



United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada



∞ New Brunswick Branch ∞

Newsletter : Spring 2015

In This Issue

Loyalist Day 2015 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	1
Meeting Notes ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	2
Membership Fees ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	3
New Members 2015 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	3—4
Membership Report ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	4
New Year's Levee ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	5
Jacob Till, Loyalist? ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	5—6
UEL Christmas Dinner ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	6—7
Classifieds ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	8—10
Spring Meeting ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	10
Tabuintac Old Home Week ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	10—11
Postscript ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	11—12

Loyalist Day 2015

by Jim McKenzie

At a recent Branch Executive meeting, several details were finalized about this year's Loyalist Day celebrations.

May 18, 2015 falls on Victoria Day this year and although many may hope to open their cottages after the long, dreary winter that we hardy New Brunswickers have endured, we're

hoping to see many come out to honour our Loyalist ancestors.

The Loyalist Sunday Church Service will be celebrated at Stone (St. John's Anglican) Church on Carleton Street in uptown Saint John on May 17th. The service will start at 10:30 a.m. and we need to gather in the church hall by 10:15 am.

Steve Owens will be showing Loyalist images in a pre-service slide show. Following the service there will be a light brunch at nearby Loyalist House for those attending the service.

Loyalist Day morning ceremonies will go ahead as usual on May 18, the Victoria Day holiday, beginning at 10 am.

Saint Mary's band will provide a short concert and music throughout the ceremony, which includes the Queen Anne flag raising, the Loyalist Day proclamation read by the Town Crier, short addresses by local politicians and other dignitaries, and members of the UELAC-NB in period dress.

Plan to join us at Market Square atrium for this colourful event. We will very much miss the school children's attendance this year, due to the holiday, but we will send letters to the schools to ensure the 1783 Loyalist Landings and their significance are not forgotten. The 3rd Field Artillery will be busy with Victoria Day celebrations in Fredericton but will also be performing the 21-gun salute at noon at the waterfront in Saint John as in previous years.

The NB Museum and Loyalist House will be open to the public free of charge in the afternoon. Several UEL and NB Historical Society members will be at Loyalist House in costume to provide free tours of this fascinating home to so many Merritt generations from the original Loyalist, David Daniel, who built the house in 1810 - 1817, through to when it was acquired by the NB Historical Society in 1959. Plan to make a day of it in celebration of our Loyalist heritage.

The Loyalist Day Banquet will once again be held at the Union Club on Germain Street, Saint John on the evening of May 18.

This year's menu will include maple-glazed salmon and lemon mousse. A reception begins at 6:30 p.m., with the dinner following at 7:00 p.m. Robert Pichette, a renowned expert in heraldry, will be our guest speaker. ■

Meeting Notes

by Dave Laskey

Notes of the Executive meeting held on 16 April 2015

Present: Deborah Coleman, Carolyn Johnson, Steve Owens, Jim McKenzie, Dave Laskey

Loyalist Day: Jim and Dave reported that arrangements are in hand. Invitation letters have gone out. The venue has been reserved — the ceremony will take place indoors. The 21-gun salute will take place at Pugsley Terminal. Very low attendance is expected. Loyalist House will be open following the 21-gun salute.

Loyalist Dinner: Deborah and Jim reported that sales are going well. It was agreed that Dave would introduce the speaker, Robert Pichette. There was some discussion about table decorations but no major changes from prior years are planned.

Church Parade: Will take place on 17 May at Stone Church. Members are asked to gather at 10:15 a.m. Loyalist House will be open following the church service and a brunch will be served. Members of the congregation will be invited to attend.

Finances: Jim reported on the Branch's financial situation. The bank account stands at around \$1400 after deducting outstanding cheques and amounts being held for the Loyalist Dinner. The investment account has a value of almost \$15000. The only major expenses on the horizon are the donation to St. Mary's Band and the painting & installation of Burial Site plaques.

Memberships: Renewals have slowed to a trickle. We now have 129 members (including other family members), a decline of 6 from last year.

Burial Site plaques: Dave reported that the 20 new plaques still need to be painted, which will happen soon. The selection of the 20 cemeteries to be marked is almost complete.

Annual General Meeting: Arrangements are in place for the AGM on 18 June. The main items of business will be the election of officers, the receiving of reports and the motion to increase the membership dues.

Autumn meeting: Deborah reported that the autumn meeting will take place on 15 October. Kate Waller will make a presentation entitled "Loyalist Women"

Membership Fees

by Ruth Lesbirel

We have long talked about raising our Branch membership fees and it is being re-introduced at this time by David Laskey, Branch Membership Chair. Our current fee structure is:

Type	Dominion Fees	Current Branch	Net to Branch
Individual	\$40.00	\$45	\$5.00
Family	\$55.00	\$65.00	\$10.00
Student	\$20.00	\$22.50	\$2.50
Institution	\$40.00	\$45	\$5.00
Secondary	nil	\$10.00	\$10.00

As can readily be seen, very little of the membership fees is retained in the Branch, which increasingly impedes our capabilities to meet expenses, let alone further any of our own projects or contribute to other projects which raise the Loyalist profile and awareness in our area. With this in mind, David Laskey introduces the following motion:

Resolved that the Membership Fees for the New Brunswick Branch shall be as set out below, effective 1 January 2016:

Type	Dominion Fees	Proposed Branch	Net to Branch
Individual	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$10.00
Family	\$55.00	\$65.00	\$10.00
Student	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$5.00
Institution	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$10.00
Secondary	nil	\$10.00	\$10.00

Please be advised that this motion to amend the membership fee structure of the Branch will be put forward at our AGM in June 2015. After it is moved and seconded, a vote will be taken, with a majority of at least fifteen (15) members present carrying the motion. ■

New Members 2015

by Dave Laskey

New members of the Branch in 2015 are listed in alphabetical order, followed by their research interests ...

Marcia Byrd, Mendota Heights, MN

- Joel Daniel
- Thomas Everett

Frank Cobbett, Haneytown, NB

- Edward Winslow

Jean Frances Cousens, Bathurst, NB

- Daniel Morehouse

David Craft, Saint John, NB

- John Thorne Craft
- Susannah Wetmore

Marlene Dance, Chilliwack, BC

- Agnes Hutchinson
- Captain William Hutchinson
- William Siprell

Carolyn Johnson, Saint John, NB

Richard Larson, San Jose, CA

- Abraham Parlee
- Peter Parlee

Daniel MacCannell, Musselburgh, East Lothian, UK

- Darling Whelpley

- Thomas Thomas
- John Van Iderstine
- Nicholas Hugh

Christine Manzer, Burnaby, BC

- John Manzer
- Daniel Parent

Diana Rush, Kennebunk, ME

- Charles Stuart
- William Stewart
- Gilbert Purdy

Trent Taylor, Oxford, UK

- Gideon Palmer
- Christopher Harper
- James Dotten
- Stephen Tuttle, Sr.

Charles Weaver, Oromocto, NB

- Ens. Roger Barton

Daphne Wetmore, Saint John, NB

- John Yerxa

David Brown Wetmore ■

Membership Report

by Dave Laskey

Our membership as of April 9, 2015 is made up as follows:

Individual	88
Family	10
Other family	14
Secondary	9
Student	1
Institutional	0
Total	122

At the end of 2014 we had one hundred and thirty-five (135) members so our group is now thirteen (13) persons smaller.

Meanwhile, as you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, we have welcomed fifteen new members to the group. So, the arithmetic is easy – twenty-eight of our 2014 members have not renewed.

The Executive continues its efforts to improve the value proposition for our members so they never have to question the decision to renew. The ongoing decline in numbers would seem to suggest that we're not succeeding.

What do you think?

???

Next Issue

The next UELAC-NB newsletter will be put to bed in October, 2015. The editor earnestly solicits articles, photographs, genealogical queries, and news of interest to the members.

**Please contact Gord Ripley at
Box 70, Teeswater, ON NoG 2S0
Email: newsletter@uelac-nb.ca**

New Year's Levee

by Deborah Coleman

The historic Loyalist House at 120 Union St. in Saint John was, once again, the site of the annual New Years Day Levee on January 1, 2015.

The UELAC-NB Branch are always guests of honour, with many members belonging to both NB Branch and the New Brunswick Historical Society, the owners of Loyalist House.

The House was beautifully decorated – decked out in its seasonal finery. Seasonal music was played on the piano-organ dating from the 1830s, thanks to pianist Christopher Lane.

A selection of delicious refreshments was available, with the menu featuring hot mulled cider, traditional eggnog, sweets, savouries and confections, all catered by Deborah Coleman.

Local author and historian David Goss was in charge of the program. Guests were asked to identify and locate different artifacts in the House or to name some familiar faces from the past. Copies of David's latest book were given as prizes.

This event is always well attended and is a great way to end the holiday season. ■

LOYALISTS COME WEST

Our Dominion Conference is taking place this year in Victoria May 28 -31, 2015.

For details see <http://www.uelac.org>

Jacob Till, Loyalist?

by Dave Laskey

It's probably been twenty years since I gathered the first bits of information about Jacob Till who, according to my hypothesis, is my 4g-grandfather in two different ways. During that time my search for documentary evidence about Jacob has been fitful.

Recently, however, having just finished another UE certificate application, I decided it was time to devote some real effort to the search for Jacob. He would be the basis for another application.

Where can I find the muster rolls for the regular British forces? What about the German units that served with the British?

I've long had documentary proof that my 2g-grandparents, Peters V. Laskey and Mary Matilda Till, married in 1846 in Lincoln, New Brunswick. I also knew that another 2g-grandfather, Alexander Haines, had married Catherine Till, a 2g-grandmother, in 1831 in Keswick Ridge, NB.

Some additional documents proved that Mary and Catherine were siblings — daughters of James Till and Nancy Ann Boone.

Information emerged showing James Till was born in Maugerville in 1789 and died in Geary in 1839 but I've never found any documents that would prove the connection to his father, Jacob.

Maybe I could prove James was a brother of William and William was a son of Jacob.

Proving that William was a son of Jacob was easy. William applied for a grant of some land that had originally been granted to Jacob and then escheated to the Crown.

In his petition William stated, "The before mentioned Jacob Tell, to whom the lot in question was originally granted, was the Father of your Petitioner, and he served during the American revolutionary War under the command of General Burgoyne, and was severely wounded and taken prisoner with that officer. That he came to this Province with the Loyalists at the evacuation of New York."

Not being a student of military history I decided to learn more about Burgoyne, in the hope that I could discover the name of the military unit in which Jacob had served. What I found threw a monkey wrench into my plan but also opened some interesting new avenues for research.

Turns out that Burgoyne's time in North America was relatively short. He led a group of British regular troops and German mercenaries into battle at Saratoga in October 1777 and was defeated. All of the soldiers serving under Burgoyne were taken prisoner.

Learning that Jacob Tell was either a regular British soldier or a German mercenary derailed the plans for another UE certificate application – as a regular soldier he would not qualify as a Loyalist. However, his origins still need to be researched. I need to find out where he came from.

This brings me to the point of this article. I need some help. Where can I find the muster

rolls for the regular British forces? What about the German units that served with the British? I sure hope I don't have to make a trip to the Public Records Office in the UK in order to complete my search.

If you have any information that would help me please let me know. I can be reached by e-mail at: dave@laskeyfamily.ca. ■

UEL Christmas Dinner

by Ruth Lesbirel

Before the great deluge of snow arrived on the east coast this winter (over 480cm at the time of writing this), nearly fifty UELAC-NB members and friends gathered at Villa Madonna in Rothesay for an "Old Fashioned Heritage Christmas Gathering".

At 1:00 pm on December 8, 2014, we enjoyed a three course turkey dinner with all the trimmings, including spiced squash bisque, rolls, turkey, dressing, gravy, cranberries, mashed potatoes, carrots, peas, mashed turnip, pickles, raspberry trifle, mincemeat tarts, coffee, traditional eggnog, and hot mulled cider.

Guests arrived early to visit with friends and enjoy the eggnog and cider. Don Flewelling on piano and his sister, Ruth Lesbirel on violin, provided traditional carol music as guests arrived for the dinner. John Watson, in Loyalist attire, was the Master of Ceremonies for the program and after dinner our new President, Deborah Coleman, presented a talk entitled "The Tale of the Carols". Deborah gave the history of three carols of great significance to the

descendants of the Loyalists of New Brunswick down to the present day. The carols presented were "The Huron Carol", "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day", and "Silent Night", each sung by Ruth Lesbirel, accompanied by Don Flewelling.

The festivities concluded on a lively note with a sing-along of popular Christmas songs. The gathering was much enjoyed by all, setting the mood for a wonderful Christmas season. ■



The historic Loyalist House at 120 Union Street in Saint John was, once again, the site of the annual New Years Day Levee on January 1, 2015. Local Historian David Goss and Chris Lane (at the piano) plot strategy.



John Watson, in Loyalist attire, was the Master of Ceremonies for the program, as members and friends gathered at Villa Madonna in Rothesay for an "Old Fashioned Heritage Christmas Gathering"



Luncheon at the Levee was catered by Deborah Coleman, UELAC-NB President. Here she awaits the hungry hordes at a table laden with sandwiches, sweets, savouries and confections.

Classifieds

Books for Sale

The New Brunswick Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association publishes and distributes books to help people learn more about our ancestors.

Loyalists All, by Gail Bonsall Pipes. Stories told about New Brunswick Loyalists by their descendants, compiled and edited by Gail Bonsall Pipes, New Brunswick Branch, United Empire Loyalists' Association (1985). 192pp. \$25.00 (Cdn), plus Shipping & Handling*

The Loyalists of New Brunswick, by Esther Clark Wright. A high-quality paper-bound copy of the famous 1955 publication. \$26.00 (Cdn), plus Shipping & Handling*

Some Burial Records of the Loyalist Burial Ground, by Graeme Somerville. First published in 1985 as a personal commemoration of the bi-centennial of the incorporation of Saint John NB, this book provides two 19th century records of burials in what was initially known as the City Burial Ground. \$22.00 (Cdn) plus Shipping & Handling*


* Shipping and handling for all books will be \$14.00 (Cdn) to Canadian destinations and \$17.00 to United States destinations. Other destinations will be quoted individually. Any of these books can be ordered by sending a cheque for the appropriate amount to our treasurer at the following mailing address: The U. E. L. Association, New Brunswick Branch, PO Box 484, Saint John, NB E2L 3Z8. The NB branch

will soon have new titles available for sale soon so keep visiting our website for updates. If you have any questions about any of the books, please contact to Steve Owens at owenwynwyn@gmail.com.

Coming Events

A presentation by Kate Waller

The Loyalist Woman Working



Carleton Street
Stone Church
87 Carleton St.

The United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada
New Brunswick Branch,
Cordially invite you to attend
our Fall Meeting.
Refreshments will be served

Our guest speaker will be
Kate Waller, offering a glimpse
into the daily lives of our
female Loyalist ancestors.

**For more
info call
634-7783**

October 15, 2015, 7:00 pm

LOYALISTS COME WEST

Our Dominion Conference is taking place this year in Victoria May 28 -31, 2015.

For details see <http://www.uelac.org>

Notices

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please take note that the Annual General Meeting of the New Brunswick Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada will take place on Thursday, 18 June 2015 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Stone Church, 87 Carleton Street, Saint John, NB E2L 2Z2.

The agenda for the meeting will include:

1. The review of the books of account;
2. The receiving of reports;
3. The election of officers;
4. A motion to increase the Branch membership fees;
5. Such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

The meeting will also feature a presentation by Ruth Lesbirel, UE and Don Flewelling, UE entitled "The Amazing Enigma of Phebe Robertson Keiffer: Titusville's own Unsinkable Molly Brown". — David Laskey, Acting Secretary

NOTICE OF MOTION

I, David Laskey, member in good standing of the New Brunswick Branch, do hereby give notice of my intention to place the following motion before the Branch's Annual General Meeting scheduled to take place on 18 June 2015.

Moved that the annual fees for membership in the New Brunswick Branch for the various types of memberships be as set out below with effect from the membership year beginning 1 January 2016.

Individual	\$50
Family	\$65
Student	\$25
Secondary	\$10
Institutional	\$50

Queries

FRANCIS LAWRENCE VANDERBILT — One of the original St. John grantees, and a daughter of Colonel Richard Lawrence of Staten Island. Married Cornelius Ackerman circa 1786 and settled in Fredericton. Any information appreciated. Please contact Gord Ripley at gripley@trentu.ca

JARIUS COPPERTHWAIT SUTHERLAND — I believe my g-g-g-great grandfather, George Sutherland (b ca 1731), was a Private in the Old 78th Highlanders, disbanded 1763 in Quebec. He might have then joined the 84th Royal Highland Emigrants and participated in the 1777 siege of Saint John, where my g-great-grandfather Jarius Copperthwaite Sutherland was born in 1842. I would appreciate any possible assistance in confirming the above conjecture. Please contact Richard Sutherland at topdad48@yahoo.com

Next Issue Classifieds

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Email: newsletter@uelac-nb.ca

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(506) 847-1465

(506) 832-0604

Spring Meeting

by Deborah Coleman

The New Brunswick Branch, UELAC, held its spring meeting on 9 April 2015 at the Stone Church, 87 Carleton Street in Saint John.

Following a brief business meeting, renowned black educator David Peters spoke on the early Black settlements in New Brunswick.

Extensive details were given regarding the participation of Blacks in the Revolutionary War as well as the War of 1812.

David, being a direct descendant of the famous Black leader, Thomas Peters, gave us insight into his ancestor's personal life as well as his work with the Sierra Leone Company.

This lecture was very well attended with seventy-seven persons present. Refreshments and a time of fellowship followed the meeting. ■



Black historian David Peters cutting the cake at the Spring Meeting of UELAC-NB. Mr. Peters spoke eloquently about the participation of Blacks in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

Tabuintac Old Home Week

by Carl Sytmiest

The first Old Home Week gathering was held in 1950, and was decided that it would be held again every five years. Tradition sees the event held the first week of August. 2015 marks 65

years since it all began, and will be held August 1st through 8th.

This year, for the first time, the New Brunswick, UELAC, has been asked to participate in the event. We will be placing Loyalist Burial Site plaques at two pioneer cemeteries in Tabusintac and the dedication ceremonies will happen on the second day of Old Home Week – Sunday, August 2nd.

The schedule for the event, while still subject to change, looks like this:

Saturday, August 1: Breakfast (Special Olympics); Genealogy Center; Tent Quilt Show; Souvenir Sales; Tent Car Show; Opening Ceremonies; Welcome Home Dance.

Sunday, August 2: Breakfast (St. George's Roman Catholic Church); Genealogy Center; Cemetery Service and Dedication; Quilt Show; Souvenir Sales; Blessing of the Fleet/Parade of Lights/Fireworks.

Monday, August 3: Breakfast; Genealogy Center; Quilt Show; Family Reunions. ■

Postscript

by Gord Ripley

It is a truism in genealogical research that family myths, no matter how far-fetched, sometimes contain a grain of truth. In my family, for example, it was long said that we were related to the wealthy Vanderbilts of New York. So how come we were driving a ten-year-old car?

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The Loyalist Collection at the University of New Brunswick contains microfilm of British,

North American Colonial, and early Canadian primary sources from approximately 1740-1870. Reel #5 in this group contains information about Colonel Richard Lawrence Sr. (1729-1789), a 'Loyalist officer from Staten Island, New York'. Included are legal documents, diplomatic correspondence, genealogical information and personal papers, 1765-1840.

As it happens, this Richard Lawrence is my g-g-g-grandfather. In our family bible there is a nineteenth-century entry for one Frances Lawrence, who is declared (in a fine copper-plate hand) to be the daughter of Colonel Richard Lawrence 'of Revolution Fame'.

Richard Lawrence was a ship-builder, not a soldier. He did, however, play a prominent role in pre-Revolutionary War Staten Island politics, and he openly avowed himself as a Loyalist.

In 1776, Sir William Howe appointed him Master-Carpenter of the Royal ship-yards on Staten Island, with the rank and pay of a Colonel in the British Army. He was given orders to seize vessels, timber and naval stores owned by the 'rebels', which apparently he did with a will.

By 1786, the tide of war had turned in favour of the Americans. Richard Lawrence was made a fugitive, and then arrested and tried at the suit of several persons whose property he had confiscated during the war. From prison in the city of New York, he prayed for the interposition of John Temple, the British Consul, who communicated with John Jay, American Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and the case was submitted to Congress.

Eventually he was released, and travelled to England to press his claims for compensation. He died there suddenly on May 26, 1789, at Eltham, Kent. A copy of his will, dated March 7, 1789 was

forwarded from England. His wife Elizabeth Oakley, who survived him by many years, received the pension of a Colonel's widow from the British government during her lifetime.

Elizabeth was his second wife, the widow of Captain Oakley of the *American* army. This marriage was not agreeable to either her family or to his, who were all strong Loyalists. Her family was opposed to her marrying one 'whose sympathies were so decidedly in favour of the English'. Two children were born of this marriage, William and Jane.

Richard, the eldest son of Colonel Richard Lawrence and his first wife Mary Leggett, went with many other Loyalists to Saint John in 1793. Some of his sisters went with him. Anne, the eldest daughter, had married in New York, Colonel Justus Erle, a Polish refugee. Their son was a celebrated physician in Saint John and lived to an advanced age. Richard Lawrence, Jr. died in Saint John on September 16th, 1846.

Frances Lawrence was Colonel Richard's third daughter. She married my g-g-grandfather Cornelius Ackerman in Fredericton, probably about 1786. At that time she was known as Frances Vanderbilt, having married John Vanderbilt of Richmond, Staten Island almost a decade previously. As a Vanderbilt she was one of the original grantees of Parrtown. Whether Frances was divorced, or widowed, or merely separated from John Vanderbilt by the fortunes of war is unknown at present.

Worn out and made ill by imprisonment, Colonel Richard Lawrence died too soon to play a part in the affairs of New Brunswick, and his 'Revolution Fame' survives mainly among his scattered (but proud) descendants. ■

UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST ASSOCIATION OF CANADA NEW BRUNSWICK BRANCH

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