

HISTORY OF THE EDMONTON BRANCH UELAC

1912 - 1913

The first branch of the United Empire Loyalists in Edmonton was organized November 6, 1912. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. B. J. Saunders who eventually became the first President. Later in November 1912, Miss Anne Merrill was elected to the position of Secretary Treasurer.

Some of the founding members were:

Mrs. B.J. Saunders	Mrs. George Powell Bate
Miss Jean Sherman	Mrs. A. Madeline Haight
Miss Jean Haight	Miss Louise A. de W. Moore
Mrs. Eva Carpenter	Miss Marjorie M.B. Saunders
Miss Beatrice Saunders	Mrs. S.A.G. Barnes
Lieut. Col. Carstairs	Mr. Clarry
Mr. J. Fred Carman	Mr. Richard Secord
Miss Anne Merrill	

On November 7, 1912, the above group met to discuss organization. It was stated that apparently it was impossible to organize because the papers, such as the constitution, either through "failure on the part of His Majesty's mails, or oversight at the head office must have been responsible for their non-arrival." Upon a decision of the meeting, those present enrolled themselves in this way: "*We the undersigned desire to join an association of the United Empire Loyalists to be organized in Edmonton providing we are able to prove our direct descentance from one of the original United Empire Loyalists*" And so, they became a Branch that was soon after approved by Dominion office in Toronto. In fact, Edmonton became the first Branch west of Toronto.

The *Edmonton Journal* in those years printed write-ups of the activities of this Branch. Here are some:
Edmonton Journal – January 7, 1913

"U.E. Loyalists Trace Ancestry"

The first meeting of the year was held in the assembly hall at McKay Ave. School. Mrs. De Ray Williams, wife of Colonel Williams of Strathcona and Mr. S. G. Chamberlaine presented records giving "clear proof they were directly descended from original U.E. Loyalists."

Edmonton Journal – February 3, 1913

"U.E. Loyalists Meet"

An open meeting of the U.E., Loyalists' association will be held this evening in the McKay Avenue School at 8 o'clock, when, besides a musical program, L.F. Clarry, Deputy Attorney General will give an address. Anyone interested will be welcomed at this meeting.

Edmonton Journal – May 20, 1913

"United Empire Loyalists Hear Good Addresses"

"Local organization Gathers to Commemorate Landing of Forefathers on Canadian Soil"

Lieutenant-Governor George Bulyea and Mayor Short were in attendance and gave speeches, as did Mr. L. F. Clary. A. H. Williams represented the St. George Society, and a detachment of the 101 Fusiliers was in attendance. Mrs. Saunders was still President of the U.E. group.

The Branch had only been in existence for a brief two to three years when World War I intervened. Branch activities began to wane and soon the Branch "closed its doors" and would not appear again until 1933.

Edmonton Branch - The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

1934 - 1940

It was known as the Fort Edmonton branch, organized by 17 prominent lawyers and doctors, and indicated in minutes that they "should follow the same plan or organization as in the other provinces with the lady members of the organization having a Vice President and a Convenor of a "Ladies Committee."

At this time, the President was Dr. O. J. Baker. The main interest dealt with:

- 1) commemoration in schools, Province wide and at a Canadian Club, of the arrival of the Loyalists,
- 2) collection of Loyalist books to be made available to the members,
- 3) concentration on activities which would further the War effort,
- 4) appointment of a genealogist for the Branch,
- 5) encouragement of school authorities to take a stronger stand against children who refused to salute the flag. This became a concern when some children refused to salute the flag in the classroom. The problem was eventually settled by authority.

March 29, 1934

Thirteen men of the Fort Edmonton Branch met in the office of Dr. J. O. Baker to discuss further the formation of a Branch of the UEL. Charter members attending the initial meeting were:

Dr. J. O. Baker	H. G. Baker	S.A. G. Barnes
Dr. M. R. Bow	Edward Brice	A.L. Burrows
Col. W.F.W. Carstairs	P.S. Bailey	Charles H. Grant K.C.
Dr. Morton Hall	Const. Joseph Lee, RCMP	B.C. McMillan
Dr. E.L. Pope	W.G. Stuart	Dr. Emerson Smith
C.E. Shaver	Geo. H. Van Allan	K.C. J. McLeod

May 16, 1934

P.S. Bailey advised the General Secretary of the UEL Association that preliminary organization had elected Dr. J. O. Baker as President and Lt. Col. W.F.W. Carstairs Vice President, and P.S. Bailey, Secretary.

May 18, 1934

The Branch held its first Anniversary Dinner at the MacDonald Hotel. Nothing further could be found about the activities of this Branch until March 7, 1938 when the members talked about safeguarding rights as for instance that of the Grand Jury which recently had been surrendered by Manitoba. Note: The Grand Jury system did not continue in Canada after this time.

May 10, 1940

The Charter was received and officers elected. 29 members were accepted.

June 1, 1940

Officers elected are as follows:

Hon. President	W.F.W. Carstairs
President	Dr. J.O. Baker, M.D.
Vice-President	M.R. Bow, M.D.
Secretary Treasurer	P.S. Bailey

Charter Members were:

W.R.W. Carstairs	Dr. J. O. Baker	Dr. E. Smith
Dr. M.R. Bow	G.S. Carlyle	C.H. Grant
Dr. E.L. Pope	H.G. Baker	Edward Brice
W.G. Stuart	E.C. Shaver	P.S. Bailey
Mrs. Alva E. Bell (former member of Toronto Branch)		

Edmonton Branch - The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

The Charter members acting as a genealogical committee approved the following as full members:

Simon C. McMillan	Edna Elizabeth Rowe	S.A. Gordon Barnes
John Duncan Bower	Joseph Lee	Lucy Alvina Hoover Palmer
Edward G. Conger	Francis Stacy McCall	Henriette Evelyn Bush
Margaret Elaine Austin	Nicholas A. Lee	Lena C. Ower

May 10, 1940

Forty-one members of the Branch held a meeting in the MacDonald Hotel. Of importance was an agreement that definite action should be taken on works for sons of U.E.L. Plans will be completed at the November meeting.

No information could be found as to what action the Branch took relative to those sons on active service.

New Membership Committee consisted of John Lee, Edward Brice, Dr. W. Whiteside, Miss Eva Sangster and Mrs. W. G. Stuart. Program, Publicity and Social Committee is made up of Mrs. Lefroy, Mrs. R. M. Dingwall, Mrs. Stuart, Miss Sangster and S.A.G. Barnes.

November 21, 1940

Members of the Fort Edmonton Branch of the U.E.L. gathered for a business and social evening at the home of Dr. and Mrs. J. O. Baker.

No other records could be found to describe what this Branch's activities consisted of following the November 1940 meeting. It can only be assumed that the intervention of World War II caused the cessation of the Branch.

1987 to 2012

During the 1980s, the Calgary Branch had a number of members from Edmonton. Calgary President Lois Cummings U.E. was of the opinion that Edmonton should form its own branch. She contacted Paul Robison of Edmonton and advised that she would provide the assistance necessary to get the Edmonton Branch started. Following a banquet and meeting on May 11, 1987, at the University of Alberta Faculty Club, the Branch became a reality.

Participants included the President of the Dominion Association, Dr. Vera Vanderlip U.E. and President Lois Cummings, Calgary Branch. A four person Executive was elected and they were President Paul Robison, Vice President Barbara Roth U.E., Secretary-Treasurer Bob Dorland and Genealogist Louise Croft U.E.

The following were the Founding Members:

John Best	Margaret Best	Louise Croft
Robert E. Dorland	Enid Fitzsimmonds	Jack Fitzsimmond
Allen Grant	Anne Grant	Cathy Grant
Charles Grant	Bessie Losie	Frances Losie
Mary McSparron	William McSparron	Paul Robison
Beatrice Rolf	Margaret Rolf	David Rolf
Barbara Roth	Marie Ryerson	Grace Walker
Leslie Walker		

On May 9, 1987, the first Executive of the Edmonton Branch received written notice from Dr. Vera Vanderlip U.E., Dominion Council, that the Charter approval was received at Council May 2, 1987.

Since then, meetings have been held at various locations, including the Alberta Genealogical Society Library for several years. Early on, the thrust was toward research and courses were held to assist members in tracing their ancestors. Louise Croft U.E., Barbara Roth U.E., Susan McKeen and Marilyn Lappi U.E. were some of the able instructors. As a result, a number of members proved their lineage to a Loyalist and received certificates.

Edmonton Branch - The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

1999 Annual Conference

The Branch hosted the National Conference June 3 to 6, 1999. The Committee consisted of:

President Fran Losie U.E.	Convenor
Cheryl Donnachie	Secretary
Pam Robillard U.E.	Registration
Lois Cummings U.E.	Annual General Meeting
Louise Croft U.E.	Displays
Cal Chisholm U.E. , Tex Yerex	Transportation
Robert Rogers U.E.	Publicity
Vera Chisholm	Costuming and Archives Tour
Betty Fladager U.E.	Welcoming
Earle Fladager	Treasurer
Ivy Trumpour U.E.	Decorations

The theme for the Conference was "Loyalist Heritage from East to West." Most activities took place at the Coast Terrace Inn. The Gala Banquet was in the hotel and many people wore period dress. The guest speaker was popular local historian, Alex Mair, who spoke of the early Edmonton Loyalists and their contribution to the development of the Edmonton area. The Friday events were held in the rustic Old Timers' Cabin in the scenic river valley.

A number of members received U.E. certificates at the banquet. One of these was Rev. Dr. Lloyd Fourney U.E. from Edmonton Branch. Rev. Fourney conducted the Conference Sunday services at First Presbyterian Church in Edmonton.

Vera Chisholm encouraged members to make period clothing of their choice. She made several outfits for herself and family using historically accurate methods and materials, certainly no sewing machines or zippers! She provided patterns, invited members to her home where they worked on their projects and gave assistance when needed. Many costumes were made.

One of the Conference highlights was the tour of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village east of Edmonton. This historic site exhibits the Ukrainian way of life prior to 1930. Old homes, schools, churches, grain elevators and more have been restored and moved onto the site. It was also an opportunity to enjoy the Ukrainian food.

Founders' Dinners

Other Branch activities include guest speakers at regular meetings and social events. A Founders' Dinner is held annually in May. The Founders' Dinner held at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club on May 29, 2000, was a most exciting one. An invitation was accepted by our Patron, the Lieutenant Governor Lois Hole (also known as the "Lady of Hugs"). This much loved lady spoke about her family roots on the rural prairies. Ten years later, Lieutenant Governor Donald Ethell, also a Patron, was guest speaker at the Founders' Dinner, when he talked about his role in the military.

Regional Conferences

The May 10 and 11, 2002, Prairie Regional Conference was held in Edmonton to coincide with the Founders' Dinner at the Royal Glenora Club. Dominion President William Terry U.E. was the guest speaker and he also presented certificates to some Edmonton members. A period fashion show was arranged and narrated by Vera Chisholm. Many members modelled their costumes and Vera described what they were, when and why they would have been worn.

The Prairie Regional Conference of 2009 was also hosted by Edmonton Branch.

Alberta Centennial and Visit of Queen Elizabeth II

In 2005 the Branch initiated a project of planting a tree with a plaque at the base to commemorate the visit of Queen Elizabeth II in celebration of Alberta's centennial. Location of the tree was the Alberta Legislature grounds.

A Bur oak tree was selected and it was planted by the staff of the Legislature along with a small plaque. Dedication took place on June 17, 2006, with Edmonton and Calgary Branch members present. Vice President Al Dodd, Co-Chair of Membership Dave Rolls and member Allen Jess did the initial work on this project.

Calgary Branch joined the fundraising effort to have a permanent and larger plaque erected. Thanks to the efforts of Shona Wards U.E. and Doreen Dimitroff U.E. this plaque was dedicated on June 19, 2010. Again, members from both branches attended. In 2011 and 2012 the City of Edmonton recognized June 19 as United Empire Loyalist Day, at the request of the Edmonton Branch.

The royal purple flag used in the 2010 ceremony was in the Legislative Building during the Queen's visit in 2005. It was later given to the Branch by the Hon. Hugh MacDonald, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, who has been very supportive of the UELAC for a number of years.

The wording on the plaque reads:

“United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada
This bur oak tree commemorates the visit of
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
in celebration of Alberta’s Centennial 1905-2005

Planted by descendants of
United Empire Loyalists
who are members of the
Edmonton and Calgary Branches

The roots of this tree symbolize the ancestral root of Loyalists who fled the Thirteen American colonies during the American Revolution (1775-1783) and remained faithful to the British Crown. Oak leaves have long been held as a symbol of loyalty to the Monarchy since the time of Charles II. Just as the branches of this tree grow and spread, similarly many Albertans are descendants of the original Loyalists.”

Palatine Night

From 2005 to 2011 the Branch held a Palatine night at the German Canadian Cultural Club during the autumn. Along with the German cuisine, various displays, maps, and discussions provided participants with information about the Palatine history of many of our Loyalist ancestors.

Education

Since 2008 a small group of members has been visiting local schools to spread the word about United Empire Loyalists. After showing the film, “World Turned Upside Down,” they talk about the history, their clothing, the flag, and answer questions. A few members participate in Read-In week at Alberta schools, when they read a Loyalist related story to children.

At a two day event in 2012, several members taught themselves and school children how to write with quill pens. This event in Fort Saskatchewan is called Peoples of the North Saskatchewan. About 1500 children have a hands-on opportunity to try many pioneer activities. For example, they make candles, saw wood, weave bookmarks, pet a buffalo, visit a teepee, play old fashioned games, and learn about United Empire Loyalists.

In addition, members have attended New Year's Levees, visited libraries, given presentations to other groups, judged at Historica Fair, displayed at Alberta Genealogical Society conferences, and presented wreaths on Remembrance Day. All of these activities further the education of the community as well as ourselves.

Edmonton Branch - The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Acknowledgement

The historical data for the Edmonton Branches of the United Empire Loyalists in the years 1912 and 1933 was collected by Frances E. Losie U.E., Wilma McKinnon and Susan McKeen. They obtained an old minute book from the 1912 Branch and spent many hours looking through old Edmonton Journals in 1933 and 1934 to find items pertaining to the Branch's activities. We acknowledge their dedication and efforts to preserving the history of the Edmonton Branch.

A brief history of the first twenty years of the Edmonton Branch, United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, was prepared by Mrs. Betty (Chrysler) Fladager U.E. and her husband Earle Fladager, in recognition of the Branch's 20th Anniversary 1987-2007; and presented to the Branch and members in May 2007.

Edmonton Branch Executives

1987

President	Paul Robison
Vice-President	Barbara Roth
Secretary - Treasurer	Robert Dorland
Genealogist	Louise Croft

1988

President	Paul Robison
Vice-President	Barbara Roth
Secretary - Treasurer	Robert Dorland
Genealogist	Louise Croft

1989

President	Barbara Roth
Past President	Paul Robison
Vice-President	Margaret Best
Secretary - Treasurer	Melisa Rose
Genealogist	Rosaline Hupfer

1990

President	Margaret Best
Past President	Barbara Roth
Vice-President	Mary McSparron
Secretary - Treasurer	Melissa Rose
Genealogist	Louise Croft

1991

President	Mary McSparron
Past President	Margaret Best
Vice-President	Robert Dorland
Secretary - Treasurer	Vivian Etty
Genealogist	Rosaline Hupfer

1992

President	Robert Dorland
Past President	Mary McSparron
Vice-President	Earle Fladager
Secretary - Treasurer	Vivian Etty
Genealogist	Rosaline Hupfer

1993

President	Robert Dorland
Past President	Mary McSparron
Vice-President	Earle Fladager
Sec/Treasurer	Vivian Etty
Genealogist	Rosaline Hupfer

1994

President	Frances Losie
Past President	Robert Dorland
Vice-President	Vacant
Secretary - Treasurer	Betty Fladager
Genealogist	Barbara Roth

1995

President	Frances Losie
Past President	Robert Dorland
Vice-President	Vacant
Sec/Treasurer	Betty Fladager
Genealogist	John Avey

1996

President	Frances Losie
Past President	Robert Dorland
Vice President	Lois Cummings
Sec/Treasurer	Wilma McKinnon
Genealogist	Susan McKeen

Edmonton Branch - The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

1997

President Lois Cummings
 Past President Frances Losie
 Vice-President Robert Rogers
 Secretary - Treasurer Wilma McKinnon
 Genealogist Susan McKeen

1998

President Lois Cummings
 Past President Frances Losie
 Vice-President Robert Rogers
 Secretary Ivy Trumpour
 Treasurer Wilma McKinnon
 Genealogist Susan McKeen

1999

President Lois Cummings to July
 Robert Rogers to December
 Past President Lois Cummings
 Vice-President Vacant
 Secretary Ivy Trumpour
 Treasurer Cheryl Donnachie
 Genealogist Susan McKeen
 Membership Greg Vasey
 Webmaster Greg Vasey

2000

President Robert Rogers
 Past President Lois Cummings
 Vice-President Vacant
 Secretary Vacant
 Treasurer Cheryl Donnachie
 Genealogist Doreen Dimitroff
 Membership Cal and Vera Chisholm
 Newsletter Ivy Trumpour
 Webmaster Greg Vasey

2001

President Hugh Ross
 Past President Robert Rogers
 Vice-President Robert Morgan
 Secretary Shona Wards
 Treasurer Cheryl Donnachie
 Genealogist Doreen Dimitroff
 Membership Cal and Vera Chisholm
 Newsletter Ivy Trumpour
 Webmaster Greg Vasey

2002

President Hugh Ross
 Past President Robert Rogers
 Vice-President Robert Morgan
 Secretary Shona Wards
 Treasurer Cheryl Donnachie
 Genealogist Doreen Dimitroff
 Membership Lloyd Fourney, Dave Rolls
 Newsletter Ivy Trumpour
 Webmaster Greg Vasey

2003

President Robert Morgan
 Past President Hugh Ross
 Vice-President Vacant
 Secretary Betty Fladager
 Treasurer Cheryl Donnachie
 Genealogist Marilyn Lappi
 Membership Lloyd Fourney, Dave Rolls
 Newsletter Ivy Trumpour
 Webmaster Greg Vasey

2004

President Robert Morgan
 Past President Hugh Ross
 Vice-President Shona Wards
 Secretary Betty Fladager
 Treasurer Earle Fladager
 Genealogist Marilyn Lappi
 Membership Lloyd Fourney, Dave Rolls
 Newsletter Ivy Trumpour
 Social / Programs Frances Losie
 Webmaster Greg Vasey

Edmonton Branch - The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

2005

President	Shona Wards
Past President	Robert Morgan
Vice-President	Al Dodd
Secretary	Betty Fladager
Treasurer	Earle Fladager
Genealogist	Marilyn Lappi
Membership	Lloyd Fourney, Dave Rolls
Newsletter	Ivy Trumpour
Social / Programs	Frances Losie
Webmaster	Doreen Dimitroff

2006

President	Shona Wards
Past President	Robert Morgan
Vice-President	Al Dodd
Secretary	Betty Fladager
Treasurer	Earle Fladager
Genealogist	Marilyn Lappi
Membership	Lloyd Fourney, Dave Rolls
Newsletter	Dave Rolls
Program/Education	Fran Losie
Webmaster	Doreen Dimitroff

2007

President	Al Dodd
Past President	Shona Wards
Vice-President	Allen Jess
Secretary	Betty Fladager
Treasurer	Earle Fladager
Genealogist	Marilyn Lappi
Membership	Lloyd Fourney, Dave Rolls
Program/Education	Fran Losie
Newsletter	Dave Rolls
Webmaster	Greg Vasey

2008

President	Al Dodd
Past President	Shona Wards
Vice-President	Allan Jess
Secretary	Betty Fladager
Treasurer	Earle Fladager
Genealogist	Marilyn Lappi
Membership	Shona Wards, Doreen Dimitroff
Program / Education	Fran Losie
Newsletter	Dave Rolls
Webmaster	Greg Vasey

2009

President	Allan Jess to July Earle Fladager to December
Past President	Al Dodd
Vice-President	Bruce Miller
Secretary	Betty Fladager
Treasurer	Earle Fladager
Genealogist	Marilyn Lappi
Membership	Shona Wards, Doreen Dimitroff
Program/Education	Fran Losie
Newsletter	Dave Rolls
Webmaster	Doreen Dimitroff

2010

President	Bruce Miller
Past President	Al Dodd
Vice-President	Heather Traub
Secretary	Carol Williamson
Treasurer	Earle Fladager
Genealogist	Vacant
Membership	Shona Wards, Doreen Dimitroff
Programs/Education	Fran Losie
Newsletter	Dave Rolls
Webmaster	Doreen Dimitroff

Edmonton Branch - The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

2011

President	Robert Rogers
Past President	Al Dodd
Vice-President	Heather Traub
Secretary	Carol Williamson
Treasurer	Earle Fladager
Genealogist	Dave Rolls
Membership	Shona Wards, Doreen Dimitroff
Social/Programs	Frances Losie
Education	Shona Wards
Newsletter	Robert Rogers
Webmaster	Doreen Dimitroff
Special Project	Ivy Trumpour

2012

President	Robert Rogers to September Heather Traub to December
Past President	Al Dodd
Vice-President	Heather Traub
Secretary	Carol Williamson
Treasurer	Earle Fladager
Genealogist	Dave Rolls
Membership	Robert Rogers, Lloyd Fourney
Social/Programs	Frances Losie
Education	Shona Wards
Newsletter	Robert Rogers
Webmaster	Doreen Dimitroff
Special Project	Ivy Trumpour

26 Years of Membership

Year	Number of members
1987	22
1988	23
1989	34
1990	21
1991	32
1992	33
1993	23

Year	Number of members
1994	24
1995	30
1996	35
1997	50
1998	44
1999	54
2000	67

Year	Number of members
2001	79
2002	50
2003	61
2004	43
2005	47
2006	43
2007	54

Year	Number of members
2008	57
2009	64
2010	76
2011	84
2012	74