



New Brunswick Branch Newsletter October 2008 Edition

NB Branch UELAC
PO Box 484 Saint John NB E2L 3Z8
Website: www.uelac.nb.ca

Contact Editor: teedgv@nb.sympatico.ca
ph (506) 847-1465
fx (506) 847-9257



The New Brunswick Branch was host to the UELAC July 10 -13, 2008 at this year's annual Dominion Conference in Saint John. From all accounts attendees had a good time and the Branch received several favorable comments about the well organized event. It was certainly an ambitious project and credit for its success must go to many members without whose assistance we could not have made it happen.

The Conference started with a bus tour on Thursday July 10th. Delegates had a choice of a day at the Provincial Archives in Fredericton or at Kings Landing Historical Settlement. Both were enjoyed by all who attended. NB Branch member Malcolm Newman traveled all the way from Hertfordshire, UK to spend a day at the Archives researching his ancestor Fyler Dibblee. A UELAC member from a western Branch took delight in visiting the Ingraham house at Kings Landing because she lived there as a child. The Welcoming Reception held in the Kennebecasis Room at the Hilton was intentionally short on protocol and those present were musically entertained by Ruth Lesbirel and her brother Don Flewelling. DeLancey's Brigade showed up on the market Slip Boardwalk to perform a little 18th Century drill.

On Friday the Annual General Meeting was held at the T&C Center. The evening saw us all bussed to the Lily Lake Pavilion where we had an excellent buffet dinner and were entertained by Michelle Daigle and Don Rigley and their "Taste of the Maritimes" show. The Saturday morning Lectures were well delivered, informative and entertaining. With a focus on history and genealogy we learned about Black Loyalists, General Timothy Ruggles, the passengers on the *Union*, and genealogical research in NB and New England. After lunch we were off on a bus tour of the local area with a stop at Fernhill Cemetery where the recently restored Botsford Family Memorial was dedicated ~ then on to Reversing Falls and Kings Rest Beach before arriving back at the Hilton for the Gala Banquet in the Loyalist Room.

The Banquet was the best attended event with some 150 members and guests present. DeLancey's Brigade was in attendance and attempted to 'drum up' head table recruits! Guest speaker, Peter Laroque of the NB Museum, offered a fascinating slide presentation of Loyalist artifacts held by the Museum on Douglas Avenue.



Sunday brought the Conference to a close with a Loyalist church service at historic Trinity Church in Kingston and lunch at the Parish Hall. Let's do this all again in New Brunswick in 2038 ~ our 250th anniversary !



Margaret & Fred Hayward - incoming President
Peter Johnston – Past President



Branch Membership Awards: Ross Wallace,
Patricia Adair, Fraser Carr, Shirley Dargatz,
Albert Button, Doug Grant

Hats off to Dr Steve Bolton and Jim McKenzie for a job well done.
They planned and organized an interesting & enjoyable Conference...
right down to the fog on Day #1 followed by three days of our
usual perfect Maritime summer weather. Right on!

A 'Thank You' Lobster Supper and River Tour were held on a beautiful sunny Sunday in August to thank all the Volunteers who helped make the July Conference such a success.

The new Hampton River Center was the venue for the event.

The lobsters were huge, the boat tour was lovely & the company was thoroughly enjoyable.

Many thanks to Jim & Marilyn McKenzie for making it all happen.

Welcome Delegates & Members



Fraser Carr, UE
Col Edward Jessop Branch



Kathy & Malcolm Newman, UE
attended from Hertfordshire, UK

NB Branch members
at lunch in Kingston
Parish Hall.

Ethel Flewelling
Elizabeth Hoyt Prescott
Laurena Shea
Heather Dow



Congratulations New UEs !

Eric Clifton Langley, UE Loyalist Ancestors - James Wetmore, Darling Whelpley
Henry Belyea & William Harding
Gordon Reid Pitt, UE Loyalist Ancestor - William Pitt,
Malcolm Newman, UE Loyalist Ancestor - Fyler Dibblee,
Gordon Stewart Thorne, UE Loyalist Ancestor - Daniel Keith
Betty Marie G. Button, UE Loyalist Ancestor - Martin Austin, Stephen Crabb & John Crabb
Stephen Leigh Stead Brown, UE Loyalist Ancestor - George Adkin Hartley,

News in the Minutes

April 11, 2008 ... John Watson announced his resignation as president due to personal reasons and Steve Bolton assumed the chair.

... Genealogist, Albert Button reported that a master list of all books owned by the Branch was being made.

... the annual Loyalist Day Banquet is scheduled for May 15th and the Loyalist Church Service is planned for Sunday, May 18th

June 5, 2008 ... A minute of silence was observed in memory of members who died in the past year – George Teed, Wally MacMurray and Betty McMullin.

... a generous \$1,000 donation was given to the Branch by John Chard.

... Frances Morrissey presented an interesting review of a manuscript by Mary Jane Langford.

It's called **Venus and the Golden Ball** – the story of a slave girl in the Revolutionary War

... the Nominating Committee Report was unanimously adopted...

New Slate of Officers

2008/2009

Executive

President – Steve Bolton

Vice President – John MacKay

Treasurer – Jim McKenzie

Recording Sec'ty – Kathryn Bradshaw

Corresponding Sec'ty – Ruth Lesbirel

Committee Chairs

Genealogy – Albert Button

Newsletter – Valerie Teed

Membership – Steve Bolton

Social & Sales – Nadine Bolton

Historical & Archives – Frances Morrissey

Education – Elsie Wayne

~ Next Meeting ~

October 9th at 7 pm

Stone Church, Saint John NB

Xmas Pot Luck & Auction

December 11th at 5:30 pm

Stone Church, Saint John NB

The **Botsford Memorial** at Fernhill Cemetery has been restored, landscaped, grassed and officially dedicated.

Our Branch is pleased to have been involved in the project which we feel is a worthy contribution to our Loyalist heritage.

Cyber Events Calendar is issued weekly by the Cultural Affairs Office, City of Saint John. E-mail your event at least 14 days in advance to culturalaffairs@saintjohn.ca. View the calendar at www.tourismsaintjohn.com click on **Festivals & Events**.

BOOKS FOR SALE If you come across a re-print of Esther Clark Wright's book **Loyalists of New Brunswick** that doesn't resemble our Branch's re-print... either in cover appearance or in *price*... it's because there has been another re-printing of this classic reference book. **You can order a copy of the book from NB Branch member Nadine Bolton at nadbolt@hotmail.com or tel (506) 849-4727.**

Also available are **Loyalists All** and a new publication called **The Man Who Said 'No'** by Nova Scotian writer Kent Thompson – part social history and part literary adventure. Price for each book is \$25 + Shipping

Loyalist Day 2008

Loyalist Day in New Brunswick has traditionally been May 18th. This year the date marked the 225th anniversary of the Landing of the Loyalists in the province. Branch members, many in Loyalist costume, attended a church service at old Trinity Church in the City. A flag raising, the procession to Loyalist Rock and the usual 21 Gun Salute celebrated the milestone anniversary. The annual Banquet took place on May 15th at the Union Club where members and guests enjoyed the meal, a sing song and an interesting exposé on Black Loyalists by David Peters.



Loyalist Day May 18th 2008
NB Branch members Terry Keleher, President Steve Bolton, Ruth Lesbirel and Don Flewelling in front row.



Eric Bartlett & Grandson Jonathan
at the Union Club Loyalist Dinner



Ruth Lesbirel & brother Don Flewelling
lead the sing song at the Loyalist Dinner

Establishment of a Loyalist Networking Group

Article by Stephen Bolton
President, NB Branch

Many groups and individuals, both amateur and academic, have an interest in the Loyalist period of our collective history. Under the leadership of Dr. Bonnie Huskins of the History Department at UNB (Fredericton) a new networking group has been established and has held an introductory meeting at Kings Landing on August 27th. The purpose of this group is to act as a communications vehicle between the various individuals and organizations interested in the history and legacy of the Loyalists. I had the honour of an invitation to join this group as the UELAC representative.

Membership, as might be expected, is composed primarily of university associated academic faculty members – and the Departments of History, Archeology, and English are represented. The group also includes academic faculty from the Universities of Vermont and Waterloo. However, there is also representation from outside the formal academic community. Such members include Darrell Butler (Kings Landing), John LeRoux (architect and writer), Kathy Wilson (NB Historical Society), Bob Dallison (York-Sunbury Museum and writer), Gary Hughes, Jane Fullerton, Peter Larocque (all of NB Museum), Kathryn Hilder (Loyalist Collection at UNB), Stephen Davidson (independent scholar and NB Branch Member) and Marion Beyea (PANB).

The *immediate* focus of the group will be preparation for two upcoming academic historical conferences in Maine and Prince Edward Island. *Future* considerations include an academic Loyalist Studies conference. In my opinion, this networking group has great potential to encourage and facilitate Loyalist related research and study. I suggest that the UELAC's endorsement of the group would generate mutual advantages. Expect further updates as this group establishes its agenda for the future.

Obituaries

Helen Elizabeth Mc Mullin ... passed away in her home in Makati City, the Philippines, on 15 May 2008 at the age of 87. Betty had been active in the New Brunswick Branch for several years before moving in the 1990s to be close to her family. She was the newsletter editor for the New Brunswick Branch of the UELAC and the recording secretary from 1982 to the mid 1990s. At our Loyalist Banquet on 18 May 2006 she was honoured, in absentia, for her exemplary work at the Branch.

Betty spent over 40 years as office Manager and Lab Technician for Dr Bruce Parlee's Medical Practice in Saint John. Her other achievements included work for the Canadian Red Cross, Canadian Society of Laboratory Technicians, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, NB Competitive Festival of Music, Canadian Girl Guides, Saint John Handicraft Guild, Quaco Historical & Library Society, and Volunteer Seed Collectors of Van Deusen Garden in Vancouver. In these organizations she served in various executive offices. Her life was one of immense service to her community and she will be greatly missed by family, friends, and the many people whose lives she touched.

Wallace Peebles MacMurray, UE... of Saint John, husband of Norma (Wright) MacMurray died 30 May, 2008. Born in 1928 in Saint John, he was predeceased by his father, James MacMurray and mother, Ann (Peebles) MacMurray; sisters Joan O Bush & Barbara A Brown;

brother, James A MacMurray... and his son, John. He is survived by his wife Norma, his children Stephen and Sandra, his daughter-in-law Susannah and several grandchildren.

Wally was a partner in Eastern Securities Co Ltd. Latterly he was Securities Administrator Secretary of the Public Utilities Board for the Province of New Brunswick. He was an extremely active member of the Saint John community and recently spearheaded the restoration of the Lily Lake Pavilion. He served as president of the Ys Men's Club; campaign chairman of the United Way; president of Fernhill Cemetery; president & board member of the NB Museum; a president of the NB Branch/UELAC and of the Saint John Horticultural Association. He was a very active Mason and involved with Shrine. He was involved with the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra. All his life he participated in the Church of St Andrew and St David, and with the St Andrew's Society. He served as president of St Andrew's House Inc and held memberships in many community groups. He was an active piper in the Caledonia Pipe Band for 20 years. In 2002 he was the recipient of the Queen's 50th Jubilee Medal in recognition of his volunteer services to his community.

This Branch will remember him latterly for his role as cheerful auctioneer at the annual Xmas Pot Luck Supper & Auction. The writer will remember him for his enthusiastic and genuine support of her efforts to produce an interesting newsletter... and for the opportunity to have researched his Loyalist ancestry which generated the tangible proof he wanted to connect him with his fourth-great grandfather, Captain John Lyon - Loyalist.

The William Pitt family of New Brunswick

Article by Betty M. (Pitt) Button UE

Researched by Albert J. Button

William Pitt was born August 07, 1759, to parents Abraham and Susanna (Wood) Pitt. He was baptized according to LDS records on August 19, 1759 at Trinity Church, Queens County, New York. His parents had been married at the same Church on December 07, 1740.

Our research found William living in Queens County, Long Island, New York in 1776 when he joined Col. Oliver DeLancy's Brigade, 1st Battalion at the age of 17. According to muster rolls he had a rank of Drummer. He was stationed at Long Island, New York until October 1778 when the 1st and 2nd DeLancy's Brigades under the command of Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell of the 71st Regiment were ordered to capture Savannah, Georgia. After three years of bitter battles, and the loss of many of their members, the Battalions returned to Long Island in 1782 where they helped defend the British lines until the end of the war and the subsequent evacuation of the refugees to Nova Scotia. *It is said that he was the soldier that scaled the steeple of Trinity Church and hung the British Flag to it and said the Yankees would have trouble getting it down.*

William left New York with his Battalion on the ship "Sovereign" in the Fall Fleet of 1783. His Battalion was disbanded upon their arrival in St John. Although he was given a land grant at Woodstock on the Upper Saint John River he never settled on it and left the land in charge of a fellow soldier Peter Clark who in 1788 petitioned the government to have it escheated to him. Eventually, William was given a pension of £10 per year as a veteran of the Revolutionary War.

William Pitt married Elizabeth Elston a daughter of fellow Loyalists Abraham and Charity Elston from New Jersey. They settled in Greenwich, Kings County, on the west side of the Long Reach on a lot which is now known as Victoria Beach. They had seven children - Abraham, Deliverance, Jacob, Elizabeth, Susan, John Thompson and Isaac. Most of their spouses were children of United Empire Loyalists. William farmed and plied his trade as a cooper until his death at the age of 82 on 8 Sept. 1841. He and Elizabeth, their son Jacob, daughter Elizabeth Lawson and Abraham & Charity Elston are buried at Oak Point, Kings County in St. Paul's Anglican Church Cemetery.

William's son Jacob, my third-great grandfather born 1791, married Elizabeth Oram daughter of Loyalist David L. Oram at Kingston, NB on June 4th 1815. They had five boys including my great-great grandfather Jacob Thompson. The Burial Register of St. Paul's Church at Oak Point states that Jacob died and was buried at Greenwich on July 5, 1825 at the age of 34 years.

There are no details as to why Jacob died so young. In his will, he writes *'being very sick, [but] of perfect mind and memory, thanks be to God. Calling into mind the mortality of my body and knowing it is appointed for all men once to die...and further...I give unto Elizabeth my dearly beloved wife, all the use of the land and property as long as she remained a widow.* Times then must have been hard for a young widow with five young sons and surprisingly she didn't marry again for about twenty years.

Jacob Thompson my great-great grandfather was born on 17 February 1820. About 1842 he married Priscilla Barter, daughter of James & Abigail Gale (Austin) Barter. They had three children - Eliza, Elizabeth and Hubert. Jacob was a farmer and mail carrier on the Kingston Peninsula who died in 1875 at 55 years of age. William Abraham, his eldest brother, married Mary Elizabeth Snider on 28th November 1839 but died shortly afterwards on the 30 October 1840, leaving his pregnant wife. She bore him a son who was to become Capt. William Pitt, the inventor of the underwater cable ferries that ply the waters of the Kennebecasis and St. John Rivers. One of the ferries on the Kennebecasis at Gondola Point bears his name today

Now we come to my great-grandfather Hubert. He had a farm on Kingston Creek and regularly recorded the weather in his diary from 1891 until he died. The diary was kept and used by the family for the recording of births, deaths and marriages with some notations and comments. My birth in 1933 was recorded in it by my grandmother, Sophia. Hubert had two wives. The first, Margaret Amanda Seely was a great-granddaughter of Loyalist Seth Seely. They had a son Robert Andrews and a daughter Huberta Margaret who died in 1875 at 33. Hubert married secondly Annie Esther Nutter and they had children Hattie who died at five and my grandfather Murray Reid, born 13th July 1880 at 1pm. Murray married my grandmother, Sophia G. Ganong daughter of George W. and Amelia (Scribner) Ganong "at the residence of the bride's father" on 15 February 1905.

There have been a lot of books written about my grandmother's family, some of whom descended from French Huguenots. My father use to talk of a bowl that was a wedding gift to his mother from a relative in France. Eventually, the old homestead at Kingston Creek was sold and my grandparents moved to Autumn Street, Saint John NB. Murray and Sophia had two children, George Ralph, my father, and his sister Thelma. My grandfather was a member of Trinity Anglican Church at Kingston but changed to Baptist, my grandmother's faith, and went on to be one of the founders of Tabernacle Baptist Church at Haymarket Square in Saint John. He worked for Shaw's Bakery for fifty years as a teamster. He died September 1, 1968.

George Ralph, my father, married Emily Johnston of Saint John NB and they had four children, Delores (died in 1933 at thirteen months) myself, Gordon and Carolyn. Gordon leaves no heirs and is the last in my family to carry the Pitt name.

Growing up in a small town in New Brunswick and having a name like 'Pitt' proved a challenge for me and it made me wonder who I was. My father was a son of an only son and this meant I had no cousins or uncles of our name. Discovering the actual burial site of my fourth great-grandfather William Pitt, has been a quest fulfilled, and gives me a deeper knowledge of the history he was a part of. The sense of 'belonging' is now very real to me.

"...[Benjamin] Sealey soon found work as a messenger, carrying dispatches to the British. Perhaps his most significant mission was the discovery of a rebel plot to set British-held New York City afire. When the revolution came to an end, the Sealeys sailed...with the Spring Fleet and settled in Maugerville."

Five Spies Who Settled in New Brunswick is another fascinating Loyalist story by prolific writer, Stephen Davidson. It will be featured in the spring edition of this newsletter



Sunday Service at historic Trinity Church, Kingston NB July 13, 2008



Tea at Loyalist House, Saint John NB Jul 11, 2008



A Toast ! at Lily Lake Pavilion, July 11, 2008



Conference Registration Desk



The Aide-de-Camp for Steve Bolton and Jim McKenzie... Nadine Bolton

Two New Loyalist Websites Launched by UNB

Submitted by Stephen Davidson

On 2 April 2008 the University of New Brunswick launched two new websites celebrating the province's Loyalist heritage. Designed with students in mind - but of interest to the general public - these websites are devoted to exploring the experience of women and African Americans in the Loyalist migration to New Brunswick.

The websites

<http://atlanticportal.hil.unb.ca/acva/blackloyalists/>

<http://atlanticportal.hil.unb.ca/acva/loyalistwomen/>

complement an earlier site featuring the correspondence of Loyalist Edward Winslow which is already featured on the Atlantic Canada Virtual Archives.

"Black Loyalists in New Brunswick" is constructed around more than 70 petitions, housed in the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, relating to land grants in which African Americans were either the petitioners or the land granted to African Americans is the subject of attention. Photographs of artifacts and maps pertaining to Black Loyalists (and the slaves of Loyalists) are just one of the site's interesting features.

"Loyalist Women in New Brunswick" features the letters and other primary documents relating to the Revolution's female refugees. Chief among these stories are the accounts of three generations of women in the family of Edward and Mary Winslow, who settled in New Brunswick in 1785. Photos of female handicrafts and tools are available to view on the site.

Part of the website project also includes the publication of a map of the Loyalist dispersion from the 13 Colonies to modern day Canada, England, and the Caribbean.

Margaret Conrad, Canada Research Chair in Atlantic Canada Studies at UNB, who co-directed this project noted:

"The New Brunswick that we know today is rooted in the difficult adjustments made among various peoples in the Maritimes --Aboriginal, Acadian, and Anglo-American in the second half of the eighteenth century. While the Loyalists are often mentioned in Canadian history texts, little attention has been paid until recently to the fact that African Americans, both slave and free, comprised a significant proportion of the Loyalist migration, or that women and children made up over half of those counted as Loyalists. By making these documents freely available online, with learning resources for people of all ages, we hope to reach a wide audience, including people outside of Canada, who share an interest in this complicated and important period in the history of our nation."

Stephen Davidson, a member of the New Brunswick Branch of the UELAC, was part of the team of consultants who compiled data for both websites. He contributed two Loyalist Women biographies and three Black Loyalist biographies to the project

These two websites, funded by a grant of \$99,956 from Heritage Canada and support from the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick and the University of New Brunswick, were launched on Wednesday, 2 April 2008.