

Remarks to be given at a dinner hosted by the Manitoba Branch of the United Empire Loyalists

September 25, 2010

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for inviting me to Winnipeg today and for giving me the opportunity to address you this evening.

Some centuries ago, several hundred North Americans decided that staying loyal to the British tradition, one based on the rule of law and political liberty was worth standing up for. As a result, they lost their homes and land to the south of us. They endured hardship, lost family members and friends and saw their communities torn apart, all in the name of loyalty. These men and women settled in Canada, and played a great role in starting the country we call home. They brought with them principles of democracy and started Government. They built a sensible, stable, law-abiding society one that was free for themselves and free for those who came after them.

By remembering this contribution we are also reaffirming our heritage and loyalty to it. We are continuing to provide support to the rule of law and political liberty. Today our institutions continue to depend on loyalty and principle. If we lose sight of this we will lose sight of Canada.

I am a descendant of Charles Rose, who served in the King's Royal Regiment of New York during the American Revolutionary War.

My third great grandparent, and daughter of Charles Rose, was Marjorie Rose born in Glengarry County c1793.

My great great grandfather, John McIntosh, the son of Marjorie Rose and Alexander McIntosh (of Scotland and married in Williamstown, ON) appears to have lived in Lancaster Tsp.

His daughter Catherine married my great grandfather Duncan McCuaig and lived in Bainsville, Ontario.

One of their sons, Charles Homer McCuaig, (my grandfather) went to Queen's University where he met and married Margaret Stewart of Renfrew and they lived in Kingston where their daughter Catherine Margaret married John Andrew Milliken (my father) of Saskatoon in 1946.

As some of you may know, before I became the Speaker of the House of Commons I co-sponsored what has become known as the "Godfrey-Milliken Bill", which is a private member's bill to allow descendants of Loyalists to sue Americans who did business on lands confiscated during the American Revolution. This was introduced in response to the American Helms-Burton Act that penalized Cuba.

In 2003 I became the honorary President of the United Empire Loyalists. I followed my cousin John Matheson, who was a long-time Liberal MP for Leeds, Ontario and served as Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Pearson. He was also instrumental in the movement for a distinctive Canadian national flag.

I thought that I would also mention my Father's lineage, for although the Milliken side of my family are not Empire Loyalists, they were nevertheless pioneers in Manitoba.

My great grandfather Peter Milliken together with his wife Margaret came to Manitoba from the border country of Scotland about 1880. They came with Peter's older brother and sister and their good friends, the Lothian brothers. They homesteaded and settled in the Pipestone Creek area of Manitoba—very near Reston or Virden. Apparently Margaret was the first white woman in Pipe Stone Creek and she was also mother to the first white baby, somewhat of a novelty to the Natives who used to come over for tea with

her. Apparently they loved to come by and have tea, and especially enjoyed the opportunity to taste the sugar in the tea. They also asked to borrow the baby and leave behind a native baby as security—I don't believe she ever agreed to such an exchange.

Their fourth child, Robert Milliken, was my grandfather. He was a studious fellow who graduated from the University of Manitoba—I believe in 1912. One of his classmates remained his closest lifelong friend—that was Jimmy Gardiner, the former premier of Saskatchewan and Federal Minister of Agriculture. My grandfather moved to Saskatoon after graduating and soon became a lawyer. He also travelled Saskatchewan drumming up support for the proposed farm co-operative, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool . And when the Pool was established in 1924, he became their counsel and remained so until his death in 1929. My grandfather spent his lifetime working on behalf of farmers and agricultural organizations. He was an expert on the law relating to cooperatives.

My grandfather met and married my grandmother, Ethel MacIntosh in 1918. She was a classmate of John Diefenbakers and a force in her own right—she had been a school teacher before her marriage and ended up as chair of the Regina school Board. The couple had 5 sons, and my Father, John Andrew Milliken was the third, born in Saskatoon in 1924.

Soon after my father's birth, the family moved to Regina where the boys were raised. My grandparents believed their sons should have a larger view of the country so all the boys were sent to university in the east, including my father. Fortunately for me, he met and married my mother, Catherine Margaret McCuaig in 1946 and they settled in Kingston, Ontario where my father was a physician.

Then followed the description of the role of the speaker of the house. Not transferred.