New Brunswick Branch Newsletter

October 2010 Edition

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Atlantic Region Conference 'Loyalists as Refugees' October 15, 16 & 17

Welcome Reception Friday, October 15
Union Club ~ Saint John ~ 'Cash Bar'

Speakers Corner Saturday, October 16 at the Cherry Brook Zoo Stephen Davidson Bonnie Huskins Fred Hayward Paul Bunnell

Gala Banquet Saturday, October 16
Union Club ~ Saint John

Church Service Sunday, October 17
Trinity Church 'The Loyalist Church' ~ Saint John

Package Cost for All Events \$75/person

All Welcome! NB Genealogical Society, NB Historical Society, Peninsula Heritage Hosted by the NB Branch of the UELAC

Contact **Dave Laskey** at (506) 832-2151 or dave@laskeyfamily.ca

MORE LOYALIST MINIATURES - Ruth Lesbirel, UE



"This is my latest Loyalist House miniature ~ the Dry Sink from the kitchen. I also made the carrots, 'brass' bucket, soap, scrub board & washboard. The black 'kettle' is the top of a shampoo bottle.

The rest, including the copper pot and the blue & white basin, were purchased."



"Here is the Georgian Low Boy. It's just 2½ inches high. The silver service is purchased. My June project – the corner China Cabinet – is just over seven inches high. I added wooden knobs in place of the locks, so that I could open the drawers more easily."

A NEW GRAVESTONE ~ Dave Laskey

Saturday, 11 September was an interesting day for the small group that gathered in the Chase Cemetery, just off Upper Coytown Road on Coy Lane in Upper Gagetown, NB. This small cemetery has been in continuous use for over 200 years and contains the remains of at least one Loyalist. It is located on property owned by Don COY and is well maintained by his family.

The event that brought us together was the dedication of a new gravestone to mark the burial place of Joshua CURREY, the Loyalist. The old gravestone, still in place, is badly weathered and very difficult to read. Looking around the cemetery it's obvious that most grave markers don't last nearly as long as Joshua's and the survival of his is quite fortuitous. Incidentally, another Loyalist, Ebenetus CHASE, is known to be buried in the Chase Cemetery. He died on 24 Jun 1852, aged 82, making him about 13 years old when the Loyalists arrived in New Brunswick in 1783.

The project to place the new gravestone was spearheaded by Daryl CURRIE, president of the Governor Simcoe Branch in Toronto and member of the NB Branch. Daryl, a New Brunswicker by birth and direct descendant of Joshua CURREY, had discovered the gravesite as a result of a conversation with another NB member, Andy Gunter. His research into Joshua, his ancestors and descendants, was very thorough. Daryl regaled us with details of Joshua's life and, being a highly competent genealogist, provided source citations.

With respect for the sanctity of the cemetery, Daryl had invited Dawn Bremner, local historian and genealogist who counts 20 Loyalists as ancestors, to review all arrangements and witness the placing of the new gravestone. Her imprimatur ensured that no rules or traditions were violated. The new gravestone duplicates the wording of the existing stone, which says, "Here Liys the Body of Joshua Currey who Departed this Life September 20th in the year of our Lord 1802 aged 61 years and 9 months".



20th in the



Following the brief dedication ceremony we enjoyed a light lunch provided by several members of the Currie family. Car trunk lids functioned as serving tables as we savoured a variety of delicious sandwiches and nibblies and had the opportunity to speak with some of the other attendees. In fact, if it hadn't been for the rain squall that blew through we might still be there exchanging stories and anecdotes.

I must congratulate Daryl for his efforts on this project. He has taken great pains to preserve his (and our) heritage and we can only hope that a future descendant of his will replace the new stone 200 hundred years from now!

A GRAVESTONE RESTORED ~ Malcolm Newman, UE

Following my article about Ebenezer Dibblee, UE, in the Fall 2009 newsletter, the grave of his wife, Elizabeth, was located in the Burtt's Corner Cemetery in York County, New Brunswick. Elizabeth was the daughter of Loyalist William Secord. The record was there "all the time" but as the spelling was Dibble rather than Dibblee, this initially threw us off the scent. However, perseverance won the day and George Teed located the grave for me when he was in the area on one of his business trips.

Not unexpectedly, the stone was showing signs of being rather weatherworn, but it has now been cleaned, and the 'before' & 'after' pictures are shown. Elizabeth died whilst visiting one of he daughters who lived nearby. The actual position of her stone is the Loyalist area of the cemetery and the 'before' picture shows a noticeable separation between that designated area and the other more recent headstones.

So, both Ebenezer's and Elizabeth's stones have now been cleaned and I hope any other Dibblee descendants in the future will be able to add this picture to their research and continue to commemorate the Loyalist heritage and traditions for many years to come. <a href="mailto:mailto



Evan Andrew MacKay, UE Elizabeth True Martin, UE Ruth Stella MacLean. UE

Gideon PALMER Ezekiel SEELEY Elias SECORD

WHAT'S ON FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

Thanksgiving at King's Landing October 9, 10 & 11

Ext #253 Trans Canada Hwy (west of Fredericton)

Thanksgiving is celebrated with traditional **Turkey Dinners** at the **King's Head Inn***. Dinner Price: \$18.95 and \$12.95 (half portion)

Preparations for winter occupy costumed staff in the homes, fields and shops. Shoulder a musket at the **Turkey Shoot** taking place on Saturday and on Monday. On Sunday, take part in the **Harvest Service at St Mark's Church** and the **Country Auction.** The Auction offers live animals (yes, live animals) hand-crafted reproductions made by King's Landing interpreters, garden produce, homemade pickles and more.

Contact (506) 363-4999 or info@kingslanding.ca *Reservations Not Accepted ~ First Come, First Served!





Christmas Pot Luck & Auction

Saturday, December 4th 11 am - 3 pm

Stone Church ~ Saint John
Bring food by 12 noon and a contribution to the
Auction Table
Dinner served at 12:30

Carol Sing at 1:30 pm

Auction at 2 o'clock

RSVP to Frances just so she knows how many places to set at the tables!
693-7054 or fmor@nbnet.nb.ca

COOL CIDER & HOT TEMPERS ~ Nadine Bolton

New Brunswick's First Election

The year is 1784 and New Brunswick has become a separate colony in British North America. It is a colony in which American Loyalists make up the majority of the population and control many aspects of society. Their traditions, values and beliefs will contribute to the fabric that will form the quilt of Canadian society. Come listen to both sides, and then cast your vote for either the military elite or the less priviledged dissenters!



Photo: Amanda Bolton at the MOREHOUSE House in King's Landing on July 11, as part of the NB Branch day trip. Built in 1820, this typical Loyalist house has a summer kitchen with a large fireplace used for cooking. Despite the high humidity and temperature on that day, Amanda prepared a lovely meal of pancakes, baked beans and scrambled eggs.

Members of our branch attended a very interesting outing to King's Landing in July 11th. Seven of us in costume attended the event with everyone participating in our

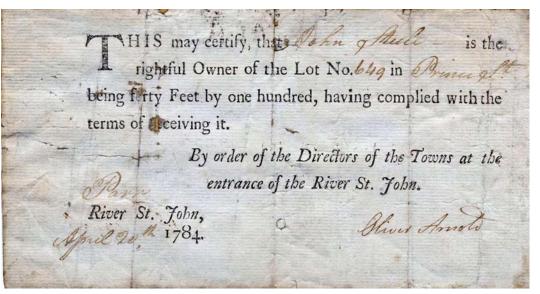
assigned house activities, the barn dance and interaction with the public as they visited the settlement. The Bolton family had a wonderful day participating with the re-enactors. Stephen portrayed Daniel MOREHOUSE, a Connecticutt Loyalist, who was a magistrate, farmer, highway supervisor, gristmill owner and militia major. Our roles were well cast with Nadine as his wife, and Amanda, as Daniel's spinster daughter. A heated debate was held by the neighbours at the MOREHOUSE kitchen. A riot broke out at Kings Head Inn when the town folk discovered that the polling station had been moved. This riot was dispersed with a gun shot by one of the King's men (played by Dr Stephen Bolton). We had a full table with several unexpected people dropping by to discuss the "upcoming provincial election" the first ever held in Saint John, New Brunswick. Despite the wet day, we all enjoyed ourselves.

A RARE FIND ~ Val Teed

This is the original receipt given to John STEELE, Loyalist, for his land grant on Prince Street, Parrtown (Saint John, NB) in 1784.

John Steele, tailor, died in 1794.

The receipt was found 160 years later in the attic of the Chipman house (the current site of the proposed Law Courts) in Saint John and was given to Sandra Thorne by the Turnbull family, Rothesay. A rare find!



LOYALISTS ALL, Volume 2 ~ Dave Laskey

Most of you will recall seeing a brief announcement about *Loyalists All, Volume 2* in our April newsletter. In fact, many of you responded to our call for volunteers and we have duly noted the names of all responders. (We know who you are; you can't escape.) However, we quickly came to realize that (i) the project would require lots of management, and (ii) none of the members of the Executive Committee were able to take on the extra work. The purpose of this article is to outline what we think needs to be done and to ask for your help with specific jobs.

To start, we can say that Volume 2 should be very similar in size to Volume 1. In other words, we hope to have approximately the same number of profiles about the same length as those in Volume 1.

We'd like each profile to be as genealogically rigorous as possible. That means that sources should be cited and all suppositions and legends should be clearly identified as such. We want to include family legends: we just want them identified as such, so that other researchers do not rely on them as proven facts.

There is no specific timetable and no fixed deadline. Having said that, we don't want the work to last decades. Indeed, we see the need to capture these stories as quickly as possible before they disappear forever. From a practical perspective that probably translates into a 2 or 3 year project.

So, all of that being said, here are the jobs that need to be filled.

Managing Editor - will be responsible for the overall management of the project, including the delegation of tasks and responsibilities to others.

Recorders - will be responsible for gathering profiles from some of our elderly members. Tasks would include interviewing such members (in person or by phone) and recording their stories.

Transcribers - will be responsible for transcribing all profiles that are submitted as handwritten documents or as typed manuscripts. This role could easily be combined with the Recorder job.

Copy Editor(s) - will be responsible for reviewing all profiles and editing them for style, length and grammar.

Genealogical Editor - will be responsible for ensuring that each profile is appropriately rigorous.

Layout Editor - will be responsible for layout, document assembly and preparation for printing. This would include responsibility for type style and font size.

Contributors - will be responsible for reciting, writing, typing or otherwise recording their stories, anecdotes and family legends about a Loyalist ancestor.

The final task will be negotiating with printers and managing the printing process. However, we don't really need to secure a volunteer for this job at this early stage.

One big advantage of this project is that each job can be done by any member (with the right equipment) regardless of location. In other words, even our most distant members can have an opportunity to participate in a Branch project and further our recording of Loyalist history.

Now, here's the big question - are you ready to volunteer for some role in this project? If so, please contact me with an indication of the job you'd like to take on. dave@laskeyfamily.ca

Remember, too, that I'll be looking for someone to take on the Managing Editor job and hope that I don't have to mount a major operation to find the right person.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE ~ June 17, 2010

| Executive | | <u>Chairpersons</u> | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| President | Dave Laskey | Newsletter | Valerie Teed |
| Past President | Stephen Bolton | Program & Sales | Shana Ganong |
| Vice President | vacant | Public Relations | Eric Teed |
| Treasurer | Jim McKenzie | Membership | Dave Laskey |
| Recording Sec'ty | Carol Acheson | Education | John Watson |
| Corres. Sec'ty | Ruth Lesbirel | Archivist & Librarian | Frances Morrisey |
| Genealogist | Albert Button | Social | Deborah Coleman |
| Assistant | John MacKay | | & Carol Acheson |
| | | Communications | Kathryn Bradshaw |
| | | Web Master | David Walker |

SIR WILLIAM VAN HORNE HISTORIC SITE

At the Annual General Meeting of the Branch in June a motion was made, suggesting that...

"...the NB Branch write and inform the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of New Brunswick that the Branch has been informed that the structure made by Sir William Van Horne at his retirement home on Minister's Island, which has been declared both a federal and provincial historic site, is in a deteriorating state. Further, that unless funds are forthcoming, the building may be demolished due to progressive unsafe conditions and be closed to visitors and tourists."

Minister's Island in St Andrews is owned by the Province of New Brunswick.

LOYALIST DAYS 2010



Loyalist Dinner May 14, 2010

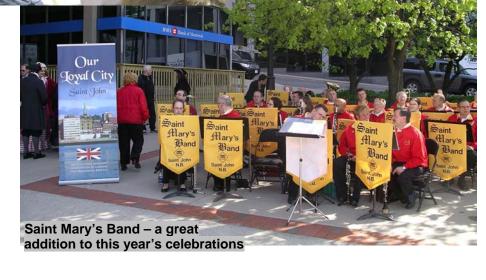




John Watson, UE greeting the Privateers (Steve Stein & Tom Cormier) at the Loyalist Monument, Saint John. Our NB Branch places red geraniums, official flower of the City, at the Monument on Loyalist Day each year. Plants are donated by the Horticultural Society.

Festivities for Loyalist Day and Saint John's birthday - the 225th anniversary of the City's Royal Charter – coincided this year so celebrations doubled!











SCANNING PROJECT ~ Dave Laskey

Over the years our branch has managed to accumulate a lot of paper. Applications for UE certificates are a good example of the type of documents that we keep, seemingly in perpetuity. In addition, we have our own archives - documents relating to the operation of the branch. This growing pile of paper has created a storage problem, aggravated by the fact that we don't have our own storage space. The result is that our files are stored in a variety of locations, mostly the homes of Executive Members.

We have discussed a number of approaches to solving this problem and have agreed, in principle, that we should undertake a "scanning" project. That is to say, we want to create electronic (digital) copies of our files. This would offer several advantages to us: 1) Our important documents would be protected from loss or destruction;

- 2) Certain files, such as those containing genealogical information, could be available on-line;
- 3) Many files that are copies of original documents held elsewhere could be discarded;
- 4) Our remaining files could be consolidated in a single location.

Our current plan is to purchase a *dedicated scanner*, capable of multi-sheet, double-sided, high-volume scanning. This would be in lieu of a multi-function printer with scanning capabilities. This is the easiest part of the project.

More difficult is the *question of work space*. Our feeling is that we need a space that is generally available during the day without the need to make prior arrangements. We'd also like a space that is attractive so that volunteers won't be repelled by the working conditions. We have considered several alternatives and have come up with one option that meets our criteria and is not prohibitively expensive.

However, any work space, regardless of how low the price, would be a waste of money if we don't have a group

of volunteers who are willing to dedicate some time to the project. **That's where you come in!** We're looking for people who might be willing to contribute an hour or two every week or month for the duration of our project. What we would offer is: o a pleasant work space o high-quality equipment o training sessions on use of the equipment o a chance to meet and work with some other members

If you're interested in participating in this project please contact me by e-mail, at the address shown below, or by post at the Branch's PO box. The interest (or lack thereof) shown by members will determine whether we proceed with this project at this time. We look forward to hearing from you. dave@laskeyfamily.ca

ICE OUT PAST MY HOUSE – The Diary of Azor Hoyt: A King's County Loyalist Editor & Compiler ~ Jack E Hoyt

1825

Oct

- Visited Mr Brown's school at the end of the first quarter; Cattle show at Abel English. The first ever in King's Co; Very hot
- 5 Very hot
- **7** Great fire in Fredericton, burnt 39 dwelling houses and a number of barns and outhouses; loss 50,000 pounds
- "Great fire in Miramichi, Newcastle & Douglastown and other villages entirely consumed; 6,000 square miles burnt over; Persons burnt and drowned, 160; Buildings destroyed, 595; Estimated loss 227,713 pounds 3 shillings and sixpence. Three ships with their cargoes burnt in the harbour of Newcastle, and two in the stocks
- " Great fire in and near Oromocto, 20 houses barns burnt
- 9 So much smoke that the sun could not been seen at mid-day
- Heavy gale of wind with rain and thunder and lightening; Wm Doyal launched the Brig RUBICON for Thomas B Milledge, Esq.; Salyer Jackson launched a Brig for Mr Strickland

1817

Nov

- 2 Augustin Webster returns the second time. Snow
- Princess Charlotte of Wales interred at Windsor, England. Funeral sermon preached by the Rev Isaac Gossett from Rev. C 7 V: 17 "And God shall wipe away all their tears from their eyes."

 NOTE: only daughter of Geo. IV
- 8 Mr Aspinwell clock cleaner here
- 24 River shuts up with ice

1845 Dec

- 3 River closed; very cold
- 6 Skated to church; ice four inches thick 13 Rom. 12 v.
- Rev W.W. Walker's house took fire; like to have burned down; a melancholy accident happened near Hampton Church; Thos., son of F.S. Demille and John and Henry, sons of Wm Demille drowned while skating by falling through the ice. Interred the 10th
- Went to St. John. Potatoes 4 shillings, Turkies 7 shillings ½ pence per pound.
- 11 Snow
- Mr Bostwick moved his old house up the hill with 13 yoke of oxen; Josh Gidney taken to Kingston Goal [Jail] on Henry Wetmore's suit.
- 16 Rev J. Francis married to Mrs Abraham Demille
- 20 Mrs Esther Foster died in Kingston. Benj. Darling's child interred in Hampton
- **24** Two of Robt. Greenlaw's children interred at the Kirk.
- 25 Christmas Day; Fine. Church at Hampton
- Munsen Gould Pickett shot his brother Seymour in a quarrel, in the body five balls extracted afterwards; died in four hours. Munsen committed to jail for trial.
- 29 Chas. Redburn, a Sailor, hung in St. John for stabbing another; Seymour Pickett interred at Kingston; the same day his little boy 18 months old fell into a tub of scalding water and died Friday evening.
- C. Hiram DeForest married to Miss Phoebe Wetmore; Edwin Crawford married to Miss Abby Fowler by Rev. Mr. Walker; J.M. Hallett and I went to St. John in two sleighs on business. Fine day.



BOOKS FOR SALE

The NB Branch still has copies of the classic reference book **Loyalists of New Brunswick** by Esther Clark
Wright

Also available is **Loyalists All:**Stories Told about New
Brunswick Loyalists by their
descendants
Price for each book is \$25 + s&h
Contact Shana Ganong
Shana1@nbnet.nb.ca

THE LOYALISTS AND THEIR FIRST NEW BRUNSWICK WINTER ~ W O Raymond

The first winter in New Brunswick was long remembered by the loyalists. Those who came early in the season were able to build log houses which, though rude structures in comparison with former dwellings, enabled them to pass the cold weather with comfort. But the later arrivals were not so fortunate. When they arrived they found that scarcely any preparations had been made for their reception. At Parrtown, Portland and Carleton every habitation was crowded, and up the river St. John the houses of the old inhabitants at Gagetown, Sheffield and Maugerville were in many cases filled to overflowing with as many of the loyalists as could find accommodation. During the month of October many of the disbanded soldiers pushed their way up the Saint John transporting their few possessions in boats provided by government. But the season was cold and wet and the hardships and exposure very great.

Mrs. Mary Bradley in her curious old autobiography describes the effect produced in her mind by the arrival of the loyalists. She was living at the time in the lower part of the township of Maugerville, now known as Sheffield. "My heart," she says, "was filled with pity and affection when I saw them in a strange land without house or home, and many of them were sick and helpless. I often looked at them when they passed by in boats in rainy weather and wished for them to call and refresh themselves and was glad when they did so." She adds that during the winter one of the loyalist families occupied a part of her father's house.

Colonel Richard Hewlett seeing the impossibility of disbanding the loyalist corps at their several locations, as originally intended by Sir Guy Carleton, was compelled to disband them at St. John, urging them at the same time to make the best provision they could for the approaching winter. The more adventurous spirits pressed on up the river, some finding shelter in the houses of the old settlers, while others took possession of the abandoned French settlements at Grimross and St. Anne's Point, where they set about building huts and repairing the ruined dwellings of the Acadians, but before they had made much progress the snow was on the ground and the winter frost in the air. They then endured the greatest hardships, their situation being at times rendered well nigh desperate in consequence of the non arrival of supplies expected up the river before the close of navigation. Frequently the stout hearted fathers and sons of the little colony at St. Anne's had to journey from fifty to a hundred miles with toboggans through wild woods or on the ice to procure a precarious supply of food for their famishing families. Women, delicately reared, cared for their children beneath canvas tents rendered habitable only by the banks of snow which lay six feet deep in the open spaces of the forest, and as one said who had as a child passed through the terrible experience of that first winter: "There were times when strong proud men wept like children and lay down in their snow bound tents to die.

A few of the pioneer settlers doubtless found shelter among the French Acadians of whom there were then several families living near Springhill; others may have passed the winter at Prince William where the disbanded men of the King's American Dragoons had been sent early to finish their log cabins and provisions for passing the winter in comfort. It has commonly been supposed that a party of de Lancey's men under the leadership of Lieut.

Benjamin P. Griffith arrived at Woodstock before the close of the year 1783, but in the absence of any positive evidence on the point this appears improbable. True, it is barely possible that a party of men might have gathered the necessary supplies and pushed up the river nearly 150 miles before the close of navigation, and then have contrived in some way to exist through the winter, but the undertaking seems such a rash and perilous one, that the writer is disposed to think it was not until the spring of 1784 that the actual settlement of Woodstock began.

Many men from all the loyal American regiments spent their first winter at St. John. Some of them drew town lots there and became permanent residents, others removed to their lands up the river the following year. For lack of other accommodation many were forced to live in bark camps and even under canvas tents pitched upon what is now known as the barrack square. These tents were trenched around and covered with spruce brought in the ship's boats from Partridge Island but even then they were a pitiful protection against the biting cold of a New Brunswick winter. Still it was wonderful what the brave hearted founders of this province endured. The late Hon. John Ward, who died at St. John, in 1875, at the advanced age of 92 years, was born in a canvas tent on the barrack square Dec. 18th 1783.

In his little work on New Brunswick history, published in the year 1825, Mr. Peter Fisher speaks of the tribulations endured by the pioneer settlers...

"The privations and sufferings of these people almost exceed belief. The want of food and clothing in a wild, cold country, was not easily dispensed with or soon remedied. Frequently in the piercing cold of winter a part of the family had to remain up during the night to keep fire in their huts to prevent the other part from freezing. Some very destitute families made use of boards to supply the want of bedding; the father or some of the elder children remaining up by turns, and warming two suitable pieces of boards, which they applied alternately to the smaller children to keep warm; with many similar expedients. . . . I have received the above facts . . . which were at that time adopted by the settlers, from persons of undoubted veracity, who had been eye witness of what they related."

Quite a number of officers and men of De Lancey's first and second battalions drew lots in Parrtown, and amongst them were Major Joseph Green, Captain Jacob Smith, Captain Thomas French, Surgeon Nathan Smith, Quarter Master George Everett, Lieut. Benjamin Lester, Ensigns Nicholas E. Old, Ralph Smith, Geo. Brewerton and Henry Ferguson; Sergeants David Newman, Daniel McSherfry, Patrick McNamara, Thomas Fowler and Edward Neil; Corporals Richard Rogers, Thomas Stanley, Jonas Highby; Privates James Craig, Daniel Cummings, Lawrence McDonald. Most of their lots were side by side extending along the south side of Britain street from Wentworth street eastward to Canterbury bay and also including adjoining lots on Broad street where the "Old Ladies Home" now stands.

Early in the year 1784 pioneer settlers of Woodstock proceeded to the place allotted them for settlement. The leader of the party was Lieut. Benjamin P. Griffith -- afterwards Colonel Griffith of the York county militia. He was born in the then province of New York, July 4th, 1754, and the fact that he received a commission as lieutenant in Lt. Col. Stephen de Lancey's company of de Lancey's brigade, when about twenty-three years of age, shows him to have been a young man of spirit and decision... At the peace in 1783 he came with his company to St. John. Lt. Col. de Lancey who commanded the company did not come to the province, having received the appointment of chief justice of the Bahamas, and governor of Tobago. Lieut. Griffith's influence with his men is seen in the fact that a larger number of his company were grantees at Woodstock than any other company in the brigade, and more of them became actual settlers.

Doubtless the pioneer party found it a difficult task to propel their heavily laden boat against the strong current of the upper St. John, the navigation of which was then more difficult than now. The Meductic rapids were a much more serious hindrance to navigation than now owing to the occurrence of dangerous rocks in the channel.