



UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

NEW BRUNSWICK BRANCH



NEWSLETTER : FALL 2013

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Report ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	1—2
New Members ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	2—3
In Memory of John Chard ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	3—4
Burial Sites Project ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	4—5
The Church of St. Edward ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	5—6
Stir-Up Sunday ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	6—7
Loyalist Day, 2013 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	7—9
Ruth Lesbirel's Miniature ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	10
Classifieds ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	10—11
Abegweit Branch News ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	12—13
Nova Scotia Branch News ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	14—15
Postscript: A Genealogical Proof ~ ~	15—16

The President's Report

by Dave Laskey

*A new bylaw, renewal notices, PayPal,
book sales, the Loyalist Burial site project
and Loyalist House*

November has been typically miserable so far. Not quite winter but working on it. Today, however, is bright and sunny and I'm stuck in my windowless basement office working on this Report. That's an incentive to keep it brief.

New By-law and Policies

As expected, the Association adopted a new By-law at the Annual General Meeting held in Burlington, Ontario early this past summer. This change was necessitated by new Federal legislation – The Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act.

The biggest impact of the new By-law is the reduction in the number of classes of membership. We no longer have Regular, Affiliate and Associate members, we just have Members. This means that members no longer need to prove their Loyalist descent in order to hold Dominion office and to vote at Annual General Meetings.

Another interesting wrinkle in the new By-law is that it is deliberately vague in many areas. The philosophy behind the By-law is that it should outline high-level requirements with the expectation that Dominion Council will adopt "policies" to deal with the actual working requirements. The process of identifying policy gaps and filling them is on-going.

Membership

Our Branch membership looks like this: Individual 115, Family 15, Other family 27, Secondary 8, Student 2, for a total of 167. This represents a decrease of 6 from 2012.

Membership renewal notices will be sent to all members in the next couple of weeks and we're

hopeful that a very high percentage of our members will renew.

PayPal

The Branch will be experimenting with the use of PayPal for on-line payments of membership renewals, book purchases and donations. Several of our more distant members have expressed a desire for an easier way to complete financial transactions with the Branch, especially where the transaction takes place across an international boundary. Please look for more details in the membership renewal letter.

Book Sales

A relatively new member, Steve Owens, recently took over the Branch's sales function and we welcome Steve to that role. I'm sure he would be delighted to process lots of new orders for books.

Speaking of which, we are in the final stages of discussions to acquire the publishing rights to a book called "Some Burial Records of the Loyalist Burial Ground, Saint John, NB", written by Graeme Somerville. He has agreed to donate the publishing rights to us and we're just working out the formatting details. Graeme is a much-published author on Saint John genealogy and a member of our Branch. We express our real gratitude to Graeme for his lifetime of work in the field.

Loyalist Burial Site Project

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a report on the Loyalist Burial Site Project. As you will see, we are well positioned to complete the first batch of cemetery markings during the

Association's centennial year. However, there is lots of work that remains to be done in future years. If you know where your Loyalist ancestors are buried, please let us know. There's space for that information on the membership renewal forms.

Loyalist House

The newsletter also contains a report on some emergency repairs to Loyalist House in Saint John and discusses the Branch's contributions to the repairs. We are proud of Loyalist House and the Branch Executive feels that it's important to support this monument to our Loyalist heritage. Any members who hold similar views may want to use PayPal to make a donation to the repairs. Just try the "donate" button on our website. ☐

New Members

New Brunswick Branch

Since April, 2013 —

Marc Arnold

24 Hickory Dr., Brunswick, ME 04011, U.S.A.

Marjorie Clowes

2 Russenholt St., Winnipeg, MB R2Y 1Y9

Elizabeth Crouch

391 Smith Ave., Burlington, ON L7R 2T9

Rev. Thomas Shanklin

PO Box 362, Lempster, NH 03605, U.S.A.

Louise Stevenson

30 Highland Rd., RR3, Roseneath, ON L0K 2X0

George Tapley

339 Whitefield Dr. NE, Calgary, AB T1Y 5S2

Sarah Whitehead Anderson

606 Williams Dr., Eureka, MO 63025, U.S.A.

Victoria Grass Bornheimer

358 Main St., Cumberland, ME 04621, U.S.A.

Donna Lynn Chambers

49 Brinloor Blvd., Scarborough, ON M1M 1L4

Marilyn J. Keller

59 Edmonton Place, St. John's, NL A1A 2N3

Stephen Owens

113 Mountain View Dr., Saint John, NB E2J 5B5

In Memory of John Chard

by Peter Conley

A donation to Loyalist House ...



Dave Laskey, President of the New Brunswick Branch is seen here presenting a cheque for \$700

to Kathy Wilson, President of the New Brunswick Historical Society to help with restoration work currently ongoing at Loyalist House, Saint John, NB and in memory of John Chard. Mr. Chard was a past Dominion President of the UELAC and was instrumental in the formation of over fifteen branches of the UELAC across Canada. He was a member of the NB Branch and made annual donations to our Branch. Mr. Chard was very interested in Loyalist House, visiting it most recently in 2010 during the Dominion Conference of the UELAC, held in Saint John. Mr. Chard passed away on May 17, 2013 in his 91st year.

Loyalist House

One of the few buildings to survive the Great Fire of 1877, Loyalist House serves as a proud reminder of Saint John's Loyalist heritage.

Acquired by the New Brunswick Historical Society in 1959, the Loyalist House is a key feature of Saint John, preserving the excellence of the city's early craftsmen. Loyalist House was completed in 1817 by the Merritt family, Loyalists from New York State who arrived in Saint John in 1783. Six generations of Merritts lived in the gracious Georgian mansion before it was acquired by the NB Historical Society in 1959. It has been lovingly restored with Merritt furniture to the year 1833.

Like any home, the building requires ongoing maintenance. However, this year it was found that a crisis was developing with one of its four massive chimneys. The exterior stone basement wall was beginning to lean outward and the masons realized that the chimney above it — for the dining room and nursery fireplaces — was

not stabilized. It was feared that the chimney would collapse and take the wall of the house with it. Workers have stabilized the chimney now with some thirty-three bags of cement and hemlock beams, and are currently awaiting the masons return. Because the chimney is embedded, the walls had to be removed in order to examine the brickwork for signs of disintegration.



Two doors, affected by the slight raising of the floor when new support beams were installed in the basement, will be shaved to allow them to swing without hindrance.

The next stage will be plastering the front and side of the fireplace in preparation for new wallpaper. Traditional plastering techniques will be used. The entire room will be redecorated with new wall paper and new curtains.

The provincial government will consider a grant of up to 50% of this very costly work. Loyalist House is also in need of exterior paint work scraping, priming, and painting, so the need is great.

The UELAC (NB) would like to challenge

other groups or individuals who are interested in the history of our city and the important role that such a living museum plays in that history, to donate to this very worthy cause. ☐

Update: Burial Sites Project

by Dave Laskey

The Burial Site Project continues to make slow but steady progress. At this point we have identified over 50 cemeteries that are known to contain the remains of original Loyalists and they are listed below. We are in the process of approaching the managers of the various cemeteries to seek permission to place plaques at the cemetery entrances.

Cemeteries that have already granted permission are marked thus: ❖

With our own resources and a \$3,500 grant from Dominion Council we have enough funding to place plaques at 20 cemeteries in 2014. Reducing the price of the plaques or the installation costs will increase that number as will any donations we might receive to support the project. So, here's what we need:

- 1) The names of additional cemeteries where Loyalists are known to be buried, along with the names of the Loyalists buried therein.
- 2) Contact information for the managers of these cemeteries.
- 4) Assistance with contacting the managers.
- 5) The names of Loyalist ancestors known to be buried in the cemeteries listed below.
- 6) Donations to support the marking of your ancestors' burial places.

Anglican Cemetery (Maugerville)
Anglican Cemetery (St. Andrews)
Bayview Cemetery
Big Rock Cemetery
Burtts Corner Community Cemetery
Chase Graveyard
Christ Church Cemetery
Church Cemetery, The Range
Dorchester Rural Cemetery
East Florenceville
Everett Family Orchard
Fernhill Cemetery ❖
First Community Cemetery
Gagetown Cemetery
Gondola Point Cemetery
Gosline Cemetery
Grand Point Anglican Cemetery
Gunter Graveyard
Hallett Loyalist Cemetery
Harding's Point Loyalist Cemetery
Lower Meductic Cemetery ❖
Loyalist Burial Ground
Merritt-Slipp Cemetery
Methodist Cemetery
Moore's Mills Rural Cemetery
New Canaan Baptist Cemetery
Oak Point Anglican Cemetery
Old Burying Ground
Old Loyalist Burial Ground, Carleton Place
Orser Cemetery
Palmer Cemetery
Private plot
Riverside Cemetery
Rusagonis Baptist Church
Scotchtown Cemetery
Second Falls United Baptist Cemetery
Spicer's Field

St. John's Anglican Church Cemetery
St. John's Anglican Churchyard
St. Mark's Anglican Cemetery
St. Paul's Anglican Churchyard
Stevens Burial Ground
Stymiest Cemetery
The Miles farm, Mageurville
The Stackhouse farm
Trinity (Kingston) Anglican Cemetery
Trinity (Sussex) Anglican Cemetery
Upper Queensbury Cemetery
Wesleyan Burial Ground
Wiggins Loyalist Cemetery ☐

Church of St. Edward

by Deborah Coleman

As a native of the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia I did much of my family history research in the Planter and Loyalist cemeteries there. One of the Loyalist churches that I am very fond of is the Loyalist Church of St. Edward in Clements-
port.

Clementsport had its birth following the Revolutionary War when the British government gave grants of land to some of their German mercenaries who settled there on what is known as the Waldeck and Hessian lines, where many of their descendants still reside.

The "Waldeck line" runs from Clements-
port to the mouth of Bear River while the "Hessian line" parallels it four miles distant and runs from
Princetown to Bear River Village.

Clementsport is noted for its old Loyalist
Church of St. Edward. The United Empire

Loyalists settled there in 1783 and the church was consecrated by Bishop Ingles in 1788.

It was built by the Dutch, Hessian and the other German Loyalists and was originally Lutheran and called the Church of St. Edward. When it was transformed to the Church of England a condition was made that a hymn in the Dutch language should be sung every Sunday morning before the beginning of the ordinary service. This was done until only two were left to sing the hymns of the Homeland.



Doctor Fredreck Boehne, who died in 1818, by his will gave the bell and communion plate to the church. The old bass-viol which furnished the instrumental music is preserved, as are also some of the Dutch psalm books.

The architecture of the church is Norman, with round topped windows and doors and arched ceiling. The timbers are massive and the width of the boards used is a surprise to the modern builder.

The pews are of the old square type with doors and hand-forged hinges and nails. The lime for the plaster was made by burning clam shells and

it is so hard it is difficult to pierce it with a nail.

Hand-split shingles were used on the roof. This old church, which contains many relics, stands in a prominent position on the side of the South Mountain overlooking the basin and was so placed that it might be a landmark for mariners coming through Digby Gap. ☐

Stir-Up Sunday

by Deborah Coleman

Woven into the tapestry of our Christmas celebrations is the English tradition of Stir-Up Sunday. This was the popular name given by Church of England parishioners to the Sunday before Advent.

Tradition was that by the Sunday before Advent, which usually falls near the end of November, Christmas puddings must be started, or stirred up, if they were to be mellow and ready in time for the Christmas festivities.

Everyone in the family, even the smallest of children, gave the pudding batter a stir, at the same time making a wish to bring good luck, Charms were poked into the mixture: coins for worldly fortune, a ring for marriage and a thimble for life's blessings.

Fruit cakes, a later tradition, were also made just after Stir-Up Sunday because they, too, needed time to mellow, but they were accorded such ceremony as the most important pudding.

★ Christmas Cranberry Pudding ★

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup granulated sugar
3 tablespoons brandy

2 tablespoons grated orange rind
1 tablespoon orange juice
2 cups fresh cranberries
½ cup golden raisins
1 ¼ cups of flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon nutmeg
½ teaspoon salt
½ cup ground almonds
⅓ cup soft butter
2 large eggs 1 teaspoon vanilla
¼ cup milk

Combine the first six ingredients in a bowl and let stand overnight.

Grease well a 6-cup pudding bowl. Set aside. Beat together the butter, eggs, vanilla and milk. Add the dry ingredients.

Stir in the cranberry mixture. Scrape mixture into the pudding bowl.

Steam for 2 ½ - 3 hours or bake at 350° for 60 – 75 minutes.

Serve with syllabub sauce.

★ Syllabub Sauce ★

1 cup of whipping cream
2 tablespoons orange juice
3 tablespoons brandy
1 tablespoon grated orange rind
⅓ cup granulated sugar

In a deep bowl combine the last 4 ingredients. Refrigerate until chilled.

Stir in the whipping cream.

Beat until soft peaks form. Transfer to a sauce boat.

Keep refrigerated. Yields 2 ½ cups. ☐

Loyalist Day, 2013

by Frances Morrissey

Our celebrations started on Sunday, May 12th with a special Loyalist Day service at Trinity Anglican Church, Saint John, NB. Several members of the New Brunswick Branch were in attendance, most in Loyalist period dress.

Peter Conley was the bearer of the Queen Anne flag leading our members to their seats and also read one of the scripture passages. Roy Carson read another scripture passage and the Rev. Dr. Ranall Ingalls, the rector of Trinity Anglican Church, spoke on the ideals and contributions of our Loyalist ancestors.

Trinity Church was founded by Loyalists, although the present building was built in 1880, right after the great Saint John fire of 1877. It houses the Boston Coat of Arms, a symbol of the monarchy, rescued from the Boston council chamber by a British Colonel during the American Revolution. One of the largest bells in Trinity's 1882 carillon is inscribed: "In Memoriam the Loyalists 1783: Faithful alike to God and the King".

Unlike last year's warm and sunny day, it was cold and blustery as we gathered this year at City Hall Plaza for our Loyalist Day morning ceremonies on Saturday, May 18, 2013.

We were commemorating the 230th anniversary of the landing of the first Loyalist fleet at the mouth of the St. John River in May of 1783, just steps from where we stood. The 3rd Field Artillery Regiment RCA "The Loyal Company" contributed greatly to the ceremonies with their

marching band and a large contingent of the Regiment, performing drills and a march past. This regiment was formed in 1793, largely from the Loyalist population, and has been in continuous service ever since.

The Honourable Graydon Nicholas, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, was also in attendance. David Laskey, UELAC NB Branch President, Hon. Nicholas, Hon. Trevor Holder (NB MLA and Minister of Tourism, Heritage, and Culture), Hon. Rodney Weston (MP), and His Worship Mel Norton, Mayor of Saint John, all spoke eloquently of the Loyalist contributions to the city of Saint John and the province of New Brunswick.

Dr. Lee Windsor, the Regimental Historian, as well as Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Strachan, Commanding Officer of the 3rd Field Regiment RCA, spoke on the history of the 3rd Field Artillery, its Loyalist roots, and its service to Canadians at home and abroad over the past 220 years.

The Reverend Dr. Ranall Ingalls delivered the prayer and Terry Keleher read the Loyalist Day Proclamation as Town Crier. Don Flewelling, in red coat period dress, bore the Queen Anne flag. The Mayor, Lieutenant Governor, and Branch President inspected the troops.

The Regiment exercised their Freedom of the City by a special signing ceremony with the Mayor. After the ceremonies, a large 230th birthday cake was cut and the 21-gun salute was fired. Saint John is the only noncapital city in Canada permitted to fire this salute in the absence of a member of the Royal Family.

Our celebrations culminated in a gala banquet at the historic Union Club, Saint John, where

members and guests met over punch for a reception before enjoying a delicious dinner of Caesar salad and rolls, Chicken Cordon Bleu and gravy, roasted potatoes, carrots and broccoli, chocolate delight, and tea or coffee.

Tables were handsomely decorated with fresh flowers in red and white with red, white, and blue ribbons and Queen Anne flags. The head table party entered behind the Canadian flag (carried by John Watson) and the Queen Anne flag (carried by Peter Conley), to the march "Men of Harlech", played by Don Flewelling on the piano.



*Terry Keleher reading the Loyalist Day Proclamation
as Town Crier.*

Rev. Philip Williston asked the blessing on the meal and David Laskey was the Master of Ceremonies. Jim McKenzie proposed the toast to the Queen and also presented a lifetime honorary membership to Elizabeth Lowe.

Hon. Trevor Holder, also a past president, was our guest speaker. He spoke on drawing tourism north of the border from Maine, emphasizing the Loyalists and that we in the UELAC (NB) have a story to tell.

Some came from as far as Fredericton and Halifax to attend the banquet. ☐



Don Flewelling, in red coat period dress, bore the Queen Anne flag on Loyalist Day, May 18, 2013





Ruth Lesbirel's 1:12 Scale Miniatures. This Bookcase Secretary from the dining room of Loyalist House is actually two distinct pieces stacked together. The bottom piece has a felt covered writing easel, room to store papers, a tilt-able pen tray, ink well, and slanted sand well, all in its drawer, as well as a large storage area behind the lower doors. The top section has removable, reposition-able shelves and doors that open back on two sets of hinges. It holds the Merritt family's set of Spode dinnerware, every place setting slightly different so each family member could identify their own dishes. Dimensions: 3½in wide x 8½in high x 1¾in deep at the base.

Classifieds

Coming Events

Christmas Gathering. The United Empire Loyalists' Association, New Brunswick Branch invites you to our Christmas gathering. Come and enjoy an old fashioned Maritime Christmas: full turkey dinner with all the trimmings including hot mulled cider and an assortment of traditional Christmas sweets.

Our M.C. will be John Watson, master story teller. David Goss will speak on our Maritime Christmas traditions. Music by Don Flewelling and Ruth Lesbirel. Join in with caroling and songs. Monday, December 9th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Villa Madonna Retreat House, 115 Villa Madonna Road, Rothesay , NB. Tickets \$34, payable in advance. Get yours early!

Contact Deborah Coleman, 634-7783 or Jim McKenzie, 832-5334 or email mckenziejim@hotmail.com

Books for Sale

Loyalists All Vol 1 and **The Loyalists of New Brunswick** by Esther Clark Wright are available from our New Brunswick Branch for \$25 each + shipping & handling. Please contact Steve Owens at owenwynwyn@gmail.com

The Teachers Loyalist Resource Book is also available for sale for \$6.00 + shipping & handling. Please contact Steve Owens at owenwynwyn@gmail.com

Research Services

Ancestors New Brunswick, Family Tree Research. *We specialize in Loyalist Certificates.*
www.ancestorsnb.com | Val@ancestorsnb.com | Sandra@ancestorsnb.com 506-847-1465 | 506-832-0604.

Broad Meadow Genealogy, Rose Staples, UE, PLCGS. 1080 Route 605, Maple Ridge, NB E6E 1W6 Email: roses@nbnet.nb.ca

Queries

CORNELIUS ACKERMAN (1748?-1846) — Who *was* Cornelius Ackerman? Records show that he was granted land in Fredericton in 1784, and that he operated the Golden Ball Inn (along with his cousin Abraham Vanderbeek). However, a Loyalist by the same name, also a disbanded soldier, was reported to have died in Shelburne, Nova Scotia in 1783, leaving a wife Elizabeth and two small children. Is this a mystery, or only a coincidence? G. Ripley: sonnet@wightman.ca.

DANIEL ODELL (1760-1804) — I am seeking information about Daniel Odell (b Sep 3, 1760) and his parents. He married Hannah Spragg (b ca 1764), daughter of Thomas Spragg and Mary (Carman) Spragg, in 1784 in New Brunswick. Daniel died in Springfield, Kings Co., NB in early 1804. The Spragg family moved from their native Hempstead, Long Island, NY to Wappingers Falls between 1756 and 1761. It is possible that Daniel was also from the Fishkill area of Dutchess County. Contact Dave Laskey by e-mail at: dave@laskeyfamily.ca

JACOB TILL (1765-1839) — I am seeking information about Jacob Till (b ca 1765), his parents and his spouse. He is believed to have been working with the Engineering Dept. in New York but nothing else is known of his origins. He was a grantee in Parrtown and it is reported that he settled around Gagetown and may have later moved to the Miramichi. James Till, the likely son of Jacob, died in Geary in 1839. Contact Dave Laskey by e-mail at dave@laskeyfamily.ca

UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST ASSOCIATION OF CANADA NEW BRUNSWICK BRANCH

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Abegweit Branch News

by Peter Van Iderstine

PEI will host the UELAC AGM and Conference in 2016

The Abegweit Branch is probably the smallest branch in our organization having only fifteen members, but the branch has been very active in the promotion of our Loyalist heritage on Prince Edward Island. "Abegweit" is a Mi'kmaq word meaning cradled in the waves, which aptly described PEI's geographical situation.

As a centennial project, the Abegweit Branch has taken on the identification of Loyalist burying grounds with the colourful signs that were purchased from one of our Ontario branches. Although we suspect that there are many more, we have found sixteen cemeteries in which original Loyalist pioneers are laid to rest. We have purchased five signs to date and one has been installed. This project will go on over a period of years.

An amazing opportunity arose early this year when the Bedeque and Area Historical Society created a museum in the Loyalist community of Central Bedeque. We were invited to participate in this worthy endeavour. Our goal is to gather up artifacts and documents and display these in a segment of the museum. Our intent is to establish a reference library where descendants of the 600 Loyalists who came to the Island in 1784 can research their family trees. The museum will become the home of the Abegweit branch and will serve as a repository of all things Loyalist.

There is much excitement in the branch

concerning our hosting the 2016 UELAC conference and Annual General Meeting. The theme will be "The Land of Loyalists, Lighthouses and Lobsters". The planning has begun.

Our Branch will be hosting a traditional Christmas turkey dinner at 1900 hrs at Dave Rafuse's Restaurant (co-located in the same building as the museum) on December 13, 2013. We will have a guided tour of the museum and library prior to the dinner so please show up at around 1815 hrs. Cost is \$15.00. ☐

Orlo Jones

by Peter Van Iderstine

Orlo Jones grew up in rural Prince Edward Island and comes from good Loyalist stock. She believes that her interest in Loyalist history and genealogy originates from the time that she was a little girl and often listened to her great uncle recount tales of the trials and tribulations of the Loyalist pioneer settlers.

With a degree from Douglass College, Rutgers University, she taught first in Linden, New Jersey, and then at Summerside High School (1964 - 1977) in Summerside, Prince Edward Island. Over the years, she continued to strengthen her knowledge of Loyalist genealogy.

She studied P.E.I. genealogy whenever she could, to the point where she attended courses with the Mormons at Brigham Young University and subsequently she was granted the title of Certified Genealogist. She is most proud of being instrumental in the standardization of genealogical procedures in Canada.

For many years, Orlo has planned, organized and conducted genealogical seminars and workshops throughout the Maritimes and New England — once venturing as far west as Manitoba.



Orlo Jones

She became a good friend of the renowned Maritime genealogist, Terry Punch.

Orlo evolved into an authority on matters related to genealogy, particularly on P.E.I., where she was the Abegweit Branch genealogist for more than ten years. She is widely known and respected for her encyclopedic knowledge of genealogy and her forthright manner throughout Maritime Canada and beyond.

Orlo co-authored the Abegweit Branch's reference book "The Island Refuge" and she has been a contributing author to many other books and pamphlets. Over the years she has helped

countless descendants of Island Loyalists flush out their family tree. In retirement, she remains an enthusiastic supporter of all things Loyalist and is a valued member of the Abegweit Branch.

Honours and Awards

- 1981 - Who's Who in Genealogy and Heraldry
- 1983 - 5000 Personalities of the World, American Biographical Institute
- 1985 - Foremost Women of the Twentieth Century, Cambridge, England
- 1986 - Dictionary of International Biography, Cambridge England
- 1986 - The World Who's Who of Women, Cambridge, England
- 1987 - Two thousand Notable American Women, Raleigh N.C.
- 1987 - Biography International, Delhi India
- 1987 - Orlo Jones Trust Fund Established
- 1988 - UELAC Honorary Vice-President
- 1989 - Mary Cornfoot Brehaut Award
- 1992 - 125 Commemorative Medal ☐

The next UELAC-NB newsletter will be put to bed in **May, 2014**. The editor earnestly solicits articles, photographs, genealogical queries, and news of interest to the membership.

Contact Gord Ripley at
Box 70, Teeswater, ON NoG 2S0
Canada
Email: newsletter@uelac-nb.ca

Nova Scotia Branch News

by Jim McKenzie

A new name for an old branch ...

The Halifax Dartmouth Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada (UELAC) held its first meeting ever outside the Halifax Dartmouth area, on Saturday, September 28th in Digby at the Baptist Church Hall.

There were fifty members and guests in attendance from all parts of Nova Scotia. The meeting started with a Haddock Chowder, rolls, coffee and tea, and apple crumble for dessert.

During the lunch Adam Hankinson UE, a descendant of Loyalist Rueben Hankinson and a member of the Branch Steering Committee, gave a presentation on Reuben Hankinson, who settled in the area and contributed greatly to its development.

Jim McKenzie UE, Vice President for the Atlantic Area of the UECLA, thanked Adam and presented a gift to him.

A presentation of a Teddy Bear was made to two year old Jacob Dilts as the youngest in attendance. Jacob's parents Shamus and Rachel Dilts drove from Yarmouth to attend.

The meeting then adjourned to the Admiral Digby Museum which is across the street from the Baptist Hall. Museum Director Sheryl Stanton and her staff gave a tour of the museum to members attending the meeting.

The group returned to the Church Hall and Greg Turner, dressed in Loyalist costume, told about Rev Roger Viets, the Anglican Priest who

arrived in Digby in 1785 and served for many years as the only clergyman in the area.

Dorothy Outhouse then gave a virtual slide tour of old cemeteries and explained the symbolism on the tombstones. Questions were answered by all the speakers and Greg and Dorothy were presented with gifts.



Bearing up. Left to right: Rachel Dilts, Jacob Dilts, Jim McKenzie and Shamus Dilts.

The Business Meeting then began which was chaired by Jim McKenzie UE. The first item of business was a motion moved by Adam Hankinson UE and seconded by Branch Genealogist Carol Harding UE that the name of the branch be changed to the *Nova Scotia Branch*.

This motion was passed unanimously by all registered members in attendance. A report was given by Carol Harding UE, Branch Genealogist, advising that two new certificates were issued so far this year.

Marian Munroe, Treasurer and Membership



Chair, gave a report advising that three new members had joined the branch and had paid their dues at this meeting.



The meeting was organized by Carol Harding UE, Marian Munroe and Secretary Alma Hayward UE. A number of guests helped service the food and helped clean up following the meeting. It was a beautiful warm and sunny day and a very positive meeting.

At the Council Meeting of the UELAC held in Toronto on October 26th a motion was made by James McKenzie UE and seconded by David Laskey UE that the name of the Halifax Dartmouth Branch be changed to the Nova Scotia Branch. The motion was passed. ☐

Postscript

by Dave Laskey

Proof of Phebe Odell's Descent from Abijah Odell and Hannah Spragg

Over the last few months I worked on my UE certificate application in respect of my g-g-g-grandfather, Daniel Odell, Jr.

As is so often the case, I encountered a problem connecting Daniel's child, Abijah, to his grandchild, Phebe. Many researchers have concluded that Phebe Odell was the only child of Abijah Odell and Hannah (Spragg) Odell, but none have cited primary evidence. Indeed, my own search for conventional primary evidence failed.

I decided to submit a proof that relied on land records to show that a particular piece of property passed on death from the father, Abijah Odell, to the daughter, Phebe (Odell) Spragg.

The lack of any probate record and the operation of the laws regarding intestate distribution show that the only possible explanation for the transfer of the property is the father-daughter relationship between Abijah and Phebe.

I began with certain bits of information about Phebe and her family: that James Spragg was the son of William Wilsey Spragg and Mary Anne (McDonald) Spragg. That Abijah Odell and Hannah Spragg married on November 8, 1819. That Abijah Odell died between January 1832 and April 12, 1835. My proof started with a deed of sale recording the sale of a piece of property from

Hannah Odell to her son, Abijah Odell. The property is described as the one fourth of two Lots of Lands Number one and two in Bedles Survey Situated on the north side of Belisle Bay, bounded on the upper side by Agent Peters Grant and on the lower side by Lot Number 3. The deed is dated January 11, 1832 and clearly shows the acquisition of the land in question by Abijah Odell.

*... my own search for conventional
primary evidence failed*

A later deed of sale dated November 22, 1840 records the sale of a piece of property from the estate of Hannah Odell to Isaac Wetmore. The property is described as

Situate lying and being in the Parish of Springfield in Kings County aforesaid, Bounded as follows (viz) on the East by Land owned by Robert Spragg on the North by the Grant to Joseph and Nathaniel Hughson, on the West by Land owned by the Heirs of the late Abijah Odell and on the South by the Pascobac Creek (so called) excepting and reserving Nevertheless Two Acres Willed by the late Hannah Odell deceased aforesaid joining on the North of the Road, and also joining the Lands owned by the Heirs of the late Abijah Odell deceased aforesaid

This deed shows that the property purchased by Abijah Odell on January 11, 1832 was still being occupied by his heirs. His widow had remarried and, thus, forfeited her dower right. However, his daughter, Phebe, had not reached the age of majority and could not exercise any ownership rights.

A third deed of sale dated November 27, 1846 records the sale of a piece of property by James Spragg and his wife Phoebe to John Davis. The

land in question is described as

All that certain piece of Land situate lying and in the parish County and Province aforesaid being part of Lot no. one owned by the late Abijah Odell. The said piece of land is bounded as follows viz: on the South East Pascobac Creek on the north west by the main road, on the South West by land occupied by David Crandel on the north East by land owned by Robert Spragg.

The land is the same property purchased by Abijah Odell described in point 1 above. The deed was signed by James Spragg and by Phoebe E. Odell Spragg.

I carefully searched the land records for Kings County for (i) any sales of land by Abijah Odell prior to his death, (ii) any sales of land by the executors or administrators of Abijah Odell's estate, (iii) any sales of land by the widow Hannah Odell, and (iv) any sales of land by the daughter Phoebe Odell. There was nothing to be found.

The combination of (i) the purchase of land by Abijah Odell in 1832, (ii) the continued occupation of the land by the heirs of Abijah Odell in 1840, (iii) the sale of the land by James Spragg and his wife Phoebe E. Odell Spragg, and (iv) the absence of any other transactions involving the same piece of land clearly demonstrates that the land passed from Abijah Odell to his daughter Phoebe Odell on her reaching the age of majority.

This information was enough to persuade both our Branch Genealogist, Dr. John Mackay, and the Dominion Genealogist, Libby Hancock, and a UE certificate has been issued. ☐

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