

OCTOBER 2016

Volume 5 - Issue 5

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Web site:

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

# Link Up



Photo by M.L. Dance UE

## A Message from our Branch President

### Why learn about your heritage!

When talking to family and friends about my, and maybe their Loyalist Heritage, they often ask why is it important to know this, and/or what do I get out of it? Maybe, you the reader of this "Link Up" edition, have these questions asked of you as well. To this end, I am focusing on some reasons why it is important.

I vividly recall the day that the late Lois Dickinson UE "introduced me" (through a book) to my Loyalist Ancestor, John Thornton. I am so grateful to Lois because this disclosure in 1990 took me back over two hundred and seven years of my relations. I only knew back to my Grandfather, George Israel Thornton who died when I was five years old. The few vague stories that I did hear didn't match up. And yet, Grandfather's obituary stated that he was proud to be of "Loyalist Stock". This revelation has given me a whole new perspective on who I am! And more importantly gave me a whole new learning opportunity to discover my ancestors and "My Canada"!

Learning about your heritage can give new meaning and understanding to your life. It certainly has to mine! It has brought cousins and relations together in a much closer bonding. What joy we have together! Knowing and sharing Family History can assist in understanding family dynamics. We learn about our ancestors and experience an appreciation for the hardships they encountered. We become aware of their values and how they remained steadfast to their principles. Some folks are concerned that in researching their ancestors some bad things might come to light. Well, that certainly is a possibility and we need to acknowledge that.

But let's concentrate on all the good things we can learn. I have made wonderful new and lasting friends from "sea to sea". And many times have heard the exciting call, "We are related"! A whole new conversation and relationship comes alive. I now know so much more about the importance of the Loyalist Era of Canadian History and have visited so many parts of Canada that I wish I could go back to teaching – and do it over again with greater enthusiasm! We also can become aware of the value of our family's medical history and how this information can assist in addressing possible health problems before they occur. If I had never explored my family, I would have continued to be bereft of this amazing part of my life!

Our lives are "STORIES". At funerals and Celebrations of Life we hear our loved one's stories and we say that we will keep them forever in our hearts. Therefore, we need to make sure that their legacy is preserved. We do this by employing the principles of Genealogy to perpetuate our family legacies, as well as having folks tell "their stories" in books they have written. So much of this is represented by all the good works that our United Empire Association of Canada does to preserve, promote and celebrate the Loyalist epoch. Let's continue the work!

Loyally Yours,  
Shirley Dargatz UE



United Empire  
Loyalists' Association  
of Canada

Chilliwack Branch

Your Executive 2016

President: Shirley Dargatz UE

Vice Pres: Marlene Dance UE

Secretary: Margaret Strocel

Treasurer: Judy Scholz UE

Genealogist: Marlene Dance UE

Honourary: 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 Conveners: Jan Duelliet,  
Emily Thomason & Cindy Lyftogt

Pacific Regional VP:

Diane Faris UE

Pacific Regional Councillor:

Frans Compeer



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## To Pacific Region Branches

You are cordially invited to  
The Fall Fleet Celebrations

Hosted by:

Chilliwack Branch

November 5, 2016

@ Carman United Church Hall  
7258 Vedder Rd., Chilliwack, BC

11:30 am gathering.

\$20.00

Program includes:

Guest speaker: Mathew Francis Executive Director  
of the Chilliwack Museum and Archives.

Phillip E.M. Leith Memorial Award  
to be presented.

UEL Certificate presentations.

Conference slide presentation.

Print page 5 for registration and  
mailing instructions.

Hope to see you there!



## Thompson/Okanagan Branch Annual Pot Luck



l-r are: Sheila Brownrigg UE, Marie Ablett UE Branch Genealogist  
and Susan Grams. Picture courtesy of Pat Kellerman UE:

Thompson/Okanagan branch held their annual Pot luck  
at the home of Pat Kelderman in sunny Vernon on  
August 20th. Two certificates were presented to  
members for loyalist ancestors: to Sheila Brownrigg UE for  
Abraham Maybee and to Susan Grams holding certificate  
on behalf of Bradley Mounce UE for Joseph Petrie.  
As usual the weather was great, the food was wonderful  
and the company fun!



## Calendar of Events for 2016

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 starting time will be listed below

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

Members are asked to please bring food contributions to the meeting

**2016** October 15 - Finding your Roots Seminar LDS Church, Surrey, BC 8:30 am-4:00 pm

November 5 - Fall Fleet Celebrations hosted by the Chilliwack Branch.

All Pacific Region Branches are invited.

November 11 - Remembrance Day at the Cenotaph. Luncheon to follow.

December - information to be announced.

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



United Empire Loyalists'  
Association of Canada

## AUGUST FUR BRIGADE DAYS - FT. LANGLEY, BC

right: Firing the salute with vintage rifles. Below & centre: Arrival of the canoes and unloading passengers .

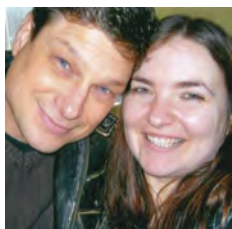


Judy Scholz UE and many of her family members regularly attend this annual festival with The Fraser Valley Frontiersmen Black Powder Rifle and Pistol Society. They camp

for the weekend and are an important part of the event. As well, a number of our branch members attend the picnic hosted by Vancouver Branch under the designated Oak tree that has been the gathering place for many years. Picture top left: l-r: Ethan Lyftogt UE (Judy's grandson); in the middle is Jesse MacIntosh, son of Gord MacIntosh who presented "Day in the Life of a Fur Trader" pictured below at the Victoria Conference 2015) and right is Adam Houle; all in uniforms of the era.



### ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



Judy Scholz UE is pleased to let us know of the engagement of her great niece Sarah Cramer UE to Mr. Rainer Schooch. The wedding is planned for October, 2017.

### Kudos to Alan Reid UE



Alan Reid will be receiving special recognition on Oct. 6, 2016 from his employer Save-On Foods for 25 years of faithful service. Congratulations Alan!



### Kathy Merritt Northcott UE

was presented with her Loyalist certificate in Vernon, BC on Oct. 25th for her ancestor Joseph Merritt of Twenty Mile Creek, Niagara Region, Smithville Ontario. Branch Genealogist Marlene



Dance UE was attending a three day Genealogy Conference in Kelowna, BC and arranged for a meeting with Kathy at the White Spot for an Eggs Benny brunch and the presentation. The photo was thanks to a very helpful waiter.

To all Members:

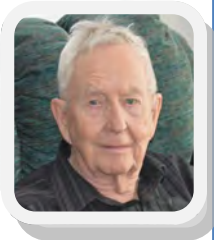
We are pleased to advise that twelve certificates have been submitted and approved in the past few months. We will advise members as soon as they arrive. In the meantime we have eight more that are being researched and we hope to have them submitted before the end of the year. Thank you for all your effort in completing your applications.

Marlene Dance UE Branch Genealogist

## Keller, James Arthur (Art) UE

1924 – 2016

Art Keller passed away in Chilliwack BC August 23, 2016 at 91 years. He was a founding member and signer of the Charter that created Chilliwack Branch in 1990. Art was a loyal supporter of the branch for 26 years and served as the first Vice President.



We were very proud to have him cut the cake at our anniversary celebrations last year. He enjoyed the celebrations and especially getting his picture in the paper.

Art's Loyalist connections were: Frederick Keller received in January of 1987; Thomas Wagar in March of 1992 and Johan Everhardt received in March of 1998. He descends from about 10 loyalists.

He was proud of his heritage and encouraged his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to apply for recognition. He was pleased to be at the presentation ceremonies and see 2 grandsons and a great grandson receive their Loyalist certificates in 2014.

Born in Camrose, Alta he moved to BC in 1936 with his parents Ross and Hazel Keller where his father established Keller's Garage in Rosedale, BC. With the coming of WW2, he was active in the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers from 1943-1945. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve in 1942 training in both Winnipeg, MB and Saint Hyacinthe, PQ. He served as a wireless radio operator in Halifax until the end of the war returning to BC to work in the family garage. He married his high school sweetheart in 1947 and operated the family business until 1982. Art and Bette raised 3 children: Norm (April), Maralynn (Gordon Wilkinson) and Glenda (Terry Fisher). He welcomed 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren to the family.

Art enjoyed the outdoors hunting and fishing and gardening paying special attention to his roses. An all-round handyman, he kept busy with small wood working projects.

A beautiful and well attended service was held at Rosedale United Church on Thursday, September 1st followed by refreshments. We shall miss him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

## Lois Dickinson UE 1924—2015

We reported the passing of Lois in our December 2015 issue of the Link Up. She resided in Forest, Ontario.

Lois was a founding member and signer of the Charter that created Chilliwack Branch UELAC in October 1990 and was well represented in the retrospective slide show at the 25th anniversary celebrations. The family had arranged for Lois' ashes to be interred in the family plot on Chilliwack Mountain followed by a lovey memorial tea held at Cook Presbyterian Church Hall on Saturday, September 10th in Chilliwack, BC.

There was a lovely turnout of family and friends with many wonderful funny stories of her life. She was a teacher for 37 years in Chilliwack, she was involved in many community projects including the Museum and Archives and of course the UELAC.

The theme of the afternoon was "Joyful" and it certainly was.

## SEMPH, Eileen Foster UE



Submitted by  
M. Marie Ablett UE

Thompson/Okanagan Branch  
Eileen of Vernon, BC, passed away on Tuesday 31 May 2016 in Kelowna. She was born in Toronto, Ontario in 1934 to Annie (Milroy) Remmer and Eric Shaw of Middlesex, England. At 15 months of age Eileen was adopted by Alberta and Murray Denton in Port Dalhousie, Ontario.

Eileen was predeceased by her biological parents and by her beloved mother and father. Her memory will be cherished by her son James Albert Randall Semph UE and granddaughter Sarah Anne Semph UE.

Eileen was one of the petitioners to create the Thompson-Okanagan branch in 1995. On charter day she received one of the first U.E. Certificates issued by the branch for her Loyalist ancestor Aaron Bradt, Ontario.

Her second certificate for Francis Weaver was many years later, and after a good deal of research.

Eileen also leaves to mourn, her brother Frank Remmer (Grace), and sister Jean Remmer (Harley), both of Scarborough, Ontario. As well as her sister-in-law Linda McMillan of Victoria, and best friend Gayle Myers of Cold Lake, Alberta.

Nieces, nephews, and friends in BC, Alberta, Ontario and the United Kingdom will cherish Eileen's memory, including Jenny Bannatyne and family of Nanaimo, BC.



Myrna Marlene Fox UE

Sept. 3, 1937 - Sept. 23, 2016

Beloved wife, mother, grandmother,  
sister, friend, Myrna Marlene Fox U.E.

passed away in her 80th year at Sunnybrook Hospital. She will be greatly missed by her husband Don, children and (spouses) Cynthia (Steven), Catherine (Daniel), Steven (Suzanne) and Stewart (Joyce) grandchildren Kaitlin, Paul, Kelly, Curtis, Matthew, Sarah, Brandon, Madeline and sister Betty. Myrna was a member of the Toronto Branch of UELAC, served on many committees and was Dominion President from 2002 to 2004. Myrna was a faithful and beloved member of Trinity Presbyterian Church. A service of remembrance was held in Toronto. Donations in her memory may be made to Sunnybrook Hospital Foundation or Heart & Stroke Foundation.



# PACIFIC REGION FALL FLEET CELEBRATION

You are invited  
Saturday, November 5th, 2016  
Venue: Carman United Church Hall  
7258 Vedder Rd.,  
Chilliwack, BC  
\$20 per person

Gathering time: 11:30 am  
Presentation of the colours: 11:45 am  
Opening remarks  
Lunch served: 12:15 pm

Program includes:

Guest Speaker: Matthew Francis  
Executive Director Chilliwack Museum and Archives  
Presentation of Loyalist Certificates  
Phillip E. M. Leith Award  
Door Prizes



Loyalist attire is encouraged!



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## REGISTRATION:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_

Please advise us if you have special dietary considerations:

Gluten free \_\_\_\_\_ Vegan \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

CHEQUE enclosed payable to Chilliwack Branch UEL : \_\_\_\_\_ (yes)

Please mail to: Marlene Dance UE  
5546 Highroad Cr.,  
Chilliwack, BC V2R 3X9

(Please phone me if you think your registration will be late 1-604-858-7887)

Deadline is October 28, 2016