

OCTOBER 2023  
 Volume 12 - Issue 5  
 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

**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  
**Branch 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**  
 Diane Ferris UE  
**Pacific Regional Councillor**  
 Christine Manzer UE



## President's Message

August was a very hot month, with things finally cooling off about the 27th. But that did not stop the wildfires in our province. Our thoughts, prayers and thanks go out to all those who worked on the fire lines, flew the water bombers and worked to evacuate the towns. And those who stepped in to help the displaced and offered shelter to people and animals. Trying to save buildings, towns and forests has cost us a number of lives.

Gradually quite a bit of rain has fallen throughout September. So glad the heat has gone. My roses and hydrangeas are making a last minute show before fall really comes into play. Pages three thru five show a few things happening with our members this past few months. We are always happy to share this kind of news. We are a small rural group and are facing changes in the upcoming months. So we are trying to plan going forward and we need to look for help on the Management Committee. We have two positions vacant and will probably have another in the fall. What do you think? Anyone interested in helping? Please email me.

Chilliwack ElderCollge ([www.chilliwackeldercollege.ca](http://www.chilliwackeldercollege.ca)) offered a six week genealogy class for beginners this fall. Topics covered include DNA, British Home Children, telling your family story, learning the how and where to research and what to trust. It also included a nice component on the United Empire Loyalists. From Origins of the American Revolution; Who were the Loyalists, and what roll did they play in the formation of Canada - helps bring our story to those enrolled who often do not know this part of Canadian History. The class has sixteen enrolled with a couple interested in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia history.

So hopefully we will get new members.

We will again be participating in the Remembrance Day Services in Chilliwack and Sardis, with a meet up afterwards at a local restaurant. Not a formal meeting, just a time for friends to catch up. We will send out an email advising of the location of the restaurant. Thanksgiving is just around the corner. So I wish you all the blessings of this lovely holiday. Enjoy with your family.



Loyally yours,  
 Marlene Dance UE

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# Calendar of Events for 2023

Print and save with your calendar



**Meetings will be scheduled individually.**

**Chilliwack Alliance Church, 8700 Young Rd., Chilliwack, BC**

Unless otherwise advised.

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:

November 11th

Remembrance Day and luncheon to follow at Canton Gardens

December 9th

Christmas Gathering to end the year TBA

## Up coming Schedule for 2024:

February TBA

AGM details to be announced in following issues.

June 6 - 9th

Annual Conference in Cornwall, Ontario Canada

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

[chwkbrielcontact@gmail.com](mailto:chwkbrielcontact@gmail.com)

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



# United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Partnering with Heritage Chilliwack Society since 2019

Keeping the Past Present!

[www.heritagechilliwack.org/](http://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.





## Results of our fundraiser! SOLD OUT!

In the April 2023 issue of our "Link Up", we announced the sale of the notebooks shown at left as a fundraiser for our branch. The notebook inside the quilted cover (once used up) could be replaced at little cost from a local Dollar Store.

We had a wide selection of fabrics to appeal to everyone and the Sports clubs, Canada and flower motifs were very popular. One of our talented members Carole Lefler UE, came up with the idea, then did most of the cutting, assembly and sewing.

After expenses, we cleared \$390.

These funds were earmarked for a \$200 donation to the Scholarship fund with the balance to be used to continue our various archiving projects.

## Congratulations Katie and Stewart!

A private residence in Cultus Lake, BC was the site of a festive outdoor wedding on September 16, 2023. Stewart King and Kaitlyn Lyftogt UE celebrated their nuptials with family and friends under sunny skies.

To the right we see the whole King clan:

Isla sleeping in Daddy's arms.

(I am told she slept through the whole event.)

Then Stewart and Katy and in front are Evan and Ben.

What a beautiful family you have created.

Proud mother is Cindy Lyftogt UE and proud grandmother is Judy Scholz UE.

Best wishes from your Chilliwack Branch UEL friends and family. Happiness always.



## Your Management Team hard at work on Sept. 18th, 2023.

Making plans for the future and enjoying each others' company. Here we see from l-r:

Carole Lefler UE, Margaret Strocel UE our hostess; Vicky Heibner UE and Marlene Dance UE.

Taking the picture and therefore avoiding the camera is Judy Scholz UE. See the Schedule of Events on page 2 for some of our upcoming plans.







## Chilliwack Fall Fair: GO HOG WILD!

August 11-13th, 2023

A real old fashioned country fair is hosted every year in Chilliwack. The Chilliwack & District Agricultural Society was incorporated in 1873. It is one of the oldest societies in BC and the second oldest continuously running fair. From various locations around the city, the Fair moved to the Heritage Park location in 2000. Each year sees events including a Rodeo, Farming contests, Livestock competitions, Fruits, Flowers, Vegetables and Baking entries, Painting, all types of Handwork, Music concerts and much more. Our own Judy Scholtz UE has a regular entry in various categories including Floral, Vegetables, Quilts, fruit & nuts and Bread.

For 2023 - here we see her rewards:

3 - 1st Prizes

1 - 2nd Prizes

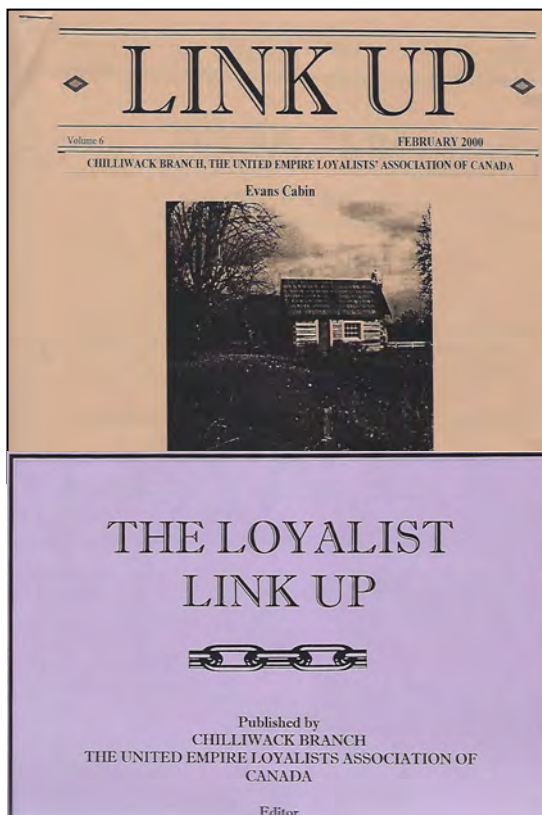
4 - 3rd Prizes

What a nice haul.

No wonder we like to eat at your place.



## Here is a Special project that everyone can help us with !!!



Every now and again, someone gives us old copies of our Newsletter titled "Link Up" or "the Loyalist Link Up".

According to our records the first issue was created and mailed out in November of 1994.

The two showing on the left are some examples.

But in fairness, we don't have many older issues, and honestly don't know what all old issues might look like.

We have every issue from June 2012, printed in colour, archived and bound together in groups of two or three years. We also have a flash-drive back up from 2012 in our archives.

These issues are all on our branch webpage as well. So what do you think? Is it time to clear out some drawers or closets? Maybe check out those old papers and issues you saved? Maybe boxes of items unmarked, or just labeled

Chilliwack Branch or Loyalist?

Have a look and help us, please?

You can scan as jpegs and send to [chwkbuecontact@gmail.com](mailto:chwkbuecontact@gmail.com)

OR

Email me at the above email and ask for the mailing address.

2023 UELAC  
Scholarship Fund Challenge



\$ 5,000.00  
*Goal for this challenge*



\$ 5,341.14  
*Amount raised to date*



37  
*Number of donors*

Last updated August 29, 2023

2023 Scholarship  
Challenge, June 1 –  
September 1, 2023

## THE SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE 2023

As mentioned in our last issue of the “Link Up”, Chilliwack Branch has in previous years made a donation to this fund.

We have done so again this year.

Please go to [www.uelac.ca](http://www.uelac.ca)

and click on the Scholarship Fund Challenge logo to see the list of Scholarship winners and read the history of the establishment of the Scholarship Fund.

Christine Manzer UE of Vancouver Branch is the Chair of the Committee.



### British Columbia Genealogical Society

The BCGS library opened on August 26 after being closed. You might not recognize them!

The exterior of the buildings have been repainted a nice grey/blue colour. The regular hours will still be Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 10am—3pm.

However one day a month—the

**LIBRARY WILL BE OPEN UNTIL 8PM**

**- On the LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

## JOIN THESE FACEBOOK GROUPS TO HELP WITH YOUR RESEARCH !



**Nova Scotia Genealogy Society**

**New Brunswick Genealogical Society**

**Obituary Lookups Canada**

**New Brunswick Genealogy (all counties)**

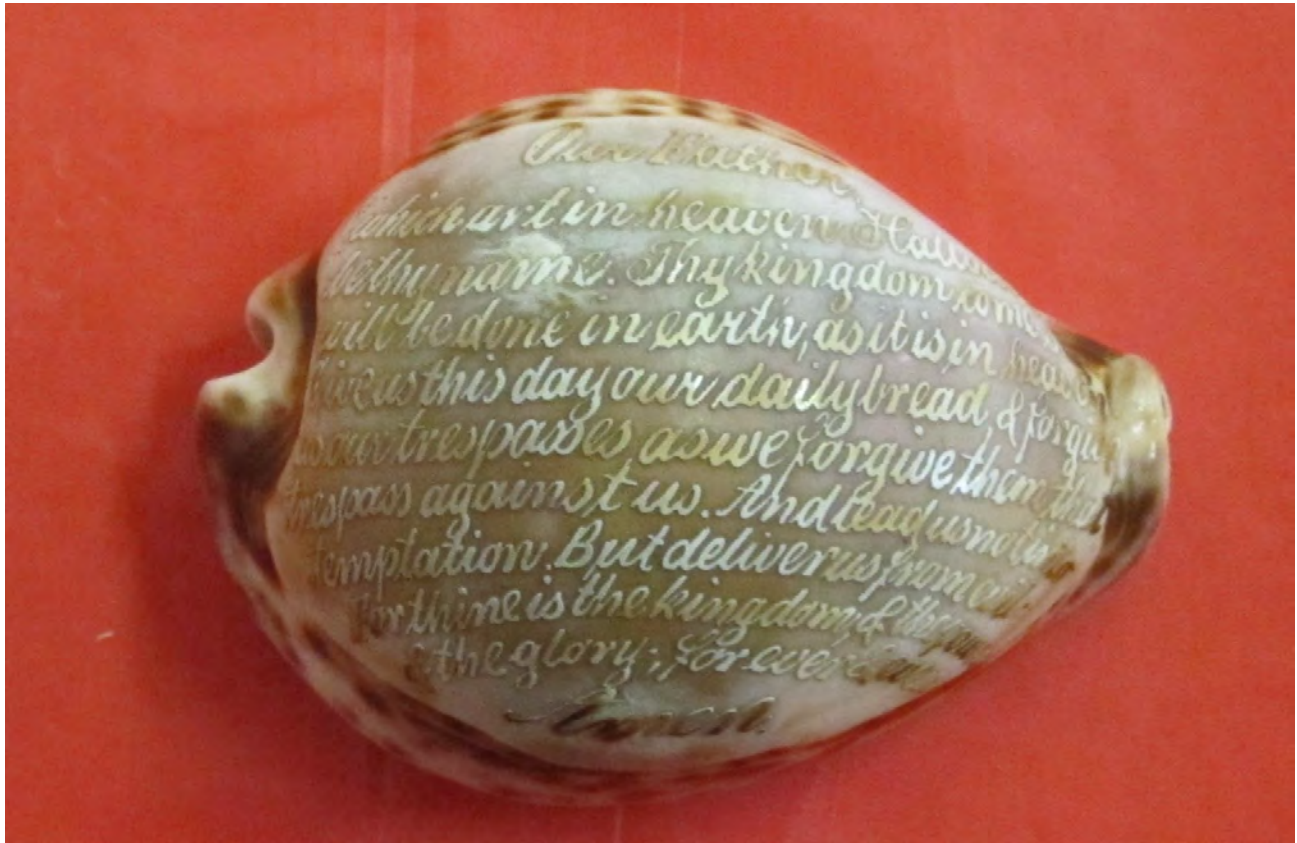
**Kings Co., New Brunswick Genealogy**

Also check out each branch of the UELAC to either join their Facebook page, or look for their website to send enquiries for information.

Everyone here is always willing to help others!



## An interesting item from the April 2013 issue:



**A cherished family memento. (article submitted by member Cleo Walters UE in 2013)**

**“Oronhyatekha was Canada’s second indigenous doctor. He was born on the Six Nations reserve in southern Ontario in 1841. In 1878 he entered the Independent Order of Foresters, a mutual insurance company and became its CEO within three years. He refused to give up his native identity and insisted on being addressed as Oronhyatekha (“Burning Sky or Burning Cloud”).**

**This shell was a gift from Queen Victoria with the Lord’s Prayer carved on it. You can clearly read it in this picture. On meeting the Prince of Wales in about 1868, he addressed him as an equal”.**

**Cleo writes: “My grandfather was the Government representative for the Mohawk reservation in Deseronto, Ontario. Oronhyatekha’s widow gave the shell to my grandfather as a gift following “O’s” death in March 1907”.**

[Oronhyatekha | The Canadian Encyclopedia](#)

[Doctor Oronhyatekha — A Mohawk of National Historic Significance - Bay of Quinte Tourism](#)

[Oronhyatekha – Canadian History Ehx \(canadaehx.com\)](#)



## From the Facebook page of “United Empire Loyalist Association (UELAC)”

(Pages 8 and 9 following are all from the above Facebook page posting)

In the mid-to-late 1660s and early 1670s, the Haudenosaunee established settlements along the trade routes close to the north shore of Lake Ontario. Bringing together traditional Indigenous knowledge and documentary and recent archaeological evidence, this book describes the historical context and examines the unique material culture found at these settlements.

Read: <https://www.indigo.ca/en-ca/the-history-and-archaeology-of-the-iroquois-du-nord/9780776639802.html?searchType=products&searchTerm=The%20History%20and%20Archaeology%20of%20the%20Iroquois%20du%20Nord&relatedTerms=the%20history%20and%20archaeology%20of%20the%20iroquois%20du%20Nord>



### THE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE IROQUOIS DU NORD

Edited by Robert von Bitter  
and Ronald F. Williamson



From east to west, these communities consisted of Ganneious, on Napanee or Hay Bay, on the Bay of Quinte; Kenté, near the isthmus of the Quinte Peninsula; Ganaraské, at the mouth of the Ganaraska River; Quintio, on Rice Lake; Ganatsekwyagon, near the mouth of the Rouge River; Teiaiaagon, near the mouth of the Humber River; and Qutinaouatoua, inland from the western end of Lake Ontario. All of these settlements likely contained people from several Haudenosaunee nations as well as former Ontario Iroquoians who had been adopted by the Haudenosaunee.

These self-sufficient places acted as bases for their own inhabitants but also served as stopovers for south shore Haudenosaunee on their way to and from the beaver hunt beyond the lower Great Lakes. The Cayuga village of Kenté was where, in 1668, the Sulpicians established a mission by the same name, which became the basis for the region's later name of Quinte. In 1676, a short-lived subsidiary mission was established at Teiaiaagon. It appears that most of the north shore villages were abandoned by 1688. This volume brings together traditional Indigenous knowledge as well as documentary and recent archaeological evidence of this period and focuses on describing the historical context and efforts to find the settlements and presents examinations of the unique material culture found at them and at similar communities in the Haudenosaunee homeland.



### The Merritt Family

The Merritt family can be traced back to the mid 17th century, (as shown on the last page of this publication). The earliest known Merritt was Thomas Merritt I. He was born in Westchester County, New York in 1634. He married Jane Sherwood (1634-1685) and died in November of 1725. Together they had thirteen children. Thomas Merritt II (1670-1719) was their seventh child, and their fourth son. He married Martha Marshall (1680-?) and together they had Thomas Merritt III (1694-1748). He married Mary Underhill (1698-1735) and had three sons; Nathaniel, Thomas IV, and Robert. Thomas Merritt IV (1729-1820) married Amy Purdy (1736-1784) and had seven children; Thomas V (1759-1842), Shubal (1762-1783), Phoebe (1763-1855), John (1766-1793),



Alma Rebecca Merritt

David Daniel (1764-1828), Nehemiah (1770-1842) and William (1773-1849). Thomas Merritt IV and his children all joined the Loyalist cause during the American War of Independence. The entire family left New York in 1783, some came to New Brunswick and others went to present day Ontario. David Daniel settled in Saint John and built Loyalist House for his family between 1810 and 1817. Upon his death in 1828, David Daniel left Loyalist House to his second eldest son, David Jabez Merritt. David Jabez married twice, first to Fanny Cornwall (?-1838) and then to Anna Magee (1821-1911) and had ten children; Eliza (1849-1921), Thomas (?-1910), Stanley (1852-1860), Charles (1855-1927), Anna (?-1932), Percival (1856-1957), Louisa (1860-1941), John (1875-1876), William (?-1926), and Fred. Upon her fathers death in 1884, Louisa inherited Loyalist House. Much against the will of her parents, Louisa married her first cousin, John Swain Harrison and had one son, Louis (1900-1958). Louis became a photographer and inherited Loyalist House following his mothers death in 1941. He married Georgie Hanson (?-1947) and had one son, David Merritt (b.1946). When Georgie died shortly after the birth of David, David was sent to live with relatives in the U.S.A. for most of his childhood. Louis lived alone in Loyalist House until his death in 1958. It was at this time the house was sold to the N.B. Historical Society to be restored as a museum. David continues to live in the U.S.A.. He has a wife and two children.

*Loyalist House, A National Historic Site, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada*

*page 15*

### The next item from the Facebook page of the United Empire Loyalist Association (UELAC) Loyalist House in New Brunswick, National Historic Site

Details of this branch of the Merritt family tree in Westchester County, New York can be seen on the right of this pamphlet which was included with the FB posting.

This has been most helpful to me in checking my husband's Merritt Family. My husband's branch is Joseph Merritt 1741-1813 (5th G Grandfather married to Mary Parker 1751-1834). They came from Rye, New York (land confiscated) to the Niagara Peninsula near Smithville in the late 1780s as mentioned at left.

I always thought this Thomas Merritt who married Jane Sherwood were distant relations.

I am now able to say that they are 9th Great Grandparents of my husband. The names Thomas, Joseph and David (just to name a few) are recurring first names on almost every branch and every generation of the family tree. And with the Thomas Merritt mentioned at left having thirteen children, the search has been lengthy.

Submitted by M.L. Dance UE







### Our third and final item from the Facebook page of the United Empire Loyalists Association (UELAC)

**Hector** was a ship famous for having been part of the first significant migration of [Scottish](#) settlers to [Nova Scotia](#) in 1773. The replica of the original ship is located at the Hector Heritage Quay, a heritage centre run by local volunteers, in [Pictou](#), Nova Scotia. *Hector* was an old ship and in poor condition when she left Europe. The arduous voyage to Pictou took 11 weeks, with a gale off [Newfoundland](#) causing a 14-day delay.

[Dysentery](#)<sup>[9]</sup> and [smallpox](#) claimed 18 lives amongst the passengers.

The vessel arrived in [Pictou Harbour](#) on September 15, landing at Brown's Point, immediately west of the present-day town of Pictou.

The year's free provisions never materialized for the passengers of *Hector*. They had to hurry to build shelter without those provisions before winter set in and starved them.

Another ship, also named *Hector* was built in 1789. This ship brought over Scottish immigrants to the United States, making departures from [Liverpool](#) to [New York City](#) in the 1820s and 1830s.



The Passenger list may be found at:  
[The Hector Passenger Ship, 1773 \(rootsweb.com\)](#)

(at left: Hector at Heritage Quay 2012)

## Lost Villages of the St. Lawrence River

A recent presentation by Jim Brownell at the Zoom meeting of the Vancouver Branch UELAC on September 19th, told the story that as a young boy, he lived there during the moving and displacement of all these villages.

**Very interesting. Thank you. An invitation was sent to all branch members.**

"The deliberate inundation of 259 Square Kilometers on the Canadian side of the river continued for 4 straight days, swallowing up..." (9 villages and 2 hamlets)". The lives of those living in these 12 vibrant, essential, and historic communities were disrupted to make way for the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Moses-Saulte Dam. Nearly 550 homes and 6,500 residents were moved in the process; countless more homes, many churches, farms, places of business and other structures were demolished, and roadways and railroads were sacrificed to the new waters. Eighteen small cemeteries with more than 5,000 known graves were relocated, but most - hauntingly, were covered in glacial till, limestone and boulders, and left behind.

<https://hauntedwalk.com/news/the-lost-villages-of-the-st-lawrence-river/>

