

X LOYALIST SYMBOLS

LOYALIST DAY PROCLAIMED IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Address by the Honourable George F.G. Stanley*, Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, delivered

in Saint John, New Brunswick in 1983 on the occasion of the proclamation of 18 May as "Loyalist Day" in New Brunswick.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Premier, Your Worship, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. It has been my privilege and pleasure, this morning, to read to you the proclamation which I signed earlier in His Worship's office, declaring that this day, 18 May, shall henceforth be designated officially as "Loyalist Day". To those of you whose ancestors proved their devotion to His Gracious Majesty King George III by taking arms on his behalf and who left their homes in the rebellious colonies to establish themselves in this new land and, indeed, to all those who since those tumultuous days of two centuries ago, have chosen our province of New Brunswick as the land of their adoption, I bring you greetings from our Gracious Lady Queen Elizabeth II, the lineal descendant of that king whose memory has, I think, all too often been maligned, and whose actions have been too often distorted by historians whose sympathies were with the rebels.

The outbreak in 1775 of what was, to all intents and purposes, a civil war, presented all British people, living in America, with a terrible dilemma. Principles were at stake, and no conflict is more terrible than one involving a clash of principles. During the American Revolution both sides fought for principles: the one for loyalty to a sworn allegiance, the other for loyalty to the idea of independence. It was a clash of obligation as against private conviction: for King, against Congress.

It is sometimes forgotten that the number of Loyalists who fought for the Crown was large. One American historian has suggested that about one-third of the Colonists fought for the Crown, one-third for Congress, and the other third were neutral, waiting to see which side would prove the stronger.

Actually, some sixty Loyalist corps were mustered. Some were in existence only a short time, and were amalgamated with other corps. Some were quite large. Colonel DeLancey's regiment in New York included three battalions. Colonel Skinner's in New Jersey, six battalions. And there were others such as the Queen Rangers and Sir John Johnson's King's Royal Regiment of New York.

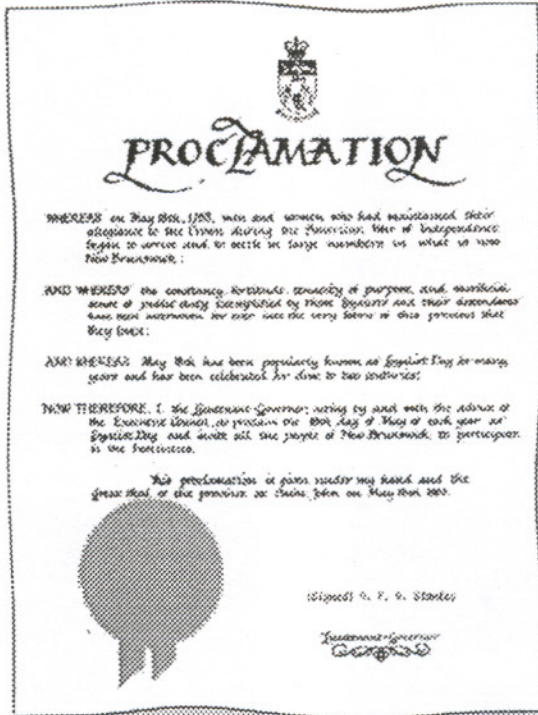
When Great Britain relinquished the struggle, many Loyalist officers took their men, en masse, to Nova Scotia (New Brunswick) or to Canada. This Loyalist migration in 1783 led not only to the establishment of the new provinces of New Brunswick and Cape Breton in 1784, but also to the establishment of the provinces of Upper Canada (Ontario) and Lower Canada in 1791. Bringing with them their ideas of justice and parliamentary government, the Loyalists left

an impact upon our history which has lasted to the present day. Had it not been for the Loyalists and the Loyalist migration, Canada as we know it—a distinct political entity in North America based on the principle of monarchy—would not be in existence today.

The question immediately arises—Does this past history have any relevance today? There is, to my mind, much material here for professional historians to study.

Do the qualities displayed by our ancestors of 200 years ago have any meaning today? What were those qualities? Loyalty and devotion to duty are the most obvious. Courage, most assuredly; and fortitude in distress and, of course, faith. It was only the strong in mind and body who were willing to migrate to what was called "Nova Scarcity."

Are these qualities still relevant 200 years later? Today Canada is faced with serious problems.



Loyalists of the Maritimes

Just when we have, by peaceful evolution, attained our own distinctive Canadian identity, subversive forces have emerged which threaten to tear us apart. To maintain our Canada, we need those qualities of our ancestors, the loyalty and devotion to duty of the Loyalist soldiers; the courage and fortitude of those who left the settled regions in the Thirteen Colonies to build new homes in the Canadian wilderness. And above all, we need a sense of tolerance—tolerance of others, of our Native people, of our Acadian neighbours, tolerance of their cultures and their languages, if we are to fulfill our destinies as Canadians and preserve the federal union which is ours. Let us also remember that the Loyalists themselves included peoples of other than Anglo-Saxon origin. I refer to those of Celtic

origin—the Gaelic speaking Highlanders from the Mohawk Valley and the Blacks of the Carolinas, who in British North America gained freedom seventy years before those who remained in the United States. Loyalty, dedication, fortitude in distress, and tolerance in success: those are the four corners of our past; they remain the four corner stones of our future.

A poet wrote in 1839:

Do not look mournfully on the past.

It comes not again.

Wisely prove the present—

It is thine.

Go forth to meet the shadowy future

Without fear, and with a manly heart.

*Colonel Stanley created the design which was chosen for the Canadian flag in 1965. He was teaching at Kingston, Ontario, when an old friend, John Matheson, MP, asked him to write a report on the history of the beaver and the maple leaf as Canadian Symbols. Matheson, a member of the government committee, also suggested that he include ideas he might have for a new flag. This was a subject close to Col. Stanley's heart as he had always believed the nation should have a different flag in place of the old Red Ensign.

He reached the now-familiar decision by considering the nation's official colours—red and white—and a symbol that represents Canada. He rejected the beaver because it was hard to draw and looked like a "drowned muskrat." That left the Maple Leaf which had already been recognized on the country's coat of arms and was the best-known and best-loved symbol of Canada.

Col. Stanley feels proud every time he sees the flag and flies it daily in front of his home.

THE MARK OF HONOUR - UE

Based on material from *Loyalist Lineages*, Toronto Branch, UELAC

After the initial flurry of settling the United Empire Loyalists on their new lands, Lord Dorchester, Governor of British North America decided to honour those who had lost virtually everything they owned.

On November 9, 1789, in Council at Quebec City, he gave particular recognition to the "First Loyalists."

The Dorchester Resolution, approved by the Council:

- 1) defined the U.E. Loyalists as those who had adhered to the Unity of Empire and joined the Royal Standard in America (publicly showed support for the British) before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783.
- 2) put a Mark of Honour upon the Families of the UE Loyalists
- 3) approved the granting by the Land Boards of 200 acres of land to the sons and daughters of the U.E. Loyalists

Accompanying the resolution to be laid before King George III in London was the following:

"N.B. Those Loyalists who have adhered to the Unity of the Empire, and joined the Royal Standard (in America) before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783, and all their children and their descendants by either sex, are to be distinguished by the following Capitals, affixed to their names: UE. Alluding to their principle The Unity of the Empire."

In the covering letter, Lord Dorchester explained: "Care had been taken to reward the spirit of loyalty and industry, to extend and transmit it to future generations."

Today, descendants of those "First Loyalists" are entitled to use these initials.

THE BADGE OF THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

by Conrad Swan, Herald of Arms-in-Ordinary to Her Majesty the Queen

Within a wreath quarterly of maple leaves Gules and Oak Leaves Vert fructed Or charged with four crosses formy the letters and figures G III R also gold.

The badge of the Association consists of a wreath made up of Red Maple Leaves and Oak Leaves and Acorns. Maple occupies the upper left and lower right quarters of the circle; Oak makes up the remainder and each quarter is separated by a cross formy (i.e. a cross made up of 4 triangular shapes equal in size).

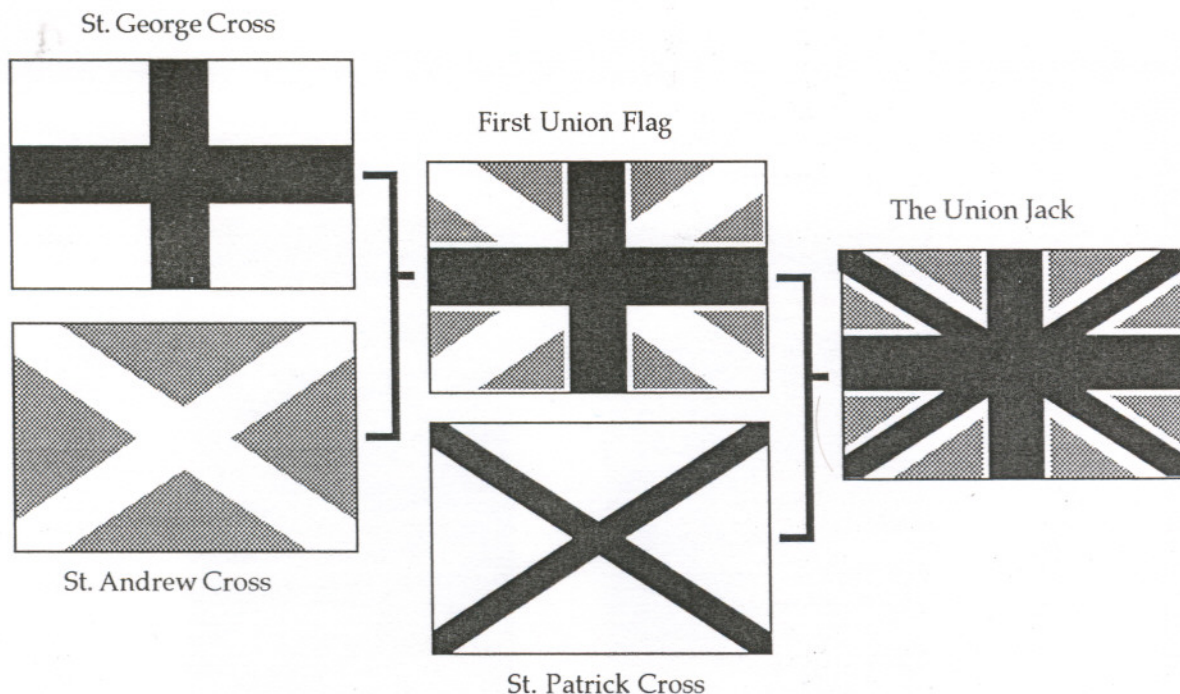
The Maple Leaves are of obvious relevance as the Association is 'of Canada'. On the other hand, the Oak Leaves and Acorns are a long held symbol of loyalty and fidelity to the Monarchy. In the British traditions, this has been particularly so since Charles II was hidden in the Oak Tree after the Battle of Worcester in 1651. As a consequence, he

chose an Oak Tree as the symbol for his Coronation Medal following the Restoration, and ever since, the oak has had this particular symbolism of fidelity for loyalists.

The crosses formy placed at each point where the Maple and Oak come together in the Badge is inspired by that form of cross which has long been used by the Association. In the centre is the Cypher G III R signifying Georgius Tertius Rex, the sovereign to whom the Loyalists gave their devotion and their service in such a pre-eminent manner. This Cypher is similar to the one actually used by George III during his lifetime.



THE LOYALIST FLAG



The First Union Flag, which came into being from England in the year 1606, is the flag which symbolizes the heritage of the United Empire Loyalists. Created at the command of James I of England (formerly James VI of Scotland), it symbolized the unity of those two countries under his rule. The flag was composed of the Cross of St. George, patron saint of England (a red cross on a white background), and the Cross of St. Andrew, patron saint of Scotland (a diagonal white cross on a blue background).

Neither the English nor the Scots welcomed the new flag. Each complained that its part of the flag was blurred or obliterated by that of the other. Their protests, however, were of no avail, and a new union flag, which was to fly in many new and strange lands, was born. The flag was meant chiefly for use at sea and was to be flown on the mainmasts. By 1707, the flag, then known as the Union Jack, was accepted without question as the flag of the British Empire. The word "Jack" comes from the same root as "Jacket" and refers to the coat which warriors and knights wore for protection as early as the Crusades. The cross of the patron saint of each warrior was sewn on his surcoat and served as identification.

It was such a flag that the British explorers, and later the settlers, brought to Canada during those early years of our country's history. This flag

was flown on the ships of such explorers as Henry Hudson and James Cook. It flew from the ramparts of the Hudson's Bay Company trading posts and the British military forts all over the world. The forces of Gen. James Wolfe and Col. George Washington marched behind this flag during the Seven Years War in America and it replaced the French *fleur-de-lis* on the fortifications of Louisbourg and the Upper Town of Quebec when those strongholds fell to the British in 1758 and 1759, respectively. It flew from the masts of the ships which brought the despised tea belonging to the East India Company to Boston in 1773.

When the Continental Congress of the Thirteen Colonies adopted the "Stars and Stripes" in 1777, forces loyal to the British government continued to display the Union Jack. Indeed, the Union Jack still flies at Colonial historic sites in the United States. When the United Empire Loyalists left the United States for their new homes in British North America, they brought their flag with them.

The Union Jack became the official flag of Great Britain in 1801 when the cross of St. Patrick (a diagonal red cross on a white field) was incorporated in the first Union Jack.

In 1892, the Canadian Red Ensign, a red flag with the Union Jack in the upper corner next the staff and the Canadian Coat-of-Arms to the right became the official flag of Canadian merchant

Loyalists of the Maritimes

ships. Both the ensign and the Union Jack, were accepted as Canada's flags until 1965 when the Canadian Parliament approved a distinctive National Flag.

The Union Jack is flown in Canada today as the national flag of the United Kingdom and as a symbol of Canada membership in the Commonwealth and of her allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen of Canada. It is flown during royal visits, for example, and is flown, along with Canada's Na-

tional Flag, on such occasions as the official observance of Her Majesty the Queen's birthday (the Monday preceding May 24).

Originally the symbol of the union of two peoples, today the Union Flag represents the unity of the British Empire for which the Loyalists stood. In addition, it reminds us of the traditions of peace, order, and good government which the Loyalists upheld and brought with them to their new homes.

