

HERITAGE BRANCH – Charter – 12 May 1973

1974 Autumn

The Heritage Branch, Montreal, met in a suite at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal. The President, Mr. G. L. Van Koughnett, was in the chair. The President called for a Toast to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Canadian Flag being in place. Following that, the Toast to the Loyalists as the Sergeant-at-arms advanced with the George III Flag, then all present sang the Loyalist Song.

Our President spoke of the visit to the United States last September when he ordered Sleepy Hollow tapes of the meetings on U.E. Loyalist subjects.

Our President drew our attention to the payment of dues, \$10.00 for each regular member; wife or husband will pay \$2.00 as Associate members. A member from another Branch may become a member of Heritage Branch as a regular member.

Now we come to our honoured speaker, Mr. Walter White, author and historian of Sorel, P.Q.

LOYALISTS OF SOREL

French Sorel before Loyalists: There were early visits there-both Jacques Cartier and Champlain were there. It was said that Sorel was the only place that English was spoken besides Quebec Sillery, Three Rivers and Montreal. He spoke of the Richelieu River (Riviere du Iroquois). Fort Richelieu was built by Montmagny. It was manned by 15 soldiers at first, burned in 1665 by Iroquois, 1500 soldiers were sent out. It was rebuilt. Farmers and soldiers were expected to defend the Seigneury. In 1713 de Groseilleves died, and Claude de Ramezay bought the property.

He owned other property also. In 1759 Claude de Ramezay returned to France (Note: One of his properties at Mount Johnson was bought later by Sir John and that family owned it for many years and had a beautiful home there until about 1925).

40,000 Loyalists came to Canada from 1776 on. Many came via Lake Champlain, and many troops passed through Sorel. The Seigneury was bought by the Crown in 1781 for 4,000 pounds. Then it became a clearing house for troops. There was a pensioners section like Chelsea in London. This was on the shore near the hospital. Supplies came from Britain.

Some important names were McAlpin, Jessop, Adams Hawley, Aaron Bull, Amasiah Hall, Samuel Buck, some brought slaves. The minister bought a slave from someone. At one time there were 95 families. Britain left it to Haldimand to give out lots. French had previously taken all front lots, so that back lots of 60 acres each were available, often swampy. A Field Officer was given 5000 acres.

There was dissatisfaction among settlers when Britain could not feed them. Earliest Anglican Church in Canada was in Sorel, 24th Oct. 1781. Rev. Doty came as missionary on 4th July. A wooden chapel was near the market. A bell from a ship is still in use there. In 1790 another church was built, coats of arms of royalty on walls, streets of Sorel are named for royalty that is, King, Charlotte, Adelaide.

Samuel Holland sold lots by old tickets and some are in Chateau de Ramezay now.

The Prince William Henry visited Sorel in 1787 and gave his name to the town. This continued until 1862 when it was changed back to Sorel.

Some of the most important families were Jones, Jessop, Walkers (Judge), Carovassa, Nelson (schoolmaster) and Daniel Macpherson who later left for Gaspe. Sir James Macpherson lived at Spencer Grange in Quebec (part of Spencer Wood). Molsons were early shipbuilders in Sorel.

Mr. White spoke of Governor's Cottage in Sorel. It was the summer residence of Canada's Governor General until 1830. It still stands, not as it was originally but is being restored.

Mr. White most generously gave us each a volume of his book, autographed, "Governor's Cottage." We are all so happy to receive this gift. Mr. Grant Smart thanked Mr. White in the name of the Branch.

The meeting was adjourned for a social hour. Hostesses were Mrs. Joyce Bradford, Mrs. Papke and Mrs. Grant Smart.

1976 Autumn

Heritage Branch-Montreal, now three years old, is flourishing and beginning to provide a firm base for U.E.L. ancestors located in the Montreal area. As our membership grows so is it that our activities increase and our horizons expand.

Our Annual Charter Night dinner, held at the Helene de Champlain restaurant on St. Helen's Island, started the year off in fine style. Our regular meetings were well attended and have been highlighted by very interesting speakers and discussion periods. One of the most eventful evenings featured a presentation by one of our own members, Mr. Earle Thomas, a retired school administrator who is presently working on his Ph. D. in History. His subject was the Hannah Ingraham Story, which related Loyalist beginnings in the Fredericton area. The story had special significance to Mr. Thomas and the branch, since Mrs. Thomas is a direct descendant of Hannah Ingraham. His talk was supported by pictures of the original homestead (now a museum) which still stands.

At another evening we were treated to a vivid description of some of the activities which took place on Lake Champlain and Richelieu River during the start of the Revolutionary War, and the significant part Fort St. Jean played in the defeat of the revolutionary forces at Quebec in 1775. This talk, together with an excellent set of slides was given by Professor Castonguay of the College Militaire Royal de St. Jean. This was an exceptionally entertaining evening provided by a very knowledgeable speaker.

The Genealogical Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. J. Bradford has had a busy year, reviewing many applications and assisting prospective members with their research. The combined efforts of the individuals and the committee resulted in four new members being added to our role this year. Included were Mr. Malcolm Loucks (descendant of George Loucks of Fredericksburgh Township, Ontario), Mr. John Ruch (descendant of Peter Hendershott of Pelham Township, Ontario), Mrs. Catherine Smith (descendant of Robert Cook of Stamford Township, Ontario) and Mrs. Faith Thomas (descendant of Benjamin Ingraham of St. Anns Point, N.B.)

Our branch by-laws were formally approved at our Annual meeting April 28, 1976, following a great deal of work by our By-laws Committee chaired by Mr. George Van Koughnett, our Past President.

Heritage Branch has enjoyed a prosperous year and is looking forward to the future with the anticipation of finding new horizons in the wealth of Loyalist history.

1977 Spring

The highlight of the November Branch meeting was the induction of Mr. George van Koughnett as a "Companion of the Most Honourable Order of Meritorious Heritage" by Mr. Howard W. Warner, a past president of Dominion Council and Sir Guy Carleton Branch, and one of the early companions of the order. It seemed fitting that before the Most Honourable Order of Meritorious Heritage left Heritage Branch to become a self-administering order, that the branch confer this honour on the member who has made such a great contribution to the formation and continued success of Heritage Branch.

Mr. J. Ross Osborne was presented with his U.E.L. certificate having satisfactorily proven his descent from SAMUEL TILLEY who came from Hampstead, Long Island, New York and settled at Gagetown, New Brunswick.

"PROJECT 1983"

Under the chairmanship of Mr. John Ruch, a committee is hard at work attempting to compile and publish a list of United Empire Loyalists who settled in and around Montreal.

GENEALOGICAL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

A Genealogical Committee Workshop was held with fifteen prospective members invited to the home of the branch genealogist, Mrs. Joyce Bradford, in February. Nine people were able to be present. Mr. Grant Smart and Mr. George van Koughnett assisted four people in tracing their Ontario U.E.L. ancestors, Mrs. Margaret Stead helped three with their New Brunswick ancestors while Mrs. Joyce Bradford advised two people with P.E.I. and Quebec roots. Because of the success of the evening, another workshop is planned for the near future.

Guest speaker for the March meeting was Mr. Marc Denhez, Legal Research Advisor for Heritage Canada and Canadian representative on the International Joint Study on the Protection and Cultural Animation of Monuments, Sites and Historic Towns. A lively question period followed Mr. Denhez's very interesting slide presentation "Protecting Our Structural Heritage".

To help augment the Branch's small library, it was agreed that each member would submit a list of books each would be willing to loan relating to the United Empire Loyalists and / or genealogy.

The following members plan to represent the branch as delegates at the Dominion Annual Meeting in Toronto on May 14th: Robert Loucks, President; Joyce Bradford, Genealogist; Margaret Stead, Vice-President; J. Ross Osborne, George van Koughnett.

The Branch's Annual Meeting will be held May 4th at the Montreal Military and Maritime Museum on historic Ste. Helen's Island.

1977 Autumn

For some time the regular meetings of Heritage Branch. Montreal, were held in the Advertising and Sales Executives' Club Rooms in the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, thanks to Mr. George van Koughnett. However, for our Annual Meeting held on May 4, 1977, we were offered a meeting area in the Montreal Military and Maritime Museum housed in the Old Fort on St. Helen's Island, a beautiful island park in the St. Lawrence River, opposite the City of Montreal. It happens that Mr. Ross Osborne, a member of the Branch, is a Director of the Museum, and as we were considering different meeting sites, his offer was most timely. There was

a good turnout of members and everyone thoroughly enjoyed a conducted tour of the museum, following which we held our Annual Meeting.

The meeting area was theatre style, so everyone had an excellent view of the proceedings. There was a normal amount of regular business leading up to the main item which was the election of officers. Mr. George van Koughnett, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, submitted the following slate: President, Mr. Malcolm Loucks; Vice-President Development, Mrs. Margaret Stead; Vice-President Finance, Mr. Ross Osborne; Genealogist, Mrs. Joyce Bradford; Secretary, Mr. Gerald Rogers; Past President, Mr. Robert Loucks. The slate was approved by the meeting and President Bob Loucks thanked the outgoing officers and extended a warm welcome to those newly appointed who will assume their responsibilities during the October Charter Night Anniversary Meeting.

A social hour followed and the evening was voted a great success by all present.

1978 Spring

The Heritage Branch, Montreal, set for its program theme in the coming U.E.L. year the main influences that have contributed to the culture in Quebec.

The meeting on December 8 was held at Montreal Military and Maritime Museum, The Old Fort, in St. Helen's Island.

President Malcolm Loucks introduced Mr. Gerald A. Rogers, Branch Secretary, who spoke on "The Indian Contribution to Our Canadian Culture" followed by coloured slides showing the early sites of the Mohawk or "Christian Indians", first settled by the Jesuits at Laprairie in the 1660's and finally at Caughnawaga in 1716-18.

Mr. Rogers was born and raised near Niagara-on-the-Lake where his loyalist ancestors settled in 1783. An engineering graduate of General Motors Institute he has been a resident of Montreal since 1937. Mr. Rogers is past president of the Chateaugay Valley Historical Society, a member of the Caughnawaga Historical Society and author of numerous historical articles including the Iroquois Confederacy in New York State and in south-western Quebec.

Mr. Rogers, dealt mainly with the members of the Iroquois Confederacy of New York State and S. W. Quebec. He outlined their history under both French and British rule, their participation in the early skirmishes and massacres, the Seven Years War, the Revolutionary War and the war of 1812-'14. Finally their culture and contributions to our civilization including: many articles of clothing, forms of transport, nearly half of all agricultural food plants, games including lacrosse and hockey, drugs and medicines including almost all the known medicinal herbs, arts, letters and even some forms of architecture. They also developed and lived under the only true political democracy of their era which included: representative government, social security, freedom of religion and woman suffrage.

Mr. Ross Osborne thanked the speaker and in appreciation presented him with four scenic prints in an appropriate folder.

The branch genealogist, Mrs. Joyce Bradford, reported on membership certificates. The certificates for Mrs. Eleanor Brodie and Mr. Marcus Rainsford were presented by the Rt. Hon. Roland Michener at the Commemorative Dinner on October 13th, 1977. Since then Henry Ruiters certificate has been received and those of Mr. Gerald Rogers and Mrs. Rosemary Joy. The application of Dr. H.G. Osborne, living in Anacortes, Washington, U.S.A., should be completed in the near future.

The meeting adjourned with the singing of "O Canada" followed by refreshments and an opportunity for the members to select and order copies at \$1.00 each of coloured photos taken at the Commemorative Dinner.

The second in the thematic series of "Contributors to Our Canadian Culture", an address dealing with "The French Influence", was given by Miss Alice Lighthall. Miss Lighthall is a recognized authority on the history of Montreal, Quebec and French Canada, and her active involvement and leadership in so many associations and societies have brought her many honours including the "Order of Canada" and a "Queen's Silver Jubilee" medal.

This year she received one of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medals awarded to Canadian citizens. Her efforts to promote native crafts and Eskimo art brought her the Order of Canada. And her work with Montreal historical associations has made her a recognized expert on the history of Montreal and Quebec.

A Quebec civil servant, from the cultural affairs department, had asked her "What have the English ever done for Quebec?" It turns out that the civil servant was reorganizing Quebec's archives, and needed help with the English part.

In her talk Miss Lighthall said that English-speaking people built the two main railways, the Canadian Pacific and the Grand Trunk (now Canadian National) and the Lachine Canal, which opened up westward expansion.

"English-speaking people also founded and built McGill, the Montreal General, the Royal Victoria, the Neurological Institute, Allan Memorial and Montreal Children's. . They also built St. Mary's, the Reddy Memorial and Queen Elizabeth hospitals."

Instead of waiting for government aid or for help from religious orders, anglophones went ahead and started social welfare, health care and educational institutions.

They started the Museum of Fine Arts and several historical organizations which have helped preserve the French heritage of Quebec.

"English-speaking Montrealers shouldn't feel ashamed of the role they have played in the history of Quebec," says Lighthall. She said most anglophones are proud of their heritage in Quebec, but in these touchy times are keeping quiet to be tactful.

Of Quebec's current situation, Lighthall says, "I have great faith in French Canadian people and I believe the silent ones will come forth.

Miss Lighthall also studied first aid and home nursing with the Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance Society. When the First World War broke out, she was one of five Montrealers chosen as volunteer nursing aides for a British army hospital in Rouen, France.

After the war, Lighthall got active in the Canadian Authors' Association, Montreal Council of Women, Women's Art Society, the Antiquarian and Numismatic Society (owners of the Chateau de Ramezay), Junior League, Canadian Heritage of Quebec, which she funded with Jack Molson, as well as the Canadian Guild of Crafts. More recently she took part in establishing the Guild's Eskimo art gallery. She has been north twice to Frobisher Bay, Cape Dorset and Fort Chimo.

Miss Lighthall's address was greatly appreciated by the large audience.

Mr. John Ruch reported that the Heritage Branch Bicentennial Project 1983 was developing well.

On March 30 at St. Andrew's Church, Westmount, a special meeting was held to study the U.E.L. Position Paper. The next meeting is on May 18 when Col. J. Ralph Harper will speak on the "Scottish Influence in Quebec.

1978 Autumn

The Annual general meeting of Heritage Branch was held on Thursday, May 18th, at the Montreal Military Museum on Ile Ste. Helene. The meeting was called to order by President Malcolm Loucks, followed by the traditional opening ceremony.

President Loucks proposed a toast to the anniversary of the landing of the Loyalists in New Brunswick. Then all members and guests (over 25 present) were asked to introduce themselves. Mrs. Gwen Fuller, past president of the Sir John, Johnson Branch, was congratulated or. being made a "Dame of the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem."

President Loucks then called for annual reports. Mrs. Joyce Bradford, branch genealogist gave her report. Seven applications were approved during the year: Mrs. Eleanor Brodie, Marcus Rainsford, Charles Cartmel, Henry Ruitter, Dr. Harry Osborne, Mrs. Rosemary Joy and Gerald Rogers. Certificates were presented to Mrs. Brodie and to Marcus Rainsford by the Right Hon. Roland Michener at the commemorative dinner last October. Mrs. Hancocks, Dominion genealogist, has recently indicated that Mrs. Alma Hayward and Mrs. Margaret Bond have been approved. Completed applications of Mrs. Andree Beaubien Bonar and Mrs. Jean Vardon Legge have been submitted to Dominion Headquarters for approval.

During 1977-'78 Mrs: Bradford attended the annual U.E.L. meeting in Toronto, as well as two of the four council meetings in Toronto and also on July 1st accompanied Mr. George VanKoughnett and Mrs. Gwen Fuller to Sorel to welcome the Bay of Quinte Branch to Quebec. Mrs. Fuller has compiled an alphabetical list of genealogy books (owned by members) and Mrs. Grant Smart compiled a table of contents for the research source file. A workshop meeting was held in Mrs. Bradford's home on Jan. 30th. Sincere thanks were expressed to the executive and genealogy committee members for their splendid cooperation. Margaret Stead seconded. Carried.

Mr. Ross Osborne, Vice-president, gave the financial report: receipts of \$404.22, disbursements of \$309.31 and bank balance of \$94.91. Audited and found correct by Stuart Trask.

Project '83: (Read by Mrs Margaret Stead in absence of Mr. John Ruch)

The research committee has held several meetings during the year and now has about 10 people doing research. Professor and Mrs. H. Senior of McGill have attended several meetings offering strong support and advice. Several practical issues have been dealt with including funding the work of collecting documentary material and recording it. Ten responsible members have signed an application for a "New Horizons" grant following preparatory work and estimates by Malcolm Loucks.

A large meeting and workshop session is planned for the fall and all interested members will be invited to attend. John Ruch has discovered that we are not the first U.E.L. branch or organization in Montreal. Over 80 years ago a U.E.L. Association was founded in Montreal by a number of very distinguished people. Very little is known of their activities and it is hoped that records will be found. Among the 18 members were Sir Gordon Johnson and Prof. Lighthall. A list of these

names has been compiled and copies will be available.

The President, Mr. Malcolm Loucks, gave his report mainly on the U.E.L. Convention and Annual meeting held in London, Ontario, on May 5-6-7.

Friday, May 5th: registration was in Medway Hall, University of Western Ontario; The first panel was on "Unity of Canada". Dr. J. Allan Walters made a presentation and held a discussion on "Position Paper on Nomenclature". Mrs. E. Hancocks' held a discussion on "Genealogy Relating to Loyalists". The evening closed with a dinner, music and dancing.

The annual meeting was on Saturday, May 6th, under President D. Stuart Gilmor, voted that all members of U.E.L., not just regular members, can order and wear U.E.L. badge jewellery. There was a vote on 30 bylaws amendments - 26 were approved and 4 defeated (No. 2.919-30) Decided there would be no vote on recommendations contained in "Position Paper on Nomenclature". Convention accepted research on the paper. All branches and members requested to submit additional relevant material, study the recommendations and be prepared to vote intelligently at next annual meeting. Mr. George Van Koughnett suggested that some of the proposed changes might well be in conflict with the understanding on which Amorial bearings were originally granted. A committee is to check with Dr. Conrad Swan on this matter. Senator Eugene Forsey was made an Honorary Officer of U .E.L. and Margpret Stead recommended Dr. Phyllis Blakely as Hon. V.P. for the Maritimes. In the evening there was a banquet, address and installation of officers. Requested through Malcolm Loucks that Heritage Branch host the Annual Convention in 1980 was greeted with much enthusiasm by all of our delegates and officers present.

On Sunday there was a Loyalist church service at St. Paul's Cathedral, walking tour of historic London, bus tour to Delaware Indian village, Elgin County museum, St. Thomas church and return via Eldon House.

President Loucks further reported on the success of the branch speaker program theme "Contributors to Our Canadian Culture" and the two talks to date by Gerald Rogers and Miss Alice Lighthall; also those still to be heard. He proposed that an honorary membership be extended to Miss Lighthall.

The election of officers was: President, Malcolm Loucks, Vice President, Development, Margaret Stead, and Vice

President Finance, Charles Cartmel, Genealogist,. Joyce Bradford, Secretary, Gerald Rogers, and Past President Robert Loucks, Auditor, Stuart Trask, Project '83 Chairman, John Ruch, Sergeant-at-Arms, Marcus Rainsford, Social Convener Catherine Smith and Wine Stewards, Alma and Roy Hayward.

President Loucks expressed to all members appreciation in thanking Margaret Bond, Catherine Smith and Marcus Rainsford for their cooperation and work well done. Malcolm Loucks reported that a letter has been sent to the editor of the Westmount Examiner requesting that U.E.L. descendents in the Montreal area, contact the branch.

President Loucks introduced Ross Osborne as the substitute speaker for Colonel Ralph J. Harper, who had been unexpectedly called out of Montreal. In the introduction Mr. Loucks mentioned Ross Osborne's long association with the '78th or Fraser Highlanders, his war years from 1940-1945 with the RCAF, his military honours and recent retirement as Senior V.P. of Nesbitt Thomson.

Ross first commented on the "Auld Alliance" that had long existed between Scotland' and France following Culloden in 1746 and that many Fraser Highlanders who fought at Quebec had previous French military experience. Many French were of Scottish descent: Abraham Martin, Claude de Ramsay, Chevelier de Johnstone, etc. The wild and harsh land of the highlands shaped excellent soldiers and colonists; instilling qualities of hardihood, courage, endurance, self-reliance and loyalty to self and leader. Only the strong survived the terrible privations.

Following the Seven Years War in 1763, problems arose on how best to reward and also integrate the disbanded troops into the French territories and increase garrison strength in North America. The highland society at home had changed and soldiers could not be returned to their clans and native glens. Disbanded regiments settled on free lands to be self supporting as well as available if needed for the military. This proved a solution to a whole complex of problems at home and away.

First settlements made by Fraser Highlanders and the Black Watch in Quebec and Nova Scotia. These settlements were temporarily slowed by the outbreak of the Revolutionary War in 1775 when new battalions were quickly recruited for the Royal Highland Emigrant Regiment which served until 1784. Recruits from Mohawk Valley. Following 1783 these men and others settled along the St. Lawrence in Eastern Ontario. Mr. Osborne explained when and how the Scottish regiments were raised, their subsequent influence on Canadian history, the famous family names that have survived and the greater mark that the second and third generations have made with now over two million of Scotch descent in Canada. A relatively small number made a terrific impact on Canada.

Gerald Rogers thanked Ross Osborne for a most interesting presentation, remarking that old soldiers always do better when thrown into the breach. The meeting closed with "O Canada", followed by coffee and refreshments. Good wishes are extended to Mr. George Van Koughnett on his honour of attending the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in July.

Mr. George L. Van Koughnett Charter President of the Heritage Branch and founder of the Order of Meritorious Heritage attended Her Majesty's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in July.

Some guests expressed interest in Quebec and one of its slogans - 'Je me souviens'. Mr. Van Koughnett had occasion to explain that these words are the first line from the poem written by E.E. Tache:

*Je me souviens
Que ne sous le lys
Je crois sous la rose. (I remember
That born under the lily I grow under the rose.)*

Today Mme. Clara Tache Fragasso of Quebec City is the only surviving daughter of one of Canada's well known poets, E.E. Tache.

1979 Spring

Once again the members and guests of Heritage Branch gathered to mark another anniversary and to celebrate half a decade of success on October 17. The setting was the elegant Salon Viger of the Chateau Champlain Hotel. Following cocktails the head table was piped into the beautifully arranged dining room by a colour party of the 78th or Fraser Highlanders, all in full regalia.

With everyone seated. Chairman Gerry Rogers UE called the meeting to order and in the traditional manner declared: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the Queen and our Heritage". As everyone sang "The Pledge To Our Heritage" the colour party presented arms in front of the head table and placed the Loyalist flag in a commanding position. This was truly a dramatic moment soon to be followed by a delicious dinner.

The menu: Vin Grande Reserve Bordeaux, Celeri et Olives, Oeuf a la Georges III, Soupe aux Pois Canadienne. Poulet Hoti et Farce Royale. Chou-Fleur Royaliste, Patates Dorchester. Tarte aux Pommes Heritage, Cafe, Thé.

During the serving of the dinner, the head table was introduced: Mrs. Joyce Bradford UE, Genealogist, Heritage Branch; Mr. George Van Koughnett UE, Past President, Heritage Branch; Miss Alice Lighthall, well known Montreal historian and honoured recipient of the Order of Canada and Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal; Gerald A. Rogers UE., Secretary, Heritage Branch; Mrs. Malcolm Loucks, Mr. Malcolm Loucks UE, Heritage Branch; Mrs. Hereward Senior; Professor Hereward Senior.

Several distinguished guests were also introduced and including: Mr. Howard W. Warner, UE, (CMH). Past Dominion President and Mrs. Warner, Mr. H. Melville Scott, UE, President of St. Lawrence Branch and Mrs. Scott. Then followed the installation of the 1978-1979 Officers of Heritage Branch by Mr. George Vankoughnett: President, Malcolm Loucks UE; V.P. Development. Margaret UE; VP Finance Charles Cartmel UE; Genealogist, Joyce Bradford. UE; Secretary. Gerald A. Rogers UE; Past President. Robert B. Loucks UE.

President Malcolm Loucks, in beginning a second term of office, reviewed the accomplishments of the Branch during the past year and stressed the importance of accepting future responsibilities with a dynamic executive, a larger membership and a reserve of volunteers for the most important projects including: hosting the/Dominion Meeting in 1980, Project '83 and the Bicentennial program. Mrs. Joyce Bradford gave a genealogy report expressing her pleasure in having several United Empire Loyalist certificates ready for presentation, also in having presented six other certificates during 1977-78 and in currently assisting 14 persons in their genealogical research. Two associate members, Mr. Carev Stead and Mrs. Ann Lachance have registered their ancestry at Dominion Headquarters. Mrs. Bradford then called on Malcolm Loucks to present certificates to: Mrs. Margaret Bonn. Mrs. Alma Hayward. Mrs. Jean Legge, Mrs. Andree Bonar and Mrs. Rosemary Joy.

Malcolm Loucks introduced Miss Alice Lighthall, a distinguished Montreal historian and proud descendant of the Schylers, Van Renssalers and Van Courtlands of New York State; a gracious lady to whom a tradition of service comes so naturally as an active member of The Canadian Authors' Association, Antiquarian and Numismatic Society, Junior League. Canadian Heritage of Quebec, Canadian Guild of Crafts, Women's Art Society, the Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance Society. Charles Cartmel was called to present Miss Lighthall with an Honorary Membership in Heritage Branch.

Now came a very pleasant and emotional moment as George Van Koughnett with the colour party attending escorted Mrs. Joyce Bradford to the dais, where following the colourful ceremony of The Most Honourable Order of Meritorious Heritage. she was inducted into the order as a Companion as Howard W. Warner presented the Insignia. During her return to the table Mrs. Bradford was given a standing ovation for an honour so well and faithfully earned.

Gerry Rogers introduced the guest speaker: Professor Hereward Senior, Professor of History at McGill University and author of several books on the Orange Lodges in Britain and in Canada, the Fenians in Canada and many articles on military history. Professor Senior spoke on "Loyalist Literature", providing an interesting background and viewpoints of the many authors; American and Canadian, whose extensive publications have contributed to our knowledge of the social origins. migrations and settlements of the United Empire Loyalists. The speaker was thanked by Malcolm Loucks.

Following the lament, the Loyalist flag was retired by the Fraser colour party and as everyone sang "O Canada", another memorable charter night became a pleasant remembrance.

1979 Autumn

The sixth annual general meeting of Heritage Branch was held on May 3rd at the United Services Club, 1195 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal.

The meeting was chaired by President Malcolm Loucks, followed by the traditional opening ceremony as Mrs. Margaret Stead, VP Development, proposed the toast to the Queen and Our Heritage and all joined in singing the Pledge To Our Heritage.

President Loucks introduced associate members and guests: Mrs. Badgely, Miss D. Coles, Mrs. McKay, Miss E. Bell Russel, Mrs. M. Clarke, Miss B. Gilbertson-Yager, Miss L. Brown and Stephen Manson.

Mr. Loucks showed a fine portrait of Her Majesty with copies available, a Commemorative Silver Jubilee portrait, and colour prints by Mr. Roy Hayward. He named Miss Alice Lighthall and Mr. Walter White as honorary members.

The genealogical report by Mrs. Joyce Bradford mentioned that Elinor Brodie, Jean Legge and Gerald Rogers were added to the committee and that two workshop meetings were held. Six persons received their certificates namely: Mrs. Andre Bonar, Mrs. Margaret Bonn, Mrs. Alma Hayward, Mrs. Jean Legge, Mrs. Mary Ungar and Miss Sheila Fitchett.

Mrs. Bradford expressed her sincere thanks and appreciation to the committee members: Gwen Fuller, Grant Smart, Margaret Stead, Gerald Rogers, Elinor Brodie and Jean Legge. The first three have been on the committee since inception in January, 1974.

Mr. G.A. Rogers reviewed the plans for the Annual Convention to be hosted by Heritage Branch, May 15th through 18th, 1980, using the Hotel Constellation as headquarters for all meetings, banquet, etc., Hotel Le Sherbourg and Royal Victoria College of McGill as additional facilities. Program details were well advanced as well as plans to publicize the event at the coming Dominion Convention in Toronto, May 24-27th, with appropriate buttons, colour slides of Montreal and facilities, literature, etc. Mr. Rogers asked for the cooperation of all members for this major project.

Mr. John Ruch gave a most interesting report on the Branch's Project '83, reviewing the purpose, the receipt of a Federal New Horizons grant' to assist in expenses, work beginning in earnest following a workshop session early in the year and meetings held at least once a month since. Much information and many notes have been gathered on the loyalists. Mr. John Ruch reminded everyone that May 2nd was the sixth anniversary of the founding of Heritage Branch and also the 84th anniversary of the founding of the old United Empire Loyalists' Association which lasted from 1895 to 1906.

The President, Mr. Malcolm Loucks, gave a brief review of the past two years with his term beginning with the memorable Charter Night Banquet celebrating the Queen's Silver Jubilee and the pleasure of the Hon. Roland Michener and Mrs. Michener as guests of honour. Mr. Michener (Honorary President of the U.E.L. Association) and Judge Matheson of Ottawa and former President of Sir Guy Carleton, Branch, were singularly honoured. During 1978 meetings were devoted to a series of lectures on contributors to our Canadian culture and included influences from the Indians, from the French and the Scottish influence; talks given by Mr. Gerald Rogers, Miss Alice Lighthall and Mr. Ross Osborne. In March, Dominion President Mr. John Aikman and Mrs. Aikman visited the Branch. Mr. Ross Osborne responded and spoke on how the Branch had progressed under Mr. Loucks and his able handling of regular and executive meetings as well as his help and assistance in obtaining the Project '83 grant.

Mr. Loucks introduced an excellent 16 mm film "Canada & The American Revolution. 1763-1783" and spoke of how easily interesting films could be obtained for future meetings.

1980 Spring

SIXTH ANNUAL CHARTER NIGHT DINNER

In the traditional manner the Charter Night started with the skirl of the pipes and the flash of claymores as the Fraser Highlanders Colour Party advanced through the ballroom to place the Loyalist flag beside the beautiful U.E.L. Association banner behind the lectern. This stirring opening was followed by the singing of "Our Pledge to Our Heritage" accompanied by organ and drums. Our branch padre, Reverend Peter Hannan, of the Black Watch, offered grace and we all partook of a gourmet meal as only the Hotel Chateau Champlain can provide.

President Malcolm Loucks U.E., M.B.E., introduced the head table members; Mrs. Jean Legge UE, Branch Genealogist; and Mr. Legge P.R. Chairman; Mrs. Malcolm Loucks; Mr. Gerry Rogers UE, President-Elect and Mrs. Rogers; Colonel David Stewart and his daughter Victoria Stewart.

Special recognition was given to our guests Lt. Col. Frank Cooper UE, C.D.; Howard Warner, U.E., (C.M.H.), K.L.J., K.H., Past Dominion President and Mrs. Warner, all from the Sir Guy Carleton Br., Ottawa, Mr. E. J. Chard UE, (C.M.H.), Past Dominion President and Editor of the Loyalist Gazette from North Bay, Col. Ralph Harper C.D., of the Fraser Highlanders, and Mrs. Harper, Mr. Mel Scott U.E., President of the St. Lawrence Br., and Mrs. Scott.

Following the Royal toast the Pipe Major and Malcolm Loucks conducted the colourful "Quaich Ceremony" after which George van Koughnett UE, (C.M.H.) and the founding President, was called upon to induct the new Branch Officers for 1979-89. They are as follows: Gerald Rogers UE, President; Margaret Stead UE, V.P. Development; Charles E. Cartmel UE., V.P. Finance; Jean Legge UE, Genealogist; Alma Hayward UE, Secretary; and Malcolm D. Loucks UE, M.B.E., Past President. Our genealogist Jean Legge then presented Douglas E. Page with his U.E.L. Membership Certificate.

Again the pipes introduced a very colourful ceremony when Col. David Stewart was escorted to a special dias and was inducted with a special honour for his outstanding contributions to our Canadian Heritage. His achievements are too numerous to record and only two will be mentioned: Founder of the Canadian Heritage of Quebec, and founder of the Montreal Military and Marine Museum.

Following his introduction Col. Stewart gave an inspiring illustrated address entitled: "A Tour Through History for Canadians." He took his enraptured audience through the earliest French and English settlements, the Scots in the Maritimes, and the West; the cultural influence of Europe and its citizens; Jacques Cartier's home in France (now owned by him); and homes in France built by Acadians after leaving Canada; through Plymouth, Jamestown and the American Revolution. In the words of Gerry Rogers, when thanking the speaker, "We have seldom enjoyed a more thrilling experience than reliving our Canadian Heritage with Col. Stewart. "

The piper then played the 'Lament' as the Loyalist flag was, retired by the Colour Party at the slow march. The meeting closed with the singing of "O Canada", in French and English.

1980 Autumn

Members and guests of Heritage Branch marked another anniversary as they celebrated their Sixth Annual Charter Night Dinner on Tuesday, October 21st, in the Salon Vigor at the Chateau Champlain Hotel. Following cocktails and a general hour of meeting friends and guests, the head table was piped into the elegant and beautifully arranged dining room by a colour party of Fraser Highlanders. Following their

placing of the Loyalist flag and grace offered by our padre, Reverend Peter Hannen of the Black Watch, over fifty members and guests enjoyed a delicious dinner.

Chairman Malcolm Loucks UE, M.B.E., then introduced the bead table and our guests: Lt. Col. Frank Cooper CD, UE, from Sir Guy Carleton Br., Mr. Stanley McNairn UE, President of St. Lawrence Br. and Mrs. McNairn, Mr. Mack Bradshaw UE, President of Sir John Johnson Br. and Mrs. Bradshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Don MacCallum F.E. and Mrs. Ruby Moore UE also from Sir John Johnson Br. together with Mrs. Joyce Bradford UE, (C.M.H.) and Miss Louise Beck (C.M.H.) both of Toronto.

Following the colourful "Quaich Ceremony" conducted by Malcolm Loucks and the Pipe Major, Mr. George Vankoughnet, F.E., (C.M.H.) inducted the new officers for 1980-81, namely: Gerald Rogers UE, President; Margaret Stead UE, V.P. Development; Douglas Page UE, V.P. Finance; Jean Legge UE, Genealogist; Alma Hayward UE, Secretary and Malcolm D. Loucks UE, M.B.E. as Past President.

Guest speaker Mr. Charles J. Humber (C.M.H.) Dominion Vice-President of the Association and immediate Past-President of Governor Simcoe Branch and Director of the John Graves Simcoe Memorial Foundation, gave a rousing and inspirational address: "JOHN GRAVES SIMCOE THE FOUNDING FATHER OF UPPER CANADA." This was presented in full Simcoe regalia and Charles as the alter-ego of his subject and illustrated with colour slides led his audience by sail-rigged canoe from Toronto through Lake Simcoe and along the Trent waterway to Penetanguishene. Charles then followed with his arrival in coach and four in August at a Toronto Blue Jay baseball game in Exhibition Park accompanied by the Queen's Rangers in period uniform.

Mrs. Gwendolyn N. Fuller a charter member of Heritage Branch and founding President of Sir John Johnson Branch was then inducted with a special honour for her outstanding contributions to these branches and to our Canadian Heritage. With the 'Lament' the Loyalist flag was retired at slow march as everyone joined in the bilingual singing of "O Canada.

Following the 1979 Charter Night on October 18th Heritage Branch held a final meeting of the year on December 5th when President Gerry Rogers presented the first part of: "WHERE YOUR ANCESTORS CAME FROM," covering the forced migration of the Huguenots from France, the Palatines from Germany and Dutch Martyrs from Holland, first to England and Ireland and then to America. Appropriate colour slides illustrated these events of the early Eighteenth century. This was followed in the new year by a film night meeting on February 6th showing two narrated sound films: NEW ENGLAND AND NEW FRANCE and A QUESTION OF IDENTITY, the latter covering incidents in the War of 1812-14. This was followed by a general meeting on March 25th, when one of our Associate members, Mr. Gerald T. Iles, Director of the Manchester Zoo for twenty-eight years and an International wild-life authority presented: "CONSERVATIONIST AT LARGE," illustrating with 16mm colour film and slides, wild animal scenes in Africa, the great whales as they move into the Saguenay estuary of the St. Lawrence each summer, scenes from South America and the famous Galapagos Islands.

Several of our members, including delegates: Malcolm Loucks, Alma Hayward, Gwen Fuller, Joyce Bradford and Gerry Rogers, attended the Annual Meeting of the Association held in Toronto on May 24th. This was followed on May 27th by our own Annual Meeting where we enjoyed "LOYALIST REGIMENTS AFTER THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.", presented by Dr. Elinor Senior. Mrs. Senior a recognized military historian with a PHD from McGill has written articles for the journal of the Society For Army Historical Research' in London, for the military affairs journal of the 'American Military Institute', as well as for the 'Canadian Historical Review.' She was recently commissioned by the City of Cornwall to write the two hundred year history of the city from the time of the founding U.E.L. fathers. Malcolm Loucks, following presentation of the slate of officers for the coming

year and acceptance, not only had the pleasure of thanking Mrs. Senior but also presenting her and her husband, Professor Hereward Senior, Professor of History at McGill University and author of several books and articles on military history, with Honorary Membership in Heritage Branch.

INTER-BRANCH MEETINGS BUILD STRONG U.E.L. TIES

Heritage Branch continues to set an example by supporting other branches at their meetings and honouring their deserving members when requested. This applies not only to their neighbouring branches such as the St. Lawrence Branch where eight members attended to hear our Dominion President give his first address since attaining office, but also as far afield as the Pacific coast where three days later members' of Heritage Branch travelled at their own expense for an inter-branch meeting with the Vancouver Branch.

The delegation of four consisted of Col. David Stewart, who was the Guest Speaker, Mrs. Stewart, Joyce Bradford and George Van Koughnett. While there, at the request of the Vancouver Branch they also honoured Doreen Todhunter for her dedication to the U.E.L. Association of Canada. In their official recommendation the Vancouver Branch said: "Doreen, almost single handedly, gave of her time and talent, at a time when dissolution was imminent for our branch and built it to where today it is near one hundred members.

George Van Koughnett the Heritage Branch Chairman of Honour and Awards made the presentation. The Vancouver Branch as host responded graciously and enthusiastically to their first group visit of U.E.L.'s from the east, arranging for this Black Tie event to be held in the prestigious University Club. The Vancouver Branch declares: "It was the greatest U.E.L. event ever to be held west of the Great Lakes.

At the request of the Sir John Johnson Branch their Past President Gwen Fuller was honoured at the Charter Night Dinner of Heritage Branch. One more example of the cooperation and concern expressed by Heritage Branch for their sister branches and their interest in recognizing the work done by individuals in the interest of the U.E.L. Association of Canada.

1981 Spring

Following the highly successful Seventh Annual Charter night Dinner and installation of Officers on Tuesday, October 21st, 1980, held in the Salon Viger at the Chateau Champlain Hotel and the rousing and inspirational address by Charles J. Humber: 'JOHN GRAVES SIMCOE THE FOUNDING FATHER OF UPPER CANADA' in full period regalia, the last regular meeting of the year was held on Tuesday, December 2nd. Dr. Robert V.V, Nicholls, Emeritus Professor, gave a fine address on: 'THE DIARY OF TRAVER VAN VLIET'. Dr. Nicholls recently retired after many years as Professor of Chemistry at McGill University and a direct descendant of Van Vliet, traced this family from Dutch ancestors to the Hudson Valley and as Loyalists to the Lacolle area of Quebec. The diary covers the period from the War of 1812-14 to Confederation and provides a first hand personal account of the Battle of Odelltown during the uprising of 1838. It is a treasury of day to day life on a pioneer farm, in the first small industries, particularly the saw and grist mills and the mercantile trade in a small community.

Heritage Branch schedules only four regular meetings a year: March, May, October and December, usually held on the third Tuesday of the month and each preceded by an executive meeting on the first Tuesday. The regular meetings are held at the United Services Club, 1195 Sherbrooke Street West. This beautiful old stone building houses the headquarters of the MacDonald-Stewart Foundation and through their generosity provides a large meeting room and all audiovisual services, not only for Heritage Branch but also for several other Montreal societies and associations.

In order to break up the long winter months film nights are usually held and this year were scheduled on January 20th and February 17th. Advantage is taken to obtain free films from the National Film Board with a military or U.E.L. theme: 'The Invasion', on Arnold's march to Quebec in 1776, etc. The next regular meeting will be held on March 17th. Major Donald C. Holmes, a life member and past president of Sir Guy Carleton Branch, will speak on: 'The Origins, Campaign History and Subsequent Settlement of Typical British Provincial Military Formations - Butler's Rangers, the K.R.R.N.Y.', etc. On May 19th, Mr. George L. Van Koughnett, the founding president of Heritage Branch will have as his subject: 'An Introduction To Heraldry'. Of particular interest this year will be a bus tour to the land of our forefathers: the Mohawk Valley, Schoharie, Cherry Valley and Fort Stanwix and Oriskany areas, together with members of St. Lawrence Branch. This tour is tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in October. There are other plans and projects that could be mentioned, particularly the excellent progress of Project '83 and the anticipated publication of the book covering the history of those Loyalists who were in Montreal for a period during the Revolutionary War or remained and made their homes there. We leave you to look forward to the Autumn issue of the Gazette and more on Heritage Branch.

1981 Autumn

The Eighth Annual Charter Night Dinner and installation of Officers on Thursday, October 29th, in the Salon Viger of the Chateau Champlain Hotel, marked the beginning of another year in the vibrant history of Heritage Branch. We were fortunate indeed to have the eminent Canadian authoress and U.E.L. historian, Mary Beacock Fryer, speak on the most interesting parts of her latest book: 'King's Men - The Soldier Founders or Ontario' as related to Montreal and area. In period costume she described how well these men knew Montreal before they and their families had moved up the St. Lawrence in the spring of 1784 and how for years afterwards many returned at least once a year to shop and to sell their produce. Several members from out of town attended including: Lt. Col. and Mrs. Gordon D. Leggett, Miss Louise Beck and Mrs. Joyce Bradford of Toronto.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1st, when G.A. (Gerry) Rogers, who is in his third year as branch president, will give a colour slide presentation and talk on the recent Yorktown Bicentennial Celebrations and a walking tour of Williamsburg and Jamestown. Yorktown was a magnificent spectacle when the quiet village of York and the Victory Centre came alive with history to celebrate, over a four day period, the last major infantry action of the American Revolutionary War; a decisive battle that led to American independence. Here Lord Cornwallis with 8000 soldiers and facing not only Washington and Lafayette on the small peninsula, but also with the French fleet at his back, had no other alternative but to surrender, the terms signed at 1.00 p.m. October 19th, 1781.

Over 3000 men in Revolutionary War uniforms and 1000 camp followers, many from Canada and Europe, set up in two large encampments for the battle festival. Nearly 30,000 people attended the opening on Friday, October 16th, starting with a parade of floats, bands, fife-and-drum corps and other marching units.

The official opening at noon before the 7000 seat grandstand and the fly-past of 19 Eagle jet fighters with Governor John N. Dalton accompanied by French Ambassador, Francois de Laboulaye, witnessing the full military march and assembly on the field to be reviewed by the Colonial Governor from an open coach. This was followed in the afternoon by a mock sea battle and the re-enactment of the historic attack on Redoubt 9, all ending with a full military assembly before the grandstand, and later a glorious fireworks display over the York River.

Saturday was military day with parades, tactics, band concerts, etc. On Sunday there were victory and dedication ceremonies and a Canadian Plaque presentation at the Yorktown Victory Centre with Honorary Colonel. David Stewart and other Canadians. representing the Queen's York Rangers. The closing

ceremonies on Monday included the historic surrender, re-enacted before the grandstand and in the presence of President Ronald Reagan and French President Francois' Mitterand. Yorktown was the end of the beginning.

Much of our 1981 Branch news was included in the Spring issue of this publication. On April 14th we held a joint meeting with the Quebec Family History Society when Dr. John Sainsbury spoke on the rather revealing story of 'English Supporters of The American Revolution.' The Annual Meeting was held on May 19th with Professor Hereward Senior taking as his subject: 'The Loyalists in Quebec - A study In Diversity.' George Van Koughnett's scheduled talk on 'An Introduction to Heraldry' was postponed owing to temporary illness. We are pleased to report that George has fully recovered and is his old self again.

Many Heritage members attended the Annual Convention at Carleton University in Ottawa, May 28 - June 1st, with Gerry Rogers, Malcolm Loucks, Kerr Canning and Mrs. Joyce Bradford acting as delegates. The big disappointment this year was the cancellation of 'the Mohawk Valley tour, scheduled for the end of September. This joint bus tour of our Branch with members of St. Lawrence Branch had to be cancelled soon after the realization that the prolonged and aggravating mail strike would prevent confirmations. It is our hope that this project will be back on track before the next strike comes along. Several of us were able to attend the July picnic of Sir John Johnson Branch held on the spacious and lovely lawns of Donald and Dorothy MacCallum on the Richelieu River as well as to attend their September 26th semi-annual meeting in the Anglican Church hall at Stanbridge East. Several also attended the Charter Night Dinner of St. Lawrence Branch, held at Trinity Memorial Anglican Church in Cornwall, on Saturday, September 12th, and their annual Meeting of October 18th. These visits are reinforcing a greater loyalist bond among the branches in eastern Ontario with the branches in Quebec - a pattern to be encouraged among other branches in Canada.

We invite readers to encourage persons having Loyalist descent whose ancestors once lived in greater Montreal or in this part of Quebec to contact for membership Mr. G.A. Rogers, President, Heritage Branch, 4990 Ponsard Avenue, Montreal, P.Q. H3W2A5.

1982 Autumn

MOHAWK VALLEY TOUR By G.A. Rogers

'Tories Invade Mohawk Valley'. This headline in the Utica 'Observer Dispatch', Sunday, October 10th, greeted over ninety Canadian Loyalists as they set out from Amsterdam on the second day of a Mohawk Valley homecoming. Enthusiastic and happy members of Heritage and St. Lawrence branches completely filled two modern tour buses which had left Cornwall early on Saturday morning, to begin the long Thanksgiving weekend pilgrimage through the beautiful Adirondacks and on to the land of our forefathers. Although the weather was not too promising, with frequent patches of light rain, our first good omen occurred on crossing into New York State, when the Customs Officer turned out to be a U.E.L. descendant who sped us on our way with a wish that he could be going along with us.

The scenery was superb as waves of brilliant autumn colour rolled up the mountain slopes from the blue lakes, edged with green spruce and balsam and splashed here and there with aspen gold and the soft olive of tamarack. A stop was made below Malone at Meacham Lake picnic ground for a delightful box lunch. Then on past Paul Smiths College on St. Regis Lake, Upper Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake, Long Lake and on to Blue Mountain Lake for a short visit at the Adirondack Museum. By late afternoon the high mountains gradually gave way to the pleasant hills of the Sacandaga river and reservoir. A little after five we rolled into the valley of the Mohawk and on to our first stop, the Holiday Inn at Amsterdam.

For several months, starting with the May 24th holiday weekend, the two tour guides, Gerry Rogers of Heritage and Stanley McNairn of St. Lawrence Branch, had covered the valley selecting historic sights and accommodations. All hotel rooms had been pre-registered and within the hour Mattie Davis and her staff at the Holiday Inn had everyone settled in and preparing for a delicious Thanksgiving turkey dinner, with all the trimmings including cream topped pumpkin pie; all in our own private dining room.

Sunday was quite warm and a day of brilliant sunshine. The first stop was Guy Park Manor, built in 1773 on the site of an earlier frame house by Sir William Johnson, for Guy Johnson, his nephew and son-in-law. Guy left for Canada in 1775, accompanied by his wife and family, Daniel Claus, John Butler and others who elected to fight for the British standard.

Following the war the estate passed through several hands. James Stuart added the two stone wings following purchase of the house in 1846. New York State acquired the property in 1907 when nearby lock II of the Erie Canal was constructed.

From the early years of the Dutch occupation the Mohawk River had served as the main highway of commerce and transportation between the mid west and the Atlantic seaboard. The valley and particularly the upper German Flats area near Herkimer, was settled by many of our forebears long before the Revolution, mainly by German Palatines and later by Scottish and English emigrants brought over by Sir William Johnson. From Guy Park at Amsterdam to Fort Stanwix in Rome are many stately houses, churches and battle sites, all of particular interest to descendants of those who lost their homes and possessions and eventually became the U.E. Loyalists who gave us so much of our own history. It was unfortunate that time did not permit visiting Schoharie, Cherry Valley and other areas a few miles south of the Mohawk.

A few miles west of Guy Park, Sir William Johnson had erected his first home about 1739 and on this site we visited Fort Johnson, a large fortified stone house, built in 1749. This was his last home on the river before moving to Johnson Hall in 1763. It was then occupied by Sir John Johnson and his wife, Mary Watts, until they moved into Johnson Hall following Sir William's death in 1774. During the Revolution, Fort Johnson was confiscated and the property sold several times. In 1905 it was given to the Montgomery County Historical Society by a descendant of Mary Watts.

At Tribes Hill, near Fort Johnson, generations of Mohawk, Onondaga and Seneca Indians, gathered in traditional council meetings. Here we crossed the Mohawk to the mouth of Schoharie Creek to visit the ancient sites of the last Mohawk village of the 1700-1775 period and Queen Ann Chapel. Fort Hunter was built nearby to protect the village and church. Here also one may see short sections of the original Erie barge canals and the remains of the viaduct over Schoharie Creek. Before leaving we visited a beautiful old stone house, the site of Queen Ann's parsonage, built in 1712 as a fortified residence for the use of the missionaries who served the Mohawk Indians. It was here in 1775, that the Rev. John Stuart and Joseph Brant translated into Mohawk, the gospel of St. Mark. It is now a private home.

East of Fonda and on top of Switzer Hill, stands the old weather-beaten clapboard house where Colonel John Butler was born. The view over the Mohawk is magnificent. This primitive home, built in 1742 by Watler Butler, John's father, has been owned for several years by Mr. and Mrs. Frances Lang. They and their children were wonderful hosts, inviting many inside to see early fireplaces, wide plank floors and wood walls and beams; some original. Much has been restored but a great deal more should be done. As it is privately owned the Langs have financed all of the improvements. What a wonderful project this would be for the U.E.L. Association. (We have just learned that shortly after our visit, fire destroyed the outbuildings, several of the children's ponies and caught a corner of the old house before being extinguished).

From the crest of Switzer Hill one looks southeast across the wide valley below Fonda, to the Jesuit Shrine at Auriesville. There at the Mohawk village of Ossernenon, 350 years ago, Isaac Jacques, Rene Goupil and Jean Lalande, died horrible deaths as martyrs to the Jesuit cause; carrying the 'Christian message to the Indians. Here arrangements had been made for lunch in the large modern dining hall and a tour of the beautiful grounds. On a broad terrace commanding a magnificent panorama of the river and valley, is the spectacular circular church with 72 doors and a seating capacity of 6500, the first small chapel built in 1885, the Kateri Center commemorating the birthplace of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha, the Way of The cross, Hill of Prayer, Memorial Chapel, the domed Pieta and the modern Jesuit Retreat House.

Everyone was now looking forward to the tour highlight, our visit to historic Johnstown and Johnson Hall, the last home of Sir William Johnson. Lewis Decker, Jim Morrison and several other members of the reactivated Third Regiment of Tryon County Militia, all in period uniforms, welcomed us in the old town square. This area is flanked by historic St. John's Episcopal Church and the Colonial Court House, erected in 1772 as the seat of King's Court for Tryon County (now Fulton). Lew Decker, Fulton County historian and Bicentennial Co-ordinator, not only opened the old court house but also turned several other keys to stately homes and churches along the valley, making our visit so much more pleasant and rewarding. In portraying his role as a rebel militia man and expert story teller, Lew took us back over 200 years to live within these historic walls with; Sir William Johnson, his son John, nephew Guy Johnson, John Butler, Daniel Claus, Jelles Fonda, Sheriff Alexander White and Aaron Burr. Outside the court house we were saluted by the militia as they demonstrated loading and firing the old black powder muskets.

Following a walking tour of nearby Episcopal churchyard where Sir William Johnson was buried, we moved on a mile or more to Johnson Hall. A Georgian house built of wood blocks, made to look like stone, it was the center of a large working estate that included mills, blacksmith shop, gunsmith shop and other buildings for workers and servants. Two stone forts flank the mansion. For more than a decade and until his death in 1774, it reflected the importance of Sir William's position as Superintendent of Indian Affairs. The house was confiscated and sold after the Revolution. It passed through the hands of several owners until purchased by the State in 1906. The rather few but quite large rooms depict a period of elegant social status. As was common in those days, the kitchen with its large fireplace, was located in the basement where many antique household items and dioramas are on display. Johnson Hall and the baronetcy passed to Sir John Johnson, who moved up from Fort Johnson on the river until leaving for Canada in 1776. He raised the King's Royal Regiment of New York, known as Johnson's 'Royal Greens'. During 1780 raiding parties operating out of Carleton Island and the St. Lawrence and Richelieu river forts, struck terror in the Mohawk Valley settlements. In October sir John Johnson swept into Stone Arabia, a small community of Palatine German stock lying in a rolling fertile plain just north of Palatine Bridge. He engaged and defeated a rebel force under the command of Colonel John Brown. We drove from Johnson Hall to see this battlefield and the two historic places of worship, which were opened for our visit. The Dutch Reformed Church, built of native field stone, was opened in 1788 and the white frame Trinity Lutheran Church dedicated in 1792. On this site, Johnson burned the original log church put up by the first Palatine settlers in 1729.

Late in the afternoon we followed the setting sun through Little Falls and on to Herkimer, the site of old fort Dayton where West Canada Creek falls into the Mohawk. From here, near the end of October, 1781, Colonel Marinus Willet marched a few miles north to overtake Major John Ross and to strike down and kill Walter Butler in the final engagement of the war on New York soil. Our long day drew to a close at Herkimer with an elegant buffet supper of hanging beef, turkey, seafood and a delicious salad bar arranged for us by Paul Soules at the Wiffletree Inn. Paul put us up for the night between his original Herkimer Motel and the recently acquired and refurbished Wiffletree.

On Monday morning, our third and last day, we breakfasted at Howard Johnsons before returning to Little Falls where the gorge and rapids provided ideal sites for the first four and textile mills. Crossing the river we turned down stream a few miles to visit Herkimer House, the old red brick home of Nicholas Herkimer

(Herchheimer), a Brigadier General of the local militia and the hero of Oriskany. Herkimer died here of battle wounds, a few days after the engagement in August 1777. In 1890. The Oneida Historical Society initiated interest in the site and the State acquired the property in 1913. The homestead was closed for the season but we enjoyed the walk through the beautiful wooded park with many mature oak, beech, maple, shag hickory and buttonwood trees. It seemed only right and proper to pay our respects at the shrine and family cemetery of a brave leader from the other side. His brother Hans Yost Herkimer, fought under the British standard and lies buried along the St. Lawrence.

Heading west to Utica and the Oriskany battlefield, we stopped for a few minutes near the village of Mohawk, to see Herkimer Church. In the 1720's, great numbers of Palatine Germans settled along the fertile bottom lands as far west as German Flatts (Now Herkimer). Their log and stone houses dotted clearing sin the wilderness. During the Revolution settlers, found refuge in the lcoa forts. This old stone church, built by Johan Jost Herkimer, father of Nicholas and a dozen other children, was fortified and known after as Fort Herkimer Reformed Church.

At Oriskany, we saw the site of one of the bloodiest battles of the war, an ambush set by rangers and Indians under Johnson, Butler and Brant to prevent General Nicholas Herkimer, his 600 militia and a supply train, from reaching and relieving Fort Stanwix. Here we were met and welcomed by local historians. Miss Lynne O'Brien, St. Lawrence Branch genealogist, presented a membership certificate to Miss Doris Swarthout, proprietor of Berry Hill Book Shop in nearby Deansboro. She and her father trace their Loyalist ancestry to Canada and the Shavers family.

We concluded our tour at Fort Stanwix in the city of Rome. This is a fairly recent reconstruction of the original fort and a living museum with all guides in period costume. Built by the British in 1758 during the French-Indian war, it was named for Brig. Gen. John Stanwix in charge of construction. A short movie tells the story of the siege during the summer months of 1777, when Colonel Peter Gansevoort successfully defended the fort against a large British force under Barry St. Leger, Sir John Johnson, Butler and Brant. Two months later. surrounded and cut off. General Burgoyne surrendered at Saratoga. This was the turning point of the Revolution.

Following a buffet lunch in Rome we headed home along the north shore of Oneida Lake and Highway 81 to the Thousand Islands Bridge and on to Cornwall and Montreal.

Obituary: **Edith Mary Locks**

Mrs. Edith Mary Loucks died on August 14, 1982 after a long life devoted to serving the community. The late Mrs. Loucks was the beloved wife of Malcolm Loucks and mother of sons Malcolm and Ronald. She was active in the Heritage Branch and contributed greatly to its social life and fine spirit as she did everywhere she participated. She was loved by a multitude of people where she worked in her church, Salvation Army, senior citizen's homes, and hospitals.

1985 December

The twelfth Annual Charter Night Dinner commemorating the presentation of the branch charter was held on November 14 in the Club Room, Victoria Hall, Westmount, Montreal. A good attendance enjoyed this excellent occasion.

Mrs. Phoebe Hyde, the guest speaker, and president-elect, presented her latest monologue in which she plays the ghost of her Loyalist ancestor, Margaret Switzer, Embury, Lawrence. Canadian history comes alive in her original monologues which over the years have been enjoyed in Canada, the United States and Great Britain. Mrs. Hyde has covered a wide range of lecture recitals in bringing to life the fascinating

history of early Canadians and Indians. Her dramatic programmes presented through radio and television have included Canadian character sketches, scenes from Shakespeare and Greek drama.

Sympathy was expressed to the president, Mr. Gerald Rogers, on the death of his wife in October. She will be very much missed by the members of the branch.

1986 June

It is our custom to have an annual film night and get together in February. On February 4th Mr. Kevin O'Donnell, project consultant with the Quebec Ministry of Education gave an audio-visual slide/tape presentation of the 1985 National Film Board's "The World Turned Upside Down" which is the story of a Loyalist family in New England, seen through the eyes of an 11 year old as they were forced to flee to a new home. The filming took place at the King's Landing Settlement in New Brunswick.

"The Invasion in 1775-1975" was an American Bicentennial special also from NFB. One thousand history buffs, each man playing a historically researched part in period uniform, re-enacted the 1775 march of Benedict Arnold into Quebec.

On March 4th our speaker was Mr. James R. Hay GRS(c), Chairman of the Library Committee of the Quebec Family History Society. In his talk "Roots, Branches and Stumps" he outlined in detail some of the differences between tracing records in Quebec and in Ontario and described the work of the Church of Latter Day Saints and their International Genealogical Index, a copy of which is in the QFHS Library for use by its members.

Heritage Branch of the UEL and the Quebec Family History Society are co-operating in the reciprocal use of both library collections by members of each group. The collections are housed in separate rooms at Glenaladale, 164 Lakeshore Road, Pointe Claire, Quebec.

Heritage Branch annual meeting will be held on May 6th and take the form of a Members' Night in which five or six members will give short outlines of their UEL ancestors.

In early summer there will be a garden party at Greenwood, Como, the home of our President, Mrs. Phoebe Hyde for members and guests as part of a membership drive. A display of research already completed will be prepared by members and Mrs. Hyde will do one of her delightful monologues.

1986 December

The main event of the Heritage Branch was Charter Night and dinner at Victoria Hall Club Room in Westmount on October 10. This was a special dinner meeting. The speaker was Mrs. Phoebe Hyde who is well known on Canadian and American radio and television for her talented dramatizations. This time Mrs. Hyde brought early history to life in "A Grandmother Remembers". In this she presented Madeline de Vercheres recalling as Grandmother for her grandchildren the exciting day when she saved the local fort from an Indian raid. The programme also included the singing of the traditional songs of many nations.

Mrs. Joyce Bradford, a member from Toronto. attended this special annual event. Our well-known member, Mr. Gerald Rogers. a past president of this branch and an active member on the national executive of the Association for many years, is off again conducting historical Loyalist trips to the Mohawk Valley. He has conducted many tours of that area. This time it is for our recent Bicentennial Branch at Windsor and Essex County, Ontario.

The annual meeting of Heritage Branch took place at the United Services Club in Montreal. When the business was completed, five members gave resumes of their Loyalist ancestry.

Okill Stuart spoke about Rev. John Stuart, 1728-1793, who emigrated from Fort Hunter, N.Y. State to Kingston, Ontario and became the first Anglican Minister of Upper Canada. Meada Fraser's topic was "Eight Generations Canadian" about the Bingham, Krans, Mead and Pattison families. Henry de Lotbiniere' Harwood's ancestor was John Munro, soldier and parliamentarian. Dorothy Rogers Howard's talk was about the Rogers family who came from Normandy with William the Conqueror and to America from Northern Ireland in 1726. An uncle, Robert Rogers raised the Rogers Rangers. Gerald Rogers is descended from five Loyalist families - direct ancestor is John Rogers of Butler's Rangers who came to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1785. He spoke also of the Markle and Merkley families who were Palatines.

Sunday June 22nd was a beautiful day for the House and Garden party at President Phoebe Hyde's home "Greenwood" in Como, Town of Hudson, on the Ottawa River. Members wore Loyalist costumes and brought artifacts and pictures for the interesting display arranged in one of the bedrooms of Phoebe's historical home.

The 13th Annual Charter Night Dinner was held at Victoria Hall in Westmount. After dinner Phoebe Hyde presented another of her well known monologues, "A Grandmother Remembers". As Madeleine de Vercheres, later Madame de la Parade, she entertained her grandchildren with the story of how as a girl her heroism saved Fort Vercheres from the Iroquois.

1988 Spring

In May 1987, the property, Glenaladale, in which our Research Library was housed, was sold and we had to vacate the premises. The Québec Family History Society offered space for our reference library with theirs for the mutual benefit of both organisations. This joint library is presently at Summerlea Centre, 250-48th Avenue, Lachine, Québec (mailing address: P.O. Box 1026 Pointe Claire, Québec, Canada H9S 4H9). We now have 195 books listed, most of which were acquired through a New Horizons Grant for a research project. A number of books are gifts from members.

May 5, 1987, the annual Meeting program included member participation. Douglas Page spoke about grants to ancestors in the Saint John Valley of New Brunswick. Blanche Johnstone talked about her ancestor Bishop Charles Inglis, the first Bishop of Nova Scotia and of Canada. Muriel Whyte, Elizabeth MacDermot and Helene Neilson also told about family anecdotes and history.

A House and Garden Party was held again on June 21st at Greenwood, our President Phoebe Hyde's beautiful old home in Como, on the Ottawa River, with the George III flag atop the flagpole. The ladies were in costume and, at this meeting, members brought mementoes for display.

We have three newly certified members:

Henry Harwood – Ancestor John Monroe

Francis Heward – Ancestor John Monroe

Helen Ridout-Neilson – Ancestor Alexander Campbell

The Fourteenth Annual Charter Night dinner was held on October 29th at which Mrs. Phoebe Hyde presented one of her much loved monologues, playing the part of Mother Youville, founder of the Grey Nuns as she "entertained" General Amherst on the eve of the capitulation of Montréal, October 3, 1760. Mrs. Hyde has brought to life the fascinating history of many early Canadians and especially the Indians.

Unfortunately, the November meeting had to be cancelled because of a raging snow storm which brought the city to a standstill.

The weather was kinder on February 16th for our annual Film Night. The highlight was a video presentation on the life of Bishop Charles Inglis, consecrated first Bishop of Nova Scotia and Canada in 1787. This was prepared in Halifax for the Bicentenary of the Anglican Episcopate in Canada.

The second film was about the Battle of Châteauguy 1813, prepared by Parks Canada.

Submitted by Marianne Davis, Secretary, Heritage Branch

1988 Fall

HERITAGE BRANCH REPORTS ON THE QUÉBEC FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Québec Family History Society is a non-profit organization, based in Montréal, founded in 1977 to foster the study of genealogy, with emphasis on families who live or have lived in Québec. The Society endeavours to meet the needs of non-francophone researchers. Its purposes are to promote and encourage the study of genealogy and original genealogical research in Québec to collect and preserve information, books, manuscripts and other related material relevant to genealogical study. It also publishes bulletins and printed material to further the foregoing objectives.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in family research and in sharing techniques useful in this pursuit. The Society caters not only to those with interests in Québec, but also to those with interests in other parts of the world. There are three classes of membership: Individual \$15.00 with full voting privileges and right to hold office; Associate/Family \$20.00, family members residing at the same address as an individual member; Institutional \$15.00, members are libraries, societies and other organizations. There are well over 300 individual and family members and over 20 institutional members. Most of the individual members are from the province of Québec, primarily the Montréal area. All but a few Canadian provinces are represented and a number of the United States. There are several members from the British Isles and one from New Zealand.

Several of the charter members of the Society were members of Heritage Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, among them being Margaret Smith Snead, Kerr Canning, Joyce Bradford and Rosemary Joy. Since then, several others have joined including: Mrs. Charles Anderson, Gerry Rogers, Ruth and Marianne David, Marie Clerke and Gwendolyn Trask. Many of these U.E.L. members and other prospective and associate members still researching ancestral roots have found that the excellent and extensive library facilities and the International Genealogical Index, are the most helpful in the Montréal area. The I.G.I. is a card file index on Microfiche film of names and vital statistics covering many countries of the world and gathered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City. Two readers are available, one with printer and a film reader.

The Society programs eight meetings a year at the Lachine Public Library with guest speakers and also arranges at least 2 or 3 workshops during the period from September to May. Trips are also scheduled to local Archives in Ottawa and to places of historic interest. "*Connections*", the 25-30 page publication of the Society, is mailed to members 4 times a year: June, September, December and March. Each issue contains articles, mainly written by members and usually related to genealogy, as well as queries, recent library acquisitions, new members, coming events, news of other societies, blank forms for members' use of the I.G.I. facility, etc. Paid advertisements are also accepted. Recent issues of "*Connections*" have

featured articles by United Empire Loyalist members, John Ruch and Joyce Bradford and Gerry Rogers has presented colour slide lectures on related subjects.

Through the generosity of David Stewart of the MacDonald-Stewart Foundation, the Society headquarters and library are located in Glanladdale House, 164 Lakeshore Road, Pointe Claire, Québec, and staffed by volunteer members every Monday and Thursday or by appointment. The library now contains nearly 1000 accessioned items and numerous periodicals from genealogical societies in North America, Britain and Europe. A catalogue of members' interests is available, identifying the area of interest or member research, in order to assist those requesting genealogical information. This facility, together with the many family genealogical histories and cemetery lists now compiled, is an invaluable source for Loyalist ancestry research. In fact, Heritage Branch now has a room and meeting place at Glanladdale.

1994 Fall

We left Dorval Airport and landed on a beautiful sunny afternoon in Calgary where Douglas Hall, Calgary Branch President, welcomed us. He drove us to the lovely grounds of our accommodation on the University of Calgary.

We felt more at home the next morning as we boarded the bus. The bus driver was great and so was Al Berry, our tour guide, and to matters even better, Jim and I had the front seat. The scenery was awe-inspiring as we got into the foot-hills with the sun shining on the high, craggy and snow covered mountains and below, spring-green foliage and flowers along the road sides. The nice part about the trip was that we stopped at many points of interest, the first one a coffee break in Banff. At Lake Louise we had time to walk about and take pictures. It was quite a contrast to see flowers blooming, grass being cut and the lake still full of ice.

At Yoho Spiral Tunnels, we were lucky enough to arrive just as a 92-car freight train performed for our cameras. We enjoyed a lunch break in Golden where, from our table in the solarium car, we could see the mountain peaks on all sides. A very lovely spot. We were at Rogers Pass by mid-afternoon and stopped to see the excellent displays of models of the pass, the mountains and tunnels and the miniature trains winding endlessly through them. We stopped again at Three Valley Gap for a stretch break. Finally at 7:30 we arrived at the Stockmen's Hotel in Kamloops to enjoy a buffet dinner and a comforting bed after a long but exhilarating day.

We boarded the bus early the next morning and although we got on last we were still able to get the front seat. Another beautiful day as we followed the Thompson River where we found the scenery much softer with lower, rounded hills and fewer trees. Here was Ponderosa Pine, short scrubby grass, sage and beautiful broom (memories of Scotland). We also passed acres of strawberries all covered with black screening as protection from the birds.

At mid-morning we stopped for a snack and group pictures at Ashcroft Manor and Teahouse, western Canada's first roadhouse. It was built in 1862 to accommodate travellers trekking to and from the Cariboo gold fields. Where the Thompson joins the Fraser near Lytton, we had our first view of the Coast Range, with very high and snow covered peaks. We were now travelling along the road high up the side of the canyon and below us the river was running fast and muddy. At noon we arrived at Hell's Gate and stopped long enough for some of us to take the cable car down into the canyon. Here we saw a fish-run exhibit and a rather frightening and vivid display and explanation of how Simon Fraser negotiated this section of the river. Near the Alexander Bridge picnic area we were held up for 20 minutes as workmen cleared a recent rock slide.

We arrived at Chilliwack Holiday Inn in mid-afternoon to be greeted and welcomed by Lois Dickinson and a large contingent of fellow UEL members, all dressed in costume and handing out roses to the ladies. There were also several little children in costume singing welcoming songs and in our rooms further thoughtful expressions of greeting, including information, pins, bookmarks, etc. Later on we followed a parade of antique cars and costumed people in buses up to the Senior Secondary School, where the banquet and program was held in the Simon Fraser Room. Early the next morning we walked to the Chilliwack Museum, the former City Hall, where the UEL ladies, all in costume, provided a buffet breakfast. After breakfast and on the flag-bedecked balcony, the town crier read a proclamation declaring Empire Loyalist week in B.C. It was an impressive ceremony.

On the way into Vancouver we visited Fort Langley and an hour or more to wander the grounds and buildings of this old and historic Hudson Bay Company post. A little later on, we crossed the Fraser and had lunch at New Westminster. Later that afternoon, we said goodbye to our bus driver after arriving at UBC. We all thanked him for a wonderful trip across the Province. The next three days at the Convention were taken up with seminars, meetings, meals and sight-seeing. We then said our good-byes to the many new friends we had made from all across Canada and left to visit relatives before returning home.

By Sylvia Fairlie

1995 Spring

Phoebe Hyde, who passed away on 5 November, 1994 in her 85th year, was a fascinating person. An author and actress with an intense interest in Canadian history and drama, she made a very positive and lasting contribution to our cultural heritage. Her personal grace and elegance has left an indelible impression on all who knew her, many through her monologues. These usually portrayed the lives of heroic women of English, French-Canadian and Loyalist historical background. Few of us will ever forget her hospitality, as she entertained Heritage and other Branch members, at summer picnics and strawberry festivals at *Greenwood*, her beautiful and historic old home on the Ottawa River at Como. As late as last July, Phoebe again played the part of picnic hostess, clad in her 18th century Loyalist finery.

Phoebe was a founding member and past president of Heritage Branch. In spite of the society with which she associated, she was proud of her humbler Loyalist ancestry, claiming among these Duncan Fisher and Catherine Embury. For the past 30 years and living permanently in Como, she served as president of the Hudson Historical Society, the Garden Club and Church organizations. For most of these years she was the driving force behind the publication of several historical books.

She was the daughter of Percy Nobbs, a distinguished Montréal architect. After boarding school Phoebe was sent to finishing school in London, where her talent for drama was recognized and encouraged. She then enrolled in the celebrated Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, where she obtained the excellent training and background for the monologues, created and acted out on so many stages. Phoebe also found romance on this first trip to England. On board ship she met and later married her first husband, Andrew MacKellar, a handsome Cunard line officer who became captain of the famous Atlantic liner, the Queen Mary. This led to a very interesting but different kind of life, with an apartment in London and endless ocean voyages. After the second world war she spent more time in England, lecturing on Canadian and Indian folklore, returning every summer to travel on western trips collecting her Indian stories. It was around this time that Phoebe started to do her monologues and for many years she performed throughout Canada.

Phoebe's mother was Mary Cecelia Shepherd, a daughter of Dr. E. J. Shepherd. Dean of the Medical Faculty at McGill. She inherited the old family home at *Greenwood*, a beautiful property on the river at Como, and entailed it to her daughter Phoebe, who even then at the age of 14, felt it her responsibility to keep the home

as a 'Family Museum', with its cherished artefacts, many still there. Parts of this historic house were built in 1732 by Jean Baptiste Sabourin of Oka and his wife Sarah Hanson, a captive of the Indians. She was taken from her home in Dover, Massachusetts, in 1724 when 14 years old and brought to Montréal and then to Oka where she married in 1727. It passed through the De Les Dernier and then to the Shepherd family.

During her last year Phoebe assured the future of *Greenwood* by leaving it, together with a generous financial arrangement, to 'The Canadian Heritage of Québec', a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of lands and buildings of historic interest in Québec. This is the legacy of Phoebe Hyde to the Como and Hudson communities. It also includes the transcripts and tapes of her monologues, including the most famous one on the life of Sarah Hanson, wife of the first owner of Greenwood. Phoebe Hyde was a remarkable person fondly remembered by all who knew her.

Submitted by Gerald A. Rogers

1996 Spring

The year 1995 marked a very special anniversary for Loyalists in the Province of Québec. It was the centennial of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Québec, founded in Montréal on May 1st, 1895. There were 35 charter members. In commemoration Heritage Branch planned two events.

Members in period costumes participated in the Canada Day/Veterans' Day celebrations, held at the Old Fort on St. Helen's Island, marking and remembering the Nation's birthday and the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Following a picnic lunch we enjoyed a band concert by the Black Watch Association Band, the Fraser Highlanders Military Drill and Camp, an interesting display of WWII vehicles and a tour of the exhibits in the David M. Stewart Museum.

In the evening we dined at the Festin du Gouverneur, the famous dinner and cabaret theatre on the island where our President, Robert Wilkins and his wife Maura presided as 'Gouverneur' and 'Chatelaine' respectively. The evening ended watching the Benson & Hedges fireworks display.

The main event for the centennial anniversary will be a bus tour along the Richelieu River from Sorel to Chambly, including a house tour of the old stone manor house (ca 1820) of Sir John Johnson at St. Mathias and Fort Chambly. Because of a busy schedule which included the Mohawk Valley Tour in October, this one will be held sometime during the summer and details will be announced later on. These centennial celebrations are of particular interest for our President, as he is the grandson of Robert C. Wilkins, one of the founding members of the 1895 Association.

The annual Charter Night Dinner was held on October 26th with the installation of officers: Okill Stuart, Robert Wilkins, Marianne Davis, Ellen Stevenson, Douglas Page. Ruth Davis and Gerry Rogers, as Past President, President, Vice-President. Secretary, Treasurer, Genealogist and Program Director respectfully. Gerry Rogers presented a slide show and talk covering the historic places that will be visited along the Richelieu Valley. We enjoyed having with us that evening, several descendants of members of the 1895 Association, including those of the first president, The Hon. Jonathan Saxton Campbell Wurtele, Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench and an Officer of the Legion of Honour in France.

A special effort was made in 1995 to have local radio and press coverage, particularly by the Montréal Gazette, of all major events, including our Annual General Meeting in April, the Canada Day celebrations and Charter Night in October. Our policy of getting out and showing the colours, has, for many years now, included sharing a booth with Laurentian Branch of the Heraldry Society of Canada, at the Montréal Highland Games. This stepped up public relations and publicity program has increased local interest,

attendance and membership. This was reflected at the AGM in April when a full house greeted Col. The Hon. John Matheson and his masterful presentation 'I Salute Canada'.

Fall 1996

Our first 1996 meeting was held on February 29th, a very unique date and program. A large gathering of members and friends were entertained by Branch member, the well known magician, Nemo Turner and his pet rabbit 'Melvin'. They have won many outstanding awards, including a medal presented in 1993, by the Governor General of Canada for their benevolent and charitable work. The evening ended with the annual hidden auction, always a financial success.

The Annual General Meeting took place on April 30th in the Church of St. Columba with historian, Victoria M. Stewart, as guest speaker. Her subject of upholding the honour of 18th century Loyalists in 20th century Canada and particularly the future of the Monarchy in Canada, prompted a very rousing and controversial question and answer period.

Ten of our members attended the National Convention, June 6 - 9th in Halifax, with several enjoying the 'Loyalist Loop Bus Tour'. Okill Stuart was front and centre as National President and also past President of Heritage Branch. During his two year term Okill worked very hard indeed and in many different ways, to benefit the Association. Every member from coast to coast across Canada, owes a debt of gratitude to Okill, particularly on the subject of finances. Now as Past President he is in a much better position and quite willing to devote some time toward obtaining much needed financial grants.

Our President, Robert Wilkins and wife Maura, attended the Kente Festival, July 13-14th, at Carrying Place in Ontario. On August 4th we again shared a booth with the Laurentian Branch of The Heraldry Society of Canada at the Montréal Highland Games, held this year on the grounds of Douglas Hospital in Verdun. This always provides the opportunity to display our literature and obtain prospective new members.

We now have 45 participants registered for the Richelieu Valley Bus Tour, scheduled for Saturday, September 28th. This event will celebrate the formation on May 1st, 1895, of The United Empire Loyalist Association of the Province of Québec, consisting of 35 members. The tour will include visiting Christ Church in Sorel, the old manor house of Sir John Johnson at St. Mathias, the old Fort and St. Stephen's Church in Chambly. Gerry Rogers, program director of Heritage Branch, will provide historic comments.

The last event of the year, our Annual Charter Night Dinner, will be held on October 24th.

1997 Spring

On September 28th, a full bus load of members and friends, including several from Glengarry and Ottawa areas, enjoyed a fun and historically informative tour of the Richelieu Valley from Sorel to Chambly. This event was organized and conducted by Gerry Rogers to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Québec.

Our main places of interest in Sorel were Governors Cottage, built in 1781 by Governor Haldimand as a residence for General de Riedesel and historic Christ Church. The Rev. John Doty established the Anglican mission there in 1784 and the first church service was held on Christmas Day in 1785. Before leaving Sorel, we visited the old cemetery in which were interred the pioneer ancestors of several inter-related families of Armstrong, Dunn and others. Together with nearly twenty other Loyalist families,

they settled before 1785 at Lac Maskinongé, nearly fifty miles northwest of Sorel. Included was the family of Robert Elliott, a direct ancestor of Pierre Elliott Trudeau, through his mother Grace Elliott. Mrs. Elizabeth Kirwin, a descendant of Jesse Armstrong, flew in from Salt Spring Island to be with us on the tour.

As we travelled south along the river through Saint Denis and Saint Charles, we were reminded of the key roles played in the 1837 Rebellion by Wolfred and Robert Nelson, sons of Loyalist William Nelson. Following a delicious buffet lunch in Richelieu, we visited the magnificent old manor house erected by Sir John Johnson near Saint Mathias, over 175 years ago. It is very similar in design and construction to other Johnson homes in the Mohawk Valley. Elizabeth Stephens, whose grandfather purchased the property in 1911 and who has restored the structure in recent years, opened the historic house specially for the occasion.



At Fort Chambly, restored in 1983 by Parks Canada, we toured the old barrack rooms now converted to a museum housing military, archaeological and historical exhibits commemorating the great days of New France. We were all very distressed and dismayed that Parks Canada had not provided a single exhibit commemorating the British presence there for well over two centuries. Following a street tour of many historic homes along the river and commentary by W.G. (Wally) Phillips who coordinated arrangements in Chambly, we were welcomed at the garrison church of St. Stephen's by the Rev. Andrew Sandilands. The day ended with a dinner served by ladies from the Church and presentation of the book *Loyalists of Québec 1774-1825*, published by Heritage Branch in 1989, to Elizabeth Stephens and Wally Phillips.

In an effort to promote the history of the Loyalists and attract new members, we have been donating copies of this book to local libraries in an ongoing program. More interest has been created in the schools and particularly expressed by grade ten students. The annual Charter Night Dinner was held on October 24th where members and guests were entertained with a collection of colour prints and slide presentation on the Richelieu Valley Tour.

--Adrian Willison

Obituary: **ROGERS, Gerald Alexander**, Montreal, 25 February 1997

(*This is an excerpt from a eulogy at Gerry Roger's funeral, 28 February 1997, delivered by Okill Stuart, Past President of UELAC.*)

Gerald A. Rogers was born at Niagara-on-the-Lake on 26 October 1912. There, he was raised on a fruit farm and attended St. Catharine's Collegiate Institute. He graduated from the General Motors Institute at Flint, Michigan, in 1934, with a degree in Industrial Engineering. He subsequently pursued a career based upon his engineering skills, eventually establishing *Merit-Rogers Machinery Company*.

Gerry's hobbies have included hunting and fishing, golf, sailing, photography, historical and genealogical research and antique book collecting.

Gerry was a Past-President, Life Member and Honorary President of the Chateauguy Valley Historical Society, and until recently, Programme Chairman of the Quebec Family History Society. He was also an active member of the Northern New York American-Canadian Genealogical Society.

As a member of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, Gerry was a Past-President of the Montreal Heritage Branch, one of the Dominion Vice-presidents and Chairman of the National Publicity

Committee. For his dedication and valuable contributions to the Association he joined an illustrious group who through Heritage Branch have been invested as a Companion of the Order of Meritorious Heritage.

Gerry was married in 1942 to the late Marie-Marthe Content. We are happy to have their daughter, Jocelyn and her husband M. Jean-Marie Ferron with us.

Gerry found peace in a fishing stream, the golf course or even picking vegetables from my country garden when I wasn't there! Most Tuesdays we would join friends for lunch and settle the problems of the world.. He truly delighted in the simple joy of a picnic basket shared with his companion, Betty Chalmers.

In 1989 Gerry played a vital role as the official photographer in the Loyalist National Convention in the presence of H.R.H. The Prince Philip.

Perhaps the essence of this dear man is to be found in his fascination with history. He conducted numerous Loyalist tours and presentations for the enjoyment and learning of the participants; he brought to life the circumstances of former times and events. It was in such a role that Gerry showed himself a true leader.

NOTICE: Due to the death of Gerry Rogers, the Mohawk Valley Tour scheduled for 10-13 Oct. 1997, is cancelled. The good news is that members from another branch have expressed an interest in running a Mohawk Tour in 1998 in tribute to Gerry. - Okill Stuart

1997 Autumn

February 27 was the date for our first meeting in 1997. The tone of this meeting was sombre as it was the day after the death of Mr. Gerry Rogers, UE, one of our long-time members, Branch Program Director and Past President. Dr. Graeme Decarie, Professor of History at Concordia University, Montréal and editorialist at CJAD radio, was our guest speaker that night. The subject of his talk was "Drinking Habits of our Loyalist Ancestors". After the talk we had our annual Hidden Auction, which helps to raise funds for our Branch.

The next morning many of our members attended Gerry's Funeral. Mr. Okill Stuart, UE, delivered the eulogy and Mr. Douglas Page, UE, played the organ. Gerry was well known by many societies and groups in and around Montréal besides the UELA, including the Chateauguay Valley Historical Society, Québec Family History Society and the Macdonald Stewart Foundation. Members from all of these groups attended his funeral. Our sympathies go out to his family.

The Annual General Meeting for Heritage Branch was held on May 1st. When the Business Section of this meeting was concluded, we had a talk and slide show presented by guest speaker Mr. Gary Schroder, President of the Québec Family History Society (QFHS). The subject of his presentation was "ROOTS 97", an International Conference on Family History in Québec, sponsored by the QFHS to celebrate its 20th anniversary. Dr. Hereward Senior, Professor of History at McGill University, Honorary Vice-President of the UELA, and member of Heritage Branch, gave a lecture on the UELA at this Conference, which was held at McGill University June 6-8, (the same weekend as the UELA convention in Winnipeg).

On June 22, several of our members, including Branch President Robert Wilkins, UE, and his wife Maura attended the official opening of the redecorated Loyalist Room at the Loyalist and Norwesters Museum in Williamstown, Ontario.

We held a Branch Picnic on June 29 at 'Greenwood' in Como, Québec, the historic home of the late

Phoebe Hyde, UE, who was a founding member and past president of Heritage Branch. Mrs. Hyde bequeathed Greenwood to the Canadian Heritage of Québec, a non-profit corporation dedicated to heritage preservation. It was her strong wish to maintain the historical character of Greenwood and to share it with the public for the generations to come. Mr. Bill Young, coordinator of the property, is respecting these wishes and is developing it into the "Greenwood Centre for Living History" with plans for many future community events of a historical nature. Greenwood is familiar to many Heritage Branch members. For many years before her death, Mrs. Hyde invited our members and their guests to share Greenwood with her, at her annual Strawberry Social in late June.

We are encouraging Mr. Young to remember the Loyalist heritage of the property. This year our President, Robert Wilkins, presented a copy of our book *The Loyalists of Quebec 1774-1825, A Forgotten History* for the Greenwood Library, as well as a silver souvenir spoon from the HMS Queen Mary, once commanded by Captain MacKellar, Phoebe Hyde's first husband.

The Montréal Highland Games were held August 3 on the grounds of the Douglas Hospital in Verdun, Québec. Heritage Branch shared a booth at these games with the Laurentian Branch of the Heraldry Society of Canada, as we have done for many years. We feel that it is important to attend events such as these because they provide an excellent venue to "show the colours" and promote our Branch and the Association and what we stand for. These were an estimated 18,000 people at these games.

Submitted by Adrian Willison

1998 Spring

Heritage Branch President, Robert Wilkins, UE, was guest speaker at the annual dinner of the English-Speaking Union, whose president, Gerald Iles, is an associate member of Heritage Branch. The subject of Mr. Wilkin's talk was "The Loyalists and their Influence in Canada Today". He also described Heritage Branch, the UELAC and its activities, *The Loyalist Gazette*, and promoted our Branch's book *The Loyalists of Quebec 1774-1825, A Forgotten History*. The audience was most responsive and interested.

Our 24th annual Charter Night Dinner was held on October 30th, 1997 at the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch (RHR) Armoury in Montréal. A large group of our members and their guests attended, along with representatives and guests of other associations in Montréal. Our members signed a birthday card for Col. the Hon. John Ross Matheson, UE, Honorary President of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, which was sent to him for his eightieth birthday, November 14, 1997. Before dinner, President Wilkins reported on up-coming events involving Heritage Branch and the UELAC, such as the upcoming Kingston Conference in June, 1998, and the October 2 - 5, 1998 Mohawk Valley Bus Tour, which is dedicated to the memory of the late Gerry Rogers, UE of Montréal. Heritage Branch is assisting the Sir Guy Carleton and St. Lawrence Branches in the organization of this tour by providing documents from the several previous Mohawk tours that were organized under Gerry's able leadership as Program Director of Heritage Branch.

Following a delicious roast beef dinner, our 1998 Branch Executive was installed: President, Robert Wilkins, UE; Immediate Past President, Okill Stuart, UE; Vice President, Marianne K. Davis, UE; Secretary, Ellen Stevenson, UE; Treasurer, Douglas Page, UE; Genealogist, Ruth J. Davis, UE.

Thanks were extended to Marianne Davis, Ruth Davis and Betty Chalmers, a friend of the late Gerry Rogers, for their hard, tedious and diligent work in sorting and cataloguing Gerry's historical and genealogical papers. His Loyalist-related documents were then transferred to Heritage Branch's section

of the Québec Family History Society Library, Pointe Claire, Québec, where they will be available to the general public for consultation and research.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Bruce Bolton, director of the Stewart Museum at the Old Fort, St. Helen's Island. He spoke on the Scottish military tradition in Montréal, tracing the activities of various Highland military units in the city from the French Regime to the present day. He noted, among other details, that the aide-de-camp of General Montcalm at the Battle of the Plains of Abraham was a Scot. This is just another example of the "Auld Alliance". To complement Mr. Bolton's address, Mr. Jeff McCarthy, Corporal in the Black Watch, and Pipe Major in the 78th Fraser Highlanders (recreated), entertained us with favourite bagpipe tunes. He was ceremoniously toasted after his much appreciated performance.

Heritage Branch was represented at various social events in Montréal in the later months of 1997. Among these were annual dinners of the Black Watch (RHR) and the 78th Fraser Highlanders Regiments, the St. Andrew's Ball and Christmas celebrations sponsored by Laurentian Branch of the Heraldry Society of Canada and the Montréal Branches of the Royal Commonwealth Society of Canada and the English-Speaking-Union.

Our Book Donation Program continues to operate. This program was initiated in 1996 to promote Heritage Branch and the UELAC by donating copies of *The Loyalists of Quebec 1774-1825, A Forgotten History* to interested archives and libraries, especially school libraries. We have found this program to be successful; the books act as reference guides to Loyalists in and of Québec, and have stimulated interest in Canadian and Québec Loyalist History. If we, as Loyalists do not promote our own history and keep the Loyalist spirit alive, it will be lost forever because nobody else will do it for us. A bound copy of this book was presented to H.R.H. Prince Philip when he was Guest of Honour at the United Empire Loyalist Association Convention in Lennoxville, Québec in 1989.

Submitted by Adrian Willison

1998 Fall

Heritage Branch held its Annual General Meeting at The Church of St. Columba in Montréal on Tuesday, April 28. Following the business session, those present enjoyed a superb talk and slide show. The speaker was Betty Le Maistre, president of the Montréal Branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society of Canada, as well as an active member of the Gaspé Channel Islands Society. Her presentation dealt with the historic links between the Channel Islands and the Gaspé Peninsula of Québec. From the late 18th century, men such as Charles Robin came from Jersey to Gaspé to settle and develop the fishing and fish processing industry which survives to the present day. Fluent in English, French and the old Norman French (still spoken in the Channel Islands), these pioneers made a lasting contribution to the life of the region. They had contacts (at first sometimes difficult, but later far more cordial) with the United Empire Loyalists, who began arriving on the Gaspé coast following the American Revolution.

The slides of the countryside and historic sites of both Jersey and the Gaspé were delightful. Betty Le Maistre described in detail the history and attractions of both areas, and also recounted anecdotes of some of the characters she knew growing up on the Peninsula. She further distributed brochures on the British Heritage Centre at New Richmond, Québec, which celebrates the heritage of both the Channel Islands and Loyalist Gaspésians -- definitely a "must see" for Loyalist descendants on any tour of the Gaspé.

On the first weekend in May, the Branch received Myrna Fox, UE, chair of the Association's Membership Committee. Myrna was on a tour of the three Québec branches and was warmly received by all of them.

In Montréal, she visited the Québec Family History Society's library in Pointe-Claire, where Heritage Branch has its Loyalist Section. She met with the Branch Executive to discuss ways and means of promoting membership and seemed impressed by the many methods of "networking" practiced by the Branch over the years. She presented the Membership Guidelines Handbook (largely her own work) and explained its use, as well as new pamphlets prepared by Headquarters to assist with recruitment of new members. Myrna's visit concluded with a guided tour of Old Montréal, conducted by Branch President Robert Wilkins, and a dinner party with all members of the Branch Executive at the Wilkins' home. The banquet provided by Maura Wilkins was a culinary triumph (as always). Mrs. Fox was presented with a copy of *"The Loyalists of Quebec 1774 - 1825, A Forgotten History"* and a souvenir plate depicting some of the sights visited on her tour of Old Montréal.

The Branch was well represented at the Annual Conference of the Association, held at Queen's University, Kingston, from June 11 to 14. Members attending included Judith Beliaeff, Paul and Ruby Bonnell, Marianne and Ruth Davis, Sylvia Fairlie, David and Sandra Hannaford, May King, Doug Page, Okill Stuart, Robert and Maura Wilkins. The bus tour of the Loyalist Parkway was a highlight of the Conference. Okill Stuart, as Immediate Past President of the Association, welcomed all to the Saturday evening banquet. On Sunday, June 14, he read a lesson at the service at St. George's Anglican Cathedral, founded by his ancestor, Reverend John Stuart, UEL. At the evensong service in the Church of St. Alban the Martyr in Adolphustown, Okill delivered a fascinating and much-appreciated homily. The large congregation virtually filled the small church, and they listened attentively to his detailed review of the life and career of Reverend Stuart who, as Bishop of Kingston, was a prime mover in the establishment of the Church in Loyalist times.

During that same weekend, Heritage Branch members Adrian Willison and Elizabeth Abbott attended a Brunch hosted by the Royal Commonwealth Society, held in the gracious and historic Mount Stephen Club in Montréal. On July 26, several of our members went to the annual service at the "Little White Church" in Russeltown Flatts situated in the Châteauguay Valley, Québec. The Rector, Reverend Malcolm Cogswell of Lachute United Church, is of Loyalist ancestry. Lyman Roberts, one of our members, is on the building and maintenance committee of this beautiful and well-kept old church, which was built in 1826.

On Sunday, August 2, the Branch once again shared a booth with Laurentian Branch of the Heraldry Society of Canada, at the Montréal Highland Games in Verdun, Québec.

The Twenty-fifth Charter Night Dinner of Heritage Branch will be held in Montréal in late October.

The Loyalists of Québec 1774-1825, A Forgotten History continues to be sold to interested individuals and institutions and donated to libraries, in an effort to make the local Loyalists better known and recognized.

Submitted by Adrian Willison, 41 Denon Rd., Beaufort, QC H9W 4K7.

1999 Spring

Our Branch President, Mr. Robert Wilkins, UE, sent a letter of congratulations on behalf of all Heritage Branch members to His Royal Highness, The Prince Charles, on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday, November 14, 1998. We received a telegram in reply from Buckingham Palace in which HRH, The Prince Charles expressed thanks to all Branch members for their good wishes. On October 28, 1998, we celebrated our 25th Anniversary as a chartered Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada at our annual charter night dinner held at the Officers' Mess of the Black

Watch Regiment (RHR) in Montréal. Many of our members and their guests attended. Also present were members and their guests of our "sister societies" such as: The Monarchist League, The English Speaking Union, the 78th Fraser Highlanders, and the St. Andrews Society Laurentian Branch of the Heraldry Society of Canada.

A delicious roast beef dinner was served. The guest speaker for this Silver Jubilee Dinner, was Mr. Terence D. Hicks, UE of Kingston, Ontario, Central Region Vice-President of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. He gave a vibrant and well researched talk on the "Royal Proclamation of 1763" and its effects on the American Revolution and Loyalist settlement in Canada beginning in Cataraqui (now Kingston) in 1784.

Heritage Branch members Dr. Hereward Senior, Professor of history, McGill University, and an Honorary Vice-President of the UELAC thanked Mr. Hicks for his interesting and informative speech. Branch president, Robert Wilkins, presented a copy of our Branch's book *The Loyalists of Quebec 1774-1825, A Forgotten History*, to Mr. Hicks, with the Branch's best wishes.

That evening, Mr. Wilkins reported on recent activities of the Branch and the Association. Sylvia Green-Guenette received her UE Certificate from Branch President Robert Wilkins, that evening, as well. Sylvia is a descendant of Abraham Hyatt Sr., UE. His son Gilbert founded Hyatts Mills, Lower Canada, now named Sherbrooke, Québec. Several new associate members have also joined our ranks and are most welcome.

October 2 - 4, Okill Stuart, UE the Québec President, chaired the National Convention of the Heraldry Society of Canada in Montréal which was terminated by a gala banquet at the Marriott-Château-Champlain Hotel. Okill, who was already armigerous by heredity through his Loyalist ancestor, the Reverend Dr. John Stuart, UE, father of the Church of England in Upper Canada, was presented with his own personal Coat of Arms at the banquet by the Herald Athabaska. His arms contain a Loyalist Coronet.

The Honorary President of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, Col. The Honorable John R. Matheson, UE, one of the founders of the Heraldry Society of Canada, delivered the historic BELE Lecture. The Hon. Lise Thibault, Lieutenant Governor of Québec, presented Mr. John E. Ruch, UE, a UELAC Honorary Vice-President and Heritage Branch member, with a Fellowship Award in Heraldry. Another Branch member, the Venerable Peter Hannen, UE, Executive Archdeacon of Montréal delivered a remarkable homily at the Sunday Church Service held at St. George's Anglican Church.

Other Branch members in attendance were President Robert Wilkins and his wife Maura, Paul and Ruby Bonnell, Eardley and Hilda Dowling, Dr. Hereward Senior, and former MLA Col. Gordon Atkinson. Of course, the Loyalist Banner was proudly displayed during this weekend's festivities.

The Lieutenant Governor was presented with a copy of our book *The Loyalists of Québec 1771-1825, A Forgotten History*.

On that same weekend, Branch member Adrian Willison went on the Mohawk Valley Bus Tour sponsored by Sir Guy Carleton and St. Lawrence Branch. This tour was dedicated to the memory of the late Gerry Rogers, UE, of Heritage Branch, who had organized many tours to the area over the years. On Sunday, October 4, a moment of silence in memory of Gerry was observed at the historic and beautiful Trinity Lutheran Church in Stone Arabia, N.Y. when we stopped there.

Also that weekend, a tree planting ceremony in memory of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, was held in Westmount Park, Westmount, Québec. This was a project of the Montréal Branch of the Monarchist

League of Canada. Two branch members, Prof. Senior and Gerald Iles are principal directors of this League and participated in the tree planting. Robert Wilkins attended as well.

Mr. Wilkins continues to assist Dominion Council in draughting proposed amendments to the Association's By-laws.

Heritage Branch makes every effort to foster and keep good relations with the local press which publicizes and reports on Branch activities. Also, we are always well represented at the various social functions of our "sister societies" as well as Sir John Johnson and Little Forks Branches of the UELAC.

1999 Fall

Our Branch President, Mr. Robert Wilkins UE, sent a letter of congratulations on behalf of all Heritage Branch members to His Royal Highness, The Prince Charles, on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday, November 14, 1998. We received a telegram in reply from Buckingham Palace in which HRH The Prince Charles expressed thanks to all Branch members for their good wishes.

On October 28, 1998, we celebrated our 25th Anniversary as a chartered Branch of the UELAC at our annual charter night dinner held at the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch Regiment RHR in Montreal. Many of our members and their guests attended. Also present were members and their guests of our 'sister societies' such as: The Monarchist League, The English Speaking Union, the 78th Fraser Highlanders, and the St. Andrews Society Laurentian Branch of the Heraldry Society of Canada. A delicious roast beef dinner was served.

Guest speaker for this 'Silver Jubilee Dinner', Terence D. Hicks UE of Kingston, Ontario, Central Region Vice-President, UELAC gave a vibrant and well-researched talk on the 'Royal Proclamation of 1763' and its effects on the American Revolution and Loyalist settlement in Canada beginning in Cataraqui (now Kingston) in 1784. Heritage branch members Dr. Hereward Senior, Professor of history, McGill University, and an Honorary Vice-President of the UELAC thanked Mr. Hicks for his interesting and informative speech. Branch president, Robert Wilkins, presented a copy of our Branch's book named The Loyalists of Quebec 1774-1825, A Forgotten History, to Mr. Hicks.

Sylvia Green-Guenette received her UE Certificate from Branch President Robert Wilkins. Sylvia is a descendant of Abraham Hyatt Sr. UE. His son Gilbert founded Hyatts Mills, Lower Canada, now named Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Several new associate members also joined our ranks and are most welcome.

October 2 - 4, Okill Stuart UE, the Quebec President, chaired the National Convention of the Heraldry Society of Canada in Montreal which was terminated by a gala banquet at the Marriott-Chateau-Champlain Hotel. Okill, who was already armigerous by heredity through his Loyalist ancestor, the Reverend Dr. John Stuart UE, father of the Church of England in Upper Canada, was presented with his own personal Coat of Arms at the banquet by the Herald Athabaska. His arms, of course, contain a Loyalist Coronet. The Honorary UELAC President Col. The Honourable John R. Matheson UE, one of the founders of the Heraldry Society of Canada, delivered the historic BELE Lecture. The Hon. Lise Thibault, Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, presented Mr. John E. Ruch UE, a UELAC Honorary Vice-President and Heritage Branch member with a Fellowship Award in Heraldry. Another Branch member, the Venerable Peter Hannen UE, Executive Archdeacon of Montreal delivered a remarkable at the Sunday Church Service held at St. George's Anglican Church. Other Branch members in attendance were President Robert Wilkins and his wife Maura, Paul and Ruby Bonnell, Eardley and Hilda Dowling, Dr.

Hereward Senior, and former MLA, Col. Gordon Atkinson. Of course, the Loyalist Banner was proudly displayed during this weekend's festivities

The Lieutenant Governor was presented with a copy of our book [The Loyalists of Quebec 1771-1825, A Forgotten History.](#)

On that same weekend, Branch member Adrian Willison went on the Mohawk Valley Bus Tour sponsored by Sir Guy Carleton and St. Lawrence Branch. This tour was dedicated to the memory of the late Gerry Rogers UE of Heritage Branch, who had organized many tours to the area over the years. On Sunday, October 4, a moment of silence in memory of Gerry was kept at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Stone Arabia, N.Y. when we stopped there to visit this historic and beautiful church.

Also on that weekend, a tree planting ceremony in memory of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, was held in Westmount Park, Westmount, Quebec. This was a project of the Montreal branch of the Monarchist League of Canada. Two of our branch members, Prof. Senior and Gerald Iles are principal directors of this League and participated in the tree planting. Robert Wilkins attended as well.

Mr. Wilkins continues to assist Dominion Council in drafting proposed amendments to the Associations bylaws.

Heritage Branch makes every effort to foster and keep good relations with the local press which publicizes and reports on Branch activities. Also, we are always well represented at the various social functions of our 'sister societies' as well as Sir John Johnson and Little Forks Branches of the UELAC. The Branch's dedicated and efficient Executive Committee is one of the secrets of our vitality.

2000 Spring

[Editor's Note: This report contains both the fall '99 and more recent news.]

Our Annual General Meeting was conducted in the Parish Hall of the Church of St. Columba, Notre Dame de Grâce on April 20, 1999. Our Guest Speaker for the evening was Dr. Desmond P. Morton, O.C.; FRSC, Director of the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada. In his professional career, he has written over thirty books on Canada's political, military, and industrial relations history. He spoke to us about "History as an Adult Entertainment". At the end of his talk, he was presented with a copy of our Branch's book named *The Loyalists of Québec 1774-1825, a Forgotten History*. Also during that evening, Claude Beaubien, Honorary Captain of the Canadian Fleet Atlantic (Halifax) received his UE certificate. He and Okill Stuart UE, Past President of Heritage Branch and former Dominion President, are cousins. Their Loyalist ancestor is the Rev. John Stuart D.D., father of the Anglican Church in Upper Canada. Besides his naval duties, Claude is an architect, engineer and mediator.

In June 1999, several of our members attended the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada's Annual Conference held in Edmonton, Alberta.

We held a picnic on the grounds of "The Greenwood Centre for Living History", Hudson (Como) Quebec on June 27, 1999. Greenwood was the ancestral home of the late Phoebe Hyde UE. During her lifetime she was active not only with the Loyalists, but also with Local Québec History and Family History. She was famous for writing and performing monologues (skits) on historical subjects. An actress with the Hudson Players entertained us by performing one of Phoebe's monologues (skits) in the afternoon. We also celebrated the Investiture of Mr. Okill Stuart UE, as a Serving Brother of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. Maura Wilkins, wife of Robert Wilkins UE, Branch President,

baked a delicious cake and decorated it very artistically by designing the white Maltese cross on the black background (The symbol of The Order), into the frosting. A Celtic Folksinger and a Piper, both from the locality, entertained us that day as well.

Heritage Branch shared a booth with the Laurentian Branch of the Heraldry Society of Canada at the Montréal Highland Games held on the Grounds of the Douglas Hospital, Verdun, Québec, on August 1, 1999, as we have done many times in the past. We offered for sale back issues of *The Loyalist Gazette* and copies of our Branch's book *The Loyalists of Québec 1774-1825, a Forgotten History*.

Our Annual Charter Night Dinner was held on Thursday, October 21, 1999 in the Officer's Mess of the Black Watch (R.H.R.) Armoury in Montréal. The guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Edward G. Scott UE, Dominion President of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. He delivered a very interesting and informative talk on the health and vitality of our Association. He was graciously thanked by Heritage Branch Member and Honorary Vice President of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada Dr. Hereward Senior.

Branch President, Mr. Robert Wilkins UE, presented Past President Medallions to Mr. Malcolm Loucks UE, and Mr. Okill Stuart UE. After receiving their awards, they briefly reminisced about their terms as President of Heritage Branch.

Among all the different toasts we gave that evening, we toasted Admiral Horatio Nelson for his victory, one hundred and ninety-four years ago, at the Battle of Trafalgar, Oct. 21st 1805. In England, this victory is marked by "Trafalgar Day".

Mr. John E. Ruch UE, one of our members, and another Honorary Vice President of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada commented on the fact that the news of this victory was officially announced in Montréal at the Home of Sir. John Johnson, during his New Year's Celebrations on Dec. 31, 1805.

Mrs. Jean McCaw, President of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch and Mr. Dick Eldridge, a member of that Branch were also present that evening. Mr. Eldridge sits on the Board of "La Société de Restauration du Patrimoine Johnson", the group spearheading the restoration of the tomb of Sir John Johnson on Mont St. Grégoire (formerly Mount Johnson), near the Town of Iberville, in the Eastern Townships of Québec. They both reported on this fascinating and important historical project.

Branch President Wilkins drafted a letter of congratulations from Heritage Branch to Her Excellency Adrienne Clarkson for her appointment as Canada's twenty-sixth Governor General. After the dinner, it was passed around for all interested parties to sign.

Our Roast Beef Dinner was fit for a King, and we all feasted royally that evening.

As one can see, our Charter Night Dinner was a busy and eventful one, but very enjoyable and successful.

Our Heritage Branch Library, which is housed within the Library of the Québec Family History Society in Pointe Claire, Québec, continues to expand. We recently added several books from the Gerald A. Rogers UE Estate. The total number of books in our Library now stands at 252. All of these are reference books therefore they can only be used on the Library premises. None can be lent or taken out. Anybody who would like more information on our Heritage Branch Library can contact our Branch Vice President and Librarian, Miss Marianne Davis UE 3447 Wilson Avenue, Montréal, Québec, Canada, H4A 2T6.

Submitted by Adrian Willison

2000 Fall

Heritage Branch was well represented at the Annual Conference held at Niagara Falls in May. In addition to Branch President, (Robert Wilkins), the Past President (Okill Stuart), the Vice-President (Marianne Davis), and Genealogist (Ruth Davis), seven other members attended: Paul and Ruby Bonnell; Mae King; Sylvia Fairlie; Malcolm and Barbara Loucks; and Maura Wilkins.

On Friday, May 5th, the *Most Honourable Order of Meritorious Heritage*, which was established in the 1970s by the founding President of Heritage Branch, the late George Van Koughnett UE. C.M.H., and which still operates under the Branch's aegis, hosted a special ceremony of investiture followed by a wine-and cheese reception at the Renaissance Fallsview Hotel. The occasion was the induction of two new members into the Order as, *Companions of Meritorious Heritage*. The inductees were George Anderson and Edward Kipp, members of both St. Lawrence and Sir Guy Carleton Branches, which Branches jointly petitioned for the investiture by citations transmitted to Heritage Branch. Messrs. Anderson and Kipp have both contributed significantly on national and international levels to the preservation of Canada's Loyalist heritage, as well as to the enhancement of the Association and the attainment of its objectives. They've also contributed through their work as co-directors of the Mohawk Valley Bus Tour of 1998, and the Hudson Valley Bus Tour scheduled for the fall of 2000 - as well as by their active involvement in the *King S Name Project* of Sir Guy Carleton Branch. Their writings, slide presentations and committee work for the Association were also cited by R. Wilkins UE, Secretary of the Order, in presenting the two gentlemen to Okill Stuart UE, C.M.H, who as Chancellor of the Order, presented them each with the ceremonial collar and medallion and a framed certificate attesting to their reception of the *C.M.H.* distinction. The Chancellor stressed that the Order, operating through Heritage Branch, intends to continue conferring this award on worthy individuals in recognition of outstanding service to Loyalism and/or the UELAC, until such time as the Association establishes an official distinction for that purpose. Among the thirteen current companions are Col. Hon. John R. Matheson, Hon. President of the Association; John Ruch, one of its Hon. Vice-Presidents; and John Chard, a former Dominion President. Mr. Paul Bonnell of Heritage Branch was also heartily congratulated on his recent reception of the "Caring Canadian" Award from Her Excellency the Governor-General of Canada.

At the UELAC Annual Meeting on May 6th, R. Wilkins, as Chair of the Bylaws Committee presented a series of amendments, most of which were directed at giving effect to the Dominion Council Restructuring Proposal, as approved at the 1999 Annual Meeting in Edmonton, and implemented since then on an experimental basis. The package of modifications was adopted, for the most part, with various friendly amendments.

The Dominion Council Meeting also gave its official blessing to the Millennium Essay Collection project of Heritage Branch member Adrian Willison. As co-chair of the Association's Millennium Committee with George Anderson, Adrian plans to encourage members of Branches from coast to coast to contribute essays and/or poems in celebration of some aspect of our UE heritage, as a project to mark the new millennium which begins officially in 2001. It is hoped that at least one submission will be forthcoming from every Branch.

On July 1st, Heritage Branch participated officially in the Canada Day Parade in Montreal with five Branch executive officers in period costume riding atop Adrian Willison's pickup truck. Thanks again to Adrian for making this colourful event possible, and to Paul Bonnell for help with the signs. It was as successful as the St. Patrick's Day Parade in which the Branch participated.

Branch members also attended many other events, including the Loyalist Landing Re-enactment at Adolphustown on June 17th, the St. Andrew's Society of Ottawa's visit to Williamstown ON, the founding conference of the Quebec Anglo Heritage Network at Bishop's University, Lennoxville, Quebec on June 23-25, and the Montreal Highland Games at Verdun, Quebec in August.

On August 4th, at the request of the Montreal Branch of the Monarchist League of Canada, R. Wilkins spoke briefly at the church service held in the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul in Montreal to celebrate the 100th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. This was a great honour. The solemn service, attended by a large congregation, including Her Honour Lise Thibault, Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, was followed by a reception at the Armoury of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada.

Prof. Hereward Senior of McGill University's History Department, (and an Hon. Vice-President of the Association), is working on drafting educational materials on the Loyalists of Quebec for use by teachers in Quebec's English language schools. Bernice Flett of the Association's Education/Outreach Committee met with Prof. Senior and Mr. Allan Patenaude of the Quebec Ministry of Education, as well as Robert and Maura Wilkins, (a high school history teacher in Montreal), in the Wilkins home in Westmount, to launch this important project. The Task Force is charged with preparing a new curriculum to be implemented in Quebec's public schools over the next few years, which will see history, geography and citizenship taught at every grade level from Gr. 3 to the present Gr. 11. It is hoped that the materials will eventually be published and posted on the website of the Quebec English Schools Network.

Special thanks to Jean McCaw, Past President of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, for providing a number of useful materials on Eastern Townships Loyalists.

Finally, congratulations to former Dominion President and Branch Past President Okill Stuart on his marriage on August 12th to Sylvia Fairlie, a long-time friend from St. Lambert and an Associate Member of Heritage Branch. We look forward to their continued active participation, as a couple, in Branch and Association activities.

Plans are in the works for the Branch's annual Charter Night Dinner in October. It is hoped that Regional Vice-President Roy Lewis will be the speaker.

C. Wilkins UE, President, Heritage Branch

2001 Spring

Several of our members participated in the Loyalist Bus Tour to the Hudson Valley of New York, organized by George Anderson, C.M.H., UE, and Edward Kipp, C.M.H., UE. This was an extremely well run and enjoyable tour.

We had our Charter Night Dinner on October 26, 2000, at the Officer's Mess of the Black Watch (RHR) Armoury in Montréal which was designed by the late Percy Nobbs, a famous Scottish born and bred architect and former Director and Professor at the School of Architecture, McGill University, Montréal.

As a point of Loyalist interest, Mr. Nobbs was the father of the late Phoebe Hyde UE, a founding member and a former President of Heritage Branch. Our guest speaker was Mr. Roy Lewis UE of Col. Edward Jessup Branch and Regional Vice President, Central East, of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. He spoke about the strengths and potentials of our organization, and then entertained us with stories and anecdotes about his family history including the Reverend Thaddeus Lewis, the son of his Loyalist ancestor. Roy quoted from the Rev. Lewis's autobiography. His exploits as a soldier in the war

of 1812 were fascinating. When he was finished, he was presented with a copy of our Branch's Book *The Loyalists of Quebec, A Forgotten History*. Mr. David Hannaford sincerely thanked him for his excellent talk.

Our guests from other branches who joined us that evening were: Mr. Richard Eldridge UE, president of Sir John Johnson Centennial, Branch; Sandra Shouldice UE, president of St. Lawrence Branch; George and Janet Anderson from Nepean Ontario, (Members of both St. Lawrence and Sir Guy Carleton Branches who have recently joined Heritage Branch), and Louise Hall and Adelaide Lanktree of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. Mr. Eldridge still sits on the Board of La Société de Restauration du Patrimoine Johnson, which is a group dedicated to restoring the gravesite of Sir John Johnson on Mont St. Grégoire, Québec, formally Mount Johnson. He gave us a most interesting and comprehensive update on the progress of this project, which is very encouraging.

Okill Stuart, C.M.H., UE, our Immediate Past President and a past Dominion President was made an Honorary Fellow of the Heraldry Society in October 2000. He was congratulated on this new honour as well as on his new marriage to Sylvia, in August 2000.

Heritage Branch fully supports the new Loyalist Burial Sites Project being chaired by Mrs. Myrna Fox UE, Senior Vice President of the Dominion Council. We have already made two submissions to this project.

The Millennium Essay and Poetry Collection Project is getting underway and has already received a submission. We look forward to receiving more in the near future. Any essays and poems for this project should be sent to Adrian Willison, 41 Devon Road, Beaurepaire, Québec, Canada, H9W 4K7. They will be most welcome.

Several of our members attended the annual Christmas Dinner and gift collection hosted by Laurentian Branch of the Heraldry Society of Canada in December 2000. The collection of gifts was donated to sick children in Hôpital Sainte Justine, Montréal.

2001 Fall

Heritage Branch held its Annual Meeting on April 24th, 2001 at the Church of St. Columba, Montréal. Mr. Charles E. Cartmel UE, a long-time Branch member, presented a fascinating talk on the "Bliss Family Civil War". Mr. Cartmel reported on the extensive genealogical work that has been done by him and others over the years on the Bliss Family in America (including a three-volume monograph on the subject published in the U.S. some years ago by one of the descendants). Mr. Cartmel stressed that the American Revolution split his Bliss forebears into two camps, with brothers taking up arms on opposing sides of the conflict, and the Loyalist ancestor eventually fleeing north to Canada. He also commented on the life of some Bliss descendants well known in Canadian letters, particularly Sir Charles G.D. Roberts and poet Bliss Carman.

Ten Heritage Branch members attended the Annual Conference of the UELAC at Cornwall from June 7th to 10th, 2001. Two other members joined the delegation for part of the weekend. The bus tours of the Lost Villages and of Glengarry plus "Glengarry Night" with the fiddle orchestra and "Palatine Night" (featuring a learned and illustrated address by Dr. Ed Kipp, C.M.H. UE on the Palatines) was enjoyed by all. The barbecue, banquet, church service at Williamstown and re-enactment there by the King's Royal Regiment of New York were particularly appreciated.

Branch Past President Okill Stuart, C.M.H. UE, read one of the lessons at the church service on Sunday,

June 10th, at St. Andrew's United Church, Williamstown (founded by Rev. John Bethune in 1787) and later took the salute at the KRRNY's re-enactment. R. Wilkins chaired the portion of the June 9th Annual Meeting devoted to By-Law amendments, where another package of modifications proposed by the By-laws Committee, which he chairs, was adopted with various "friendly amendments".

Branch President Wilkins was also invested as a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of Meritorious Heritage on June 8, at the induction ceremony presided over by Okill Stuart, Chancellor of the Order. Two other inductees were Philip Edward Meric Leith of Vancouver Branch and (in absentia) Jean Darrah McCaw, Branch Genealogist of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. The citations received from the Chilliwack and Vancouver Branch (re Mr. Leith), Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch (re Mrs. McCaw) and Heritage Branch (re Mr. Wilkins), which were read aloud, testified to their very significant contributions to those Branches and to the Association in general. A large number of invited guests stayed for a reception following the investiture ceremony, which was cosponsored by the Order and Heritage Branch. Messrs. Leith and Wilkins and Mrs. McCaw may now bear the post-nominal letters "C.M.H." (Companion of Meritorious Heritage), together with their respective "UEs". Chancellor Stuart noted that Heritage Branch intends to continue bestowing the "C.M.H." distinction on persons who contribute substantially to the UELAC, through scholarship, service or support, until such time as the Association adopts an honours system for that purpose.

June 25th saw many members and friends of the Branch gather at the "Greenwood Centre for Living History" in Hudson, Québec (the home of former Branch President, the late Phoebe Hyde UE), where they were welcomed by the Centre's Co-ordinator, Mr. Bill Young and his volunteers. All enjoyed the grounds, picnic lunch and tours of the house, as well as live entertainment provided by Melyna Foss, a local singer/guitarist of great talent, and the Luxtons, a husband and wife piano and fiddle duo.

This year, Heritage Branch was invited to enter a float in the annual Canada Day Parade in the City of Montréal on July 1st. We considered this invitation a great honour because it was personally extended by Dr. Singh, the Parade's founder. Participation in it affords us the opportunity to promote our branch and the Association, as well as celebrate Canada, the country in which our Loyalist ancestors worked so hard to create a homeland, not only for their families but for all of the people who have immigrated here from around the world. It was our second consecutive year in this parade. Again, the crowds lining the parade route gave our members, who were dressed in Loyalist period costumes, hearty greetings and cheers, despite cool temperatures, heavy clouds and some drizzle.

Mr. A. Willison continues to co-ordinate the True Millennium Essay/Poem Collection, and encourages all Association members and Branches to submit poems or short essays on some aspect of Canada's Loyalist history, genealogy or tradition, in celebration for the Millennium. It is intended to publish appropriate submissions at a later date.

Mr. Wilkins is continuing his efforts to co-ordinate the preparation of teachers' resource materials on the Loyalists of Québec, with the assistance of associate member Prof. Hereward Senior of McGill University's Department of History, and Mr. Allan Patenaude of McGill's Faculty of Education, and under the guidance of the Association's Education Committee, notably its Chair, Fred H. Hayward UE, and former Chair, Bernice Wood Flett UE. Prof. Senior's document is being reviewed, in the hope that it can eventually be accepted by the Québec Ministry of Education's Task Force on History and Geography, for posting on the Internet website of the "Québec English Schools Network", where it would be available as course enrichment material for the History of Québec and Canada programme in Secondary IV (grade 10).

The Branch will consider ways to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2002.

The Branch regrets the passing of Blanche Johnstone UE on July 16th, 2001. She was a long-time and faithful member of Heritage Branch. Her distinguished Loyalist ancestor was Bishop Charles Inglis, the first Anglican Bishop of Nova Scotia.

Adrian Willison UE

2002 Fall

Heritage Branch wholeheartedly honours Queen Elizabeth II for fifty years of dedication and true love of her Country and the Commonwealth.

We held our 2001 Charter Night Dinner on October 25, at the Officer's Mess of the Black Watch (RHR) Armoury on Bleury Street in Montréal. After a most enjoyable Roast Beef Dinner, we listened to a talk on the subject of "Loyalism and the Indian Trade of the North West Company" delivered by Mr. David Anderson.

On February 6, 2002 the membership of Heritage Branch attended a special Holy Eucharist Service celebrated in honour of the fiftieth anniversary of the Accession to the Throne of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Queen of Canada. This high service took place at the Anglican Church of St. John the Evangelist, Montréal, in the presence of Her Excellency Lise Thibault, Lieutenant-Governor of Québec.

Sincere congratulations are in order for our Branch President, Mr. Robert C. Wilkins UE, C.M.H., who received the "Governor General's Caring Canadian Award" on February 20, 2002 from Her Excellency Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada at the Citadel in Québec City. He received this prestigious award in recognition of his dedicated service to various non-profit cultural, religious, and heritage organizations over the years, including, Heritage Branch and the UELAC.

On March 9, 2002, President Wilkins attended the Annual Church Service of the Royal Commonwealth Society of Canada (Montréal Branch) with his wife Maura. The church service took place at St. James United Church, Montréal.

March 16, 2002 Heritage Branch participated for the third consecutive year in Montréal's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Between April seventh and ninth, we were represented at three different Church Services in Montréal in honour of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, all in the presence of Her Excellency Lise Thibault, Lieutenant Governor, and large congregations.

On Tuesday, April 23, 2002, Heritage Branch held its Annual General Meeting at the Parish Hall of the Church of St. Columba, N.D.G.

In honour of the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, a special ecumenical and bilingual service of worship was held at Christ Church Cathedral (Anglican), Montréal, on June 2, 2002, in the Presence of Her Excellency Lise Thibault, Lieutenant-Governor of Québec, and Sarah Gillette of the British Consul in Montréal.

Ten of our members attended the annual UELAC conference in Waterloo, Ontario hosted by Grand River Branch, from June 6-9, 2002.

On June 22nd, Heritage Branch participated in the reopening of the recently refurbished "1822 Hyatt One Room Schoolhouse" in the town of Milby, Québec, near Sherbrooke in the Eastern Townships. The Loyalist Hyatt family settled this area in the early 1790's. Gilbert Hyatt founded the town of Hyatt's Mills, a rural town which served the local pioneer community. Later, Hyatt's Mills became Sherbrooke, Québec.

For the third year in a row, Heritage Branch entered a float in the Canada Day Parade in downtown Montréal, held on July 1st, 2002. This year marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Parade.

The Branch continues to support the activities of other Montréal-based organizations of a cultural and historical nature, particularly the Royal Commonwealth Society, the 78th Fraser Highlanders Regiment and the Heraldry Society of Canada (Laurentian Branch) as well as various other national societies.

Adrian Willison UE

2003 Spring

Several of our members attended the annual Montréal Highland Games on August 4. This year, the Games were held on the grounds of the Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School on the "West Island" of Montréal.

Thursday, October 17 was the date for Heritage Branch's Charter Night Dinner, held in the Officer's Mess at the Black Watch (RER) Armoury, Montréal. Our Guest of Honour for the evening was Mr. Kevin O'Donnell, head of English Language School Services at Télé-Québec, the Québec provincial education television network. He is also Vice-President of the Hudson Historical Society and an adjunct Professor at McGill University's Faculty of Education. He presented an excellent Télé-Québec film/documentary on the construction of Montréal's Victoria Bridge in the 1850s.

In November, our president, Mr. Robert Wilkins UE, C.M.H, and his wife Maura attended the Regional Meeting, Central East Region, of the UELAC at the Brockville Museum.

On December 12, in conjunction with the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, the Laurentian Branch of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada held its annual Christmas Dinner and Gift Collection Evening in the Wardroom of H.M.C.S. Donnacona in Montréal. Once again, they kindly invited members of Heritage Branch to attend. The gifts were donated to hospitalized children at the Montreal Children's Hospital.

Our Book Donation Program is still in operation. Since the Program started in 1996, we have been donating copies of our Branch's book entitled: *The Loyalists of Quebec, 1774-1825, A Forgotten History*, to interested archives and libraries, especially school libraries.

Heritage Branch is looking forward to promoting and celebrating the Loyalists in the Montréal Area again in 2003.

2003 Fall

On March 16th, Heritage Branch entered a float in Montréal's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, which always draws a large crowd.

The Heritage Branch AGM was held April 24th in the Parish Hall of the Church of St. Columba in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. Guest speaker was author Ann Jarvis Boa UE, (see the Book reviews), who spoke about her ancestor Stephen Jarvis UE. She was also presented with her LIE certificate from Branch President Robert Wilkins UE, C.M.H.

Our picnic was held June 29th at the Greenwood Centre for Living History, Como, Quebec. Greenwood was the home of the late Phoebe Hyde UE, a founding member and former Branch President.

We also entered a float in the Annual Canada Day Parade in Montréal on July 1st. The theme for this year's parade was, Montréal, Cultural Capital of Canada. We made two posters on this theme, noting on them that Montréal was also a refuge for Loyalists from 1776-1784. Other posters on the float honoured the Golden Anniversary of the Coronation of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. As usual, the ladies on our float were elegantly draped in their beautiful period dresses. Branch President Robert Wilkins looked most dapper too.

Former Dominion President Okill Stuart UE, C.M.H. was made an Officer of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem on May 31st. (More details to follow in the next issue). Okill was also among those veterans of D-Day present at the official inauguration of the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy, a project with which he, as a member of the 14th Field Regiment Association, has been deeply involved. Later, on August 17th, he presented St. George's Cathedral, Kingston ON with an 18th century clock that had belonged to his Loyalist ancestor Rev. John Stuart UE., first Anglican Bishop of Upper Canada. The clock will take its place beside several other artifacts recalling the connection of the Stuart family with St. George's.

2004 Spring

Our former UELAC Dominion President, Okill Stuart was invested as an Officer of the Most Venerable Order Of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem at a solemn investiture by the Québec Council of the Order in Christ Church Cathedral, Montréal, May 31st 2003, in the presence of the Prior, other members of the Order and the Honourable Lise Thibault, Lieutenant Governor of Québec. Among his other post-nominal letters, he is now entitled to use the letters "O.St.J." after his name, together with "UE", "C.M.H." and "F.H.S.C. (Hon)", The last refers to the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada. The enclosed photo captures for posterity the magic moment when Her Honour, (In Québec we say Her Excellency), the Lieut.-Gov. elevated good old Okill to this new glory, to the cheers of the vast throng attending.

As well, on August 17th, Okill presented St. George's Cathedral in Kingston with a 1784 clock that originally belonged to his ancestor Rev. John Stuart UE. Myrna Fox LIE read the lesson, and many others from our Association were in attendance.

2004 Fall

This report includes our last report, which did not get published in the Spring 2004 issue.

The thirtieth Charter Night Dinner of Heritage Branch took place on November 12, 2003 at the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch (R.H.R.) Armoury, in Montréal. That evening we were presented with a slide show and talk on David Ross McCord and his vision of a National Museum, given by Dr. Victoria Dickenson, the Executive Director of the McCord Museum of Canadian History. Dominion President

Myrna Fox UE personally presented the Branch with a framed certificate in honour of its anniversary and also presented a union flag to Dr. Dickenson for the McCord Museum, as part of the evening's events.

Maura Wilkins, a retired teacher and wife of our Branch President, Robert Wilkins UE, C.M.H., is serving as a consultant to the History and Geography Task Force in preparing teaching aids on the Loyalists for use in Québec's English elementary schools. Meanwhile, the UELAC Education/Outreach Committee, chaired by Mr. Fred Hayward UE, has completed its Teachers Resource Booklet entitled: "*The Loyalists, Pioneers and Settlers of Québec.*" This booklet is now posted on the UELAC website www.uelac.org for the people who would like to access it electronically. Printed copies are also available.

On Sunday, March 14, Heritage Branch entered a float in Montréal's 180th St. Patrick's Day Parade. On Thursday, July 1st, 2004, our float was entered in the Canada Day Parade in downtown Montréal.

Heritage Branch held its annual General Meeting on April 29, 2004. At this meeting, Mrs. N. Ellen Stevenson UE resigned as our branch secretary, due to her move to Moncton, New Brunswick. Ellen was thanked by the branch for her long and faithful service. The Branch elected Mrs. Ann Jarvis Boa UE as the new secretary for Heritage Branch. Guest Speaker Ms. Marg Hall UE, Vice President, Central East Region of the UELAC, delivered a fascinating talk which explained all of her hard work and efforts as an adoptee to research the Loyalist ancestors of her biological father.

At UELAC's Annual General Meeting, which was held on June 5, 2004, during the Association's Conference in Peterborough, Ontario, various by-law amendments, which were proposed by the By-laws Committee, chaired by Mr. Robert Wilkins UE, C.M.H., were adopted. Included was article 29, approving the Policy and Procedure on the Protection of Personal Information adopted by Dominion Council, in March 2004. During this AGM Mr. Wilkins tendered his resignation as the Chair of the By-laws Committee, a position that he has held since 1998 and was thanked for his service as By-laws Chair; Mr. Roy Lewis UE was elected to succeed him as By-laws Chair. Six Heritage Branch members attended this Conference in Peterborough.

Ordering instructions for Poetry U.E., the book of collected poems from the UELAC's Millennium Project are available from Adrian Willison, Kensington Gardens, 41 Devon Road, Beaurepaire, Québec, Canada H9W 4K7

Adrian Willison UE

2005 Spring

Our Charter Night Dinner was held on 3 November 2004 at the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch (RHR) Armoury in Montréal. The guest speaker for this event was Karen Molson. Karen is a direct descendant of the late John Molson, who immigrated to Canada from England and founded the Molson Brewery in Montreal, circa 1782. Today, the Molson Brewery that he founded is a multinational beer brewing company and it is still headquartered here in Montréal. Karen is an authority on the history of the Molson Brewery, as well as being the Molson family genealogist. She wrote a book entitled: *The Molsons: Their Lives and Times*, which was published in 2001. Her second book, on the subject of the late Senator Hartland Molson, is expected to be published in 2005.

Karen delivered a very comprehensive and well-researched presentation, illustrated with slides, entitled: *The Molsons of Montreal: the Early Years*. Heritage Branch was especially interested when we learned about the marriage of John Molson to Sarah Insley Vaughan, who was probably from a United Empire Loyalist family. When she was finished, we had an opportunity to ask her some questions about the

Molson family. Mrs Ann Jarvis Boa UE, Heritage Branch Secretary, graciously thanked Karen for her excellent presentation. Among the thank-you gifts presented to the guest speaker from Heritage Branch and its members were: a UELAC Project 2014 Beer Mug, and a Molson's Brewery chansonnier/song-book published in 1969.

Heritage Branch gratefully acknowledges the support for this presentation provided by the Canada Council through The Writers' Union of Canada.

The year 2005 marks the 230th anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolution (April 19th 1775) at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts; and the beginning of the Revolution's invasions of Canada, under Brigadiers General Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold, when Montréal fell into American hands (November 13, 1775.) Heritage Branch is considering different ways to mark these anniversaries.

Fall 2005

This year the St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Montréal took place on 13 March. Our Branch once again entered a float in the parade, giving the Branch the opportunity to celebrate the great Celtic Spring festival and be Irish for the day.

The Annual General Meeting of Heritage Branch was held April 28, in the Hall of the Church of St. Columba, in N.D.G. Following the business meeting a talk and slide show was presented by Anne-Marie Shields, a retired Montréal school principal, and author and illustrator of *Lost Villages, Found Communities: A Pictorial History of the Lost Villages of the St. Lawrence Seaway* published in 2004. She spoke to us about the construction of the Seaway and the hydroelectric power project near Cornwall, Ontario that involved relocating all of the local residents. The two projects called for the flooding of a huge portion of land in the area. The land had been settled and developed by Loyalists in the late 18th century. Six prosperous villages and countless acres of excellent farmland were flooded and, with their destruction, a vast part of Canada's Loyalist heritage was gone forever. The relocation of the residents, the effects of which are still felt today, reflects the exile of their Loyalist forefathers from their homes in Revolutionary America.

Heritage Branch also entered a float in the Canada Day Parade in Montréal on July 1st. The theme for our float was the 230th anniversary of the start of the "Canadian Invasions" during the American Revolution, when the rebel army attacked Canadian territory (see photo).

2006 Spring

Heritage Branch held its thirty-second annual Charter Night Dinner at the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch Armoury in Montréal on 2 November 2005. The guest of honour was the Dominion President, Doug Grant UE, who provided a fascinating report and Powerpoint presentation on the current status and future plans of the UELAC.

Among other dignitaries in attendance were the Central Region East Regional Vice-President, Marg Hall UE; the Regional Councillor, Roy Lewis UE and three executive officers of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch: Adelaide Lanktree UE (President), Louise Hall UE (Treasurer) and Phyllis Hamilton UE (Secretary). We were very touched that these busy people came from so far to be part of our Charter Night festivities and thank them and their drivers for this demonstration of inter-Branch solidarity.

George Anderson UE voiced a short commercial on the Mohawk Valley trip planned for October 2006. Each person in attendance received a complimentary "Year of the Veteran" lapel pin, obtained from Veterans Affairs Canada. Several new members joined the Branch just before or at the dinner. The following day Doug Grant UE and his wife, Nancy, visited a number of historic sites in Old Montréal with their hosts Robert and Maura Wilkins.

Robert and Maura also attended the annual fall dinner of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch in Stanbridge East, Québec, on October 16, and the Christmas Dinner of Sir Guy Carleton Branch in Ottawa on November 19.

Heritage Branch has begun providing complimentary copies of The Loyalist Gazette to a few Montréal-area libraries. It also plans to proceed in 2006 with publishing the essays collected by Branch members Adrian Willison from Association members across Canada. Meanwhile, copies of "*Poetry, U.E.*" (a collection of poems by UELAC members, published under Adrian's direction in 2005) continue to be available for \$16 a copy (including postage), by contacting him at 41 Devon Avenue, Beaurepaire (Beaconsfield) QC H9W 4K7 (Phone: 514-630-3772).

The Branch plans to participate once again in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Montréal on 19 March 2006.

Robert C. Wilkins UE

2006 Fall

On Sunday 19 March 2006 we entered a float in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Montréal. As usual our members who rode on the float wore their beautiful pioneer costumes.

Our Branch membership was invited to attend a special service of Holy Communion celebrated to honour the eightieth birthday of H. M. Queen Elizabeth II. This service was held on April 21, at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Montréal.

We held our A.G.M. on May 8th this year in the hall of the Church of St. Columba, N.D.G. After the business meeting was finished we watched a segment from an episode of the television series entitled "*History Detectives*". This show featured an American lady who was searching for information on a male ancestor of hers who was a Loyalist. The history detectives were able to find information about her Loyalist ancestor and they managed to unite her with some of her relations, whom she did not know, here in Canada, who were descended from him.

The Canada Day Parade in Montréal on July 1st was not well publicized this year. We entered our float as usual, however, and we were very pleased to see good crowds during the whole length of the parade. The theme of our float this year was a continuation of last year's theme which was "To observe the 230th Anniversary of the American Revolution's Canadian Invasions 1775/76 -2005/06." We displayed eight different posters on the float this year, all of which briefly described these invasions and how they ended in failure for the American rebels when they were driven out of Canada by the King's forces under Major-General Guy Carleton, in June 1776, and Québec was restored to British Law and Order.

By Adrian Willison

2007 Spring

Heritage Branch held its annual Charter Night Dinner in Montréal on Wednesday, 1 November 2006, in the elegant and historic Officers' Mess at the Armoury of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada. The attendance numbered forty-three persons, including members and friends of the Branch and the guest speaker. We were honoured to have with us the President of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, Adelaide Lanktree UE, and the Treasurer of that Branch, Louise Hall UE, as well as two other Sir John Johnson members. People from various other local organizations also attended, notably friends from the (recreated) 78th Fraser Highlanders Regiment, the St. Andrew's Society of Montréal and the Royal Commonwealth Society (Montréal Branch) and the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada (Laurentian Branch). Barry Wilson, national correspondent of the Western Producer newspaper in Ottawa, was the guest speaker. In his own relaxed yet thoughtful manner, Barry delivered a fascinating talk on the life and personality of Benedict Arnold, based on the research he did in writing his fourth book, *Benedict Arnold: A Traitor in Our Midst* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005). His presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by all present and he was presented with a few souvenirs of the evening as gifts, including a copy of *The Loyalists of Québec*, Heritage Branch's official publication.

The Branch President, Robert Wilkins UE, was also thrilled to be able to present a UELAC certificate on this occasion to Joan Chapman UE, proven descendant of Roderick MacDonald UE of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. Many thanks to Dominion Genealogist Libby Hancocks UE and to Mette Griffin at Dominion Office for their help in expediting the processing of this application in time for the Dinner, as well as to Branch Genealogist, Ruth Davis UE, and to Maura Wilkins, Social Convenor. Some new members have joined the Branch in recent months as Associate Members or are seriously contemplating doing so. It is hoped that one or more of them will eventually be able to achieve UELAC certification. A full report on the presentation of the certificate, on Joan Chapman UE and her UEL ancestor and on the Loyalists generally was subsequently published in "*Dispatches*," the newsletter of the (recreated) 78th Fraser Highlanders Regiment, in which Joan and her husband, Earl, are active members. This publicity is much appreciated.

The Branch notes with satisfaction and gratitude the approval in principle given by Dominion Council, at its meeting of 28 October 2006, to the transfer of the Most Honourable Order of Meritorious Heritage to the Association, all subject to final approval by the UELAC at its next Annual General Meeting in June 2007. We believe the establishment of the new Order of Meritorious Heritage, as proposed by the Association's Awards Committee, would be a positive development in the UELAC, providing the organization with an honours system whereby to recognize outstanding contributions by Association members to the achievement of the goals of the organization. If the proposal receives final approval by the AGM in Windsor, Heritage Branch will fulfill its promise to transfer the existing assets of the present MHOMH to the Association, to assist in establishing the new Order.

The Branch is considering whether it will participate once again in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Montréal in March 2007 with its "float" and period costumes. The Branch's Annual Meeting in the spring is also being planned. The publication of the essays written by Association members from across Canada and collected by Adrian Willison UE of Heritage Branch continues to be a Branch project. In addition, we continue to network with other groups in the Montréal area with a view to maintaining the profile of the organization and to keeping alive the memory of the Loyalist period. Doing so also helps to locate people who may be interested in joining our ranks. The process is often a slow one but, with consistent effort over time, positive results can ultimately be achieved.

By Robert C. Wilkins UE, CMH, President, Heritage Branch (Montréal)

BUCKINGHAM PALACE AND QUEBEC HOUSE

On 30 November 2006, my wife, Sylvia, and I were invited by the Princess Royal to a reception at Buckingham Palace for the launching of the Kurt Hahn Foundation of my old school, Gordonstoun, in Scotland.

HRH, whose two children went to the school, is the patron thereof. Her father, who was known as Prince Philip of Greece, was a contemporary of mine at that school just before World War II.

The invitation was to Mr. and Mrs. Okill Stuart. Proof of identity was required at the entrance gate to the palace. It took more than a little explaining to convince security that Sylvia was indeed my wife and that in Quebec wives go by their maiden names!

Due to my age rather than to my pocket book, Sylvia and I were honoured by being number one in the receiving line when Princess Anne arrived in the reception room. We found HRH to be most attractive and charming in addition to being very well informed. The Press could give her better coverage!

The following day we took the train from Charing Cross to Seven Oaks and from there a short taxi ride to Quebec House in Westerhaven, the home in which General James Wolfe was born.

It was through the generosity of Mrs. J.B. Learmont of Montreal, influenced by my late uncle, Sir Campbell Stuart, (at one time an Honorary Director of the UELAC), that Wolfe's Weterham home, now known as Quebec House, became the property of the British nation under the National Trust. It is endowed with paintings, engravings and books all connected with Wolfe and Canada and, as a museum, is open to the public.

As 78th Frasers, we were given the royal treatment as well as a cup of tea! This would be a worthwhile venture for any Fraser visiting London.

By G. B. Okill Stuart UE, UELAC Past President

Fall 2007

At Heritage Branch's Charter Night Dinner in Montréal on 1 November 2006, Ottawa journalist, Barry Wilson, spoke about Benedict Arnold, the subject of his book *A Traitor in Our Midst*. On 18 March 2007, the Branch participated in the 183rd annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, a venerable local institution in Montréal. The crowds lining St. Catherine Street once again cheered the UEL "float", Adrian Willison's pick-up truck decorated suitably for the occasion, with the Branch President and wife riding atop the conveyance, bedecked in their finest 18th century garb. This year Nemo Turner, a well-known local magician and man-about-town, joined the Branch float wearing a spectacular 18th century town crier's costume and ringing his bell as the float passed along the parade route. This further heightened the interest and caught the attention of the spectators. Many of them seemed to actually read the posters that Adrian had prepared and attached to each side of the truck, containing much information on distinguished UEL's with Irish connections, notably Sir Guy Carleton (Lord Dorchester) and Lord Rawdon, both born in Ulster. The usual Irish coffee and homemade Irish stew were served after the Parade, back at the home of Branch President Robert Wilkins and his wife, Maura.

At our Branch's Annual Meeting in Montréal on 25 April, the guest speaker was photo journalist Robert Galbraith, who spoke about and showed ledgers in his possession that originally were those of the first inn in Philipsburg, Québec from the period 1786 to 1816.

The Wilkins attended the annual conference of the UELAC in Windsor, Ontario, from 31 May to 3 June,

superbly organized by Bicentennial Branch. In addition to performing as a witness for the Crown at the dinner theatre murder trial on the Friday evening, Robert, with occasional help from Doug Grant, served as Parliamentarian at the Annual Meeting on Saturday when the person originally designated to fill that role was taken ill. He also presented the report of the By-laws Committee in the absence of the Chair of that body. As proposed by the Committee, a new Rule of Order was adopted on who may attend Annual and Special Meetings of the Association and Dominion Council Meetings. The Committee's proposed By-law amendment on proxy voting at Council Meetings was also adopted by the A.G.M., with some revisions reflecting a consensus reached at Robert's lunch-hour meeting with three Regional Vice-Presidents.

A motion was also passed to accept the transfer from Heritage Branch to the Association of the Most Honourable Order of Meritorious Heritage (MHOMH) and its assets, for historical and archival purposes only. It is hoped that the funds so transferred will assist the Regional Vice-Presidents to develop a proposal for a new award that could be given to members of the Association who have rendered outstanding service and made a significant contribution to achieving the goals of the UELAC, thus providing the Association with an honours system acceptable to all. A brief history of the MHOMH including information on the Companions of Meritorious Heritage has been prepared by Okill Stuart at the request of Senior Vice-President Hayward.

Heritage Branch continues to network with other Branches, notably Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, and with other organizations active in Montréal. It has attracted a few new members in recent months and is planning for its annual Charter Night Dinner in the autumn. The Branch still plans to publish the essays collected by Adrian Willison and continues to sell copies of "*The Loyalists of Québec*", its official publication.

Robert Wilkins UE, Branch President

2008 Spring

Dominion President Peter W. Johnson UE was the guest of honour and guest speaker at Heritage Branch's Charter Night Dinner in Montréal on 7 November 2007. His talk on "What Did Your Loyalist Do in the War?" proved popular with all assembled. Branch members, H. Gary Aitken UE and Paul Bonnell UE (long-time Branch auditor) received certificates for their UEL ancestors from the Dominion President, one for Mr. Aitken and two for Mr. Bonnell. They are most welcome new Certificate Members. Among those present at the Dinner were many members of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch Executive, Various other Montréal organizations with which Heritage Branch maintains cordial networking relationships were also represented at Charter Night, including the Royal Commonwealth Society, St. Andrew's Society of Montréal and the 78th Fraser Highlanders Regiment. For the first time in some years, a number of those attending wore period costumes, which heightened the colour and fun of the Dinner.

On 15 November, Adrian Willison UE of Heritage Branch made a fascinating presentation to the Beaconsfield Historical Society on Montréal's West Island concerning that area during the American Revolution. In particular, he discussed events on the "lakeshore" during the American occupation of Montréal and on the subsequent presence and action there of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. To illustrate his talk, Adrian used several of the large posters he has prepared in recent years for display on his pick-up truck when that vehicle, transformed into the Heritage Branch "float," is used in the annual St. Patrick's Day and Canada Day Parades in Montréal. The posters describe significant personalities from the Revolutionary War period, particularly on the British/Loyalist side, and major events of that

conflict that affected Montréal. At the end of his talk, Adrian fielded knowledgeably many questions posed by the listeners, who all went home better informed about this little known aspect of Loyalist history on Montréal's West Island.

Two weeks later, on 29 November, Heritage Branch Secretary, Ann Jarvis Boa UE, presented the made-for-television documentary film, "*Famous Last Words*", produced by YAP Films Inc. of Toronto, first shown on television last 13 October, to an appreciative audience at Mountainside United Church in Westmount, Québec. The film deals with the last words allegedly spoken by General Sir Isaac Brock after being hit by the musket ball that took his life during the Battle of Queenston Heights in October 1812, and whether in fact he could have uttered those words given contemporary scientific evidence about his wound. Ann is one of the "stars" of the production, being the great-granddaughter of then 15-year-old George Jarvis (son of the Loyalist Stephen Jarvis UE), who ran to Brock's side after he was hit and later left a memoir denying that the General said anything before expiring. The historical and forensic evidence marshalled for and against the famous last words attributed to Sir Isaac is fascinating to see on screen. The documentary also relates the story of Samuel Thomas, a young black soldier who fought with the Canadian militia at the Battle and how one of his direct descendants discovered information about him and his background.

Ann warmed up her audience with a clear and concise review of the causes and major events of the War of 1812, and an explanation of how she got involved in the filming of the documentary and her reaction to the experience.

Heritage Branch is planning its winter and spring activities, which may include renewed participation in Montréal's 184th St. Patrick's Parade and its annual meeting in the spring, preceding the UELAC's 2008 Conference in Saint John, N.B. next July.

By Robert Wilkins UE, Branch President

Fall 2008

Heritage Branch held its Annual General Meeting on 22 April 2008, at the Macdonald Stewart Foundation in Montréal. Following the approval of the President's Report and the audited financial statements of the Branch, the re-election of the officers, etc., Branch Secretary, Ann Jarvis Boa UE, showed the film "*Famous Last Words*". This made-for-TV movie, made by a Toronto company, and in which Ann appears, deals with the longstanding question of whether the late General Sir Isaac Brock could have spoken the words of encouragement to his troops attributed to him, after being hit by the musket ball that took his life at the Battle of Queenston Heights in October 1812. Ann's great-grandfather, George Jarvis, then a private in Brock's forces, left a written memoir denying that any such words were spoken, while another veteran of the battle left an account contending that the mortally wounded General, before expiring, did, in fact, encourage his brave York volunteers to press onwards to victory. The film proved most popular with all in attendance.

Heritage Branch was represented by the Branch President (R. Wilkins UE), its Immediate Past President (Okill Stuart UE) and its Treasurer (Doug Page UE) at the annual conference of the UELAC in Saint John, New Brunswick, from July 10 to 13. Their spouses attended all or part of the conference events as well. Everyone enjoyed the receptions, the sightseeing, the meals and banquet, the costume parade, the church service and the excellent speakers that, together, made the conference a memorable celebration of the 1783 Loyalist landing in "the Loyalist City". Branch President Wilkins served as Parliamentarian at the Annual Meeting of the Association, on July 11. He also represented the Bylaws Committee, in the absence of its Chair, in presenting the amendment to the By-law permitting the appointment of Honorary

Officers of the Association for three-year terms of office, without limitation, rather than for a maximum of three such terms (totalling no more than nine years) as previously. At the Annual Meeting, Heritage Branch also presented New Brunswick Branch, as host of the conference, with a banner bearing the armorial bearings of the Association. This gift, first suggested by former Dominion President John Chard UE, was made in Montréal thanks to the initiative of Okill Stuart UE, another former Dominion President. It is an exact copy of the registered arms of the UELAC and may be used by New Brunswick Branch at its meetings and on all other appropriate occasions. Messrs. Chard, Stuart and Wilkins jointly presented the banner to Stephen Bolton UE, New Brunswick Branch President, who accepted it with thanks on behalf of all members of his Branch. Heritage Branch had much to do with the grant of these arms to the UELAC in 1972, when the late George van Koughnett UE was Branch President.

The Branch President and his wife, Maura, went on from Saint John to Shelburne, Nova Scotia, where, in period costume, they participated in the Grand Re-enactment Weekend of July 18 to 20, together with a large number of re-enactors, commemorating the 225th anniversary of the arrival of the Loyalists at Port Roseway (Shelburne's former name) in 1783. From there, they travelled north to Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, where they attended the 250th anniversary of the second siege of that famous French fortress in 1758. This event featured some seven hundred re-enactors encamped at the fortress, culminating in a mock battle staged outside the fortifications and a fireworks display. It was a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

The Branch is now planning for its annual Charter Night Dinner in the autumn.

By Robert Wilkins UE, Branch President

2009 Spring

Heritage Branch held its annual Charter Night Dinner at the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch (Royal Highland) Regiment of Canada in Montréal on Wednesday, 29 October 2008. The guest speaker was Alexander Reford, Director of the Reford Gardens in Grand-Métis, Québec. Mr. Reford presented a most informative and entertaining talk, illustrated by slides, relating the life of his ancestor, Lady Reford, who founded the Reford Gardens in the 1920s, in Québec's Lower Saint Lawrence region. The Dominion President, Fred Hayward UE, who attended the Dinner with wife Margaret, brought greetings to Heritage Branch from the UEL Association and presented Mr. Reford with a Loyalist rosebush which Mr. Reford has had planted in the Reford Gardens.

Mr. Reford provided those present with pamphlets advertising the Gardens and cordially invited all present to visit them, as many in the room had already done.

Heritage Branch was thrilled to have the Dominion President in attendance at the 2008 Charter Night, as well as the entire Executive of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, led by Branch President, Rod Riordon UE. Also present were many friends of the Branch, including members of several other local societies.

The Dominion President joined with Branch President Wilkins in presenting Adrian Willison, at the Charter Night Dinner, with an Associate Member certificate, recognizing Adrian's signal contribution to the Branch and the Association in collecting and publishing *Poetry, U.E.*, in making possible the Branch's participation in the St. Patrick's Day and Canada Day Parades in Montréal and in giving talks on the Loyalists to school and community groups in the Greater Montréal area.

On November 2, the Branch President and wife Maura, together with Okill Stuart and wife Sylvia, represented Heritage Branch at the annual Fall Dinner of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch in Granby, Québec. On that occasion, they presented the guest speaker, Heather Darch, curator of the Missisquoi Museum in Stanbridge East, Québec, with a wooden chair that had been brought by Loyalists from Philadelphia after the American Revolution and handed down through several generations of the Bond family in Montréal, on the condition that it would never return south of the border. The chair was acquired from a granddaughter of the late Mr. Justice William Langley of the Québec Court of Appeal, upon her recent departure from Montréal for Paris. Heather Darch assured all present that this Loyalist chair would be given a place of honour at the Missisquoi Museum, sometimes called the Loyalist Museum. The meeting and the donation of the chair were reported by *The Sherbrooke Record* newspaper and by the Québec Heritage News, published by the Québec Anglophone Heritage Network.

On Nov. 18, Okill Stuart was inducted as a member of the Saint-Lambert Sports Hall of Fame, in recognition of his community service and, in particular because he is one of the founders of the Saint-Lambert Curling Club, established in 1955.

Heritage Branch made a donation of \$300.00 in December 2008 towards the restoration of the burial vault of Sir John Johnson and his descendants at Mont Saint-Grégoire, Québec (formerly "Mount Johnson").

On Dec. 22, Dr. Hereward Senior, an Honorary Vice-President of the UELAC, and a prolific historian, whose books on the Loyalists and other subjects continue to attract readers of all ages, reached his 90th birthday. The Branch President wrote a brief article on Dr. Senior's life and work for the Loyalist Trails newsletter.

2010 Fall

On 29 April 2010, Heritage Branch held its Annual General Meeting at which Branch member, Susan McGuire, gave an informative talk on the history of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal (now called the Atwater Library and Computer Centre). All present appreciated Susan's careful research and illustrations depicting the building and some of the main personages involved with this historic institution since its founding in the 1840s. The usual AGM business was conducted, including the election of the Branch Executive for another year, the approval of financial statements and the appointment of the auditor.

Branch President Robert Wilkins UE, his wife, Maura, Immediate Past Branch President Okill Stuart UE and his wife, Sylvia, attended the spring meeting of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch in Philipsburg, Quebec, on 29 May. They are second Branch members of that Branch and greatly enjoyed its hospitality and the interesting presentation on the history of the Brome Missisquoi Perkins Hospital, given by Branch Genealogist Michel Racicot.

Heritage Branch was represented at the UELAC Annual General Meeting on 04 June 2010 in Vernon, B.C., by Roy Lewis UE, Regional Councillor of the Central Region East, who served as proxy. Many thanks to Roy for having assumed this important function. This year it proved impossible for any of the Branch members to attend the Conference or Annual Meeting in person.

The Branch President and Maura Wilkins attended the unveiling and dedication of the new interpretation panel at the Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse in Milby, Quebec, on 13 June at the invitation of Little Forks Branch President Bev Loomis UE. Mr. Wilkins spoke briefly at the ceremony. Kudos to Bev and husband Milton for this notable achievement and thanks for their welcome.

On 30 June, at the invitation of Dominion President Fred Hayward UE, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins and Mr. and Mrs. Stuart joined Mr. Hayward, Regional Councillor Lewis and representatives of various other UELAC Branches at Rideau Hall, Ottawa, to witness the planting of a tree by Queen Elizabeth II during Her Majesty's 2010 royal tour of Canada.

On 03 July Heritage Branch held a garden party at the home of Okill Stuart in Saint-Lambert, Quebec. Members and friends of Heritage Branch enjoyed the delicious food and fine weather, and were joined by members and officers of both Little Forks and Sir John Johnson Centennial Branches.

Heritage Branch continues to support Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch's project to restore the Johnson Family Burial Vault at Mont Saint-Grégoire, Quebec.

Progress has been made by Adrian Willison in the publication of the Millennium Essay Collection. The word processing and proofreading was done with the help of Gary Aitken and Ann Jarvis Boa. It is hoped that the printing and release of the Collection will follow in the coming months.

Branch Librarian Gary Aitken and Maura Wilkins completed an inventory of the Branch's collection of books and documents on the Loyalists, housed at the Quebec Family History Society Library in Pointe-Claire, Quebec.

The Branch continues its extensive networking outreach by attending the functions of many other organizations in the Greater Montreal area (notably the 78th Fraser Highlanders Regiment, the St. Andrew's Society, the St. Patrick's Society, the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society, the German Benevolent Society, the Royal Commonwealth Society, the Quebec Thistle Council, etc.). Heritage Branch is planning for its annual Charter Night Dinner in the fall, details of which will appear in the Spring 2011 *Gazette*.

by Robert C. Wilkins, UE, C.M.H., Branch President

2011 Spring

On 19 August 2010, Okill Stuart, Immediate Past President of Heritage Branch and a former Dominion President of the UELAC, attended the picnic of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch in Mystic, Quebec, and brought good wishes from Heritage Branch. Still energetic, Okill went to Plattsburgh, Quebec, on the weekend of 11 to 12 September 2010 for the annual commemoration of the Battle of Plattsburgh. He brought good wishes from the UELAC to the organizers of that colourful event.

While Okill was in Plattsburgh, Branch President Robert Wilkins and wife Maura participated in a bus tour retracing the movement of the British forces under General Amherst in the final days of their attack on Montreal 250 years ago, leading to the capitulation of the City on 08 September 1760. The event was organized by the (recreated) 78th Fraser Highlanders Regiment, whose original troops were among those who participated in that military action. Near the exact place where the British army entered Montreal through its walls the day after the Capitulation, Mr. Wilkins, at the request of the Officer Commanding the (recreated) 18th century regiment, delivered an address in English and French to those assembled, the text of which was later published in English in the newsletter of the 78th Fraser Highlanders Regiment. The high point of the commemoration was the exchange of swords between the commander of the 78th and an officer of the (recreated) Compagnies Franches de la Marine, one of the main French regiments that defended New France during the Seven Years' War.

The Branch's annual Charter Night Dinner was celebrated, as usual, at the Officers' Mess of the Armoury of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada in Montreal on the evening of 03 November.

The guest speaker was Richard Feltoe, Curator of the Redpath Sugar Museum in Toronto, and author of three books on John Redpath and Redpath Sugar. Mr. Feltoe delivered a most enlightening address, illustrated by a PowerPoint presentation, describing in detail the fascinating life and exploits of the founder of the sugar empire, who contributed in so many ways to the development of the social, cultural and economic life of Montreal in the nineteenth century. The Branch was honoured to host the Dominion President Fred Hayward, Regional Vice-President Roy Lewis, the entire executive of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, the President of St. Andrew's Society of Montreal, the President of the Royal Commonwealth Society (Montreal Branch), and representatives of other organizations, as well as many members and friends of Heritage Branch.

Of special note is that Mark Gallop UE, admitted some thirty years ago but inactive for some years, reactivated his membership in the Branch and the UELAC and kindly agreed to assume the functions of Branch Genealogist, succeeding Joan Chapman UE. Mr. Gallop, a portfolio manager and Board member of MacDougall MacDougall MacTier, and President of the Atwater Library, is already proving to be a major asset to the Branch in his handling of applications and in the wisdom of his counsel. The Branch also extends appreciation to Mrs. Chapman for her faithful fulfillment of her functions as Branch Genealogist over the last few years.

The Branch's next function will be its Annual General Meeting in the spring of 2011.

By Robert Wilkins UE, Branch President.

2011 Fall

Heritage Branch held its Annual General Meeting at the Macdonald Stewart Foundation (Maison Forget) in Montreal on 28 April 2011. The Branch President, Robert Wilkins UE, reported on the Branch's activities in 2010 and the outgoing Branch Treasurer, Douglas Page UE, presented the financial statement of the Branch for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2010, audited by Paul Bonnell UE, that were approved. John Wilkins UE was appointed Branch auditor for the fiscal year ending 31 December 2011, succeeding Mr. Bonnell, who agreed to stand for the position of Branch Treasurer succeeding Mr. Page. The Branch Executive was elected for the next year, consisting of Robert Wilkins UE as Branch President; G.B. Okill Stuart UE as Immediate Past President; Marianne K. Davis UE as Branch Vice-President; Paul Bonnell UE as Branch Treasurer; Ann Jarvis Boa UE as Branch Secretary; Mark Gallop UE as Branch Genealogist; H. Gordon (Gary) Aitken UE as Branch Librarian; Adrian Willison, Special Projects Coordinator; and Maura Wilkins as Social Convenor. A presentation was made to Mr. Page, in honour of his long years of faithful service as Branch Treasurer. Mr. Bonnell was thanked for agreeing to take over the Treasurer's duties and John Wilkins was welcomed as Branch auditor.

Following the business meeting, Gary Aitken presented a most interesting outline of the two Loyalist families from which he descends, one of which, founded by Hon. Neil McLean, settled in Upper Canada, and the other, founded by John Brecken, in Prince Edward Island. Light refreshments were then served.

A gentleman (Michel Ferraro) attending his first Branch event at the AGM, subsequently applied for a UE certificate and with the help of Branch Genealogist Gallop, the certificate has since been issued by Dominion Office. The Branch Genealogist has also responded to a number of other inquiries about membership recently.

The Branch President served as Administrator of the Election of the Regional Vice-President and the Regional Councillor of the Central Region East in the electoral period from April to June 2011 and proclaimed the winning candidates: Roy Lewis UE as Regional Vice-President and Myrtle Johnson UE as

Regional Councillor, elected by acclamation to those office at the close of nominations, thus permitting their swearing-in at the UELAC Conference in Brockville, Ontario, on 04 June 2011.

The Branch is grateful to Regional Vice-President Roy Lewis UE who kindly served as proxy for Heritage Branch during the UELAC's Annual General Meeting in Brockville, Ontario, on 04 June 2011.

Okill Stuart UE attended some of the other events during the 2011 Brockville Conference and found the event well-organized and highly enjoyable.

The Branch President and the Immediate Past President and their wives attended the spring meeting of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch in Philipsburg, Quebec, on 18 June 2011, bringing greetings from Heritage Branch.

The Branch continues to maintain an extensive collection of Loyalist-related books and documents at the Library of the Quebec Family History Society in Pointe-Claire, Quebec, to provide copies of The Loyalist Gazette to three public libraries in the Greater Montreal area, and to sell Loyalists of Quebec. A Forgotten History. 1784-1820 and Poetry, U.E. The publication of the Millennium Essay Collection a project directed by Adrian Willison, is still hoped for.

The Branch takes a continuing interest and has aided financially with the project to reconstruct the family burial vault of Sir John Johnson and his family at Mont Saint-Grégoire (formerly "Mount Johnson"), Quebec.

As always, the Branch engages in extensive and intensive networking activities in the Greater Montreal region, focusing on groups such as the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal, the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society of Montreal, the German Benevolent Society of Montreal, the Royal Commonwealth Society (Montreal Branch), the 78th Fraser Highlanders Regiment, the Quebec Thistle Council, the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada (Laurentian Branch), etc.

Plans are underway for the Branch's Charter Night Dinner, to be held at the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada on Wednesday evening, 26 October 2011. All friends of the Branch are welcome.

By Robert C. Wilkins UE, C.M.H., Branch President

2012 Spring

Heritage Branch's Immediate Past President, Okill Stuart UE, and his wife, Sylvia, attended the annual picnic of Sir John Johnson Centennial at Fort Chambly, Quebec, on 18 August 2011. The day included a visit to St. Stephen's Anglican Church where the bell donated to that congregation of Sir John Johnson was admired by all in attendance.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart attended the annual commemoration of the Battle of Plattsburgh in that New York State city on 10 and 11 September. Valerie Aitken, wife of Branch Librarian, Gary Aitken UE, also participated in the event, in period costume, on behalf of the Château Ramezay in Montreal, where she serves as a volunteer guide. Mr. Stuart delivered a short address on the occasion that was much appreciated and every courtesy was extended to the Canadian visitors. The performance of the Band of Her Majesty's Royal

Marines Association from Cobourg, Ontario, was among the highlights of the annual parade through the streets of downtown Plattsburgh. They did Canada proud once again, thrilling the crowds with their discipline, their colourful British uniforms and their stirring martial music.

Heritage Branch held its 38th annual Charter Night Dinner on 26 October 2011 at the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch Armoury in Montreal. Some forty-seven persons (including members and friends of the Branch) were present, including Dominion President, Robert McBride UE, his wife, Grietje McBride UE, and the entire Executive of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, as well as representatives of a number of Montreal-based societies with which Heritage Branch continues to do extensive networking. The Dominion President brought greetings from the UELAC. The guest speaker at Charter Night was Dr. Larry Ostola, Director General of National Historic Sites with the Parks Canada Agency. He delivered a most enjoyable and instructive talk, illustrated with attractive slides, on historic sites pertaining to the War of 1812, commenting on the significance of each of these places in the history of that conflict. Dr. Ostola's presentation was a fitting prelude to the bicentennial of the War, which commemoration began officially on 01 January 2012. Gary Aitken UE was also awarded his second UE certificate for his Loyalist ancestor, John Brecken UE, of Prince Edward Island. The granting of a UE certificate of Michel Ferraro UE for his Loyalist ancestor, Abner Woolcott UE, was also announced in the absence of Mr. Ferraro.

The Branch Genealogist, Mark W. Gallop UE, has also responded to a number of other inquiries about membership recently. He has also published an article on the UELAC and his own genealogical research leading to his UE certification, in "*Connections*," the publication of the Quebec Family History Society. A slightly revised version of the same text was submitted for publication in the magazine of the Quebec Anglo Heritage Network. It is hoped that these publications may elicit an increased number of membership applications.

By Robert C. Wilkins UE, CMH, Branch President

2012 Fall

On 26 April, Heritage Branch held its annual general meeting at the Macdonald Stewart Foundation in Montreal. The usual reports were presented by the President, Treasurer, Genealogist and Librarian of the Branch, the financial statements were approved and the auditor appointed for the year 2012. All officers of the Branch were re-elected by acclamation to their respective positions for another year. Following the business meeting, Sandra Stock of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) presented a most interesting illustrated presentation on the War of 1812 in the Richelieu and Châteauguay valleys, together with comments, based on her own experience in several QAHN projects, on ways and means in which small historical/genealogical groups can be more effective in their outreach.

The Branch recently updated and made copies of a general information pamphlet on the Loyalists and the UELAC that was distributed at a meeting of the Women's Canadian Club in Montreal when the Club invited Dr. James Manson, a noted specialist in Eastern Townships Loyalist history, to speak on that subject at one of the organization's noontime meetings. Branch Librarian, Gary Aitken UE, and Maura Wilkins attended the meeting where the pamphlet was mentioned publicly. They distributed copies to attendees requesting same after Dr. Manson's talk. The updated pamphlet invites interested parties to contact the Branch Genealogist, Mark Gallop UE, for further information. It is hoped that some new applications will be forthcoming as a result of this initiative.

The Branch Genealogist, Mark W. Gallop UE, has also responded to a number of inquiries about membership recently and has worked towards obtaining one UE certificate that is expected to be issued shortly.

Networking activities with relevant societies and organizations in the Greater Montreal region, and with other UELAC branches, continue unabated, as indicated by the following events at which Heritage Branch was represented:

- May 4 – Banquet marking 150th anniversary of Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment of Canada) – Montreal, as well as church service on May 5 at Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul.
- June 5 – Several Branch members attended the special church service at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Montreal, marking the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. The Honourable Pierre Duchesne, Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, was present with Madame Duchesne.
- June 16 – Spring luncheon and annual meeting of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch in Philipsburg, Quebec, celebrating Branch’s 45th anniversary. Guest speaker: Dominion President Robert McBride UE.
- June 28 – Branch President and wife, invited by Dominion President, attended installation of new portrait of Her Majesty the Queen at Rideau Hall, in presence of His Excellency Governor-General David Johnston and Mrs. Johnston. A delightful reception followed the installation ceremony, as well as tours of the Hall.
- June 30 – Branch President and wife attended Military Tattoo at Fort Henry, Kingston, followed by re-enactment of Flight of the Royal George on July 1.
- July 4 – Branch President was awarded Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal, presented by recently-retired Senator W. David Angus, at Macdonald Stewart Foundation in Montreal.
- July 22 – Branch President and wife attended the fund-raiser for the Loyalist One-Room Schoolhouse in Milby, Quebec, at invitation of Bev Loomis, President of Little Forks Branch, and enjoyed the presentation by historian James Manson on the letters left by members of the Stacey family describing their long struggle to get established as English-speaking farmers in the Eastern Townships in the 1840’s and 1850’s. Selections from the musical “*Louisa*,” based on those published letters, were also performed to the delight of the attendees.
- July 28 – Branch President and wife participated in Governor Simcoe Branch’s bus tour of War of 1812 sites in the Niagara region, organized by Doug Grant UE.

The Branch may also be represented at the annual Battle of Plattsburgh commemoration in Plattsburgh, New York in September.

The Branch continues to maintain an extensive collection of Loyalist-related books and documents, including a complete set of *Loyalist Gazettes*, available for public consultation, at the Library of the Quebec Family History Society in Pointe-Claire, Quebec. The collection has been inventoried.

The Loyalists of Quebec. A Forgotten History. 1784-1820 and Poetry, U.E. continue to be available for sale from the Branch.

The Millennium Essay Collection, directed by Adrian Willison, is still underway.

Heritage Branch continues to assist when possible Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch in its project to restore the family burial vault of Sir John Johnson and his family at Mont Saint-Grégoire (formerly “*Mount Johnson*”), Quebec.

By Robert C. Wilkins UE, CMH, Branch President

2013 Spring

Robert Wilkins UE and his wife, Maura, attended a presentation sponsored by Little Forks Branch at the Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse in Milby, Quebec, on 22 July. A presentation was given there, in words

and song, about the Stacey Family, a pioneer family that settled in that area in the early nineteenth century. The presentation, based on a treasure-trove of surviving letters written to relatives back in England, was turned into a musical, thanks to the artistry of Mr. David Patriquin, who presided at the keyboard, while two singers (one a niece of Milton and Bev Loomis) provided the vocals, to the delight of the audience. Between musical numbers, Dr. James Manson, an historian from Cowansville, provided detailed commentary on the experiences of the Staceys and the surrounding historical events of the period concerned in the Eastern Townships. Dominion President Robert McBride UE and his wife, Grietje McBride UE, were among those present.

On 28 July, Robert and Maura Wilkins joined a bus tour of War of 1812 sites, organized by Doug Grant UE and his colleagues of Governor Simcoe Branch. A great deal was learned, thanks to the detailed commentary provided at each stop by a qualified historian particularly well-versed in the military campaign of 1813 in the Niagara area. Lundy's Lane, Chippewa, Fort Erie, and the DeCou House were visited.

From 06 to 08 September, Okill Stuart UE and his wife, Sylvia, participated in the annual commemoration of the Battle of Plattsburgh. Branch President Wilkins and Maura joined them on the platform on the Saturday, for the march-past by the participating bands and floats. Branch Librarian Gary Aitken UE and his wife, Valerie, were also at the commemoration, promoting the Château Ramezay Museum in Montreal.

On 15 September, the Stuarts and the Wilkins attended Townshippers' Day in Farnham, Quebec, where Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch had a booth. Adelaide Lanktree UE of that Branch was presented with an award by the City of Farnham, attesting to her long commitment to heritage preservation and other good causes in the community and the region. She and her sister Louise Hall UE were interviewed by CBC Radio about the Loyalists and the project to restore the family burial vault of the Johnson family on Mont Saint-Grégoire, formerly known as "Mount Johnson."

On 24 October, Heritage Branch held its annual Charter Night Dinner at the Black Watch Regiment's Armoury in Montreal. The guest speaker, John Kirwan ("Kerry") Martin, a retired high school teacher who worked for many years at Ridley College in St. Catharines, Ontario, presented a talk on the legend of Laura Secord. The Dominion President and Mrs. McBride were present, as well as officers from the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch and many members and friends of Heritage Branch. The Dominion President presented a UE certificate to Sandra Hannaford UE of Heritage Branch for her Loyalist ancestor, Mahlon Knight UE.

Dominion Council graciously provided Heritage Branch with a \$500.00 grant to assist a local municipality in financing the replacement, in granite, of the stolen bronze plaque that was formerly affixed to the 1927 monument to Loyalist settlers of the Lake Maskinongé Settlement. The monument is a large rock, located on Route 348 outside the Town of Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon, northeast of Montreal. This sum will be remitted to the Municipality of the Parish of Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon when the new plaque is manufactured and installed on the monument.

The Millennium Essay Collection, a project directed by Adrian Willison, has been completed. The essays may be purchased on paper for \$20.00 a copy, plus postage, or on DVD for \$10.00 a copy, plus postage. Orders should be placed with Adrian Willison, 41 Devon Avenue, Beaconsfield, Quebec H9W 4K7 (tel.: 514-630-3772). Cheques are payable to "Heritage Branch, UELAC."

On 27 November, Okill Stuart UE and Maura Wilkins were both presented with the *Caring Canadian Award* by His Excellency David Johnston, Governor-General of Canada, at a ceremony in Montreal. Congratulations to both these recipients for this well-deserved recognition of their service to the community. Heritage Branch is indirectly honoured by these awards.

By Robert C. Wilkins UE, CMH, Branch President

Fall 2013

**UELAC Honorary Vice-President Professor Hereward Senior, PhD,
McGill University, Montreal, Quebec**

Born in New York City on 22 December 1918, Hereward Senior was brought up in Long Island's Nassau County. His mother's family was British, as was his father's father. Senior's paternal grandmother came from old American Colonial stock. After a bout with tuberculosis, Professor Senior volunteered for the Canadian army in 1943, being accepted for active overseas service and assigned to the Third Division with Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, fighting in France, Holland and north-west Germany, mostly as a Bren gunner. Twice wounded, he left the army in 1945 with the rank of corporal.

He then attended McGill University receiving three degrees: BA, MA and PhD. While working on the Doctorate, Senior found employment with Canadian Industries Limited in Montreal and subsequently as a master at Bishop's College School in Lennoxville in Quebec's Eastern Townships.



He taught at: Memorial University, Newfoundland, the Canadian Military College, Royal Roads and the University of Toronto. From 1963 until retirement, he was a professor at McGill. Besides a number of articles in historical journals, he has published six books including: Victorious in Defeat: The Loyalists in Canada, co-authored with Wallace Brown. Mr. Senior wrote about British, Irish and Canadian history, particularly the Orangemen and Fenians. He was active in the Monarchist League of Canada and his local Heritage Branch of the UELAC. With respect to the latter, one of my important projects was the publication, in 1989, of The Loyalists of Quebec, 1774- 1825: A Forgotten History.

Prof. Senior married Elinor Kyte in 1954, a journalist and historian who died in 1989. They had four children: Hereward, John, Jean Louise and Harvey.

More about Professor Hereward Senior PhD

By Robert Wilkins UE, CMH,
President, Heritage Branch, UELAC, Montreal, Quebec

Professor Senior officially retired from McGill University's Department of History in 2005, after a teaching career spanning forty-two years. He was the principal author of *The Loyalists: Pioneers and Settlers of Quebec*, a teachers' resource booklet, and the principal co-author of The Loyalists of Quebec: A Forgotten History. 1784-1825, published in 1989 by Price-Patterson Ltd., Montreal, under the auspices of Heritage Branch, UELAC. That work is considered the "official publication" of Heritage Branch and is still sold by the Branch. Professor Hereward Senior's other publications are extensive. In his busy academic life, Professor Senior also found time for fencing.

His late wife, Elinor Kyte Senior, was also a professional historian in her own right and the author of six books.

2014 Spring

The 40th Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner was held on Wednesday, 23 October, at the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch (R.H.R.) Armoury, on Bleury Street in Montreal. The guest speaker was Sam Elison who spoke on "The Scottish Loyalists and their Contribution to Canada." A graduate of the London School of Economics (BSc Honours) and McGill University (MA in Education), Sam Elison had a long career as a high school history and economics teacher. On retiring, he became an adjunct professor of Education at McGill, teaching Canadian history to secondary teachers. He is the author of numerous works in history and economics and a frequent contributor to the *Montreal Gazette*.

Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch was well represented that evening. Among those present were: Roderick Riordon UE, Adelaide Lanktree UE, and Michel Racicot UE. Also present were Heritage Branch members Okill and Sylvia Stuart, Robert and Maura Wilkins, and Gary Aitken who are also Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch members.

2014 Fall

LAST POST: CURTIS, Anna Marjorie (Marjorie) nee: Dorion UE

It is with great sadness the family announces the sudden passing of Marjorie Curtis, aged 85, on 22 December 2013. Our Mom, Marjorie, was born on 03 November 1928 at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, Quebec. During Mom's youth, she lived in Rosemount, Montreal, St Andrews East, Cushing, Brownsburg and Lachute, Quebec. Mom became a stenographer and met her future husband, our Dad, the late John Francis Harcourt Curtis, a telephone installer at Brownsburg.



Mom and Dad were married at St. Simeon's Church in Lachute on 11 June 1949. Dad's career with The Bell Telephone Company led them to Lachute, Ste Adele (when Peter and David were born), Ste-Agathe-des-Monts, back to Lachute (when Jeff and Jamie were born), Shawinigan, Pointe Claire, Sainte Foy, and then back to Pointe Claire, while Mom was keeping busy at home raising her four boys. When Mom and Dad moved back to Pointe Claire, Mom went back to work in 1968 and began a 24-year career at the Lakeshore General Hospital where she became the Administrative Assistant to the Director General. Mom retired in 1992 from the Lakeshore General Hospital after a brief illness from which she recovered and remained a resident in Pointe Claire until 2011 when she moved to Trenton, Ontario, in order to be closer to her family.

Mom had recently moved into the Trent Valley Lodge and was very happy there, among her familiar surroundings in her new home.

Our dear Mom will be forever missed by family and friends, remembered for her generosity, kindness, sense of humour and joyful laugh. A gentle, dignified soul, she was also spirited, feisty and determined. Mom's personality was such that people liked her instantly. A gift to all of us, she has truly lived a life well-loved.

Our dear mother, Marjorie, is survived by her four loving sons: Peter (Joanne) of Quesnel, British Columbia; David (Krow) of Norwood, Ontario; Jeffrey (Cheryl) of Abbotsford, British Columbia; and

James (Traci) of Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia. Mom, a darling Nannie, is survived by grandchildren: Janna and Robyn; Jonathan; Ryan; Brennan and Jaden; Alex and Lauren; five great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Mom was the eldest of seven children of the late Oscar Kenrick Dorion and his wife, the late Mary Frances Donahue, of Greece's Point, Quebec. Mom is the loving sister of the late James (Jeannie) Dorion of Arnprior, Ontario, the late George Dorion of Lachute, Quebec, Fredrick Dorion (Diane) of Kemptville, Ontario, Edward Dorion (the late Jean and present wife Linda) of Vernon, British Columbia, the late Margaret (the late Alex) Mooney of St. Eugene, Ontario, and Sandra (Warren) Knudsen of Ste. Anne de Prescott, Ontario.

Donations to the Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation, 175 Stillview Ave., Pointe Claire, Quebec, H9R 4S3 or the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated. Weaver Family Funeral Home, Trenton, Ontario handled the arrangements.

Marjorie Curtis UE was very proud of her ancestry as she was the third-great-granddaughter of the Hon. Sir John Johnson 2nd Baronet of the former Province of New York. Marjorie was a member of the UEL Heritage Branch of Montreal, Quebec.

By Jeff Curtis UE, Fourth-Great-Grandson of the Honorable Sir John Johnson, Second Baronet.

2015 Spring

The annual Charter Night Dinner of Heritage Branch, scheduled for 22 October 2014, was to have been held at the Black Watch Armoury in Montreal but was cancelled at the last minute by order of the Department of National Defence, as a result of the shooting of Corporal Nathan Cirillo and the attack on Parliament in Ottawa on that same date. It is hoped that the Dinner can be rescheduled for the spring of 2015.

The Dominion President, Bonnie Schepers UE, and her husband, who had come to Montreal to attend the Dinner, dined at another location that evening with the Branch President and his wife, and a UE certificate was presented to her for transmission to her sister in Texas. The Dominion President subsequently decided to take out a full membership in Heritage Branch.

On 23 August, the Branch President and wife, the Immediate Past President and wife, the Branch Librarian and wife and the Branch Genealogist, together with some Branch members, attended the long-awaited rededication of the new Johnson Family Burial Vault on the site of the original vault at Mont Saint-Grégoire (formerly Mount Johnson), Quebec, and the re-interment there, in two handsome urns, of the bone fragments recovered from the original tomb. This was the culmination of a major UELAC Centennial Project that took some sixteen years to come to fruition, thanks largely to the diligence of the leaders of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, their co-operation with the Société de restauration du patrimoine Johnson, and the financial assistance of various groups and individuals, including, in particular, the UELAC. A large crowd attended, including senior officers of the UELAC, some media and representatives of the various organizations responsible for the completion of the project. Eloquent speeches were delivered in both English and French by officials of various participating organizations. Muskets were fired by uniformed members of several Loyalist military re-enactment groups present, and the Heritage Branch Chaplain, Rev. Archdeacon Peter D. Hannen UE, blessed the urns containing the remains of Sir John and his wife and several of their offspring, before the vault doors were officially closed. All present agreed that the event was a resounding success that served to highlight the contribution of Sir John and the Loyalists

generally to the history of Quebec and Canada, and to demonstrate the ongoing presence and vitality of the UELAC and its Quebec Branches. A luncheon was held following the ceremony at a nearby sugar shack. The Heritage Branch President and wife dined that evening at the stately Manoir Rouville Campbell in Mont Saint-Hilaire, in the company of the Dominion President, her husband, and the Immediate Past Dominion President and his spouse. Heritage Branch is proud of having supported this project down through the years and of having contributed financially to its realization in the Association's centennial year.

In September, the Heritage Branch Secretary, Ann Jarvis Boa UE, spoke to the Beaufort-Beaconsfield Historical Society on Montreal's West Island on her Loyalist ancestor, Stephen Jarvis UE. In October, the Branch Librarian, Gary Aitken, spoke to the same Society on his Upper Canadian and Prince Edward Island Loyalist forbears and their notable descendants. Earlier in 2014, Heritage Branch member, Adrian Willison, had addressed the Society on the Black Loyalists, and the Branch President delivered a talk on Loyalists in general last March. In this way, Heritage Branch has developed strong ties with the BBHS and its President, and helped diffuse the Loyalist story, at a time when that body had selected the Loyalists as its theme for 2014.

In December, the Branch was delighted to receive a major financial donation from the Royal Commonwealth Society (Montreal Branch), as part of the distribution of that body's assets on the occasion of its dissolution. The funds will be put to good use, following consultation with the Branch Executive.

Heritage Branch continues to weed out and renew its library of Loyalist-related books and documents at the Quebec Family History Society library in Pointe-Claire, a project under the capable direction of Branch Librarian, Gary Aitken. Several new titles have been added to the collection in recent months.

The Branch continues to sell copies of The Loyalists of Quebec 1774-1825: A Forgotten History, as well as of its collections of Loyalist-related poetry and essays compiled by Branch member, Adrian Willison, from submissions received from other Branches across Canada.

The UELAC's Centennial Book, released at the Centennial Conference in Toronto in June 2014, is also available from the Branch.

As in several past years, the Branch sent delegates to the commemoration of the Battle of Plattsburgh, in Plattsburgh, New York, in September. 2014 was the 200th anniversary of the Battle, and the local authorities held a larger and longer celebration than usual. The Immediate Past President, Okill Stuart UE, again spoke at the event and was featured in the Parade, together with an American veteran of World War II. Okill and his wife, as well as Branch President Wilkins and his wife in period costume, sat on the reviewing stand at the Parade and enjoyed several other of the special events that highlighted the commemoration of this historic battle of the War of 1812.

On 01 November, the Branch President and Mrs. Wilkins attended a gala dinner commemorating the centennial of the formation of the Royal Montreal Regiment, at the Regimental Armoury in Westmount, Quebec. The Honorary Colonel of that storied regiment (Canada's first bilingual military unit) was to have been the guest speaker at the Branch's Charter Night Dinner, so unfortunately cancelled as reported above, but it is hoped that he will speak at the rescheduled Dinner in the spring of 2015.

The Branch President served on the UELAC's By-laws Committee, working on the question of improving the rules of the Association governing absentee voting at Annual and Special General Meetings of members. He proposed a by-law amendment that would increase from five to ten the maximum number of proxy votes that may be cast at such gatherings by proxy-holders appointed by absentee members. Several other options

were considered by the Committee as well, and a full report on this matter is to be submitted to Dominion Council at its next meeting.

Branch officials continue to attend events of a host of other organizations, associations and societies in the Greater Montreal area and to network extensively with them, as in the past, promoting where possible the Loyalist heritage and the UELAC, and seeking new members.

The usual concern is the difficulty of finding new members and especially persons willing to assume executive responsibility within the Branch. A particularly urgent matter is the need to find a new Branch Genealogist to succeed Mark Gallop UE who has recently moved to New Brunswick. Efforts are being made to locate such a person.

By Robert Wilkins UE, Branch President

2015 Fall

Since the Branch's autumn Charter Night Dinner, scheduled for 22 October 2014, was cancelled without warning that very day, by order of the Department of National Defense, owing to the terrorist attack in Ottawa, the Branch organized, as a replacement, a special Spring Dinner, held at the same venue, the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada's Armoury, on 22 April 2015.

The guest speaker was Hon. Lt. Col. Colin Robinson, a former C.O. of the Royal Montreal Regiment, which had celebrated the centennial of its foundation in November 2014. Col. Robinson delivered a fascinating illustrated talk about the history of the RMR (Canada's first bilingual regiment), focusing on its involvement in World War I, especially at the Second Battle of Ypres, which began exactly one hundred years before the Spring Dinner, on 22 April 1915. It was the first time that nerve gas was used in battle.

Heritage Branch was delighted that the Spring Dinner 2015 was attended by the then Dominion President, Bonnie Schepers UE, and her husband Albert, who, having come to Montreal in October for the Charter Night Dinner that was cancelled at the last minute, graciously agreed to return in April. Several members of the executive of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch also attended, as they traditionally do, their participation being highly appreciated. Total attendance at the Dinner amounted to forty-nine people, a record number in recent years. That number included Branch members and a guest speaker.

The Branch's Annual Meeting was held during the course of the Spring Dinner. The financial statements for 2014 were approved, the Branch auditor was reappointed and the Branch executive officers were re-elected to serve until the next Annual Meeting. Two positions in our Branch remain vacant: Mark W. Gallop UE resigned from the Branch Genealogist's post in the fall of 2014 owing to his relocation to New Brunswick, and the Branch Librarian, H. Gordon (Gary) Aitken UE, died unexpectedly on 20 February 2015.

On March 28, Branch President, Robert Wilkins UE, delivered a talk about the Loyalists to the Quebec Family History Society at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Beaconsfield, Quebec. A new member joined the Branch on that occasion.

The Loyalist banner was displayed at the memorial service in honour of the late Branch Librarian, Gary Aitken UE.

Heritage Branch is attempting to find a suitable person to assume the duties of Branch Genealogist, without which no Branch can operate effectively. One Branch member has been approached and appears willing to take on the job but the formal appointment has yet to be made by the Branch Executive, probably in the

autumn. Mr. Gallop, although out of Montreal for most of the year, returns from time to time and has kindly agreed to assist the new Branch Genealogist to the extent possible.

The sudden death of Branch Librarian, Gary Aitken UE, on 20 February 2015, is a tragic and enormous loss to the Branch. Gary had effected the reorganization of the Branch's collection of books and papers at the Quebec Library History Society in Pointe-Claire, Quebec. He was a competent and interesting public speaker and author, engaged at the time of his death in writing the official history of the Grace Dart-Montreal Extended Care Hospital. As well, he was a keen researcher, a respected Branch officer renowned for his good judgment and cooperation in all things. Gary was a most congenial ambassador for the Branch and the UELAC wherever he went. It is not clear at present whether anyone will be found to continue his dedicated involvement as Branch Librarian.

The Branch continues to sell copies of *The Loyalists of Quebec 1774-1825: A Forgotten History*, as well as copies of its collections of Loyalist-related poetry and essays compiled by Branch member, Adrian Willison from submissions received from other Branches across Canada.

The UELAC's Centennial Book, released at the Centennial Conference in Toronto in June 2014, is also available from the Branch, as well as copies of many back-issues of *The Loyalist Gazette*.

Other commitments in Montreal unfortunately interfered with the usual attendance of the Heritage Branch President and his wife at the Annual Meeting and luncheon of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch in Philipsburg, Quebec, on 20 June.

Branch officials continue to attend events of a host of other organizations, associations and societies in the Greater Montreal area and to network extensively with them, as in the past, promoting where possible the Loyalist heritage and the UELAC, and seeking new members. Most recently, the Branch President and his wife Maura and the Immediate Past Branch President and his wife Sylvia attended the Montreal Highland Games in Verdun, Quebec, on 02 August 2015.

Branch President Wilkins and wife Maura hope to attend the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch's picnic in Dunham, Quebec, on 06 August, possibly together with the Immediate Past Branch President, Okill Stuart UE, and wife, Sylvia. The Branch President also intends to be at the rededication of the Paul Holland Knowlton House in Lac-Brome (Knowlton), Quebec, on 15 August. The next Heritage Branch Charter Night Dinner is also being planned for Montreal in October. These events will be reported in due course.

By Robert Wilkins UE, CMH,
Heritage Branch President

2016 Spring

On 06 August 2015: Branch President, Robert Wilkins UE and his wife, Maura, attended the picnic of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch at ViewMount House, the residence of the Second Vice- President Marven Beattie of that Branch in Dunham, Quebec.

15 August 2015: Branch President Wilkins and his wife, Maura, attended the official rededication of the log cabin residence of the late Paul Holland Knowlton (1787-1863), founder of Knowlton, Quebec, and grandson of Judge Luke Knowlton, a known Vermont Loyalist. The 1815 building, restored to its original appearance, now occupies a place of honour on the property of the Brome County Historical Society in Knowlton. The ceremony included the raising of the Loyalist flag by the President of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch, Gerry Thomas UE, and a stirring address delivered by the Central East Region Vice-

President, Anne Redish UE. Mr. Wilkins presented a cheque from Heritage Branch to Donald Gray-Donald, President of the Brome County Historical Society, as a contribution to the ongoing development of the House, which will contain many of the artefacts owned by the BCHS relating to the Loyalists and other early pioneers of the Eastern Townships.

12 September 2015: The Branch President and spouse attended Townshippers' Day in Brome Village, Quebec, where the UELAC was well represented by Sir John Johnson Centennial and Little Forks Branches.

28 October 2015: Heritage Branch held its Charter Night Dinner at the Black Watch Armoury in Montreal, attended by about thirty-two participants, including Branch members, officials of several Montreal area historical/ patriotic organizations and many friends of the Branch. The presence of Regional Vice-President Anne Redish UE was especially appreciated, as was that of several executive officers of Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. The guest speaker, long-time *Montreal Gazette* journalist, Alan Hustak, delivered a most interesting talk on Canon Frederick Scott, chaplain to the 1st Canadian Infantry Division in World War I, based on Mr. Hustak's recently published biography of that famous chaplain-poet, Faith under Fire.

Heritage Branch continues to network with other historical/military/patriotic/genealogical groups in the Greater Montreal area, in particular the 78th Fraser Highlanders and Black Watch Regiments, the Quebec Family History Society, the Beaconsfield-Beaurepaire Historical Society, as well as with different national Societies. The Branch also continues to sell copies of its official publication, The Loyalists of Quebec 1774-1825, collections of Loyalist-related essays and poems and the book, Loyally Yours, celebrating the centennial of the UELAC.

Susan McGuire is easing into her new role as Branch Genealogist with a much-appreciated spirit of co-operation.

By Robert C. Wilkins, UE, CMH,
Heritage Branch President

2016 Fall

On 28 April 2016, Heritage Branch held its Annual General Meeting at the Maison Forget in Montreal. Following completion of the business items (approval of the 2015 financial statements, re-appointment of the Branch auditor, receipt of reports of the officers, and election of the Executive for the coming year), a most interesting DVD was shown, concerning the moving and restoration of the Paul Holland Knowlton House in Knowlton, Quebec, the original home of Loyalist descendant, Paul Holland Knowlton (1787-1863), founder of the municipality bearing his name. The Central East Regional Vice-President, Anne Redish UE, and the Branch President, Robert Wilkins UE, and his wife, Maura, had attended the official rededication of the House, on its new site on the grounds of the Brome County Historical Society (BCHS), on 15 August 2015, and Heritage Branch has contributed to the restoration and ongoing development of the House as a museum for the BCHS's collection of artefacts relating to the Loyalist and other pioneers of the Eastern Townships. Cynthia Grahame, one of the principal persons involved in the moving and restoration of this historic structure, attended the AGM, provided further background information, and answered questions about the project, its origin and development. All Heritage Branch members were invited to visit the House during the coming summer months.

Heritage Branch continues to sell copies of The Loyalists of Quebec 1784-1825, as well as poems and essays collected from UELAC members across Canada. In addition, the Branch's extensive collection of Loyalist-related books and papers continues to be available to the public at the Library of the Quebec Family History Society.

The Branch Librarian, Mark W. Gallop UE, continues his valuable work of culling and upgrading, with appropriate new titles, the large Heritage Branch collection of Loyalist-related books and documents housed at the Library of the Quebec Family History Society in Pointe-Claire, Quebec. At the Annual Meeting of the Branch, on 28 April, it was decided that those materials could now be made available for borrowing by QFHS members, rather than being categorized as exclusively for “reference,” but that they should remain a discrete collection of the Branch, separately identified and displayed separately from the other materials forming part of the QFHS collection in the Library.

Branch Genealogist, Susan McGuire, continues to familiarize herself with her role in order to be ready and able to perform her functions effectively. She will be studying the new application form and guidelines for Branch Genealogists when they are released by the Dominion Office.

Branch President, Robert Wilkins UE, in the spring of 2016, performed once more the functions of Administrator of the nomination and election process for the selection of incumbents for the positions of Regional Vice-President and Regional Councillor for the Central East Region of the Association. The candidates elected by acclamation within the Region in this selection process, Anne Redish UE of Kingston and District Branch, and Robert C. McBride UE of Kawartha Branch, were later duly re-elected to those offices respectively, for the year 2016-2017, by the qualified delegates present and voting at the Annual General Meeting of the UELAC, held in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, on 09 July 2016.

Heritage Branch continued, in the reference period concerned, to network with other groups in the Greater Montreal area, in particular the St. Andrew’s and St. Patrick’s Societies, the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society, the 78th Fraser Highlanders and Black Watch Regiments, and the Quebec Family History Society.

Two new members have joined Heritage Branch in recent months. One is the owner and occupant of the manor house of Sir John Johnson at Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu, Quebec. It is hoped that she and the other new member will pursue their interest and, if applicable, apply for certificate membership.

The problem of attracting new members and convincing members to assume executive responsibilities in the Branch continue. At present, the position of Branch Vice-President is vacant. These problems appear to be shared by other Branches, but they are especially serious in Heritage Branch, given the decline in numbers and the ageing of Quebec’s English-speaking population. Nevertheless, a few new people periodically choose to join.

By Robert C. Wilkins, Branch President