



# UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

NEW BRUNSWICK BRANCH



NEWSLETTER : AUTUMN 2012

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## The President's Report

by Dave Laskey

*What does it take to succeed as President?  
What are the requirements?*

At the Branch's Annual General Meeting in June I agreed to serve as Branch President for an additional year but made it clear that I wouldn't go beyond that. Recently, I received a request to describe the President's job from somebody who seems to be thinking about taking on that task. I decided that the job description should be widely

circulated so that everybody is aware of what's going on.

Our Branch Constitution defines the president's job as follows:

- a) The President shall:
  - i. Preside at all meetings of the Branch and Executive Committee.
  - ii. Be an ex officio member of all committees.
  - iii. Uphold the Constitution and By-laws of the Branch and the Association and monitor the duties of the Branch Officers.

This definition is brief and doesn't provide much detail. The important thing is that it does *not* give the President the power to make decisions. The role is really limited to running meetings and, one hopes, providing leadership.

Decisions within our Branch are made by consensus so the job of the President is to ensure that important issues are thoroughly discussed and that all points of view are presented. The President also has the task of intervening to avoid conflict and to ensure procedures are duly followed.

Of course, I have very specific views on how the Branch should operate and what our goals and objectives should be. However, the only way I can see my views brought to fruition is if I can persuade others that my views make sense.

Probably the biggest problem facing the next

President is the shortage of local members to take on jobs within the Branch. This is a problem that I have not been able to solve and I hope that my successor brings a more appropriate skill set to the job.

I have also been asked about the possibility of opening Executive positions, including the Presidency, to members who live at some distance from Saint John. 'Some distance' could mean Ontario, or Wyoming, or Italy. Anywhere, in fact. In other words, members who cannot physically attend meetings.

Safe to say, until recently it would have been unthinkable that a New Brunswick Branch President might preside from California. But this is, after all, the age of video-conferencing and instant communication. I doubt if we are quite ready for that, but it may come. There is — for now — a very small and diminishing pool of candidates locally, and it is a fact that most of our members live beyond our borders. These people constitute a silent majority, and to some extent they are under-represented.

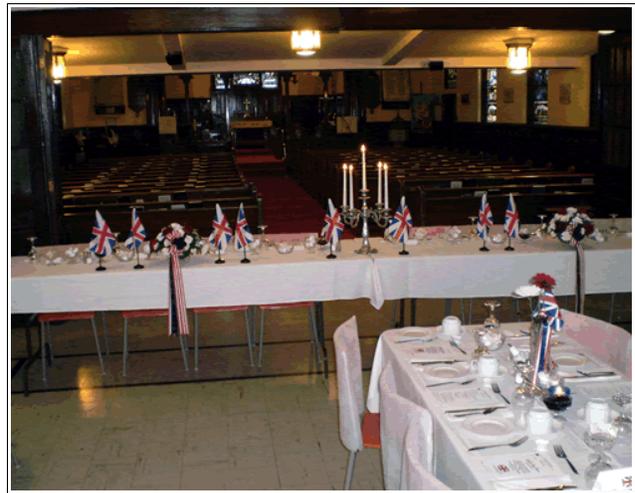
My answer, briefly, is that the time may not be ripe, but it is *ripening*. The odds are that we will need to adapt to survive. These are issues (and opportunities) which a new President and a future Executive will wish to address.

So, what does it take to succeed as President? Each incumbent brings unique strengths and shortcomings to the post, but a shortlist might include the following: *energy* first of all, and a passion for the Loyalist cause. A willingness to reach out to people. Diplomacy, common sense, dedication, vision. And for the time being at least, proximity to Saint John. ☐

## 2012 Loyalist Day Dinner

by Valerie Teed

The annual Loyalist Day Dinner was held this year at St George's Anglican Church [established in 1810], the 'daughter' of the original "Loyalist" Trinity Anglican Church, Saint John.



Branch co-ordinators and volunteers from St George's congregation produced a wonderful evening on May 18th . Doors were opened to the beautiful old church and the adjoining Hall was decorated in patriotic colours, including floral arrangements and Queen Anne flags.

Head table guests included Lt. Governor Graydon Nicholas and Mrs Nicholas, NB Branch President David Laskey and Carolyn Laskey, UELAC Regional VP Jim McKenzie and Marilyn McKenzie and NB Minister of Culture Trevor Holder and Mrs Holder. ☐

*Val Teed is a Director of the New Brunswick Branch,  
UELAC*

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## Loyalist Day Morning

by Ruth Lesbirel

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It was an uncharacteristically beautiful sunny and warm day in Saint John, NB for this year's Loyalist Day morning ceremonies, as costumed members of the UELAC (NB) and others in period dress, many local and provincial politicians, the Lieutenant Governor's wife, Saint



Mary's band members, several classes of school children, tourists, and local citizens gathered at City Hall Plaza. Along with speeches on the impact of the first loyalist settlers on our city and province, from education, trade, and business, to government, culture, and architecture, there was singing and playing of patriotic songs, a short play by four of the youngest and most entertaining of the many costumed students, the Loyalist Day proclamation read by Dennis Knibb as the town crier, and flag raisings, including the Queen Anne Union flag.

Several who attended the morning ceremonies went on to Loyalist House for guided tours of

this 1810 home, belonging to the Merritt family, formerly of New York. Many others enjoyed a piece of Saint John's birthday cake, the city being incorporated on 18 May 1785, two years after and as a direct result of the first Loyalist landings. At noon there was a 21-gun salute in recognition of our Loyalist ancestors, Saint John having the unique privilege of being the only non-capital city in Canada accorded the honour of firing a 21-gun salute in the absence of a member of the Royal Family.

We can only hope that our Loyalist ancestors experienced weather like we had for this year's commemoration and the warm reception that was enjoyed by all in attendance this year. ☐

*Ruth Lesbirel is Corresponding Secretary of the  
New Brunswick Branch, UELAC*

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## Loyalists Volume 2

by Eric Langley

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Progress on *Loyalists All*, Vol. 2 has been slow but steady. I have been preoccupied over the past year with the requirements of elderly family members and as a result have spent only a couple of days each week in my own home, limiting the time I could spend on the project. However I have managed to write up several of my own ancestral stories in that time as well as editing some of the stories already received.

A couple of new stories have recently come in, suggesting to me that another call for submissions might yield a few more. If you've been thinking about passing on some anecdotes about any of your Loyalist ancestors, now's the

time to do it. Another request will soon go out to those who have previously indicated an interest in submitting a story, to follow up with an actual story. If a few of these respond, we have a volume.

The one person who had volunteered to assist me, after many distractions and demands of their own life, has had to drop out of the project entirely. Another volunteer would be welcome. Access to a computer, reasonable literacy and some free time are all that's needed. Location is unimportant.

There remain some stories to be 'tweaked' and organized, and a small few that need to be written up from diverse materials. I am doing this as I find the time.

One of the next steps is to decide on page layout, font, etc for the appearance of Volume 2; thoughts on this from the Branch Executive or other interested parties would be welcome if there are any. ☐

*Eric Langley is a member of the New Brunswick Branch, UELAC*

Olde Burying Ground in downtown Halifax. It is now an historic site with many Loyalists buried there. That evening the branch held a meeting at the historic St. Paul's Anglican, the oldest existing protestant Church in Canada.



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*Bob McBride, UELAC Dominion President  
(Photo by Jim McKenzie)*

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## Presidential Tour

*by Jim McKenzie*

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### *UELAC President Bob McBride and his wife Grietje visit the three Atlantic branches in September*

Bob and Grietje flew into Halifax on Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup>. Jim McKenzie, Atlantic Vice President, joined them early Monday afternoon when Lew Perry, President of the Halifax Dartmouth Branch took them on a tour of the

Many of the members of the Branch were present when it was formed in 1982. Bob reviewed some of the activities taking place across the country and offered advice about what might be done to expand the membership. Following the meeting, the visitors were given a tour of the church.

The next day Jim took Bob and Grietje to Prince Edward Island, where they checked into the Loyalist Inn in Summerside. Peter Van

Iderstine, President of the Abegweit Branch, took them on a tour of the Island. They first were shown a Loyalist Monument that was almost in the yard of the Hotel where they stayed. They then went to the Ann of Green Gables National Park and saw a video and toured the buildings on the site. He then took them to the Provincial Building in downtown Charlottetown. This is where representatives of the three Maritime Provinces and the Province of Canada (Ontario and Quebec) met in 1864 to discuss the possibility of joining together in a federation to form Canada. Prince Edward Island stayed out of Confederation in 1867, but joined in 1873.

In the evening, the Abegweit Branch met at the Bedeque Area Historical Museum for a great meeting with the members of the Historical Society. The Museum is in the old Callbeck Store which until twenty years ago sold household goods. Percy Affleck, the President of the Historical Society, welcomed the Abegweit members in attendance and gave a history of their Society and their plans to develop the Museum and feature Loyalists in it. The Society has a long term lease on the ground and second stories of the Callbeck Centre. A number of the Society members in attendance said they were descended from Loyalists and three of them have since joined the Abegweit Branch. Bob and Grietje did a skit that chronicled the life of Adam Young and his wife Catherine who were Bob's Loyalist ancestors. Bob then spoke in his position of Dominion President and encouraged the branch to continue their good work. The Abegweit Branch voted to purchase three Loyalist Cemetery markers and they expect to get more in the future. It was an excellent and positive meeting.

On Wednesday the delegation drove to Saint John. They arrived in time for a meeting with the New Brunswick Branch, which held was held in the afternoon in the Bennett Room of the Loyalist Trinity Anglican Church. Bob talked to the branch members outlining activities at the national level. A nice lunch followed the meeting.

A member of the New Brunswick, John Watson, took Bob and Grietje on a tour of Saint John, visiting the Masonic Temple, the Old Loyalist Burying Ground, the Reversing Falls and other areas of the city.

On Saturday Jim picked up the couple at their hotel and took them to the Kingston Peninsula where they visited the old Loyalist Church that was built in 1789 and is still in use. They were then driven to the McKenzies' cottage located beside the family burying ground where Jim's Loyalist great-great-great-grandfather Malcolm McKenzie is buried together with many of his descendants. Jim's wife Marilyn served lunch and following a visit and a close look at the burying ground he drove them to the Saint John Airport, thus ending their Maritime visit. ☐

*Jim McKenzie is Treasurer of the New Brunswick Branch and Atlantic Vice President*

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## Serendipity

*by Dave Laskey*

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### *Or, the Importance of Publishing*

Like most members, I "know" who most of my ancestors are, at least back to Loyalist times. However, knowing the connections and proving them to the satisfaction of the Branch Genealogist

and the Dominion Genealogist are two very different things.

For the last couple of years I've been working fitfully on a certificate application to prove my descent from Capt. Thomas Spragg, who is my great-great-great-great-great-grandfather in three different ways. Proving that Thomas was a Loyalist and proving the identities of his sons and a couple of his grandsons have been relatively easy. Proving my descent from my great-grandparents has been easy. The problem lies in the middle generations, largely thanks to people dying intestate.

I've engaged professional help with the Spragg problem and was starting to focus some energy on some other Loyalist ancestors when I happened to read an article in the summer edition of *Generations*, the publication of the New Brunswick Genealogical Society.

The article, written by George Hayward and titled, "Descendents of James Till and Ruth Boone", presents a treasure trove of information about two of my Loyalist lines at a very opportune time, hence the use of the word "serendipity". In fact, I am descended from two of James and Ruth's daughters – Catherine Till, who married Alexander Haines and Mary Matilda Till, who married Peter V. Laskey. (My paternal grandparents were 2<sup>nd</sup> cousins and 3<sup>rd</sup> cousins once removed). The wonderful thing about this article is that it cites lots of documents that can be used to prove my connections. It also gives me an easy way to tie into a couple of certificate applications from other members with connections to the Boones, saving me a lot of work. I'm still left with the task of proving that James Till was the son of Jacob Till, a documented Loyalist, but that can wait for

another day. So, serendipity played a role – the article appeared at a fortuitous time.

However, I really want to stress the importance of publishing. If George Hayward had not taken the time to prepare this article I would still be flailing away in the dark.

I've expressed my thanks to George (and asked if he has more information) but the best thing I can do is to publish a follow-on article. Sharing through publishing ensures that the totality of our knowledge is greater than the sum of its parts. ☐

*Dave Laskey is President of the New Brunswick Branch, UELAC*

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## New Members

*New Brunswick Branch*

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*Since May, 2012 —*

**Jennifer, Jeffrey, Erik and Kayla Wallitsch,**

4897 Bossler Rd.,

Elizabethtown, PA 17022, U.S.A.

**Barbara Kelly,**

40 Leeds Crescent, Saint John, NB E2K 0E7,

**Laurie Tompkins,**

32 Waterford Lane, Fredericton, NB E3A 0E2,

**Paul Brown,**

39 Saunders Dr., Quispamsis, NB E2E 1J4

**Douglas Cosman,**

330 Roachville Rd., Roachville, NB E4G 2J7,

**George Franklin Marchelos,**

PO Box 19052

Huntsville, AL 35804, U.S.A.

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## UE Certificates

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*Issued by the New Brunswick Branch  
September 30, 2011— September 30, 2012*

**John Shotwell, UE**

November 28, 2011: *James Pratt*

**Allan Dicks, UE**

January 9, 2012: *William McCready*

**Julia Anne Dicks, UE**

January 9, 2012: *James Beyea*

**Lorraine Gaston Ennis, UE**

February 27, 2012: *Eli Branson*

**Marvin Sowers, UE**

June 18, 2012: *Asher Vail*

**Julia Anne Dicks, UE**

June 19, 2012: *Andrew Sherwood*

**Allan Dicks, UE**

June 19, 2012: *John Ford*

**Susan L. (Robinson) Peters, UE**

June 22, 2012: *Justus Earle*

**Delano Freeberg, UE**

May 28, 2012: *Daniel Smith Sr.*

**Charlotte Wingert, UE**

May 25, 2012: *Thomas Spragg*

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## The Benefits of Membership

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*by Dave Laskey*

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This past Spring our Newsletter Editor received a note inquiring about the benefits of membership in the UELAC, and by extension, the New Brunswick Branch. He was asked whether official status as a UE brings any other benefits or

recognition, via government agencies or private organizations.

The answer, in short, is no. Your UE won't get you into the Granite Club, and it won't waive your bank fees. I made my own decision to join many years ago and don't spend much time thinking about the benefits I derive, but it makes sense to periodically remind ourselves about the good things we get.

As an amateur genealogist I was motivated to join UELAC as soon as I discovered that I had Loyalist ancestors. I anticipated that I would find some new research aids and I haven't been disappointed. The Loyalist Directory has been helpful but the most important thing has been the opportunity to look at past UE certificate applications. These are a goldmine of data but also point in the direction of researchers who have the proofs I'm seeking.

The *Loyalist Gazette* is a high-quality journal with lots of interesting information about Loyalist-related matters. The magazine is always fun to read, especially when you see pictures of people you've met.

I've only attended one annual conference but can attest to its value as a way to expand your network of family researchers. The conferences also provide a lot of local history – an excellent way to learn more about the events that have shaped our country.

Strictly speaking, an individual requires neither membership in the Association nor a UE certificate in order to append UE to his or her name. Anybody who is descended from Loyalists can append UE to their name without proving it to anybody. Since the designation confers no real benefits (beyond the psychological) there are no repercussions for

improper use. As for myself, I'm confident of my Loyalist descent and don't need the Association's permission to identify myself as a UE. However, the certificates look great on the wall of my study and have prompted some entertaining discussions. It is satisfying as well to have the approbation of your peers, many of whom are expert in genealogy and history.

The NB Branch also operates a website that contains information about the Branch's activities as well as providing some research tools. This is one area where we have lots of room to add value for our members.

The Branch newsletter, produced twice a year, is an excellent way for our local and distant members to stay in touch with the Branch and each other. There's almost always something of interest to family researchers as well.

For those who live close enough to Saint John to be able to attend our meeting, we offer some really interesting programs. Topics range from using the baptismal records of the Methodist churches in Saint John to the dispossession of First Nations people from their lands by the early colonists of New Brunswick. Finally, we can't forget the social opportunities that our meetings present. It's great to meet with people who share similar interests and to learn about their own voyages of Loyalist discovery. ☐

### NEXT ISSUE\*

Submissions of articles, reviews and queries are most welcome. Our next issue will be published in May, 2013. Contact Gord Ripley at [newsletter@uelac-nb.ca](mailto:newsletter@uelac-nb.ca)

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## Book Reviews

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*Unnatural Rebellion: Loyalists in New York City During the Revolution*, by Ruma Chopra. Charlottesville : University of Virginia Press, 2011. x, 304 p. ; 24 cm.

After reading *Unnatural Rebellion*, one cannot help but share in the sense of frustration felt by the loyalists who lived in New York City during the American Revolution.

When the British established their headquarters on Manhattan Island in September of 1776, the city's loyalists were ecstatic. The greatest armada in naval history was anchored off of New York; rebel defeat seemed inevitable. The city's loyalists were more than ready to do their part to bring about an end to this 'unnatural rebellion'.

And yet in seven years' time, the advocates of independence had triumphed. The loyalists were loaded onto evacuation ships and relocated throughout the diminished empire. How could it have all gone so wrong?

Dr. Ruma Chopra's careful research reveals that it was the British military's failure to work alongside their loyal colonists that contributed to the rebel victory. The loyalists of New York wanted their city to be a model of government under the British constitution, but instead, the city was kept under martial law for seven long years. It was hardly an advertisement for the British liberties and freedoms that the loyalists wanted to demonstrate would be lost if the revolution were a success. Military leaders feared that the civilian assembly and court system

desired by loyalists would interfere with the security of the city and weaken the army's power. 'In preserving their military authority,' observes Chopra, 'the British sacrificed the legitimacy of the loyalist alternative.'

Instead of relying on the loyalist leaders for advice, the British regarded them with suspicion. 'In exchange for their devotion and their deference,' Chopra reveals, 'the loyalists endured neglect, suspicion, and derision ' the British shunned the Americans as unpolished and socially inferior.'

Despite needing more manpower, the British were reluctant to allow loyalists to form military regiments, preferring that they assume non-combative roles that would allow more British soldiers to fight. Those who wanted to fight back with all of weapons that the rebels used so effectively (imprisonment, the confiscation and destruction of property) were seen as vengeful men who would only further alienate the rebels. For similar reasons, loyalists were not allowed to conduct privateer missions until late in the war.

'The British valued loyalist devotion' summarizes Chopra, 'but at a distance.' The best friends the British had in the colonies were ultimately betrayed by the empire for which they had sacrificed so much.

Readers who have only heard the patriot version of the American Revolution will gain a new appreciation for why loyal colonists adhered to the crown while (often) disagreeing with royal policy. Chopra's book provides an objective perspective on a people who had their own vision of an empire that would allow taxation *with* representation.

Both the loyalist historian and the loyalist descendant will appreciate the insights that

*Unnatural Rebellion* provides. If your ancestors lived in (or passed through) New York City between 1776 and 1783, consider *Unnatural Rebellion* required reading. The experience is very worthwhile. — Steven Davidson ☐

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## Classifieds

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### *Books for Sale*

**Loyalists All – Vol 1** and **The Loyalists of New Brunswick** by Esther Clark Wright are available from our New Brunswick Branch for \$25 each + shipping & handling. **The Teachers' Loyalist Resource Book** is also available for sale for \$6.00 + shipping & handling. Please contact Helen Seely at nw@nbnet.nb.ca or phone (506) 642-1617

**Early Loyalist Saint John: the origin of New Brunswick politics, 1783-1786** [Paperback] , by David Graham Bell. \$35 + shipping. Contact: sonnet@wightman.ca

### *Coming Events*

—2012—

**UELAC New Brunswick Branch Loyalist Christmas Party**, Saturday, December 8th

—2013—

**April Meeting**, Wednesday, April 10th

**Spring newsletter copy deadline**, April 30th

**Spring newsletter publication date**, May 1st

**Loyalist Church Parade**, Sunday, May 12th

**Loyalist Day**, Saturday, May 18th

**Loyalist Dinner**, Saturday, May 18th

**Executive reports submission deadline**, June 8th

**Annual General Meeting**, Wednesday, June 12th

## Queries

**Cornelius Ackerman** (1748?-1846). Cornelius Ackerman was granted land in Fredericton in 1784. I am seeking any information about him. G. Ripley, email address: sonnet@wightman.ca.

## Services

Rose Staples, UE, PLCGS  
**Broad Meadow Genealogy**

1080 Route 605,  
Maple Ridge, NB E6E 1W6  
roses@nbnet.nb.ca

If you have interest in hiring a researcher please send a summary of the work you have done and what your goals are.  
[broadmeadowgenealogy.wordpress.com](http://broadmeadowgenealogy.wordpress.com)



## Ancestors New Brunswick

[www.ancestorsnb.com](http://www.ancestorsnb.com)

## Family Tree Research

*We Specialize in Loyalist Certificates*

[Val@ancestorsnb.com](mailto:Val@ancestorsnb.com)

[Sandra@ancestorsnb.com](mailto:Sandra@ancestorsnb.com)

(506) 847-1465 (506) 832-0604

## Epilogue

All of us, of course, have careers and vocations aside from our Loyalist research and every now and then we receive reminders of such activities. Early this year we learned that **Norm Lawton** had been recognized for 50 years of service as an licensed radio amateur. That represents a lot of hours on the airwaves, many of them during the time when Morse code was the main form of communication. One of these days we hope to recognize Norm for 50 years in UELAC. Well done, Norm. — *Dave Laskey*

## UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

### NEW BRUNSWICK BRANCH

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