can do no less.

Bernice Wood Flett U.E.



President, Ms. Bernice Flett, UE