

# Loyalists' March

By Barry Gilmore UE, Standard Bearer, Sir Guy Carleton Branch, Ottawa, ON.

**L**oyalists' March is a tune that appears in a book called Chancel Echoes Book 27. I found it while going through a box of my mother's old sheet music that had been kept in a wooden box in my basement since her death in 2000.

My mother was Marian Gilmore (nee Hoerner), (1921 – 2000) and, at one time, she was the pianist and organist for the City View United Church at 6 Epworth Drive in Nepean, Ontario. She was also the pianist for the Nepean Choir, a sixty-voice community choir, because she liked to play more than just church music. She had music that she inherited from several old relatives and friends, and much of that music was older than she was.

Chancel Echoes Book 27 was part of a collection inherited from my great aunt, Muriel Clark (nee Gilmore), (1892 – 1981). Muriel had come to Ottawa from Toronto in 1922 and she was the pianist and organist for Knox Presbyterian Church at 120 Lisgar Street in downtown Ottawa near the present day location of Ottawa City Hall. In the collection was music for *Loyalists' March*.

The two big questions were: How did Muriel get hold of the *Loyalists' March*? — and — How old is it?

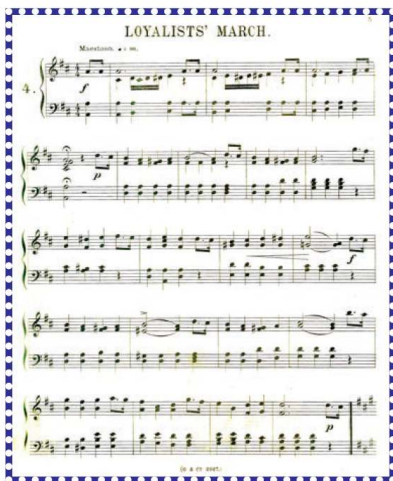
On the music itself I found a couple of clues. At the bottom of each page it says "(O & Co. 2027)." A visit to the head librarian at the University of Ottawa music library helped me interpret. It stands for Orsborn and Co., a printing firm that existed in London, England, in the 1800s. The number 2027 is a plate number which they assigned to this book. The name of the company was changed to Hopwood and Crew circa 1902, and so Chancel Echoes Book 27 had to have been published before 1902.

In the 1881 census of London, England, I found Samuel Orsborn, age 43, occupation: Beadle, a minor official in a church. He had a son, also named Samuel Orsborn, age 16, occupation: Composer, a job in a print shop. They did not appear in any other census.

Chippawa, Ontario, 06 July 2014. Photo: Michael Johnson.







The entire Chancel Echoes series are books of twenty-four to thirty-two pages, with each book dedicated to the works of a single composer of church organ music. No copyrights were claimed because no profits were expected from music that was only to be played in church. Book 27 is dedicated to the works of James Robinson but his name was too common to trace him in London.

The other clue was stamped on page 1 of the book. The name of the music seller was J.L. Orme & Son of 8 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. James Lawrence Orme first opened his store in Ottawa in 1861. At first he just sold woodwinds, pianos and organs, but in the 1870s he began selling sheet music. Aside from owning the store, he was also the pianist and organist at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 82 Kent Street at the corner of Kent and Wellington, just across the street from where they later built the Supreme Court of Canada.

J.L. Orme died in 1893 but his son continued the business under the same name until 1906 when the name was changed to Orme & Son. After that the business continued until the 1990s before they sold out to a big corporation. (For further information about this store refer to the internet or to the [Canadian Encyclopedia](#) because apparently this was one of the most famous music stores in Canadian history.)

After J.L. Orme's death in 1893, his sheet music probably stayed inside the bench of the organ at St. Andrew's Church and was passed on to the next organist and then to the next. There were only two big Presbyterian churches in downtown Ottawa and the two organists probably knew each other and occasionally got together to discuss music and trade with each other. That is probably how my great aunt Muriel came into possession of [Chancel Echoes book 27](#).

At the British National Archives in London, England, they have some issues of [Chancel Echoes](#) but they are missing many. Their first three are: Book #2, Book #26 and Book #731. They know that #731 was published in 1943 but all they know about the others is that they are from the 1800s. More books were published after 1943 with the most recent being in 2013. There seems to be no music library in the entire world that has a copy of Book 27 and so I may have the only copy left.

We know that it had to have been sold in Ottawa between 1870, (when James Lawrence Orme began selling sheet music) and 1906, (when the name was changed to Orme & Son); and it had to have been published in London, England, before 1902. It seems most likely that it was published between 1881 and 1893. By calculation, it seems that they were publishing one book per month starting in 1881 and that accounts for #731 being published in 1943. That would indicate that Book 27 was published in 1883.

Since the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada is badly in need of a National March it might be a good idea to adopt this one.

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### About the Author

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The Chronicles of Barry Gilmore UE, GG.

I was born in Ottawa and raised in the police village of City View in Nepean Township, Carleton County, Ontario. My mother told me that she was dusting under the bed one day and out I popped along with the dust bunnies. Boy was she surprised! I had my doubts about that but she was still sticking to the same story thirty years later.

I attended City View Elementary and Merivale High School. My post high school education includes a Graduate Gemologist's Diploma (G.G.) from the Gemological Institute of America (G.I.A.) in Carlsbad, California, and a Computer Programming Diploma from Algonquin College in Nepean, Ontario.

Over the years I've been a coin collector, rock collector, soap stone carver, Car Rally racer, lapidary, gemologist, and I've played in the Canadian National Chess Championships a few times but I never did any better than fifteenth. I also used to play banjo but I'm really rusty at it these days.

In 2014 I finally passed the 150 mark for blood donations. In 2015 Canadian Blood Services will be giving a certificate for that at a special awards ceremony, probably at the end of May.



Barry Gilmore and his mother, Marian Gilmore, on a jeep tour in a desert canyon near Sedona, Arizona, in February 1991.

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### Editor's Note by Robert C. McBride UE

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The Treaty of Paris, signed in Paris by representatives of King George III of Great Britain and representatives of the United States of America on 03 September 1783, ended the American Revolutionary War. Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty\\_of\\_Paris\\_\(1783\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_(1783))

Since the *Loyalists' March* was published in 1883, it seems likely that it was written in celebration of the one-hundred-year anniversary of the end of the American Revolution.

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