

DECEMBER 2025

Volume 14 - Issue 6

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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

First issue - May 1994

Branch Chartered October 18, 1990



Photo by M.L. Dance UE

President's Message

First I would like to send Christmas wishes to you all and greetings for a happy and healthy New Year. I hope you are able to share these special days with family and friends.

Time moves so quickly and 2026 is just around the corner.

These past two months have included our 35th anniversary celebration, Remembrance Day services and for my family, a visit from England of two cousins. For a November visit, they timed it very well as there was very little rain and they made it to Kamloops and back easily. In between showing them about and taking them to various locations, was garden clean-up for the winter.

Please see Chris Buckner UE's story on page 4. He and his wife are new members, and it was so nice to see his application come together quickly.

The weatherman was calling for rain on Nov. 11th and it was already cold. But it turned out to be crisp and sunny. Please see page 3 for our few photos and notice the blue sky. Very few came back for lunch at Canton Garden this year, but as usual, the food was good and the company is always fun.

We have already had eighteen members renew and one new member join. So we are off to a very good start. We finished the year with seventy members which was up considerably from the 53 at year end in 2024.

We also have a number of Loyalist certificates in the works. Just searching for a few all important proofs. Thank you all for your support and help this past year. It is very much appreciated. If I don't see you at the Christmas event, I will see you next year in person or on Zoom for the AGM.

Loyally yours,
Marlene Dance UE



United Empire
Loyalists' Association
of Canada
Chilliwack Branch
Your Management Committee
for 2025/26

President: Marlene Dance UE
Vice Pres: vacant

Past Pres: S. Dargatz UE (deceased)

Secretary: Judy Scholz UE

Treasurer: Carole Lefler UE

Genealogist: Marlene Dance UE

Asst. " Janet McCartney UE

Web Mistress: Vicky Heibner UE

Honourary member & Director:

Margaret Strocel UE

Branch Directors:

Chris Hay UE

Cindy Lyfogt UE

Helena Bastedo Smith UE

Jan Ouellet

Social Conveners:

Vicky Heibner UE

Rebecca Heibner UE

Newsletter: Marlene Dance UE

Pacific Regional VP

Carl Stymiest UE

Pacific Regional Councilor

Michael Woodcock UE



Calendar for 2025/2026 Page 2

Remembrance Day Page 3

Christmas invite/ and

Items of interest Page 4 - 8

2026 Renewal Page 9



Calendar of Events for 2026

Print and save with your calendar



Meetings will be scheduled individually.

Details as to location, Zoom links and guest speakers, will be sent via email and/or included below in each edition of this newsletter.



2025:

Dec 14th Christmas with Vancouver Branch in Surrey, BC
email w/details were sent separately to all members.

2026:

March 7 Annual General Meeting via Zoom
May Spring Fleet Gathering details TBA
July Loyalist Day Picnic w/Vancouver Branch details TBA
October Fall Fleet Gathering details TBA
Nov 11th Remembrance Day Cenotaph & Canton Gardens luncheon
December Annual Christmas event w/Vancouver Branch details TBA

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

"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, Gibbens House.

As well as District 1881 - the new downtown rejuvenation.



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2025 Chilliwack, BC

Thousands of people gathered at three locations in Chilliwack to pay their respects to Canadian soldiers and veterans on Nov. 11. There were huge turnouts for Chilliwack's Remembrance Day ceremonies at Veterans' Memorial Park, All Sappers' Memorial Park and the Coqualeetza Longhouse. People welcomed the rare weather, a cold and sunny day, as they lined the streets and surrounded cenotaphs for the sombre tributes which included parades to the memorials, prayers, laying of wreaths, airplane flypasts, the reading of the poem *In Flanders Fields*, and a trumpet playing *The Last Post*. (from the Chilliwack Progress Nov. 14, 2025)





Loyalist Certificate presented

Branch member Chris Buchner has been a paramedic with the British Columbia Emergency Health Services for the past 32 years. He is married to Deb and they are the parents of two boys. They have resided in Chilliwack since 2004.

They were unable to attend our Oct. 4th celebration to have his certificate presented, due to attending a son's wedding.

A much more important event.

So it was arranged to happen on November 8th following their return. I was so pleased to be able to do this for them.

Chris' Loyalist is Johannes (John) Buchner Sr. This Loyalist Buchner family settled near Norfolk Co., Ontario Upper Canada. Also, on a map dated May 16, 1795, we found Buchners in Willowby Township near the Niagara River. And they are also listed in Annals of the Forty published by the Grimsby Historical Society.

Deb works at the downtown Library and was instrumental in ensuring the application came together and all proofs located.

A new name to add to our proven Loyalists on our branch webpage. Congratulations, Chris!

2025 UELAC Vancouver & Chilliwack Branch Christmas Party



December 14th – 1:00 pm

Place: 13918-58th Avenue, Surrey, BC (Club House – Alder Park)

*At the gate enter *3939*

Parking Pass attached to the email. If you are driving please print the pass and place it on the dash of your car.

Once again, we thank Ed and Rose Marie for their hospitality

An email has been sent to all members with the Check List, directions and the parking pass. Please bring a small gift for the exchange. Label it male or female if needed.

Bring a Finger Food—sweet or Savory for the buffet table. Bring your own Xmas mug!

Email chwkbruelcontact@gmail.com if you have questions!



Chilliwack Branch Projects in the works:

1) LOYALISTS AND THE CHILLIWACK CONNECTION

This project is ongoing. We are working with the applications in our archives.

Chilliwack Pioneers with a Loyalist connection include:

Aitken, Blakney, Dahl, Evans, Thornton, Stevenson, Patten, Webb, Reeves, Munro, Chadsey, Halcrow, Nelles, Kipp, Reece and Higginson. We are matching to the 1881 Canada Census.

It is the first census following the establishment of the township of "Chilliwhack" in 1873.
(spelling changed to Chilliwack later)

In addition, please check out the current issue of Loyalist Trails Fall 2025, for a great article by Michael Woodcock UE. On pages 16 - 20 "Early UEL Descendants in British Columbia".

2)

2) Organization of our Library/storage room area:

In reviewing our past history "Branching Out" on our webpage, we found a comment about establishing a Memorial Library in memory of Andrew Webb UE in the Fall of 1995.

Andrew was a signer of our charter and our first Branch Genealogist. A number of books from his collection were donated to get our library established. We have had a sign made.

Our reorganization is ongoing. We have slowed down a bit but will get going again in the new year.

Chilliwack Branch

United Empire Loyalist' Association of Canada

[Homepage for Chilliwack Branch, United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada \(UELAC\)](#)

Some additions to our web page include -

A few new "In Memoriam" mentions;

Our ancestors' list of proven Loyalists by our branch has new names added;

Newsletters, Bulletins and handouts back to 1991 added.

Contact information including links to other Pacific Region branches

The Home page includes one of our pictures from the October 1990 granting of our Charter presented by then UELAC President Arnold W. Nethercott UE.

As well as a few new additions from our 35th Anniversary.

Apply for Certificates for your Grandchildren!

We have had a few enquires by both present and past members to get Loyalist Certificates for the grandchildren.

Our 35th Anniversary celebration on October 4th included the presenting of certificates to the granddaughters of Chris Hay UE - Sofie Foulds UE and sister Hayle Foulds UE.

Please see page 8 of our October issue for pictures.

A family membership is required. But all residing at the same address would be included in the \$70 per year membership.

Also, once approved, the application fee would be \$50.

What a wonderful heritage to pass down to family.

Loyalist Trails



Our [weekly e-newsletter](#) is full of information, research, and community events.

[Subscribe here](#) or visit the [archive](#) for prior issues back to 2004.

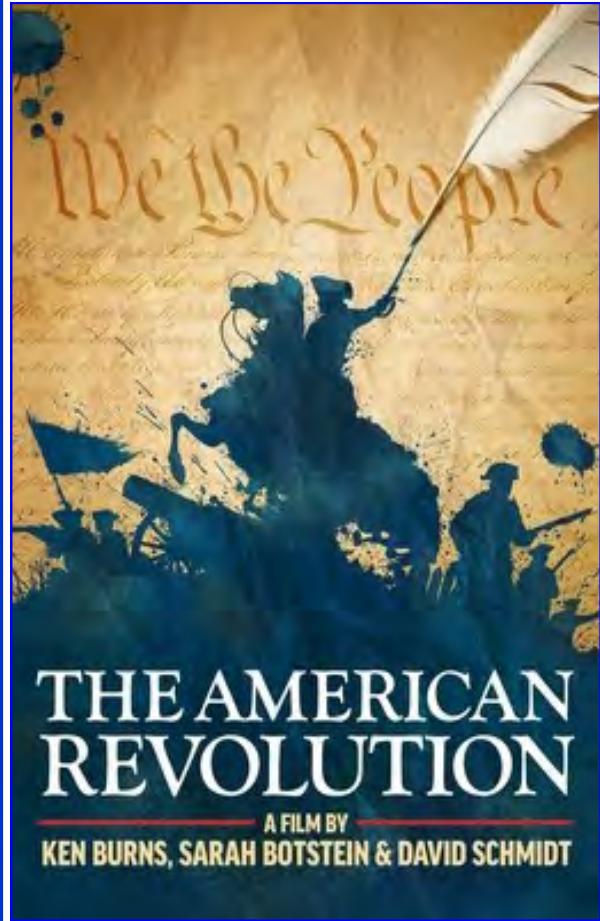
Loyalist Trails weekly newsletter

Just a reminder that this is an excellent newsletter with all sorts of topics related to Loyalist history.

This newsletter is free to anyone. So share with your friends and family. Go to www.uelac.ca and subscribe. [UELAC – United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada](#)

In addition, note that on the website, back issues of this newsletter to 2004 can be viewed and read.

Articles are submitted by well known historians interested in history.



The American Revolution

There is renewed interest in this topic, thanks to the recent airing of the Ken Burns documentary on PBS.

In a six part, twelve hour series, it tells of the rebellion and victory, to form the United States.

If you missed it, I believe it is being streamed on the PBS app and will be aired again later on PBS.

The American Revolution was at once a war for independence, a war of conquest, a civil war, and a world war, fought by neighbors on American farms and between global powers an ocean or more away. It pitted families against each other. The series is billed as an expansive, evenhanded look at the virtues and the contradictions in the fight for independence and the birth of the United States.

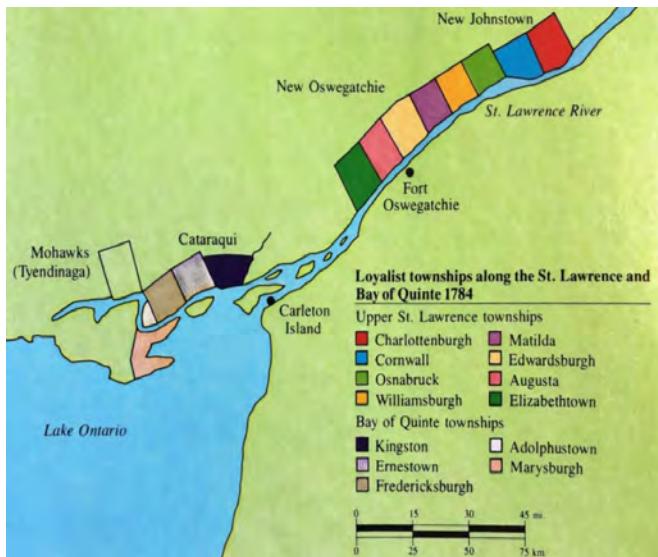
As descendants of the Loyalists - you decide!



Follow UE Loyalist History [THE LOYALIST TOWNSHIPS](#) (ctrl & enter)

By [Brian McConnell, UE](#) posted: [October 21, 2025](#)

My ancestor James Humphrey who served with Jessup's Rangers during the American Revolution was granted land after the conflict to settle in [Edwardsburgh](#) Township. There is a monument to him and other United Empire Loyalists at [Johnstown](#), within the township, which I visited as appears in a YouTube video near the bottom of this page.



Other Rangers received lands in [Augusta](#), [Elizabethtown](#), and [Ernestown](#) Townships. These were four of the initial thirteen Loyalist Townships created in Upper Canada, now Ontario.

The original Loyalist townships created in Ontario for Loyalists were established beside the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario. The first survey marker was placed on 27 October 1783. Eight of the townships were along the upper St. Lawrence River and five along the Bay of Quinte. They were given names associated with King George III and his children. Together with two townships surveyed later, [Sophiasburgh](#) and [Ameliasburgh](#) they became known as the Royal Townships.

A nine mile wide vacant area was left between the most eastern township, [Charlottenburgh](#), and the last French seigneury. In the five eastern townships, Charlottenburgh, [Cornwall](#), [Osnabruck](#), [Williamsburgh](#), and [Matilda](#) were settled members of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. Most of the Jessup's (Loyal) Rangers were given lands in the next three townships, Edwardsburgh, Augusta, and Elizabethtown.

Further west the township of [Kingston](#) was for group of about 50 families which arrived in 1784 from New York City led by Michael Grass. The next township, Ernestown, was for Loyal Rangers. Beside it, [Fredericksburgh](#) went to the second battalion, King's Royal Regiment of New York and the King's Rangers.

[Adolphustown](#) was for Peter Van Alstine's group of United Empire Loyalists from New York and Marysburgh to go to German regulars staying in Canada and some from 84th Regiment (Royal Highland Emigrants).

Later, by 1788, after further surveying, two townships were established for Butler's Rangers. These were Niagara, which includes [Niagara - on - the - Lake](#), and Stamford, now part of the city of [Niagara Falls](#).

The Mohawks, led by Joseph Brant, were given a grant six miles wide on either side of the Grand River. The area where [Brantford](#) is located is on land that was part of the 1784 land grant for the Grand River Reservation. The modern Six Nations of the Grand River Reserve is south of the city. John Deseronto preferred the Bay of Quinte and settled with other Mohawks there in the township of [Tyendinaga](#).

OTHER items at this site include:

84th Regiment

Saint Andrews, New Brunswick

Digby, Nova Scotia

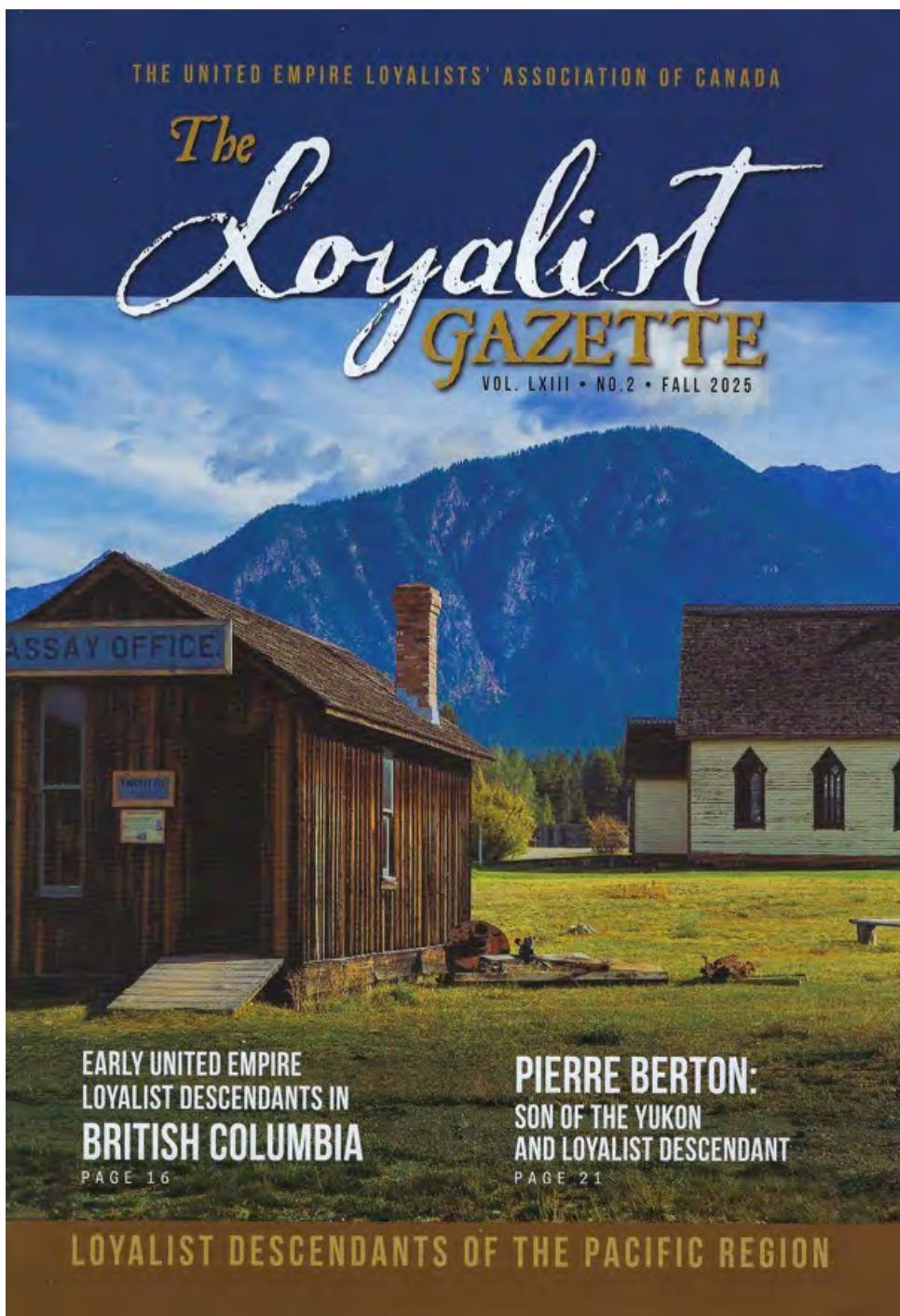
Fort Ticonderoga

Hessians

(click on any underlined word to go to the site mentioned)

The Loyalist Gazette Vol. LXIII - No.2 - FALL 2025

Featuring: Loyalist Descendants of the Pacific Region.



Please check out the current issue of Loyalist Trails Fall 2025, for a great article by Michael Woodcock UE, Pacific Regional Councilor, and member of Victoria and Chilliwack Branches. Look on page 16 for "Early UEL Descendants in British Columbia". Also check out the many other articles chosen for this issues theme. You can download your copy as a member from the UELAC webpage or maybe you opted to receive the printed copy via mail. Another great issue - thanks to the Editorial team.



UELAC CHILLIWACK BRANCH NEW/RENEW MEMBERSHIP 2026

Many thanks for your continued support.

Annual dues are as follows:

Individual Membership: \$40.00 (to the UELAC) + \$15.00 (Chilliwack Branch) = \$55.00

Family Membership: \$55.00 (to the UELAC) + \$15.00 (Chilliwack Branch) = \$70.00

(A Family membership is for all persons residing at the same address)

If already a member of another Branch: = \$15.00

Please indicate name of Branch: _____

If it is July 1st or later, the membership fee for the balance of the year is 1/2 price.

Please make your cheque payable to UELAC—Chilliwack Branch

Your Name(s) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Loyalist Ancestor(s) if known: _____

Membership Fees: Please circle the membership category chosen above.

Please mail to: Marlene Dance UE, President

5546 Highroad Crescent,
Chilliwack, BC V2R 3X9

Or..... Please use our online Renewal at: www.uelac.ca

**** If a Family Membership group, please add names of Family members
into the appropriate place online or if mailing—on the reverse of this form****

Your membership includes receiving a copy of our magazine “The Gazette” twice yearly.

6 issues of the “Link Up” - the Chilliwack Branch newsletter. As well as

Email reminders for events, sign ups and items of interest.

Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) requires that our Branch have your consent for us to contact you electronically. By joining our Branch, you are consenting to receive electronic communications from us. You may ask us to remove you from the group email list at any time by replying to one of our communications and asking us to remove you.

If mailing in: Please return this form with your membership.