

CHILLIWACK BRANCH

1991 Spring

BRANCH CHARTERED IN B.C.

Loyalists are where you find them, and on Thursday, October 19, 1990, Dominion President, Arnold W. Nethercott, U.E., found them in goodly numbers 70 miles east of Vancouver, B.C., at Chilliwack, the second oldest incorporated municipality in the province.

At the Chilliwack Museum, formerly the City Hall, (1912-1979) now a recognized National Historic Site, President Nethercott officiated at the ceremony granting a charter to THE CHILLIWACK BRANCH, The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. This branch becomes the first new branch in B.C. in almost 60 years.

The charter was granted on petition of George De Witt, U.E., (Evert and Jacob De Wit, U.E., Ontario) Lois Dickinson, U.E., (Richard Rogers, U.E., New Brunswick) Arthur Keller, U.E., (Frederick Keller, U.E., Ontario) Maribel Roos, U.E., (Richard Rogers, U.E., New Brunswick) Scott Roos, U.E., (Richard Rogers, U.E., New Brunswick) Linda Todhunter, U.E., (Robert Campbell, U.E., Ontario) Ronald Todhunter, U.E. (Robert Campbell, U.E., Ontario) Doreen Todhunter, U.E. (Robert Campbell, U.E., Ontario) Andrew Webb, U.E., (Richardson Webb, New Brunswick) and Vera Webb, U.E. (Isaiah Kierstead, U.E., New Brunswick)

Chilliwack means "Valley of Many Streams" and there were indeed many streams of history evident on Charter Night...all of them tributaries of those first Loyalist settlements in the Maritimes and Upper and Lower Canada. Tributaries linking the east with the western pioneers of the 1850's, the early 1900's, the post World War II years, and the present. Tributaries from generation to generation.

The Museum was crowded with some 70 people in attendance. They came to remember Loyalists with such names as William Casey of Napanee, the Kipp and Reece Families of Princeton, Ontario, Daniel Keith of New Brunswick, Jeremiah Brown of Nova Scotia, the Carmans of what is now Upper Canada Village, Abel Stafford of Bruce and Grey County, Ont., the Vickersons of P.E.I., and others like them. They came and rejoiced that the dream of a charter was coming true.

The charter ceremony was brief, but impressive. The Union Jack was carried by seventeen year old Scott Roos, UE, a resplendent six foot six, in a Butler's Rangers Officer's uniform loaned by Robert Bessey, U.E., a former president of the Vancouver Branch.

Scott was followed by his mother Maribel Roos, in Loyalist costume, who carried the charter in the historic document box used by John McCutcheon, first reeve of Chilliwack Municipality in 1873. Reeve McCutcheon was from Ireland but he presided over a council which included several Loyalist descendants.

President Nethercott, seated in a City Council chair, circa 1912, signed the charter with flourish and then presented it to Andrew Webb who holds ten certificates. The ten petitioners joined Mr. Webb in loyally accepting the charter. With them was Rosemary Curlyo UE. The other guests then stood in recognition of their commitment.

It was a happy, colourful evening with the program preceded by a pot luck supper of true Loyalist hospitality. A Loyalist cake was cut by Betty Keller and Vera Webb. Tables were centred with nosegays of B.C. dogwoods linked with red Ontario maple leaves from the trees sent here for Henry Kipp (believed to

be a Loyalist descendant) who came from Ontario in 1864. The nosegays also contained blue hydrangeas from the memorial garden at Chilliwack Junior Secondary School where 22 bushes commemorate the students who lost their lives on active service with the R.C.A.F. in World War II. The Chilliwack people were very moved, when, at the end of the evening, Mrs. Nethercott collected some hydrangea sprigs to take home.

Further colour was added by a number of Loyalist and pioneer costumes including those worn by Mary Van Home, Doreen Todhunter, Vona Smith (Vancouver), Joan Fishleigh (Vancouver), Dolly Hannay (Vancouver), and Vera Webb in an authentic, voluminous 1867 Ontario cotton wedding nightgown and cap, (from the collection of the late Belle Dickinson Hall of Chilliwack and Forest, Ontario.)

On a more official note, greetings were brought by Alderman Gary Mason, District of Chilliwack, himself inquiring about possible Loyalist ancestry from Nova Scotia. Peggy Still, President of the Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society, extended greetings on behalf of its 550 members.

Messages of congratulation were received from John Orr UE, Regional Vice-President, whose bout of flu prevented his attendance. Greetings were also forwarded from Eleanor Sanderson, V.E., President of the Victoria Branch, the senior branch in B.C.

The Vancouver Branch (established 1932) was represented by John Graham UE, Vice-President; along with Vona Smith UE, past genealogist; Joan Fishleigh, present genealogist; and Dolly Hannay, branch treasurer, and new president of the B.C. Genealogical Society.

Mr. Graham presented several valuable reference books and an extensive collection of *Loyalist Gazettes*, as Vancouver's welcome to the new branch. He stated that Vancouver looked forward to further liaison and fellowship with Chilliwack.

Joan Fishleigh, at Victoria's request, presented other reference books forwarded from the Victoria Branch as their chartering gift. Andrew Webb, the Chilliwack genealogist, was delighted with the presentations.

Arthur Keller, Vice-President, presented President Nethercott with a Museum sketch on a pewter plaque for Dominion Headquarters. Mrs. Nethercott received a basket of red, white, and blue flowers carried by little Joylene Higginson and her sister Jody representing the Sir Leonard Tilley family of New Brunswick. Museum souvenir pins were given to Mr. Graham and Mr. Nethercott.

The ten petitioners were thrilled with the community response, the support of the Vancouver and Victoria Branches, and the friendliness and encouragement of President and Mrs. Nethercott. Many of the guests commented about the ease with which they met the Nethercotts and the helpful way in which the president answered their questions. They went from the meeting, enthusiastic to proceed with their research and V.E. ancestor proofs.

Lois Dickinson, Chilliwack President Pro Tern introduced the Loyalist descendants and commented that a Maritime Province club in Chilliwack had contact with the Vancouver Branch in 1933, and might be considered a forerunner of the new branch. She paid tribute to Vona Smith who conducted a series of workshops in Chilliwack over the past eight years.

Special mention was made of John Orr, Regional Vice-President, who played a major role in establishing the branch. The meeting passed a motion of appreciation to be forwarded to Mr. Orr. A second motion of appreciation was received for the Vancouver Branch.

The Chilliwack Branch also thanks President Nethercott, Vice-President Paul Clark, and office administrator, Dorothy Chisholm for their assistance.

We invite any Loyalists who visit the Fraser Valley to visit us.

Pro Tern officers of the new branch are: Lois Dickinson, President; Art Keller, Vice-President; Maribel Roos, Secretary; Betty Keller, Treasurer; and Andrew Webb, Genealogist.

1991 Fall

The Chilliwack Branch (Chartered Oct. 18, 1990) has begun a tradition of presenting U.E. certificates in pioneer settings.

On April 11, the new Branch's first certificate was presented to Mildred Evans Hall, descendant of William Casey of Adolphustown, Ontario. The ceremony took place beside the historic cairn marking the location of the first church in Chilliwack. (1869) This was property donated by Mrs. Hall's great grandfather Charles Evans and his wife, the former Jane Wells whose mother was Martha Casey.

The ceremony was a surprise to Mrs. Hall, and was followed by tea at the home of Doreen Todhunter U.E. Mildred Hall U.E. was further recognized at a general meeting where appreciation was expressed for her compilation of two volumes of pioneer genealogies for the Chilliwack Museum and Archives.

Our second newly certified member, William Home UE received his certificate at the old fashioned strawberry social held in early June in the heritage home (1866) of Chilliwack's pioneer set tier, Isaac Kipp. This home, centre of pioneer hospitality has been restored as a very welcoming Bed and Breakfast facility. Proprietors Lorne and Iris Gehman are also seeking Loyalist roots, as are members of the Kipp family.

Bill's certificate was issued in the name of his ancestor Chambers Blakeney of Nova Scotia. Bill has been researching ten years and was one of the Chilliwack Branch's first contacts. He is a very enthusiastic supporter and was presented with a tricorn hat, souvenir of the U.E.L Tour of the Maritimes during the 1983 Convention.

On Sept. 21, U.E. certificates were presented to Phyllis Dahl and Rose Craig. Phyllis is the descendant of Robert Land, first settler of Hamilton, Onto Rose Craig is one of the five Hart sisters who attended the 1984 Convention at Kingston. Her ancestor was Barnabus Hart of Cornwall and certificates were also forwarded to her two remaining sisters Evelyn Walker of Alberta and Daisy Brockelbank of Penticton.

Guest speaker at the luncheon which featured a nautical theme (with tables bearing the names of Loyalist ships) was Archie Miller, Curator of Irving House Museum and Historic Centre in New Westminster. Archie, who came in costume as Captain William Irving, told the story of the river boats on the Fraser River..... an appropriate topic since Loyalists have been described as "boat people" and many of their descendants reached the Chilliwack Valley via this transportation.

We were delighted with the gift of a beautiful gavel presented by Doreen Todhunter UE, in memory of her mother Mae Pattulo Powell, descendant of Loyalist Robert Campbell of Grantham Township, Lincoln County, Ontario.

by Lois Dickinson UE, President, Chilliwack Branch

1992 Fall

A highlight of the year to date was our April meeting when Lt. Col. William Smy of Victoria gave a vivid account of Butler's Rangers. Several members of the audience were descendants of the Rangers, and we re-lived those times together in the stories 'told by our speaker. A replica of a Butler's Ranger uniform was displayed and added further interest.

Members of the Vancouver Branch attended the meeting held in the Chilliwack Museum (the former city hall, now a national historic site) and preceded by an executive luncheon for out-of-town guests.

A feature of the meeting was the presentation ceremony when UE certificates were issued to Phyllis Hill and Laura Merson (descendants of Daniel Keith of New Brunswick); Art Keller (Everhart Weger, Fredericksburg, Ont.); and to Bill Horne for his son (William A Horne, Dartmouth, NS). It was Art's second certificate and Andrew Webb got his 11th. Our branch has emphasized family registrations and certificates have also been forwarded to Bill Horne's sister Marjorie Robertson in Florida, his cousin Don Neville, Kingston, to Adam Webb, Los Angeles and Dennis Webb Vernon, sons of Andrew and Vera Webb, also UE's.

Representatives of our Branch attended the 60th Anniversary luncheon of the Vancouver Branch in May. We presented a scrapbook about charter members of the branch, whose early history had been lost in a fire.

Our delegates to the Ottawa Convention were pleased to be part of Western Canada's largest delegation and to renew friendships made as far back as the Maritime Convention in 1983. We were honoured to receive a membership banner as recognition for "Outstanding participation in the Annual Membership Competition".

In September we began a communitywide publicity focus. Our meeting theme "Back to the Books", held at Chilliwack Library, emphasized historic costumes in preparation for the 1994 convention in Vancouver. Our representatives attended the pre-planning meeting in Vancouver.

Our branch was saddened in July at the sudden passing of Mrs. Rose Craig UE. Mrs. Craig will be remembered as one of the five Hart sisters who were recognized at the 1984 Kingston convention. She had made valiant efforts to overcome a stroke and her participation at our meetings will be much missed. (She never missed one!) Plans are proceeding for her name to be recorded in the Book of Memory.

by Lois Dickinson

1993 Spring

Our branch continues to hold meetings, where possible, in settings which link east and west and have historic significance for our valley.

Typical of these sites is the 1911 Heritage House, recently restored by the Chilliwack Academy of Music, where our Christmas Tea was held Nov. 29. Of the 50 attenders, many were in costume, adding an authentic touch as they arrived via the portico where once their pioneer ancestors had driven their buggies and early motor cars.

The afternoon's program included: 18th century music trio of violin, piano, and cello (played by our own Mary Van Horne); presentation of Madeline Barker's UE certificate; a surprise birthday cake for Ray Aitken's 90th birthday; presentation to Ray and his sister of a parchment copy of the land petition of their ancestor Abel Stafford; presentation of an enlarged picture of our Charter Night and certificate of appreciation to "Our First Genealogist" Andrew Webb UE.

Our annual meeting was held at Carman United Church, Sardis, established 1896. The church is named for Rev. Albert Carman, pioneer supervisor of Methodist Missions in Western Canada, and a descendant of Loyalist Michael Carman, Williamsburg, ON. Mary Van Home, also a Carman descendant, spoke of the Carman history. (*Ed. 's Note: See information on Carman under Gov. Simcoe Branch news.*)

Each meeting features a refreshment representing Loyalist ethnic backgrounds - for example, Welsh cakes were served at Christmas.

by Lois Dickinson UE

1993 Fall

Chilliwack Branch (chartered Oct. 18, 1990) marked its third Anniversary at our Fall meeting. Most of our beginning members have now completed their research and the year has been highlighted with a number of U.E. presentations.

Our largest ceremony to date was in January when five of our members received their certificates. They are listed as follows with the Loyalist ancestor's name in brackets: Bernice Armstrong (Daniel Keith); Dorothy Reid, our first member to receive two certificates at one time (William White and Barnett Manzer); Maureen Todhunter believed to be the first to claim in the name of Ezekiel Seeley, N.B.; and Mary Van Horne (Michael Carman).

Mary Van Horne reviewed the Carman Family Story and displayed an heirloom chair built by an early Carman relative.

During "summer break" our executive (in costume) provided the program at the Golden Kiwanis meeting where Harriet Kelly (Peter Fetterly), also a Golden 'K' member and pianist, was presented with her certificate.

Our first generation to generation presentation also took place at holiday time when our executive recognized two new UEs, Maureen Margetts and John Dennis Margetts (JD), the daughter and grandson of Phyllis Hill, UE (Daniel Keith). The presentation took place appropriately on Keith Wilson Road at the Royal Engineers' cabin, circa 1860, associated with Chilliwack pioneers of Loyalist descent (William Casey).

A word of thanks is in order for Genealogists Bill Horne, Bob Bessey, Andrew Webb, Mildred Hall and Gordon and Kay Leonard, as well as Elizabeth Sewell, Fredericton Branch and Lynne Cook, St. Lawrence Branch. Our first Associate Member Certificate went to Bette Keller for her work as Treasurer for two years while Art Keller UE, was honoured as our first Vice-President. Dorothy Reid is now Treasurer and Shirley Dargatz is Vice-President.

Campbell Stuart, Victoria President and Dick Mackey, Vancouver Vice-President have been guest speakers with their respective topics, Rev. John Stuart and the Palatines. Some of our members also attended the Vancouver and Victoria Spring Luncheons.

With Vancouver and Victoria, we have been very involved in planning Convention 1994 and look forward to celebrating United Empire Loyalist Week in B.C. and the 80th Anniversary of our National Association. We look forward to seeing you in Chilliwack on May 18.

by Lois Dickinson

1994 Spring

Chilliwack Branch issues a warm invitation to all Convention goers to attend the *Welcome to B. C. Celebration* hosted by our Branch on May 18, 1994.

Transportation can be arranged for those not arriving by tour bus. We've planned a program of anniversary highlights involving young people and members from sea to sea who have contributed to the vitality of our Association. Dinner will be informal with country hospitality and next morning there'll be a continental breakfast at the historic Chilliwack Museum. Early risers will have time to browse in Salish Park adjacent to the hotel.

Along with Convention planning, the Chilliwack Branch has had a number of interesting activities. We

finished the year in fine style with a Christmas tea at the Homestead Room of the Royal Hotel, circa 1911. The hotel features pictures of pioneer families with such Loyalist ancestors as Thornton and Price. Vice-President Shirley Dargatz was in charge of the program which included contests and the President reading *The Night Before Christmas* in the form of a parody with members searching for UE documentation and awaiting Genealogist Bill Horne as Santa Claus. Mrs. Claus (Vi Dickinson) gave out goody bags containing a treat to represent each of the five Loyalist provinces.

A highlight of the tea was the presentation of the needlepoint Members' Badge designed and worked by Phyllis Sutton UE, and given to the Branch for a raffle. The delighted winner was Norma Raynor, a former Vice-President of the Vancouver Branch, now resident in the Valley.

In keeping with our goal of relating B.C. history and pioneers of Loyalist descent, Harold Steves of Richmond was guest speaker at our January meeting. He is a descendant of Manoah Steves who came here in 1877 from New Brunswick where the family arrived as Loyalists. Harold, a long time Richmond councillor, reported that there are 200,000 Steves (or Steeves) relatives in Canada and the States, and also told of the heritage restoration of the Steveston canneries (a project in which he has been involved.)

We hope to have eight new UE's (in honour of the 80 years of our Association) for the Convention... and we look forward to a memorable time of fellowship May 18 in Chilliwack as Convention '94 begins.

by Lois Dickinson, Branch President

1995 Spring

Chilliwack Branch now has the highest membership since its charting on October 18, 1990. There are over 50 members and a growing contact list both largely attributable to promotion for Convention '94 and the resulting awareness in the community and elsewhere.

We are also liaising with Loyalists in the Thompson/Okanagan area of the province, several of whom have come forward as a result of Convention publicity. One of our members, Dennis Webb, UE, of Vemon, is in contact with them.

Highlight of the winter was Christmas turkey dinner on November 27th with 65 in attendance. (And on Grey Cup Day too!) Convened by Social Coordinator, Laura Merson UE The dinner was catered by ladies of Elks Lodge. Great interest was created by wall hangings of large paper Christmas trees adorned with paper ball ornaments, one for each generation in various members' line of descent from the Loyalist ancestor. Members had used a variety of materials even to candy canes for whimsical portrayal of the Stafford family. Further fun was provided by a U.E.L., parody of Jingle Bells and an old fashioned acrostic of the letters Merry Christmas to represent Loyalist ancestors. Rev. Gordon Taylor sang the Huron Carol and period Christmas music was provided by (UE) Mary Van Horne's instrumental trio.

An Associate Certificate was presented as an award to our senior member, Gladys Van Baaren who has been so faithful since our Branch's inception. She is still seeking further information about Abel Stafford (Ontario). The members' badge was interpreted as a circle of friendship and it was a moving moment, as, with Convention friends in mind, we joined hands to sing Auld Lang Syne. Other activities since last report were the Thanksgiving meeting reviewing the Convention: The Family History Story of Shirley Dargatz UE, Vice President; a visit (in costume) to a district School Board meeting with appreciation for school convention participation; and a Public Library display of Convention decorations as made by students. A summer meeting will be at Minter Gardens to view the Loyalist Rose we presented.

The year's project is compiling family histories for a possible subsequent publication. Heritage Week

Coffee party with fashion show of Loyalist and ethnic costumes is being planned. The Branch is very proud of our young member Kenneth McIntyre, UE, of North Delta for his role in acquiring a CD Rom computer component for the George Mackie Library. Ken (now 13) but 12 at the time, arranged car washes, various sales and other fund raisers to collect some \$700 for the project. His library consequently received an award and became the first in the Fraser Valley Regional System to acquire the equipment and is undertaking a pilot project for its use. In the fall, Ken received a special plaque commending him for his citizenship, energy and initiative. Representative Fraser Valley mayors were present at the Award Ceremony. Ken is the grandson of Phyllis Sutton, UE, and is descended from proven Loyalists Robert Campbell, Frederick Smith and Jacob Beam.

1996 Spring

Chilliwack Branch, chartered 18 October 1990, celebrated its fifth anniversary with a special pre-Christmas meeting at the end of November. Fifty-five people (many in period costume) attended the celebration based on the theme UEL "United in Heritage, United in Camaraderie". Miniature Canadian flags and seasonal items provided a meaningful setting.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of certificates for ten new regular members. The certificates, in a gold embossed navy blue portfolio carried by Robert K. Bessey UE in his Butler's Rangers uniform, followed the flag processional. It was indeed special when certificates were presented to our youngest members, Morgan Luella Dagenais Todhunter, Shane Leslie Kidd and Jamie Brett Kidd. Morgan, the daughter of Bernie Dagenais and Linda Todhunter, UE and granddaughter of Doreen Todhunter, UE, CMH, is the 17th member of this family grouping to receive her certificate as a descendant of Sgt. Major Robert Campbell, Butler's Rangers. Jamie and Shane are the four-year-old twin sons of Brett and Sherrie Kidd, Kamloops the grandsons of Bruce and Audrey Maclean, Abbotsford. With their father and grandmother they received certificates in the name of Loyalist John Holmes, Kingston, Ontario.

Others honoured with certificates were: Col. Wm. Jackson Aird (Edward Hicks); Marlene Jean Webb Brown (William White); Ian Cameron (Daniel Keith); Connie Bailey (James Lindsay).

Anniversary candles were lighted for:

- the UEL Association and Dominion Council (Central Candle).
- Our Chartering, Genealogy and the 55 certificates received in 5 years (Continuity Candle);
- Liaison with other branches (Camaraderie)
- The 1994 Convention;
- the new Thompson-Okanagan Branch
- the Mini Convention (Candle of Challenge)
- and Commitment to the future.

Lights from these symbolic candles in the 1994 Convention candelabra were then passed from person to person as we sang "O Canada".

Our Branch was saddened in March 1994 by the sudden passing of Andrew Vincent Webb, UE. Holder often certificates, Andrew was a founding petitioner, Charter member and first genealogist of our Branch. We were inspired, therefore, to establish a Memorial Library. The first section of this is in memory of Andrew Webb. Flag-draped books marked with large blue, gold and green ribbons represented Loyalist history of the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario and were unveiled and dedicated at the Anniversary.

Other names on our Memorial roll are George DeWitt (Charter Member), Rose Craig, Constance Thornton, Ray Aitken and Margaret Graham UE.

Additional highlights included Recognition of our Multi-Ethnic Heritage and the Canadian Flag in Heritage Week; the Bride Ship to B.C. (1817) with mention also of Loyalist family weddings; assisting

and participating in Thompson/Okanagan's Charter Ceremony (14 attended); Surrey Heritage Fair; and presentation of appreciation certificate to Bob Bessey for reference materials provided for the Branch. Congratulations are extended to others receiving their certificates during the year:

- Charles Wagar and Bill Wagar (Everhart Wagar);
- Ian Cameron (Daniel Keith);
- Jeff, Ryan and Marjorie Curtis (Sir John Johnson);
- Bessey descendants Wayne Bessey, Karen Smith, Charlene Chlochherty, Beverly Kotzian, Blanch McGuire, Charles McGuire;
- Marjorie Roberts (Duncan MacKenzie);
- Don Archibald and Alisen Barkley (Findlay Murdock).

by Lois Dickinson, Branch President.

1996 Fall

It's been an exciting time with meetings focusing on the Loyalist Landings. A prelude to Convention 96 was Lois Dickinson's talk "Salute to Shelburne", the 1983 Maritime Tour, continued, the following month with slides from Eleanor Smith, Shelburne. Our May Luncheon featured the Spring Fleet and readings from Sarah Frost's Diary by Kyla Thornton in period costume.

Exciting ceremonies were arranged for presentation of a number of certificates as follows: to Jeffrey Curtis, UE, (Sir John Johnson), his eight year old son Ryan Curtis, UE, and his mother Marjorie Dorion Curtis, UE; to Donald Archibald, UE, and his sister Allisen Barkley, UE, (Findlay Murdock, N.S.) the four descendants of John Thornton (NB & Ont.); Robert Armstrong, UE; Rev. Gordon Taylor, UE and his sister Dorothy Miller, UE; and Doug Thornton, UE.

A great certificate year culminated August 24 when Mayor John Les and Councillor Dorothy Kostrezewa hosted a colourful ceremony on the steps of Chilliwack District Hall where certificates were presented to Michael Barkley, UE, (who came from Holland) and Dorothy Barkley, UE, children of Allisen Barkley, UE. Their children Lindsay, Forbes and Stephanie Kasting and Daniella and Dylan Barkley were recognized as young Loyalists. Guests from Holland were welcomed in Dutch by Mayor Les.

The children in costumes matching their grandmother's and others in costume led by Thompson-Okanagan President Dennis Webb, UE, (in his uniform), paraded with flags to a local church for lunch. It was an extremely hot day and the four blocks became a real route march with parents carrying children and adults lagging behind. (a small reminder of Loyalist hardships.)

Certificates were earlier presented to the children of Col. Jack Aird, UE, (Edward Hicks); Jacqueline Diane Foster, UE; and Brian Gregory Aird, UE.

Our Branch has also visited Vancouver, Thompson/Okanagan and Victoria where we arranged the May luncheon program.

Five of our members including; Allisen Barkley UE, Don Archibald UE, Annis Archibald, Vera Webb UE, and Shirley Dargatz, UE, attended the '96 Convention and Tour. They had a marvellous time and are deeply appreciative for the excellent organization.

by Lois Dickinson UE

1997 Spring

This fall Chilliwack Branch instituted two new annual customs. With young Loyalists and our ancestors in mind, we asked our members on October 14th to put seven beans on their Thanksgiving tables - as Pilgrims put five kernels of com on their tables.

On November 11th, we placed a wreath on the cenotaph at the Remembrance Day Service. It was a moving experience that connected us with the community and brought unexpected recognition.

The fall continued with a number of speaking engagements around the valley and conducting of a BC-wide Genealogy Fair, in which many members took part.

Our sixth anniversary was marked by a church parade of costumed members. The 6th Anniversary symbol of iron was well interpreted in the table decorations and program, convened by President, Shirley Dargatz UE.

The 'Holly and the Ivy' formed the theme for a splendid Christmas Social.

Certificates were issued to Lindsay Barkley Kasting UE, Stephanie Barkley Kasting UE, Forbes Barkley Kasting UE, who, with their mother Dorothy Barkley UE and their grandmother Allisen Archibald Barkley UE, make three generations to claim their "inheritance of history" through Findley

1997 Spring

Chilliwack Branch celebrated the anniversary of the 1783 Loyalists landing in the Maritimes with a unique parade of "Ships on Sticks." Held aloft, the posters prepared by Patrick Stedman's art students at Sardis Secondary School, made an impressive sight as members in period costume marched the two blocks from the museum (a national historic site) to Salish Park and its picturesque small man-made lake.

The procession was led by teenage standard bearer Kenneth McIntyre UE in his Butler's Rangers uniform and his sister Lisa McIntyre UE also in costume. They are the grandchildren of Phyllis Sutton, UE. Members paraded back to the Museum to partake of "ship's rations" (brown bag lunches). The parade was a small scale but effective and enjoyable re-enactment of this important date in Loyalist history and created enough interest en route that it may be repeated next year.

Chilliwack Branch has participated in a variety of other activities during the year including a Soup and Sandwich luncheon for our Annual General Meeting; an Open House for Heritage Week when representatives from community ethnic groups were invited to hear of our Loyalist multicultural heritage and to view the distinguished doll collection of Mary Van Horne UE. For this occasion, she featured dolls of the countries of origin of our Loyalist ancestors prior to settlement in America.

The Annual Strawberry Social at the home of Ken and Shirley Dargatz was a great success with an old fashioned sing song.

Representative members have enjoyed visits to Victoria and Edmonton Branches, and of course, the Winnipeg Convention attended by Lois Dickinson, Alisen Barkley and Don and Annis Archibald.

Another highlight was the honour awarded to President Shirley Dargatz UE who was named Chilliwack's Woman of the Year 1997. Her contribution to U.E.L. was well recognised at the community banquet when we presented much appreciated messages of congratulations from a representative Branch in eight provinces of Canada and also from Honorary President Hon. John Ross Matheson and Mrs. Matheson - and Association President Bernice Flett.

Receiving certificates during the year were George Baker, UE (Adam Baker); K.C. Jones, UE (Richard Morden) Charlotte Wood, UE (Richard Morden) Evelyn Mitchell, UE (John Thornton) Jeremiah Brown, UE (James Brown)

We are saddened to report the death of three stalwart supporters who will be much missed: Col. William Jackson Aird, UE, Stanley Dahl and Phyllis Sutton, UE (who created the needlepoint charts of the Armorial Bearings for the Bicentennial Year) Phyllis was the sister of Doreen Todhunter UE. Stan & Phyllis Dahl UE (Robert Land) who survives him had celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in December 1996.

by Lois Dickinson

1998 Spring

Three new young regular members, wearing Maple Leaf ties, with their mother and grandfather made an impressive team as they presented our poppy wreath at the community-wide Remembrance Day Service. The family consisted of Tyler Perrie, UE, Justin Perrie, UE, Curtis Perrie, UE, Deleine Perry (Mrs Graham Perrie) UE and Jeremiah Brown.

It was a proud moment for all when certificates were presented to this family at our December Christmas celebration. Jerry Brown, UE, (James Brown, UE, Nova Scotia) was Santa Claus with elfgrandson Curtis Perrie, UE. Jean Brown, in splendid grandmother style, provided refreshments including two maple leaf cakes and made gift favours for Santa's pack. Graham Perrie assisted. Family history albums by Jean Brown were on display.

Welcomed as new members were Chris Hay (John Cogle, N.B.) and Neil McGlynn (Benjamin Worth, N.B.). Barbara Wilson, originally from Shelburne, N.S. was a new contact.

At our Christmas meeting carols were accompanied by Heyminn Suk, a grade 11 student recently from Korea happily learning Canadian history. Shirley Dargatz UE, President, interpreted our Christmas theme of the Christmas tree with the story of the Hessians.

A highlight was the visit of Association President Bernice Flett UE. Sixty attended to welcome and express appreciation to Mrs. Flett, and felt instant rapport and enjoyed a greater awareness of the Association as she spoke with candour, humour and dedication.

Certificates were presented by Mrs. Flett to Lorna Henderson UE, (Nicholas Mattice), H. Bircham Van Home UE, (Cornelius Van Home) and Ray Barkley UE, (Finley Murdock, N.S.) the seventh UE for the Archibald/Barkley clan.

Jan Oullett and Marion Baker received Honorary Associate Membership certificates

Mrs. Flett presented a Loyalist flag to Councillor Douglas Steinson for the District of Chilliwack, the second oldest incorporated municipality in B.C. Representative members later attended a District Council meeting and re-presented the flag to Mayor John Les.

As a memento of her trip, Mrs. Flett was given a Melodie Elliot Clark painting of Mount Cheam, the peak viewed by visitors to the 1994 convention. The distinguished artist, a quadriplegic, is of Loyalist descent.

by Lois Dickinson UE.

1998 Fall

Chilliwack Branch was thrilled to have a full complement of delegates attend the Convention in Kingston. Our representatives President Shirley Dargatz UE, Past President Lois Dickinson UE, Director Mary Van Home UE, Bircham Van Home UE, Audrey Maclean UE, and her husband Dr. Bruce Maclean participated in many of the activities. The time in Kingston was very enjoyable with a special Day of History and many new contacts and friendships.

During the year sixteen UE certificates were presented in special ceremonies. Congratulations are extended to new regular members (as follows, with Loyalist ancestors' names in parenthesis) Jacqueline Kennedy UE (William Urquhart), Neil McGlynn UE (Benjamin Worth), Arthur Keller UE, (Eberhart Wagar) his second certificate, Mabel Wilson UE (Nicholas Mattice), Patricia McKay UE (John Cogle), Blanche Wagar Storey UE (Eberhart Wagar), Steven Robert Wagar UE, Dianna Wagar Bonner UE, Daniella Elisabeth Barkley UE, Dylan Leigh Barkley UE, Matthew William Barkley UE, Carly Elizabeth Barkley UE (Findley Murdock) Christopher Hay UE (John Cogle), Stephen Hay UE, Jennifer Hay UE, and Kevin Hay UE.

We are gratified to note the growth of family interest in the above list. Blanche Storey, the sister of Bill Wagar UE, Bill's children Steven and Diana, Chris Hay UE and his children Stephen, Jennifer & Kevin; Matthew and Carly Barkley, children of Rae Barkley UE, and Daniella and Leigh Barkley children of Michael Barkley UE visiting from their home in Holland. Alisen Barkley UE now has eleven members of her family - children and grandchildren as UE's recognizing Gov. Carleton's decree "to those Loyalists and their descendants".

Our thanks are extended to Peter and Angela Johnson for all their help during their five years as Dominion Genealogists and to Branch Genealogist Mildred Hall UE.

Heritage Week was exciting with Joanna Wong of Vancouver as guest speaker. In 1997, Joanna, then a grade eleven student won top prize from the Canadian Unity Council for her essay on "What Canada Means to Her". She highlighted her dual heritage - early Chinese in B.C. and UEL (Hiltz, Moore). Her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Maurice Wong, and other family members attended.

Other meetings have featured the Irish Loyalists, the Hartland area of N.B. with the theme "A Bridge to Heritage", and our much appreciated annual Strawberry Social at the home of Ken and Shirley Dargatz.

After Kingston, the Van Homes were privileged to attend June 19 Loyalist celebrations at Upper Canada Village. Shirley and Lois were present at Queen's Park for the Proclamation there... and now it's on to Edmonton.

by Lois Dickinson

1999 Spring

In the fall, the Chilliwack Branch, chartered October 18, 1990 by Arnold Nethercott, celebrated its eighth anniversary with a turkey dinner in the new banquet room of a local restaurant. Fifty-four people attended this "Celebration of Camaraderie" and greetings were received from others unable to be present.

The eighth anniversary symbol, bronze, was well interpreted in decorations and maple leaf name tags for charter members: Doreen Todhunter UE, Vera Webb UE, Arthur Keller UE, and Lois Dickinson UE.

Two new members were welcomed. President Shirley Dargatz UE and Genealogist Mildred Hall UE presented certificates to Sarah Cramer UE (John Thornton) a grade 12 student and enthusiastic historian; and, in absentia, Dennis Webb UE (Joshua Currie) who is a member of both Chilliwack and Thompson-Okanagan Branches.

A highlight of the meeting was placing waxed maple leaves bearing our Loyalist name on a large paper tree. The leaves had been collected from Loyalist areas of south western Ontario and provided a special national link.

Also in the fall, Shirley Dargatz UE and Lois Dickinson UE, attended Dominion Council meeting. They were pleased to attend Grand River's 25th anniversary and to bring greetings from our Branch.

In a tradition which has become very meaningful to us and our community, a wreath was presented at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day.

Our mid-winter meeting is planned as a soup and sandwich luncheon with the theme 'The Loyalist World', the film "The World Turned Upside Down" and the expanding of that world as descendants moved across our country.

Representatives of Chilliwack and Vancouver Branches met in December with Margaret Carter UE, Western Region Vice-President.

Our spring activity centres around the District of Chilliwack's Millennium Macrofest and a pioneer picnic July 3-4 which the Branch will co-sponsor.

Other recent certificates received have acknowledged the Loyalist ancestry of Marjorie Vegsund UE (Nicholas Mattice) and Daniel Brown UE with children Carissa Brown UE, Adam Brown UE and Shantelle Brown UE (James Brown), (son and grandson of Jeremiah Brown UE).

1999 Fall

"**P**ersonalizing our history" was a recurring informal theme during the 1999 Conference but it's an unexpected phrase that could summarize the Chilliwack Branch activities during the first part of the year.

Heritage Week in February culminated with election of officers.

In March, we celebrated our heritage of faith with a church parade to the Palm Saturday Evening Service at historic Carman United Church (1898) where many Chilliwack pioneers, grandchildren of Loyalists, attended. The church is named for Rev. Albert Carman, pioneer supervisor of Methodist Churches in Western Canada, and a descendant of Michael Carman UE.

The yearly Salute to the Spring Fleet was held May 29 at Cooke's Presbyterian Church.(1888) This year's "Parade of Sails" was a special display of Loyalist era ships. Each attendee had a water glass representing the sea and toasts were given honoring the Spring Fleet and also Elizabeth Hopkins (nee Beard, Woodward) as ancestor of U.E.L. members in several Branches. She was rescued from a ship wrecked in the Spring Fleet. Chris Hay UE (John Cogle) received a second certificate in the name of Richard Stockton) and gave an excellent personalized account of Stockton, the latter ancestor. A highlight of the spring quarter was our display at the Regional Heritage Fair in Abbotsford. Folders for teachers were well received. Eight-year-old Tia Haraga won a silver ribbon for her presentation of the Thornton family history including Loyalist John Thornton. The history book for her school was subsequently presented at the yearend assembly.

Committee members were Barb and Ed Wilson, Ruth Thomson, Jan Oulett, Shirley Dargatz, Lois Dickinson, with assistance from Charles and Ruby Wagar.

Our largest representation ever twelve of us (thirteen with Vona Smith, also of Vancouver) attended the conference in Edmonton and had a great time. Shirley Dargatz will serve as Vice-president of the new

Pacific Region of the U.E.L.A.C. Billie Halcrow UE (Johnathan Matthews) was thrilled to receive her certificate in her home town Edmonton.

In July, we co-hosted with the District of Chilliwack and the Chilliwack Museum, a Pioneer Garden Party at the recently designated Gwynne Vaughan Park with its 1896 heritage house. There were lots of personalized histories with artifacts and photos from many of the 300 or so who attended. Gladys Van Baaren (Abel Stafford) our senior member now 91 and Samantha Reisig, seven years old and a proud 9th generation Canadian (Daniel Keith U.E.L.) cut the special cake.

Other certificates have also been received for Karl Marvin Vegsund UE, (Nicholas Mattice) Lorna Henderson UE (Michael Warner) her second, Marian Reid UE (James Brown) and Art Keller UE (Everhardt Wager) his third.

Mary Van Home UE, in costume represented the Chilliwack Branch at the Chilliwack Library's Annual Cultural Costumes Parade arranged by Community Services and created much interest in U.E.L.

2000 Spring

Our Branch is now in its tenth year and time seems to fly by. Our ninth anniversary was celebrated on October 24 (just after our actual birthday October 18, 1990). The 9th anniversary symbol was pottery; the meeting theme was "Shaping Our Heritage." For *Show and Tell*, members brought historic pottery including Bill Wagar's Hamilton Memorial Loyalist plate found in an antique store in Ireland. The family of Marion Reid UE (James Brown) - fourteen of them - our most supportive group yet turned out for the presentation of her certificate. The certificate for Billie Halcrow UE (Jonathan Matthews) originally given in Edmonton (her hometown) was re-presented. The anniversary cake was cut by Honorary Associate member, 91 year old Gladys Van Baaren (Abel Stafford). The meeting was preceded by a church parade to Cooke's Presbyterian Church where the Pastor Rev. Herb Hilder, of Loyalist ancestry, presided.

Fifty-five people attended our Christmas Banquet "The Heritage of Christmas, A Poinsettia Potpourri" focusing on the Loyalists of Florida, The Bahamas, and Bermuda.

Fun was provided by impromptu kitchen band "The Certifiables" complete with washboard. Santa Claus (Jerry Brown UE) with elves grandson Curtis Brown UE and young member Ryan Curtis UE (Sir John Johnson) assisted by Vi Dickinson (Mrs. Claus) distributed candy boxes made by Mrs. Jean (Jerry) Brown.

A special Christmas edition of our newsletter published by Judy Scholz UE and Lois Dickinson UE was delivered at the meeting. Branches are invited to exchange newsletters by contacting P.O. Box 472, Chilliwack, BC V2P 617.

Also at Christmas, Branch representatives enjoyed the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Birch Van Home (Cornelius Van Home) and his wife Mary Van Home UE (Michael Carman). The Van Homes are long time members and Conference Delegates.

The Anniversary theme "Shaping Our Heritage" indicated the shape of things to come: Our Heritage Week meeting in February "The Heritage of Home" with souvenir table decorations from the Edmonton barbecue; education emphasis with a display at the Regional Heritage Fair in May; national participation in March hosting the four BC Branches for a Mini Convention convened by Pacific Region V.P. Shirley Dargatz UE and a visit from officers of the UELAC. Highlighting education Lois Dickinson UE was guest speaker at the Vancouver Branch January meeting on the topic of street names in Greater Vancouver with Loyalist significance.

Congratulations are extended to Don and Annis Archibald's grandson Do Sharp who has been inducted in the BC Sports Hall of Fame for his outstanding achievement of World Karate Champion. He is also a descendant of Findlay Murdock.

Our Remembrance Day tradition continued when President Shirley Dargatz UE and her grand niece Tia Haraga presented a poppy cross at the cenotaph ceremony.

We regret the passing of Harriet Kelly UE (Peter Fetterly) who had moved to Fredericton in 1998. Harriet, our pianist, was a splendid example of one who came here some 15 years ago and with her husband (the late Jim Kelly) and became a vital part of her new community by learning its history and participating in a variety of its activities. She could always be counted on and is greatly missed.

by Lois Dickinson

2000 Fall

It's been a special time for Chilliwack Branch which celebrated its tenth anniversary, (chartered Oct. 18, 1990), this fall with the presentation of a significant number of certificates.

Reviewing the ten years, there have been a number of highlights - especially Chilliwack's part in the 1994 first Western Convention with the Welcome to BC dinner for delegates on tour from Calgary. Other highlights include: mini conventions in 1995 and spring 2000; parenting the Thompson-Okanagan Branch in 1995; the first BC web page; (Ed Wilson UE) the tradition of Remembrance Day wreaths in 1996, our newsletter *The Link Up* and many other happy memories.

From the ten charter members the branch has grown to 56. Every meeting is a "happening" with 40 - 50 in attendance. Our first certificate was presented in April 1991 to Mildred Evans Hall UE (William Casey). Since then, at nearest count, 136 members have received certificates and 6 non-UE members presented with honorary associate certificates for service rendered. Two members, Shirley Dargatz UE and Lois Dickinson UE, have served nationally.

An important number of events lead up to the anniversary. The Mini Convention hosted by our Branch for the four BC Branches was the most educational. The theme *Forging New Links for UEL Growth and Knowledge* was well realized with talks by four national officers Ed Scott DE, William Terry DE, Bernice Flett UE, and Myrna Fox UE. The weekend included: a Saint Patrick's dinner convened by Jan Ouellet; (assisted by Alice Carter and Barb Wilson); interesting displays with participation from Chilliwack's Jean Brown, and Vancouver's Vona Smith UE and Joan Fishleigh; and the hilarious skit "The Tater Family" composed by Doreen Todhunter UE and Lois Dickinson UE. Young Loyalists and other family members wore brown paper potato costumes and in a spoof of some disinterest in UEL history, acted as Hezzy Tator, Imma Tator, Aggi Tator, Dick Tator, and other similar characters. Information re the skit is available from the Branch. Humour was also provided with such lines as "If our history's lost we're to blame!" "For shame!" (Details also available from Branch)

President Ed Scott UE presented certificates to Alan Reid UE, (James Brown) Selwyn Wesley MacDiarmid UE, (Angus Grant) Stephen Hay UE, Kevin Hay UE, Jennifer Hay UE, (Major Richard Witham Stockton) their second certificates.

Eastern visitors received welcome packages with Chilliwack souvenir items. Our thanks to Branches that submitted items for a sales booth, ably managed by Vera Webb UE and Ruth Thomson. More of this type of gathering is proposed for togetherness in the Pacific Region.

In May, as per UELAC by-laws article 6, we held our annual "Salute to the Spring Fleet" honouring the arrival in Saint John, N.B., May 18, 1783 (See *Loyalist Gazette*, Aug. 1969 for write up "The Heroic Migration")

Our speaker Councillor Dorothy Kostrzewa of the City of Chilliwack spoke of another historic migration - telling of the historic Chinese community located on the site of the restaurant where we enjoyed lunch. The history link was there since many pioneer UEL descendants here enjoyed working with the Chinese

people. Councillor Kostrzewa is a long time friend of heritage and our Branch.

Eight members of our Branch attended Conference 2000 at Niagara Falls. Delegates were Shirley Dargatz UE, Doug Thornton UE and Lois Dickinson UE. Also present were Jan Oulett, Marion & George Baker UE, celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary, and Allen and Jacqueline Kennedy UE, celebrating their 54th.

Participation in the Regional Heritage Fair in May was again very worthwhile featuring excellent display boards prepared by Jean Brown. Barb Wilson's Loyalist toys were a great hit again this year and quizzes and excited students swooped up handouts.

The annual Strawberry Social at the home of Ken & Shirley Dargatz was much enjoyed. Mary Van Home UE, Lois Dickinson UE and Shirley Dargatz UE in period dress represented us in Community Service's Multicultural Parade at the library with different ethnic groups participating.

We congratulate our President Shirley Dargatz UE who received the prestigious Betty Urquhart Community Services Award at the Spring Convocation of University College of the Fraser Valley.

In July, Jan Ouellet, Jean & Jerry Brown UE, Birch Van Home UE, Mary Horne UE, Shirley Dargatz UE and Mildred Hall UE took part in the nearby Clayburn Heritage Days.

by Lois Dickinson UE & Judy Scholz UE.

LOYALIST CHAMP: J. D. MARGETTS UE

Congratulations to J. D. Margetts UE, Chilliwack Branch who won top honours for his age group and is now Young Weight Training Champion for Western Canada and then all Canada. J. D. who trained only three weeks for the first competition will now proceed to the World Championships this fall in Las Vegas. We wish him well!

J. D. (or John Dennis), of Williams Lake BC is the sixteen-year-old son of John and Maureen Margetts UE, grandson of Art and Phyllis Hill UE, and a descendant of Daniel Keith UE of NB. He is also a talented hockey player and a great supporter of the Loyalists.

by Lois Dickinson UE

Shirley Dargatz UE: Award Winner

Chilliwack's Shirley Dargatz UE was the recipient of the Betty Urquhart Community Service Award from the University College of the Fraser Valley. We could fill a *Gazette* with her activities, but for now it should be noted that Shirley had wonderful letters of recommendation from the BC Retired Teachers' Association, Carman United Church, Chilliwack, and of course the UELAC at both the branch and national levels. She has been a familiar figure at the UELAC Conferences and gone above and beyond with all her work with the Association and elsewhere; she is a wonderful person!

Here are a few remarks regarding her work. In 1998 Chilliwack Branch received the most UE certificates from amongst all Canadian Branches, and the largest membership in Western Canada. Shirley was at the centre of that achievement. She is especially interested in encouraging youth participation. One letter referred to her as an *Inspiration in Life*. Congratulations!

2001 Fall

Chilliwack Branch has participated in a number of activities during the year.

According to members each meeting is a "happening", with a program theme, decorations, displays, newsletters and refreshments to match. Some of these "happenings" have included:

"GATHERING OF THE CLAN"

Tenth Anniversary honouring our charter Oct. 18, 1990 with candle lighting for important milestones such as the Welcome to BC Banquet in Chilliwack the first stop for Convention 94. (Conference)

"THE GIFTS OF HERITAGE"

Christmas Banquet recognizing the Loyalist legacy in today's Canada. Sixty people attended and enjoyed an enthusiastic sing song and opening Christmas boxes identifying the gifts

"AT THE PEAK OF HERITAGE"

Annual February Heritage Week Celebration held this year at a new school overlooking our valley. Guest speaker Neil Grainger gave an illustrated account of his Mountain Project. He and his team climbed and placed memorial crosses on 67 local mountains named for those who died in World War II (some of whom were of Loyalist descent.)

"HOP ALONG TO GENEALOGY"

Pre-Easter genealogy workshop and Apple Blossom luncheon. Vona Smith UE, President of Vancouver Branch (and a Chilliwack member) told the story of John McIntosh and her relationship to his Loyalist wife.

"LAUNCH OUT"

Our yearly salute to the Spring Fleet, Saint John, 1783 (as per UELAC Bylaws Article 6: 608). It was a great gathering with Vancouver Branch at the new home of Joan and Frank Fishleigh UE (Vancouver members) in Mission. The day was perfect and the woodsy setting with the Fraser River in the background was most appropriate. Shirley Dargatz UE, Pacific Region Vice-President, presented a Loyalist rosebush to our hosts.

STRAWBERRY - the heart-shaped fruit "AT THE HEART OF SUMMER HERITAGE" was the theme for our much-appreciated Strawberry Social and Pre-Canada Day observance at the home of Ken and Shirley Dargatz UE.

In addition to these events there have also been four genealogy workshops, which resulted in several new members. Sessions were conducted by Lois Dickinson UE, C.M.H., assisted by Art Keller UE, Bob Bessey UE, Vera Webb UE, Wesley MacDiarmid UE.

The Branch has been represented at the opening of two new schools, the sixth anniversary of Thompson-Okanagan Branch (our protégé) in Vernon, the Sons of Scotland June Banquet and the launching of the Agassiz District History Book coordinated by Joan McCrae Vogstad, descendant of William Urquhart, UEL.

Congratulations go to those who recently received certificates: *Cecil Ashley; Leota Good Janzen; Joanne Bale Cleo Walters; Carol Cook; Wayne Walton; Al Dawson; Barbara Wilson; Lois Dickinson (#2 certificate)*

There was a unique presentation to Morgan Dagenais Todhunter now 6 who originally received her certificate on her first birthday.

Best wishes to Genealogist Mildred Evans Hall UE who received an Honorary Life Membership in the

Chilliwack Museum and Historical Society...and to High School Graduates Carissa Brown UE and Jennifer Hay UE.

Our Branch is saddened and diminished by the death of Bob Bessey of Guelph, Ont., a continuing genealogist.

2002 Spring

The President's Tour

Chilliwack Branch enjoyed an exciting and rewarding fall season, beginning with the late September BC tour of Dominion President C. William Terry UE.

Our Abbotsford members arranged an entertaining welcome luncheon, "All Aboard for UEL", for the President. Audrey Maclean UE and Barb Wilson UE convened the event at the home of Audrey and her husband, Dr. Bruce Maclean.

We toured the north side of the Fraser River to the Agassiz Museum, (a former CPR station c1885), where much fun was had 'riding' the caboose. Chilliwack prepared a Loyalist area dinner attended by over 80 members and mends. A highlight was the presentation of certificates to three daughters of our long time member and newsletter publisher, Judy Scholz UE, (John Thornton), and her husband, Wolfgang. The President presented certificates to Cindy Lyftogt UE, Rebecca Heibner UE and Vicky Heibner UE. Certificates were presented in absentia for Colin Van Home UE and his father Philip Van Home UE, and were accepted by latter's parents Bircham Van Home UE (Cornelius Van Home) and his wife Mary Van Home UE (Michael, Carman), both valued members and Conference delegates. The setting for the impressive ceremony, the beautiful sanctuary of Carman United Church, had special meaning as the girls' great-grandfather George I. Thornton had been a member of the original congregation. It is named for Rev. A Carman, a Michael Carman UE descendant. A moment's silence and candle lighting remembered September 11th.

The President's Tour continued with dinner in Vancouver; a luncheon with Victoria Branch and a visit to the Thompson Okanagan Branch at Vernon. All in all, he met approximately 230 UEL people; travelling for 32 hours and 2,000 km. It was a whirlwind weekend that was a real privilege for BC. Our thanks to Doreen Todhunter UE, C.M.H., who suggested we take the President to the Branches. Thanks also to Pacific Region Vice-President Shirley Dargatz UE and the Chilliwack Branch Leadership Team. Appreciation is also extended to our youth contacts who so enthusiastically participated.

The Tour also recognized the 11th anniversary of our Branch, chartered 18 Oct. 1990. On Nov. 11th, we followed the Branch's six-year Remembrance Day tradition and presented a poppy wreath at the Chilliwack cenotaph. For the first time presenters wore period costumes at the request of the community. Representing us were Barb Wilson UE and her grandchildren Ryan, Cody, Rusty and A.J. Wilson.

"All aboard (for Christmas)" was our annual turkey dinner. Our oldest member, 93-year-old Gladys Van Baaren, said *grace*. Carols were enjoyed and the meeting's climax was the special presentation of certificates to two American members, Linda Clark UE and her father, 94-yearold Douglas Clark UE of Bellingham, WA. Christmas music from the Peace Tower in Ottawa was played and large pictures of the

Peace Tower and the Peace Arch formed the background. The American flag was displayed for the first time. It was a moving moment with us close to the American border, and with September 11th much in our minds.

Dec. 27th on the historic balcony of the museum, (former city hall, 1912), Philip Van Home UE and Colin Van Home UE, ages 8, were thrilled to receive the certificates previously presented to their family. Jim Merkley was a young guest.

The spring holds promise with our increased membership, annual celebration of Heritage Week and the Arrival of the Spring Fleet, May 18.

-Judy Scholz UE & Lois Dickinson UE

2002 Fall

We have had a very busy season with a number of unique opportunities for community outreach. Chief among these was the invitation from the City of Chilliwack to participate in the combined observance of Canada Day and Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee.

Shirley Dargatz UE cut the ribbon at the opening of Chilliwack's delightful British Museum.

Our annual Heritage Week meeting this year featured fourteen-year old Scottish dancer Susannah Bowman UE, (granddaughter of Doreen Todhunter UE CMH)

Our spring luncheon on May 26th celebrated the Spring Fleet: Saint John, May 18, 1783. It was a chance to give out certificates, with some of the participants in kilts. Paul Rogers was loaned a heavy handcrafted wooden rolling pin, a wedding gift in 1907, to "persuade" relatives to become UELAC members!

"Happy Heritage" was the theme for a midsummer luncheon in Abbotsford with our senior member Percy Deplessey and youth member Steven Rogers among those awarded certificates. Lois Dickinson UE CMH presented the certificate to Percy, a second cousin whom she had not seen between 1937 and 1999.

We also participated in the Abbotsford Genealogy Group's Fair and Heritage Fair for Fraser Valley School kids 5 to 9.

Congratulations to youth members Rusty Wilson, 13 who was awarded a trip to the Tim Horton Children's Foundation leadership "Camp Onondaga" at Saint George ON, and J.D. Margetts UE who graduated from Williams Lake High School with great distinction, and heads for the University of Alberta.

The Branch is saddened at the loss of two long-time members, brothers-in-law Dick Merson and Bob Armstrong UE, whose deaths occurred barely two months apart. Our sympathy continues with Laura Merson UE and Bea Armstrong UE and their families.

by Lois Dickinson UE & Jean Brown

2003 Spring

Bells rang merrily at our Christmas Smorgasbord Luncheon on December 8th.

Ring Out for Heritage was the theme and each table featured enough bells for members to participate. They rang their bells in appreciation of the great feast; for the greetings from Dominion President Myrna Fox UE and for Pacific Region Counsellor Dennis Webb UE. Bells rang again for an acrostic when young members held paper bells and read statements highlighting the theme and Loyalism. Santa appeared, after

Dennis Webb had disappeared mysteriously! President Shirley Dargatz, UE presided and 76 people attended.

An in-house anniversary raffle convened during the year by Barb Wilson UE was won by Mrs. Doug Jackson, Vancouver, Bette Wagar, and young family members Kaitlyn Lyftogt and Gabrielle Wilson. Young people taking part in the program included Tyler Perrie, UE, Justin Perrie, UE, Curtis Perrie, UE, Jennifer Hay UE, Morgan Todhunter, UE, Rusty Wilson and Robyn Duncan.

Our 12th anniversary was a coffee party with Lynne Phillips, UE and Cleo Walters, UE cutting the birthday cake. The Branch has grown from ten charter members to almost 100. Silk was the 12th anniversary theme.

Our Remembrance Day wreath, a tradition since 1996, was laid at the Chilliwack Cenotaph adjacent to the Museum by Jerry Brown UE and Paul Rogers UE.

Networking continued with a visit to Victoria's 75th Anniversary; Vancouver's luncheon with Myrna Fox; Shirley Dargatz's talk to the Mayflower Society and Lois Dickinson's talk to Vancouver Branch on Street Names of Loyalist Significance.

Please note the following: Maureen Margetts is Maureen Margetts UE. Maureen, her son John Dennis Margetts, UE and her mother Phyllis Hill, UE (1924 - 2001) were our only three-generation member group.

by Lois Dickinson UE, C.M.H.

2003 Fall

Our Branch is pleased with the results of its membership drive. Beginning at 67 and aiming for 100 the present total is 124. This is largely because of family memberships. Amongst these are the grandchildren of Wolfgang and Judy Scholz UE.

Receiving certificates at our annual Heritage Week celebration in the name of Loyalist John Thornton (NB & ON) were Loren Lyftogt, Ethan Lyftogt, Kaitlyn Lyftogt, Korissa Heibner. In their delightful Loyalist era outfits and flanked by handmade quilts, they created a special segment of living history. Also awarded certificates in this quarter were Shirley Rockwell Dumma (William Boultenhouse, NB) and Selwyn Wesley MacDermid UE whose second certificate honoured Loyalist John McMartin. These certificates were presented at our yearly recognition of the Spring Fleet with the theme 2/20 marking 220 years since the Spring Fleet landed May 18,1783 in what became Saint John.

Another highlight was participation with Vancouver Branch in the annual Hyak Festival at the New Westminster Quay (a site visited by U.E.L. tour buses to the BC Conference in 1994). Our display featured Simon Fraser as a Loyalist descendant and celebrated his birthday May 20.

July 1st was celebrated with outstanding displays prepared on invitation from the City of Chilliwack for Canada at the new Heritage Fairgrounds.

A members' booklet with pictures and biographies is presently being prepared.

Representatives enjoyed spring luncheons hosted by Victoria and Vancouver Branches and the tremendous community wide 50th anniversary party for Jean & Jerry Brown UE.

President Shirley Dargatz UE presided, Morgan Todhunter UE gave a piano solo and Lois Dickinson UE paid tribute to the Brown's service to the UELAC.

Congratulations are in order for Vona Smith UE (Vancouver and Chilliwack) now completing a book on De Witt genealogy and to Wes MacDiarmid UE for his extensive work on the McMartin family.

by Lois Dickinson UE, C.M.H.

2004 Fall

How thrilled we were to entertain our president, Doug Grant UE , at our annual Strawberry Social, June 24, 2004! Doug's " Pacific Tour " so soon after his installation as UELAC President, is indeed indicative of his dedication and enthusiasm as he undertakes this arduous role. Doug reminded us that projects bring us together and give us motivation. He challenged each one of us to do " one little thing " that would benefit our Association. Accompanying Doug was his wife Nancy and son Corcoran. Chilliwack Member, Janet Baldigara (anc. Thomas Turney) was thrilled to receive her certificate in person from president Doug. Family members of Loyalist, Richard Rogers, received the certificates for Daryl Dickinson and son, Thomas, as well as for Rodney Rogers.

Our annual " Salute to the Spring Fleet " was held May 29,2004, at the " Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve " on the lagoons of the Vedder River. Our Branch seeks out " special waters " each year to commemorate our Spring Fleet celebration. Selwyn Wesley MacDiarmid received his fourth certificate in the name of Loyalist ancestor, John Everson.

On May 22,2004, president, Shirley Dargatz UE, assisted the Vancouver Branch with their display at the Hyack Festival in New Westminster, B.C. which honours Simon Fraser.

On May 15,2004, Shirley Dargatz, acting in her capacity as Pacific Region Vice President, was guest speaker at the Victoria Branch Spring Banquet which commemorated the Spring Fleet. As often as possible, the B.C. Branches attend each other's functions and enjoy much camaraderie.

"Leap into Heritage" was our Leap Year theme for Heritage week which we celebrated on March 6, 2004. Receiving certificates on that day, were descendants of Loyalist, William Urquhart, Brian Stuart and Paul Andrew Kennedy, sons of Jacqueline Kennedy UE and Allan Kennedy.

Attending the wonderful 2004 Conference, Water Links to our Loyalist Heritage, were Chilliwack members; Jan Ouellet, Margaret Strocel and Shirley Dargatz. Thank you Kawartha Branch!

New Chilliwack Branch website: www3.telus.net/uelchilliwack
Web-master: Selwyn Wesley MacDiarmid.

by Shirley Dargatz UE

2005 Spring

Our fourteenth anniversary, which we celebrated with a tea on 25 September 2004, emphasized two themes: "Ivory," which is the symbol for the fourteenth, and "The Acadians, Dispelling the Myth." Selwyn Wesley MacDiarmid UE and Gordon Vance UE received certificates in the name of Frederick Schaeffer. Only this past year, these two recipients discovered they were descendants of this same ancestor. Also during this meeting, Wes MacDiarmid reviewed the story of the Loyalist Rose and

informed us that B.C.'s very own, "Caribou" Cameron may be related to Loyalists John and Mary Cameron who brought the rose to Cornwall, Canada. We love these "links"!

Following the placing of our UEL wreath by Allan and Jacqueline Kennedy UE at the Chilliwack Cenotaph, branch members gathered at a nearby restaurant for lunch. "Remember our Past – Our Legacy for the Future" was our theme which was borrowed from a plaque hanging on the wall of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 4. Members at "between the crosses, row on row" which decorated the banquet table. Memorable highlights of the meeting included the sharing of war stories by six of our members. A memorial display, borrowed from Carman United Church, included a picture of George Green who, as a young man, was killed in WW II. Three of his Thornton cousins present share Loyalist ancestor John Thornton. During the Remembrance Day Service at the cenotaph, Shirley Dargatz UE was thrilled to talk with a gentleman who knew cousin George!

On 4 December 2004, we had a "Holly Jolly Christmas," with holly of course, being our theme. Selwyn Wesley MacDiarmid UE, presented with his fifth certificate by Jacqueline Kennedy UE, surprised her by telling her that she too shared the same Loyalist ancestor and they are. Therefore, distant cousins. We love surprises! President Shirley Dargatz UE gave a brief commentary on the late Canadian author Pierre Berton.

At its planning meeting in January, the Chilliwack Branch Leadership Team is looking ahead to a full slate of interesting activities for 2005.

Chilliwack Branch website: www3.telus.net/uelchilliwack.

by Shirley Dargatz UE

2005 Fall

Our Heritage Week Celebration held on 26 February 2005 focused on two themes: *Heritage of Faith: Sacred Buildings and Spiritual Places*, and *Black History Month*. Appropriately, the meeting was held in Carman United Church, a pioneer church in Chilliwack established in 1898. The guest speaker was retired Army Captain Barry Johnson of Loyalist ancestry. Captain Johnson spoke proudly and positively of his Loyalist background emphasizing how education and pursuing professional careers was such an important part of his heritage. Certificates that day were presented to descendants of Loyalist ancestor, William Urquhart UE; Scott and Stacey Kennedy, and Kaitlyn and Jocelyn Renker, grandchildren and great grandchildren of long time members Allan and Jacqueline Kennedy UE.

Salute to the Spring Fleet on May 14 was held again this year at the Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve. Joan Bruce UE received her long awaited certificate in the name of Loyalist ancestor, Samuel Whitney UE. As with all our certificate ceremonies, members young and older, assist with the presentation of certificates, flags, symbolic roses and congratulatory cards. The "Spring Fleet" was symbolically represented by theme decorated cupcakes – "nautical but nice". A special reading by Jean Brown also set the scene on the arrival of the Spring Fleet.

The following week, Shirley Dargatz UE joined with Vancouver Branch at their display booth as part of Simon Fraser Days. Situated next to the monument of Simon Fraser and over the mighty Fraser River, the setting could not be more fitting.

Conference 2005 in Regina was a great success! Frequent conference attending members; Jan Ouellet, Margaret Strocel, Allan and Jacqueline Kennedy and Shirley Dargatz, went Eastward Ho to the Westward Ho Conference.

The annual Strawberry Social held on June 18 at the Dargatz Residence featured the usual red and white theme (to match the strawberries and whipped cream and, of course, the Canada Flag). The certificate ceremony was held for Wes MacDiarmid (ancestor John Cameron UE) and Gordon Vance (ancestor William Simmons Place UE). Wes and Gordon share many mutual ancestors.

Newly elected Pacific Councillor, Carl Stymiest UE of the Vancouver Branch, honoured us with his presence at our Spring Fleet and Strawberry Social events.

Canada Day once again saw our Branch members in full regalia at a colourful display booth as part of the Chilliwack July 1st festivities.

by Shirley Dargatz UE

2006 Spring

Our Fifteenth Anniversary that we celebrated on 29 October 2005, focused on two themes, a “*Palette of Pumpkins*” and the designated year of “*Crystal*.” Pumpkins pervaded in the decor as well as a plethora of pumpkin flavours in the refreshments. The story of the importance of pumpkins in the time of our Loyalist Ancestors was told. One of our invited guests, artist, Maxwell Newhouse, whom some of you will remember as the artist of the RCMP Musical Ride book, certainly enhanced our palette theme. Our second invited guest, Chilliwack Councillor Dorothy Kostrzewa, has been a long time ardent supporter of our Chilliwack Branch. We were honoured with the presence of our guests. Receiving certificates at this event were; Alan Reid (Loyalist Ancestor Jeremiah Lapp UE) and four grandchildren of our Loyalist Link-Up Newsletter Publisher, Judy Scholz UE. The children included Karaline, Kole, Karalee Heibner and Sydney Heibner. Judy now has her three daughters and all of her grandchildren with certificates in the name of Loyalist ancestor, John Thornton UE. What a great example!

The “*Crystal Ceremony*” involved fifteen volunteers who each read a piece of our Loyalist History as they dropped crystals into a bowl.

On Remembrance Day, we had a contingent of the grandchildren of Judy Scholz UE present the memorial wreath on behalf of our Branch.

Appropriately, “*Christmas Trees*” was the focus of our annual turkey dinner on 3 December 2005. The Christmas tree theme was embellished, appropriate toasts were made and hearty carol singing ensued. Jean Brown presented everyone with her special hand-made gift boxes complete with treats, as well as a very challenging quiz which tested our knowledge, or lack thereof.

See our web site: www3.telus.net/uelchilliwack.

by Shirley Dargatz UE

2006 Fall

The first branch event of 2006 was our February Heritage Week meeting where we celebrated our Scottish roots with members of the Fraser Glen Camp in full regalia as our special guests, and “*All Things Scottish*” as our theme.

Branch focus then concentrated on the certificate ceremony on April 28th and the Pacific Regional Conference on April 29th at Fort Langley.

The evening prior to the Conference was a special certificate celebration held for Clayton Maurice

Thornton and his two daughters, Fleita Rae and Shay. The event was held at the Promontory Plaza Restaurant on property once owned by George and Rebecca Thornton, great and second great grandparents of the celebrants. The setting overlooks the Thornton home built in 1908 that is now under renovation. We were so honoured to have UELAC President Doug Grant to present the certificates and to have our first lady, Nancy Conn, grace our presence. Representing the City of Chilliwack was Councillor Dorothy Kostrzewa who also participated in the certificate ceremony. Period clothing was very much in evidence and the Branch was delighted to receive excellent media coverage in the *Chilliwack Times* newspaper.

A goodly contingent of Chilliwack Branch members attended the Pacific Regional Conference on April 29 where members of the four B.C. Branches met at Fort Langley, "*The Birthplace of British Columbia*". Honoured guests, UELAC President Doug Grant and his wife Nancy highlighted the Conference agenda. Branch President Shirley Dargatz UE, had the distinct pleasure of being the guest speaker at the Victoria Branch Spring Fleet Banquet on May 13. Accompanied and assisted by Pacific Regional Councillor Carl Stymiest UE, the three-part speech included the Spring Fleet, Branch Projects, and the Dominion Association.

Branch President Shirley Dargatz joined the Vancouver Branch at their display booth during Multi-Cultural Days at the New Westminster Quay.

Attending the 2006 Conference in Toronto were Allan and Jacqueline Kennedy UE and Shirley Dargatz UE. The Annual Strawberry Social, held June 25th at the Dargatz residence, is always a "*Red and White Affair*".

July 1st, Canada Day, saw us "*front row centre*", (that would be right next to the performance stage), at Chilliwack's Heritage Park. Our colourful display attracted many visitors and some would-be Loyalists. We are always happy to give folks a history lesson on our Loyalist Roots.

On July 21, Pacific Regional Vice President Shirley Dargatz and Pacific Councillor Carl Stymiest journeyed to Vernon to attend the Thompson-Okanagan Strawberry Social on Saturday July 22 at the home of Rob and Pat Kelderman UE, Past President of the branch. Their beautiful home, built in 1908, is now a bed and breakfast called, "*The Laughing Loon*." Situated on the spectacular Okanagan Lake, the home displays a unique plaque indicating that Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip spent a holiday there. We are thrilled that Thompson-Okanagan Branch has enthusiastically volunteered to host the 2010 Conference and, already, they have many plans in place!

Chilliwack Branch is deeply saddened by the recent deaths of two members, Viola Boyd UE and Mary Hope UE.

by Shirley Dargatz UE, Branch President

2007 Spring

Chilliwack Branch loves to acknowledge and celebrate events! We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mary Van Horne UE of our Leadership Team and to members Marian Reid UE and Irving Reid UE on the occasion of their 60th anniversary!

At our 24 October 2006 meeting, we celebrated "*The Landing of the Fall Fleet*" – in particular, the arrival of Thornton Loyalists to Kings Landing. As well as "*Drawing for Lots*" and emphasizing a "*Harvest Theme*," certificates were presented to Milton UE (Loyalist ancestor: Sgt. Isaac Gilbert UE) and Chad,

Wade, Devan, and Travis Kennedy (Loyalist ancestor: William Urquhart UE), grandchildren of Jacqueline Kennedy UE and Allan Kennedy. Kudos to Jacque line and Allan who now have certificates for all of their children and grandchildren – totalling fourteen in their family. A great example for all of us to follow!

In September, Jean Brown, Shirley Dargatz and Jan Ouellet had a wonderful experience when we joined the Vancouver Branch at their “*Fort Anderson*” event! Once down the garden path and into the yard, we literally “*stepped back in time*” to 1783. As Jean Brown described the experience, it was like going down the rabbit hole in Alice in Wonderland. Upon entering and receiving our “*wee draught*,” we beheld a company of Loyalists “*decked-out*” in period clothing. Loyalist food was consumed, the “*Drawing of Lots*” was a highlight, and music of the era floated over the assembled throng. It was a superb event!

On 24 October 2006, Pacific Regional Vice President, Shirley Dargatz UE, joined Pacific Councillor, Carl Stymiest UE, for a presentation at the Tri-Stakes Family History Seminar, “*Finding Your Roots*.”

Descendants of Loyalist John Thornton UE, Fleita Rae and Shay, along with Shannon Thornton, did the honours of placing the UELAC–Chilliwack wreath at the Cenotaph on 11 November 2006. We were so saddened to learn of Sq. Ldr. Phillip Leith’s passing. Phillip was a wonderful friend of our Chilliwack Branch and often attended our events. We will miss him terribly!

Christmas Dinner (at noon) on 2 December 2006, found us privately catered in the Chapel of the Alliance Church. The theme focussed on the Nativity and a number of folks brought their special crèches for “*Show and Tell*.” Besides a delicious turkey dinner, carol singing, goody-bags and Christmas cake made by Jacqueline Kennedy, were enjoyed.

Mildred Dargatz UE now understands the saying, “*I feel as if I have been run over by a truck .*” Unfortunately, she is still recovering from being hit in a crosswalk by a van.

Chilliwack Branch membership made it to 100 in 2006. Our goal is 107 in 2007!

See our web site: www3.telus.net/uelchilliwack

by Shirley Dargatz UE, Branch President

2007 Fall

The “*Star Attraction*” for the B.C. Branches this spring was the President’s Tour starring UELAC President, Peter Johnson UE. Peter was Guest of Honour and Key-note Speaker for the Spring Fleet Celebration of the Chilliwack Branch on Saturday, 5 May 2007 Peter arrived at the Vancouver Airport the day before and was escorted to the Dargatz residence in Chilliwack by Carl Stymiest UE, Pacific Regional Councillor.

The Loyalist Flag flying on the newly erected flagpole signified that the UELAC President was “*in residence*.” Chilliwack Branch members were delighted to meet President Peter and to hear him speak at a soup and sandwich lunch at Carman United Church.

The next day, May 6, President Peter, Jan Ouellet and Shirley Dargatz UE, made their way to the Vancouver Yacht Club for the 75th Anniversary of the Vancouver Branch, where, once again, Peter was the special guest. Another special guest, Elizabeth Richardson UE, UELAC Historian / Archivist, was also in attendance. Other Chilliwack Branch attendees were Judy UE and Wolfgang Scholz, Jacqueline UE Allan Kennedy, Doreen Todhunter UE and family – Judy Todhunter UE, Linda Todhunter UE,

Morgan Dagenais-Todhunter UE, Chris Godwin and Bernie Dagenais. We were thrilled when Doreen Todhunter was recognized with a Past President's Jewell for her years of service with the Vancouver Branch.

The setting was magnificent, the banquet beautifully appointed, the program awesome – especially, the awarding of seventy-five certificates to mark their 75th. Shirley Dargatz UE and Vona Smith UE were honoured to receive the first presentations of the Phillip Leith Memorial Volunteer Service Award recently created by the Vancouver Branch for the Pacific Region Branches.

The camaraderie continued as some of the attending guests from the Chilliwack, Vancouver and Victoria Branches and President Peter, made the ferry trip together on Sunday night to Vancouver Island where they participated in the Spring Banquet of the Victoria Branch on Monday, May 7. A picturesque ferry ride home in the early evening brought Peter Johnson's Pacific Tour to a perfect ending.

Other Chilliwack events thus far in 2007 were:

Heritage Week Celebration on February 17. Themes included: "*Black History Month*" and "*Vernacular Heritage*" (Architecture without Architects).

Chris Hay UE gave a most fascinating talk on the "*Lost Garden of Stanley Park*".

Certificate presentations were made to Judy Horner UE (Loyalist Ancestor – Captain Michael Grass UE) and Corinna Wilson UE (Loyalist Ancestor – John Bruce UE).

Chilliwack Branch participated in the "*Roots Around the World*" Seminar on April 28 with a Loyalist display.

Speaking to seventy-five students at Chilliwack Senior Secondary School on February 22, Shirley Dargatz UE was very proud to present our resource book, *The Loyalist Pioneers and Settlers of the West* to three of the Social Studies teachers, Grade Four Vedder Elementary School students were also on Shirley's speaking agenda.

Having just returned from Conference 2007, "*At The End Of The Trail*", Jan Ouellet and Shirley Dargatz UE wish to extend to the Bicentennial Branch our heartfelt congratulations on an excellent conference! What a great time we had!

Thank you all for making each and every event a most special occasion!

by Shirley Dargatz UE, Branch President

2008 Spring

Our Annual Summertime Strawberry Social is a most appropriate time to highlight the red and white colours of our great Canadian flag.

Chilliwack Branch members, Jan Ouellet and Judy Scholz UE joined ranks with the Vancouver Branch at the Fort Langley Fur Brigade Days on the August long weekend.

A "*Harvest Theme*" for our Fall Celebration featured four certificate presentations.

Joan Bruce UE received certificates on behalf of three of her grown children in the name of their Loyalist ancestor, Samuel Whitney UE. New member, Walter Ross Wert UE received his certificate for his Loyalist ancestor, John Wert UE. The ritual of a special scripted Certificate Presentation is always performed whenever certificates are presented. In addition to the certificate, the presentation of a symbolic rose, a UE pin and/or a UE flag and a congratulatory card offers an opportunity for various

Branch members to be involved in the ceremony. We appreciate the superb job that our Genealogist, Mildred Hall UE and her assistant Wes McDiarmid UE do for our Branch.

On 11 November 2007, Marian Reid UE and Irving Reid UE laid the UELAC Chilliwack Branch wreath at the Chilliwack Cenotaph.

A “*Pioneer Christmas*” was our theme for the December 1st Christmas

Unfortunately, unusually bad weather prevented many folks from making the trek through the Fraser Valley. Bea Mazurenko, one of the authors who contributed to the “*just launched*” book, *The Chilliwack Story*, was guest speaker.

In anticipation of spring, bulbs have been planted at the Chilliwack Branch, newly established “*Commemorative Garden*” on the grounds of the Carman United Church Cemetery. Carman Church was founded in 1898 and named after Dr. Albert Carman who was the General Superintendent of the Methodist Church in Canada. Dr. Carman was of United Empire Loyalist stock.

Very sadly, the 1908 Heritage Home, built by George and Rebecca Thornton (Loyalist ancestor - John Thornton UE), on Promontory Heights in Chilliwack, was unexpectedly demolished on 7 January 2008. Once again, in the name of progress, our heritage crumbles before our eyes.

by Shirley Dargatz UE, Branch President

2008Fall

Our Heritage week celebration in February heralded in our 2008 Branch events. The designated themes were “*Taking Care of Business*” and “*Black Heritage Month*”. We also celebrated the signature on the Heritage Week Proclamation, that of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, The Honourable Steven L. Point, who grew up here in Chilliwack.

Guest speakers for our May 10th Spring Fleet event featured two young lads, ten-year-old Daniel Kanis and his twelve-year-old brother, Kevin. Daniel’s home schooling project was on the “*The Hungry Year*” and Kevin’s was about Henry Kelsey. Both boys had participated in the Historica Fair held May 3 at the University College of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford. Allan Kennedy UE was presented with his long-awaited certificate in the name of his Loyalist ancestor, Thomas Millard UE.

Chilliwack Branch President, Shirley Dargatz UE, assisted in the display with the Vancouver Branch at the Simon Fraser Multicultural Day held at the New Westminster Quay on May 17. Chilliwack Branch member, Judy Scholz UE and husband, Wolfgang, both Black Powder re-enactors, were guest speakers at the Vancouver Branch on May 20. As well, they had a Black Powder encampment at Fort Langley for the Fur Brigade Days on the B.C. long weekend, August 1 – 4.

British Columbia is celebrating 150 years in 2008! Many special events are being held throughout the year.

The annual Strawberry Social was held on June 21. Canada Day saw us with a display booth at the July 1st festivities – a wonderful opportunity to share our heritage with many folks.

Conference 2008 in St. John, New Brunswick, was a superb Conference! Chilliwack Branch members attending included: Judy Scholz UE and daughter, Vicky Heibner UE, Jan Ouellet, Margaret Strocel, Jean and Horace Cyrull, and Ken and Shirley Dargatz.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of our Branch member, Walter Wert, who just received his certificate at age 90 last October in the name of his Loyalist ancestor, John Wert UE.

At present, the Chilliwack Branch, along with the Vancouver Branch, is busy preparing for a Pacific Regional Mini-conference the weekend of September 26 – 28. We are so looking forward to hosting our special guests, UELAC President Fred Hayward and First Lady, Margaret Hayward.

The Chilliwack Branch web site is now connected with the Dominion Site.

by Shirley Dargatz UE, Branch President

2009 Spring

Our annual display booth at the Chilliwack Canada Day celebrations is always an opportune time to fly our Loyalist flag along with our Canadian flag and it is a great time to share our story with display boards, information and handouts.

The Chilliwack and Vancouver Branches were highly focused on the Pacific Regional Mini-Conference held on September 26-28. Friday night and Saturday events were held in Chilliwack, and the Sunday event was held at “*Fort Anderson*” in Vancouver. Joining us were the other B.C. Branches, Victoria and Thompson- Okanagan. A Black Powder Shoot at the Chilliwack Fish and Game Club was a unique and fun experience for those participants. Saturday’s all-day event at Carman United Church featured greetings from the Honourable Steven L. Point, Lt. Governor of B.C., and a lunch visit from the Honourable Chuck Strahl, MP for Chilliwack-Fraser Canyon and Minister of Indian Affairs, accompanied by his wife Deborah. We were thoroughly honoured to have our UELAC President, Fred Hayward UE, and First Lady, Margaret Hayward, attend all our events.

President Fred presented twenty-three certificates to members from Vancouver, Victoria and Chilliwack. Chilliwack members receiving were: Janet Duncan (Loyalist ancestor - George Shriver UE), Anne, Catherine, Jillian and David Yuen (Loyalist ancestor - John Wert UE), and Alison, Brittany, Heidi and Kirsten Vance (Loyalist ancestor - Frederick Shaver UE). A poignant note was the presentation of six certificates to the White family of the Vancouver Branch. Rev. James Henry White was the first minister of Carman United Church when it was founded in 1898, one hundred and ten years prior to our event. The Pacific Conference fostered a great deal of camaraderie between our Branches.

The Remembrance Day wreath was presented by Janet Duncan UE and her mother, Cleo Walters UE (Loyalist ancestor -George Shriver UE).

Our Christmas celebration featured a special program by Fleita Rae and Shay Thornton (Loyalist ancestor -John Thornton UE). Over the past year, Branch member, Gordon Vance UE (Loyalist ancestor - Frederick Shaver UE) has obtained certificates for his five daughters and grandchildren. In addition to the aforementioned, four more certificates were presented to Vance grandchildren at our Christmas event:

Jack Andrade, Zakariya, Yasmina and Elias Enneddam. Daughter Erin and granddaughter Melissa Enneddam, received certificates at a prior date.

The Chilliwack Branch web site is now connected to the Dominion site at www.uelac.org.

by Shirley Dargatz UE, Branch President

2009 Fall

At their Heritage Week meeting on 21 February, Chilliwack Branch members were held spellbound by guest speaker, Carolyn Abramson's presentation on the *Underground Railway*. Her captivating talk was further enhanced with *The Pentones*, a group of five singers who sang the Spirituals vividly describing the symbols that helped the Black people to find their way to *Caanan* (Canada). In addition, Carolyn's *special quilt* of symbolic blocks poignantly illustrated how the refugees were given directions at *safe houses*. Graeson Lounsbury, age 11, created his Social Studies project on his Loyalist ancestor, John Thornton UE.

A contingent of Chilliwack members celebrated, with the Vancouver Branch, their May 3rd Spring Fleet event at the Beatty Street Armouries. Chilliwack's Spring Fleet celebration was held on May 30th with guest speakers, Senior Vice-President, Carl Stymiest UE, and Pacific Regional Councillor, Mary-Anne Bethune UE.

Shirley Dargatz UE and her cousin Judy Scholz UE attended the wonderful 2009 Conference in Napanee! We were transported back in time at the events at the encampment at Adolphustown marking the 225th *Landing of the Loyalists*. Each year friendships grow stronger as we gather from *sea to sea* to honour our heritage. Later in the month, Judy and Shirley joined with members of the Vancouver Branch at their excellent display tent during the very popular Highland Games held in Port Coquitlam, BC. As per tradition, Chilliwack Branch had their colourful UEL booth at the community's Canada Day festivities at Heritage Park.

As well as Branch events, Chilliwack members are involved in planning meetings with the other three BC Branches: Victoria, Vancouver and host Branch, Thompson Okanagan, for the 2010 Conference, *Beyond the Mountains*. Conference 2009 participants will remember the *Go West*, the Mary-Anne and Shirley-Anne skit, that took on a life of its own (you had to be there). Please "***Come West in 2010.***" The Chilliwack Branch web site is now connected to the Dominion site at www.uelac.org.

by Shirley Dargatz UE, Branch President

2010 Spring

As a United Empire Loyalist and Black Powder enthusiast, Chilliwack Branch member, Judy Scholz UE, did double duty at her display booth at the Fort Langley Brigade Days held yearly at the Fort on the first long weekend in August.

October's Thanksgiving Luncheon on 3 October 2009 featured a "*Re-enactment of a Re-enactment*" when those present had an opportunity to view, with commentary, a CD of ninety-two out of three hundred and fifty pictures taken by Shirley Dargatz UE at the 2009 Conference, "*The Loyalist Settlement Experience.*" A magnificent "*Quilt Hanging*" that was created and sewn by member Jean Cyrull and gifted to Shirley Dargatz was unveiled at this October meeting. February's 2010 Heritage Week meeting will feature the stories and the spirituals of this "*Underground Railway Quilt.*"

On 29 October 2009, Shirley Dargatz had the wonderful opportunity to be the guest speaker at a Beginner's Genealogy Course at the University of the Fraser Valley. Chilliwack Branch Member, Marlene Dance, was teaching this course as part of the Elder College program there.

Once again, within a couple of months, we lost another very dear and long-time member of our Branch, Jean Brown. A Memorial Tea at Carman United Church on October 31st was filled to overflowing - a wonderful tribute in Jean's honour for the influence that she had on so many lives - and compassionate support for her husband, Jerry Brown UE, their children, Deleine Perry UE and Danny Brown UE, and

their extended families. Jean was the "*Poet Laureate*" of our Branch, besides helping out in many capacities during her long time as a faithful Chilliwack Branch member.

The honour of laying the Chilliwack Branch wreath at the Chilliwack Cenotaph was carried out by Shirley Dargatz UE and Jerry Brown UE.

"*Christmas Stockings*" was the theme of our Christmas Tea held on November 29th. Attendees were invited to bring their "*stockings and stories*" for this event. Member, Gordon Vance UE, arrived with his "*hip-wader*." We did not have quite enough treats to fill his "*stocking*," but we certainly had lots of laughs. We were entertained by our Young Loyalists with skits, songs and piano presentations. A "*Country Store*" was most successful, and traditional singing of Christmas Carols ushered us into the Advent I Christmas Season.

2010 Fall

February 13th Heritage Week meeting with dual themes of Black History Month and the 2010 Olympics heralded our first Branch meeting for the year. The meeting opened with the presentation of the flags, plus our version of a re-enactment of the Winter Olympics Opening Ceremonies featuring the Torch Lighting Ceremony. The Black History Theme was celebrated with a unique quilt handmade by Chilliwack Branch member, Jean Cyrull, and gifted to Shirley Dargatz UE.

Jean and Shirley told the saga of our Black Loyalist brothers and sisters, using stories, descriptions and Spirituals, "*From Slavery to Freedom*."

An invitation from the Canada's *History Magazine* (formerly *The Beaver*) to attend a formal lunch at the Olympic Club (Vancouver Club) on February 18th saw Jan Ouellet, Judy Scholz and Shirley Dargatz taking advantage of this special opportunity. Making the early morning trek to Vancouver via the train, they viewed Olympic sites and were delighted to meet Deborah Morrison, Publisher, President and CEO of the magazine at the repast and also hear from Richard Pound of the IOC.

Branch Member, Marlene Dance, an enthusiastic researcher, was guest speaker at the March 27th meeting. Her topic was "*The Barnardo Boys*." Her husband is a descendant.

We were greatly saddened by the passing on 23 April 2010 of long time member, Bircham Van Horne. Along with the other three B.C.

Branches, Chilliwack committee members shared in the planning of the 2010 Conference "*Beyond the Mountains*." The almost two years of intense planning and preparation was a superb venue for strengthening our relationships, stretching our skills and having a great deal of fun in the process. We thank those folks who made the "*Journey West*." Your enthusiasm truly contributed to the success of the conference.

The Annual Strawberry Social was held on June 20th. With pomp and ceremony, Alan Nicol Martin UE received his certificate in the name of Loyalist Ancestor, Major James Rogers.

Branch members celebrated on Canada Day with the rest of the community at the Chilliwack Heritage Park. This venue offers an excellent occasion to "*tell our story*" to many folks. The theme this year was a salute to our Armed Forces. How proud we were to include in our display the tribute to Capt. Jonathan Snider UE which was so poignantly featured in the Spring 2009 issue of the *Gazette*.

By Shirley Dargatz UE, President

2011 Spring

Chilliwack Branch began their fall activities by celebrating the 20th anniversary of their Charter on 02 October 2010. The event at Carman United Church, our regular meeting place, featured a large autumn-theme centerpiece complete with candles. The candle lighting ceremony focused on the letter “C”; and as the topics were described, members lit the candles.

The celebrated topics included: our Country Canada, UELAC Royal Charter 1914; Chilliwack Branch Charter 18 October 1990; Continuity – from generation to generation; Camaraderie – relationships throughout our Branches; Conventions – bringing us all together; Challenges – keeping our history alive; and, Commitment – to our Branch and the UELAC. Alice Carter and Chris Hay UE took turns doing the ceremonial cut on the special anniversary cake. At this meeting, two-year-old Jaden Heibner received his UE Certificate (Ancestor: John Thornton UE).

Chilliwack Branch member, Jan Ouellet, hosted a delightful Garden Party on 29 August that honoured the 100th anniversary of the Navy in Canada. It was also a tribute to her late husband, Rene, who was an officer in the Navy.

Members of the Chilliwack Branch attended the “*Fall Fleet Sailabration*” hosted by the Vancouver Branch. At this event, Allan Kennedy UE was thrilled to have President Fred Hayward present him with a second certificate in the name of Loyalist ancestor, Isaiah Millard UE. Allan also received certificates on behalf of two of his nieces, Laurie Hopson and Barbara Collier (Ancestor: Thomas Millard UE).

Marian Reid UE and Irving Reid UE did the honours of laying the wreath at the Chilliwack Cenotaph on Remembrance Day.

The December meeting was a “*Christmas Tea*” on 04 December. Young Loyalists provided entertainment for our pleasure. Koralee Heibner UE, in period dress, played the piano, and Shay Thornton UE and Meagan Britton performed a candy cane song and dance routine created and choreographed by Elva McManus. Did you know? Putting the crooks of the candy canes together spells “U” for UEL. Carol-singing was enjoyed by all. The “*Christmas Country Store*” was a great success.

by Shirley Dargatz UE, Branch President

2011 Fall

Heritage Week and Black History Month ushered in our 2011 Chilliwack Branch meetings. On this 26 February date, the special guests were members of the Sons of Scotland -Fraser Glen Camp who are always so supportive of our UEL events. The year 2011 marks the Centennial of B.C. Parks and Parks Canada — the theme for Heritage Week. It should be noted that Canada’s Dominion Parks Service was the first such national organization in the world! That same year, the government of British Columbia passed legislation to create Strathcona Park on Vancouver Island -the beginning of our provincial park system. Today, there are hundreds of beautiful parks throughout the province. In recognition of Black History month, member Korissa Heibner UE, a secondary student, was our guest speaker on Black History.

Our Branch was deeply saddened to lose one of our long-time, faithful members, William (Bill) Wagar UE on 17 March 2011.

The Spring Fleet “*Sailabration*” held on 07 May 2011 was a Pacific Regional Conference held at Carman United Church in Chilliwack. Members of the Victoria, Vancouver and Chilliwack Branches, along with

The Sons of Scotland -Fraser Glen Camp, enjoyed a day of mustering (gathering), ships' rations (lunch), provisions (gifts to be bought) and a "Flee to the Ship" (a skit by Vancouver members).

Appropriately, miniature sailing ships with names like Union, Hope, Aurora, Three Sisters -to name a few -graced the tables. The Guest Speaker was Prairie Regional Councillor and Membership Chair of the UELAC, Barb Andrew. Her topic was "Member Ships." Another special guest was Chilliwack Mayor, Sharon Gaetz. Piper, Dr. Dan McDermid, gathered the "troops" together for the Presentation of the Colours and the Opening Ceremonies.

In addition to the above activities of the day, nominations were approved for Shirley Dargatz UE and Mary-Anne Bethune UE to continue as Pacific Regional Vice-President and Pacific Councillor respectfully. The Phillip L.M. Leith Award was awarded to Judy Scholz UE (Chilliwack Branch) and Gwen Dumfries UE (Vancouver Branch). Certificates were presented to a number of members. Chilliwack Branch member, Allan Kennedy UE, received a third certificate, this one in the name of Loyalist Ancestor John (Johannes) Lutz UE.

Chilliwack Branch Members, Judy Scholz UE, her daughter, Rebecca Heibner UE, and Shirley Dargatz UE, "Caught the Spirit" at the wonderful 2011 Conference held in Brockville. The unique drawing card of camaraderie that binds our UELAC Family together from sea to sea is a precious gift of each one's presence that many of us treasure immensely.

By Shirley Dargatz UE, Branch President

Spring 2012

The Chilliwack Branch display booth is very much in evidence at every Canada Day celebration held in the town's Heritage Park. This year, our Young Loyalists prepared themselves with modern face painting, lots of red and white and Canada flags, while the older booth attendants wore their period dress.

Celebrating Navy History has now become an annual event at the home of Jan Ouellet. Under canopies, Chilliwack Branch members joined with other folks and friends on 28 August to partake of afternoon tea, refreshments, toasts to the Navy, poems, etc. Lots of great camaraderie was the order of the day.

Our fall event on 01 October 2011 was an "Apple Fest" with apple décor, apple table centres, an assortment of delicious apple refreshments and a history lesson on the MacIntosh apple.

For the second time, Shirley Dargatz UE was invited by member, Marlene Dance, to make a presentation to her Elder College Genealogy Class on 03 November 2011 at the University of the Fraser Valley. A most enthusiastic group!

Remembrance Day featured "The Heibner Children," all Young Loyalists, laying the Chilliwack Branch Wreath at the Cenotaph. Members and friends in attendance at the November 11th service then gathered for lunch at Canton Gardens.

The Annual Christmas Tea, held on 03 December 2011, featured our Country Store (a great little fund raiser), entertainment by our pianist, Koralee Heibner UE, and a Christmas Skit created by member, Elva McManus, and performed by our actresses, Shay Thornton UE, and Meagan Britton, ending, of course, with the traditional Carol Singing. As well, we were intrigued and delighted to have an update by member, Chris Hay UE, on his Stanley Park "Lost Garden."

We are so proud of our incredibly faithful Flag Bearer, Alan Reid UE! Alan has worked for PriceSmart / Save-on Foods for twenty years. Of those twenty years, he has only missed one day of work! He was honoured on 20 October 2011 at a special banquet to celebrate his amazing work record!

We were so saddened in 2011 to lose three of our members, Doreen Todhunter UE, Bill Wagar UE, and Fred Walters, husband of Cleo Walters UE and father of Janet Duncan UE.

By Shirley Dargatz UE, Branch President

Obituary: TODHUNTER, Doreen Gwyneth UE
1924 – 2011

Doreen Gwyneth (Powell) Todhunter UE, born on 13 January 1924, passed away peacefully on a beautiful Sunday, 28 August 2011. A proud second generation Vancouverite, Doreen's father, George Powell, owned the Vancouver clothing factory, Gordon Campbell Ltd. Doreen and her sister, Phyllis Sutton UE, inherited the family business and successfully ran it for another twenty years.



In her twenties, Doreen was a Past Honoured Queen of Bethel No. 1, International Order of Job's Daughters, and a Charter Member of Zarah Temple No. 72, Daughters of the Nile.

An avid history buff, Doreen became passionate about the United Empire Loyalists from whom she was descended (Robert Campbell, Frederick Smith, Jacob Beam). She joined the Vancouver Branch in 1973. In 1979, she was awarded The Most Honourable Order of Meritorious Heritage, an official recognition of her outstanding contribution in resurrecting the Vancouver Branch of the UELAC. She was a Life Member of the Vancouver Branch and a Charter Member of the Chilliwack Branch that formed in 1990. Doreen faithfully wore her period dress to all the meetings. We called her Queen Victoria because of her likeness to that monarch. To us, she was our queen, a gracious hostess with a wealth of knowledge, a precious mentor and a dear and loyal friend. She was an invaluable member of the Chilliwack Branch and its executive.

Doreen was a valued employee of the University of British Columbia's English Department for a number of years. Doreen loved language and was sought out for her expertise in the M.L.A. Style Sheet and the Chicago Manual of Style.

Predeceased by her husband of 33 years, Stanley Caswell Todhunter, in 1981, and her sister, Phyllis Sutton UE, in 1997, she is lovingly remembered by her children, grandchildren and extended families: Judy (Ken Rosmus), James, Susannah, Christina, Sam, Mark, Karen (Bob Derham), Ron (Janet Wagner), Robert, Sean, Alisha, Zander, Schuyler, Jaydon, Linda (Chris Godwin), Morgan, Sean, Nicole, and many friends.

By Shirley Dargatz UE,
Pacific Region Vice-President and President of Chilliwack Branch

2012 Fall

The War of 1812 was the theme for our 25 February 2012 Heritage Week Meeting. Speaking on this timely subject, Branch President, Shirley Dargatz UE, emphasized how this war had defined Canada as a nation. Later she spoke to other groups about the importance of celebrating this 200th milestone. Then, "*taking the*

talk” she headed across the Georgia Strait to Vancouver Island on May 26th, accompanied by Carl Stymiest UE and Mary-Anne Bethune UE of the Vancouver Branch. It was not only a pleasant cruise, but also an enjoyable repast and visit with the wonderful folks of the Victoria Branch at their meeting commemorating the Spring Fleet. Immediate Past President of this Branch, Bob Ferguson UE, sent us “*over the moon*” with the announcement of the Proclamation for British Columbia Loyalist Day to be held annually on July 22 each year. Those present were “*sworn to secrecy*” to keep this exciting news under wraps until we could announce it at the AGM of the UELAC. Such intrigue! We are enormously appreciative of Bob’s efforts in making this special day a reality.

At our Spring Fleet meeting on May 5th, member, Chris Hay UE, shared a picture of “*his find*” – a “*Loyalist stained glass window*” in his church, Canadian Memorial, at 1875 West 16th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. For further information on this window and others being featured, go to “*Stained Glass in Canada*” web-site which features some eighty vignettes of various panels in the church.

Five members of the Chilliwack Branch: Marlene and Wayne Dance, Jan Ouellet, Leon Merchant and Shirley Dargatz, made the trek East to Winnipeg for the wonderful conference! The Pacific Region Branches were excited to announce their newly proclaimed “*Loyalist Day in B.C.*” Another poignant highlight occurred when Chilliwack Branch Member, Leon Merchant UE, met his sixth cousin, Jo Ann Tuskin UE, Dominion Council Secretary, and then was presented with his certificate (Loyalist Ancestor, Catherine Reid Leech) by her at the Manitoba Club Lunch. Leon and Jo Ann share the same ancestor. Shirley Dargatz UE was honoured with the Lord Dorchester Award at the Gala Banquet.

Our special Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Celebration Theme enhanced our annual Strawberry Social on 23 June. We were honoured to have some very special guests: MLA Gwen O’Mahony (Chilliwack / Hope), MP Mark Strahl (Chilliwack / Fraser Canyon) and Mayor of Chilliwack, Sharon Gaetz, and a contingent from the Fraser Camp of the Sons of Scotland. Leon Merchant’s certificate presentation was re-enacted at this event.

Our Branch has been deeply saddened this summer by the recent deaths of Evelyn Mitchell UE (Loyalist ancestor, John Thornton), and Wolfgang, husband of Judy Scholz UE. As well, Percy Deplissey UE, a faithful member for many years, passed away earlier this year on 04 March.

Commemorative Coin for War of 1812

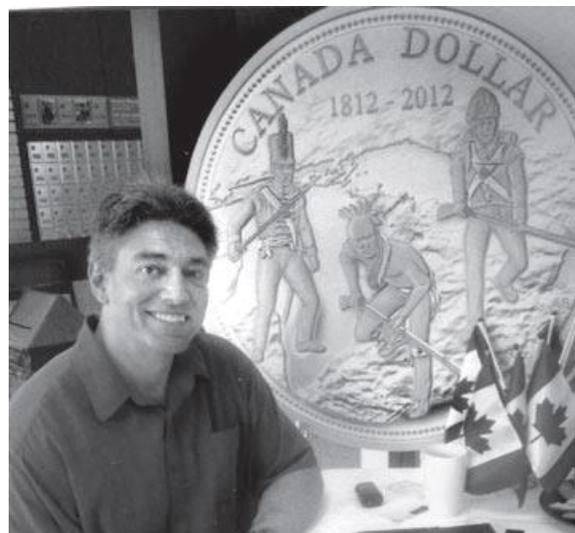
Ardell Bourgeois, a local artist of Chilliwack, British Columbia, won a design competition for a new silver dollar coin to commemorate the War Of 1812. The coin features three combatants: an English Sergeant, an Iroquois Warrior and a Voltigeur* Canadian.

His artistic idea was to bring in the three main groups involved in the founding of Canada. Shirley Dargatz had an opportunity to photograph Mr. Bourgeois and purchase one of his coins at a signing event at the Chilliwack Post Office in British Columbia.

**Editor’s Note:*

The Canadian Voltigeurs were a light infantry unit, raised in Lower Canada (the present-day Province of Quebec) in 1812, that fought in the War of 1812 between Britain and the United States.

His artistic idea was to bring in the three main groups involved in the founding of Canada. Shirley Dargatz had an opportunity to photograph Mr. Bourgeois and purchase one of his coins at a signing event at the Chilliwack Post Office in British Columbia.



By Shirley Dargatz UE, President

2013 Spring

Canada Day 2012 provided Shirley Dargatz UE with an opportunity to officiate at the Carman United Church in Chilliwack. The theme, music, and message focused on celebrating our National Holiday and the importance of our heritage.

British Columbia's First Annual Loyalist Day was held on 22 July at The Queen Elizabeth Park in New Westminster. With food and flags and friendship, we joyously celebrated our special day!

Crossing the mighty Fraser River on 28 July to reach the Kilby Historical Site and Museum saw Jan Ouellet, Marlene Dance, Judy Scholz UE, and two of her granddaughters, Karaline Heibner UE and Sydney Heibner UE, setting up our Loyalist displays at the Kilby Folk Festival.

The Fort Langley Brigade Days on the British Columbia long weekend in August (3-6) is always an enjoyable event. This year, Judy Scholz UE, with her grandson, Ethan Lyftogt UE, and granddaughter, Sydney Heibner UE, assisted their grandmother in setting up their Black Powder tent and belongings. For four days, in period dress, the Black Powder re-enactors live, sleep, eat, work, and barter in their encampment. On the last day, members of the Chilliwack and Vancouver Branches gathered under their favourite tree in the fort to have a picnic. In the afternoon, a parade of folks marched down to the Fraser River to await the arrival of the fur-trader's canoes, after which all marched back up to the Fort to continue with the day's events.

"Harvest Time" was the theme of our fall meeting. Marlene Dance, our Assistant Genealogist and now Vice-President of our Branch, was our Guest Speaker.

We were all thrilled to learn that Allan Kennedy UE had been awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award for his assistance to Navy Veterans.

The 80th Anniversary of the Founding Fathers of the Vancouver Branch was a grand affair at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. Special guests included our UELAC President, Bob McBride UE, and First Lady, Grietje McBride UE.

Six Chilliwack Branch members went to Vancouver to participate in this auspicious event.

On Remembrance Day, Marlene Dance did the honours of laying our Branch wreath at the Cenotaph in Chilliwack. Following the ceremonies, families and friends who were attending the ceremonies gathered at the Canton Restaurant for food and fellowship.

Judy Scholz UE and Shirley Dargatz UE, along with Pacific Regional Vice-President, Carl Stymiest UE, and Pacific Councillor, Mary Ann Bethune UE, enjoyed a B.C. ferry ride across the Georgia Strait to join with the Victoria Branch on the occasion of their Fall Fleet Celebration. Once again, President Bob McBride UE and First Lady Grietje McBride UE made the trek west to be guests for this occasion. Immediate Past President Bob Ferguson UE was presented with the Phillip E. M. Leith Award.

Memories of Christmas Past was the theme for our Christmas Tea. Three cousins, Bev Benje, Gail Moore, and Phyllis Mitchell, received their UE Certificates in the name of Loyalist ancestor, John Thornton UE. The numbers were heart-warming, as family members of the recipients attended to witness the Certificate ceremony and participate in the Christmas festivities. Koralee Heibner UE entertained us at the piano, and

carols were sung. Our Country Store is always a popular feature and Jerry Brown UE donated an abundance of holly from his trees for this event.

Our Branch was saddened by the death of long-time member Laura Merson UE on 13 September 2012.

By Shirley Dargatz UE, President

2013 Fall

The Heritage Week Celebration took place on 16 February 2013, when we focused on the designated theme “Good Neighbours and Good Neighbourhoods” as well as “Black History Month.”

With the 2015 UELAC Conference “Loyalists Come West” looming on the horizon, the Chilliwack Branch members who are part of the planning committee, met at the home of Victoria Branch President, Liz Aberdeen UE, on 16 April for our first group meeting. Much preliminary planning had already been initiated by Dave Clark and President Liz so we were able to build upon their good work.

The Pacific Region Conference was held on 04 May 2013 at a new venue, “The Aboriginal Gathering Place” that is part of the University of the Fraser Valley on the former Canadian Forces Base grounds. Special guests were our UELAC President, Robert McBride UE, and First Lady, Grietje McBride UE. In addition to bringing greetings from the Association, Bob and Grietje performed a dramatic dialogue on the life story of his Loyalist ancestor, Adam Young UE. This tied in beautifully with the certificates presented to Lynn Bokamyer UE, her daughter, Lisa Olsen UE, and granddaughters, Cassidy UE and Samantha Olsen UE, in the name of Adam Young UE. Marlene Dance UE received hers in the name of Loyalist ancestor, William Siprell UE. Carl Stymiest UE unfurled the Six Nations flag, now a treasure of the Vancouver Branch.

Conference 2013 “Meet Us at the Head of the Lake” hosted by the Hamilton Branch was an excellent event! Chilliwack Branch members, Shirley Dargatz UE and Jan Ouellet were in attendance.

The Annual Strawberry Social of the Branch, held on 22 June 2013, provided a superb opportunity to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Laura Secord’s walk! Guest speaker was eleven year old, Olivia Lounsbury, who chose Canadian Heroine, Laura Secord, for her Social Studies class project. In period dress and with her poster on display, Olivia gave a talk using no notes. Marlene Dance UE received certificates on behalf of her husband, Wayne Dance UE, daughter, Corene Dance UE, and grandson, Alex Merritt Dance Coblenz UE, all in the name of Loyalist ancestor, Joseph Merritt UE. Congratulations were expressed to Branch Members, Marian and Irving Reid, both UEs on the achievement of their 67th wedding anniversary!

With heartfelt thanks to David Hill Kanowakeron Morrison UE, Chilliwack Branch is now the proud recipient of a Six Nations flag that was unfurled for our members at our Strawberry Social. To add to this excitement, Deleine Perrie UE surprised Shirley Dargatz UE with the gift of a handmade First Nations drum made by a student in her class.

By Shirley Dargatz UE, Branch President

2014 Spring

Fast on the heels of celebrating the Second Annual Loyalist Day in British Columbia on 21 July 2013 at Queen’s Park in New Westminster with Vancouver Branch, Chilliwack Branch celebrated the first Flag Raising Ceremony at City Hall on July 22nd. Her Honour, Mayor Sharon Gaetz, and the Honourable Mark

Strahl, Member of Parliament for Chilliwack Fraser Canyon, gifted us with their official presence. Piper, Jim McNeill, of the Sons of Scotland Fraser Glen Camp, piped in the Colour Party. Our Standard Bearer, Alan Reid UE, led the youthful entourage that included Graeson and Olivia Lounsbury and Caden Clayton. After the ceremony on the steps of City Hall, Piper Jim led the procession to the flag poles. What a thrill it was to see our First Union Flag unfurled and fluttering in the breeze!

The birth of Prince George, born on the very day of our B.C. Loyalist Day, added further excitement! Our Fall Fleet Celebration, on November 2nd, featured Vancouver Branch member and Dominion Trustee, Dr. Warren Bell UE, who gave us a fascinating presentation on the Canadian Arctic Exploration. He told of his ancestor, Peter Warren Dease UE, son of Loyalist, Dr. John Dease UE, who took on the arduous task of exploring unmapped Canadian territory from 1837 to 1839.

On Remembrance Day, Deleine Perry UE, and her canine companion, *Selyca*, laid the wreath at our Chilliwack Cenotaph.

“Heirlooms and Memories” was the theme of our annual Christmas Tea. Marlene Dance UE, our guest speaker, enhanced this theme with a talk on some of her treasured items handed down through the generations. Jeff Curtis UE spoke of his Loyalist ancestor, Sir John Johnson UE, and gave us an update on the progress of the restoration of the Johnson burial site project.

Our 2014 Centenary Project will be the placing of a plaque at the Chilliwack Museum, the former City Hall, to commemorate the many, many descendants of Loyalists who came west and pioneered in the Chilliwack Valley.

By Shirley Dargatz UE, Branch President

2014 Fall

Chilliwack Branch Heritage Week meeting on 22 February focused on a plethora of themes including: Heritage Afloat, Ships Afloat – or not, Ships and Voyages in 1783, Black Loyalist Passengers – “Unattributed Passengers” (not counted in), and Member Ships (our pitch for the goal we have set to achieve 100 members in our Chilliwack Branch this UELAC centennial year). At this writing, we are 92 and rising. With his grandfather, Art Keller UE, looking proudly on, Young Loyalist, Brad Keller UE, received his certificate in the name of their Loyalist Ancestor, Frederick Keller UE. Following this event, Brad’s mother, April Neave, wrote an excellent article and submitted it to the on-line news, *The Valley Voice*. Chris Hay UE gave a talk on Rev. James Henry White of Loyalist stock who was the first full time minister of Carman United / Methodist Church where our Chilliwack Branch holds its meetings.

Our Spring Fleet Celebration theme was “A Ship Load of Treasures Has Arrived” (alias, “Our Country Store”), billed as a treasure trove for fund-raising. A dramatic unveiling of two editions, just hot off the press, thanks to Fred Hayward UE, of the Centennial Commemorative book “Loyally Yours” 100 Years of the UELAC was a great sales ploy. The next packet of sixteen more books that arrived the following week were pre-sold that day. Marlene Dance UE delivered a great talk on “What it takes to complete your UEL certificate application and the proofs needed.”

Amidst a sea of red and white décor, Branch members indulged in strawberries galore with whipped cream piled high. Highlights of the Centennial Conference in Toronto, 05 to 08 June, were presented by Shirley Dargatz UE. Chilliwack Branch members enthusiastically applauded the announcement that Fred Hayward UE was the recipient of the Dorchester Award! Marlene Dance UE entertained us with her fascinating genealogy adventures and searches while on her recent trip to England.

The Conference Planning Committee members travelled from Vancouver, Vernon and Victoria for the 26 April meeting hosted by Chilliwack Branch at the home of Ken and Shirley Dargatz.

After many months of meetings and negotiations, Marlene Dance and Shirley Dargatz, who are spearheading the Chilliwack Branch Centennial Project, are pleased to announce that the “Commemorative Plaque to Honour the Chilliwack Pioneer Families of Loyalist Descent” will be unveiled and presented during a special celebration at the Chilliwack Museum on 20 September 2014. Chilliwack Branch was officially chartered in 1990 in the Great Hall of the Museum, formerly the City Hall.

By Shirley Dargatz UE, Branch President

2015 Spring

Chilliwack Branch celebrated BC Loyalist Day on 22 July with a ceremony on the steps of City Hall. Mayor Sharon Gaetz then led the parade of attendees to the flag pole and did the honours raising the flag. The company then adjourned for lunch at a local restaurant.

04 August saw a number of branch members join Vancouver Branch for a picnic under “our” Oak tree at Fort Langley on the final day of the annual Brigade Days celebration.

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the UELAC, Chilliwack Museum was the sight of the 20 September celebration. The parade of dignitaries was led in by piper Dr. Dan McDermid. Fifty members and guests, aged four months to 94, gathered for the presentation of a plaque honouring the many Chilliwack pioneers of Loyalist descent who made their way westward and settled this area in the 1850s. Special guests included Mayor Sharon Gaetz; Museum Director, Ron Denman; Chief of the Fraser Glen Camp 220 of the Sons of Scotland, Sheila Campbell; with Laurie Throness and Gabrielle Loosdrecht representing the office of MLA. The programme included the presentation of nine UEL certificates to the following members: Marion Claxton for Loyalist, Richard Carman UE; Alice Mansell for Loyalist, John Thornton UE; Pat Huth and Earl Saunders for Loyalist, John Cole UE; Betty Hawryluk for Loyalist, Richard Whittle UE; Fred Reid and Maxine Cox for Loyalist, Jeremiah Lapp UE; Gordon Vance UE accepted on behalf of his grandson, Rio Andrade, for Loyalist, Frederick Shaver UE and Marlene Dance UE for Loyalist, Capt. William Hutchinson UE. A formal tea followed. Our event was covered in the *Chilliwack Progress* and the on-line community news, *The Valley Voice*.

In support of Vancouver Branch, we were honoured to attend their 100th anniversary celebration held at Centennial Pavilion, Queen’s Park, New Westminster on 05 October. Our delegation included President Shirley Dargatz UE, Judy Scholz UE, Cindy Lyftogt UE, Marlene Dance UE, and April Neave.

11 November is always a special day on our calendar. Bradbury Keller UE and mother, April Neave, represented the branch placing our wreath at the Cenotaph. A luncheon for thirty members followed at a local restaurant. Our final event of the year was our Christmas gathering with special guests “Chilliwack Early Music Consort” led by Christmas may have been celebrated by our ancestors and of our own celebrations. There were five UEL certificates presented to Leon Merchant UE on behalf of his sister, Rolena Krawec; son, Daren; and granddaughters, Emili Rose and Rachel; as well as for himself. The Loyalist ancestors were Samuel Shipman UE, John Elliot UE and Lewis Powell UE. In addition, the following certificates were also announced: Carman May Knowles and Louise Avery for Loyalist, Richard Carman UE; Gary Barr and Corinne Gray for Loyalist, Joseph Merritt UE; and Dorothea Hankin for Loyalist, Jesse Bigelow UE. Our branch achieved its goal of 100 members and presented 23 certificates. Our thanks go to our Branch Executive who work so hard to keep the Loyalist story in the local news and in the minds of our members.

By Marlene Dance UE, Branch Genealogist

2015 Fall

Our first newsletter of 2015 celebrated the coming events for our Branch; of special note was the 90th Birthday of a founding member, Art Keller UE, held just after Christmas. The whole family gathered for a lovely dinner at the Royal Hotel in Chilliwack. The highlight of the event was when daughter, Maralynn Wilkinson UE, (Victoria Branch) presented Loyalist certificates to Art's grandson, Ross Keller and great-grandson, Tre Angus Keller, (son of Ross).

Our Spring Fleet meeting, held on 21 March, celebrated Heritage Day and St. Patrick's Day as well. A presentation on Irish Palatine Loyalists was given by President, Shirley Dargatz UE. A Loyalist certificate was presented to Leon Merchant UE for Loyalist, Caleb Powell UE. Member Chris Hay UE showed us a portrait of Major Richard Witham Stockton of the New Jersey Volunteers that he had obtained from Stockton family descendants who remained in the United States. A book, entitled Early American Painting, by F.F. Sherman, published in 1932, is the last known reference to its existence, but its whereabouts now is unknown.

Chris also uncovered a great story about Major Stockton written in the book, *Kidnapping the Enemy*, involving the special operation to capture Generals Lee and Prescott of the Revolutionary Army. Major Stockton played a key role. Great sleuthing Chris!

02 May 2015 saw the branch participate in the Abbotsford LDS Family History Day. Our display elicited quite a few enquiries and we have gleaned a few new members due to our participation.

Chilliwack Branch had eight branch members attend the Annual Conference in Victoria over the 28 – 31 May 2015 weekend. Highlights included the Government House reception, the "Loyalist Fare" dinner, Gala Banquet with the Greater Victoria Police Chorus and the Sunday Church service officiated by our own President, Shirley Dargatz UE. Special congratulations go to Carl Stymiest UE for being recognized with the Dorchester Award. A number of Chilliwack Branch members served on the Conference organizing committee and enjoyed seeing all their plans come together. What a wonderful event, even if we do say so ourselves.

At our Triple Berry Social on 27 June, it was announced that member, Chris Hay UE, had been presented with the City of Vancouver Heritage Award in recognition of his rediscovery of the Stanley Park Rock Garden, his promotion of its existence and his advocacy for its restoration. The Rock Garden was created in 1911 by his great grandfather, John Montgomery.

Loyalist Day in British Columbia was on 22 July and Chilliwack Branch celebrated with a flag-raising ceremony on the steps of the Chilliwack City Hall. Her Honour Mayor Sharon Gaetz was in attendance together with Desmond Devnich, Constituency Assistant to MLA, John Martin.

Ninety-six-year-old member, Dorothea Hankin, who lives about one hundred kilometres from Chilliwack, does not get out much these days. Her family arranged a get-together in Chilliwack so that she and her niece, Pat Huth UE, could be presented with their certificates for their Loyalist, Jesse Bigelow UE. A few family members joined the occasion and a beautiful luncheon followed.

We are planning a couple of special events to present certificates at family reunions in August and October. As well, Chilliwack Branch will celebrate its 25th anniversary in October with a special gathering. Stay tuned!

By Marlene Dance UE, Branch Genealogist,
Vice-President and Newsletter Editor

2016 Spring

August was one of our busiest months this year. First was the Fur Brigade Days in Langley, British Columbia, on the BC long weekend. The annual Monday picnic event is hosted by the Vancouver Branch and is always well attended. Judy Scholz UE camped and, together with a few family members, participated in many events with the Fraser Valley Frontiersmen Black Powder Rifle and Pistol Society and represented the branch at the picnic.

That same weekend, at the annual Merritt Family Reunion Picnic held at Fort George Park, Prince George, British Columbia, branch member, Dr. Larry Merritt, was presented with his UE certificate for his Loyalist ancestor, Joseph Merritt UE, by Marlene Dance UE, Branch Genealogist. This presentation resulted in memberships and applications from a number of other attendees, all descendants of Joseph Merritt UE.

On 24 October, the 25th anniversary of the UELAC Chilliwack Branch was celebrated at the Chilliwack Museum that is the former City Hall, the site of the original Charter presentation on 18 October 1990. Over sixty friends gathered to celebrate including Chilliwack Mayor, Sharon Gaetz, Member of Parliament, Mark Strahl, and representatives of Fraser Glen Camp 220 of the Sons of Scotland. The parade of dignitaries was led into the room by member and Piper, David Avery UE. On hand to cut the cake were Art Keller UE, Vera Webb UE and Linda Todhunter UE, all original signers of the 1990 Charter. A lovely reception followed the programme. A slide show of over 500 pictures from the past twenty-five years played in the background during the event, much to everyone's delight and amusement.

11 November saw the branch well represented at the Chilliwack Cenotaph where our wreath was presented by Vicky Heibner UE and her daughter, Koralee Heibner UE. A lunch followed at the Canton Garden in Chilliwack, British Columbia.

15 November, saw four generations of the Cecil Ashley Family on hand to receive their UE certificates from British Columbia Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour Judith Guichon, in the Drawing Room of Government House in Victoria, British Columbia. Ten certificates were presented. Shirley Dargatz UE, Branch President, opened the proceedings bringing greetings and thanks from the Branch. Then Branch Genealogist, Marlene Dance UE, followed telling the gathering the history of the Loyalist ancestors being honoured: George Buck UE and Simon Snider UE. Victoria Branch representatives present were Aurelie Stirling UE and Robert Ferguson UE. A lovely reception followed.

Our year came to a close with the final gathering of the year – “Christmas on a Musical Note.” Members enjoyed a presentation with pictures from our twenty-fifth anniversary celebration and then “The Chilliwack Early Music Consort led by Dale Warr” played a number of selections of early music from the 18th century that our ancestors might have enjoyed at their Christmas celebrations. [consort = a small group of musicians.] Sadly, we saw three long-time members of our Branch pass away this year. They are: Allan E. Kennedy UE; Jeffrey B. Curtis UE; and founding member, Lois Dickinson UE. Goodbye dear friends.

By Marlene Dance UE, Branch Genealogist,
Vice President and Newsletter Editor

2016 Fall

2016 got off to a wonderful start with Branch Member, Deleine Perrie UE, providing us with a report on the Honouring Ceremony that took place late in December 2015 at Yale Secondary School, in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Deleine is the “Cultural Support Worker” at her school, and one of her students, Alice Ned,

in Grade 12, was being honoured by the Abbotsford School District as the “District’s Female Aboriginal Role Model.” During the ceremony, Alice’s family also wanted to honour five women who were important mentors and role models to Alice as she blossomed into the lovely young woman she is today. Deleine was one of those honoured. The ceremony was very spiritual and the positive energy in the building was electric.

Branch member, Koralee Heibner UE, attended Winter Carnival in Quebec from 28 January to 02 February with twenty-one fellow-students and three teachers from her school, Mt. Slesse Middle School, Chilliwack, British Columbia, as part of the French programme. She then wrote a lovely report for the April issue of our Branch Newsletter, the *Link Up*. A full schedule of sightseeing, carnival events, sleigh rides and more were jammed into five days. They came home very tired but happy.

Our February meeting agenda featured Black History Month and a special report on architect, Thomas Hooper, who was responsible for designing many important buildings throughout British Columbia, and especially in Chilliwack. They include the Chilliwack Museum and Archives, formerly known as City Hall, as well as the original Carman United Church building that was moved to its present site in Sardis and is still used regularly and where our Branch holds most of its meetings. UEL certificates were presented to David Avery and his daughter, Sarah, for their Loyalist ancestor, Richard Carman UE.

April saw us making a special event of Queen Elizabeth II’s birthday. On 21 April, a large group met at “Dickens of Chilliwack” for a lovely luncheon with special toasts to the health of Her Majesty. A full page of photos was featured in our newsletter in June. Owner, Anne Hails, had prepared a large and tasty cake that she shared with all patrons that day. The restaurant was decorated in a festive manner and everyone was greeted by a flag at the entrance announcing the birthday celebration.

Family History Day was hosted by the LDS Church in Abbotsford in May. Marlene Dance UE presented two of the twenty-two workshops scheduled: the first on “Finding your Loyalist Ancestor” and the second entitled “Canada’s British Home Children.” This event is well-run and draws a good crowd. It is a wonderful way to meet people interested in genealogy and it also creates opportunities for finding new members for our Branch. We talked with a lot of people and have three new members as a result. Our display was colourful and drew a good deal of attention.

Our Branch Meeting in May featured Carl Larsen, Director of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, starting with the origins of heraldry, the parts of a coat of arms, and then moving on to how you can design and get your own. Carl took us step by step through the process, illustrated with a number of designs belonging to important Canadians. Many Coats of Arms have become closely identified with those individuals or corporations who have adopted them.

Brad Merritt, bass guitarist for the well-known Canadian rock band, 54-40, and his sister, Corinne Merritt Gray, were presented with their Loyalist certificates, at the annual Family Reunion picnic held on 31 July 2016 at Centennial Beach Park in Tsawwassen, BC. This family event takes place yearly and is rotated about the province from Kamloops to Prince George to Vancouver. Many family members have already been presented with their certificates. Their Loyalist ancestor is Joseph Merritt UE of Twenty Mile Creek, Lots 3, 4 & 5, Niagara Region, Smithville, Ontario.

Our branch continues to be busy and remains active in the community. The next report will feature the wonderful UELAC Conference in PEI, BC Loyalist Day, Fur Brigade Days, the Fall Fleet Celebration and our Christmas gathering. Please stay tuned.

By Marlene Dance UE, Branch Genealogist, Vice-President and Newsletter Editor

WELL REMEMBERED - KELLER, James Arthur (Art) UE 1924 – 2016



Art Keller passed away in Chilliwack, British Columbia, on 23 August 2016 at 91 years of age. He was a founding member and signer of the Charter that created Chilliwack Branch in 1990.

Art was a member and loyal supporter of the Branch for twenty-six years. He was the First Vice-President of the Branch and served on many committees over the years.

We were very proud to have him cut the cake at our anniversary celebrations last year. He enjoyed the celebrations and especially getting his photo in the paper.

Art's Loyalist connections included: Frederick Keller UE, received in January 1987; Thomas Wagar UE in March 1992; and Johan Everhadt UE in March 1998. He descends from about ten Loyalists.

He was proud of his heritage and encouraged his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to apply for recognition. He was pleased to be at the presentation ceremonies and see two grandsons and a great-grandson receive their Loyalist certificates in 2014.

2017 Spring

The last half of 2016 got off to a grand start with seven branch members making the trek to Prince Edward Island for the Annual Conference. Attending were Shirley Dargatz UE, Marlene Dance UE, Wayne Dance UE, Judy Scholz UE, Arnold Fast, Jan Ouellet and Emily Thomason. Most flew, but Wayne and Marlene Dance drove there and back and explored many Loyalists sites on the way home. It was a wonderful conference and kudos go to a great committee for the amazing array of the events and entertainment that they organized for us.

Returning home, our next event was BC Loyalist Day on 22 July. The flag-raising ceremony was held at the home of Ken and Shirley Dargatz UE with special guest, Mayor Sharon Gaetz, doing the honours. A lovely informal luncheon on the patio followed. We enjoyed the company of three deer in the yard, no doubt looking for a lunch of their own.

The BC August long weekend saw a number of our members at the annual Fort Langley Fur Brigade days. An encampment was set up and the gates opened to the sights and sounds of the arrival of the fur brigade canoes to Ft. Langley from the early days of British Columbia. This three-day festival has been celebrated since 1979 and is well-attended.

September saw the passing of founding member and a signer of our 1990 charter, Art Keller UE. Art was featured in our 25th anniversary celebrations, delighted to be cutting the cake. He was proud of his heritage and loved it when his grandchildren received their certificates.

Later that same month, we attended the Celebration of Life for another founding member, signer of our Charter and first President, Lois Dickinson UE. Lois retired to Ontario but spent her working life in Chilliwack as a teacher. We shall miss these dear friends.

05 November saw the Chilliwack Branch host the Fall Fleet celebrations at the Carman United Church Hall. Guest speaker was Matthew Francis, Executive Director of the Chilliwack Museum and Archives. The

audience was enthralled with his presentation, entitled “The Indiana Jones from Chilliwack,” about Homer A. Thompson, a local farm boy who became an internationally respected archaeologist. This event included the presentation of certificates to James A. Morton UE of Chilliwack Branch and Craig Barraclough UE of Vancouver Branch. A beautiful luncheon was catered by the Ladies of Carman United Church.

This ceremony was marked by one of the largest turnouts on record. The weather was cold and clear, but the snow held off. Members then adjourned to the Canton Garden Restaurant for lunch. We had a smaller turnout than usual, but a good time was had by all.

Keeping the Loyalist story front and centre has been a goal of the Branch for a number of years. Branch Genealogist, Marlene Dance UE, does presentations to local service groups, genealogy societies and seniors clubs in the area. In addition, she facilitates a three-hour, once a week, six-week Genealogy class at the UFV campus under the umbrella of Chilliwack Elder College. An important part of the syllabus is the Loyalist history in eastern Canada.

“Have Certificate, will Travel” has become the calling card of Chilliwack Branch these past few years. We have accommodated members by presenting their Loyalist certificates at places that have better suited the gathering of their families and friends. This also gave us the opportunity to recruit new members and network to a wider audience. These locations have included private homes, Strata residence meeting rooms, family picnics, Library workshops and restaurants as well as at our regular Branch meetings. We have included three of our most recent travel presentations here.

The England family members, who live in various parts of the Fraser Valley, were all together between Christmas and New Year’s. They had eight family members receive their certificates for their Loyalist, Samuel Anderson UE. The young boys in the group had lots of questions about their Loyalist and a great discussion took place. A lovely tea was served following the presentations.

We are looking forward to 2017 and celebrating Canada’s 150th Birthday.

By Marlene Dance UE, Branch Genealogist, Vice-President and Newsletter Editor

2017 Fall

Happy Birthday, Canada – you are 150 years young!

We got into the swing of things for 2017 on 04 March with a celebration of Heritage Week, Black History Month and our AGM altogether. Special Guest was Ms. Jamie Brown from the Cloverdale, British Columbia Library Genealogy Section. In addition, we squeezed in a birthday wish for Chilliwack Branch President, Shirley Dargatz UE. Member, Chris Hay UE, brought us the news that he had won first place in the British Columbia Genealogy Society’s annual “Most Improved Genealogy” competition for 2016. His article was entitled Family Mystery solved after 250 years. Chris’ article was accepted for the Loyalist Gazette and appeared in the spring issue. The AGM portion of the meeting saw the re-election of our executive for the coming year as well as a membership report and statement of our financial situation. We are working hard to get new members but age and ill health have taken their toll on our existing membership. To-date renewals stand at sixty-one UE members plus six members. We ended 2016 with eighty-four UE members plus six. There is always more work to do. Careful planning and use of our resources will keep our Branch viable.

Our celebration of the Spring Fleet took place on 22 April with a lively turnout. Alan Reid UE did the honours, tramping in the flag to start the meeting. New members and guests were welcomed and news of the upcoming 80th anniversary celebration of Vancouver Branch was announced. As well, a presentation on the Origins of

the American Revolution was enjoyed. Featured, hanging on the podium, was a wonderful lap quilt celebrating Canada's 150 Birthday, made by Branch member, Carole Lefler. This resulted in Carole being asked to make a number more for very interested members. We participated in the 3rd annual "Family History Day" at the LDS Church, Abbotsford, British Columbia, on 29 April with a very well-received and much-visited display in the Market Place area of the Church. This annual, well-organized, event is one of the highlights of our outreach programme. We have participated every year and this year Branch member, Marlene Dance UE, did a presentation on "British Home Children in Canada."

Our Strawberry Social, on 17 June, saw a small, but enthusiastic, turn-out to celebrate Canada's 150th Birthday. The beautiful décor was all red and white of course, with large felt-stylized maple leaves on a white tablecloth. The centrepieces were Vancouver Centennial Geraniums, also known as the Maple Leaf Geranium. A Canadian flag and a flag with the official birthday logo were inserted. In addition, a wonderful display of items from Canada's 50th and 100th Birthday celebrations, together with articles and information on Confederation, was front and centre.

As the following day would be Father's Day, it was decided to celebrate the Fathers of Confederation. Marlene Dance UE presented the story of Confederation and connected the names of the founding fathers back to the Loyalists. A surprise guest at this event was MP Mark Strahl, who gave words of praise to our Branch for always finding wonderful ways to celebrate Canada and our heritage. By now you will all have had the chance to read *Loyalist Father & Son Capture Two Rebel Generals* on page 16 of the Spring 2017 issue of The Loyalist Gazette by Branch member, Chris Hay UE. What a wonderful piece of detective work. You make us proud Chris! Congratulations!

By Marlene Dance UE, Branch Genealogist, Vice-President and Newsletter Editor