



2022 Philip E.M. Leith Memorial Volunteer Award

**Chris Hay UE
UELAC Chilliwack Branch**

Records show that in the Fall of 1997, James Christopher Hay (known as Chris) joined the Chilliwack Branch of the UELAC looking for help and information on his loyalist ancestor Capt. John Cogle, 1st Battalion of the New Jersey Volunteers. John served for seven years and upon discharge, and settled in Kings County, New Brunswick.

By December of the same year, Chris was submitting applications for himself and in the following year for his three children. Duly supported by branch Genealogist Mildred Hall UE, all certificates were awarded January 14, 1998.

In researching John Cogle, Chris also found Maj. Richard Witham Stockton of the 6th Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers and another great loyalist story was uncovered. A certificate for Maj Stockton was awarded in January of 1999. Again, he ensured his three children also applied and received certificates.

Always curious about his family, Chris investigated all branches uncovering and sharing many stories with us over the years.

He could always be relied upon to share his various adventures at branch meetings and in articles published in The Loyalist Gazette, Loyalist Trails, The Link up and in the British Columbia Genealogy Society Newsletter.

His searches led him in many directions other than Loyalists, but he always shared what he learned at many branch meetings over the past 25 years.

A list of highlights is as follows:

#1) A presentation at Branch meeting in 2007 told of his great grandfather John Montgomery, who had created a **Rock Garden in Stanley Park** in 1911. A famous

U E L A C

THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS'
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

landmark at the time, it became overgrown and lost by the 1950's. The winter windstorm of 2006 revealed it again. Chris, who had been looking for records about its location could now research in earnest. Working with the Vancouver Parks Board over the next 10 years, he achieved recognition from the Board for the site when a bronze plaque was placed recognizing it as of historic interest. He rec'd the **City of Vancouver Heritage award** for this work in 2015.

Then in May 2020 *The **British Columbia Historical Federation** (BCHF) announced Chris Hay as recipient for the 2019 Certificate of Recognition for his invaluable efforts to have the Stanley Park Rock Garden recognized as a historic site in Vancouver and nationally*

#2) In March of 2015 we were presented with the research Chris had done in uncovering a never seen before picture of Chris' Loyalist Maj Richard Stockton. During that search, he found a book called "Kidnapping the Enemy" written by C.M. McBurney that revealed the key roll played by Stockton during this operation to capture key military figures in the Revolutionary War.

#3) In June of 2016 Chris presented the story of the "Loyalist Window" at the Canadian Memorial United Church in Vancouver. One of the few Loyalist dedications in the province of BC.

#4) Chris provided information to author C.M. McBurney on a new book titled "Abductions in the American Revolution" about his loyalist Maj. Stockton who was a part of various covert operations.

#5) Chris contributed an article published in the Loyalist Gazette in the Spring of 2017 about the above item.

#6) In December 2016, Chris rec'd "The most improved Genealogist award" from the BCGS.

#7) Chris contributed an article the branch newsletter "Link Up" in Feb. 2021 on his loyalist John Cogle.

#8) Chris contributed an article for the 30th anniversary celebration of our Branch published in our "Link Up" about his adventure finding the "Rock Garden" in Stanley Park which is now on the City of Vancouver Heritage Register as a place of importance.



THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

#9) 2022 - Submitted an article published in our branch "Link Up" about his elusive Scottish heritage about his grandfather Johnathan Hay.

Recently Chris has come on become a Director for the Chilliwack Branch contributing his research skills on different projects for our Archives.

He has just completed a master list of all Loyalist Certificates issued by this branch since it's charter in October 1990.

We are now working on a new idea to explore more fully the "Chilliwack Pioneers and the Loyalist Connection" idea as a community offering.

Chris' volunteer contributions to our branch take a very different form from the accepted norm of attending meetings and offering ideas and often "physical labour." But they are so valuable to us none the less.

We are very pleased to offer his name as a Phillip E.M. Leith Volunteer Award nominee.

Regards

Marlene Dance UE,
President Chilliwack Branch