

October 2015
Volume 4 - Issue 5
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Web site:

<http://www.uelac.org/Chilliwack/>

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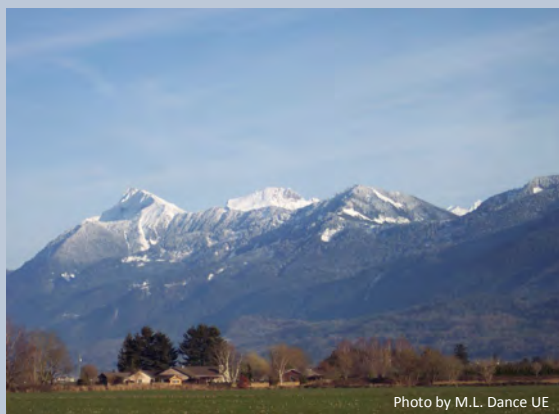


Photo by M.L. Dance UE

United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Chilliwack Branch

Your Executive 2014

President: Shirley Dargatz UE

Vice Pres: Marlene Dance UE

Secretary: Margaret Strocel

Treasurer: Judy Scholz UE

Genealogists: Marlene Dance UE
Mildred Hall UE

Web Mistress: Vicky Heibner UE
Newsletter: Marlene Dance UE

Director: Marian Reid UE
Director: Irving Reid UE
Director: Gordon Vance UE

Flag Bearer: Alan Reid UE
Social Convener: Jan Ouellet

Pacific Regional VP:
Diane Faris UE
Pacific Regional Councillor:
Marlene Dance UE



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A Message from our Branch President

On Saturday, August 22, 2015, Vancouver Branch members, Carl Stymiest UE, Diane Faris UE, Mary-Anne Bethune UE and myself, made the trek to Vernon, BC to join with the Thompson-Okanagan Branch for their annual Pot Luck Lunch held at the beautiful lake-side home of President Pat Kelderman UE and husband Rob.

Although the Vancouver folks had to arise very, very early in order to be at my place in Chilliwack at 8:00 am, they arrived with minutes to spare to start our journey. The road to Hope, then the Coquihalla to Merritt, over the Connector to Kelowna and then on to Vernon, was spectacular and we were reminded once again, how beautiful and diverse is our BC Province. The azure lakes of Kalamalka and Okanagan Lake greeted us as we drove into Okanagan territory. And then, made our way to "The Keldermans" who reside on beautiful Lake Okanagan

It was a very special opportunity to connect and spend some time with our Thompson/Okanagan Loyalist Family. And, our quest included presenting the Phillip Leith Memorial Award to a most deserving Pat Kelderman who has worked long and hard for the Thompson/Okanagan Branch who just celebrated their 20th year since chartering. Congratulations, Pat!

A delicious pot luck lunch supplied by members extended into the afternoon, and then the four of us enjoyed dinner with our wonderful hosts. As we continued to bask in the fascinating setting well into the night, the starry skies so close above our heads we felt we could touch them, the camaraderie continued. After a wonderful night's sleep, we leisurely arose the next morning to linger over a scrumptious breakfast, reluctant to leave this paradise.

We took our leave, and headed for home through smoked filled skies. But here was another opportunity to bond some more with each other and we all arrived safely at our destinations. (pictures can be seen on page 4 bottom left).

A reminder that our 25th Branch Anniversary is coming up on Saturday, October 24, 2015, at the Chilliwack Museum. You have already received notice of this event, and we need to know if you are planning to attend. I hope to see a goodly number of you at this special celebration.



I am sure you are aware that Branch activities do not take a break in the Summer months. In fact, they ramp up. You will see throughout this amazing newsletter Marlene Dance UE creates for us that planning and participation continues as we try to do our part for our Branch and our UEL Association.

We could certainly use some help!

Loyally yours,
Shirley Dargatz UE



FUR BRIGADE DAYS - FT. LANGLEY

pictures courtesy of Linda Nygard UE

This annual event is always well attended by UELAC Vancouver Branch as well as a few Chilliwack members. A conflict of schedules had only Judy Scholz UE and a few of her family in attendance. Still the event is wonderful as can be seen in these pictures. I love the parade down the main street below. Thanks Linda for sharing them with us.



Loyalist Certificate awarded at Family Reunion Picnic in Prince George picture courtesy of David Merritt



L-r: Marlene Dance UE,
Branch Genealogist and
Dr. Larry Merritt UE

Branch member, Dr. Larry Merritt was presented with his certificate for Loyalist Joseph Merritt at the annual Family Reunion picnic held the August long weekend at Fort George Park. Thirty six relatives gathered for the picnic event which takes place yearly rotated about the province from Vancouver to Kamloops to Prince George.

In 1906 this branch of the Merritt family left Smithville, Ontario and settled in Pangman, Sask. just 60 miles south of Regina. By 1936 the family divided again when son, Gordon S. Merritt headed further west to BC along with six children and settled in the Langley Prairie area.

Following WW2, three of the brothers moved to Giscombe, NE of Prince George. Two remained and raised their families. As almost everyone at this event is a Merritt, Chilliwack branch could be very busy in the coming months. Congratulations Larry!

Descendants of Gordon's brother George Merritt, who remained in Pangman, were honoured with a Century Farm award in 2006. Descendants are still farming the original grant today.

Calendar of Events for 2015

Clip off and save on your calendar



Meetings are held at Carman United Church Hall, 7258 Vedder Road, Chilliwack, BC.

Trooping of the flag will commence at 11:45am - followed immediately by lunch - then a planned program.

Note any changes to time starting listed below

Luncheon with coffee, tea and juice served at most meetings.

Members are asked to please bring food contributions to the meeting

2015 October 24 - is the 25th anniversary celebration at the Chwk Museum @ 2:00 pm (page 4) invitations were emailed in early September. Follow ups will be done next week.

Please RSVP to ksdatgatz@shaw.ca

November 11 - Chilliwack Cenotaph and luncheon at Canton Gardens

December - Christmas Meeting details TBA



**United Empire Loyalists'
Association of Canada**

Be sure to send suggestions, information and/or pictures for this publication to: wmdance@telus.net



Vancouver Branch Events:

**Bonsor Park Recreation Centre,
6550 Bonsor Ave., Burnaby BC**

Check out the website @ www.uelac.org/Vancouver/

Upcoming events for Vancouver Branch:

- 1) Oct. 17th- Tri Stakes Seminar, Surrey, BC
- 2) Nov. 11th - wreath laying @ N.W. City Hall
- 3) Nov. 13 Regular meeting - Guest Speaker Gwen Dumfries



Special Report from New Brunswick

Late July found Co-President of the UELAC Vancouver Branch and UELAC Dominion Archivist, Carl Stymiest UE in the Maritimes to attend two huge Reunions. The 50th Reunion of his T/C Class of 1965 from the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, and then the 65th Old Home Week and Family Reunion in Tabusintac, Northumberland Co., NB. Carl coordinated the Family Reunion Genealogy Centre at the newly constructed Community School Centre in Tabusintac, NB where his loyalist namesake ancestors settled, namely, Benjamin Stymiest Jr., Rev. John Urquhart, Sgt Philip Hierlihy and Sgt Duncan Robertson after the American Revolution in 1783. This year, they were nearly 2050 registrants to "Old Home Week 2015".

One of the most exciting events this year was the August 2nd, designation by the UELAC's New Brunswick Branch and sponsored by Carl Stymiest UE to have the Riverside Cemetery and the old Stymiest Cemetery dedicated as Loyalist Burial Grounds.

Dave Laskey UE (above right), UELAC Dominion Treasurer, outlined the background of why these two cemeteries were chosen to have the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada's designation as heritage sites. At the end of the service, the Rev. Gerald Blaquiére of the United Church gave the Invocation and Prayer.

At the end of the Old Home Week Reunion, Carl presented two Stymiest Family Trees, dating back to 1198 and including the 56 foot Descendant tree (below right) of Casparus

Johannes Steynmets II to the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick on behalf of the Stymiest Families all over America and around the world.

This family tree has over 47,000+ ancestors and descendants.

As a researcher and New Brunswick historian, Carl has also donated his research papers to the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.

The donated works include his private research papers, letters, documents, local genealogy histories, scrapbooks, ephemeral items, ships logs, journals of the Stymiest and Price Settlement Schools, his collection of the A & R Loggie Co. documents and papers, personal diaries, travel journals and many photographs relating to the early history of the province of New Brunswick.

Excerpt from July 2015 New Brunswick Press Release written by Carl Stymiest UE.



Holiday in New Brunswick

Branch Member Jan Ouellet was back east this summer. She caught up with friends and family. Here she is with Lee Melanson UE and Pauline (Stymiest) Skidd UE.



She took time to be at various functions including the 65th Old Home Week and Family Reunion in Tabusintac, NB. Jan also attended the dedication of the Riverside cemetery and the Old Stymiest Cemetery as a Loyalist Burial Ground.



Here's Jan with Carl Stymiest UE at the grave maker of his Loyalist ancestor Sgt. Duncan Robertson of the 42nd Highlanders Regiment. Did you both get a good picture? Great trip Jan.

Pictures courtesy of Carl Stymiest UE.
(see more about this event on page 3)



25th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, October 24th

Beginning @ 2:00 pm

Chilliwack Museum

45820 Spadina Ave.,

Chwk, BC

The program will be followed by a Celebration Cake and light refreshments.

Period Dress is encouraged.

If you haven't already RSVP'd

please advise: ksdargatz@shaw.ca



2015 Philip E M Leith Memorial Award

Vancouver Branch UELAC presented the annual award for volunteerism to Thompson/Okanagan VP Pat Kelderman at the annual Potluck luncheon held in Vernon, BC on Sat. August 22nd. The event was held at the home of Pat and Rob Kelderman.



L-r: Shirley Dargatz UE, Diane Faris UE, Mary Anne Bethune UE, Pat Kelderman UE and Carl Stymiest UE.

Pictured here with the trophy are: at left: Pat Kelderman UE and right: Mary Anne Bethune UE



Pictures courtesy of Carl Stymiest UE, Van Branch Vice President

Sardis Library Workshop features

UEL History Lesson

On Thursday, August 20th the Sardis Library Genealogy Workshop group were presented with a lesson in Canadian history and the Loyalist story.

Using information from her husbands and her own Loyalist ancestors, Marlene Dance UE gave a history lesson from the beginning of the American Revolution to the exodus of those who remained loyal to the Crown. With maps, charts and wills she traced the generations showing the class how to use both primary and secondary evidence to support these connections. Four attendees stepped forward to say they thought they had Loyalist ancestry. An array of books and reference material displayed found the names that were asked about and hopefully Chilliwack branch will have at least four new members in the future. The library hosts a once a month workshop for genealogists facilitated by Marlene. The monthly schedule has covered a wide range of topics as well as field trips to local archives, a visit and tour of the Cloverdale library and three guest speakers. The first Dale Hirst, from Australia who had just published a genealogy history book entitled "Dyeing to Live". Then Aimee Brown, a former employee with the University of Nova Scotia Archives working on a special project in Agassiz. Her presentation was on "Archiving and preserving your documents". Also Larry Gilchrist on "Using Google for your Family Tree searches" Anyone may attend these workshops. Information at the Sardis Library or through Marlene Dance UE (contact info on page 2)



Finding Your Roots Tri-Stake Seminar

Sat. Oct. 17, 2015
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

6270 - 126 St.
Surrey, BC
604-597-9695

20th Annual "Finding Your Roots Tri-Stake Seminar

- 1) 38 classes - something for everyone - sign up for one or more classes or stay all day
- 2) FREE and open to the public
- 3) Wheelchair accessible

Sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Surrey and Vancouver Stakes

Go to <http://www.findingyourroots.ca> and click on Registration.

Fill out the form and submit.

UELAC Vancouver Branch will be participating.

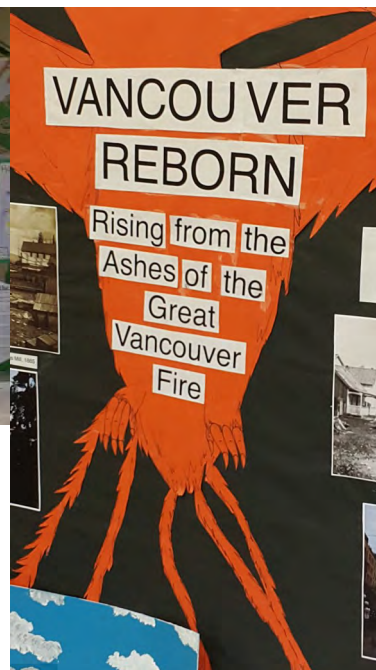
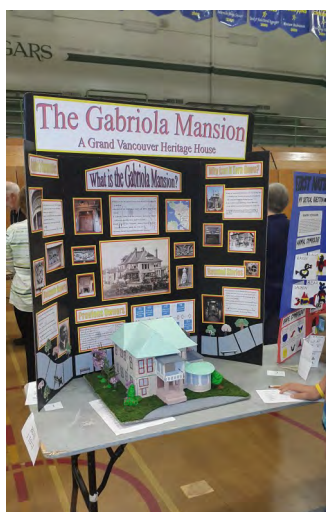
Marlene Dance UE will be a presenter



The Hon. Peter Milliken PC, OC, UE, BA, MA, LLB, LLD receives Order of Canada

Gov. Gen. David Johnston promotes long time Kingston and Islands member of Parliament and Speaker of the House of Commons Peter Milliken to an Officer of The Order of Canada during an investiture ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on Wednesday, September 23rd. (THE CANADIAN PRESS/Sean Kilpatrick)
Peter has been the honorary President of the UELAC since 2003 and was recently in Victoria attending the Dominion Conference this past May.

**A sample of the BC Heritage School Fair submissions.
UELAC Vancouver Branch sponsors this event every year.
These three were among the prize winning displays.**



Look at the happy faces here.
The certificates were presented at the Vancouver Branch meeting in September.

Congratulations to everyone!

(pictures are thanks to from Carl Stymiest UE and Linda Nygard UE)