

## October 2011 Newsletter New Brunswick Branch

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## Loyalists, We Remain



The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were immensely touched that you should take the trouble to write as you did on the occasion of their Wedding and have been overwhelmed by the kind letters and cards that they have received. It really was most thoughtful of you and Their Royal Highnesses wish to send you their warmest thanks and best wishes.

NB Branch member, Don Flewelling, suggested that the Branch send a congratulatory letter to Prince William and Catherine Middleton, on the occasion of their marriage ~ along with a \$100 donation to the Royal Wedding Charity Gift Fund's 'Benevolent Funds'. This charity supports British Service Veterans who have served their country and who may now need some help themselves. Don chose this charity because of its similarity to the plight of our Loyalist ancestors, most of whom served for the British cause and then needed assistance themselves when they had to start their lives all over again in Nova Scotia/New Brunswick.

#### \_ Ruth Lesbirel, UE

Loyalist Days Activities in Saint John Branch members enjoyed a special service at historic Trinity Church on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. An annual event, the service is held on the Sunday preceding May 18, the official landing date of the first fleet of Loyalists on our shores. May 18<sup>th</sup> was celebrated in style with official ceremonies held in the Atrium at Market Square.

Market Square stands adjacent to the original Loyalist landing site and was an appropriate venue, especially for several classes of school children who attended in Loyalist-era attire. Ceremonies featured St Mary's Band, local politicians and church leaders. A 21-gun-salute was fired at noon from Pugsley Wharf (a privilege, in the absence of a Royal Family member, afforded to only one Canadian city – Saint John).



Tours of Loyalist House, built by Loyalist David Daniel Merritt in 1810 were conducted by our Branch members in period costume. In the evening over 50 members were present for dinner at the historic Union Club and enjoyed a fascinating presentation on the influence of the Loyalists on the architecture of the Province









### President's Report

As always, in spite of ample notice of publication deadlines, I'm writing this report on our recent activities just moments before our Newsletter Editor is due to arrive at my door with a loaded gun.

Our **April General Meeting** featured a presentation by Graeme Somerville, an oft-published Saint John genealogist. His topic was "Mining the 'Gold' in Baptismal Registers" and he described his efforts in locating and transcribing the baptismal records of six Methodist churches in Saint John. He tracked the histories of the churches from their respective formations to the time of church union and talked about the impact of itinerant ministers, Black people, military personnel and unusual occupations.

The **Branch's Annual General Meeting** was held in June; the main business item of the meeting was the adoption of a new constitution for the Branch, of which there is more below. The programme for the day was provided by noted local preservationist, Joan Pearce, talking about "The Romance of Fort Howe". Using contemporary drawings, paintings and photographs, Joan traced the history of the fort to the present, all the while weaving in the tale of an early romance at the fort. One result of Joan's presentation was that I tried to find the monument to Jenny's Spring that Joan had described as neglected and hidden by shrubs. I must admit the shrubbery is effective at its job – I couldn't find the monument.

The **Loyalist Burial Site Project** was formally approved at our Annual General Meeting in June. Over the last year there has been an effort to mark the New Brunswick cemeteries that are known to contain the remains of original Loyalists. The concept is that we would place a marker at Loyalist cemeteries to indicate that one or

more Loyalists are buried therein. Based on our initial research, members' comments, and discussions at recent Executive meetings, there is considerable interest in this project which can be as big as we'd like to make it. For example, in my day dreams I think we could set long-term objectives which would mark, identify, document, and photograph *every* Loyalist burial site in New Brunswick. We could publish a burial site brochure with a map and a name index, and post all the information on our website.

In the meantime, to start the project, we will continue our efforts to identify every Loyalist burial site.

- 1. We should rely primarily on the contributions by members
- 2. We will start the marking of Loyalist burial sites in Saint John County.
- 3. We should undertake to mark no fewer than six Loyalist burial sites each year. The availability of additional resources (by way of grants and donations) may allow us to exceed the minimum target.
- 4. We will develop a design concept for the posting of information on our website.
- 5. We will post all Loyalist burial sites, their locations, and the names of Loyalists buried therein on our website as the information is collected.
- 6. We should formally review our progress after twelve months; review and refine our long-term objectives; and create a plan for the completion of the project.
- 7. We will make this a UELAC 2014 Centenary project to mark the first 100 years of our Association.
- 8. We will seek some funding from the National Association.
- 9. We will undertake a fund-raising campaign to provide additional financing.

I should mention that individuals are permitted to order plaques, at personal expense, for placement at Loyalist burial sites that might not immediately qualify for the Branch project. For example, our Treasurer, Jim McKenzie, has ordered a plaque to be placed at the grave site of a Loyalist ancestor that is located on land that Jim owns. The cost per plaque will depend on the number that we order but will be around \$200.

**The Loyalist Directory Update Project:** I suspect that most of you have taken a look at the Loyalist Directory that appears on the UELAC national website. Given the comments that I've received from many of you, there's



a prevailing wish that some entries could be updated and some missing names be added. Unfortunately, the process of updating the Directory is very manual and requires a lot of time from the Webmaster, who already has lots of things to do. However, there may be a way to reduce the manual effort and make things a bit speedier. Each of us could look at the entries for our Loyalist ancestors and suggest additions, changes and deletions. The reduction in manual effort and increase in speed would come from everybody using a common template, thus ensuring that the information is provided in a consistent fashion.

We would help things along by vetting [examining thoroughly] each submission at the Branch before sending it on to our Webmaster for inclusion in the Directory. This process may need to be refined as we go along. For example, we may want to expand the field descriptions in the template so that the nature of the information to be gathered is perfectly clear. So, with that limited introduction, let's see if we can get this going. The template is available in a variety of electronic formats and I would be pleased to send it to anybody who asks. Similarly, I will send the template in hard copy to anybody who does not have access to e-mail.

**Branch Archives Project:** Our efforts to preserve and digitise our Branch Archives have taken a small step forward. The certificate files that have been accumulated by our Branch Genealogists over the years have now been placed with the Saint John Free Public Library, which has been enthusiastic about receiving them. The Library has already organised the files and is in the process of indexing them with the obvious intention of facilitating research efforts. Beyond that, the Library has agreed to provide working space for any scanning effort that we might undertake. Indeed, we've already started thinking about a request to Dominion Office for a grant to hire students for that task next summer.

**New Branch Constitution:** I'm pleased to announce that the NB Branch formally adopted a new constitution at our recent Annual General Meeting. As you know, the work of drafting the constitution took many months and lots of consultation. The final draft was distributed to the membership earlier this year and a notice of motion to introduce the new constitution was presented at the April meeting. A quorum being present at the AGM, the motion was properly moved and seconded and all present voted in favour of adoption. In practice, there will be no perceptible change in our operations. In fact, the new constitution that should provide the foundation for our endeavours for years to come. The new constitution is available on the Branch website and we would be pleased to send a hard copy to anybody who requests one.

### \_\_\_\_\_ John S Mackay, UE – Branch Genealogist Privacy: Are We Carrying Things a Little Too Far?

Under current practice, applications for UE Certification require three copies. One is retained by the applicant; one by the Branch; and one by Dominion Office. In the case of the New Brunswick Branch, Branch copies are filed with the Saint John Public Library, and those of the former Fredericton Branch with the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick [PANB]. I presumed that one purpose for retaining these files was to make them readily available to other applicants seeking to prove descent from the same Loyalist. Obviously, this could save a great deal of time and effort, and, indeed, would seem the logical first place to start.

What I have discovered is that, due to the long and complicated UELAC privacy policy, access to these files is far from easy. As I understand the system, applicants must first contact the branch genealogist who must then contact the original proven descendant(s) and obtain permission to send their contact information to the new applicant. Often the original applicant can only be reached by snail mail, and this is made more difficult if they have changed their address, or died.

Apparently, all this applies even when the original applicant has given permission on the form (page 10) to use and/or "publish" the contents, though it is unclear what is meant by "publish". (Allowing an individual reader to read it is not quite the same as putting it in the Globe and Mail.) And, apparently, permission to use and/or publish the information in the form does not include the contact information. Although I am, in general, a believer in so-called privacy rights, **it seems to me we are carrying things a little too far** in this situation, In the first place, I have yet to meet anyone interested in genealogy who was not only willing, but *anxious* to relate their family history to anyone who would listen! More to the point, it seems to me that waiving privacy

rights with respect to the contents of the application *should be a condition* of the UELAC accepting the application in the first place. **Surely one of the purposes of the organization is to help and encourage others in the search for their own Loyalist ancestors.** But instead, even if the applicant does check the "permission to use and/or publish" box, that is still not enough.

I wonder how others feel about this situation, and whether those in high places would be prepared to revisit our current policy. Basically, if no one is allowed to read the archived applications, why don't we just put them in a shredder and save some space?

Eric C Langley, UE – Project Editor Update ~ Loyalists All, Volume II This is my simple report at the moment without boring you with lists of names.

### Stories have been offered for 69 Loyalists of New Brunswick,

in response to my one-time insertion in the newsletters in all branches of the UELAC. Of these, 30 have been sent to me already in some format. About a third of these are more or less in a usable state 'as is' while the rest need editing into a suitable size and [required] content.

I have recently circulated one reminder to all those offers which haven't been followed by a story, and the result of that was the receipt of several more stories. I will send another reminder in due time. The editing has been done on the larger documents, with the help of two gracious UEL members in Ontario. It will be a winter project indeed! If I receive even another 20 stories, we will have Volume II, for sure! I have been offered *several photographs* of Loyalist artifacts and homesteads, and I would like to know if the committee overseeing this project agrees to using them in the book. I would recommend it as long as the price of printing is equivalent with, or without them.

## LOYALISTS ALL

Contact Eric about your Loyalist with a Story....at elangley@shaw.ca

\_\_\_\_\_ Val Teed, UE Report of Nominating Committee

The following members have been elected to Branch positions as at June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Dave Laskey President Recording Secretary Deborah Coleman Corresponding Secretary Ruth Lesbirel **Jim McKenzie** Treasurer Directors John Mackay, Frances Morrisey & Val Teed Genealogist John Mackay Membership Dave Laskey **Frances Morrisey** Archives & History Social Deborah Coleman Newsletter Val Teed Investment Jim McKenzie Sales Helen Seely Past Pres, Vice Pres, Education, Publicity, Communications: vacant



Helen Seely Historic Walk in Uptown Saint John







Joan Pearce at 210 & 212 Germain Street Each home possesses a functioning gargoyle





On a beautiful Saturday morning in July, members of the Branch and friends enjoyed an engaging historic walk in the streets of Uptown Saint John. Historian and honorary UEL member, Joan Pearce led the group and provided many details ranging from the architectural significance of certain buildings; stones and materials used in construction; and historical events. Proceeds from the walk went to the Stonehammer Global Geopark Fund, managed by the Museum. The walk concluded with all in attendance enjoying tea at Barbour's General Store Museum's 'Tea Room'.

\_ Stephen Davidson

### An Amazing Find, in a Box, in a Barn

I got a phone call late at night last April. A librarian from a school in Pennsylvania asked me if I were the Stephen Davidson who had written the story about Polly Dibblee. When he found out that I was, he told me that he had in his possession four law books which had once been in the library of Loyalist Fyler Dibblee! One of the books was **signed** by Dibblee and had the date 1772 inscribed in it. Four years later the Dibblees had been chased from their home in Stamford, Connecticut. Fyler sought refuge within the British lines, and his family lived in the Anglican manse with his father



The books came to be in the library of a rebel leader, Edward Lockwood, who crossed out Fyler's name and wrote in his own. It ended up in a box of books in a barn where it stayed for decades. In 1979, the librarian was visiting a relative of his grandmother, who told him he could have any of the old books that were in the box. He took out the four leather-bound books and for years tried to find out who "Tyler" Dibblee was. After determining it was "Fyler", he eventually found my article on line. The American librarian did not know the stories of the loyalist side of the Revolution and so he found the story of Fyler and Polly to be quite fascinating - worthy of a movie, he thought, (and who would argue with him!) He contacted me to see if I knew anyone who might be interested in owning the books - say, a descendant of Fyler's. I put him touch with UNB. Between their law faculty library and the loyalist archives, I thought they might be able to purchase the four law books that were once in Dibblee's library in Stamford over 230 years ago. Loyalist history is never dull.

Editor's Note: It could be construed that the American librarian sensed the value of the Fyler law books – he offered them at \$15,000. UNB apparently didn't share his valuation - they declined the offer.

\_\_\_\_\_ Ruth Lesbirel, UE Miniatures for the Harvest Season



The Dining Room and Kitchen at Loyalist House ~ 1:12 scale replicas

Ruth even makes the food look good enough to eat!



Happy Thanksgiving

#### Val Teed, UE

### Obituaries



**Bertha Wood-Holt** – died unexpectedly on May11, 2011 at her residence 36 Sydney Street, Saint John, NB. She was born in the city in 1915, only child of the late Ernest A and Bertha M (Graham) Wood. She was predeceased by her husband, Dean Holt, of England. An artist and historian she authored a number of research papers and published books related to the history and early genealogy of New Brunswick. She compiled and edited 'Early Marriage Records of New Brunswick' a very helpful reference book used frequently by those of us in the genealogy research business.



**Gail Bonsall (Kaye) Pipes,** 1918-2011 – Gail passed away June 8, 2011 at the age of ninety-two. She was born on July 3, 1918 to John Henry Kaye and Ida Beatrice Buchan. She graduated from Netherwood School at Rothesay in 1936, and attended the Ontario College of Art. She served in the RCAF in World War II. In 1976 she married Arthur Brown Lawton Pipes. Gail had great interest in family history and left an excellent written account of her family called "10 Peel Street & The Kaye Family 1847-1947". She also helped compile and edited "Loyalists All" which documents many Saint John Loyalist families. "Loyalists All" was a project of our NB Branch/UELAC in 1985, spearheaded by Gail. The production of its sequel, "Loyalists All – Volume II" is currently underway, spearheaded by Eric Langley, an NB Branch member living in British Columbia.



Mary Geraldine (Teed) Gillis, 1921-2011 – Mary died at Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, Middleton, Nova Scotia on June 22, 2011. Born in Saint John, NB, she was the third daughter of John F H Teed and Muriel V (Wetmore) Teed. She received her education in the public schools of Saint John ; Edgehill School for Girls in Windsor, Nova Scotia; and Modern Business College in Saint John. Mary was predeceased by her husband, Donald A Gillis; an infant daughter Melody Anne; brothers George and Eric Teed; and sisters Hazel (Teed) Hazen and Beth (Teed) Young. A passionate historian, she fought fiercely for her adopted Nova Scotia, while always remembering her New Brunswick Loyalist roots. A life-long member of the UELAC, she was President of the UEL Bicentennial Assoc of Nova Scotia for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in 1983. She was a founding organizer of the Annapolis Valley Highland Games, and an executive member of the Soldiers' memorial Hospital Auxiliary, the Provincial Hospital Auxiliary and of the Annapolis Valley Historical Society. She played a pivotal role in saving two historic buildings in Middleton; she led the charge which resulted in Canada's first MacDonald Consolidated School being reborn as the MacDonald Museum; and she was instrumental in having the old Holy Trinity Anglican Church declared a heritage building.



**Gloria Jean (Teed) Trivett,** 1930-2011 – Gloria passed away on September 3 in Saint John after a brief illness. Born in Saint John, she was the youngest child of John F H Teed and Muriel V (Wetmore) Teed. She attended University of Kings College after graduating from Edgehill School for Girls in Windsor, Nova Scotia. In 1950 she went on to study interior design in New York City. She married Reverend Donald Trivett in 1952 and as a clergy wife she led Girl Guides, Junior Auxiliaries, Junior Choirs and Sunday Schools Her life-long interests were music and art. She played piano and was a talented water-colour artist. Like her brothers, George & Eric; her mother; and her sisters Mary & Beth, Gloria was an active advocate of Loyalist history in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. She served as president of the Halifax-Dartmouth Branch/UELAC for several years.

July 3, 1879, Chignecto Post ~ died Hammond Vale, Queen's Co., NB, of diphtheria, May 23, Robert Parker Ferguson, age 3 years 7 mos; May 30, Andrew Wilson Ferguson, age 5 years 3 mos; May 31, Matthew Windeyer Ferguson, age 1 year 7 mos; June 5, Geo Wilberforce Ferguson, age 9; June 6, John Alexander Ferguson, age 10 years 6 mos; June 9, James Charters Ferguson, age 7 years 4 mos; all children of Matthew and Ann Ferguson.

# A Loyalist Christmas Celebration



Saturday, December 10 Stone Church 12:30 noon till 4pm

Buffet Lunch at 1pm Christmas Story Presentation Old-Time General Store ... not an Auction, this year! Sing-Along

### Do Some Xmas Shopping at the Old-Time General Store

Prepare for an old fashioned good time like our Loyalist ancestors would have enjoyed. The Menu will be home-made and as close as possible to the foods of the era. The **Buffet Lunch** will be Chicken Soup with root vegetables; Ploughman's Platter; Sandwiches (lobster, egg, chicken, salmon); Mincemeat Tartlets, Trifle, Christmas Cookies, Old Fashioned Candy (fudge, colonial toffee, truffles and rock candy); Hot Mulled Cider, Eggnog, Tea & Coffee.

After lunch, we're in for an inspirational **Christmas Story Presentation** beginning with "An Introduction to the Loyalist Christmas" and continuing with scriptures of the season & traditional carols

<u>The Price of Admission</u>? Donations *from you and your guests* for the **Old-Time General Store !** We'd like *everyone's* BEST, prize-worthy homemade pickles, preserves, jams, sauces, biscuits, breads, cakes, pies, cookies, tarts... hand knit or sewn treasures; handmade Xmas ornaments and decorations; quilted or smocked items; wooden toys, cloth dolls, jewelry, etc. The proceeds from the sale of these items will go toward the cost of the meal, decorations, prizes and songbooks.

And speaking of songbooks - what's a Christmas Party without a **Sing-Along** We'll continue in the festive spirit of Loyalist gatherings with some of the bestknown & loved Christmas songs.



Come Along, Bring some Guests, Enjoy this New, Spectacular Kick-Off to the Christmas Season g

Contact Ruth: <u>lesbirel@nbnet.nb.ca</u> Contact Deborah: (506) 634-7783 Contact Val: (506) 847-1465 <u>val@ancestorsnb.com</u>

### Steve Bolton, UE

Passionate about Politics? So were your Ancestors!

The King's Landing Historical Settlement re-enacted our Province's first election on the July 16/17 week-end. This is becoming an annual event and is just as much fun for participants as for the viewers. Steve and Nadine Bolton were on hand to represent the NB Branch (who have a standing invite to attend this event in period dress) and got to play an active role. Both days were celebrated with the theatre group at KL engaging visitors with a very mobile election campaign. The Lower Covers, led by their champion Tertullus Dickinson, had just about enough of the high class Upper Cove group led by Ward Chipman. The two "parties" campaigned all day at locations throughout the KL site and the voting, supervised by the Sherriff William Oliver, was heavy. The Lower Covers won – but the fix was in and many of their votes were disqualified! The Militia had to come out in Saint John to put down the very real mob of angry Lower Covers who attacked the "winners" at their headquarters in the Mallard House Tavern in 1785. This is accurately re-enacted by a finale scuffle among the participants outside the King's Head Inn who were dispersed by the discharge of black powder from a Brown Bess



musket. The historical content of the speeches and events (while some liberties must be taken with script) is very accurate – and one certainly comes away with a better understanding of this key event in our Province's political history.

### Queries

### \*\*\* McGinnis/Stover

My Loyalist ancestor, Peter Stover, who fought with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers, arrived in Saint John Harbor on the 'Duke of Richmond' in the fall of 1783. Could you tell me, please, where I might find the passenger list for that vessel?

Contact Maizie McInnis maizie@nbnet.nb.ca Address: 213-1 Golf Greens Lane, Fredericton, NB E3B 9T9

### Books for Sale

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

Another Book by Graeme Somerville Hot Off The Presses ! 'A Century of Methodist Baptisms in SaintJohn and Portland, New Brunswick 1811 – 1910' by Graeme Somerville contains 9,000 baptisms - indexed by surname. It is a valuable genealogical source which lists (where available):name of child, parents & minister; date of baptism; father's occupation; mother's maiden name, etc. The book is 'self published' and is available for \$85 + shipping & handling if you can't pick it up at 84 Beach Crescent, Saint John, NB E2K 2E4. **Contact Graeme at the above address or at (506) 632-2020.** 

### ~ The Loyalists ~

... and so they came in their numbers. Some brought pieces of fine furniture, silver, china, and cooking utensils - whatever they could salvage from their confiscated mansions. Others brought only their lives and the hope that sprang eternal within their breasts. But they all had one thing in common. Every man, woman and child, wealthy or destitute, brought an appetite for food. "There was no floor laid, no windows, no chimney. No door, but we had a roof at least. A good fire was blazing and mother had a big loaf of bread and she boiled a kettle of water and put a good piece of butter in a pewter bowl. We toasted the bread and all sat around the bowl and ate our breakfast that morning and mother said: 'Thank God we are no longer in dread of having shots fired through the house. This is the sweetest meal I ever tasted for many a day' ".... Ref: The Price of Loyalty by Catherine Crary



Fall Calendar Saturday, Oct 1<sup>st</sup> ~ NBGS Genealogical Fair at St Joachim's Church 603 Loch Lomond Road 10 am – 3:30 pm

Thursday, Oct 13<sup>th</sup> ~ Fall Meeting of the NB Branch at Stone Church at 7pm

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> ~ NB Branch Xmas Party at Stone Church 12:30 Noon until 4 pm



Adino Wetmore Ice racing on the Kennebecasis 1900

### **Canadian Genealogy Survey**

Searching for your roots?

Writing down your stories?

### Preserving precious photos?

Family History is Important! More Canadians are doing it than ever before. Carleton University professors Del Muise and Leighann Neilson want your help.

Our survey seeks information about how you conduct genealogical research, particularly any changes brought about by the Internet. The information you provide will remain anonymous - your name will not appear in any reports. Your data will reside in Canada, on a secure server, so it's safe to participate.#

TAKE THE SURVEY ON-LINE AT: www.cusurveycentre.ca/gensurvey

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS AT: www.genealogyincanada.blogspot.com

This research has been approved by the Carleton University Research Ethics Board



Rose Staples, UE, PLCGS Broad Meadow Genealogy <u>http://broadmeadowgenealogy.wordpress.com</u> 1080 Route 605, Maple Ridge, NB E6E 1W6 <u>roses@nbnet.nb.ca</u> If you have interest in hiring a researcher please send a summary of the work you have done and what your goals are. I have eleven years of research experience with the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick and with the Loyalist Collection at the UNB Library.