



Newsletter

Autumn 2012

**With winter fast approaching, this is a good time to look back
on our Branch activities in this year.**

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QAHN Annual General Meeting

Members of our Branch attended the QAHN (Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network) Annual Meeting held on May 12th at Champlain Regional College in Saint Lambert. Michael Cooper was this year's recipient of the Marion Phelps award for being a long-time heritage volunteer. Michael gave a PowerPoint presentation of his present project, the restoration of the Fairbairn house in Wakefield.



Rod Riordon, Michel Racicot, Adelaide Lanktree, Heather Darch, Louise Hall, Evelyn Lewis and Gerald Thomas (Photo courtesy of James Caputo)

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Annual Meeting

Following a long tradition, our Annual General Meeting, our 45th, was held at the Legion Hall in Philipsburg on June 16th. Dominion President, Robert C. McBride, and his wife Grietje were guests of honour. After a delicious roast beef dinner, Bob helped to cut our anniversary cake which was baked especially for the occasion and enjoyed by all. The annual meeting began with a talk by Bob McBride about the remarkable exploits of his ancestor, John DeCew, in the War of 1812. He was thanked for his interesting talk by Heather Larocque who presented him with a copy of *Liberty's Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World* by Maya Jasanoff. The regular business meeting followed and it concluded with the election of Gerald Thomas as our new Branch President. The retiring President, Rod Riordon, was presented with his Past President's pin by Bob McBride (*photo*). Our Secretary, Phyllis Hamilton, who was also retiring was thanked for her many years of faithful service. Linda Howman was elected the new Secretary.



Roderick Riordon UE, Past President

► On June 30th, a number of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch members were guests at **Fred Gilman's Annual Picnic** honouring American and Canadian Veterans which was held at his home on the shores of Lake Champlain.



Picnic in the Park in Cowansville

On August 22nd, our Branch had an information table at the Townshippers' "Picnic in the Park 50 +" which was held in the Davignon Park in Cowansville. Twenty two local associations had exhibits at the well attended picnic. Information awaited all participants from our cultural communities. It was a day of fun, activities and free lunch.



President Gerry Thomas, Past President Roderick Riordon and membership Adelaide Lanktree

Summer Picnic at the Missisquoi Museum



On Tuesday August 7th, in Stanbridge East Qc, the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch members and guests revelled in the joys of meeting with one another and sharing stories during the picnic so aptly set beside the Missisquoi Museum overlooking the old mill stream. Many of the nearly 30 people in attendance also toured the museum which had on display, among many other things, fascinating memorabilia of the War of 1812. Thank you to Heather Darch and Pamela Realffe for their help in facilitating the picnic and museum visits.

Linda Howman, U.E. Social Convener

SOFTI: English Quebec through 100 Objects

Last summer, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) launched a project called “Significant Objects for Telling Identity (SOFTI): English Quebec through 100 objects”. With this project, QAHN aims to collect the stories of 100 objects that together will create a portrait of Quebec’s English-speaking communities, past and present. These 100 objects and their story will be placed on a specially designed website and DVD for distribution across Canada. This website will be launched in March 2013. Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch has submitted such an object to the SOFTI project: the *Gravestone of Sir John Johnson*. In 1830, Sir John Johnson was interred in the family vault on Mount Johnson (now known as Mont Saint-Grégoire), near the village of Saint-Grégoire. The vault was accidentally bulldozed 60 years ago. Fortunately, Sir John’s stone survived. Later the gravestone was transported to Stanbridge East where it was placed at the Missisquoi Museum. On December 3rd, we received confirmation from QAHN that our submission has been chosen and will be included in the SOFTI project.



33rd Townshippers' Day in Farnham

Townshippers' Day is a bilingual autumn festivity that attracts some 5,000 to 10,000 visitors. T-Day, organized by the Townshippers' Association, highlights the cultural identity of the Townships English community. Each year, a different community in the Eastern Townships hosts the event and this year, T-Day was held in Farnham on September 15th. Why Farnham? Kate Wisdom, Community and Cultural Coordinator of the Townshippers' Association wrote in the Fall/Winter issue of "Townshippers" : *"What made Farnham take an interest in hosting Townshippers' Day? The spark was lit during a conversation with Farnham personalities Louise Hall and Adelaide Lanktree, two sisters who are well-known for their work with the United Empire Loyalists and Farnham Heritage. Louise Hall was also named as an Outstanding Townshippers in 2003 and is also recognised for her work on the BMP Hospital "Petit Musée" Museum project."*

At T-Day, our Branch had a display table which was attended by Branch members Adelaide Lanktree, Heather Darch, Gerald Thomas and Michel Racicot. They were later joined by our Treasurer Louise Hall who was accompanied by Heritage Branch members Okill and Sylvia Stuart and Robert and Maura Wilkins.



In the afternoon, Louise Hall and Adelaide Lanktree, along with Robert Wilkins and Okill Stuart gave a long and very interesting interview to Jacqueline Czermin, CBC "Breakaway" host (*photo*). They talked about the reconstruction of the tomb of leading Loyalist Sir John Johnson, which was destroyed more than 50 years ago, hoping that in 2014, Sir John's resting place "will finally be restored with honour and pride". <http://www.cbc.ca/player/Radio/Local+Shows/Quebec/Breakaway/ID/2280683345/>

Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner

The 39th Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner was held on Wednesday, October 24th at the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch (R.H.R.) Armoury, on Bleury Street in Montreal. The guest speaker was John Kirwan ("Kerry") Martin, a retired history teacher living in Montreal. The topic of his presentation was "The Legend of Laura Secord", a subject on which he had done considerable research.

Among those present were Dominion President Robert C. McBride and his wife Grietje. Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was well represented that evening. Several member of our Branch were present: Roderick Riordon, Adelaide Lanktree, Gerald Thomas, Carol Soule and Michel Racicot. Also present were Heritage Branch members Okill and Sylvia Stuart, Robert and Maura Wilkins, Gary Aiken, and Doug Page who are also Sir John Johnson second branch members.

For King and Country

Former UELAC President (1994-96) Okill Stuart made the front page of Lake Champlain Weekly, Plattsburgh, New York on November 7th to commemorate Remembrance Day (Veteran's Day in the United States). In this two-page text written by Benjamin Pomerance. Okill Stuart recalls his participation in the D-Day landing on Juno Beach, one of the bloodiest invasions in history. *"For Okill Stuart the D-Day landing was just the beginning of a long and distinguished life."*
<http://www.lakechamplainweekly.com/>

Okill Stuart UE is the Past President of Heritage Branch and a second branch member of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch and also Dominion Past President.



► **Cowansville Chapter #17 Order of the Eastern Star** planned to celebrate its 90th Birthday at its November 19th meeting. At the same meeting, a Quebec Grand Chapter installing team would install the Cowansville officers for 2013. Seven Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC members are members of Cowansville Chapter OES: Secretary, Brenda Stone GGCCM; Associate Conductress, Adelaide Lanktree PM; Star Points, Evelyn Lewis PM; and Rose Highfield; Sentinel, Louise Hall PM and members Beverley Howman PM, and Linda Howman. Sadly our meeting had to be cancelled as the IOOF Hall in Knowlton where we held our meetings was destroyed by fire early Sunday morning November 18th. Mansonville's Owl's Head Chapter graciously invited us to hold our meeting in their chapter room so our officers were installed on Monday November 26th. Owl's Head Chapter #35 members Wesley Larocque PP and Heather Larocque PM are also members of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC. *Adelaide Lanktree UE, Membership*

Edwin Lewis Jenne (1919-2012)

Edwin Lewis Jenne passed away peacefully at home on Saturday September 15, 2012 at the age of 92. He was predeceased by Alice Hope Cotton UE, his wife of 56 years, and his daughter Pauline Svestka. He is survived by his 5 children, Edwina (Jerry), Brian (Marie), Keith (Brenda), Susan (Jerry) and Michael (Karen), his sister Betty (Harrison), his 11 grandchildren and 7 great-children.



Edwin joined Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch in 1978 with his wife Alice Hope Cotton who was a proud UEL, a descendant of the Reverend John Stuart, a Loyalist who settled at Cataraqui (Kingston) in 1785, becoming the first resident Anglican clergyman in what is now Ontario. For years, they were active members of our Branch. After his wife passed away on January 1st, 2011, Edwin continued participating in our Branch's activities with his daughter Winona Bougie UE.

Edwin Lewis Jenne was a proud veteran, gardener, avid reader, bridge player, photographer, bird watcher, fisherman and family man. He was also a great friend of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch and he will be sorely missed. Our deepest sympathies to the family.

Audrey Myrne Martin McCaw (1917-2012)

Audrey Myrne Martin McCaw passed away peacefully on June 19, 2012 at Christenton Village, Gibsons, B.C. She was predeceased by her husband Charles Wilkie McCaw and her son Peter Cameron McCaw. She is survived by her daughter Nanci Jean McCaw.



Audrey McCaw was a talented musician and played five instruments. A graduate of McGill University, she was a published author. She wrote several historical texts including "Beating the Drums for Sir John Johnson" (1984).

Audrey McCaw and her husband Charles McCaw UE were active members for many years of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. Audrey was Secretary from 1979 to 1986. Her husband, a descendant of Loyalist Michael Cook, was Genealogist from 1974 to 1983.

Our most sincere condolences to the family.

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Executive 2012-2013

Honourary President:	Sir Guy Johnson	Winchester, England	
Patron:	John E. Chard	Belleville, ON	
Past President:	Roderick Riordon		
President:	Gerald Thomas		
1 st Vice President:			
2 nd Vice President:			
Secretary:	Linda Howman		
Treasurer:	Louise Hall		
Genealogist:	Michel Racicot	129 Church St., Cowansville, QC, J2K 1T9	Tel. 450-260-1736
Publicity:	Evelyn Lewis		
Membership:	Adelaide Lanktree	140 Principale Ouest, Farnham, QC, J2N 1K6	Tel. 450-293-6342
Card Convener:	Louise Hall		
Vault Committee:	Charles Harbec		
Hospitality:	Linda Howman		
	Joan Lee		

WEBSITES

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch
UELAC

<http://www.uelac.org/SirJohnJohnson>
www.uelac.org

E-MAIL

Loyalist Trails Newsletter: **Doug Grant** doug.grant@insurance-canada.ca
Branch President: **Gerald Thomas** gerryt@sympatico.ca
Branch Treasurer: **Louise Hall** adelaidel@sympatico.ca
Branch Secretary: **Linda Howman** lilac23@axion.ca
Branch Genealogist: **Michel Racicot** mracicot001@sympatico.ca

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC
2013 MEMBERSHIP

Dear Member,

Annual fees for the year 2013 are due by **December 15, 2012**.
Prompt payment would be greatly appreciated.

UELAC membership (regular, affiliate and associate)

_____ **Individual membership \$42.50**

_____ **Family membership \$60.00**

Second Branch Members (members of other branches)

_____ **Individual membership \$10.00**

_____ **Family membership \$15.00**

Please make your cheque payable to:

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC

And forward it to:

Ms Louise Hall
140 Principale Ouest, Farnham
Québec, J2N 1K6

Please return this notice with your payment. Thank you.
Please notify us of any change of address, email address or phone
number.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Telephone _____