

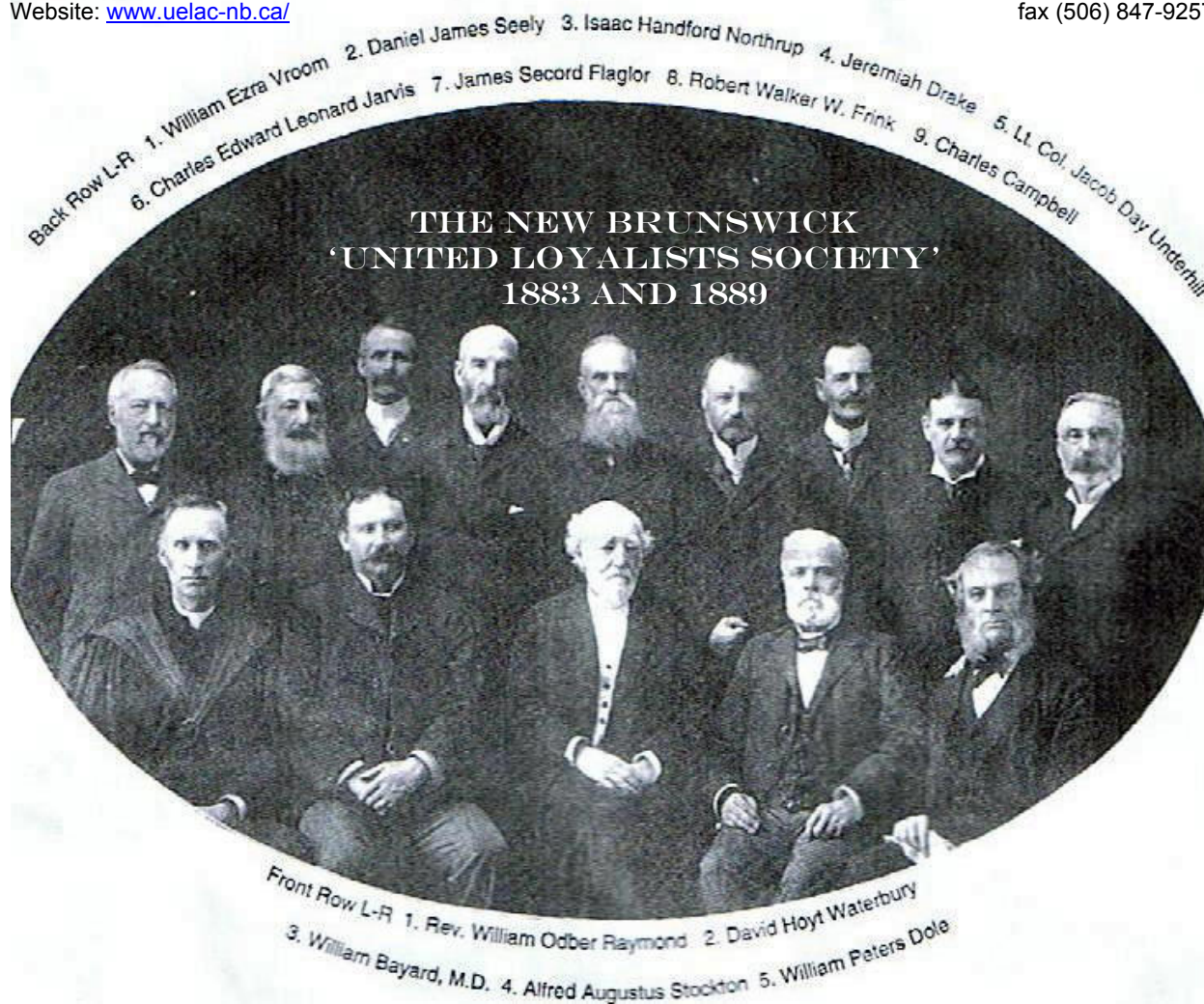


New Brunswick Branch Newsletter April 2009 Edition

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The first attempt at forming a New Brunswick Loyalist Society was in 1883 to coincide with the centennial of the founding of the City of Saint John. About 20 well-known citizens met. Mr DH **Waterbury** was elected president; J Austin **Belyea**, vice-president; Mr CE **Jarvis**, secretary-treasurer.

Although this first Loyalist group eventually faltered, the Society became reactivated in 1889 under Sir Leonard **Tilley**, then Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, who became president. Other officers included Sir John C **Allen**, Simeon **Jones** and Dr William **Bayard**. It was recommended that the name of the new Society would be the 'United Loyalists Society' whose aim was to perpetuate the memory and principals of the Loyalists...musical & literary. Membership grew rapidly to 350 members. By 1913 descendants of the Loyalists were widely dispersed throughout Canada, the United States and Great Britain and it was suggested that the various provincial Loyalist societies become united. On 27 May 1914 Parliament passed an Act creating the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

Text submitted by Elizabeth Lowe



Congratulations New UEs!

Eric Clifton Langley, UE – ancestors... Stephen Humbert,
Jonathan Ketchum & Thomas **Spragg**
Nina Gertrude Hurteau, UE – ancestor... Gideon Corey
Dawn Laverty Matheson, UE – ancestor John Manzer
David Christian Wold, UE – ancestor... Abraham Boehm
Scott Stephen Matheson, UE – ancestor... John Manzer
Michael Scott Matheson, UE – ancestor... John Manzer
Mark Alan Matheson, UE – ancestor... John Manzer

Althea (Spragg) Brown 1854 – 1912, was the gr, gr granddaughter of Thomas Spragg, Loyalist. Thomas was born at Hampstead, Nassau, New York circa 1729 and died in Springfield, NB in 1812. Althea married Solomon Brown in 1877 and their second child, Shirley Leroy Brown, was the maternal grandfather of NB Branch member, David Laskey.

Photo & Text submitted by David Laskey

~ Next Branch Meeting ~
April 16th at 7 pm
Stone Church, Saint John NB

~ Annual General Meeting ~
June 11th at 7 pm
Stone Church, Saint John NB

LOYALIST DAYS 2009

May 17th Loyalist Church Service **10:30 am** Trinity
Anglican Church Saint John, NB

May 18th City Hall and Loyalist Rock Ceremonies
at **10:30 am** ...time subject to change
21-Gun Salute - Fort Howe at 12 noon
Buffet Lunch at the Hilton 1:00 pm

Call to Reserve Lunch Tickets **\$30/person**
available from Steve or Nadine Bolton **849-4727**

Dues are due ☺!

Annual membership dues remain unchanged again this year and are due every January.

Individual - \$45 Family - \$65 Primary members of other Branches - \$10 Canadian Currency, please!
Membership can be renewed for two years at a time.

Menu

Eggplant/Tomato/Mozzarella
with Basil Vinaigrette
Salads: Tossed Greek Potato
Marinated Pork Loin with Applesauce & Raisins
Roasted Potatoes Fruit & Cookies Coffee & Tea

BOOKS FOR SALE

Esther Clark Wright's classic reference book **Loyalists of New Brunswick** is available 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

News in the Minutes

Oct 9, 2008 The evening's program was presented by Don & Merle McGowan on the ill-fated ship, Lizzie C Troop. Don spoke of the ship, the builders and the ship's tragic end in a typhoon off the coast of Japan in 1890. Merle described their attendance at a celebration in Japan in honour of the ship and its survivors.

... Cal Craig gave a review of his book 'The Young Immigrants and Craigs of the Maguadavic', a copy of which he donated to the Branch.

... Rev Dr Marc Smith donated 12 books with Loyalist themes to the Branch. These are all available on loan to our members and may be obtained through Branch Archivist, Frances Morrissey fmor@nbnet.nb.ca

... President, Steve Bolton, resigned as Membership Chair in favour of David Laskey who has agreed to accept the position.

... The Loyalist Studies Center at the NB Museum is in the process of being set up.

January 9, 2009 ... Final Financial Report from the Dominion Conference Saint John 225 was presented.

Receipts \$33,438.99 Expenses \$25,280.16 Profit to Branch \$8,158.83

... A \$1,000 donation was given to the Bay of Quinte Branch for the next Dominion Conference.

... Loyalist day falls on Victoria Day, May 18th, this year. The Lieutenant Governor will be invited to attend as speaker, if possible.

... Books and material for the Loyalist Studies Area are available from Albert Button and Frances Morrissey

... A motion was passed to nominate John Chard for the Dorchester Award

... The postponed Xmas Pot Luck & Auction was enjoyed after the meeting



The 'Xmas Pot Luck & Auction' in January



John Watson, auctioneer

~ A TIP OF THE HAT TO THREE NOTABLE NONAGENARIANS ~

NB Branch long-standing members **Audrey (Ellis) Stanley** age 90, **Elizabeth 'Libby' (Burnham) Lowe**, 93 and **Margaret (Fairweather) Bourne** who will be 98 years young in June, continue their memberships and interest in our Loyalist organization. Both Elizabeth and Audrey descend, as it happens, from the same Loyalist ancestor - Rev Oliver Arnold. Margaret descends from Loyalists Thomas Fairweather, and the famous Col Beverley Robinson who raised & commanded the Loyal American Regiment which became a major impediment to the rebel forces after the American Revolution.

We are proud to be counted among these members and take this opportunity to acknowledge their considerable contributions to our organization, in many capacities, over the years. Elizabeth Lowe has served in every Branch position and was, additionally, the first Regional Vice President. She is also a Charter Member.

Hats off to the ladies!

NB's GREAT 'GOOD MAN'

R Gordon Lee Fairweather 1923 – 2008

In addition to his many sterling credentials and his contribution to human rights on both Canadian and International stages, Gordon was a faithful supporter of the NB Branch UELAC.

He made time to offer our little organization his valuable input. His death marks the end of an era for Canada, and will be felt especially in his home province, New Brunswick.

The following eulogy was delivered Monday at the funeral of Gordon Fairweather.

Several weeks back the Imperial Theatre in Saint John called and asked if I would submit a piece on Gordon Fairweather and his involvement with the Arts. I telephoned Gordon and asked him about his contribution. I began, "It's the scribe and lawyer calling but not the Pharisee" to which he responded "Oh, we have to be on our look out for those Pharisees."

Thus continued the rapport I had with Robert Gordon Lee Fairweather for the past 18 years. Gordon hated the word mentor. He loved the word friend. Notwithstanding the years that separated us and the occasional differences in political philosophy, next to my husband, in many ways, he was my best friend.

Love, courage, humility are not easy qualities to define, yet Gordon Fairweather is the embodiment of all of these qualities, to his family Michael, Hugh and Wendy and to those of us here today who send him on his final journey.

Like his parents before him, John and Agnes, and his brothers David and Jack, his sisters Barbara and Hamlin, Gordon strove to make gentle the world around him, to serve his country, his fellow beings and to challenge the timidity of his times.

How easy life would have been to have succumbed to the temptation to never look up from one's own life, one's own career, one's own family, to never concern oneself with discrimination, poverty, or suffering. But life was not to offer such comfort or solace to Gordon. There were wrongs which had to be righted, inequalities which had to be addressed and battles pertaining to the dignity of the human spirit which had to be waged.

As he said in a speech he once gave to the Empire Club, "so long as there is discrimination against any member of our society, we break the promises



In 2007, Gordon Fairweather spoke at a rally calling on government to preserve Saint John's university. It was typical of his caring community advocacy.

about equality and fairness that we have made to our children, to our fellow citizens and to the world at large."

How easy it is for us now to look back and say that it is only natural that our nation have a maple leaf as a flag, that no Canadian citizen be sentenced to death for a crime, or that no one per-

son be denied employment opportunities on the basis of their race gender and sexual orientation. All of these decisions took great moral courage, to stand up to one's leader, one's constituents and one's party. If Dante was right and the hottest places in hell are reserved for those who during moral crisis maintain their neutrality, Gordon is now enjoying the sea breezes of the Bay of Fundy.

GORDON FAIRWEATHER STROVE TO MAKE GENTLE THE WORLD AROUND HIM, TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY, HIS FELLOW BEINGS AND TO CHALLENGE THE TIMIDITY OF HIS TIMES.

Gordon's love for all things humane

extended well beyond our borders to other nations where he often oversaw free elections in Zimbabwe, Malaysia, El Salvador and Guatemala. He headed the UN delegation on Human Rights to Geneva three times. Undoubtedly like John Peters Humphrey, another New Brunswick native, Gordon will be re-

membered not merely as a good man but rather as a great man who tried to make a difference here at home and around the world.

Yes, it is true although he accomplished much in his 85 years, there is still bigotry, still injustice and still discrimination, violence begets violence and in one of the very nations that he once observed elections in, women are raped, hundreds are murdered because of their political beliefs and children are left orphans

only to be coerced into killing squads in an ugly altruistic grab for power.

Neither the world nor our country are perfect places but when men and women of good will individually or collectively set out to break down the barriers of intolerance and ignorance they inspire and enlighten others to take up the cause. And so it becomes our responsibility here in this church today, in this great nation today to ensure that the promises we have made to our children are not broken.

I would be remiss if I did not mention of all the titles and honours bestowed upon Gordon, none meant more to him than "Dad." He loved his three children and imparted upon them a quiet sustaining appreciation for all things fair and reasonable. The greatest love of his life was his wife Nancy. She was his constant source of strength, he, her greatest fan.

In his reflections upon the happiest times he spent with his family he would often make himself the brunt of the story. Once, then-Attorney General Fairweather and his three children traveled across the St. Stephen/Calaix border. "Have you any liquor, tobacco, or citrus products?" the border guard asked. "No," responded Gordon. The family continued on.

Ten minutes later Michael chirped up, "Dad, we have those half a dozen beers in the picnic basket." Gordon slowed down the car and looked in his rear view mirror. Fifteen minutes later his son Hugh piped in "Dad, you have that cigar in your dashboard from so and so's wedding three years ago." Gordon stopped the car and looked at his watch and continued on.

Five minutes later Nancy chirped in, "And don't forget the marmalade cake."

Gordon then put his foot to pedal and sped off to Augusta. It was perhaps the only time in his life that expediency ever overtook virtue.

Michael, Wendy, Hugh – as with all great men and women there will be attempts by pundits, and even historians to make your father into something he wasn't. To make him into a crusader for every going concern, to mould his words to meet the immediate desires of the day. Be true to his memory. Be conscious of the fact that when all was said and done he wished to be remembered simply as a caring and gentle man who loved and was loved.

Victor Hugo once said "to love another person is to see the face of God." How numerous were the times that Gordon saw the face of God.

Lisa Keenan of Saint John is a lawyer and the former president of the New Brunswick Progressive Conservative Party.

Gordon Fairweather received honorary degrees from the Universities of New Brunswick, St Thomas, St Francis Xavier, Queens, and York and was a Fellow of Ryerson. He was an Officer of the Order of Canada & the Order of New Brunswick. He was the first Head of the Canadian Human Rights Commission and received the Outstanding Achievement Award of the Public Service of Canada, Humanitarian of the Year Award (Canadian Red Cross, NB Division) and the New Brunswick Human Rights Pioneer Award.

Can You Tell Us More about this Banner?



Member, Mary Gillis in Middleton, Nova Scotia, writes...

"I am enclosing a snap of the UEL Loyalist banner which was on the cover of the Loyalist Gazette some years ago. I sent a copy of it to the man who headed the Heraldry in London (Mr Swan was his name) to see if he could identify it.

He wrote back saying it might be a family Coat of Arms and noted Masonic symbols on it.

At the bottom of the snapshot, there was a plaque that said, in part, Original Banner of the United Empire Loyalists. The bottom part is cut off."

The latin 'Resurgam' probably means "We shall resurge - rise again"

If anyone can shed more light on the meaning of the symbols, the history and the location of this impressive piece of Loyalist history, please let us know.

Contact Editor

If you'd like to discover your ancient origins, search for genetic cousins, and add some original roots to your family tree, now's the time.

There's a sale on DNA tests! The cost is \$79 US (previously \$149).

Contact Genealogy@email.genealogy.com

or Write to The Generations Network, Inc Attention: Customer Service
360 West 4800 North. Provo. Utah USA 84604

Here's a Useful Website <http://www.oldsaintjohn.com/>

I think this might be of interest to members as it references several lists of local cemeteries and tombstone inscriptions that were compiled in the early 20th Century. There are additional historical references on this site.

Submitted by Steve Bolton

Conference on Loyalism and the Revolutionary World
June 4 – 7, 2009 Orono, Maine Open to the public

Price includes Lodging, Breakfast, Lectures, Shuttle.
Also travel to coastal town of Castine for a Panel, Walking
Tour of Loyalist Sites & Banquet.

Contact: Liam Riordan, Associate Professor History Dept
Stevens Hall 275 U of Maine Orono, Maine 04469-5774
Tel: (207) 581-1913 email: riordan@umit.maine.edu



Margaret & Fred Hayward
in good company July 2008

Five Spies Who Settled in New Brunswick

© Stephen Davidson

Being a loyalist spy was a dangerous occupation. When Lemuel Caswell was caught red-handed in an espionage mission with **Thomas Lovelace**, he spent the last two years of the American Revolution in prison. His friend Lovelace, however, was hanged for treason.

While Caswell settled in Quebec, the Lovelace family sailed with other loyalists to New Brunswick's Bay of Chaleur. Three years after the end of the war, young James Lovelace journeyed to Halifax to seek financial compensation for the losses his father sustained. The story of the Lovelaces gives us an intriguing glimpse into the ramifications of having a spy in the family.

As he stood before the compensation board, James quickly outlined his father's life, beginning with the establishment of their homestead in Saratoga, New York. When the revolution broke out, Thomas Lovelace joined the British army at Lake Champlain. In his absence, rebels made off with all of the Lovelaces' livestock. In 1781, Lovelace went to Albany, New York "on private intelligence", was captured by rebels, and was eventually executed for espionage in 1782.

Lovelace left behind a widow and seven children. As with most women in her situation, Lonas Lovelace was compelled to marry again, moving to the Bay of Chaleur with her new spouse, Mr. Norton. The family was further fractured by the fact that Ebenezer Lovelace had settled in Detroit, Lucy had married a man in Nova Scotia, Thomas Jr. was in Niagara, while William, Archibald and James were with their mother along New Brunswick's northeastern shore. Such was the high cost of being a loyalist secret agent in His Majesty's service.

The espionage career of **Benjamin Sealey** was not as tragic as Lovelace's. The Stratford, Connecticut native had been carried off to jail by his patriot townsmen because of his efforts in helping other loyalists escape to the British lines. While Sealey was in prison, his rebel neighbours took his gold and silver, and then stole his beef, furniture, china, corn, horse, and saddle. Once he was released, Sealey crossed Long Island Sound to join the British forces at Fort Franklin.

Sealey soon found work as a messenger, carrying dispatches for 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 to the mouth of the St. John River with the Spring Fleet. These Connecticut loyalists settled in Maugerville, an early refugee community in what would become New Brunswick.

One of Benjamin Sealey's neighbours in Maugerville had also been a loyalist spy. **William Caldwell's** service to the crown was recognized by none other than Benjamin Franklin's son, William Franklin, the last loyalist governor of New Jersey. He described Caldwell as "a brave loyal subject."

Caldwell certainly did not start out with any intentions of becoming a hero. A native of England, Caldwell had settled in Union Township in Pennsylvania before the revolution forced him to take a stand against his patriot neighbours. On June 15, 1775 a rebel committee sentenced the loyalist to a severe punishment. Two hundred of the town's militia stood on guard to insure that Caldwell was duly tarred and feathered.

Adding insult to injury, the militia officers made off with Caldwell's household goods and ordered him out of town. The loyalist moved to Philadelphia where he entered the British army. It was here that Caldwell became a secret agent. At the end of one recognizance mission, rebels captured him, stole his horse and money, and then put him in prison.

Found guilty of espionage, Caldwell was condemned to be hanged. The loyalist spy bribed his jail guard to let him go, and he escaped back to Philadelphia. Caldwell later served the British army as a guide in Virginia until the end of the revolution. The former spy and his family came to New Brunswick with the last of the loyalist refugees who sailed in the Fall Fleet.

Just before the revolution broke out, **William Wright** kept both a store and a tavern in New York. By 1775 the grocer's loyalist convictions forced him and his wife Hannah to flee to New York. Over the next four years, British General Skinner sent Wright on a number of espionage missions where he gathered data that was described as "good intelligence". As so often happened, Wright was eventually found out and arrested in 1779. Somehow, Hannah Wright was able to raise £150 (the cost of five very good horses) to pay the fine for William being "an accessory to intelligence being carried within British lines". Having barely avoided being hanged for treason, Wright did not continue in the secret service for the remainder of the war. He and his family eventually settled on the Kennebecasis River in New Brunswick.

John Stinson was a New Hampshire native who had family members on both sides of the war. His uncle, General Stark, was a rebel who saw to it that his orphaned nephew was educated. Despite this early influence, Stinson and his only brother Samuel remained loyal Americans. They both went to New York and joined the British army. While he was under General Prescott's command, Stinson went into Rhode Island for a total of twenty spy missions. He received a pound and a shilling for each mission -- the only example we have of a spy's wages. Following these successes, Stinson went on two espionage missions into Philadelphia for Sir Henry Clinton. At 26 years of age, John Stinson came to New Brunswick with other loyalist refugees, settling on the St. John River above Fredericton. It is amazing to consider that if -- in 1788-- one plotted a trip along New Brunswick's waterways properly, a visit could be made to the homes of each of these five loyalist spies.

*The author of this article, Stephen Davidson, is shown with loyalist historian Esther Clark Wright in this 1976 photo. A student at Acadia University at the time, Davidson escorted Dr Wright to a university function when her husband -- a spy for the Allies during World War II -- could not accompany her. Despite their 50-year age difference, the respected historian and the young history major had a great evening so much so that Davidson neglected to ask about her classic reference book, *The Loyalists of New Brunswick*, and completely forgot to ask for her autograph!*



Loyalist Grandmothers ~ Legends from Sleepy Hollow

by **Eric Langley, UE**

Watching the movie "Sleepy Hollow", with Johnny Depp as Ichabod Crane, reminded me that my Loyalist grandparents, Hendrick **Belyea** and Engeltje (Angelica) **Storm**, were from the area of Sleepy Hollow, New York, and that both families were members of the historic Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow. Said to be the oldest remaining church building in the colony that was New York, it has stood for 312 years. It was built circa 1697 at the behest of Frederick Flypse (**Philipse**), holder of the land patent for the 52,000 acres that became known as Philipsburgh Manor.

The estate of Philipsburgh extended over many miles along the east bank of the Hudson River from Yonkers to Croton-on-Hudson. The historic Philipse Castle, or Philipsburgh Manor, was the primary residence of Frederick Philipse and his family at Sleepy Hollow, a little north of Tarrytown and a stone's throw from the Old Dutch Church and its burial ground.

Hendrick/Henry **Belyea**, Loyalist, was a grandson of Louis **Boulier**, the Immigrant Ancestor of this name, who as a Huguenot refugee, arrived in New York in the early 1690s. He married Annetje **Konnick** of New York, and after a few years on Long Island, perhaps in the Dutch enclave of Breukelen (Brooklyn), they removed up the Hudson River to the area of Sleepy Hollow before 1706. One begins to see in the Church records how the spelling of the Boulier name was transformed [to Belyea] over a very short time in translation from French to Dutch to English, coupled with irregular spelling habits of the Dutch and English record keepers, and the general disregard in that era for conformity in spelling.

In the research of my Loyalist ancestors, I have become as curious about my Loyal grandmothers as my Loyal grandfathers, as I'm sure many of us have. This holds true for **Engeltje/Angelica (Storm) (Jerckse/Yerxa) Belyea, called 'Annie' - my Loyalist Grandmother** - through her descendants (1) Robert Belyea (2) Hannah (Belyea) **Flewelling** (3) Harriet Caroline (Flewelling) **Wetmore**, to my great Grandfather (4) Adino Paddock Wetmore of Clifton, N.B. and to my Grandmother, (5) Hazel Marguerite (Wetmore) Flewwelling.

A Flewelling descendant writes 12 Jun 1883: "There is a little romance connected with...Henry **Bulyea**.... Henry and Annie Storm were engaged to be married, when trouble occurred to break off the match. Annie married Mr. **Yerxa**, and Henry married Deborah **Carpenter**. When death untied both these knots, Henry and Annie returned to their first love."

The Records of the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow indicate that Engeltje Storm [Annie] was baptized there 20 Jun 1730, and that [Annie] the young widow of Abraham Jerckse, mother of John Yerxa, was married there, for the *second* time in March 1755, to Hendrick Belyea, widower of Deborah Carpenter, with two sons and two daughters of his own.

Annie's great-grandfather was the Immigrant Ancestor... **Dirck** (Deiterich/Dedrick/Derick) **Storm**, known in colonial history as "Old Dirck". This venerable patriarch, born at Leyden, Holland, in 1630, ten years after the departure of the Pilgrims from that place, was of Viking origin, his forefathers being from the town of Delft. Old Dirck joined his sons and grandsons already settled on the Philipsburgh estate near Sleepy Hollow, just after the turn of the century. He had served as Clerk of the township of Tappan in New Jersey on the opposite shore of the Hudson, and the Tappan Zee (Sea) for several years, where he was instrumental in the development of the first Dutch church there. By the year 1715, the church members at Sleepy Hollow entrusted him with recording the 18-year history of the Old Dutch Church, and "Old Dirck's Book" became the identifying record of the baptisms and marriages of the congregation. Old Dirck died circa 1716, having completed the record, which was then carried on by subsequent clerks of the church.

Washington Irving opens his classic ghost story, **The Legend of Sleepy Hollow**, written in 1819, with these lines:

"In the bosom of one of those spacious coves which indent the eastern shore of the Hudson, at that broad expansion of the river denominated by the ancient Dutch navigators the Tappan Zee . . . there lies a small market town . . . which is more generally known by the name of Tarry Town. Not far from this village there is a little lap of land among the high hills, which is one of the quietest places in the world. A small brook glides through it, with just murmur enough to lull one to repose . . .

From the listless repose of the place, and the peculiar character of its inhabitants, who are descendants from the original Dutch settlers, this sequestered glen has long been known by the name of Sleepy Hollow. A drowsy, dreamy influence seems to hang over the land, and to pervade the very atmosphere. Some say that the place was bewitched by a High German doctor, during the early days of the settlement; others, that an old Indian chief, the prophet or wizard of his tribe, held his powwows there before the country was discovered by Master Hendrick Hudson. Certain it is, the place still continues under the sway of some witching power, that holds a spell over the minds of the good people, causing them to walk in a continual reverie. They are given to all kinds of marvellous beliefs, are subject to trances and visions, and frequently see strange sights, and hear music and voices in the air. The whole neighborhood abounds with local tales, haunted spots, and twilight superstitions; stars shoot and meteors glare oftener across the valley than in any other part of the country, and the nightmare, with her whole ninefold, seems to make it the favorite scene of her gambols."

Arguably one of the most famous haunted towns in the world, Sleepy Hollow village, 25 miles north of New York, dates back to the 1640s, its name derived from the Dutch 'Slapershaven' or Sleepers Haven. For most of its existence it was part of North Tarrytown and was not actually renamed Sleepy Hollow until 1996. It was a place where you could hear astonishing tales ... of ghosts and goblins, of haunted fields and brooks and bridges. There are several alleged hauntings throughout the town, among them the famous headless horseman - the Hessian soldier - whose legend is based in truth. He's buried in the Old Dutch Burying Ground, dating from 1650. Among the dead are Eleanor Van Tassel Brush (Irving's model for 'Katrina'), Samuel Youngs (the real 'Ichabod'), and Abraham Martling ('Brom Bones'). Some speculate that the

real headless horseman can be seen roaming in the cemetery at night, as well as in the neighboring Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, where Washington Irving himself is buried. Patriot's Park is a small park between the towns of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown at the approximate location of the capture of the traitor Major Andre - Irving's model for the headless Hessian soldier - and the unfortunate Tory Andre is believed to haunt the park to this day. Legend has it that the famous pirate Captain Kidd once landed at Sleepy Hollow in search of a place to hide his treasure and his bride, from an enemy. His plan failed, and she was taken to Leeds where she was incarcerated and later executed. Her ghost is said to be pulled by horses through the streets of Sleepy Hollow at midnight, and treasure hunters still believe in Kidd's elusive cache.

Such is the legacy of the Dutch wives of Sleepy Hollow, who brought with them their folklore which originated in the mythologies of their Norse and Celtic origins. They believed in such supernatural beings as elves, moss maidens, and tree spirits from medieval times, and held the oak tree and wooded groves to be sacred - possessing medicinal powers.

It is felt that the spell of the past hangs over the area today, explains one historical writer, citing evidence that Washington Irving's Dutch storytellers were not just imagining things. "There is hardly an outcropping, island, stretch of road, mansion (whether mouldering or studiously maintained), or hedgerow, that does not have a long reputation for being invigorously haunted." In addition to the headless Hessian soldier of Irving's story, one is found in the town of Fishkill, to the north. The town of Leeds has a silent phantom on a black mare, perhaps the ghost of Captain Kidd's bride. One can read of the 200-year-old grey lady haunting a lake in the town of Lloyd; the spectral fiddler of Dutchess County; and the giant phantom pig of the Old Albany Post Road.

It is said that the spirits of women long dead haunt the hallways of local estates (standing or in ruins) including Estherwood, Wilderstein, Beechwood, and the 'Octagon House'. Bannerman's Island with a striking castle ruin, has had the reputation of being haunted for over 400 years, while a ghost train carrying the corpse of Abraham Lincoln has been reported along the Hudson's eastern shore regularly since 1865. Near Marlboro on the other shore, a phantom Dutch sloop has been seen navigating the river during the full moon; the nearby Dunderberg Mountain overlooking Stony Point is the reputed dwelling of a thunderstorm goblin that manifests itself to sailors on the river. The ghosts of Revolutionary soldiers from both sides of the conflict cohabit with Indian spirits, and the centuries-old curses of their forebears.

Since the 18th century, the neighbourhood has been home to "every kind of prophet, seer, mystic, eccentric, crackpot inventor, freebooter, wayward millionaire, visionary, utopian idealist, and all-American dreamer". From 1982 to 1995, the lower valley hosted an array of spectacular UFO sightings reportedly seen by an estimated 7,000 people.

The Old Dutch Church is an antiquarian's dream. Now a National Historic Landmark with its Churchyard, it is as magnificent and evocative today as it was in Irving's time. A look at 19th century Currier & Ives prints shows how little, if at all, it has changed in two centuries.



The Old Dutch Church at Sleepy Hollow

Our Colonial and later *Loyalist* grandmothers - Annie one of them - moved constantly through this enchanted landscape, and marked the milestones of their lives in this exquisite little church. Meanwhile her aunts and her many cousins, shared in the life of the family, spinning linen and swapping the tales of the neighborhood spirits. It may well have been through Annie's **Storm** or **vanTassel**, **vanWort** or **Orser** families who still lived around Sleepy Hollow after the Revolution, that Washington Irving was introduced to the phantasmagoria.

The Revolution rent communities and families, and led to the eventual exile of the Bulyeas, Yexas, VanTassels, VanWorts, and others from Philipsburgh and Courtlandt Manors, and other communities served by the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow. It is a certainty that **Annie**

and her womenfolk in Loyalty did not leave their storytelling and their tales of ghosts and forest people behind them in Sleepy Hollow. They surely planted the enriching seeds of myths and legends that grew and thrived in New Brunswick culture, and that have come down to us today in the numerous tales of local ghosts and other unexplained phenomena.