

JUNE 2017

Volume 6 - Issue 3

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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

First issue - November 1994

Link Up



Photo by M.L. Dance UE

A Message from our Branch President

My message in this June 2017 edition of our Link Up newsletter, is to highlight a few recent and upcoming events.



Firstly, the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society (1957-2017) that took place on Saturday, May 13th. Following the AGM in the Gallery Chambers, the Executive Director, Matthew Francis, led everyone to the front lawn where on the east and west side, two matching signs newly erected now grace this historic land mark. Ron Denman and Marie (Wells) Weeden performed the ribbon cutting ceremony. Folks then returned to the Gallery to partake of the exquisite cake - a replica of the museum building which prior to 1957 had been the City Hall and Council Chambers. (photos thanks to Fay Kovacs)



Secondly, I would also like to remind everyone, that June 2nd, 1953 was the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. You will often see the film documentary of this event shown on local stations. For many it was the first time they had watched TV. Imagine, it is now 64 years since she has become our Queen. Long live Queen Elizabeth II.

And finally, our next branch meeting will be the Mixed Berry Social on June 17th, @ 1:30pm at Carman United Church, 7258 Vedder Rd., Please come out and join us.

We always have an interesting program and to tempt you, a mixed berry "short cake" is on the menu.

See you there!
Loyally yours;
Shirley Dargatz UE



United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Chilliwack Branch

Your Executive for 2017

President: Shirley Dargatz UE

Vice Pres: Marlene Dance UE

Secretary: Margaret Strocel

Treasurer: Judy Scholz UE

Genealogist: Marlene Dance UE

Web Mistress: Vicky Heibner UE

Newsletter: Marlene Dance UE

Director: Marian Reid UE

Director: Irving Reid UE

Director: Gordon Vance UE

Director: Cindy Lyftogt UE

Director: Cindy Frizell

Flag Bearer: Alan Reid UE

Social Conveners:

Jan Ouellet & Emily Thomason

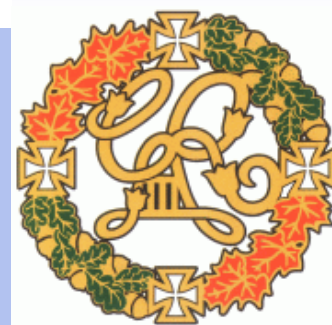
Honourary: Mildred Hall UE

Pacific Regional VP:

Diane Faris UE

Pacific Regional Councillor:

Frans Compeer



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Pacific Region Events for 2017

Please mark on your calendars

Vancouver Branch holds its regular meetings at Bonsor Park Recreation Centre,
Burnaby, BC (near Metrotown)

June 22-25 - UELAC Conference @ Delta Arms Hotel, London, Ontario

July 23 - BC Loyalist Day Picnic in Queen's Park, New Westminster
hosted by Vancouver Branch

October 1 - Fall Fleet & 85th Anniversary of Vancouver Br.,
@ the Scandinavian Centre, Burnaby, BC . All Pacific Branches are invited
to this ticketed and catered luncheon.

Theme features: E. Pauline Johnson, celebrated Canadian
poet, writer and performer.

Registration and payment information for the
Oct. 1st event will be available in the next
issue of this newsletter and online @

www.uelac.org/Vancouver/



Calendar of Events for 2017

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.

There is no charge for our regular meetings. But members are asked to please bring food contributions
to the meeting or make a small donation into the refreshment basket.

2017 June 17th - Mixed Berry Social. ****NOTE time change to 1:30 pm ****

June 22 -25 - Dominion Conference in London, Ontario

July 1st - Canada's 150th Birthday

July 22nd - BC Loyalist Day - event details to be announced

July 23rd - Picnic @ Queens Park, New Westminster, BC - hosted by Vancouver Branch

August 7th - Fort Langley Fur Brigade Days & Picnic under our usual Oak Tree.

October 1st - Celebrating the Fall Fleet and the 85th Anniversary of Vancouver Branch.

See the invitation on page 7

November 11th - Remembrance Day @ Cenotaph and lunch at Canton Gardens, Chilliwack, BC

December 9th - Christmas celebration - details will be announced.

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



**United Empire Loyalists'
Association of Canada**

Loyal Fraser

By: Kirra Little U.E.

Inspired by explorer Simon Fraser



Here I sit.
 Wooden planks beneath my feet,
 And I sit so 's not to see my deepest fear.
 It is below me
 And ahead of me,
 Matching the endless blue to such perfection,
 I hear people whisper of which is the sky or the
 water.
 It is unnerving to think of the creatures.
 The stories that plague my childhood;
 Of sailors being dragged to watery graves by things
 not of this world.
 The creatures of the deep,
 Make even the vastness of this ship appear as
 nothing more than a child's bath toy;
 Full of helpless figurines.
 But I must go.
 For there is a need;
 A desperate aching need to find what none before
 have seen.
 The east is settled,
 But the west;
 Oh the west!
 As a siren sings it's haunting song,
 The unknown beckons me out into the vastness.
 And so onward into days of sun or storm;
 Nights of stars or struggles;
 For curiosity is so the sweetest mistress;
 And I will map the west.



I SEE YOU DON'T CITE YOUR
 SOURCES



I TOO LIKE TO LIVE
 DANGEROUSLY

LAST POST:

Dr. Peter Warren
 Wentworth Bell UE

May 15, 1939 - April 5, 2017



Born in Victoria, BC, Warren graduated from Victoria College now University with a degree in Electrical Engineering, and later a Masters from UBC in Civil Engineering Hydraulics. He worked at Colorado State and the University of Alberta. Returning to BC, he was Supervisor of Hydraulic Design for BC Hydro. As well, he was involved in hydraulic design projects that took him to Brazil, Argentina, Australia, Pakistan, Nepal, India and China. Warren joined the Vancouver Branch in 2009 and proved his loyalist ancestor Capt. John Dease MD. He has also served the branch as Vice President, President and Past President. Warren has given presentations on his Loyalist ancestor to all the Pacific Region branches. Warren exhibited all the best characteristics of a volunteer who contributes so much and always was willing to go the extra mile.

In 2016 he was awarded the Phillip EM Leith Memorial Trophy for Exemplary Volunteer Service. He will be greatly missed. He is survived by wife Arlene and two sons. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family at this sad time.



Family History Day
 April 29th, 2017

@Abbotsford LDS Church.

All set up and ready for business.
 Lots of interest and many visitors.

Thanks to Shirley Dargatz UE,
 Marlene Dance UE and Margaret Strocel for manning the table in the Market Place for the day.

There are about five names on the contact list. Maybe we will have new members from this event join again this year.



Celebration of the Spring Fleet



April 22, 2017 pictures thanks to Carl Larsen, Shirley Dargatz UE, Carl Stymiest UE

And a special Quilt
for Canada's
150th Birthday
made by member
Carole Lefler





MAJOR RICHARD STOCKTON
By Henry Benbridge

Family Mystery Revealed After 240 years.
Submitted by member Chris Hay UE
2016 BCGS Prize “Most Improved Genealogy Contest”
(as published in the BCGS Journal Vol 46 No 1 March 2017)

In January 1999, at Chilliwack, British Columbia, I received a United Empire Loyalist certificate for my fifth great grandfather Loyalist ancestor, Major Richard Witham Stockton, of the New Jersey Volunteers. He was born on 19 May 1734 to a prominent Princeton, New Jersey family and was a first cousin to Richard Stockton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

While undertaking my Loyalist research I discovered Major Stockton mentioned in numerous letters of George Washington regarding his capture on 18 February 1777 while commanding a British post at Bennett’s Island, NJ and that this event had even been read aloud to Congress. This coincidence I found to be fascinating but other than mentioning his capture and following imprisonment, I could find absolutely no details as to what had led to his capture or any other reason as to why this had appeared to be so significant to American Government officials. Major Stockton was held captive until September 1777 and following the war he along with his wife Mary Ann Hatfield and family settled in Studholm Parish, Kings County, New Brunswick, Canada, where he died 08 May 1801.

The years passed by as I continued on with other family genealogy until in 2014 while searching the internet I discovered Major Richard Witham Stockton mentioned in a new review of the 2013 book *Kidnapping the Enemy* by Christian M. McBurney, a well known and respected Revolutionary War author. I received a copy of this book as a Christmas gift in 2014 which told, in amazing detail, the story of the capture of the American General Charles Lee as well as the following retaliatory capture of the British General, Richard Prescott. This now appeared to possibly be the missing significance behind my Major Stockton’s capture as the author McBurney had presented considerable strong evidence found in various newspaper reports naming Major Stockton as being involved as the main guide of these British troops.

An extraordinary event of the American Revolution took place 13 December 1776 when, in a sudden surprise attack at Basking Ridge, New Jersey, a small troop of 32 British Dragoons, led by Lieutenant Colonel William Harcourt, captured the American General, Charles Lee, second-in-command to General George Washington. General Lee, while in command of 3,000 troops, had unexpectedly decided to spend a relaxing night with only a small guard at Widow White’s tavern in nearby Basking Ridge just a few miles away. Due to a quick chain of events, the new location of General Lee was soon conveyed by local Loyalists to a small patrol of British Dragoons that had been sent on a four day reconnaissance mission to scout Lee’s army. Quickly realizing the vulnerability of General Lee who had just a small guard, the British troops then made a split second decision to change their mission to capturing Lee. This was done swiftly with amazing precision and it was not long before they soon celebrated the astonishing feat of seizing the highest ranking American officer to be captured in the American Revolution.

The capture of General Charles Lee was an incredible victory for the British who now believed that his abduction could even possibly mean a quick end to the war. So important was this event that it was later immortalized in a monument at Windsor Castle which remains to this day. British hopes, however, were soon dashed when American troops, just a few months later on 10 July 1777, captured the British General, Richard Prescott, of similar stature, in a surprise attack at Prescott Farm, Rhode Island.

One of the biggest mysteries surrounding this momentous event was the identity of the main guide of Lieutenant Colonel William Harcourt who had safely piloted these British troops over 18 miles both in and back through American controlled territory to successfully capture General Charles Lee at Basking Ridge, New Jersey. The identity of their Loyalist guide was never proven although the person deemed most likely at the time by newspapers had been Major Richard Witham Stockton who had a reputation among British troops as the “famous Land Pilot” due to his abilities as a military guide. Major Stockton never admitted his involvement with the capture of General Lee either during his imprisonment or even following the cessation of the war.

My initial excitement in reading of Major Richard Stockton’s possible involvement in this historic event soon faded fast. The author of *Kidnapping the Enemy* had summarized “apart from these references, there is no evidence in either British or American records of Stockton having served as a guide for Harcourt.” The lack of any official military records could not prove that he was the guide to these troops or even the fact that he was actually involved.

I felt somewhat disappointed since I now believed that I likely knew more regarding the importance of the capture of Major Stockton yet was still unable to prove it. A short time later I decided to review my many years of Stockton family notes and, much to my amazement, discovered a potential new source that just might provide the authors previous missing information. Major Stockton, in his claim to the British Government for his personal losses, had ended his letter with a note indicating several supporting letters from various superior officers.

Continued on page 6:

I had long known of these records for personal claims of losses following the Revolutionary War, but what other researchers had overlooked in the past were these further letters of support from many of the highest ranking officers who had been associated with Major Stockton providing additional unknown details of his military life.

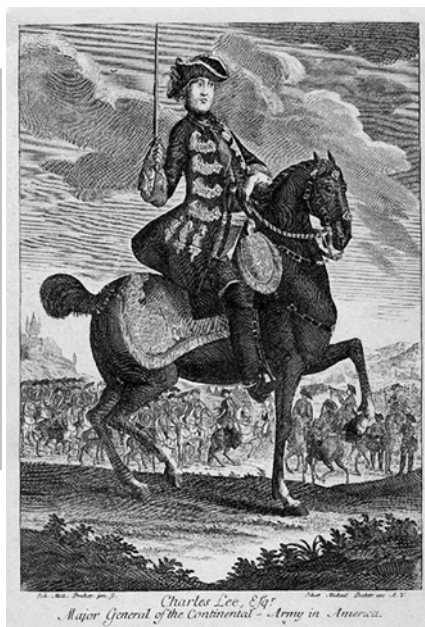
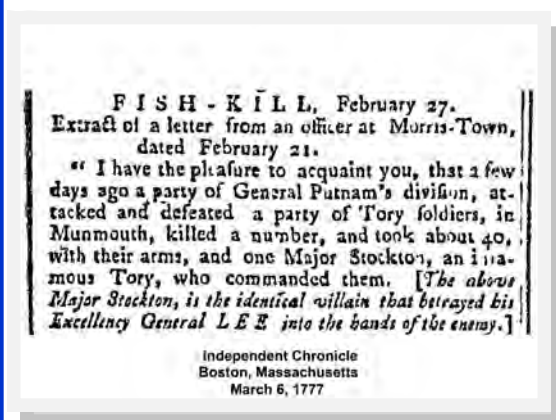
Now feeling ecstatic, in March 2015 I managed to trace and get in touch with the author Christian McBurney, in Washington, DC. I explained my discovery and he was extremely interested in my new information as he was presently working on a follow-up to his book *Kidnapping the Enemy*. A request was then quickly made to a British researcher in London, England to look for any British Army War Office letters of Richard Stockton in the British Archives. The search for these documents soon revealed a treasure chest of official military documents confirming the exact role of Major Stockton in the capture of General Charles Lee. Included in Richard Stockton's claim file were additional letters of support from Cortland Skinner, William Harcourt, Banastre Tarleton, James Grant and Charles Cornwallis, all influential officers associated with this event.

Using my family documents and newly discovered historical sources McBurney and I then worked together for six months to piece together the incredible story of Richard Witham Stockton's role as the main guide for the British troops who had captured General Charles Lee. In early November 2015 McBurney then submitted the final galleys of his new book, *Abductions in the American Revolution* to his publisher for the final review. A few days later I received an e-mail from Harvey Hildebrand, my Stockton cousin in Indiana, who had just discovered a very similar story of the 17 February 1781 abduction, in Thomaston, Maine, of American General Peleg Wadsworth, taken by a Lieutenant Stockton of the King's American Rangers.

Astonished and in total disbelief, I recognized this to be Charles Witham Stockton, the eldest son of Richard Witham Stockton. I immediately contacted the author, Christian McBurney, who was thrilled with this discovery but disappointed that it was too late to be included in his book. McBurney knew of this particular story but had never realized the family connection. He decided to contact his publisher to tell them of this find. His publisher also fascinated with this new story, remarkably consented to halt the final review of the book to allow McBurney to add in this fascinating story. With much stealth, comparable to the capture of General Charles Lee, we quickly worked on assembling the similar story of Major Stockton's son, Charles Witham Stockton. This unusual coincidence actually seemed like a Ripley's *Believe it or Not* feature to discover that both a father and son were each the key individuals involved in the capture of prominent American Revolutionary Generals. General Charles Lee was second-in-command to George Washington while General Peleg Wadsworth was well respected not only as a General but "perhaps best known as the grandfather of, and responsible for, the Wadsworth in the name of the noted poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow."

Incredibly both of these long forgotten stories of Revolutionary history are now told in full detail for the very first time in Christian McBurney's 2016 book *Abductions in the American Revolution*. The mystery identity of the guide, Major Richard Witham Stockton UE who had led the troops to capture General Charles Lee is now finally verified after 240 years by the determination and resolve of Stockton's fifth great grandson, Chris Hay UE, of Maple Ridge, BC and Christian McBurney of Washington, DC, a respected historical author of the American Revolutionary War. Major Stockton's role in the capture of General Charles Lee has now been proven along with the significance of his capture at Bennett's Island, N.J.

Genealogy, with its mysterious and profound ways, had finally solved this Revolutionary War mystery.





The United Empire Loyalists' Association of
Canada (Pacific Regional Branches)
Hosted by UELAC Vancouver Branch
Invites You to...

**85th Anniversary of the
UELAC Vancouver Branch
Canada 150th Luncheon**

*Open to All... Come CELEBRATE the Landing of the
Loyalists' Fall Fleet with us...*

Event Theme: E. Pauline Johnson - Canadian Poetess

Sunday 01 Oct. 2017

Scandinavian Centre
6540 Thomas St., Burnaby, BC V5B 4P9
(H'way #1 & North Kensington, Burnaby, BC)
Burnaby, BC, Canada

11:00 AM ...Registration, Meet 'n Greet
No-Host {CASH BAR}
12:00 Noon... Canada 150 Luncheon

PROGRAM: Presenters & Speakers:
Dominion President, Barbara Andrew UE
Dr. Carole Gerson SFU Dept of English
Alix Shield SFU Doctoral Student

Period Historical or
Semi-Casual Dress
Requested