

JUNE 2023

Volume 12 - Issue 3

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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

First issue - November 1994

Branch Chartered October 19, 1990

Link Up



Photo by M.L. Dance UE

President's Message

My husband and I came home from a lovely driving trip to a heat wave. We covered about 4,500 miles, visiting a number of places in California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, South and North Dakota, Saskatchewan, Alberta and then home. We saw a few family and friends.

Finally the heat has been replaced with a more temperate climate and blessed rain.

Our gardens have been so thirsty, but there are now a number of trees and shrubs in bloom. Two of my spring favourites are the BC Dogwood and the Magnolia. They are just so beautiful and inspiring. The colour and purity of the blossoms is such a promise in the spring.

Member Chris Hay UE has again made us proud. He was named Genealogist of the Year by the British Columbia Genealogy Society twice, and has been named again (with a group of others) for 2022. His seven year adventure to report to us on the forgotten Revolutionary War battle of Bennet's Island, which involved his Loyalist ancestor, has culminated in the recognition of the site. We are so pleased to bring you this report on pages six through ten.

It ends with the placement of the sign in recognition of the location. No wonder Christian

McBurney refers to Chris and his contributions to his book published in 2017, as being "researcher extraordinaire, Chris Hay of Maple Ridge". What perseverance and dedication!

Thank you for sharing your adventure with us, Chris.

We are hoping to have our Three Berry Social on June 24th. This meeting will bring you all the highlights of the 2023 Conference in Richmond, and celebrate being together again.

Interim details are on page ten. We will email more asap.

The conference is scheduled from June 1 - 4th, but as I have duties involving the set up of the market place room and the raffle, I need to leave sooner. Therefore, this newsletter is being sent out a few days earlier than the usual June 1st issue date.

Please see page three for details of the Conference and links to the www.uelac.ca webpage.

I hope this wonderful weather lasts, and that I see you at our June gathering. Please mark on your calendars.

Loyally yours,

Marlene Dance UE

President, Chilliwack Branch UELAC



**United Empire
Loyalists' Association
of Canada**

**Chilliwack Branch
Your Management Committee
for 2023**

President: Marlene Dance UE

Vice Pres: vacant

Past Pres: Shirley Dargatz UE

Secretary: Judy Scholz UE

Treasurer: Carole Lefler UE

Genealogist: Marlene Dance UE

Asst. Genealogist: vacant

Web Mistress: Vicky Heibner UE

Newsletter: Marlene Dance UE

UE Directors:

Margaret Strocel UE

Chris Hay UE

Cindy Lyftogh UE

Jan Duelliet

Honourary: Shirley Dargatz UE

Marian Reid UE

Flag Bearer: Alan Reid UE

Social Conveners:

Vicky Heibner UE and

Rebecca Heibner UE

Pacific Regional VP:

Frans Compeer

Pacific Regional Councillor:

Christine Manzer UE



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Battle of Bennet's Island Page
by Chris Hay UE 6 - 10

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Loyalist Rose



Calendar of Events for 2023

Print and save with your calendar



Monthly Meetings will be scheduled individually.

Venues may change for each event.

Details and reminders about any change in time, location or about guest speakers will be sent via email and/or included in each edition of this newsletter.

Schedule for 2023:

June 1-4	"Where the Sea meets the Sky" Annual Conference in Richmond, BC - see page 3 for highlights
June 24th	Three Berry Social and highlights from the Conference - page 10
July 22nd	BC Loyalist Day Picnic at Queen's Park, New Westminster, BC shelter #2 as previous years. NOTE this is Saturday.
October TBA	Fall Fleet event
November 11th	Remembrance Day and luncheon to follow
December TBA	Christmas Gathering to end the year

Be sure to send suggestions, information and/or pictures for this publication to:

chwkbrielcontact@gmail.com

Please visit our branch webpage: <http://www.uelac.org/Chilliwack>



United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Partnering with Heritage Chilliwack Society

Keeping the Past Present!

www.heritagechilliwack.org/

"On the Porch" - beautiful old homes in Chilliwack.
Just Google to find all eight episodes on YouTube.

Featuring:

Hazel House, Carmichael House, Higginson House, Gwynne
Vaughan House, Brock House, Skelton House,
Gibbons House.

As well as District 1881 - the new downtown rejuvenation.





2023 CONFERENCE INFORMATION

<https://uelac.ca>

Registration is now closed.

Conference Highlight Tours

Watch the two videos:

- 1) UELAC Conference Committee
- 2) BC Tourism

List of Virtual Presentations

<https://uelac.ca/conference-2023/virtual-guest-speakers/>

A full report will be in the next issue of the "Link Up": Hope to see you at the AGM. Don't forget to register.



Highlights of the 2023 Conference:

Thursday, June 1st - Registration in the Hotel's Main Lobby.

Conference Display and Sales Room will be open
Branch Genealogists meeting in the morning and
Membership meeting in the afternoon
Thursday evening Welcome Reception

Friday, June 2nd - Registration in the Hotel's Main Lobby

Conference Display and Sales Room will be open
Bus Tours arranged by pre-registration (incl. boxed lunch)
If not attending one of the tours lunch is on your own.
Recorded virtual guest speakers

Evening Casual Dinner and Program with entertainment

Saturday, June 3rd - Registration Desk opens before the AGM

2023 Hybrid Annual General Meeting (incl. Coffee Break)
followed by AGM Buffet Luncheon

Evening: Gala Banquet (suggest period clothing)

Guest Speaker: the Hon. Steven Lewis Point OBC, Chancellor of the
University of British Columbia and former Lt. Gov. of British Columbia

In 2012, as Lt. Gov. of British Columbia, The Hon. Steven Point OBC established an
Order in Council 903 for the UELAC Pacific Region, BC Loyalist Day to be
celebrated annually on July 22nd.

[The Honourable Steven Lewis Point, OBC, UBC Chancellor | historyproject.allard.ubc.ca](https://historyproject.allard.ubc.ca)

Be sure to wear your dancing shoes for the Scottish Dancing entertainment.

Sunday, June 4th - Church Service at the Hotel conducted by one of our very own members.

"Reconciliation in Today's World - We pray that justice and reconciliation
come to all peoples in the love of the Creator"

Wrap Up Buffet Luncheon - celebrating the 285th anniversary of the
Birthday of King George III (04 June 1738)

HOSPITALITY SUITE will be open every evening following scheduled events. Be sure to visit.

Time to say goodbye till we meet again in 2024 in Cornwall, Ontario!

Coronation of King Charles III - May 6, 2023 at Westminster Abby



Official portraits:
The Throne Room in
Buckingham Palace
following the Coronation.

From left to Right:
The Duke of Kent
The Duchess of Gloucester
The Duke of Gloucester
Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence
The Princess Royal
The King, The Queen
The Prince of Wales
The Princess of Wales
The Duchess of Edinburgh
Princess Alexandra, the Hon.
Lady Ogilvy
The Duke of Edinburgh

Photo credit to:
Hugh Burnard

To the right: King Charles III is shown with his son Prince William (now Prince of Wales) and grandson Prince George, bringing together with the King, those next in the line of succession. The King is seen wearing the Imperial State Crown, Coronation Robes, Orb and Sceptre and seated on a throne made for the coronation in 1902. Photo credit to Hugh

Burnard.

Left: Charles III in Westminster Abby during his coronation. In his left hand is the "Rod of Equity and Mercy" and In his right hand



(not visible) is the Sceptre with Cross representing good governance. It holds the Cullinan I diamond.

Long Live the King!



Eastern Graphic - Wednesday, May 24, 2023



PEI branch of United Empire Loyalist Association revived

The Abegweit branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (UELAC), representing PEI, has been revived six years after it became dormant.

In 1973, a group of Islanders with a keen interest in the history and culture of the province successfully established a branch of the UELAC. Under the leadership of its first president, Dr Helen MacDonald, the Abegweit branch received its charter on May 30, 1973.

The national organization was founded by federal charter on May 27, 1914. Its purpose was to unite the descendants of families who remained loyal to the British Crown during the American Revolution and to preserve their history, traditions, and memorabilia.

About 600 Loyalists and disbanded soldiers had settled on PEI by 1785, and their descendants today number in the tens of thousands. Membership in the UELAC is open to anyone with Loyalist ancestry or with an interest in the role of Loyalists in PEI history or history in general.

For more than 40 years the Abegweit branch furthered this mission on PEI. Among the group's many accomplishments were the 1983 publication of *An Island Refuge: Loyalists and Disbanded Troops and the Island of Saint John* and its 2002 revision and reissue. In time, however, its executive had aged and passed away with the branch becoming dormant in 2017.

Under the leadership of Kevin Wisener, a descendant of two PEI Loyalists, and with the assistance of UELAC Dominion vice president Carl Stymiest, the branch has recently reformed.

The board includes Mr Wisener as president along with vice president Kathryn Sencabaugh, secretary Jo-Ann Leake, treasurer Jayne Leake, genealogist Carol Harding and acting past-president Winston Johnston.

Mr Wisener said the Abegweit branch is currently recruiting new members.

"If you or someone you know is interested in researching a PEI Loyalist, please alert them to our Abegweit Branch and we would be pleased to assist where we can. We intend to continue our research on Prince Edward Island Loyalists and some disbanded soldiers and to post their profiles on the UELAC Loyalist Directory webpage."

The UELAC raises monies to support its UELAC Scholarship Master's and Doctoral recipients. These are awarded annually to continuing and new applicant candidates for related studies on the Loyalist era. The UELAC also provides branches with grants for projects commemorating Loyalist historical places, cemeteries and other projects of Loyalist significance across Canada.

For more information, visit the Abegweit branch website at <https://abegweit.uelac.ca> or the national association website at <https://uelac.ca>

Happy 5th Birthday, Prince Louis!

April 23, 2023

Louis was born on April 23, 2018 becoming fifth in line to the throne behind his older siblings Prince George and Princess Charlotte.

With the passing of the Queen last year he moved up to fourth.

Photo by Millie Pilkington taken on the Windsor Estate earlier this month.



From Library and Archives Canada

In 1873, Canada's Governor General, Lord Dufferin, signed into law the Order-in-Council officially creating the North-West Mounted Police. Today known as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).
Happy 150th Anniversary!



British Columbia Genealogy Society

From the BC GENEALOGIST 2023 Vol 53.1 March 2023 (pages 5 - 8)

MOST IMPROVED GENEALOGIST - 2022

A Comment for a Published Historical Story leads to a Surprising Result!

Chris Hay UE

BCGS Member #3893

Just prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 my research into my Loyalist ancestor Maj. Richard Witham Stockton of the New Jersey Volunteers continued to make interesting progress.

In December 2015 I had first made contact with the Revolutionary War author Christian McBurney, a lawyer in Washington DC, with some new interesting information regarding proof that my 5th great grandfather, Loyalist Maj. Richard Witham Stockton, was the main guide who had led the British troops, commanded by Lt. Col. William Harcourt, to capture the American General Charles Lee on December 13, 1776. General Charles Lee, second in command to George Washington, was the highest ranking officer captured in the American Revolution.

Maj. Richard Witham Stockton was to be captured by Col. John Neilson of the 2nd New Jersey Middlesex Militia just two months later on February 18, 1777 while commanding an outpost at Bennett's Island NJ and was held in prison for two years. Our story, The Battle of Bennett's Island: The New Jersey Site Rediscovered was published in the online Journal of the American Revolution on July 10, 2017. We had both waited for any interesting feedback to follow. A few comments appeared but were all very disappointing in content.

Both Christian and I were nonetheless pleased to have our story, with new previously unknown details, now published for the very first time. We were, however, still not finished in our quest for more details on the actual battle site of Bennett's Island in East Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey. In the 1950's the original battle site was to become a major landfill which it still remains today. Fortunately, some surrounding portions of the original battle site still remain untouched and it was this fact that had kept us inspired. Another New Jersey historical researcher and contributor to our Christian McBurney story, despite having no personal connection to the Bennett's Island battle, was also very passionate as to its history. Although the Battle of Bennett's Island is listed as an official battle of the American Revolution, it is virtually forgotten except for a few passionate historians.

Our small group had soon realized that we really could use more expanded help with our project. I suggested a DAR member from Ohio who had contacted us following our Journal story. With full agreement she was contacted and very interested in joining our group along with her cousin in South Carolina.

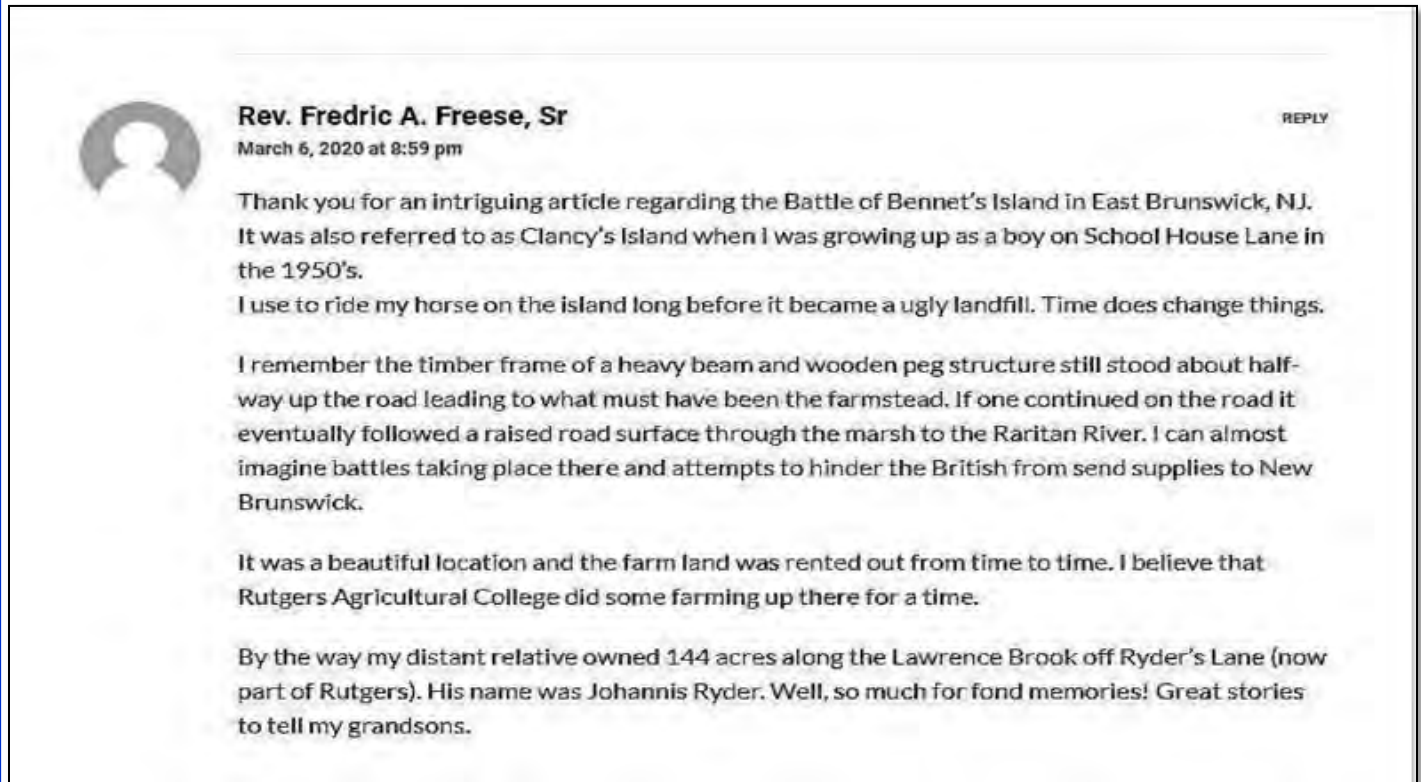
There were now three of us in our group that were actually descendants of soldiers in the battle – two patriots and one Loyalist (British) descendant.



(continued on page7)

(continued from page 6)

It was near this very same time in March 2020 that I had decided to go back to the old Journal story to quickly check a fact. After I scrolled down to close, much to my amazement was a new comment by a Rev. Fredric A. 'Rick' Freese Sr. just recently added after three years following the actual publication of the story. We all were now desperately wanting to know more of his knowledge regarding this historic site.



After some challenging searching we were soon able to contact Rev. 'Rick' Freese in Florida and when asked to join our group was delighted although he stated that he had no actual family connections to the actual Battle of Bennett's Island as with several of us.

We said that that was not an issue of importance and would love to have him join with us. Our dream had now come true as we now had found someone who had actually lived and explored this site in the 1950's before the site had become a landfill.

Our group of now seven dedicated historians from Canada and four US states soon established the name Patrons of the Heritage and Battle of Bennett's Island.

Our goal was to create the first comprehensive report on the historical Revolutionary War battle site to be titled Battle of Bennett's (Clancy) Island, NJ Project: History and Geography to Present: Summary Reference Report.

The outbreak of COVID-19 restrictions at this time had brought about many new research challenges both in Canada and the USA but by working together as a small group over the internet we overcame these difficulties. As our Bennett's Island report neared completion, we received a letter from Rev. Rick Freese on December 28, 2021 to say he was trying to do some new research on his 'Ryder' family and he had attached his 'Ryder' family tree.

(continued on page 8)

(from page 7)

I had made great use of the free Ancestry search during COVID which was soon to end on December 31, 2021 so I quickly decided to research Rev. Rick's tree without his knowledge. After finding two Ryder marriages with the name Van Voorhees I decided to mainly concentrate on this family line. This old Dutch family line from New Amsterdam proved very time consuming to research with its similar names etc. The results of my research on Rev. Rick's family history research were kept secret until the end of January 2022 when I finally finished. Much to the surprise of our Bennett's Island group, I sent out my new 'Ryder Family Tree' findings as seen below.

From: Chris Hay

Date: January 28, 2022 11:30 PM

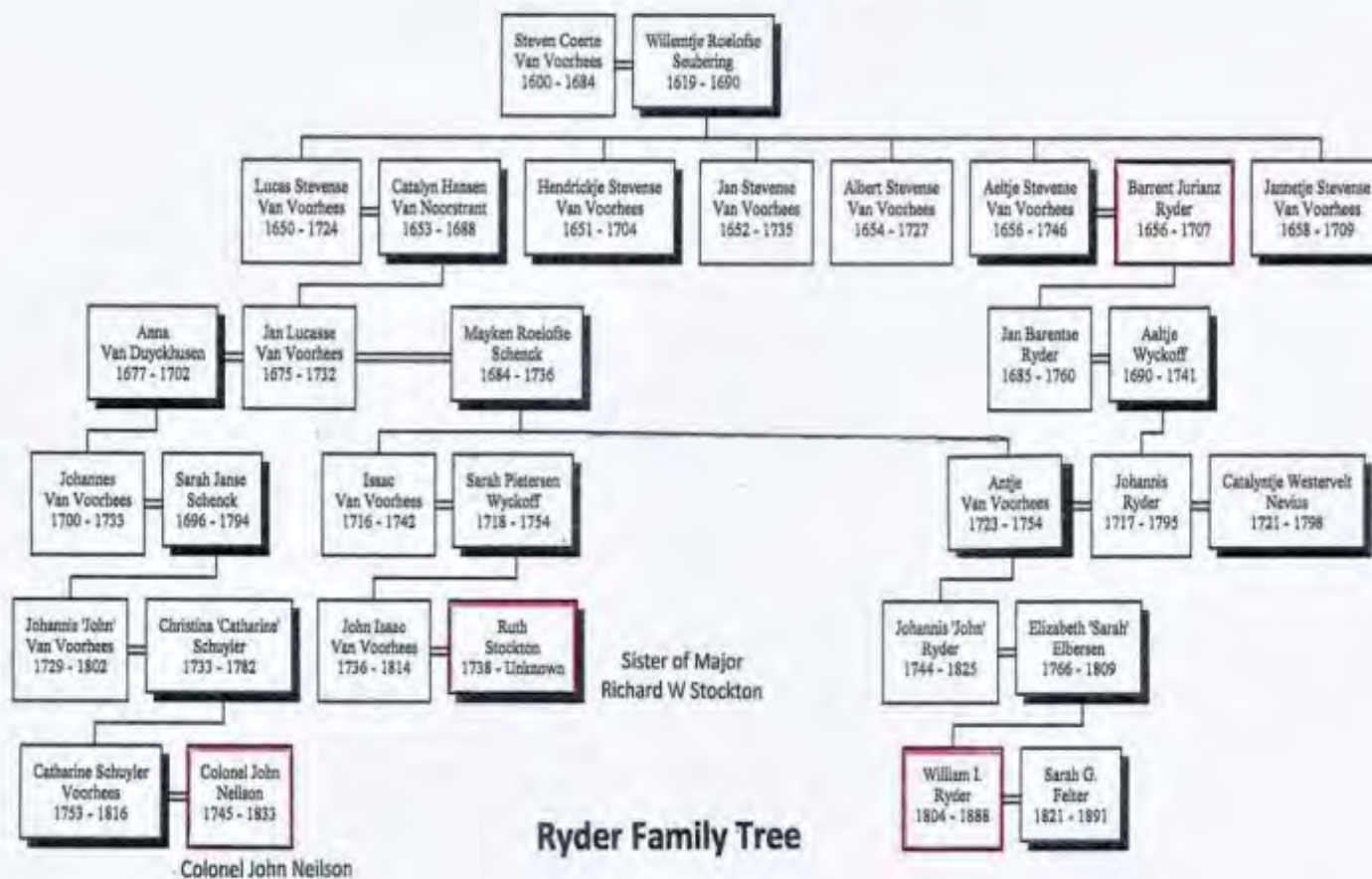
Subject: Battle of Bennett's Island News Alert

Hi Rick and everyone,

I have some fascinating news to start the year but buckle your seatbelts!

Chris

Descendants of Steven Coerte Van Voorhees



(continued on page 9)

Rick – This is amazing!!!

While searching your 'Ryder family tree' I have now verified that you are actually related through family marriage to both **Colonel John Neilson** and also **Maj. Richard Witham Stockton**, through his sister 'Ruth Stockton.' Strangely enough, I am also related to both you and likewise to Colonel John Neilson, again through family marriage, to this very same 'Ryder Family tree.'

These are all of our family relatives!!!

Chris Hay – January 2022

If you have been following Chris' story, you know that this adventure has been going on for a very long time. Slowly as things started up again following Covid, Chris' group was still facing an uphill battle to get this site recognized. Unexpectedly, Chris sent an email telling us that the site would be recognized by the New Jersey Society of the SAR on May 18th, 2023.

As well, here is a link to Christian McBurney's article in JAR: (use control and click)

[The Battle of Bennett's Island: The New Jersey Site Rediscovered - Journal of the American Revolution \(allthingsliberty.com\)](https://www.allthingsliberty.com/2023/05/18/the-battle-of-bennetts-island-the-new-jersey-site-rediscovered/)



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Battle of Bennett's Island

Battle of Bennett's Island.

Thursday, May 18, 2023

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Edison Boat Basin

Meadow Road, Edison, NJ, 08817, United States

([map](#))

[Google Calendar](#) · [ICS](#)

The unveiling of a historic Marker commemorating the Battle of Bennett's Island.

On February 18, 1777, New Jersey militia colonel John Neilson led about 150 militiamen and 50 Pennsylvania riflemen on a surprise pre-dawn raid of Bennett's Island, located on the Raritan River to the southeast of the British-held New Brunswick. The raid resulted in the capture of Major Richard Stockton, renowned as the "land pilot" for guiding British forces across New Jersey, as well as three other officers and sixty soldiers of the New Jersey Volunteers, a Loyalist regiment. Four of Stockton's soldiers were killed in the raid, while Neilson lost only one man. The raid also permitted Colonel Neilson and his Middlesex County militia to impede British vessels attempting to supply New Brunswick." Read Christian McBurney's article on this raid at [this link](#).

This event is a cooperative effort of East Brunswick Mayor, Brad J. Cohen, and Edison Township Mayor, Sam Joshi.

For more information contact NJSSAR Color Guard, Richard Serfass, rserfass@comcast.net



In closing, Chris reports:

"In the end the wording was out of our hands, but on seeing the final sign I am very pleased with the mention of Maj. Richard W. Stockton. This is most likely the only American Revolution War Battle sign that actually names a British Loyalist. This effort took seven years from when I first started working with the Revolutionary War author Christian McBurney on his book "Abductions in the American Revolution". But, with continued persistence, the reality of achieving this historical recognition turned out to be a great accomplishment for our small "Patrons of the Heritage & Battle of Bennet's Island" research group and well worth the effort".

During these efforts, as developments were presented, Chris was named "Most Improved Genealogist 2016" by the BCGS and again in 2022 (with a group of others).

Go to our Branch Newsletter The Link UP:

at www.uelac.or/Chilliwack/

for all the genealogy shares Chris has contributed. Great Job and wonderful news!

OUR NEXT GATHERING

Three Berry Social:

Saturday, June 24, 2023

@ 1:00 pm

Chilliwack Alliance Church

8700 Young Road,

Chilliwack, BC

Lots of parking.



The branch will play host for this event and we will serve our annual shortcake with a three berry topping and whipped cream. Tea/Coffee and juice.

Highlights will include pictures and reports from the various events at the UELAC Conference held in Richmond, BC and comments from Chris Hay UE.

Your executive will be meeting to plan accordingly.

Please mark this date on your calendar and let's get together.

Reminder email with details will be sent out the week of June 5th.

See you all soon.





Funding Future Knowledge

2023 UELAC Scholarship Fundraising
Challenge goal is \$5000.

Challenge dates:

June 1 – August 1, 2023

The year 2026 will mark the 250th anniversary of the American War of Independence and the first of many chapters of our Loyalist story. Our current and past Scholarship recipients are joining others now conducting new research and writing innovative history that challenges the mythology of the American Revolution.

We acknowledge that the plight of the Loyalists has been misrepresented or ignored in some education systems and in popular film production.

The **UELAC Scholarship** is a very important aspect of our organization. It is helping to ensure that the story of the Loyalists in the American Revolution and the aftermath of settlement in Canada continues to be researched and interpreted by a new generation of Masters and PhD graduate students who apply and qualify for the scholarship money.

Please continue to give generously to the UELAC Scholarship fund because your contributions really do 'fund future knowledge'.

<https://uelac.ca/scholarship/donate/>

The UELAC Scholarship Committee was pleased to launch the 2023 Scholarship Challenge June 1 – August 1, 2023 at the recent conference in Richmond BC, "Where the Sea Meets the Sky".

Christine E. Manzer UE,
Chair
Loyalist Scholarship Committee