



The Kawartha Periodical



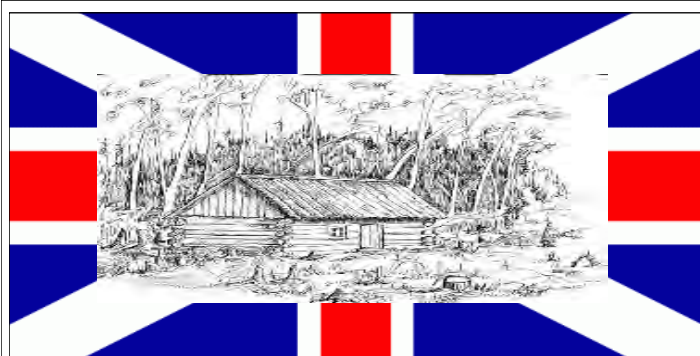
Newsletter of the **Kawartha Branch** of the **United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada**

Web site: <<http://www.uelac.org/Kawartha>>

Volume 19, Issue 02

The Kawartha Branch was granted its charter on 23 June 1979

Fall - Winter 2019



The President's Message

Change is in the air: seasons, celebrations, membership, opportunities, and so many people to thank for their input and service to our Branch.

We've now held three Branch Meetings at the Mount and are adjusting to the space and facilities thanks to Frank and Joan Lucas UE having worked tirelessly in the background to make the space work for us. This year, our focus at General Meetings is to bring experts to the meetings to provide our members with resources for researching the Loyalist past of our ancestors. Our Program Convenor, Graham Hart UE, made arrangements for both of our Fall speakers in 2019. Our guest speakers for the September meeting at the Mount were Angela and Peter Johnson UE. They spoke about the Hay Bay restoration project, now under way. In fact, the exterior cladding in wood is now complete and looks like the church looked before the year 1800! The Old Hay Bay Church was erected in 1792 by settlers, including United Empire Loyalists, who had established the settlement of Adolphustown. (Greater Napanee today). Each summer, in late August, Kawartha Branch Members are invited to see the restoration progress as we support its ongoing maintenance.

UE certificates were accepted by Lois and Greg O'Neill-Jackson UE for their children: Oakley Davis Howe UE, Deacon Thomas Howe UE, Genevieve Wren Howe UE, and Nicholas Taylor Babcock UE, descendants of the Loyalist, Nicholas Alexander UE.

We always like to show our appreciation with the presentation of a UE Pin and a hand-made card of welcome to each newly proven descendant of a Loyalist. It was special to have Angela and Peter assist with the Certificate presentation.

For a year or more Kawartha Branch has been heading up the design and execution of a plaque telling the story of E. John Chard UE, the former Patron of our Branch and founder of many others. The plaque is now being constructed. It is hoped that it can



be permanently displayed at the United Empire Loyalist Centre and Park in Adolphustown where many eyes will see it. We will be planning an unveiling ceremony to take place in the Spring for this special event.

On Remembrance Day members marched to the cenotaph opposite City Hall. It is an honour to be invited by the Legion to take part each year and to lay a wreath



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honouring those Loyalists who served and died defending our Country from its beginning.

On 17 November, our guest speaker, UELAC Central East Regional Vice-President, Anne Redish UE, gave a detailed power point talk about finding online resources that make our job of documenting our Loyalist research much easier. Handouts were distributed to those in attendance and more resources were made available electronically. We were honoured by the presence of Past Kawartha Branch President, Doreen Thompson UE, who accompanied her daughter, Anne, to attend our meeting.

Our MA scholarship student, Ginny Sadlier, is in the writing phase of her MA thesis. Our Branch is waiting to receive new applicants from Trent University and Sir Sandford Fleming in 2020. Supporting students either studying Loyalist themes or learning about conservancy is our most worthy goal.

Membership renewals at the Dominion level are going online. In the future, our Members who join Kawartha Branch will be able to renew and pay online using a credit card or Paypal. For now, our Treasurer prefers to manually process Branch Membership renewals either in person, at Branch meetings, or by mail. Information about the new system will be given in future meetings, beginning on 16 February 2020.

The Executive of our Branch is exploring the idea of setting up a term display of the Loyalists at Lang Pioneer Village as part of our task of being a visible presence in the community. At our next meeting in February, I will have information about this venture.

Meanwhile, both Bob and I wish you a Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years.

Sincerely and loyally yours,

Grietje McBride UE

President, Kawartha Branch UELAC 2019 - 2020

Phone: 705-295-4556

E-mail: maplegm@gmail.com.



**Finding your
Loyalist history
is a very
rewarding task !!!**

From The Editor's Desk ...



Here in Kawartha Branch, we feel that we have a great deal to offer to our members as we continue into the future.

To maintain an informative and interesting newsletter, we are actively seeking your family history or passed-down stories of Loyalists and their family adventures.



I trust that you find this Fall - Winter 2019 issue of our **Kawartha Periodical** newsletter of interest and we look forward to hearing from you !!!

Sincerely and loyally yours,
Bob McBride UE,
Kawartha Branch
Newsletter Editor.

Genealogist's Report



26 November 2019

2019 has been a busy year with lots of Members working on their genealogy in preparation for applying for their certificates.

Seven certificates have been presented to:

Nancy Cator UE, David Cator UE and Paul Cator UE, whose Loyalist Ancestor was Andrew Kimmerly UE; Nicholas Babcock UE, Genevieve Babcock Howe UE, Deacon Thomas Howe UE, and Oakley Davis Howe UE, whose Loyalist Ancestor was Alexander Nicholson UE

In November we were pleased to welcome Anne Redish UE, UELAC Central East Regional Vice-President, who conducted a workshop on how to use the National Library and Archives Canada site, not only for Land Records but to find many other sites of



interest to genealogists. It was very well done and included a printed guide of instructions. If you missed it, there are still some printed guides available.

I encourage all who may be having difficulties proving their ancestry to please contact me and together we can search out the answers.

Contact me at 705-876-9800 or by e-mail <jflucas@sympatico.ca>

Happy Hunting !!!

Joan Lucas UE,
Kawartha Branch
Genealogist.

Phone: 705-876-9800

E-mail: jflucas@sympatico.ca

Treasurer's Report

09 December 2019

Assets

Closing bank balance as of

30 November 2019: \$ 1,946.27

CIBC Wood-Gundy Portfolio balance as of

30 November 2019: \$259,502.39

Total Assets: \$261,448.66

Notes:

1. All bills paid as of 30 November 2019.
2. Portfolio value increase approximately \$9,000 since September report.
3. Year-to-date income: \$6,843.60.
4. Estimated income September 2019 to August 2020: \$10,073.
5. Total members paid Year To Date for 2020: 86 (Paid membership last year was 116)
6. Per capita dues submitted to Dominion Office: \$1260.00 including 15 individual memberships and 12 family memberships.



7. Members are reminded that their dues for 2020 are due in to Treasurer as of 31 December 2019.

Thank you.

Frank Lucas, Treasurer.

Phone: 705-876-9800

E-mail:

frank.lucas@sympatico.ca

The Loyalist Corner Needs Your Stories !!!

Many years ago an appeal was made for Kawartha Branch members to submit a summary or vignette of their Loyalist ancestor. When I revived our Branch Newsletter in the spring of 1997 with Volume 5, Issue 1, Joan Lucas UE, then our Branch President, provided me with seventeen vignettes of varying lengths that had been submitted to her over the years from Branch members.

Now, having published over forty vignettes, we have none left in our archives. Thus we are in desperate need of new material to ensure the continuation of the **Loyalist Corner** in future issues. You will find a complete listing of what is in our archives and the vignettes that have been published in the past issues on page 05 of this newsletter.

Vignettes or histories of your Loyalist ancestor need not be lengthy nor fully documented.

Our readership is most interested in the story of your Loyalist ancestor and it is best described in your own words.

PLEASE HELP

by sending your submissions to

Bob McBride UE, Editor,
Kawartha Branch Newsletter,
Maple Grove Farms,
2260 North Esson Line,
Indian River, Ontario. K0L 2B0.
Phone: 1-705-295-4556.
E-mail:
gazette.editor@nexicom.net.



Kawartha Branch Executive and Committees for 2019 - 2020

President	Grietje R. McBride UE	705-295-4556	maplegrm@nexicom.net
Immediate Past President	Robert C. McBride UE	705-295-4556	gazette.editor@nexicom.net
First Vice-President	William Russell UE (pending election)	705-924-9829	billrussell10@gmail.com
Second Vice-President	Vacant		
Secretary	Margaret Pulver UE	705-742-2255	mpulver2@icloud.com
Treasurer	Frank Lucas	705-876-9800	frank.lucas@sympatico.ca
Genealogist	Joan Lucas UE	705-876-9800	jflucas@sympatico.ca
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Programme Convenor	Graham Hart UE	705-743-6837	egrahamhart@yahoo.ca
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Historian-Archivist	Ronald (Ron) Good UE	905-885-8777	rsgood@eagle.ca
Membership & Telephone Chairperson	Grietje McBride UE	705-295-4556	maplegrm@nexicom.net
Web Master	Robert McBride UE	705-295-4556	gazette.editor@nexicom.net
Education Advisors	Grietje McBride UE	705-295-4556	maplegrm@gmail.com
	Robert McBride UE	705-295-4556	gazette.editor@nexicom.net
Social Convenor	Ann-Marie Dunford UE	705-772-8731	annm427@gmail.com
Lending Library	Ken Spry UE	705-745-6422	
	Patricia Staples UE	705-930-6408	trishstaples@gmail.com
Colour Party	Graham Hart UE	705-742-0451	egrahamhart@yahoo.ca
	William Atkinson UE	705-743-0279	xpiscop@nexicom.net
Directors	Wellington Borland UE	705-742-0743	wimpy1213@gmail.com
	Pam Dickey UE	705-657-1926	pamdickeyuel@sympatico.ca
	Robert McBride UE	705-295-4556	gazette.editor@nexicom.net
	Arnold Weirmeir UE	705-760-9152	arnoldvw@sympatico.ca

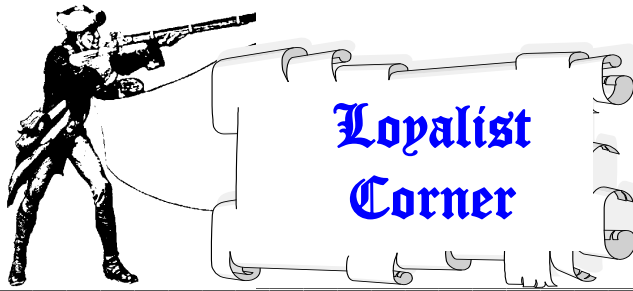
Future Meetings:

Sunday, 16 February 2020:

Members of Kawartha Branch will give a power-point presentation about the Loyalist beginnings in the Kawarthas, featuring Joan Lucas UE, Grietje McBride UE, and Bob McBride UE. Special thanks to Graham Hart UE for arranging our speakers.



**We need a volunteer to serve as
Second Vice-President.
If you are interested,
please contact
Kawartha Branch President,
Grietje McBride UE,
or any other Members of the Executive.**



Each of these UE ancestors
have been highlighted in issues
of *The Kawartha Periodical* :

Issue	Loyalist
Volume 5, Issue 1	· William Fairchild UE · Andrew Denike UE · Adam Young UE & Henry Young UE
Volume 5, Issue 2	· Sgt. Henry Buchner (Boughner, Buckner) UE · Jacob DeCou UE & Captain John DeCou
Volume 6, Issue 1	· Martin Silmzer UE
Volume 6, Issue 2	· Richard Rogers UE · James Rogers UE
Volume 7, Issue 1	· Capt. Jacobus Peck Jr. UE · James Peck Jr. UE
Volume 7, Issue 2	· Sgt. Gabriel Purdy UE · Timothy Pringle (Prindle) UE · Daniel Fraser UE
Volume 8, Issue 1	· John Hagerman Sr. UE · Peter Irish UE · McGregor Van Every UE
Volume 8, Issue 2	· Thomas Goheen Sr. UE · John Howell UE · John Stevens Sr. UE
Volume 9, Issue 1	· Col. David Breakenridge UE
Volume 9, Issue 2	· Philip Hartman UE
Volume 10, Issue 1	· David Springer UE
Volume 10, Issue 2	· John Howell UE · Descendants of Adam Young UE
Volume 11, Issue 1	· Henry Munger UE
Volume 11, Issue 2	· Catherine Kester
Volume 12, Issue 1	· John Lake Senior UE
Volume 12, Issue 2	· Robert Land UE
Volume 13, Issue 1	· Col. William Marsh UE
Volume 14, Issue 1	- Ordelia Pymmer, Mrs. (John) Eastman Orser UE
Volume 14, Issue 2	- The Palatine LOTT Family
Volume 15, Issue 1	- Robert Bessey Senior UE
Volume 15, Issue 2	- The Finckel Family

Volume 16, Issue 1	- "Old" John Conklin UE
Volume 16, Issue 2	- Fort Ninety Six and Robert Graham UE
Volume 17, Issue 1	- My Morden Trail by Douglas G. Morden UE
Volume 17, Issue 2	- Murder of John Irish by Anna Isabel (Irish) Wessell UE
Volume 18, Issue 1	- Adam Young UE updated
Volume 18, Issue 2	- Major the Reverend James Donald Howson UE is 104
Volume 19, Issue 1	- Abraham Dafoe UE and family by A. Joan Lucas UE
Volume 19, Issue 2	- Memories of Major the Reverend James Donald Howson UE, by Graham Hart UE



Next Kawartha Branch Meeting

**Sunday,
16 February 2020
2:00 p.m.
Heritage Room,
The Mount
Community Centre,
1545 Monaghan Road,
Peterborough,
Ontario.**

**Members of Kawartha Branch will
give a power-point presentation about
the Loyalist beginnings in the Kawarthas.**

Reminder

**Please send
any change of address or contact details to
Grietje McBride UE
so that we can keep our
Kawartha Branch Membership List
up-to-date !!!**

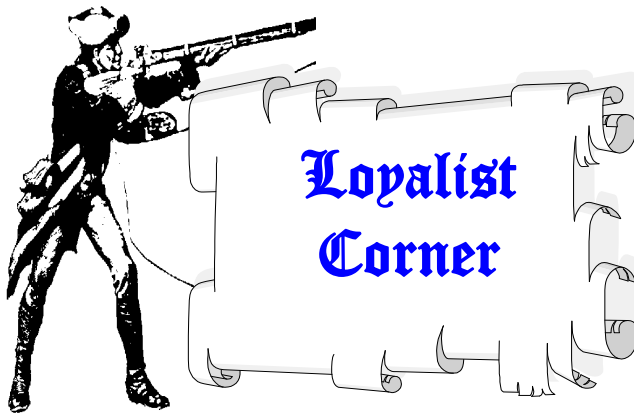
She can be reached at:

**Grietje McBride UE
Maple Grove Farms,
2260 North Esson Line,
Indian River, Ontario.
K0L 2B0**

Phone: 705-295-4556

**E-mail:
maplegrm@gmail.com**





The Loyalist Corner will return when we receive new vignettes about our Loyalist ancestors.

In the meantime, here is the tribute to Major the Reverend James Donald Howson UE, given at his Celebration of Life, in St. John's Anglican Church, Peterborough, Ontario, by Graham Hart UE:



A reflection on Major, the Reverend Donald Howson UE, presented by Graham Hart UE on the occasion of his funeral, 13 October 2019 at St. John's Anglican Church, Peterborough, Ontario.

Graham Hart UE, a Member and Programme Convenor of the Kawartha Branch UELAC, was the Senior Anchor and Producer at CHEX Television in Peterborough for many years.

I'm not entirely sure when exactly I first met the Major and, despite his bear-trap memory, neither was he, but he ballparked it as being not long after I arrived in Peterborough in 1973.

I am presuming, with good reason, I made his acquaintance, after I complied with a request by a Monarchist I'd befriended that I accept the position of Treasurer of the Peterborough Chapter of the Monarchist League of Canada, of which I had not until then been involved but of which the Major was a founding and still active member.

Our initial interactions were sporadic at best, limited to times when we happened to cross paths for one reason or another, but I do remember early on

sending him a Christmas card and the following year receiving one from him, the envelope beautifully addressed in his lovely cursive handwriting inside a card strangely familiar. It would soon become clear it was the very same card that I'd sent to him the previous year complete with my original handwritten note that stated, amongst other things, my intention to pay him a visit in the year to come. That part the Major had boldly encircled with his pen and, I recall, added not a word. Perplexed at first, I eventually got it. He was simply pointing out in his, I would later learn, preference for making a point in a most convincing yet inoffensive manner, my failure to have done what I had proposed to do. He had not taken my good but failed intentions to visit him lightly and it was a mistake I would never again make, at least not with the Major. I wouldn't be at all surprised if I still have that returned card in a box somewhere, he and I both sharing a condition that convinced us that absolutely nothing, regardless of its perceived value, or lack thereof, should ever be discarded.

We obviously had things in common and we, over time, became friends. I knew that for certain when I was added to the list of those invited to his annual Christmas Party. I'll never forget those wonderful Dickens-era-like gatherings that would see guests given a specific time-frame in which to attend, at the end of which, to make room for the next group of attendees, they were expected to leave. Remarkably, it all seemed to go off without a hitch.

My subsequent visits with the Major, that increased in frequency over the years, always netted me a good deal more than I was ever able to give, I'm sure. I found him charmingly unusual and extraordinary in so many ways: an ordained minister, a World War II and Korean War veteran, a Chaplain, a psychologist, a Peterborough School Board Trustee, was once nearly chosen for the British Foreign Legion while studying in the United Kingdom and, years later, turned down a promotion and posting to Halifax when he decided to end his military career in protest over the government's Unification of the Canadian Armed Forces Act in 1968.

As a descendant of respected Loyalist, Nicholas Amey UE, he was also a proud member of the Kawartha Branch of the United Empire Loyalists'

Association of Canada and in the 1970s was the Association's Dominion Historian and Chair of the Historical Committee.

He was also someone who, though very close to the vest with his internal feelings, was capable of exploring those feelings with an in-depth study of himself and life in general. An avid reader, he loved to delve into the writings of Chinese philosopher, Lin Yutang, in particular, The Importance of Living, published in 1937, that in the latter years of his life he would take up reading again.

There's speculation that his propensity for keeping his emotions in check might well have been influenced by his mother, an IODE member, described by someone who knew her well, as "*formidable*," but it's highly likely that a tragic event, when he was age 17, would have cemented it. It occurred when the son of a friend, both travelling in a boat piloted by Donald on Stoney Lake one day, fell overboard and in his attempt to save his son, the father is believed to have suffered a heart attack. As it turned out, both lives were lost that day and Donald refused to speak of it for some sixty years, somehow managing to open up only when the granddaughter of his deceased friend asked, a few years ago, if he would share with her details about the incident.

I also recall, when interviewing him for a Remembrance Day story I was producing for CHEX television, my inability to extract any of those inner emotions that I assumed must have been there from his time in military service. Nevertheless, a significant role that he played during his time, in Korea at least, was to minister to those soldiers who suffered from what we know today as PTSD and, by all accounts, he was good at it. The most profound emotion that I ever witnessed expressed by him, was when he attempted with difficulty to say a few words on the occasion of his one hundredth birthday celebration five years ago. I was surprised, yet relieved, that his feelings could be, and were, so unabashedly exposed.

Here was a man born during the time of the Russian, and the Austrian Hungarian Empires, when the Ottoman Empire was thriving, and when Sir Robert Borden was Canada's Prime Minister. The Major would, however, proclaim his favourite Canadian Prime Minister to be the Honourable R.B. Bennett who came into power when Donald was age 16, and was defeated by Liberal, William Lyon Mackenzie King, on 14 October 1935, the very day that Donald turned 21 and would be eligible to vote for the first time.

He was of a vintage that made it possible for him to not only tell me that the first residents of my 1870s Rubidge Street home were Sara Rubidge and a Baroness Von Hugel, but he also had known them personally, a remarkable piece of luck for me in my quest to uncover some of the history of that house.

It was clear that the Major's sense of spirituality was rooted in nature, not only manifesting itself at the family cottage on Stoney Lake, and then in the purchase of a one-hundred-acre parcel of land near Keene in 1972, not far from where his Howson ancestors first settled. He would spend hundreds of hours in the years to come on that property known as Glen Burn, my first exposure to it being when Donald invited me to go berry picking there one day many years ago. He'd go on to plant thousands of trees on that geologically important site, at the highest point in Otonabee Township that boasted a splendid view of Rice Lake, the Peterborough Drumlin Field, and even Peterborough itself. In 2010, to ensure its protection for years to come, he developed a Conservation Easement Agreement with Kawartha Land Trust.

Then, there was his wonderful downtown Peterborough property, at 548 Aylmer Street, in essence the Major's home base for his entire life. I happily spent many an hour in that lovely, now heritage designated, home, in the rear yard that boasted beautifully maintained flower gardens and towering trees, enjoying hot refreshments while he, and those of us in his company, would converse on a broad range of topics.

One of his most endearing qualities, besides his wry sense of humour, was his superlative communicative skills. Never one to dwell on himself, nor interrupt, he was the perfect host, responding only when appropriate, and always listening carefully while others spoke, sometimes shocking me by requesting an update on something I'd casually mentioned weeks before, about which I, myself, had since forgotten. It was on one of those occasions I'd often hear, in my opinion, evidence of one of his most remarkable qualities in my opinion, his unwillingness to concede to the concept that something could not be done. Tell him that, and he'd become even more compelled to find a way it could be.

So, to come full circle, the Major would remain a staunch Monarchist for the rest of his life and, never one to allow good judgement to stand in the way of his beliefs, was once nearly court-martialled when as a member of the Canadian Army he expressed in a letter to the government, his displeasure with Prime Minister Pearson's introduction of the new Canadian flag in 1965, devoid, he complained, of any symbols of the crown. Only recently, albeit grudgingly, did he appear to soften his stance somewhat when his son, Geoffrey, brought to his attention he'd opposed the "new" Canadian flag for more than half of his life, more than half a century, and might it not be time to at least consider accepting it.

We all had the Major for longer than any of us could ever have imagined or even realistically hoped for, and the more we were exposed to his indomitable, and remarkably optimistic spirit, his code of ethics, his insistence on doing what he thought was right regardless of the consequences, the more likely it is that we might have absorbed some of those wonderful qualities ourselves. Could that be, in some measure, the essence of what we understand as eternal life ... the possibility that he might live on in each of us, as might we in those who follow in our footsteps, thereby carrying on a tangible manifestation of the Major's positive influence on this world for the nearly 105 years he existed in it? One thing I can say without hesitation is my belief that those who had the privilege of knowing him can consider themselves fortunate indeed ... I know I do.



**Major the Reverend
J.D.L. Howson
Dominion Historian**

Your Historical Committee has been deeply involved in the drawing up of a position paper, investigating the definition and usage of the terms Loyalist, U.E., U.E. Loyalist and "United Empire Loyalist". The sub-committee believes that the historical material should be impartially scrutinized in order to obtain Dominion Council's approval. This task has only begun and requires a great amount of work. The members of the Committee believe that The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada needs an agreed usage for these terms, in order to give it the strength it needs, and to voice the Loyalist in the Canadian scene today.

Editor's Note: Major the Reverend James Donald Lochhead Howson UE was the UELAC Dominion Historian and Chairman of the Dominion Historical Committee from the Spring of 1972 to the Fall of 1977, and the UELAC Dominion Chaplain in 1987. An article by Major the Reverend J.D.L. Howson, Dominion Historian, appeared in Volume XIV, No. 1, Spring 1976, page 03, of *The Loyalist Gazette*.

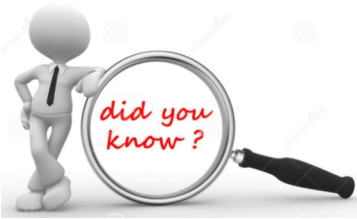


**Major the Reverend
James Donald Lochhead Howson UE,
at the Remembrance Day Service,
11 November, 2015,
when he was 101 years young !!!**



The Mayor of Aylmer Street



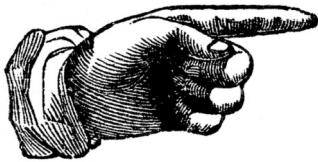


Did you know ???



If you haven't already ordered your UELAC Ribbon with one's Loyalist ancestor's name plate(s), please contact Patricia Groom UE at: Patricia Groom <patricia.groom.uel@gmail.com>.

A number of us here in Kawartha Branch have already bought our own and they are fabulous !!!



News from Membership Chair, Grietje McBride UE

Its time to renew your Branch Membership. Eighty-nine of us have already done so !!!

The "soft" deadline for Renewals for the 2020 season is 31 December 2019, although renewals will continue into the new year.

Our Branch Treasurer, Frank Lucas, has already submitted those Per Capita Dues collected to-date to Dominion Office. For your convenience, here are the fees we collect from our Members:

Branch membership fee - \$10.00 for each and every member.

Per Capita Fee - \$40.00 (individual) or \$55.00 (family)

A single Member would pay \$50.00,
while a family of a couple and two children would pay:
 $\$55.00 + (4 \times \$10.00) = \$95.00$

You can pay Frank Lucas by cheque made out to:

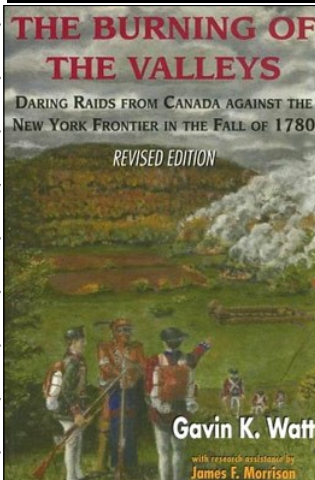
"Kawartha Branch UELAC" with "Membership 2020" on the memo line.

Memberships should be renewed before 31 December 2019.

Frank's home address is 303-70 Towerhill Road, Peterborough, Ontario, K9H OH5, for those wishing to mail their cheques to him.

He will mail back 2020 Dues cards for every Member.

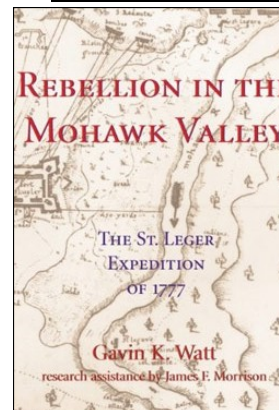




**At our Annual General Meeting
on Sunday, 19 April 2020,
at the
Mount Community Centre,
starting at 2:00 p.m.,
well-known historian, author,
re-enactor,
and a former
Honorary Vice-President
of the UELAC (2000),
Gavin K. Watt, C.M.H.,
from King City, Ontario,
will be our guest speaker.**

**He will talk about
the Loyalist regiments
pertinent to
Kawartha Branch Members,
so please
e-mail either Bob or Grietje,
no later than
Sunday, 16 February 2020,
telling us what Regiment
your Loyalist ancestor
served with
during the
American Revolution.**

**Gavin K. Watt is the author of
fifteen books
about Loyalist military history,
including
Burning of the Valleys
and
Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley
and his most recent book:
No Despicable Enemy.**





**Kawartha Branch
meets
six times a year:
in February, April,
June, September,
October and
November.**

Elections are held every April.

**The June meeting
is our annual
Loyalist Flag Raising ceremony
at City Hall, Peterborough.**

Did You Know ??



**Doug Grant UE reported
in *Executive Notes*
on Monday, 02 December 2019:**

***“Almost all Branches
have moved
to the option of on-line
Membership Renewals.”***

**Our Branch Treasurer, Frank Lucas,
prefers to wait awhile before moving
to this new format.**

**Renewals may still be done by mail
or in person at our Branch Meetings.**

**Kawartha Branch will be moving
to this new system
in the new year !!!**



Stay tuned !!! ☺ ☺ ☺

Important Reminder of Dues

**In December 2019,
it will be time to renew
your membership
in Kawartha Branch
and the UELAC.**

Our Branch Constitution and By-laws state:

AR-16.06

The Treasurer shall, upon receipt of membership dues, provide a membership card of the year to each member the Branch and shall maintain records of the Branch membership in consultation with the Branch Genealogist and Branch Membership Chairperson. These up-to-date membership lists will be made available for distribution to the Executive upon request, with copies being supplied to the Branch Genealogist, Branch Membership Chairperson and the Branch Newsletter Editor.

AR-16.08

The Treasurer shall pay all appropriate per-capita dues to the UELAC on an annual basis by February 1st, complete the membership form and *The Loyalist Gazette* form and submit these to the UELAC for the up-to-date Branch membership records.

The fee structure is such that the per capita fee to the UELAC is \$40 plus \$10 to the Branch for a single person: total \$50. For a family (two or more related people) the per capita fee to the UELAC is \$55 plus \$10 per family member for the Branch. Remember, the Branch Fee is still \$10 for each and every person. Dual Branch membership fees, if registered in another Branch, are \$10 at Kawartha Branch as your “home” branch will have paid the per capita fee to Dominion Office. Per capita dues paid after July 1 are half the annual rate, i.e. \$20 for a single membership and \$27.50 for a family membership.

Mail your Dues Cheque to

**Grietje R. McBride UE
Kawartha Branch Membership Chair
2260 North Esson Line,
Indian River, Ontario. K0L 2B0
705-295-4556 e-mail:
maplegrm@gmail.com**



Did you know ???

Five UELAC Branches: Bicentennial, Kawartha, Kingston, Sir John Johnson Centennial and St. Lawrence, received a bequest from the estate of the late E. John Chard UE.

As a tribute to John, plans are underway to unveil a plaque in his honour in the Spring of 2020 at the UELAC Heritage Centre, located on the scenic shores of the Bay of Quinte, along the Loyalist Parkway, Highway No. 33, in the historic village of Adolphustown, Ontario. Representatives of all five Branches will be present for the unveiling ceremony, with press coverage. The plaque, on brass with a walnut background, is being created by a local engraving company here in Peterborough.

It states:



**E. John Chard UE, B.A., M.Ed.
18 July 1922 – 17 May 2013**

E. John Chard UE, B.A., M.Ed., was a life-long resident of Stirling, Ontario. Son of Harriet and Clarence Chard, he was raised on a farm in Sidney Township and completed his education at the University of Toronto.

His interest in promoting Loyalist history began before World War Two and continued to develop as he and his father attended the Bay of Quinte UELAC Branch meetings. John went on to become President of this Branch

and then Dominion President

in 1967. Seeing the need for communication among the few existing Branches of the United Empire Loyalist Association, he began, largely at his own expense, to edit and publish *The Loyalist Gazette* in April 1963. He did, in his own words, quite a lot to start the Adolphustown Park Museum before leaving to teach in Ottawa. While there, he initiated and supported the Sir Guy Carleton Branch (1962) for three years before moving to Pickering to teach high school physics.

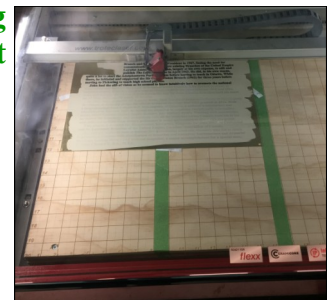
John had the gift of vision as he seemed to know intuitively how to promote the national Association and increase the extent of branches across Canada. John worked tirelessly to establish sixteen branches out of a total of twenty-eight in the years between 1956 and 1984. John also became the Patron of both Kawartha and Sir John Johnson Branches until his death on 17 May, 2013, age 90 years, 10 months.

In 1969, John contacted Sir Conrad Swan, York Herald of Arms-in-Ordinary to Her Majesty the Queen, to formally design the official Armorial Bearings that were granted in 1972.

With a large donation from Colonel R.S. McLaughlin, of Oshawa, a national headquarters was established in Toronto. Here he turned his attention to acquiring exceptionally informative books about Loyalist history, family lineages, and military events. Working with universities, he shared his knowledge and enthusiasm with all the branches across Canada from sea to sea and collected articles from history professors in many universities to share with the public.

This plaque is donated by: Bicentennial, Kawartha, Kingston, Sir John Johnson Centennial and St. Lawrence Branches of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

This tribute is placed here to honour this unassuming academic visionary who did so much to promote a Canada-wide distribution of Branches and resources, headquarters and Armorial Bearings, lending library and national magazine: a major accomplishment for a special man, E. John Chard UE, B.A., M.Ed.



The following article was created by Michelle Ferreri, former CHEX TV host, current talk show host, on 26 April 2018: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpF1q26K9Uc>

Broadcasting Legend, Graham "Hurricane" Hart, Retiring After 45 Years



There is no other Graham Hart.

Simply put, he is a broadcasting legend. He was head-hunted countless times by network television but his loyalty and love of his community kept him at CHEX News for 45 years.

E. Graham Hart UE is a direct descendant of the Loyalist, Josiah Hart UE, of Nova Scotia.

Graham is also the
Programme
Convenor
for the
Kawartha Branch
UELAC
and is on the
Kawartha Branch
Executive.



Editor's Note:

While working for the CHML Radio station
in Hamilton, Ontario,
Graham boarded with my mother's sister,
my late aunt, Beatrice M. King UE,
at 91 Spadina Avenue,
just down the street from the radio station,
up on the corner at Main Street.

My parents and I were very pleased
to welcome him to Peterborough in 1973.

- Bob McBride UE





CHEX TV broadcasting veteran, Graham Hart, retires after 45 years



By Steve Guthrie Global News
Posted April 30, 2018 12:27 pm
Updated April 30, 2018 3:14 pm
<https://globalnews.ca/news/4176318/chex-tv-graham-hart-retires/>

Veteran Broadcaster, Graham Hart, signs off for the last time at CHEX TV as friends and colleagues recall the effect he had on their careers.

Graham Hart was born in Nova Scotia but came to Ontario to pursue a career in radio. In 1973, while working at a station in Chatham, Ontario, he was approached by CHEX to come to Peterborough and make the move to television, to read the news, sports and weather.

"I came up, and they were so wonderful. The offer was interesting to me, so I gave it a couple of day's thought, and I called them back and said, 'Yes, I'll stay for a year,'" Hart recalls.

That one-year stretch turned into 45 years.

For many years, CHEX TV newscasts featured Hart reading the news and Peter Fialkowski doing the weather.





But much earlier, Hart was in a management position when Fialkowski was hired. *"He made it quite bearable," Fialkowski says. "in a very nice sort of way, so he settled me down nicely."*



Former CHEX Videographer and CHEX Daily host, Michelle Fererri, grew up watching Hart on the news and hosting such shows as Campus Quiz.

She then spent several years working alongside him and got a new appreciation of him.

"He's kind, he's sweet, he's all of these things. He's like the most perfect gentleman, but he's also so funny. I think he has this wit, this humour, and he's so fun to work with. He's just a great person to be around," Fererri says.

Reflecting on his years at CHEX, Hart says it never seemed like work at all.

"It never did seem like work, as a matter of fact, so I just stayed doing it because I thoroughly enjoyed it."

Hart jokes that in retirement, he will have time for all those things he had to put off because he was working, including restoring homes and classic automobiles.



Graham Hart retiring Monday after 45 years at CHEX-TV in Peterborough. Broadcaster never counted the hours.

News: Apr 25, 2018, by Jason Bain, **Examiner** Staff Writer

<https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news-story/8569484-graham-hart-retiring-Monday-after-45-years-at-chex-tv-in-peterborough/>

Graham Hart promised CHEX-TV a year and ended up working 45.

The longest-serving on-air personality at the station will retire Monday, 47 years after first arriving in Peterborough and 57 years after entering broadcasting as a student paying for his way at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

It was the first *"plunk"* into television for the native Nova Scotian, who never aspired to take up journalism as a career, nor felt the need to work elsewhere.

"I just thought it was fun to do. I'm lucky to have had a career that never felt like a job," Hart said Tuesday at the Monaghan Road station.



He explained that he felt so awful turning down a job offer shortly after falling in love with Peterborough, that he resolved to quickly nip future requests in the bud. Personal satisfaction was far more important than upward mobility.



"I was never tempted," he said. "I love the small-town television station ... there was just something about it. It was just a lovely place to work."

Hart's part-time summer job morphed into a full-time job while he was in his third year at Dalhousie – that's why he didn't complete the additional two years of practical training to get his engineering degree.

Before moving to Peterborough in 1973, he worked at radio stations in Halifax, Bridgewater, Chatham, Hamilton and Niagara Falls.

After two years at CHEX-TV, he went to Europe for seven months. Upon his return to Peterborough, he was offered an administrative position and the chance to read the 6:00 p.m. news. He had been negotiating a job out east, too, but Peterborough won out.

He hosted the interview show *Hart's Beat*, the popular Campus Quiz and segments such as Summer Scene and his greatest source of pride, Flashback.

He has hosted the latter for nearly twelve years – the final episode, number 587, aired Wednesday.

Reaction to the historical segment has always surprised Hart.

He believed only long-time residents would find it interesting, but sometimes newcomers would tell him how much they learned about the city from a piece. *"Never in a million years would I have considered that an option for interest."*

Retirement will provide an opportunity for the veteran producer and anchor to fulfill some long-planned obligations to himself.

Admittedly obsessive, Hart's hobbies include time-consuming restoration projects. His shop contains numerous cars and motorcycles in various states of renewal that haven't been touched in many years.

"It was time," he said. "I never could seem to catch up."

That said, he plans to maintain his association with CHEX-TV as a community ambassador – but he has drawn a line when it comes to on-air roles.

Hart has maintained his East Coast ties, travelling to Lunenburg for about a month at a time.

He restored an 1880s frame house in the port town about eighty minutes outside of his hometown of Dartmouth.

Hart hasn't ruled out a more permanent return, either, having thought about building an eco-friendly house on property he owns with a majestic harbour view.

Asked what he will miss most, he said it will be the daily interaction with staff – including many colleagues who have also worked at the station for decades.

"It's my family, over the years," he said, recalling doing a broadcast once where the four or five staff members amounted to about 160 years of service.

Response to his retirement announcement earlier this month have led to many congratulatory messages and thank you notes from those Hart has worked alongside or interacted with over the years.

He, on the other hand, doesn't see himself to have been that particularly influential.

"It's lovely to hear those comments. It's really quite moving for me to read those because it's not something I would have considered."

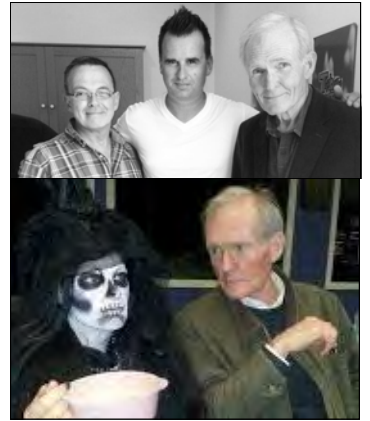
An avid volunteer with March of Dimes and the Easter Seals Telethon, Hart won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2014 Civic Awards, that recognise outstanding volunteers in areas such as sports, culture and environmentalism.



He also helped raise money to build the new Lakefield Animal Welfare Shelter, assisted the campaign to preserve Market Hall and was a founding member of Arbor Theatre.



Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Graham Hart, is congratulated by his wife, Karen Sadler, and his step-daughter, Laura Crann, during the 2014 Civic Award Presentations.



**Graham Hart on:****Journalism**

It is fair, credible dissemination of information in as unbiased a fashion as possible and not something that is always achieved. Over the years, he has found that smaller news organizations like CHEX-TV provide as unbiased an atmosphere as one can expect. Reporters here are mostly decent people.

"It is always a treat to deal with human beings who are concerned, don't want to misinterpret anything, have no axe to grind and aren't grabbing for the next big position somewhere."

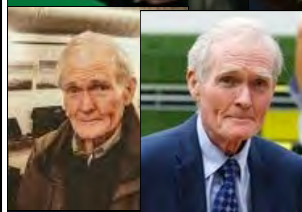
**Bias, in an era of fake news**

He feels being someone who doesn't usually have strong opinions has served him well over the years.

"I can usually see an alternative side."

That's essential for journalists. Hart recalled making it clear reporters were not to tell him police found the guy that shot someone downtown – rather they are accusing the person of a crime.

"Never tell me that they got them. I don't want to hear that in this newsroom."

**Volunteerism**

It's essential to make contributions where you can – that was a basic principle in the home where he grew up.

"You make a contribution with what abilities you have to perhaps better help make something work well."

Mental health

He has no personal connection to it, but mental health is of great interest to the long-time associate of the Canadian Mental Health Association. Society has made great gains, but much more work needs to be done. Hart compares it to a car with a broken tie rod going out of control.

"Nobody intended for that to break. But if we knew that it was fragile, we should have taken steps to correct it."

Someday, he hopes mental health will be treated just the same as physical health – celebrities admitting their battles are helping the cause.

"It's a long, hard road, but I honestly think we are making headway."

Grammar

Hart is passionate about grammar. He joked that he has often thought he could make a living trying to help the CBC with some of its struggles with use of language.

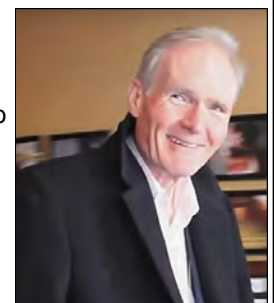
"But I don't think that they'd care," he said with a laugh.

Campus quiz

He is asked at least once a week about the show he hosted for years that pitted Grade 8 classes from the region against each other.

MPP Jeff Leal and former MP Dean Del Mastro were once contestants.

"It's amazing how many people were exposed to that show."



United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada Web Site: <http://www.uelac.org/>

Kawartha Branch's Web Site: <http://www.uelac.org/Kawartha/>

Kawartha Branch UELAC



Grietje
McBride U.E.

If you have not received
your free personalized name tag
for Kawartha Branch UELAC

Contact

Grietje R. McBride UE
at maplegrm@gmail.com !!!

Views In And Around Kawartha Branch

On Thursday, 08 August, nine Kawartha Branch Members attended the 4th Line Theatre production of *Carmel*, the struggle of Barnardo children grown up trying to hold on to the family farm during the depression.





Angela and Peter Johnson UE. Photo by Lorraine Sherren UE

Our guest speakers for the September meeting at the Mount were Angela and Peter Johnson UE. They spoke about the Hay Bay restoration project, now under way. In fact, the exterior cladding in wood is now complete and looks like the church looked before the year 1800! The Old Hay Bay Church was erected in 1792 by settlers, including United Empire Loyalists, who had established the settlement of Adolphustown. (Greater Napanee today). Each summer, in late August, Kawartha Branch Members are invited to see the restoration progress as we support its ongoing maintenance.



UE certificates were accepted by Lois and Greg O'Neill-Jackson UE for their children: Oakley Davis Howe UE, Deacon Thomas Howe UE, Genevieve Wren Howe UE, and Nicholas Taylor Babcock UE, descendants of the Loyalist, Nicholas Alexander UE. We always like to show our appreciation with the presentation of a UE Pin and a hand-made card of welcome to each newly proven descendant of a Loyalist. It was special to have Angela and Peter assist with the Certificate presentation.



**What falls but never breaks ?
What breaks but never falls ?**

Night and Day



On Remembrance Day members marched to the cenotaph opposite City Hall. It is an honour to be invited by the Legion to take part each year and to lay a wreath honouring those Loyalists who served and died defending our Country.



On 17 November, our guest speaker, UELAC Central East Regional Vice-President, Anne Redish UE, gave a detailed power point talk about finding online resources that make our job of documenting our Loyalist research much easier. Handouts were distributed to those in attendance and more resources were made available electronically. We were honoured by the presence of Past Kawartha Branch President, Doreen Thompson UE, who accompanied her daughter, Anne, to attend our meeting.



Ken Spry UE presented Anne with a sketch of the Mount that he created for this occasion.

From the Vancouver Branch UELAC, Facebook Post,
by Coco Aders-Weremczuk:

*I am bound to them,
though I cannot look into their eyes,
nor hear their voices.*

I honour their history.

I cherish their lives.

I will tell their story ...

I will remember them.

Author unknown.





To honour our benefactor, E. John Chard UE, Kawartha Branch has reached out to Trent University, beginning in 2016, and Sir Sandford Fleming College in 2017, to establish scholarship and bursary programmes for up to four students annually at each facility. The funds are intended to support post-graduate studies of the Loyalist era or the preservation and conservation of artefacts.

Scholarship and Bursary Fund Report by Grietje McBride UE



Our Master of Arts scholarship student, Ginny Sadlier, is in the writing phase of her MA thesis.

Our Branch is waiting to receive new applicants from Trent University and Sir Sandford Fleming in 2020. Supporting students either studying Loyalist themes or learning about conservancy is our most worthy goal.



**Ginny Sadlier
December 2018**

United Empire Loyalists' Association History Master of Arts Scholarship Application

Research Question

My area of interest is eighteenth century British history. In my thesis, I intend to pursue research on literary depictions of British soldiers, comparing how they were perceived and depicted around the American Revolutionary War and the Napoleonic Wars. I will focus on literary sources, printed at the time of the wars and after, to determine how the literature of the day both demonstrated civilian opinion of British soldiers and acted to influence the soldiers and military itself. I will examine how this intersection of civilian and military thought changed between the American Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars.

Relation to the United Empire Loyalists

This project will examine the experience of soldiers loyal to the British Crown during the American Revolution and the impact that they had upon the literature of the day. I will do this by engaging with sources written by Loyalists in their effort to counter Revolutionary sentiment in the American colonies. I intend to trace how this literature changed from the defeat of the American Revolution to the victory over Napoleon just a couple of decades later. Crucial to a study of these wars is the historical context of British thought and opinion. Thus, I hope to establish the deep roots that British cultural, political, philosophical, and religious debates of the day had upon public sentiment concerning the wars. The Loyalists played a key role in expressing these sentiments through pamphlets, tracts, and other literature of the day. Some of the expressions of this public sentiment can be viewed through the literary depictions of British soldiers' uniforms.





The Dominion UELAC Loyalist Scholarship



The UELAC Loyalist Scholarship can be awarded to any graduate student researching the Loyalist era on a subject that will benefit the UELAC. Approved Masters (two years) and PhD (three years) applicants will be awarded \$2,500 per year. Upon graduation, the thesis must be presented to the Association.

To be eligible:

a) the student must intend to use the award in the academic year following the receipt of the award and use the money for research purposes, fees, and books;

b) the student must provide a succinctly-written research proposal to the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada Scholarship Committee in which they set forth their interest in the Loyalists. An interview may be scheduled.

Priority will be given to a student of proven Loyalist descent. The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada reserves the right to award the scholarship at its sole discretion.

Preference may be given to students who have taken an under-graduate degree in history and to students at universities in Canada.

UELAC Scholarship Chairperson, Bonnie Schepers UE, wrote in *Loyalist Trails* on July 14, 2019:

2019 Loyalist Scholarship Challenge: Epilogue

"Wait long enough, and people will surprise and impress you." -- Randy Pausch

Let's just say we didn't have to wait. We are impressed! The good news this week is that donations to the Scholarship Challenge have exceeded \$10,000. I know! I intended to bring a final wrap-up report but word from Head Office is that more donations are expected this week. The Donation Tracker and Donor List will be updated in the coming days so check back to follow our progress as another exciting challenge comes to an end.

Something wonderful happened this year. The Loyalist Scholarship Challenge captured the enthusiasm of members and friends, resulting in record giving. In addition to our Donor Appreciation List, it is an honour to highlight Scholarship Endowment Memorial Donations as we pay tribute to the individuals lovingly remembered there.

Our humble thanks to the generous individuals behind the success of the 2019 Scholarship Challenge. Your continued support for the Loyalist Scholarship Endowment Fund is building a strong foundation for future Loyalist research. And today, that future is looking very bright indeed.

Bonnie Schepers UE, Scholarship Chair

Here in Kawartha Branch we donated \$500.00 to the National UELAC Scholarship Fund for 2019 along with several private Member's donations!



Snoopy
flies high
through
the clouds !!!

2019 UELAC Scholarship Fund Challenge



\$ 8,000.00

Goal for this challenge



\$10,350.00

Amount raised to date



57

Number of donors



Angela and Peter Johnson UE. Photo by Lorraine Sherren UE

Co-Dominion Genealogists, Angela Johnson UE and Peter Johnson UE came to Kawartha Branch on Sunday, 15 September 2019

Kawartha Branch UELAC welcomed co-Dominion Genealogists, Angela Johnson UE and her husband, Peter Johnson UE, to our Sunday, 15 September 2019 meeting at the Mount Community Centre.

Here's an excerpt from their presentation to the Kingston & District UELAC Branch on 23 March 2019.

The May 2019 issue of the *Cataragui Loyalist Town Crier*, Volume 38, No. 3, published an article about their 23 March meeting in which Angela Johnson UE and Peter Johnson UE, UELAC Dominion Chairs, provided excellent information about primary/secondary evidence and also listed many very useful websites for research [Credit to Jean Rae Baxter UE, Kingston & District Branch Programme Chair, and Anne Redish UE, for links to further resources]:

When you set out to document your Loyalist ancestors, look first for primary sources. These are the registrations of births, marriages and deaths. They are the only sources

that stand alone. That was the first advice given by co-Dominion Genealogists, Angela and Peter Johnson, when they spoke at the March 23 General Meeting of the Kingston Branch UELAC. In the absence of birth, marriage and death registrations, there are many more sources that are valuable even though they must be backed up by other documents. Among such secondary sources are census records, some of which go back to 1803. Baptismal records are very helpful, when they give the names of parents. Wills are also an important resource because they name the children of the testator. Other important resources are Land Book entries. In a petition, the petitioner explains why he is entitled to land or why he should receive even more land than already granted. Upper Canada Land Petitions, Peter and Angela explained, are all available online, and they are free. The researcher should look, not just at the petition, but at the outside cover, because that's where it states what the petitioner got. Was his petition successful, partly successful, or did it fail? Peter and Angela also noted that, to make a successful claim, female claimants had to do something significant that was apart from what their husband or father did. Family Bibles are another valuable source. However, the researcher is advised to check the title page to find out when the Bible was printed. The listing of a birth, marriage or death that occurred years before the Bible was even printed obviously carries no authority.

As well as family Bibles, grave markers in old cemeteries give information about the family of the person buried there. Loyalist regiment discharge certificates are another source, though of varying value. Those of the King's Royal Rangers of New York contain many helpful details, such as the discharged soldier's parents' names, and where he came from.

The discharge papers of Butler's Rangers, on the other hand, contain little detail. Regiment Muster Rolls are also of significant help. War Losses Claims, that are available on "*Ancestry*", may yield useful information. Queen's University Archives, the Anglican Archives in Kingston, and the Heir & Devisee Commission have resource material for the researcher to consult.

Peter and Angela warned the audience that the same Christian name was often given frequently within the same family, so that care must be taken not to confuse father, son, uncle, cousin or nephew, who all have exactly the same first and last names.

Another warning concerned how to handle documents used to obtain a UEL Certificate. Never, the audience was told, use a highlighter. To call something to the genealogist's attention, underline the words or make a note in the margin, or affix a "*post-it*" note.

Peter and Angela's talk was followed by an extended question period.

Websites Mentioned by Angela and Peter Johnson and augmented by Anne Redish

Changing shape of Ontario: Districts, Townships and counties over time.

<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/maps/ontario-districts.aspx>

1880s maps, index of resident names, by county and township (from county atlases)

<https://digital.library.mcgill.ca/Countyatlas/searchmapframes.php>

Library and Archive Canada, go to Genealogy, to Land Records, or directly to Upper Canada Land Petitions.

(I have written a text-tutorial of how to navigate these. If you'd like it, ask me!

Anne Redish, ar11@queensu.ca

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/land/land-petitions-uppercanada-1763-1865/pages/land-petitions-upper-canada.aspx>

Upper Canada Sundries on Heritage Canadiana.....

'Lots' of reading since the searching just gives you the related page, maybe.

If you have a surname like my family, LOTT, you get every page with the word "lot" on it!

And that's lots! A.R.)

http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_mikan_125539

Upper Canada Land Books (Yes this is different than Sundries.)

http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_mikan_205068

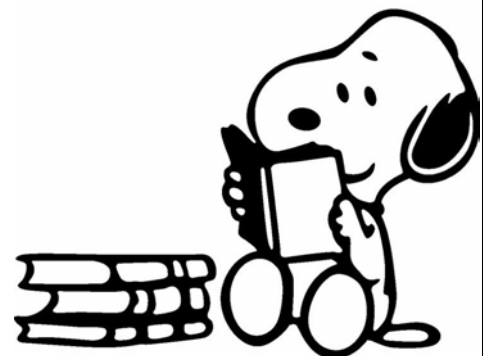
Heir and Devisee Commission

<http://heritage.canadiana.ca/heir-devisee>

Second Heir & Devisee Commission

<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/db/deviseedb.aspx>

http://ao.minisisinc.com/scripts/mwimain.dll/144/ARCH_HEIRS?DIRECTSEARCH



Did you know ???



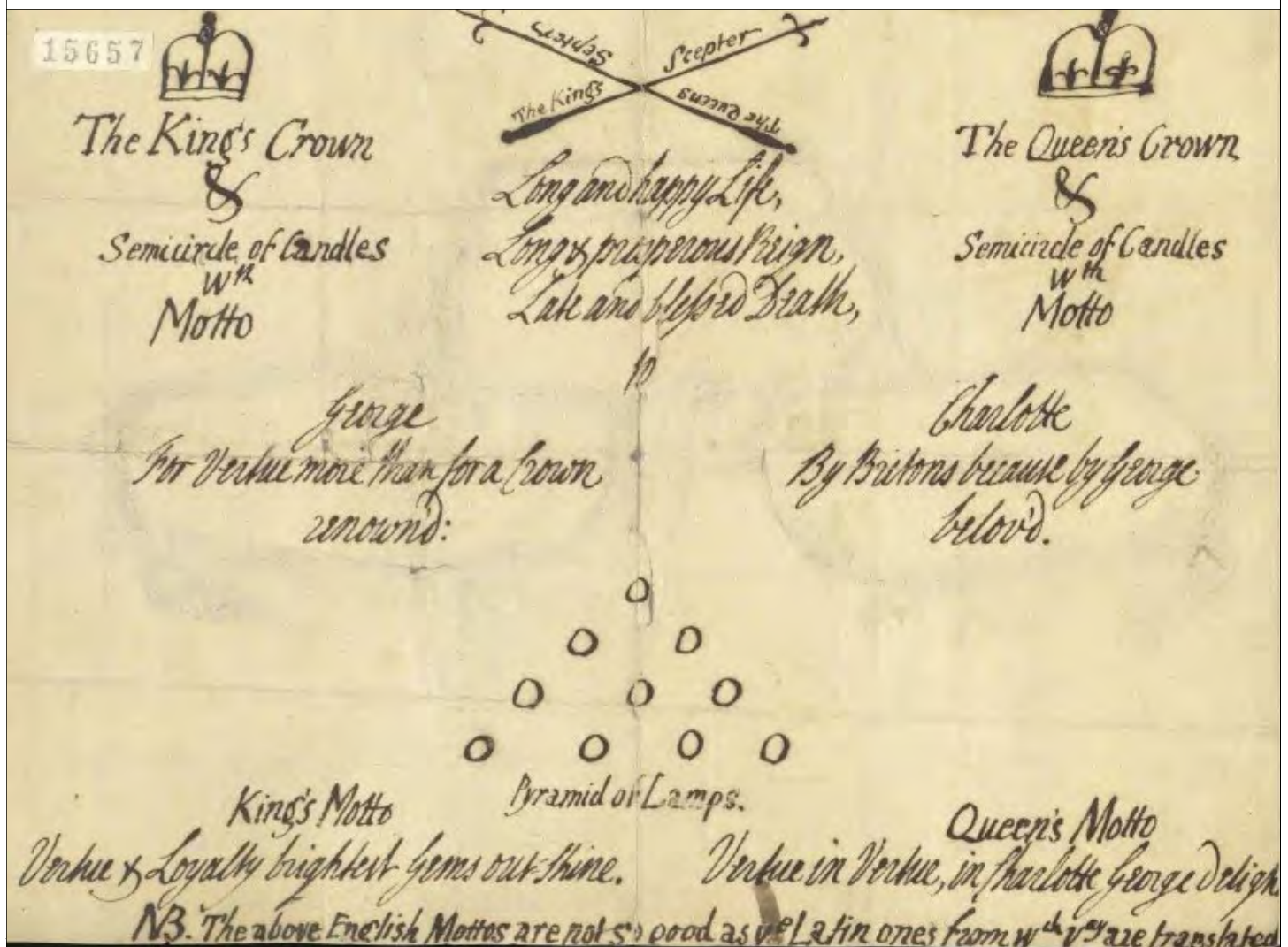
'*Loyalist Trails*' UELAC Newsletter 2019-49: Dec 8, 2019, 10:23 AM EST, includes the following article and illustration:

Georgian Papers Program: An Illumination

Archives aren't always lists and letters.

Take a look at this gorgeous layout for an illumination designed in honour of George III and Queen Charlotte. (The scanned copy)

Design incorporating the King's crown and his motto with a semicircle of candles opposite that of the Queen in the same style. In between the two there is a design of the King and Queen's sceptres crossed above the motto "*Long and happy Life/ Long & prosperous Reign,/ Late and blessed Death*" to both their names with a small phrase, and below this is a pyramid of lamps. The creator has made a small note on the superiority of the Latin version of their mottos.





Loyalist Christmas

Most settlers in Upper Canada came indirectly from European countries by way of the Thirteen Colonies, as United Empire Loyalists after the American

Revolution. They brought with them many of their old Christmas traditions. As we enter this holiday season, I thought it might be interesting to look up some of these Christmas traditions.

One would suppose our ancestors were too preoccupied with survival to take the time to celebrate. They needed to clear land, construct buildings and generally prepare for a long, cold winter in their new home. It then makes one wonder if during those first years, after their arrival, if Christmas was celebrated to any degree.

Christmas celebrations, when they did begin to appear, were originally adult affairs: visiting neighbours for games, sharing a meal, singing and sometimes dancing if someone could supply some music. It wasn't until the early 19th century when Christmas became an exciting, important part of children's lives.

In earlier days, the home was very simply decorated using green branches and homemade decorations. They did not have a big Christmas tree because there was no room for a large tree in their small homes. Pine cones, nuts, berries and popcorn chains were used to decorate the branches or tree. The Christmas tree has become one of the most cherished traditions in today's celebrations. More than 500 years ago the first version appeared in Germany and the custom spread across Europe.

In 1848, Queen Victoria gave the practice a boost when a newspaper reported on her tree in Windsor Castle. By the early 20th century most Christian homes had a tree decorated with lights, baubles and tinsel. Pioneers on the Prairies often were unable to find a fir tree and brought in small poplar tree to suffice.

Mistletoe at Christmas is a symbol of romance. So where did the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe come from...would you believe Norse mythology? According to tradition, it's bad luck to refuse a kiss beneath the mistletoe. After kissing, the couple is to pluck one berry from the plant. So if you have mistletoe this year, make sure it has lots of berries!

The highlight of early Christmas meals was the Christmas pudding. The first puddings contained meat, eggs, flour, cinnamon, currants, and other fruit. The classic dish had 13 ingredients – representing Christ and 12 apostles and the sprig of holly standing in for the crown of thorns. Everyone in the family made a wish as they took their turn stirring the mixture. It was kept in a big pot for five weeks - finally steamed on Christmas day, served with rum and brandy sauce which was set aflame. It must have been quite an experience to carry in a flaming pudding and try not to set yourself or the house on fire.

What would the feast be without the roast turkey and all the trimmings? Turkeys were introduced in Britain more than 500 years ago by William Strickland, who acquired six birds from American Indian traders on his travels. Before that, people's meat of choice for Christmas was goose, boars' head and even peacock. Henry VIII was the first English king to enjoy turkey in the 16th century, although Edward VII made eating turkey fashionable at Christmas. Turkey is now a regular feature on a great majority of Christmas tables. However, turkey is not a traditional Christmas meal in a lot of other countries. Portugal's typical meal features codfish, Germans prefer wild boar or venison, while in Sweden the average Christmas feast would include herring salad, meatballs and ham.

Early Christmas gifts were usually made by members of the family and placed under the tree without wrapping. A girl might receive a cornhusk doll and a boy a wooden horse carved by his father. They might also receive an apple and sometimes an orange or piece of candy. Children might also discover knitted wool sweaters, scarves, mittens and socks made by their mothers, grandmothers or older sisters. Pomanders were also popular gifts, made by sticking cloves into an apple or orange, until the fruit itself was barely visible. It was then rolled in or shaken in a bag full of a mixture of cinnamon, ginger and other spices. The well-seasoned ball was tied with a red and green ribbon that crossed at right angles, dried, and then placed in a bowl or hung in various places throughout the home to make the place smell nice and fresh.

Santa Claus began his annual visit to children in Canada by the 1830s. Although he was known around the world by many different names, the name Santa Claus comes from New York Dutch settlers who called him Sinterklaas, which was later Anglicized to Santa Claus. St. Nicholas was also accredited with the origin of the Christmas stocking. Through an open window of a poor family's home, he allegedly had thrown some pieces of gold that landed in a boot by the fireplace. Later, the boot became the stocking. In 1823, a poem, "*The Night before Christmas*", written by Clement Clarke Moore, launched St. Nicholas, Kris Kringle or Santa Claus into the mindset of early North Americans. It describes a plump, red-suited, white-bearded jolly old elf with a large bag of toys. He rode in a tiny sleigh pulled by six miniature reindeer, which St. Nicholas called out by name. The poem also describes Christmas stockings hanging with care from fireplaces and Santa entering homes on Christmas Eve by coming down the chimneys.

Each of us have some customs that evolve into our Christmas memories.

Whatever your traditions include for December 25, just make sure to make the most of them.

After all, Christmas only comes once a year.

Merry Christmas!

Submitted by Pat Adair

- source: Saskatchewan Branch UELAC newsletter,
Prairie Loyalist,
Volume 10, Number 03, December 2017, pp. 8 - 9.

Note:

Patricia Ann (Cairns) Adair
(15 August 1950 – 14 September 2019),
was the wife of
Gerry Adair UE
the UELAC Prairie Regional Vice-President,
and Chair of the
UELAC Dominion
Volunteer Recognition Committee.



Pat was highly involved with the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada for the last twenty years.

She was Secretary for the Saskatchewan Branch and led the planning committee to host two Canada-wide Dominion Conferences, one in Regina, and one in Moose Jaw.

She travelled to many Dominion Council meetings with her husband, Gerry, and attended many conferences all across Canada, beginning in 2003, and never missing one until she became sick in 2016.



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A cartoon illustration of a woman with curly hair wearing a white chef's hat, a red apron with white polka dots over a yellow shirt, and holding a large blue bowl with a wooden spoon. She is smiling and looking towards the viewer. The background is a light blue and white checkered pattern.A circular logo featuring a small boat with a flag on a pole. Below the circle, the text "Kawartha Branch UELAC" is written in a small, serif font.The cover of the "Hearth and Home" cookbook. It has a dark blue background. At the top, the title "Hearth and Home" is in a white serif font, followed by a decorative flourish and the subtitle "A Treasury of Family Recipes" in a cursive font. In the center is a black and white illustration of a log cabin in a wooded area. At the bottom, the text "Kawartha Branch U.E.L.A.C. Est. 1979" is printed in a white serif font.