



# Bicentennial Branch Celebrating 25 years

January - February - March 2009

Volume 2 - Issue 5

## United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Regular Branch Meeting

March 14, 2009

1 p.m.

**Church of the Epiphany**

**Kingsville, ON**

Guest speaker: Bonnie L. Schepers, Central West Region VP

### Branch President's Message

Welcome to 2009, a new year full of opportunities to celebrate our heritage and history. This year Bicentennial Branch will celebrate its 25th anniversary, a wonderful milestone to achieve. One of the special activities to honour the occasion will be the unveiling of an historical plaque in Lakeside Park in Kingsville. This plaque will denote the site where Loyalist Andrew Alcock (later known as Andrew Ulch) received his patent for land to erect a grist mill in the New Settlement. This site encompasses what is now Lakeside Park and was among the 97 original lots granted to the Loyalists. More details on this event will be in the next Newsletter.

The first Branch meeting of 2009 on March 14 will be entertaining, interesting and informative as we welcome member and Regional Vice President Bonnie Schepers UE as the speaker. She will be telling us about her October 2008 trip to Germantown in Philadelphia, PA in search of her Loyalist ancestor Abraham Pastorius - 'The Forgotten Son'.

So far this winter the weather has been a challenge with lots of wind and snow, poor road conditions and cold temperatures although today as I write this message, the sun is shining. In my home the onset of cold weather means that my 3 dogs have to wear

sweaters or coats when they go for walks. There is quite a lot of fuss and preparation with apparel, harnesses and leashes as we get ready. If only I could convince them to wear boots - the walks would be simpler and safer. Excessive cold and/or salt on the sidewalks causes them to lift their paws and ask to be carried. This can be difficult when all three ask at the same time! However, the winter is almost half over and the days are growing longer each day. That is always a comfort as we approach spring.

Margie Luffman UE

### Calendar of Events

**March 7, 2009** - Dominion Council Meeting, Toronto

**March 14, 2009** - Regular Branch Meeting, Kingsville, Ontario

**April 18, 2009** - CWR Regional Meeting, London, Ontario

**May 9, 2009** - Bicentennial Branch AGM

**June 11 - June 14, 2009** - Dominion Conference, Napanee, Ontario [www.uel.ca/Convention.html](http://www.uel.ca/Convention.html)

November 1, 2008

Church of the Epiphany, Kingsville

by Bonnie L. Schepers UE

Members and guests at the Bicentennial Branch regular meeting in November were treated to the talents of Shaymus the Storyteller. Shaymus is Doug Robinson, an amateur historian and lifelong entertainer from Chatham, Ontario who draws on age old minstrel/jester traditions to share his love of history. Telling the story of his youth in the New Settlement, Shaymus described the trials of early settlers who came as farmers to clear the forested acres of Essex and Kent Counties. He stressed the hardships of the early settlement due to the difficult conditions of the land and lack of promised provisions and tools.

He explained how the original plan for the New Settlement was a military settlement because of its strategic significance with regards to Detroit and the Indians of the Ohio/ Illinois region. In this way, should the need arise, the area could be defended by reduced officials of the Indian Department and Butler's Rangers.



Doug Robinson as Shaymus the Storyteller



Pat Haynes checks out Doug Robinson's beard

"The decade of apparent peace following the treaty of 1783 was in reality a period of constant military alert along the Detroit frontier. The British remained in control of posts in American territory and continued to encourage the land claims and military activities of their Indian allies." Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online.

Many of the families who defended the British cause in the Revolutionary War were called upon again to volunteer with Caldwell at the Battle of Fallen Timbers on August 20, 1794. And again in 1812, Caldwell and four of his sons took up arms, along with Loyalists who remained above reproach in their support of the British Crown.

### Annual Regional Meeting

**Saturday**

**April 18, 2009**

for branches of the Central West Region UELAC

London, Ontario

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Westmount Branch of the London Public Library

featuring

**Honorary Vice President UELAC**

**Zig Misiak**

RSVP if attending to

[newsletter@uelbicentennial.org](mailto:newsletter@uelbicentennial.org)

## DR. ANSON BUCK BELOVED SURGEON

The following article was submitted by Grace Austin, a descendant of Loyalist Philip Buck. He served in Butler's Rangers and was the grandfather of Dr. Anson Buck.

**D**uring his lifetime there was probably no one better known for miles around, or more esteemed, than Dr. Anson Buck, M.D., M.R.C.S. (Eng.)

Dr. Buck was born near Palermo, Ontario in Halton County in 1833 and served that district as medical practitioner for 54 years. He was a direct descendant of a United Empire Loyalist family. (Philip Buck, his grandfather, was a soldier in Butler's Rangers, was captured and held prisoner in Philadelphia, and his property confiscated. His wife and children sought refuge in Upper Canada. After they reached Montreal, Mrs. Buck gave birth to their seventh child, Philip Jr. who became the father of Dr. Anson Buck. Later Crown Lands were awarded to the family on the Niagara Peninsula in Bertie Township.)

Dr. Anson Buck attended school in Palermo. Later he was a graduate of the Rolph School of Medicine, Toronto; Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, London, England. After spending ten months in Guy's Hospital, London, he returned to Canada and started practicing medicine in Palermo.

A country doctor in those days had anything but an easy time. Taking the oath of Hippocrates meant a life of self-sacrifice. Financial returns provided little more than a meager living. Dr. Buck's fee was seldom more than two dollars however serious the case or how far distant the call. Yet he was proud of his record of never having refused a call or sued a man in court. Dr. Buck was recognized as an excellent surgeon even though a farmhouse kitchen was often his only operating room. He was in great demand as an obstetrician and many boy babies were named "Anson" in his honor. Many of his patients came from Loyalist families in the area.

The doctor kept a stable of ten horses and always drove a team, changing horses frequently in rough weather. Each day before the doctor left on his rounds, often driving 40 to 60 miles, he mapped out

his route and left it with his wife. If an urgent call came, a messenger, sent from his office, would know exactly where he might be intercepted.

His dispensary was well filled with drugs. Solids were ground to a fine powder with pestle and mortar. Pill dough was rolled out on a marble slab, cut into strips each way, and each small portion rolled into a pill by hand.

Dr. Buck specialized in the surgical treatment of club feet, for which he had a large clinic. At times he was known to be successful where better known men had failed. One case was that of Judge Joseph McDougald of Toronto. When he was nine years old, he was brought to Dr. Buck after specialists from Buffalo and New York had failed.

Once his practice was well established, Dr. Buck always had a partner. There were four all told: Dr. William Street, Dr. Isaac Burkholder, Dr. Milton McCrimmon (for 30 years) and Dr. F. S. Mowbray, a brilliant surgeon who later located in Hamilton.

There were a number of interesting highlights in Dr. Buck's career. During the American Civil War, Dr. Buck and Dr. Clarkson Freeman of Milton volunteered for service in the Northern Army Medical Corps and spent nearly four years as surgeons. They visited the Army of the Potomac; they saw the surrender of Petersburg, Richmond and General Lee's army. They were present at the fort from which President Lincoln and Generals Grant, Mead, Sheridan and Warren reviewed 12,000 soldiers. They also had the privilege of meeting Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Grant.

In England, Dr. Buck was present at the funeral of the Duke of Wellington. He stood all night in line and in the morning went into Westminster Hall where the Iron Duke lay in state. Then he waited at Trafalgar Square for the solemn procession to pass on its way to St. Paul's Cathedral. This was said to be the greatest funeral in England until that of Queen Victoria.

Apart from his medical service, Dr. Buck was active in many fields. He was leader of the Temperance movement, Deputy-reeve of Trafalgar for seven years, Reeve for 17 years, and Warden of the county in 1891. He was a Liberal in politics. He was a cricket enthusiast and noted for his fast bowling.

He was married and had two daughters. One became Mrs. Colin McPhee. Minnie, the younger daughter, became Mrs. Colin Campbell, wife of the Attorney-General of Manitoba. There was also an adopted daughter, Miss May Mathieson.

Dr. Buck's wedding was quite a social occasion. On December 27, 1854, Dr. Buck married Keturah Howell, second daughter of Captain John Triller Howell of Dundas Street, Toronto. The bride wore a fawn and blue brocaded silk dress and a large blue velvet bonnet. The groom was attired in a black broadcloth Prince Albert coat and trousers, lavender kerchief tied in a large bow at the neck, white gloves and boutonniere. After the ceremony a turkey supper was served with the usual toasts. Next day the young couple proceeded to their new home at Palermo where the doctor had already established his medical practice. The home was beautifully furnished with handmade walnut furniture of colonial design.

Dr. and Mrs. Buck celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at Palermo in 1904. Two years later Mrs. Buck died. In 1908 Dr. Buck suffered a stroke. The worthy doctor who had led such an active life, and done so much to relieve the sufferings of others, was left speechless and a helpless invalid for 11 years until his death in 1919.

Dr. Anson Buck was long remembered and spoken of in terms of endearment by the citizens of Palermo and the surrounding area where he was born, lived, worked and died. He was very much aware of his Loyalist ancestry and held this family heritage in high esteem.

**NOTE** from Grace Austin: The first name "Anson" has been passed down through the generations of our family even to the present day. Portions of this article were taken from the book, Halton's Pages of the Past, Gwen Clarke, 1955, Chapter 39, Pages 143-44.

## CanadaHelps

If you wish to make a charitable donation to the United Empire Loyalists' Association you may now do so online at [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org). After entering the name you can go to the Charity Profile page and see our Mission Statement and a description of our Association. You have the option of making a one time donation, giving monthly or spending a charity gift card.



Dominion President F. Hayward, CW Region VP B. Schepers and Hamilton Branch President Ruth Nicholson

## Hamilton Branch UELAC

October 23, 2008

by Bonnie L. Schepers UE

As Central West Region Vice President it is a privilege to visit the branches in our region and receive first hand news of their activities, projects and challenges.

On October 23rd of 2008, I attended a meeting of the Hamilton Branch UELAC as guest speaker. It was a pleasure to see some familiar faces and also to meet members who were new to me. Ruth Nicholson UE, Branch President was very welcoming and even allowed me to stay at her home as the next day I was heading to Toronto for the Dominion Council Meeting. Another bonus was having my son Nathan, who lives in Waterloo, drive in for the meeting.

Along with Dominion President FH Hayward and Ruth Nicholson, I assisted in the presentation of four UEL certificates. A good number of members were on hand for this meeting. Ruth tells me they generally average around sixty people attending.

In the coming year I look forward to having the opportunity to travel to other branches in our region.

## In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Kingsville resident, Madeline Malott on January 4, 2009 in her 89<sup>th</sup> year, beloved wife of Hazen Malott for over 64 years and mother of six children. A dear friend of Bicentennial Branch members Grace Austin and Margaret Lewis, Madeline is remembered for her passion for local history and keen desire to instill the same love of heritage in others.

A founding member of the Kingsville-Gosfield Heritage Society and active on the executive since the 1970s, Madeline devoted her personal time to the pursuit and promotion of local history. Of great interest to her was American Revolutionary War figure and Loyalist Simon Girty. Madeline's husband, Hazen, was descended from Peter Malott, the brother of Catherine Malott - Simon Girty's wife. Madeline wrote an historical novel, *Simon, Peter and Polly* about Simon Girty and the Malotts, who settled in Essex County.

In 2003 Madeline helped the Kingsville-Gosfield Heritage Society publish *Kingsville 1790-2000: A Stroll Through Time*. Our sympathy is extended to Madeline's family. We will miss her and remember her with great fondness.

An article honouring Madeline's life appeared in The Windsor Star County Briefs, January 6, 2009.

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## Promotions 2014 Catalogue

The UELAC Promotions (2014) Committee was formed in 2002 to provide a variety of items to help promote Loyalist heritage. Association profits realized from the sale of items will be used towards Memorial projects leading up to the UELAC 2014 Centennial celebrations. Browse the promotions catalogue at [www.uelac.org/promotion/catalogue.php](http://www.uelac.org/promotion/catalogue.php) Shop UEL and celebrate our heritage!

## Branching Out

February 27 and 28 our branch genealogist, Kathryn Hogan is presenting three lectures at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual St. George, Utah Family History Expo 2009.

Her topic is "Who's Side was He On?" - Researching your Loyalist and Patriot Ancestors. Thanks Kathryn, for getting the Loyalist story out there.

## UEL Certificate Presentations

November 1, 2008



Mary Jane Cree receives Loyalist pin from President Margie Luffman

Mary Jane Cree received her UEL certificate through Loyalist ancestor Richard Whittle. Evelyn Cartwright and her grandson Scott Clark accepted their certificates through Loyalist Philip Fox. Congratulations to all of our 2008 UEL Certificate recipients.



Evelynn Cartwright and her grandson Scott Clark with President Margie Luffman

Branch membership provides access to the research services of our branch genealogist, Kathryn Hogan who will gladly assist you in pursuing a UEL certificate to honour your Loyalist Ancestors.

Member Adam Gaines has a keen interest in his family history. To his UEL certificates for Loyalist ancestors Miller Turner and Richard Whittle he has added a certificate from The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution dated November 5, 2007 for ancestor Richard Warren and The General Society of Mayflower Descendants dated June 5, 2008 also through Richard Warren.



Adam Gaines with certificates through ancestor Richard Warren

### 2009 Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your 2009 Branch Membership. Single membership dues are \$50.00 per year. Family membership dues are \$70.00 per year. Please make your cheque payable to Bicentennial Branch UELAC.

Don't miss out. Take a moment today and mail your cheque to:

Dianne Noble UE  
R. R. #1 9E Road 10  
Cottam, Ontario  
N0R 1B0

2009 Branch memberships must be paid by the upcoming March 14, 2009 meeting.

### LITTLE LOYALISTS

Congratulations are in order to two of our Bicentennial Branch families!



Chloe with baby brother Kane

**Gagnier**- Melinda and Chris along with Chloe are very happy to welcome Kane Christopher Gagnier who arrived on January 25, 2009 weighing 5 lb 11 oz. Congratulations to grandparents Dianne and Garry Noble.



Jocelyn Audrey Robitaille

**Robitaille** - Erin and Mark, proud parents of Jocelyn Audrey Robitaille born on January 22, 2009 weighing 7 lb 4 oz. Congratulations to Great Grandma Joy Bell Tweney.

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For Bicentennial Branch UELAC information please visit [www.uelbicentennial.org](http://www.uelbicentennial.org). Questions may be directed to [info@uelbicentennial.org](mailto:info@uelbicentennial.org). Branch Newsletter submissions are received at [newsletter@uelbicentennial.org](mailto:newsletter@uelbicentennial.org).