



THE
PACIFIC

Loyalist

VANCOUVER BRANCH

THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS'
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

July / August 2022



The famous desk in Novi, Michigan

A true treasure! Turn to page 3 to read about the amazing documents most Loyalist descendants can only dream about finding. What will they reveal for Branch member Daniel Strang?

Photo credit: Daniel Strang, Vancouver Branch

Daniel Strang lives in Heemskerk, the Netherlands. He has been a Vancouver Branch since 2019. Daniel is actively researching his ancestor **Daniel Munro UE** (abt 1738 – 1806) of the 77th Regiment of Foot. Munro was part of the Port Roseway Association who evacuated New York in 1783 and settled in Shelburne, receiving 50 acres and a Town Lot. *Shown below: Photo on the right: Daniel Strang. Left: Previous Shelburne monument and plaque, pictured in 1907 found at <https://uelac.ca/monuments/loyalists-at-shelburne-plaque/>*



Inside pages:

Page 2: 2022 Loyalist Day picnic

Page 3 -5: Daniel Strang's journey to find his Loyalist ancestor.

Page 6: Archivist duties and call for a volunteer.

Page 7 Genealogist's report



Keep connected with Your UE friends
Receive a free special Platinum Jubilee pin.

VANCOUVER BRANCH UELAC

Cordially Invites You, your Family and guests to our...

**ANNUAL PICNIC CELEBRATING
BC LOYALIST DAY & Her Majesty The Queen's
PLATINUM JUBILEE**

SUNDAY 24 JULY 2022 11:30 am - 3:30 pm

At Queen's Park in New Westminster. Picnic Shelter #2

Look for the UE Flags.

https://www.newwestcity.ca/database/files/library/QueensPark_map2004c.pdf

**BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC LUNCH AND A LAWN CHAIR OR
BLANKET.**

**IT WILL BE GOOD TO FINALLY BE TOGETHER
COFFEE (By Donation) WILL BE READY WHEN YOU ARRIVE.**

PROGRAM:

- UE Certificate Presentations
- Sale of pins (various prices) and 12 x 18-inch UE flags (picnic price \$3.00 each) will be available for purchase at one of the picnic tables.
- We can sit out in an open spaced circle or use one of the four covered picnic tables.
- Draw prizes are back! If you wish to bring a gift (\$10 or less) we will have a fun draw for these items. Draw tickets will be free.
- Annual Group photo.



Daniel Strang originally shared this story of his 2022 visit to the USA and Canada with Vancouver Branch genealogist, Linda Nygard UE. The edited and expanded article is shared with his permission. Thank you Daniel. We all wish you good luck finding that elusive “UE”.

Daniel began his message to Linda this way....

I had to look up "The Maritimes" because I never heard that name before. My first night was spent at a hotel close to the airport in Halifax because I had to pick up my rental car there the next day. I had an appointment with a researcher at the Nova Scotia Archives later in the week so decided to travel first to Shelburne. I was able to book a motel room there in advance but didn't know where I could eat. The only thing that seemed to be open was a beauty salon so I stuck my head in and asked what they would recommend. The lady immediately got on the phone and made a reservation at a local restaurant. I told her that I was researching my family genealogy. Then she called another friend, Kim Walker, who is connected with the Shelburne Museum Complex. This person turned out to be a distant relative and has previously been in touch with my cousin, Patty Fuller. From that point on everybody I contacted had already heard that I was in the area and tried to be as helpful as possible. With the help of old maps I was able to deduct pretty accurately where Daniel Munro's town and water lots would have been.

A couple of days later I traveled back to Halifax for my appointment with the researcher Joanne McCarthy O'Leary. Together we did some digging but didn't find anything immediately. There was a reference to Daniel Munro's loyalist claim. It was supposed to be in a "bundle" but no one knew how that corresponded to the microfilms. Since then she has been successful and has sent me a digital image of that document. It turns out that, although Daniel received a land grant, he also later applied for reimbursement for his livestock and other belongings. That petition was declined.

I then returned to Shelburne as that seemed to be the most likely source of information. The [Shelburne County Archives](#) is only open during the summer months. On the last day I was to meet a volunteer there but she was sick with stomach flu. She has since contacted me and is willing to look for anything we need. I visited the city hall and they put me in contact with two additional people. One was a professional fisherman, Brian “Ricky” Rapp, who had extensive knowledge of Round Bay, Shelburne County where Daniel Munro and his wife last lived. He had an old map that he was going to scan and sent to me but there is no mention on it of where Daniel's land would have been. I also met another man, Lewis Jackson, who is sort of the unofficial historian of Shelburne and who gave me a tour of the port. On my own I visited a number of graveyards where I found some relevant gravestones. It seems that only one son remained in the area. He was William and the Munro's in the region are his descendants.



Although it has been possible to accumulate more information and contacts, no primary document has surfaced proving that Soloman Munro was the son of Daniel Munro. The only possible proof remains in the letters discovered in the famous desk in Novi, Michigan. My cousin is patiently going through all its contents so maybe something will turn up



Photo found at: <https://www.londonpubliclibrary.ca/book/export/html/27>

Daniel continues:

Eventually time ran out because I had booked a flight back to Toronto. It turned out not only to be the fastest but also the cheapest method of transport. So I turned in my car and then picked up a second one there. After arriving in Toronto I continued on to London almost immediately. Unfortunately, the local historical society is dormant and has put all their documents and physical pieces in storage. However, they recommended visiting the [London Public Library Central Branch, London Room](#).

The London area is where Solomon lived after moving from New York. Solomon Munro was the son of Daniel Munro. We do know that from the letters. Like all the children of Daniel he was born in New York. However, he stayed there with the brother of his mother when Daniel and the others moved to Nova Scotia and later moved to London, Ontario with his family. When there we were able to find a bit of information about land owned by Solomon and where various graves were located.

I was able to book a visit to the archives at Western University. They showed me how to access information about family land holdings. I also visited a number of graveyards in the area. It proved difficult to locate exactly where Solomon's land would have been but everything has changed so much that there was probably no



reason to go there.

Photo found at : <https://www.uwo.ca/about/index.html>

Back in Toronto I visited the [Archives of Ontario](#) and found one additional land record.

The next stage was to travel to Michigan. The car had to be returned in Toronto. I began my trip on the train which only went as far as Windsor. The train hasn't connected to Detroit since 1967 but I had read that there was a bus going there. It turned out that it has not existed for two years. I ended up paying a taxi driver \$100 to drive me right to the airport in Detroit where I picked up my next wheels. While in that area I stayed with my cousin, Marshall Rice and his wife from the Huffman branch of my family in Rochester Hills, Michigan. I had also visited them four years ago. One resource there is the [Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society](#) - it is one of the best I have ever encountered. David Decker is an expert in historical land transactions. With his help I have been able to locate on old flat maps exactly where my ancestors owned land. He shared many interesting facts with me including that the first land act from 1778 established Townships of 36 miles square so that one could travel from any point to the center and back in one day in order to pay one's taxes. He also said that there wasn't much cash around so people made land deals instead.



While in the Detroit area I met up with cousins Patty Fuller and John Stempien. Together online we have been doing a lot of research about the Munro family. John is the one who rediscovered the desk. I also met John's mother, Mary who was born a Munro and cousin Gilbert van Sickle who owns the house in the picture where the desk is located. The three of us traveled to Novi, Michigan to see it in person. That was probably the climax of my entire journey. There we discovered two new reunion pictures and a couple other new documents. Gilbert put me on the phone to his mother, Dorothea who is almost 100 years old and lives in Texas. She has a good memory and is looking over old photos that I sent her to see if she can identify anyone in them. We are all related through **Bedent Baird**



Munro, son of Solomon Munro. He was the first of our line to live in Michigan. *Photo credit:* <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/31063465/bedent-baird-munro>

From Detroit I flew to Phoenix, Arizona where two nieces live. They are very interested in our family genealogy and one of them is the holder of many important family memorabilia. I gave them computer files of all of the recent research I have been doing. From there I drove to Pomona, California where my 81 year old brother, James lives. As I write this I am visiting another niece in Westlake Village in the Valley north of Los Angeles. There are still a few more nieces and nephews that I hope to see before returning to The Netherlands on June 30th.

Greetings, Daniel Strang

For further reading see: <https://familymunro.weebly.com/bedent-baird-munro.html>

Notice of an open position with the Vancouver Branch.

Branch Archivist – aka Vancouver Branch contact person with the City of Vancouver Archives. (COV)

As per our negotiated contract with City of Vancouver Archives, we are able to deposit files of as noted below into the Vancouver Branch Archives at the COV repository for preservation.

<https://searcharchives.vancouver.ca/united-empire-loyalists-association-of-canada-vancouver-branch-fonds>

- Binder of Minutes, Newsletters and specific correspondence for the Past Five Years
- Phillip E M Leith UE award files
- UELAC Grant documents and other financial records
- Loyalist Proclamations from City of Vancouver or the Province to Vancouver Branch
- Files of past years' documents donated to Vancouver branch by former members.
- Pacific Region Conference programs
- Labeled photographs
- Other specially prepared documents such as the UE Certificate Muster Roll (2 pages) for Vancouver Branch's 75th Anniversary Celebration of their Charter

The City of Vancouver Archives is located at 1150 Chestnut St, Vancouver, BC V6J 3J9
Phone: 604-736-8561

Requirements for this volunteer position:



- A keen interest in preserving the Branch history.
- Access to a vehicle for the occasional appointment to deliver items as noted above. (Intake is only once every few years)
- Willingness to remind the Executive and Secretary of the importance of maintaining the files until such time as they can be vetted and handed to the COV.

Note on privacy:

All our membership's PRIVATE files are at the Vancouver Archives under the UELAC Vancouver Branch from 1932- 2010. These are NOT placed online for public viewing because of our Privacy Laws according to Canadian Law and UELAC Privacy Policy.

As these files remain sealed they always remain under the ownership of the Branch. The files are only viewable by the member owner, the Branch President and the Branch Genealogist at the time.



Report from Linda Nygard UE, Branch Genealogist.

Certificates waiting for in-person Presentation

- **Christine Williston Wright UE** for Loyalist John Bailey WILLISTON
- **Carl Stymiest UE** for Loyalist William WISHART

Waiting for Certificates from Dominion Office

- **Doug McCallum** for Loyalist Richard Price
- **Catherine Roberti** for Loyalist Jacob Holder
- **Mason and Hayley Morris - complete** (Loyalist John Carl)

Actively Working on Certificates

- **Richard Cosby** for Loyalist Thomas Flewelling - One difficult proof
- **Glenn Johnson** for Loyalist Rolof Rulofson - Almost complete
- **Larry Peters UE** for Loyalist Thomas Grimmer Sr. - Almost complete
- **Marianne Iberg** for Loyalist William Drake - Almost complete

New Members actively working on Certificates

- **Brad Cunningham** for Loyalist Johann DeBeck
- **Bob Graves** for Loyalist John Brown
- **Tina Marie Storms** for Loyalist Jeremiah Storms - One difficult proof
- **Trey Higgins** for Loyalist Frederick Praught - One final proof (GPA)

** A number of long time members continue to work on multiple Loyalists*

The Pacific Loyalist is your newsletter. Suggestions, comments and stories are always welcome.

Please contact the current editor - Christine Manzer - cemanzer@mac.com

Photographs taken at meetings and events by our Branch photographers may appear in this newsletter.

Those who do not want their photos used should let the photographer know.

Vancouver Branch Executive February 2022 – February 2023

President & Director: Coco Aders-Weremczuk

1st Vice President & Director: Christopher Wilcott, UE

2nd Vice President & Director: [vacant]

Treasurer & Director: M. Diane Rogers

Secretary & Director: Linda Drake, UE

Genealogist: Linda Nygard, UE ; Membership: Glenn Smith, UE

