



Ottawa Loyalist
Newsletter of the Sir Guy Carleton Branch,
UELAC
Volume 41 Issue Number 2
Spring 2025

Raising the Loyalist Flag over Ottawa: Thursday, June 19

Please join us on Loyalist Day, Monday, June 19, as the City of Ottawa and the Sir Guy Carleton Branch raise the flag under which our Loyalist ancestors served. This event will take place on:

Time/date: 10:00 am to 10:30 am, Thursday June 19 and social at the City Hall Cafeteria afterwards

Place: the flagpoles on Marion Dewar Plaza facing Laurier Avenue West, north side of Ottawa City Hall at 110 Laurier Avenue West

Activities:

- statements by the City of Ottawa and the President of Sir Guy Carleton Branch,
- playing O Canada and God Save the King,
- raising the flag.



Message from the President

Hello Sir Guy Carleton members,

Hello, Summer and SGC members

While the Victoria Day weekend wasn't the best, we can look forward to better weather and events to attend. I hope you are able to attend the Dominion Annual General Meeting (Zoom) and the Dominion Conference in Saint John, NB.

Don't forget the Flag Raising at Ottawa City Hall on Thursday, June 19th. We are always looking for events to share with our members, and are looking for ideas.

Some UELAC branches are holding picnics and local tours. Capital Heritage Connexion is a great source: <https://capitalheritage.ca/events/>

CAPITAL HERITAGE
CONNEXION
PATRIMOINE CAPITALE

[Events Archive - Capital Heritage](#)

May 31 19:30 - 21:30 Trivia Night – Watson's Mill. Watson's Mill is hosting Trivia Night. Bring some friends and show off how much you know about History, Music, TV, and everything in between!
capitalheritage.ca

Take care, and we look forward to seeing you at the Fall Social.

Rose

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The Annual General Meeting, the Marconi Centre, May 3, 2025

Invocation



Credit: Holly Haimerl

The Annual General Meeting



Credit: Holly Haimerl

Book Review: The United Empire Loyalists – A Chronicle of the Great Migration **by W. Stewart Wallace**

Review by Katie Cleghorn

When you're new to researching your United Empire Loyalist (UEL) ancestors, you don't know what you don't know... Which reference books are going to be of the most value to you? Which ones should you buy for yourself, or should you find a source to borrow books from, and if so, which ones should you look at first? Although I am a student of History, I'm still new to the research of my UEL lineages. Over the last year and a half, I've acquired about two dozen reference books; some of them I've purchased, some of them I've discovered among my mother's research materials (long in storage), some of them I received as gifts.

One of the ones I recently purchased is the subject of this book review...

The version of the book I found during a search for UEL books on Amazon.ca, is from a 'Classic Reprint Series' by the publishers, Forgotten Books. I purchased a soft-cover copy because I prefer to have physical books for references. It's also available in digital format, through DigiCat, Google Books, the Kindle Store, the Apple Books store among other options... Having had a bad experience with a different reprinted book, I was cautious and looked at the preview pages to ensure that the book was going to be a decent copy. I selected the Forgotten Books publication because they were focused on delivering a quality reprint that remained close to the original, and because the publishers were in the United Kingdom, not the United States.

When I received the book, I was intrigued by fact that it had a library stamp on the reproduced inside cover page – it literally was a copy of a book that had been transferred from a library's collection. Another interesting piece of information was that it was the 13th volume from a series of 32 volumes under the title Chronicles of Canada. [Further information and e-copies of the series can be found here: [Chronicles of Canada](#). FadedPage.com has an excellent collection of digital books...]

This volume from the series was originally published in 1920 with the reprint produced in 2018. The book is only about 148 pages, and the print is large enough for easy reading (without a magnifying glass!). It is divided into 13 chapters/segments and includes a Bibliographical Note and an Index. The sources made note of in the Bibliographical Note are likely still of great value, even though it has been 100 years since W. Wallace Stewart wrote this book.

Given the recent rhetoric to which Canadians have been subjected, the author's Introduction still resonates 100 years later. What makes this book a great choice for those new to UEL research, or for those looking at this from a pure Canadian History reference, is that it provides an overview of the perspectives of the Loyalists throughout the Rebellion and after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis in 1781. It also covers the full spectrum of the Loyalist migration, not just those who settled in what became Ontario... There is a chapter each for the Loyalist settlements in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island as well as one for the Loyalist influx into Quebec.

What this book is not, is an in-depth breakdown of the individual groups or families. It is a good introduction to the context of the Loyalist situations and how they came to British North America. It is an appetizer to the newly inspired UEL family researcher.

Loyalists Who Settled in Canada and the Choices They Made: A New Series

As of April 19th 2025, the 250th anniversary of the American War of Independence is upon us and this anniversary will continue over the next eight years. In a civil war, many individuals are called upon to choose their side. It seems fitting that this newsletter should present the stories of individuals in the 13 colonies over this period who made the choice to remain loyal to the King and later to settle in the remaining British North America. These are their stories.

Sir John Johnson: Soldier, Diplomat and Settler-in-Chief of Ontario

In the landmark study, [The Loyalists of Quebec: A Forgotten History](#), Earle Thomas calls Sir John Johnson, “the most prominent of the Loyalists in the Province of Canada (Quebec and Ontario.)” With good reason.

John Johnson was born in 1742 near what is today Johnstown, New York in the Mohawk Valley to the fabled Sir William Johnson and his consort Catherine Weisenberg. A what a legacy young John had to inherit! Sir William was a major landowner in the Mohawk Valley, a fur trader, and successful general against France on the ill-defined frontier with Canada. Sir William’s greatest renown was undoubtedly his diplomatic and business skills in dealing with the many First Nations along the frontier, especially the Mohawk Nation. Sir William Johnson and family were also firmly in the King’s camp.

John (now Sir John) had a thorough education, both in practical skills of the frontier and in the finishing school skills that would be expected of a gentleman in 18th century colonial America. He would need them both soon enough. He married Mary Watts, with whom he had 14 children. With Sir William’s death on the eve of the War of Independence in 1774, Sir John saw the peaceful but rapid growth of the Mohawk Valley unravel in 1775 and 1776.

Sir John never made any secret of his Loyalist sympathies. He believed that most of the grievances of the Founding Fathers could be resolved. In early 1776, the Patriot forces in the Mohawk Valley learned that Sir John had offered to raise a regiment for the King’s cause. In May, the Patriots sent a force to his home, Johnson Hall, in today’s Johnstown, New York. Knowing that the jig was up, Sir John abandoned Johnson Hall and led a party of 200, mostly Scottish and German settlers, through the Adirondack Mountains to Montreal. Governor Sir Guy Carleton met Johnson there and gave him permission to raise a regiment, the King’s Royal Regiment of New York.

Sir John was now in the thick of war as a commander of a regiment. His accomplishments in this capacity were impressive. Johnson:

- Raised two battalions to form the King’s Royal Regiment of New York

- Led his regiment in the company of First Nations soldiers to victory at the 1777 Battle of [Oriskany](#), one of the bloodiest battles of the whole war and the single greatest victory where Loyalists and First Nations did the fighting
- Was charged with the care of thousands of Loyalist refugees in Montreal
- Led two successful raiding expeditions into the Mohawk Valley to destroy the Patriots' grain-growing areas.



Sir John Johnson, National Archives of Canada

In 1783, the war ended with the new United States extending its boundaries to the Saint Lawrence River and the Great Lakes. The Loyalist soldiers and refugees realized that there would be no triumphant return to their old homes.

In 1783, Johnson began his new role Superintendent General and Inspector General of Indian Affairs and in 1784 became the Superintendent of the Loyalists. It was decided that the Loyalists and the First Nations should settle in areas to the west of Montreal to avoid conflict with the French-speaking Quebecers.

In these roles, Johnson accomplished the following monumental tasks:

- Enabled Iroquois refugees to settle along the Bay of Quinte and along the Grand River
- Enabled the settlement of 6,000 Loyalist refugees along the Saint Lawrence River from what is now Cornwall to the Bay of Quinte
- The most prominent settlement by his regiment was at New Johnstown, which became the City of Cornwall
- Built a home in Williamstown, Ontario. The home is now a [National Historic Site](#)

Like most other Loyalists, he lost almost everything, including the vast family estates in the Mohawk Valley. In the 1780's he had to apply to the British Government for compensation, which he received in the form of cash and land grants. These did not fully compensate for the lost lands in New York State.

Sir John continued in his role as Superintendent General and lived in the Montreal area until his death in 1830. He is buried at [Mont Saint-Gregoire, Quebec](#).

A Personal Perspective – What do you do about ancillary UE ancestry that you uncover along the way?

By Katie Cleghorn

An 'Introduction' of sorts...

I have known for much of my life that my ancestors fought with the British during the American Revolution (or War of Secession depending on the perspective). I grew up spending lots of time with my maternal Grandmother and poring over the family photo albums while listening to the stories of my ancestors.

Because I grew up in British Columbia, not all those stories were related to the ancestors who fought with the British... Many of my maternal family lines were the pioneers of the Colony of Vancouver Island or the Colony of British Columbia, who were either employed by the Hudson's Bay Company or tried their hand at mining during the various 'Gold Rushes'.

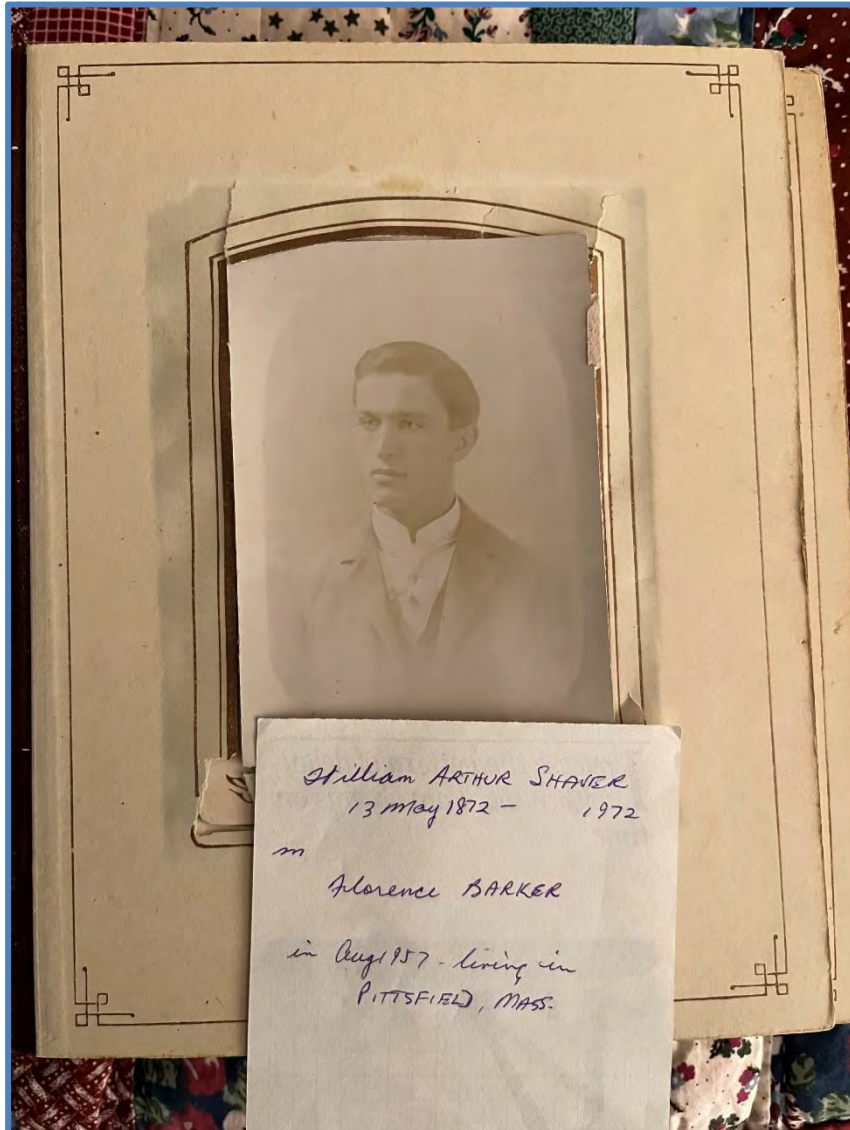
My mother was the first of the (direct) family to follow up on the United Empire Loyalist (UEL) connections and received her UEL Certificate in 1998 for John and his son, Thomas McIlmoyle. Until recently, I didn't have access to much of her research material beyond the Family Tree Maker (FTM) files that we had been passing to each other (over 20 years ago), so I have done most of my research and citation collection for my Certificate(s) myself. At present, I am working on Certificates for McIlmoyle, Falkner, Sipes/Sypes, Meddaugh/Middaugh x 2, Shaver x 2, and am now adding Cook to the list. And these are my direct UE ancestors that I've managed to uncover.

This is where it gets interesting....

In April, as I was sorting through the items of my mom's that have been in storage for many years, I came across a box that indicated it contained a Bible. When I opened the box, this is what I discovered:



When I opened the 'Bible', I realized that it definitely was not a Bible but a photo album and an old one. There were no indications on the first page as to whom the album belonged, but it definitely wasn't one of my parents' photo albums! So, who was the previous holder of the photo album and how did it connect to me? This was what I found with the first page of photos –

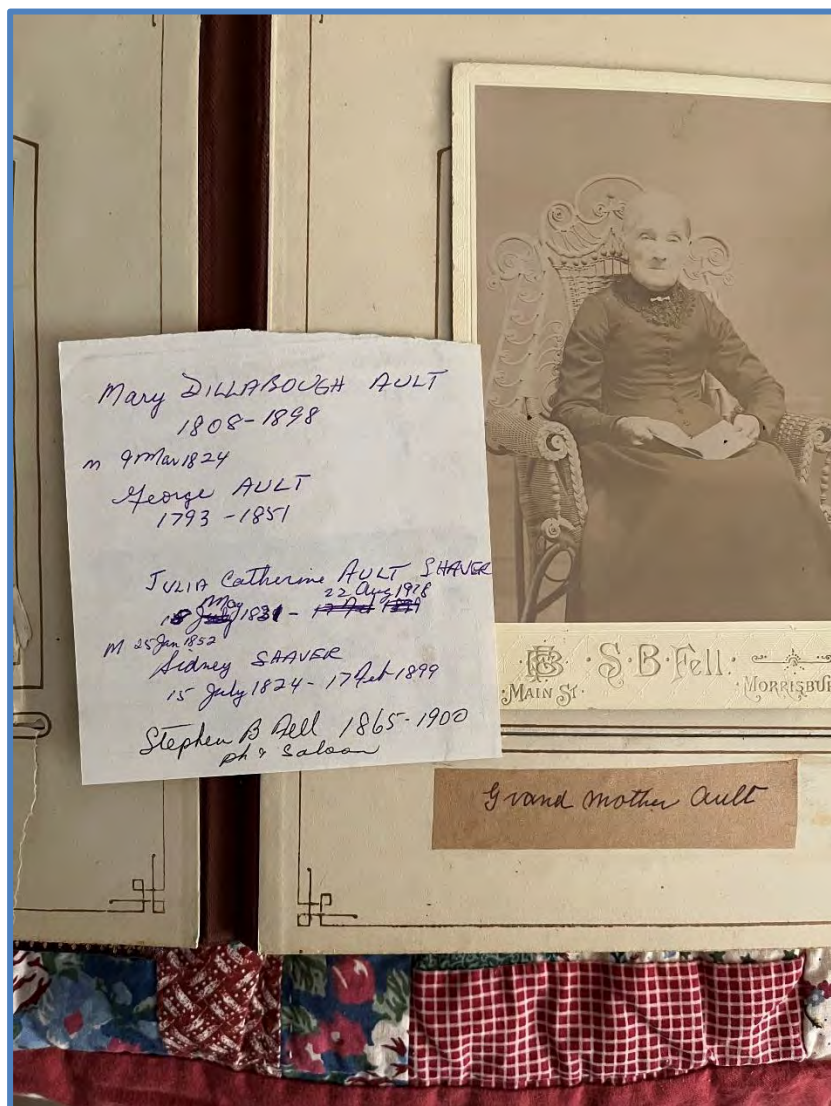


So, the note indicated that this was likely a photo of William Arthur Shaver, who was the ninth child of Sidney Shaver and Julia Catherine Ault.

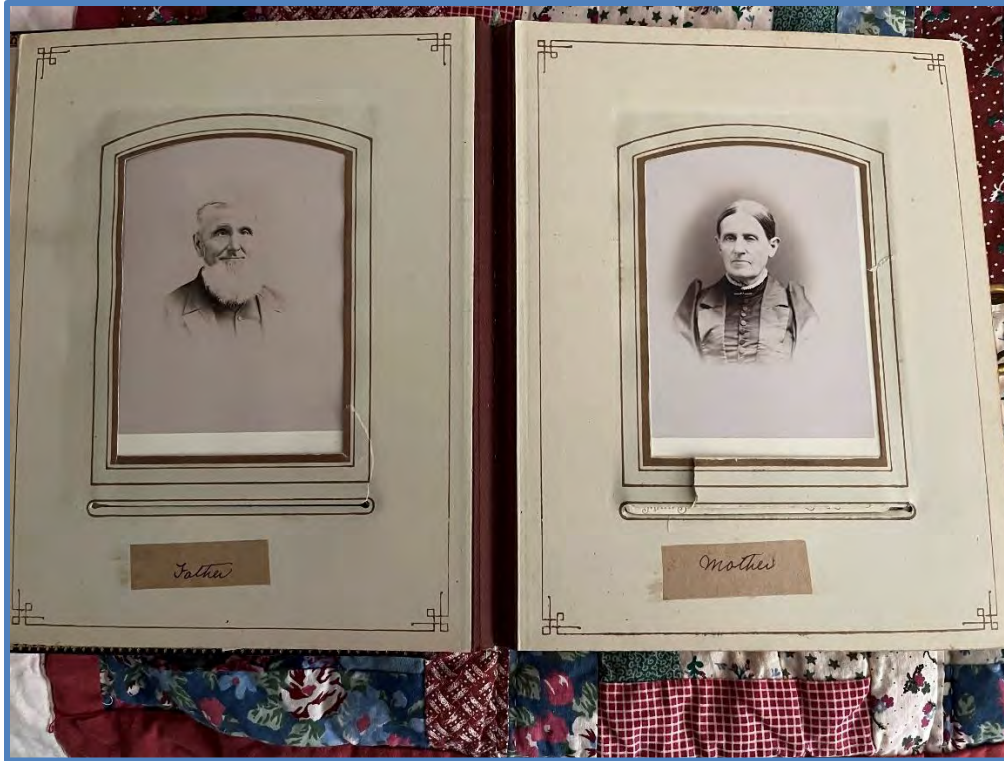
Sidney Shaver was a son of Samuel Shaver and Elizabeth Bowen and was the brother of my 2nd Great Grandmother – so definitely related to me. He was the grandson of Adam Nicholas Shaver UE and Catherine Cook as well as the grandson of Uriah Bowen and Elizabeth Shaver.

Julia Catherine Ault was the daughter of George Frederick Ault and his 2nd wife, Mary Dillabough. Julia was the granddaughter of Michael Ault UE and Nancy Ann Brouse and the granddaughter of Christian Dillabough UE and Anna Catherine Van Camp. A pretty large collection of UE surnames, right?

This was the next photo in the album –

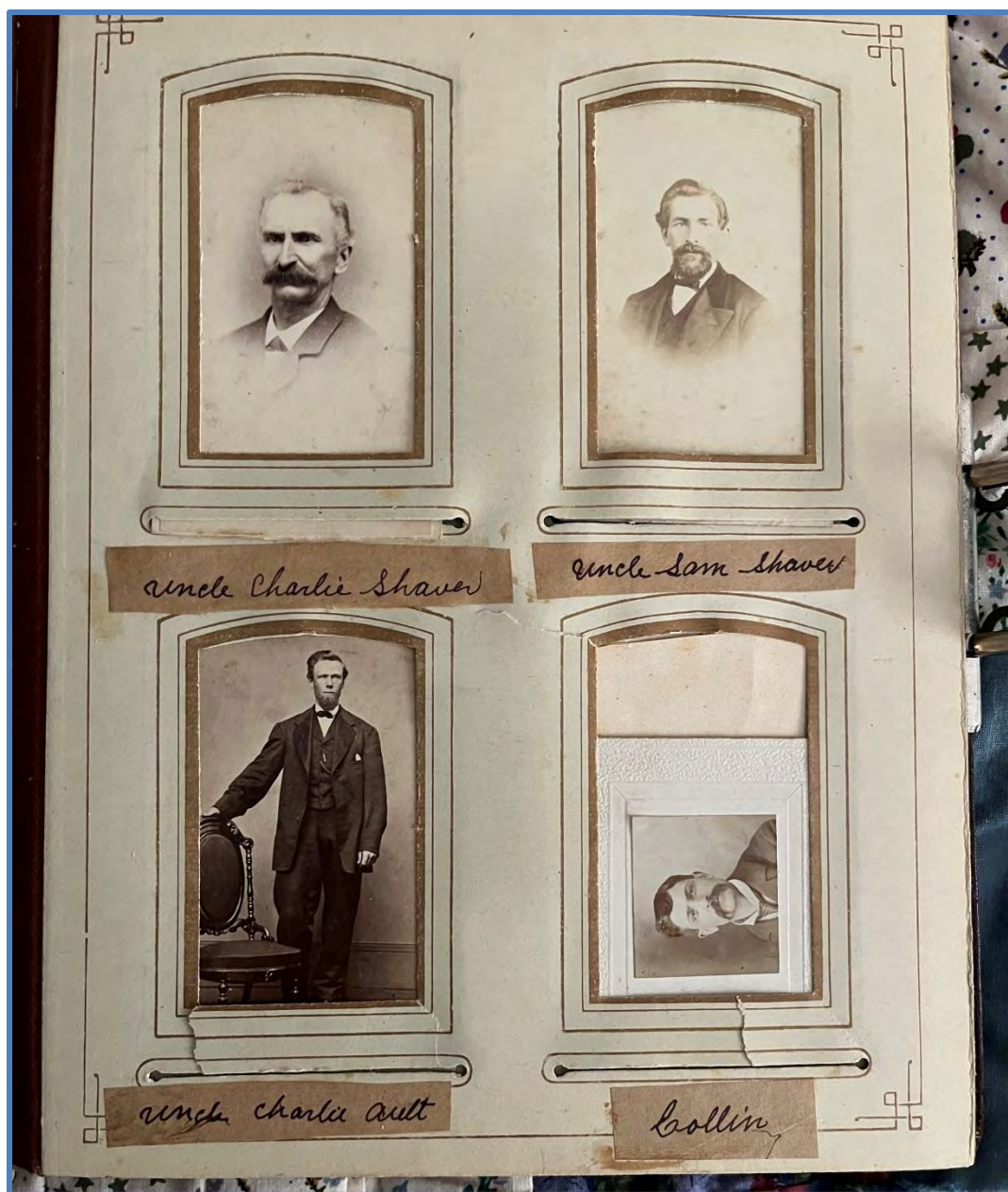


The note indicates Mary Dillabough Ault Marrying George Ault but also provides the marriage information for Sidney and Julia. The information attached under the photo only indicates 'Grandmother Ault' is this referencing Mary Dillabough Ault? If this is so, then the next two must be photos of Sidney and Julia, as the labels indicate 'Father' and 'Mother'...



A further clue to sorting out the un-specified photos comes from the labels on one of the final pages of the photo album.

The group of four photos is labelled as Uncle Charles Shaver (Top Left), Uncle Sam Shaver (Top Right), Colin (Bottom Right) and Uncle Charles Ault (Bottom Left).



As Colin (James) Shaver was a brother of William Arthur Shaver, then the others should match to brothers of Sidney and a brother of Julia...Sidney did in fact have a brother Charles (Edward) and Samuel (Nelson) and Julia had a brother Charles (Christian).

As my mother lived in Victoria, and her Great Uncle Harry (Leonard) Shaver and family had also lived in Victoria, it seems logical that the photo album was given to her because she had been doing Genealogy professionally in addition to pursuing the various UE family lines. With the connection established, it now comes down to what do I do with the information on this ancillary UE family line. As there is minimal information showing on the UE directory for some of those key names mentioned earlier on, I will provide what I can. I'm also updating information on Find A Grave, Ancestry and Family Search. But, as many of us are asking ourselves about our research material and family heirlooms, what do I do with it next?

The Library Triage List: March 2025

Title	Author	#pages/item	Donate/ bought	Disposed
1. The Genealogy of Frederick Snetsinger 1795-1881, Son of J. Mathias Snetsinger, 1755-1833	Rosemary Joy	+100 (soft cover)	Donation	Offered to OGS as this is a duplicate
2. The Genealogy of Joh George Snetsinger 1793-1851, Son of J. Mathias Snetsinger, 1755-1833	Rosemary Joy	+100 (soft cover)	Donation	Offered to OGS as this is a duplicate
3. Northern Vermont in the Revolutionary War	Jason Barney	171 (soft cover)	Purchase	973.373 BAR
4. American Ancestors	Winter 2025, Vol. 25, no. 4	64 (Magazine)	Donation	
5. The NEGH Register, The Journal of American Genealogy	Volume 178, No. 4, Fall 2024	305 - 414 (Small soft cover book)	Donation	
6. Canada's History	April/May 2025, Vol. 105:2	66 (Magazine)	Donation	

Donations

Sir Guy Carleton Branch (SGC) is looking for donations of material related to Loyalists, especially in the Ottawa region.

Our branch collection grows based on donations of items such as family histories, books, maps, and other items relevant to preserving and maintaining our UEL heritage. And researchers have more access to materials that will help them with their projects.

You can search the branch collection for its holdings at <https://www.uelac.org/SirGuyCarleton/library.php#holdings> if you are unsure of whether or not the materials may already reside in our collection.

If you are interested in making a donation, please download and fill in the MSWord form below. Send this form via email to carletonuel@hotmail.com with "Donation" in the subject line.

If you have any questions, please contact carletonuel@hotmail.com with "Donation" in the subject line. Any material that does not fit this description for retention in the SGC reference collection will be shared with other historical societies and/or the Friends of the Library (<https://www.fopla-aabpo.ca>).

Please use the form on the following page

Donation Form

Thank you for your interest!

Please fill in the information requested below and send this form and any accompanying documentation via email to carletonuel@hotmail.com

Please include any questions in the body of your email.

Note that arrangements can be made to view your donation and sort out what will be accepted by the Branch. Depending on the amount and type of items to be donated, the Branch may be able to pick up the items from you at a mutually beneficial time.

Are the items located in the Ottawa area? Please highlight the appropriate response.

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, would you like someone to help you sort the items? Please highlight the appropriate response

☐ Yes ☐ No

Donor Contact Information

Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Someone from the Branch will follow up with you. Please provide the best time of day/evening to contact you concerning your donation/any questions that you may have.

Best time to reach you:

Donation Information

Please highlight all of the various types of items that you are seeking to donate. If you have an inventory list, please attach it along with this form to the email address listed above.

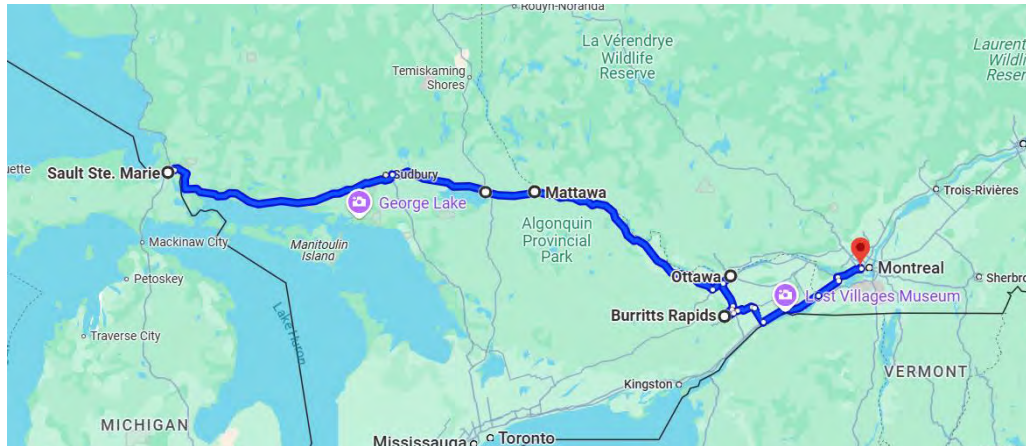
Item	Amount
Books	
Clothing	
Family bibles	
Family histories	
Journals	
Magazines	
Maps	
Photographs	
Posters	
Other (please list):	
Total amount of material (items/boxes/bags) that you are seeking to donate:	

Someone from SGC Branch will be in touch with you to further assess your donation request and to set up a time/place to retrieve the items.

Tombstone Travels – Part 3

By Holly Haimerl

From Sault Ste. Marie to Montreal: A Journey Through Memory, History, and a Hint of Mischief



 **Trip Dates: (July-August 2023)**  **Route: Sault Ste. Marie → North Bay → Mattawa → Ottawa → Burritt's Rapids → Montreal**

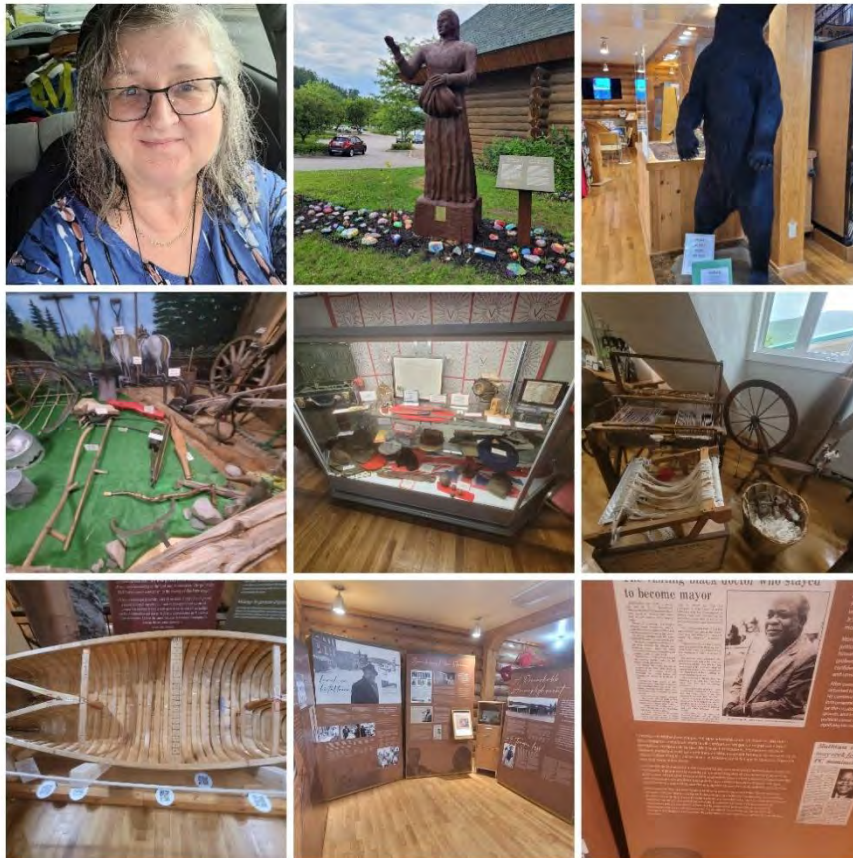
Sault Ste Marie/North Bay: A Pause with Purpose



In an earlier part of Tombstone Travels I wrote about helping my younger cousin during her recovery from hip surgery in my hometown of Sault Ste. Marie. My main role had been to keep her young

granddaughters entertained and lift everyone's spirits. I stopped in North Bay and spent a quiet night recharging for the rest of my journey. While on the road, I received the sad news that my dear aunt had passed away from cancer. I was grateful to have said goodbye to Aunt Natalie at the hospital and attended her funeral remotely from Montreal.

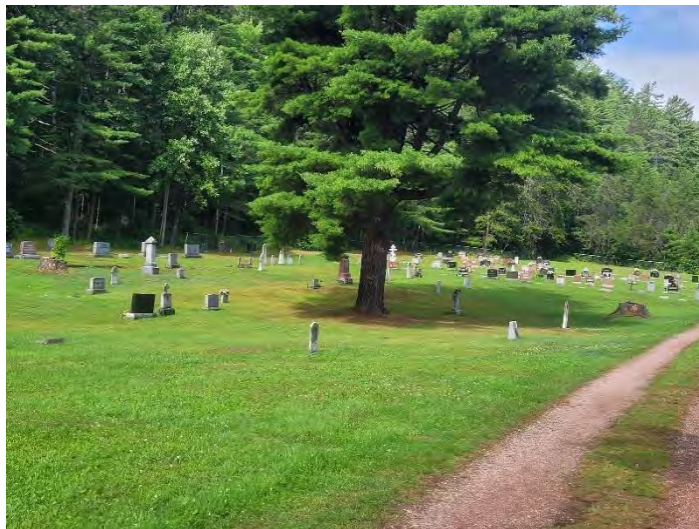
Mattawa: Museum, Cemeteries and a Cosmic Joke



Drenched Selfie and

Mattawa Museum exhibits

Mattawa is the birthplace of my great-grandmother, **Georgina Parent**. Her lineage traces back to New France, and I'm currently delving even deeper into her roots in France. She married **Duncan Fetherston (Haugh)**, who is connected to my **Loyalist** line. While visiting Mattawa, I spent an engaging hour at the local museum, captivated by its exhibits. As I stepped outside the museum, I was caught in a torrential downpour.



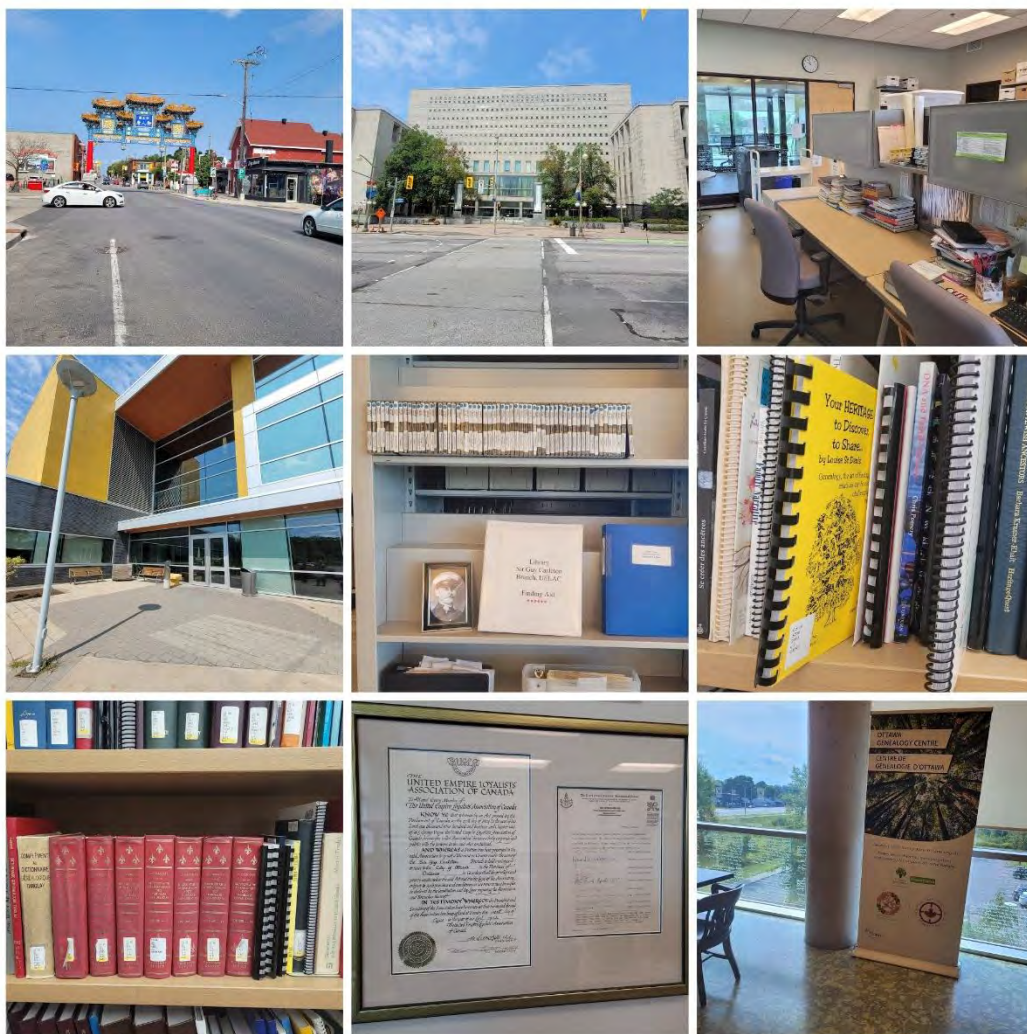
St. Anne's Cemetery, Mattawa—where my ancestors got the last laugh.

Armed with a gravestone photo for my 3rd great-grandfather Luc Etienne Parent (1819-1899) from *Find A Grave*, I began my search in St. Anne's Cemetery then continued through the adjoining Pinehill cemetery. I spent over 2 hours walking the cemetery grounds without success. Feeling defeated, I returned to my car... only to discover the gravestone about **two feet from my passenger door**.



My ancestors clearly have a sense of humor. 😊

Ottawa: Researching Loyalist Roots



While in Ottawa, I had a wonderful visit with Rosemarie Pleasant, our branch president, and Janet Kennedy, our branch archivist. They kindly guided me through the Sir Guy Carleton Library archives, where I gathered valuable materials to support my personal genealogy project. I also made a stop at Library and Archives Canada to explore their Loyalist research collection. That evening, I enjoyed a delicious dinner in Chinatown. The following morning, a hearty lunch at a Texas-themed restaurant gave me the energy I needed for the final leg of my journey.

Burritt's Rapids: Hidden History and Hometown Charm



Christ Church, Historic plaques, Oddfellows Hall, ancestors' graves] Burritt's Rapids—where every home has a story to tell.

My recent visit to Burritt's Rapids was filled with charming discoveries. From its historic homes and the character-rich Oddfellows Hall to the scenic walking trail and the iconic swing bridge, the village offered a delightful glimpse into the past.

I spent time at the Christ Church Anglican cemetery, searching for the resting places of several 5th great-grand uncles and aunts from the Burritt family line—an experience both meaningful and reflective.

The last leg of my journey wasn't without a few adventures: I took a wrong turn leaving the village and came close to running out of gas before finally spotting a station. Thankfully, I found my way back to the highway and continued toward Montreal, heart full and tank refilled.

.Home Again—with a Nail in the Tire!



Back home, my husband checked the car and found a **large nail** in the rear passenger tire. Clearly, **my guardian angels** were hard at work throughout this journey.

Trip Recap

Location	Purpose
Sault Ste. Marie	Family caregiving after surgery
North Bay	Overnight rest and time to reflect
Mattawa	Genealogy search, cemetery visit
Ottawa	Loyalist archive research
Burritt's Rapids	Historic village exploration
Montreal	Final stop – home again

Reflections

This trip reminded me that our ancestors aren't just names on charts. They live in the **places we visit**, the **stones we touch**, and the **stories we share**. Whether through laughter, tears, or serendipity, they're still traveling with us.

Please feel free to:

- Share your own cemetery discoveries
- Recommend a historic site to visit
- Contact me if you want help researching your own Loyalist roots! Email: sgcgenealogist@gmail.com

 **Want to see more photos or family history notes?** I'll be adding more details/photos of my trip on my website [Genealogy - Holly's Family Footprints](#)