THE LOYALIST LINK-UP

Volume 4, No 1 **CHILLIWACK BRANCH UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS** *May 1999*

A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT

THERE WERE 20 SHIPS IN THE SPRING FLEET. AMONGST THE PASSENGERS WAS WALTER BATES (1760 - 1842) OF CONNECTICUT WHO BECAME HIGH SHERIFF OF KING'S CITY,N.B. HE ;ATER COMPILED A BOOKLET KINGSTON AND THE SPRING FLEET OF 1783. THIS WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN1889 AND REPRINTED IN 1980. ON ARRIVING IN N.B., MR BATES WROTE "NOTHING BUT WILDERNESS BEFORE OUR EYES; THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN DID NOT REFRAIN FROM TEARS." YET BY NOVEMBER YET, BY NOVEMBER WHEN 17 LOG HOUSES COVERED WITH BARK WERE COMPLETED, HE STATED "EVERY MAN AND HIS FAMILY WAS COVERED UNDER HIS OWN ROOF(AFTER HAVING EXISTED IN TENTS) AND A HAPPIER PEOPLE NEVER LIVED UPON THIS GLOBE ENJOYING IN UNITY THE BLESSINGS WHICH GOD HAD PROVIDED FOR US IN THE COUNTRY INTO WHOSE COVES AND WILD WOODS WE WERE DRIVEN THROU PERSECUTION." SO BEGAN THE PROVINCE OF N. B FROM WHENCE SO MANY OF US DERIVE OUR LOYALIST ROOTS.

Parade of Sails
SALUTE TO THE SPRING FLEET

Today, as is our annual custom, and as the Association By-laws require, we honour the arrival of the Spring Fleet on May 18, 1783 in Saint John, New Brunswick formerly Parr Town, N.S. This is often recognised as the first Loyalist landing but it should be noted that there was a previous landing in Nova Scotia.

At any rate, we are proud to pay tribute today, 216 years later, in this western city (not even imagined in 1783) to those who arrived in the Maritimes at that time.

In previous years, we have heard the Diary of Sarah Frost, a ship's passenger and young mother. We have held our sails aloft and marched to the pond at Salish Park. Today we ask you to view the display and to participate in a special toast.

Information re the Spring Fleet is available for your blue history folders if you do not have a copy from last year. Many of those from the Spring Fleet settled at Kingston, N.B.

Please be aware of this so that you do not confuse Kingston, N.B. and Kingston, Ontario.

OUR MEETING PLACE TODAY

This early picture of Cooke's Church shows the excellent detail work invested by the congregation in their new building.

A Presbyterian Church has stood on this site since 1888. The first church was similar to the white churches of the Maritimes. It was named for Dr. Henry Cooke, an Irish theologian who actually never visited Canada.

Likely Loyalist names first associated with the church are: Cowan, Malcolm, Kipp, Rose, Noble, Munro and Tompkins.

There are several members today who welcome us. These include Jan Oullet, Cleo and Fred Walters and the minister Rev. Herb Hilders.

The nearby trees are part of what was once known as Henderson Park in honour of the family who gave the property.

Church built by Loyalists in Shelburne, Nova Scotia

EDGING TO EDMONTON

NATIONAL LINKS

Heading for Conference '99 in Edmonton are Shirley Dargatz, U.E., Vera Webb, U.E., Lois Dickinson, U.E., Mary Van Horne, U.E., Birch Van Horne, U.E., Neil McGlynn, U.E., Alisen Barkley, U.E., Don Archibald, U.E., Annis Archibald, Billie Halcrow, Jan Oulett, Vona Smith, U.E. member of Vancouver and Chilliwack Branch.

This is a good representation but its not too late for others to join us - this is likely to be the last Western Conference in years - and it's a shame to miss the camaraderie and the opportunity to see the national scope of U.E.L.

Fran Losie, U.E. has done a great job of organising and we look forward to a further "kinship" with our Edmonton friends.

NEWS LINKS

Happy Anniversary

May 14, 1914 - May 14, 1999

Do you recognise that important date? It marks the 85th Anniversary of the establishing of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada when the Royal Charter was granted by King George V.

We celebrated the 80th Anniversary here in Chilliwack in May 1994 with a banquet and candle lighting ceremony at Chilliwack Senior Secondary with those who came by bus from Calgary. It was an event still remembered by many across Canada. The 85th Anniversary will be observed in Edmonton.

However, we have other links to that historic date. One of the signers was William Napier Keefer of Toronto. He was a grandson of George Keefer, U.E.L., founder of Thorold, Ontario and active in establishing the Welland Canal.

The Chilliwack Keefers trace their ancestry to this family. John Keefer came here via the Klondike Gold Rush and the Yukon and settled on Castleman Road (also a Loyalist name) in 1912.

Keefer street in Vancouver was named for his brother George Keefer a contractor for the C.P.R. and Capilano Waterworks in the 1890's.

John was the grandfather of Marlene Keefer Williams.

HERITAGE LINKS

CONGRATULATIONS

According to Genealogist Mildred Hall, U.E., certificates have arrived for the following members:

* Christopher Hay, U.E. will receive a second certificate, this one in the name of Major Richard Stockton of N.B.
* Marian Reid, U.E. will be awarded a certificate honouring her Loyalist ancestor James Brown. Marian is the cousin of Jeremiah Brown, U.E.

Certificates have been forwarded to out of town members:

* Lorna Henderson, U.E., (Michael Warner, her 2nd certificate)
* Karl Marvin Vegsund, U.E. (Nicholas Mattice)

A certificate has arrived for Billie Halcrow, U.E. (in the name of Jonathan Mattice) and a application has been submitted and progress has been made with Al Dawson's research.

Catboat

Sloop

Ketch

Yawl

Schooner

THE RELEVANCE OF THE SPRING FLEET TODAY

The importance of the Spring Fleet cannot be emphasised enough in the annals of Canadian history.

According to Sarah Frost's diary, "the ships well beset with problems - fog, storms, veering off course, possibility of enemy attack, a measles epidemic - and more."

As Lois prepared her talk for the Fourth Anniversary of Thompson-Okanagan Branch, it seemed to her that these shipboard concerns could be adapted as symbols in our search for U.E.L. growth today. Read the list and apply a bit of imagination.

Fog? - misconceptions - the Loyalists weren't all elite British.

On Course? - registering your family as part of Canadian history.

Illness? - not measles - but perhaps adaptability.

Try this exercise - it's fun and may help our Branch and others - and we've found it's a good conversation piece for younger members to share ideas.

The Regional Heritage Fair May 14 & 15

COMMUNITY LINKS

It was a wonderful experience to participate in the Regional Heritage Fair at Sevenoaks Mall on May 14 & 15.

Heritage Fairs sponsored by the CRB Foundation with Charles R. Bronfman as Chairman, are held each year in cities across Canada and are a means wherein students from Grades 4 to 9 can submit a history project which focuses on some Canadian hero or event.

The program has been in effect since 1993. Last year 1,200 students participated and 5,000 people attended.

Abbotsford, now in its third year as a fair host, was no exception. Students from Hope to Coquitlam were invited to be involved and the mall was alive with a great number of projects on a wide variety of topics. Exhibits included "54 Forty or Fight" the Hope Slide, Canadian Inventions; the Effect of the Gold Rush on the Stolo People; The Changing Role of Women, A skit on the Discovery of Newfoundland; Various Ethnic Roots and much much more. One school in Coquitlam entered 28 projects from the students of one teacher.

We were proud that one of our young people Tia Haraga of Grade 4 at Vedder School was the only Chilliwack entry.

Her "Story of the Thornton Family" was well done and Tia in period costume was also able to answer the judges' questions satisfactorily. She received for her school a new Canadian history book by J.M. Careless.

Our Chilliwack Branch display prepared by Shirley, was colorful and professional. It highlighted our Young Loyalists and the story of the Canadian flag. As B.C. Edcuation representative, Lois, with help from Shirley and Judy, had prepared education packages with general information and newly written material re the Loyalist contribution to B.C.

Good contacts were established with students, teachers, and the general public. Barb Wilson's wooden toys from Shelburne, N.S. were especially popular.

All in all, it was a rewarding two days and possibly the best thing we've done. We can hardly wait until next year.

Someone from the fair will go on to the National Finals in Edmonton in July.

Our display will be seen at the U.E.L. Conference June 3 - 6 also in Edmonton. Thanks to Jan.

Warm appreciation is extended to all who participated: Jean and Jerry Brown, Ruth Thompson and that terrific Abbostford contingent Ed and Barb Wilson, Ron and Verna Fleming, Chuck and Ruby Wagar, Deleine Perrie, Bonnie Corcoran and students Ryan Curtis, and Justin and Curtis Perrie.

Jan Oullet also attended the initial meeting at Doreen Todhunter's.

We also thank Brenda Patterson and Holly Pain for their assistance.

Much credit goes to the M.S.A. Museum at Trethewey House for the excellent arrangements for this event.

Our display, along with Tia's and perhaps some from other young guests, can be seen at our May 29 meeting.

PIONEER CARDEN PARTY SUN. JULY 4, 1 - 4 P.M.

COMMUNITY LINKS

July 4 is a well-known date in American history and it's about to become a significant one for Chilliwack. That's the day the District of Chilliwack has chosen for the Millennium Pioneer Garden Party. This celebration of the century will take place at Gwynne Vaughan Park on Hope River Road from 1 - 4 p.m.

Our U.E.L. Branch, Club 28 and the Museum have all been invited to participate. To date, we have been involved in researching pioneer names and possible contacts. It is hoped that we will all turn out (in costume or otherwise) and assist in hosting with those great handshakes and people interest for which we are known. Whether or not you have Chilliwack pioneer background, your presence will be needed and welcomed and will honour those Loyalist descendants who were amongst Chilliwack's first settlers. This is an opportunity for public relations and to ensure further community encouragement for our Branch.

Plans are going slowly but Shirley, who serves on the committee should have an up date soon.

LOYALIST OF THE MONTH ELIZABETH HOPKINS

There have been several recent accounts of Loyalist women of Ontario, but little seems to have been written about Loyalist women of the Maritimes. Hence this issue will feature the story of Elizabeth Hopkins, an indomitable woman of New Brunswick whom we believe came with the Spring Fleet.

Elizabeth, probably called Betsy (as was her granddaughter) was the daughter of William Beard of Pennsylvania. She married John Jasper who soon became known for his Loyalist sympathies. He was subsequently arrested and imprisoned. Betsy set out on a rescue mission and courageously shot an attacking rebel. She took possession of his horse and later sold it to a British officer. She managed to free John but he had been wounded and ill treated and died not long after his wife's heroic action.

In time Betsy married another Loyalist, Samuel Woodward. The Woodwards embarked aboard the ship Martha. Almost to their destination, the Martha(believed part of Spring Fleet) was tragically shipwrecked with a terrible loss of life. The Woodwards survived. After a trying time on a nearby island, they were rescued by fishermen who took them to N.B. Shortly after, Betsy gave birth to triplets - three sons.

Her life knew further sadness when Samuel died and her twin sons and a son-in-law were killed in the War of 1812. Betsy had married again to Jeremiah Hopkins. It was as Mammy Hopkins that (in the manner of Florence Nightingale) Betsy followed her boys to Fort Erie where she cared for the sick and wounded.

Back in New Brunswick she grew old and destitute although she had had a large family - 22 children. A petition for aid was sent to the British Government on her behalf. A spendid citation and a pension came from England acknowledging the tremendous service and sacrifice of this remarkable woman.

Many of her descendants live in New Brunswick and across Canada. Her story was told by Edwin Wallace Bell, a charter member of Vancouver Branch. Present day links include Lois Dickinson, U.E., and her cousin Frank Rogers, U.E. of Kawartha Branch of Lindsay, Ontario a Betsy is their fourth greatgrandmother through her daughter Frances Woodward who married Elijah Tompkins (also U.E.L.) Thus Lynne Phillips, U.E. and Maribel Roos, U.E. are Betsy's fifth generation descendants. She is the 6th great grandmother of Scott Roos U.E.

IN MEMORIAM

Evelyn Wright, Thompson-Okanagan

We are saddened at the death on April 19 of our friend Evelyn Wright, U.E. of the Thompson Okanagan Branch. We first met Eve and her husband Chris at the U.E.L. Convention in Kingston in 1984. Eight years later in Ottawa the Wrights remembered and added greatly to our camaraderie there. That was Eve - astute, winsome and caring.

We'll never forget the luncheon in Kamloops in Sept. 1994. It was a meeting to determine what U.E.L. interest was in that area. We thought we'd put out a few feelers. Then Eve, who had come from Salmon Arm, walked in and immediately asked the question, "Well, when do we start the Branch?" Thus the first step was taken toward Thompson-Okanagan U.E.L.

Eve was a petitioner, charter member, first librarian of the Branch and most recently its Treasurer. Pictures of the charter ceremony show her delight as the founding members received name badges with the Armorial Bearings and the name Thompson-Okanagan Branch.

Eve had been a Girl Guide Leader (well remembered by her groups) and in a new capacity, she guided the new Branch well.

She and husband Chris, the first genealogist, spend endless hours researching and acquiring a fine library.

They also added much to our information on her Loyalist ancestor Michael Carman and were delighted to offer hospitality to newly discovered Carman relatives and others as well. The Wrights frequently contributed to the *Gazette*.

THE CARMAN HOUSE, built by Michael Carman in 19th century is situated on the Carman Road South, from MacDonald-Cartier Freeway (401) at Interchange from Highway No. 2 via Carman Road to the Seaway. House is the centre of much local activity in craft incl headquarters of the Carman-Forward Weavers' Guild a bright display of Canadian handicrafts.

Mary Van Horne, U.E. (Michael Carman) has both Carman and Forward ancestry.

Eve was described as a "key member" and will be missed by us all. Our thoughts continue to be with Chris who even acted as Treasurer during Eve's illness. He is the Branch's first Honorary Associate Member and we too, as "parents of the Branch", feel great appreication for him.

On that memorable Sept. day he donned a uniform for pictures and added much to the spirit of the occasion...just as Eve's spirit contributed much to the Branch. We were so pleased to see Chris present (even during this trying time) at the May meeting

These were some of our thoughts during the moment of silence for Eve - whose legacy will still live in the history of B.C. U.E.L.

Mrs. Richardson Kawartha Branch

We also extend our sympathies to Elizabeth Richardson, Dominion Historian, in the loss of her mother who passed away recently. We had many telephone conversations with Mrs. Richardson and we know that she too was very dedicated and supported her daughter's work and sense of history. We remember her with appreciation. She was always interested in our activities and always passed on our messages. We also know from visits to Lindsay, Ontario that the lovely heritage home has been a place of warmth and hospitality.

We know from experience how difficult it can be when a loving mother goes and a confidant and inspiration is no longer with us.We think of Elizabeth at this time and extend our sympathies to her and the family.

FROM HERE AND THERE

MEMBER LINKS

Wedding Congratulations

We extend congratulations and best wishes to Scott and Deanna Roos who were married April 24 in Eston, Sask. where Scott has been Band Director for the past year. Scott Roos, U.E., B. Mus. Ed. (U. of Regina) is a charter member of our Branch and then 17, he carried the flag for our Charter Ceremony. We hope sometime to have a visit and special music from Mr. & Mrs. Roos.

MORE ABOUT MEMBERS

Hats off to Shirley Dargatz, U.E. who continues to win honours including a nomination as one of the Women of Distinction at the Vancouver Y.M.C.A. Banquet; and for the Carman Church History Book....Best Wishes to Okill Stuart, U.E., Heritage Branch, U.E.L.A.C. President 1994 - 96 who has received his personal coat of arms... Appreciation's to Art Keller U.E., who acts as our email correspondent and promptly forwards messages...we're glad to see Art & Bette home from Fiji and a nearby island where son Norman works, and now Victoria where daughter Marilyn (a great researcher) lives.... thanks to Vona Smith, U.E. for chauffering and participation in Thompson-Okanagan Branch where so many members received certificates when Vona was Vancouver Branch Genealogist. Loud applause for Gladys Van Baaren, soon to be 91 (June 12) who recently gave her monumental scrapbook (a life's work) of Rosedale and Camp River to the Chilliwack Archives during a tea at the Museum when a few of us were invited guests...Successful competing to Christina Bowman U.E.who was introduced at a recent school assembly as the only Grade 4 competitor in several races...she came second.. continued success to Ryan Curtis, U.E. Grade 5 who won his school public speaking competition with his talk on "The Only Child" and advanced to the finals...Our best wishes for better health for K.C. Jones, U.E., Bea Armstrong, U.E., Phyllis Dahl, U.E., Phyllis Hill, U.E. recovering from eye sugery...and greetings to the library in Fort Wayne, Indiana which wants copies of our news letter...happy reminiscing to Percy Deplissey who by chance was viewing a U.E.L. display in Seven Oaks Mall and discovered an unknown second cousin, Lois Dickinson. We said it was a great weekend - especially when the memories go back to 1937...and with J.D. Margetts, U.E.'s new love of travelling maybe we'll see him again before hockey season starts again...Welcome to Cleo and Fred Walters who've been at several meetings, Mrs. Joan Bruce from Abbotsford Whitney, N.S.), Rev. Herb Hilder from Cooke's Presbyterian and from Vancouver Branch who may possible be with us today. Hurray for Justin Perrie, U.E. who beat everyone else at the Heritage Fair by getting the wooden ball in the wooden cup 30 times - must be that Nova Scotia Loyalist spirit. (It was a Nova Scotia toy)and a great "reunioning" to Laura Merson, U.E. at that Alward Reunion in N.B. this summer and a reminder to all that John, Jonathan, (a weaver) Joseph (carpenter) Cpt. Nathaniel and Samuel Gorham were all Loyalists.

Family history may now be found on the Mormon Church's Genealogy web page: www.familysearch.org

CALENDAR LINKS

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

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

May 18, 1783 - Loyalist Landing, Saint John

June 12 - Loyalist Day, Kingston, Ontario remembering Michael Grasse landing 1784.

June 19 - Loyalist Day in the Province of Ontario - the second annual celebration.

June 3 - 6 - U.E.L. National Conference, Edmonton, Alberta

July 4 - Pioneer Garden Party at Gwynne-Vaughan Park.

May 2000 - U.E.L. Conference at Niagara Falls, Ontario.

THE YOUNG CROWD

Going to Paris, France was a great opportunity for me to learn about another culture. It was a great chance for me to use what I've learned in my tens years of French immersion. I did lots of translating for the group I travelled with.

At one point, it felt like I was walking down a busy street in Vancouver but then you'd look up and see the Arc de Triumph or the Eiffel Tower! They are huge!! The Louvre was amazing. I couldn't believe how many priceless works of art that were shown there. I did get a glimpse and a picture of the Mona Lisa from behind her bullet and flash proof glass. The Palace of Versailles was breathtaking. The palace was built so that the king would receive the first and last bit of sunlight. Everything was in gold, marble and mirrors. The huge gardens were all shaped into different patterns and I would hate to mow the enormous lawns!

Everything is so close and crammed in; the side streets are so narrow and only have enough room for one car and a small sidewalk. Even the hotel rooms were small. Our whole room for two people was a big as our kitchen at home.

I was so amazed at the architecture of the buildings and how they could survive the wars and revolutions over 900 years. Nothing in Canada is that old!

We walked through the public market where they sell everything. I got spoiled eating the pastries and French breads. When I got home, I tried a croissant for breakfast and it tasted dreadful! The French people over their coffee very strong. It gave me an "all day" buzz so I didn't have much of it.

Everywhere we went, the people were very friendly and willing to give us directions. I'm sending some pictures of B.C. and Canada to one of the Parisian artists I met on the street. He was really interesting to talk to.

The metro was a real eye opener. It is a very convenient and fast way to travel Paris. The security men patrolled the stations carrying machine guns. There were lots of bands and entertainment throughout the stations and on the metro cars as well.

The plane trips were 9 1/2 hours long and a bit boring but I think I've been bitten by the "travelling bug" just like my Grandparents in Chilliwack and my Uncle Dick in San Fransico.

J.D. Margetts
U.E.

The palace of Versailles was breath-taking.

Thanks J.D. for keeping in touch.