

LONDON AND WESTERN ONTARIO BRANCH – Charter – 29 Jan 1973

1973 Spring

At a meeting in the home of John A. Eaman, London, Ontario, October 26th last, a new branch of the U.E.L's began to see the light of day, with the launching of a petition to the Dominion Council: "We, the undersigned members of the U .E.L. Association of Canada. hereby make application to the Dominion Council for a Branch Charter to permit the formation of the London and Western Ontario Branch of the Association with meetings to be held in London, Ontario.

J. A. Eaman; Beverley May; E. M. Billings; Helen Burns; E. J. Chard; R. A. Eamer; Edward Phelps; Pearl Wilson; W. C. Heine; E. M. Benson; W. C. Smith; M: B. Snider.

The Dominion Council at it November meeting was pleased to grant the request of the petitioners. An Organization Meeting was held on January 30, 1973, with 15 persons in attendance, an enthusiastic beginning. The following officers were elected: John A. Eaman, President; E. Murray Billings, Vice-President and Genealogist; Edward Phelps, Secretary Mrs. Beverley J. May, Treasurer; Rev. R. Russell Gordon, Chaplain.

"Loyalist Resources" was the subject of the second meeting which was held at the University of Western Ontario Library on March 7. Members heard a lecture by Edward Phelps, Special Collections Librarian, on Loyalist source books and histories, and then proceeded to do some research in order to improve their Loyalist pedigrees.

This was followed by a business session and refreshments in the Faculty Lounge of the London Teachers' College.

The Charter Meeting with dinner in London is set for Saturday, May 26th. Dr. James J. Talman, Librarian Emeritus at the University of Western Ontario and Professor of History, has agreed to speak on this happy occasion. Dr. Talman is the editor of "Loyalist Narratives from Upper Canada", Champlain Society, '1946, and author of many books and articles on the history of Ontario and Canada.

Membership in the new branch now numbers thirty, a most encouraging beginning for U.E.L. programme in London and the Southwest. In addition to the Executive, the following persons are enrolled:

Rev. & Mrs. Manly Benson; Mrs. Betty Boate; Mrs. Helen R. Burns; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. G. Clothier Donald L. Cosens; Mr. and Mrs. F. Harold Deeks; Mr. and Mrs. Roger A. Earner; Miss Eleanor Glover; Rev. & Mrs. Russell Gordon Duncan M. Hoople; Mrs. Alice Pollock; Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Smith; Miss Clara Tisdale; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Werte; James R. Zavitz.

1974 Spring

The London and Western Ontario Branch, under the energetic leadership of Mr. John A. Eaman UE, has had a continuing program of Loyalist interest through the fall and winter of 1973-1974.

On October 12th, Professor Ronald G. Bates, a member of the English Department of the University of Western Ontario, and a member of the group, spoke on the Mohawk Valley Loyalists. His remarks enriched the knowledge of the group, who had little previous introduction to this significant group of Loyalist ancestors. President John Eaman spoke and showed slides of the Mohawk Valley Loyalist tour of

two years previously, which awakened a desire on the part of several members to participate in a future event of this kind.

At this meeting Miss Janet Cummer was presented with her Loyalist membership certificate.

Inaugurating a continuing series of membership reports, Miss Lila Bilyea spoke on her search for ancestral information, and Jim Zavitz presented the Branch with a copy of the Zavitz Family History which he has just published.

On November 27th Mr. Jim Zavitz, our newly-appointed Second Vice-President, gave a detailed presentation on the compiling and publishing of his family history as a guide to others in the group who are working on similar projects. He showed slides taken of our Inauguration Banquet of last May, and members were grateful for the privilege of ordering copies.

Loyalist Membership Certificates were presented to Mr. F. Harold Deeks and Mr. James Zavitz. Mrs. Deeks was appointed our Social Convener.

Our third meeting, at the University Library on January 22nd, was our more-or-less annual "research workshop".

Members present heard Messrs. Edward Phelps and Donald L. Cosens discuss the sources available, in library records and in land registration records. Don brings to us the wealth of his experience as Deputy Registrar for Elgin County, in St. Thomas, and Ed is Regional History curator at the University. Several members were able to make good progress on their "trees" and another pair of long lost cousins was reunited! This has come to be a regular occurrence at our meetings, when the family roots are traced back and members can shout "Eureka" -- they've just found another cousin, right in the group.

Spring plans are progressing, with two more meetings planned and perhaps a picnic if all goes well. Attendance at our meetings ranges between 25 and 30, while the number of interested persons has risen to over 50. We are maintaining a strong trend of research and study of Loyalist history and origins, in preference to a vigorous social program, for at the moment we wish our members to become grounded in the basics, and to make progress towards full documented membership in the organization.

1974 Autumn

A lively and enthusiastic gathering of the London Branch crowded the facilities of the Faculty Lounge at London Teachers' College, U.W.O., on March 5 for the annual "Members in Action" program. With Mr. John Eaman as chairman, members presented stimulating reports illustrated by various artifacts of Loyalist days in Canada.

Mr. Truman Landon displayed the Landon Heritage Flag which was dedicated to the memory of the Landon family ancestors, depicting the four countries from whence they came. Included was a tape recording of the dedication ceremonies which took place in July, 1973, during their annual reunion near Lansdowne. Ontario.

Mr. Roger Earner of Chatham read from copies of two claims for losses of property and stock to a total of almost 1000 pounds suffered by his Loyalist ancestor, Phillip Earner, due to his loyalty to the British Government.

Philip came to Canada from the Mohawk Valley with the 2nd Battalion of Sir John Johnson's Royal Regiment of New York, arriving near Montreal on July 15, 1783.

Mr. James Zavitz introduced the diary of his great-greatgrandfather, Daniel Zavitz, and read vivid passages of a sincere and industrious man as he toiled to create a home in the wilderness of Lobo Township in 1843.

Miss Leila Bilyea quoted from the will of Henry Bilyea, who landed at St. John, N.B., with the first shipload of U .E.L. refugees. The will was dated February 15, 1802.

Miss Clara Tisdale displayed a coat-of-arms which her ancestor brought to America from England in 1637 when he settled in Massachusetts. Her Loyalist ancestor came to St. John, N.B., where as a sea captain he engaged in trade with Barbados and the West Indies.

Mrs. Netta Brandon presented a gallery of historical pictures of old buildings related to her family story from Salem, Mass. to the Mohawk Valley, Grimsby, and Brantford and St. George.

Mr. John Eaman passed around the circle a copy of an old family document in the name of Lorentz Emann, dated at Riethgen, June 26, 1753. Lawrence and his two sons, John and Jacob, served in the King's Royal Regiment of New York from 1779, and the sons were granted land along the St. Lawrence in Osnabruck Township. Stormont County.

Mr. Gordon Werte of Windsor contributed a heavy stone inkwell incised 1812, and described Loyalist land grants to John Weart Jr., and his sons Nicholas of Matilda Township, Dundas County.

Mr. Duncan Hoople and Miss Maryanne Hoople reviewed the book, "The Hooples of Hoople's Creek", a delightful story of the family Loyalists by Elizabeth L. Hoople, 1967. The two brothers settled on the shores of the St. Lawrence at the mouth of the creek above the old Long Sault Rapids.

Mrs. Margaret Davidson and Mrs. Bess Skinner showed some of the earliest china made in America, "Tucker" from Philadelphia, whose factory was destroyed in the Revolution. The Edison family brought this chinaware by ship to the Maritimes, and on to the Talbot settlement in 1811.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Deeks, with three generations of physicians in the Deeks family, displayed a brass microscope made in France and used for research on yellow fever during the wars. Artifacts of the Deeks and Merkle families are on display in Upper Canada Village.

Mr. Earl Pulleyblank introduced the book, "Forgotten Leaves of Local History" by Dr. H.C. Burleigh, highly-esteemed Genealogist of the Bay of Quinte Branch of the Association, published in 1973 for the Tercentennial of the city of Kingston.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Parkes showed their family tree in "fan" form, and described ancestry to the Conant family from Salem.

Mr. Howard Lansing spoke of ancestors from both sides of the border; Mrs. Eleanor Fleck gave information on family settlement along the St. Lawrence; Mr. Maurice Comfort produced a large volume, a comprehensive report of Comfort family history; Rev. and Mrs. Russell Gordon contributed further to the memorable program of Loyalist lore.

Certificates of membership in the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada were presented to Mr. Roger A. Earner. formerly of the Toronto Branch. and to Gordon B. Werte.

DOUBLE FEATURE IN APRIL

Mr. E. Murray Billings, 1st Vice-President and Branch Genealogist, presented an illustrated address on "Documenting the Family History" at a meeting of the London Branch at Teachers' College, U.W.O., on April 23. Mr. Billings assisted members with their genealogical research as he drew from his own experience in documenting a most interesting family story which dated back to Anglo-Saxon Britain.

Mr. Edward Phelps, Branch Secretary and Curator, Regional Collection, W.B. Weldon Library, U.W.O., addressed members on the topic, "The Middlesex Court Centre Up-to-Date". Mr. Phelps outlined developments in planning for the preservation of London's famed old Court House in order that it may retain its unique place among the public buildings of the province of Ontario.

It was noted that 75 "Loyalists" have joined the London and Western Ontario Branch as regular or associate members since the first meeting in January, 1973. Many programs were designed to assist members in research and study of Loyalist history, to become grounded in the basics, and to make progress towards full documented membership in the Association.

Officers for the London Branch, 1974-75, were elected as follows: President; John A. Eaman, 17 Bloomfield Drive, London. 1st Vice-President; E. Murray Billings, 2nd Vice-President; James R. Zavitz, Secretary; Miss Janet Cummer, Treasurer; Mrs. Beverley May (pro tern), Chaplain; Rev. W. Manly Benson, Historian; Edward Phelps.

PICNIC AND PIONEERS

Sunday, June 9, brought to a conclusion the activities of the 1973-74 season of the London Branch with a picnic and a visit to a pioneer community near London.

The program centred around four Quaker families who, commencing in 1834, chopped a crater in the virgin bush at Coldstream and played a vital role in providing the necessities of life for other pioneers as they arrived. Some were farmers, others operated grist mills, saw mills, a woollen mill, general store. and later started a telephone company, opened telegraph connections to the railway network, started a library, and published a newspaper. Some left home to gain a higher education than was available locally and then returned to Coldstream to use their increased knowledge for the benefit of the growing community.

Our group gathered at the Quaker Meeting House at Coldstream where we were welcomed by John A. Eaman, President of the Branch, and James R. Zavitz, Vice-president and host for the afternoon as a member of that neighbourhood.

Mr. Zavitz explained the religious principles of the Quakers and how these traits were applied to the day-to-day activities of those pioneers. We toured the burying ground where four consecutive generations of his family lie buried, including his Great-great-grandmother, who was the daughter of a U.E. Loyalist. The Quaker property is now surrounded on three sides by the Coldstream Conservation Area which contains relics of industries founded by these people and which were so essential to the development of this district. but have long since ceased to be useful. We then returned to the Meeting House where it was immediately and immensely evident that the sandwiches, salads, tarts, etc. had been prepared by ladies as well trained in delicious cookery as any of our ancestors.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger A. Eamer Celebrate Golden Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Eamer of Chatham, Ontario, members of the Toronto Branch for many years and more recently of the London and Western Ontario Branch celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on September 29. Relatives and friends journeyed over two hundred miles to join in the fine and memorable festivities.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burns assisted in the main preparations and hosting the event. Mrs. Burns is a niece. Mr. and Mrs. Burns are especially active in organizing and developing the Grand River U.E.L. Branch.

1975 Spring

"Getting Acquainted Night" marked the opening meeting for the Fall season of the London and Western Ontario Branch at the London Teachers' College.

A warm welcome was extended to all present by the Branch President, Mr. John Eaman. At this meeting, we were happy to welcome as new members Mr. and Mrs. Harold Pincombe of St. Thomas, and Mr. Frank Ross of London. As a means of "getting acquainted", each member present identified himself by giving his name, home town, career, and U.E.L. interest -- thereby providing the Branch with a diverse cross section of occupations and interests.

At this meeting, changes in the Executive for the coming year were announced: that Miss Janet Cumber had accepted the position of Secretary-Treasurer, and that Mr. Roger Eamer would occupy the new position of Membership Chairman. In addition, Mr. Howard Lansing has accepted the position of Social Convener for the branch. In the future, he will be in contact with members to provide refreshments after the meetings.

President John Eaman then proceeded to explain the requirements of Association membership, i.e. certification, the distinction between Regular and Associate membership, and the payment of fees. It should be noted that members paying fees in the fall of 1974 will be paid up until the end of 1975.

A discussion about enlisting new members was initiated by Mr. Roger Eamer. It was announced that Mr. Pulleyblank had accepted the job of assisting Mr. Eamer in the London area.

For those new members interested in obtaining certification, Mr. Jim Zavitz outlined possible methods of genealogical research, giving examples from his personal research on Daniel Pound, his U.E.L. ancestor.

As the main feature of the evening, a three-minute sketch on a Loyalist ancestor was given by a number of interested members. Origins of these ancestors were indicated by marking the places involved on a map, giving listeners a broad overview of Loyalist areas. Those members participating were: Mr. Pulleyblank, Mrs. Harold Pincombe, Mr. Frank Ross, Mrs. Mary Brown, Mr. Maurice Comfort, Mrs. Netta Brandon, Mrs. Hazel Parkes, Mr. Duncan Hoople, and Mr. John Eaman. From these talks, we learned many interesting details of the lives and times of the Loyalists. Mrs. Netta Brandon discussed her Loyalist ancestor Mrs. Mary Moore. Mr. Frank Ross told of Loyalist James Laird who moved from Carolina to P.E.I. in 1785, and whose farm is still held by the family today. Mrs. Hazel Parkes mentioned that she was investigating four or five possible family connections - the Baker family of New Brunswick among others.

"An Appointment With History" was the official title of the November 26 meeting, when the London and Western Ontario Branch met in London's historic Eldon House.

Upon arrival, members were taken on a guided tour of this fine old residence by Mr. James MacDougall of the Museum and Eldon House staff. Features of historic interest were pointed out fine furniture, architectural styles, heirlooms of the Ryerson and Harris families. Built in 1834 at the forks of the Thames by Capt. John Harris and his wife, Amelia Ryerse (daughter of Col. Samuel Ryerse, a leading Loyalist in Norfolk County), Eldon House was a centre of social and cultural activities in the 19th

century. After completion of the tour, President John Eaman thanked Mr. MacDougall for his informative talk, and the London Public Library Board for the use of the building.

The formal part of the meeting was then held in the Drawing Room of Eldon House. Mr. Edward Phelps, our Branch historian, sketched the famous families and persons connected with Eldon House - in particular, the career of the great Ontario educator, Egerton Ryerson. It was interesting to note that Ryerson himself published two volumes on the Loyalists in 1879. Conscious of his U.E.L. background, he felt that the history of the Loyalists had often been misrepresented because it had been written by Americans.

A question period followed the conclusion of this talk. The speaker was introduced by Mr. Eaman and thanked by Mrs. Netta Brandon.

It was noted that the London Branch is represented in the work of the Dominion Council of the Association by Mr. James R. Zavitz on the Genealogical Committee, Mr. E Murray Billings on the Public Relations Committee and a Director on Council, and Mr. John A. Eaman as 3rd Vice President of the Council.

At the conclusion of the meeting, 19th century refreshments were served in the historic atmosphere of the drawing room of Eldon House.

An invitation is extended for membership to persons residing in Western Ontario or nearby United States. Please write to Mr. J.A. Eaman, President, 17 Bloomfield Drive, London, Ontario N6G 1P2.

1976 Spring

The London and Western Ontario branch has reached the half-way mark in its activities for the winter season of 1975-1976.

The first meeting of the season, on October 28th, was a get acquainted meeting. "History Comes Alive" was the theme and each member was expected to give a two-minute narration relating their Loyalist connections, what their Loyalist affiliations mean to them, and something about themselves as individuals. No one was able to confine himself to the two-minute "limit" and the result was a great variety of anecdotes, morsels of history and fascinating items concerning Loyalism.

November 25th saw our group congregating at the Special Collections Section of the Weldon Library at the University of Western Ontario. This is always an immensely productive evening; partly because of the material available, but also because the Librarian is also our congenial and knowledgeable Branch Historian, Ed Phelps.

London is at somewhat of a disadvantage when compared to certain other branches; the Loyalists did not come here directly during the migration, but their offsprings found their way to this part of Ontario a generation or two later. Hence, there is no local source of "original" material. The Special Collections goes a long way to filling this gap; a list to give even a general idea of its contents would occupy considerable space in this publication. Every evening that the Branch has gone to the Library it has seen at least one member find a vital connection to his Loyalist ancestor.

Our First Vice-President, Professor Marguerite R. Dow took over January's meeting with a talk about the Palatine migration in the Colonial Period. Miss Dow sorted out the tangled history of the Rhinish Palatines as they existed in the 18th Century, the Napoleonic Wars and the ensuing struggle for power when the Palatine country was divided with the Rhine River as the dividing line, thereby splitting the

country in two. It became the centre of Calvinism and came in conflict with the 'official' (Catholic) church.

Britain offered a haven for the Palatines but soon England and Ireland had reached the saturation point for accommodating these displaced persons. The chief interest of the Palatine immigrants was to obtain land for their children so they could support themselves after their parents died. By this time (circa 1709) Britain was advertising for settlers to come to America; all it took was an Oath of Allegiance to Britain to be declared a British subject and entitled to free land in America.

Thousands took advantage of this offer, only to find that their problems had not been solved; they ran into disputed ownership of land they settled on (particularly in the Mohawk Valley of what is now New York State) and were forced to give the land they had cleared and lived on for several years following the War of Independence thousands moved once again, this time to Canada. Many of the German sounding names on the Executive List are the names of these Palatines.

The exploits of Colonel John Butler and Butler's Rangers during the American Revolution have been glorified or defiled (depending on the outlook of the author) to the point where the line between fact and fiction is uncertain. Colonel Butler and members of the Corps of Rangers came to the Niagara Peninsula and played a tremendously effective role in the settlement of that area; their families played just as great a role on behalf of the defending British forces during the War of 1812.

Our Branch is fortunate in having a descendant of Colonel Butler as a member. She is Mrs. Pauline Williamson, and she is going to tell us about her Loyalist ancestor at our February meeting.

Membership Certificates were presented to Mr. George Osborne, Mrs. Jean Comfort and Mrs. Janice A. Beebe of Brighton, Michigan. This brings to seven, new Regular Memberships in our Branch since the 1975 summer recess of activities.

April's meeting will see us back at the Special Collections Section and a "Photo Night" is planned for May when any member with pictures (preferably 35 mm transparencies) of Loyalist content will have an opportunity to project and describe them.

1976 Autumn

April saw the Branch at the Special Collections Section of the D.B. Weldon Library at the University of Western Ontario once more. The Librarian is also the Branch's Historian, genial Ed Phelps. Apart from an offering of the Library's contents, Ed launched into a description of source materials and revealed a startling lack of appreciation of some people for the value of old documents that are being thrown out. He also produced the oldest known copy of the London Free Press and compared its legibility with copies only a few years old.

May's meeting was advertised as "Photo Night" and several members brought a collection of their coloured slides or black-and-white photographs describing their links with Loyalist material.

The summer recess ended on October 26th when the Branch's Assistant Genealogist, Howard Lansing, gave a lecture on "The Intricacies of Genealogical Research". That fearsome topic did not frighten anyone away, as there was one of the largest turnouts we have had for a long time.

Howard's advice was to start with a base and work toward an objective. For U.E.L. purposes that base would be a knowledge of when our ancestors came to North America, the family name and origin, the role they played in the American Revolution, when and why they came to Canada. Then, to work

towards the present all the information we need is recorded someplace, and often in several places. The trick is to find where it is located.

The "Loyalists in Ontario" and the "Old Centennial List" are an invaluable part of any Loyalist library. Howard has done considerable research in the Dutch settlements of the present State of New York and spoke of the value of the N.Y. Historical Dutch Manuscripts and the Directory of Historical and Genealogical Associations. Gazetteers and Historical Journals provide a good starting place for additional searches. He outlined the history of the various settlements in Ontario and explained the functions of the old land surveys, assessment roles, the land records and where they may be obtained. The interlibrary loan arrangement can save a tremendous amount of time and travel in tracking down some of these 'clues'.

The Branch President, Jim Zavitz, was guest speaker at the November meeting of the Saginaw (Michigan) Genealogical Society meeting. Two members of the London & Western Ontario Branch are members of that Society, as well as their President (Leland Watrous) being a member of our Toronto Branch. The evening's topic was the U.E.L. Association, followed by a lively question and answer session about genealogical records in Canada. The hospitality of the host group towards Jim and his wife left absolutely nothing to be desired.

1977 Spring

November's meeting saw the London Branch members searching through the General History Section and the Regional Collections Section at the Weldon Library at the University of Western Ontario, with Mr. Ed Phelps (Librarian and Branch Historian) acting as host, guide and general query-answerer. Our Branch tries to spend two nights here each year and it has always been found very productive to members.

December is such a busy month that we leave our members to their own devices and continue our winter's activities in January.

One of our members, Frank Ross, received his Membership Certificate so we promptly put him to work by telling us about his Loyalist ancestors. Frank traces his Loyalist lineage back to James Laird who came from the Carolinas in 1783. The Journal of the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island of 1803 carries the examination under oath of Laird's service to the Crown, how he came originally to Shelburne, Nova Scotia, and on to the Isle of St. Jean (later P.E.I.) because of the promise of a larger grant of land (500 acres) although he later received only 250 acres. P.E.I. is notorious for the treatment it gave its Loyalist settlers; after spending 9 years clearing 50 acres of land, erecting buildings and planting an orchard, Laird was told that a surveyor had made a mistake and the land actually belonged to another settler (who happened to be the Governor's son) and he would have to move off the property without any compensation whatever. Laird appealed to the Governor but without success (naturally). Not to be denied his land this easily, he planned a voyage to England to carry his appeal as far as he had to. His neighbours took up a collection to help him. When the Governor heard of this turn of events the whole matter was dropped and Laird allowed to remain on the land. His property at Vernon River is still in possession of his direct descendants.

Frank received his first U.E.L. interest at the age of six when an uncle in Saint John, New Brunswick (who was a wonderful story-teller) "raised him from a pup" and regaled him with U.E.L. tales that made their history come alive. Visits to the Loyalist cemetery in Saint John fired his interest and it has never diminished.

There are difficulties in carrying out research in P.E.I. when one lives in Ontario. Frank has found the Dominion Archives and the Parliamentary Library in Ottawa very useful, along with a collection of

census records (he has a copy of the 1798 P.E.I. census), Selkirk's Diaries, a copy of "P.E.I., The Past and the Present" which has a collection of 200 pioneer biographies. Used book stores often have a treasure trove of books that are long out of print and Frank seldom passes the chance to browse through them, even in small towns.

February's meeting featured James J. Talman, O.B.E., C.D., Ph.D., F.R.S.C. The Branch's Past President, John A. Eaman, in introducing the guest speaker, explained how Dr. Talman had received his Ph.D. in History and served as Provincial Archivist and Legislative Librarian in Toronto (Dr. Talman explains his change from historian to librarian because of more openings for librarians during the Depression) prior to a 23year tenure as Chief Librarian at the University of Western Ontario. He built the University library from 172,000 volumes to 1,500,000 and initiated the Regional Collections Section (dealing with the history of southwestern Ontario - so much appreciated by members of our Branch). Dr. Talman is a retired Lieut.-Colonel, Past President of the Ontario Historical Society, a member of the Historical Sites and Monuments Committee, the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the Publications Advisory Board of our own Loyalist Gazette. He had spoken at our Branch's Charter Presentation Banquet in 1973.

Dr. Talman chose "Who is a Loyalist" for his topic. Right from the outset he made it clear that he would not answer the question; after 30 years of probing for a solution he has found so many contradictions, restrictions and changes that it is like walking into the ocean -the farther you go, the deeper you get. At the end of the American Revolution the United States had a population of approximately 2,100,000; it was estimated that 1/3 were Patriots, 1/3 were Loyalists and 1/3 had been uncommitted. Of a possible 700,000 Loyalists 15,000 returned to England, 15,000 went to the West Indies, 14,000 to Nova Scotia and 6,000 joined the 4,000 settlers already in Upper Canada. What happened to the remainder? The term 'Loyalist' has been used in so many contexts that it is now meaningless.

The various legislative attempts to clarify the issue have resulted only in adding to the fragmentation of the term. The 1796 Proclamation simplified it by defining a Loyalist as one who "adhered to the Unity of Empire and joined the Royal Standard before 1783". Subsequent legislation up to 1836 reverted the whole question to its original state of confusion.

Ever since, various groups have seized upon whatever description or restriction serves their immediate purpose. A study of the various descriptions in the Old U.E. List gives every imaginable qualification, and a good many that are directly in conflict with some regulation.

So, who is a "Loyalist"? It still seems to rest with whoever is looking for a description; he can find justification for any stand to be taken and can include or exclude anyone he wants.

1977 Autumn

The London Branch members returned to the Regional Collections Section of the Weldon Library at the University of Western Ontario for their April activity. This section was a favoured project of Dr. J.J. Talman during his years as Librarian and is a mecca for anyone concerned with the history and development of Ontario. The books, ledgers, maps, atlases, records and microfilms are widely used by historians and genealogists; members of our Branch look forward to our visits there and come prepared with long lists of topics to research and seldom leave disappointed.

May's meeting saw us back at our usual meeting place at Elborn College. We were favoured with a visit by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Aikman of the Hamilton Branch. One of our members, Arnold Nethercott, had undertaken the educational portion of the meeting and discussed his Loyalist background to the Mohawk Valley of New York State before the Revolution. Prior to the Treaty of Paris of 1763 the Indian population had become fiercely loyal to the British, no doubt due in large measure to the adroit diplomacy

of Sir William Johnson in his dealings with them. By the outbreak of the Revolution in 1777 they were well organized and their assistance of the British forces proved most valuable. Arnold's ancestors, David and Margaret Springer were large landowners and David was referred to as 'that notorious Tory' in the papers of the time. He was leading a small band of Loyalists in an attempt to join up with Gen. Burgoyne's forces near present day Albany; the Rebel Militia had learned of this venture and intercepted them in a skirmish known as the Battle of Norman Kill. It was Friday, August 13th, 1777 and David was killed. His widow was dispossessed because of her refusal to swear allegiance to the Continental forces, and later that year, after the upstate Loyalists' position had been drastically reduced, fled to Canada.

We can only speculate on the difficulties of that journey with 7 children' (the youngest being only 5 months) through hostile country. Finally she reached a band of Butler's Rangers and friendly Indians and was helped to the border. Two of her sons served with Butler's Rangers and her descendants are now scattered around the Continent. She settled in the vicinity of Burlington Bay and received 1200 acres of land as a Loyalist widow although there is no record of her ever petitioning to claim compensation for her losses. The exploits of one son (Daniel) offered the basis of Orlo Miller's book 'Raiders of the Mohawk'; he died in 1826 and is buried in Delaware, a village a few miles from London, Another son, John, distinguished himself in the War of 1812.

Mr. Nethercott is also the President of the London Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society and had just returned from their annual seminar, this one in Ottawa. Over 400 members were present and the' enthusiasm, skill and cooperation had to be experienced to be fully appreciated.

The next matter on the agenda was the appointment of a new Executive to guide the Branch for the next two years. The position of President Emeritus' was accepted and is to be filled perpetually by John Eaman whose interest, efforts and devotion were responsible for founding the Branch and seeing its growth since its inception. The Nominating Committee expanded the Executive considerably in an effort to incorporate as much talent as possible on our guiding body. In addition to Mr. Eaman's appointment as President Emeritus and a Chairman of the Membership Committee, the meeting approved the following Executive: Past President, Jim Zavitz; President, Miss Marguerite R. Dow; 1st Vice President, Mrs. Netta Brandon; 2nd Vice President, Frank Ross; Secretary, Miss Janet Cummer; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Hazel Parkes; Treasurer and Chaplain, Ven. Archdeacon Lionel A. Nelles; Genealogist and Librarian, Jim Zavitz; Assistant Genealogist, Arnold Nethercott; Historian, Ed Phelps; Assistant Historian, Leslie R. Gray; Social Convener, Mrs. Lorraine Smith and Archivist, George Osborne.

The Branch has started planning to celebrate Her Majesty's Jubilee Year with a Dinner preceding her visit next October, as well as hosting the 1978 Association Annual Meeting. More about these projects in later issues of The Loyalist Gazette.

Persons desiring membership in this Western Ontario branch kindly contact Mr. J.R. Zavitz, Branch Genealogist, R.R. 2, Ilderton, Ontario NOM 21\0; telephone 519-666-1512.

Mr. J.A. Eaman, Past President of the branch, who is in charge of the Queen's Silver Jubilee banquet for the branch was in Ottawa to welcome Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, attended luncheon at the Ottawa Canadian Club to hear Prince Philip, the guest speaker, and visited with Sir John Johnson, the British High Commissioner following the meeting.

1978 Spring

The London and Western Ontario Branch held three meetings last fall under the president, Miss Marguerite Dow. In September Mr. Jim Zavitz, the branch genealogist and past president, outlined "The Loyalist Influence on Early Canada". He explained that, while early exploration of North America was aimed at finding a route to the Far East, French missionaries and French and British fur traders and merchantmen soon found more immediate reasons for developing the country. Eventually the Quebec Act of 1774 not only smoothed out the Treaty of Paris of 1763, but assured the French system of law and religion, and extended the Quebec border as far as the Ohio River. With the development of the American Revolution Loyalists began to assemble as early as 1775. At the time of the Treaty of Paris of 1783 that ended the Revolution the new United States of America had a population of over two million, whereas Quebec contained only seventy thousand.

A mass migration of Loyalists, however, vastly enlarged the population of Canada: between fourteen and thirty thousand are reported to have settled in Nova Scotia from 1776 on, and the Province of New Brunswick was subsequently created in 1784; six hundred Loyalists also settled in Prince Edward Island, though they seem to have been greatly exploited by absentee landlords; meanwhile, eight hundred Loyalists went to Quebec. The desire for the British system of government, to which the Loyalists had remained loyal, led to the Canada Act of 1791, by which Quebec was divided at the Ottawa River into Upper and Lower Canada, so that British law would apply in Upper Canada while French law was retained in Lower Canada. Upper Canada (later known as Ontario) added six thousand Loyalists to its original population of four thousand; and new communities sprang up: Jessup's Corps founded Kingston, Butler's Rangers founded Niagara, and Sir John Johnson's followers founded New Johnstown.

Perhaps the greatest influence of the Loyalists in Canada resulted from their preparedness for and participation in the War of 1812. The Loyalist officers provided a nucleus for an instant defence force, and stories of Loyalist courage kept the spirit of loyalty alive. The coming of the Loyalists therefore brought many benefits, including the creation of two Canadian provinces, New Brunswick and Ontario; the inauguration of the present legislative system; and the successful defence of Canada itself in 1812.

On the twenty-fifth day of October, the month of the Queen's gracious visit to Canada, the London and Western Ontario Branch joined with the London Branch of the Monarchist League of Canada in hosting a Jubilee banquet in honour of Her Majesty's twenty-fifth year on the throne of Canada. One hundred and forty-five loyal subjects, including representatives from other loyal organizations and the Minister of Veterans' Affairs, shared in the roast beef dinner served at the new headquarters of the Victory Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. During the cocktail hour the guests were invited to sign a scroll of loyalty to be mailed to the Queen herself. Professor J. Alvin Boyd, Chairman of the London Branch of the Monarchist League proposed the toast to Her Majesty, to "give thanks for the twenty-five years of unflinching service." He said, "Elizabeth II, for a quarter of a century, has devoted her entire existence to doing and being all that her people expect of her. By the sincerity of her total dedication and her unswerving fidelity to her Coronation vow of lifelong service, she has gained our greatest admiration and respect. In her unflinching devotion to duty, her exemplary life and the fearlessness with which she has travelled around the globe, she has represented all that is finest and most endearing in our tradition and all that is best in the character of our people." Dr. John R. Gwynne-Timothy, Professor of History at the University of Western Ontario, gave the main address, on the theme "Imperial Commonwealth: Yesterday, To-day, and Tomorrow." He presented a comprehensive outline of the development of the British family of nations throughout the world. The evening concluded with the singing of all three verses of the Royal Anthem and the retiring of the colour party and its piper.

This outstanding gala occasion was arranged under the chairmanship of Mr. John A. Eaman, the founding president of this branch.

The November meeting of the Branch, held in the Regional Collections Section of the D.B. Weldon Library at the University of Western Ontario, under the expert guidance of Mr. Ed Phelps, the Branch Historian, gave Branch members another opportunity to research Loyalist and family history. During the social refreshments hour afterwards a certificate of membership was presented to Mrs. Margaret Pridmore of Wardsville, and a message of warmest greetings was read from the Honourable Pauline M. McGibbon, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. Plans were also discussed for the hosting of the Annual Convention in May.

1978 Autumn

The London and Western Ontario Branch has continued to enjoy a varied and full program since the beginning of 1978. In January, Canon W. J. Zimmerman came through the snows of winter from Her Majesty's Chapel of the Mohawks in Brantford, where he is Chaplain, to address the Branch on "The Six Nations Indians and the American Revolution". He pointed out that when the American Revolution broke out, the Mohawks, who kept the Eastern gate to the Indian territories, and the Senecas, who kept the Western gate, were caught between two great warring powers. For example, both the British and the Americans sought the help of the Mohawks. The Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Sir William Johnson, spoke the Indian language and earned the respect of the Indians, so that they named him "He who does much business". Other important leaders who helped the Indians at this time included Col. John and Walter Butler, Rev. Kirkland, Sir Guy Carleton, and Sir Frederick Haldimand. With the coming of the Revolution, therefore, feelings ran high among the Indian people. While hatchet warfare destroyed some divided native families, the Indians assisted the British in such raiding expeditions as the attacks on the Mohawk Valley that transformed the German Flats to a mass of flames. General Washington was condemned through his Indian name "The town destroyer". Before the coming of the Europeans to America, the Indian's natural way of life had been as hunter and warrior. To live in this way, however, required large tracts of land.

Like many Loyalists, in the course of the American Revolution the Indians lost everything: their homes, their lands, and in some instances even their lives. The problems imposed on them then still persist today. Like other Loyalists, however, the dispossessed Indians believed in unity, as illustrated in the formation and maintenance of the Six Nations' Confederacy.

At the February meeting the London and Western Ontario Branch was honoured by a visit from the Dominion President, Mr. D. Stuart Gilmore UE, C.L.U., who addressed the Branch on "The Unity of Canada". He was introduced by Mr. Arnold Nethercott, the President of the London Branch of the Genealogical Association, and thanked by Professor J. A. Boyd, the Chairman of the London Branch of the Monarchist League of Canada.

The April meeting focussed on a panel discussion of the controversial Position Paper on Nomenclature, chaired by Mrs. Netta Brandon and aided by the Branch genealogists, Mr. James Zavitz and Mr. Arnold Nethercott. Despite the openness of the discussion, the Branch shared an encouraging agreement about the importance of supporting the intentions of the recommendations proposed in the Position Paper.

In lieu of the regular May meeting, the Branch hosted the Annual Convention, May 4-7, at Medway Hall in the University of Western Ontario. In greeting fellow-members from across Canada and arranging all the Convention activities - the welcoming soiree; historical, genealogical, and business discussions; a reception and banquet; and local historical tours - the Branch found that the spirit of the Loyalists is still very much alive.

1979 Spring

Two diversified "all meetings under the President, Miss Marguerite Dow began the 1971179 season of the London and Western Ontario Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. The first meeting, held in October, opened with reports on a number of projects just completed by the Branch: the outstanding success of the 1978 Annual National Convention under the direction of Mr. John A. Eaman, President Emeritus, hosted by the Branch last May; and, from the proceeds of the 1977 Jubilee Banquet (jointly sponsored with the London Branch of the Monarchist League of Canada), the shared donation of two gifts: copies of Queen of Canada to the Libraries of the Secondary Schools and other educational institutions in London, on the occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the actual crowning of Elizabeth II as Queen of Canada on June 2, 1978; and a bouquet of mauve and purple flowers to decorate the lounge adjoining the royal dining room of the Royal Train, during Her Majesty's visit to Saskatchewan in the summer. A message of appreciation was read from the Queen herself, who sent "all those concerned her best wishes" from Buckingham Palace. The Branch Genealogist, Mr. James R. Zavitz, congratulated Judith Mitton on receiving her Loyalist Certificate.

Mrs. Pauline Williamson then introduced her cousin, Mr. Ross Butler, President of the Woodstock Museum and Historical Society, as well as an accomplished artist and, like herself, a descendant of Colonel John Butler, illustrious commander of the famed Butler's Rangers. Together, the Butler cousins presented a well illustrated review of their attendance at the American Bicentennial Celebrations at Rome, New York, August 1-5, 1977. Festivities included a display of historic American flags of various designs, and a tour of reconstructed Fort Stanwix, in the heart of Rome itself. The Americans seem to know more about Colonel Butler's activities than many Canadians do. Just prior to the bloody Battle of Oriskany, Fort Stanwix, with moat and pallisade so well designed to resist attack, was in a lowly state in the hands of the Rebels. Blindfolded so that he could not see the poor state of the fortress, Colonel Butler was admitted into Fort Stanwix with the hope that the Fort would be surrendered. Though he was offered there only a humble repast of bread, cheese, and wine, Butler, who was a very religious man, said grace before the meal. Since the fort refused to surrender, however, the resultant though dreaded Battle of Oriskany brought great loss of men. A monument to the fallen now constructed at the river site bears the names of the fallen on both sides of the battle.

Butler memorabilia displayed at the Branch meeting included a painting of Joseph Brant on horseback, crossing the Grand River at Brant's Ford (now Brantford) ; the opening of Canada's first Parliament at Butler's Barracks, Niagara-on-the-Lake, 1792; and Colonel Butler receiving from the Indians signed land on which the City of Toronto was later built. Since the winter of 17116-117 was very hard, thousands of Indians and other Loyalists arrived in Canada destitute, including a wagon party of six women with thirty-two children, of whom the youngest, a three-year-old, was James Secord (later the husband of Laura Ingersoll, who herself became the well known Laura Secord). This group of refugees arrived in Canada in November without shoes. Butler gave assistance to all who came, however, despite criticism about the cost. He also ordered four hundred apple seedlings for planting in the Niagara peninsula. Together Butler's Hangers and the Indians kept Canada British, so that Colonel Butler might truly be regarded as a founder of Canada.

The first session of the Branch ever to be held outside the City of London, the November meeting, took place at the Elgin County Museum, overlooking the broad valley of Kettle Creek on the historic Talbot Road in St. Thomas. The full evening of activities was organized by Mrs. Helen Pincombe, who also graciously provided the concluding refreshments. Mrs. Gowan Young, a member of the original Planning Committee for the establishment of the Museum in 1957, outlined the history of the undertakings initiated by the local branch of the Women's Institute and the L.O.D.E. A week of teas and quilt exhibits netted \$400.00 as a down payment on the purchase of the charming former home of Dr. Charles Duncombe (built in

1848), as a base for the Museum. Thousands of letters subsequently mailed to former residents of Elgin County all over Canada and America brought in \$17,000.00 towards the upkeep of the Museum, for which the County then agreed to assume responsibility.

The introductory history of the Museum was followed by a tour of the historic displays of fine and antique furniture, kitchen and glassware, needlework, medical instruments, and early Indian artifacts -- all donated to the Museum and so exquisitely arranged and labelled that the pioneer doctor's home revived for its visitors the traditions of early Canadian life.

After the tour, Mr. Donald Cosens, Deputy Registrar for Elgin County, charted the early settlement along the Old Talbot Road (now Highway No. 1) between Talbotville and Shedden, originally known as the Back Street. Colonel the Honorable Thomas Talbot founded the vast Talbot settlement here in 1803, with its centre in St. Thomas. The first white settlers, however, had come to Elgin County as early as 1791;. Later settlers included not only Scots, Germans, Dutchmen, Huguenots, and Quakers, but many second generation Loyalists as well. A considerable number of newcomers, especially in the 1790's and early 1800's, came from the United States. By 1822 the settlement housed 12,000 people; and Colonel Talbot, though very autocratic, described it as the most prosperous and flourishing of all Upper Canada. By 1831 the population reached 40,000, spread over twenty-eight townships, covering half a million acres. If a man received a land grant and stayed there five years, he usually remained for the rest of his life. Having worked hard to establish his home, he naturally regarded it as precious. Records in the Dominion Archives list the holders of lots, the amount of land they cleared, and the length of their residence within the province.

During the evening, the recommendation presented by Mrs. Netta Brandon, first vice-president of the Branch, that as a Branch Bicentennial Project, each member submit a researched account of his Loyalist ancestor, was enthusiastically received; and Mr. George Osborne, Branch Archivist, kindly offered to co-ordinate the proposed collection for the Branch Archives.

1979 Autumn

The first meeting began with the presentation of a Loyalist certificate to Dr. Dorothy Smith, an active leader in the London Community.

The main speaker was Dr. F. Branscombe, Chairman of the Dominion Historical Committee, who came from Toronto to discuss the work of the Historical Committee and some of the problems for which solutions are being sought. Dr. Branscombe indicated that while the Position Paper on Nomenclature is a good beginning in an analysis of the term "Loyalist", the Paper does not give a full definition or understanding of such terms as U.E. and United Empire Loyalist. Since The United Empire Loyalists' Association is a national organization, the solution must recognize the customs and traditions of various regions. In the Maritimes, for example, unlike Upper Canada, no distinction was made in types of soldiers supporting the British cause.

The Queen's Rangers were originally a perpetuation of Robert Rogers' Rangers, a group of guides from New Hampshire, who wore a green uniform, because their aim was to melt into the landscape rather than march in formation. In honour of the Rangers, Dr. Branscombe himself wore a regimental tie striped in their colours of green for the woodlands, blue for the sky, and silver for the lakes. The Queen's Rangers were given the title of the First American Regiment and were given the right to recruit Europeans, with the result that only twenty-five percent qualified as Loyalists of the strictest definition.

In the Battle of Brandywine, in 1777, near Philadelphia, General Washington was defeated by the British under Cornwallis who by a circuitous march attacked the enemy from the rear, with the assistance of dense fog. In this engagement twenty-three percent of the Queen's Rangers were killed and wounded.

In October, 1777, John Graves Simcoe was given command of the regiment; and he reorganized it to include a variety of troops, such as a highland company, artillery and light infantry so that the force became an unusual combination of speed and flexibility.

From their station in Richmond (later called Staten Island), New York, the Queen's Rangers marched to Middlebrook to destroy the American defences by drawing the enemy into ambush. Although for a time the British were greeted warmly by the Community because mistaken for Americans, since both sides wore green uniforms, Simcoe was eventually taken prisoner at the Battle of Middlebrook and freed only two months later, in exchange for prisoners of the British.

In 1783 many of the Queen's Rangers sailed to New Brunswick and took grants of land in the St. John Valley.

Everyone had admired the Queen's Rangers, even enemy leaders like the famous Cot Lee. Why, however, should there be one standard for twenty-five percent of the Queen's Rangers, and another for the rest, though all fought so admirably? The Historical Committee must find a standard acceptable to all concerned. The solution must be reasonable and fair (to satisfy conscience), historically accurate (to appeal to the mind), and sympathetic to regional custom and tradition to be acceptable nationwide. The question remains: 'What is the solution?'

In February the Branch met jointly with the London and Middlesex Historical Society in the auditorium of the London Public Library. Under the Chairmanship of the first Vice-President of the Branch, Mrs. Netta Brandon, a panel of four Branch members outlined "Marks of Loyalists in South Western Ontario". Mrs. Brandon pointed out that between fifty and seventy thousand Loyalists fled to Canada alone, and others went to other colonies. Between four and five million Canadians are their descendants.

Mr. John Eaman, the founding president of the Branch, explained what The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada represents. The London Branch began seven years ago with twelve founding members and has now risen to just over one hundred members. The Branch meets six times a year for historical and genealogical study, and welcomes the co-operation of the London Historical and Genealogical Societies. The Canadian Association itself was founded on May 27, 1914. Membership is open to all who wish to support the purposes of the Association, including the perpetuation of the spirit of loyalty and the preservation of the history of the Loyalists. Of the twenty-two Branches spread from coast to coast, the newest is the Kingston Branch.

Mr. Maurice Comfort noted that, like the animals, the Loyalists left their own tracks of various kinds, including the U.E. Mark of Honour, and economic, political, and philosophical tracks. He concentrated on sources of documentary evidence of the Loyalists' travels. W.D. Reid's The Loyalists of Ontario lists 15,000 names of grants to Loyalists and to the sons and daughters of Loyalists. The Upper Canada Land Petitions are available on microfilm at the London Public Library. Also useful are the two-volume Ontario Archives Report of 1904, and the Land Patent Index which lists all the land grants in Upper Canada.

Mr. Jim Zavitz, the Past President of the Branch and a member of the Dominion Historical Committee, discussed requirements for regular membership in the Association. Although regular certification requires documentary proof of descent from a United Empire Loyalist, the meaning of the very term is unclear. The War of Independence itself was fought between Loyalists and Patriots, themselves overlapping terms. In May, 1783 the great influx to Canada began, at Port Roseway (later Port Shelburne) Nova Scotia, and

St. John, New Brunswick. In July, 1783 a Royal Commission in Britain defined what distinguished a Loyalist as those who served the British cause and bore arms against the American Revolution. In November, 1789, Lord Dorchester in Council at Quebec, gave the sons and daughters of Loyalists the same land grants given the Loyalists themselves and put the mark of honour in perpetuity on all those who joined the Royal Standard before 1783 and adhered to the unity of the Empire. The term 'United Empire Loyalist' was coined only in 1851 by a British historian. By the so-called Executive List, only Upper Canada recorded those who obtained land as Loyalists. Every Loyalist is not recorded here, however; and the Loyalty of some who were listed was later doubted, so that they were struck off the list. Mr. Arnold Nethercott, second vice-president of the Branch, traced the coming of the Loyalists to South-western Ontario. Geography influenced how the Loyalists spread through Upper Canada. Between eight and eleven thousand Loyalists came first to the St. Lawrence, Bay of Quinte, and Niagara Peninsula areas. Meanwhile, the Six Nations Indians were given the land along both sides of the Grand River, which then became a barrier to the settlement of the western part of the province. When in 1792 Quebec was broken into Upper and Lower Canada, however, people went to the Long Point settlement. Fleeing persecution in Pennsylvania, the Delaware Indians had come to south-western Ontario in the middle of the eighteenth century. After travelling the Thames Indian trail to Detroit, Simcoe eventually established at the Forks of the Thames, what became the City of London, originally chosen to be the capital of Canada under the name of Georgina (commemorating the reign of George III) . The Loyalists and particularly their sons and daughters Thames River area from the Long Point settlement via the Talbot Road, once an Indian trail known as the Ridge Trail. Documents of the coming exist from 1796 on. Ebenezer Alban was granted 2200 acres at Delaware, and could be called the first Loyalist in the area. Daniel Springer, a member of Butler's Rangers, also came and became a Magistrate in the London District. Because of loyalism, land was acquired in south western Ontario as late as 1850 (about three generations after the original Loyalists). Mr. Nethercott displayed a large map diagramming the south western Ontario Loyalists. They comprised between three and five percent of all the Loyalists.

The meeting closed with a lively discussion from the audience, followed by refreshments graciously provided by the host Society.

At the April meeting the London and Western Ontario Branch paid tribute to the beloved Chaplain and Treasurer, Ven. Archdeacon Lionel Abram Nelles, who passed away on March 17. A certificate of membership was also presented to Mr. Brock Crawford, who recently transferred his residence from Peterborough to London.

The Dominion President, Mr. John Aikman, honoured the Branch with an address on the aims of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada as they apply to-day. He traced the history of the Association from the establishment of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Ontario in 1896 to the Royal charter of 1914, allowing the extension of the association across Canada with headquarters in Toronto.

The Loyalists themselves were a multicultural group with the common bond of loyalty to the British Crown and the British form of government. Many of the Loyalists were so busy getting settled in their new home that they didn't get their names registered on Loyalist boards, as there were in Ontario, for the recording of Loyalist land petitions; and records of military service are not complete. All those who served with Butler's Rangers, for example, are not known.

Lord Dorchester conferred the U.E. Mark of Honour on those who lived in the United States of America before the War of Independence, joined the Royal Standard before the end of the War, and were not only entitled therefore to claim land but cultivated that land. The United Empire Loyalists' Association does not, however, include the mark of Honour as a requirement for membership, but does require proof of

Genealogical descent from a Loyalist. The common bond is the claiming of an ancestor who suffered in retaining his loyalty.

Many suggestions were offered by the audience concerning development of appreciation for Canada's legacy of monarchy and awareness of Canada's loyalist heritage, as well as future ways of planning the commemoration of the Loyalist bicentennial.

The meeting closed with the election of the new executive for 1979-80, and the presentation by the outgoing President of a framed Jubilee portrait of Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip at Government House in Ottawa.

The May meeting of the London and Western Ontario Branch was held at Fanshawe Pioneer Village. Despite the unsettled weather, the hardy Loyalist descendants enjoyed a very thorough guided tour of the authentically furnished log cabins, storied frame houses, austere schools, and crowded workshops and general store.

Afterwards everyone appreciated the picnic meal in the spacious Orange Hall, modernized comfortably enough to provide welcome hot beverages.

1980 Spring

Greatly stimulated by the fine convention and annual meeting last May hosted by the Governor Simcoe Branch in Toronto, we express appreciation to the Governor Simcoe Branch and Dominion Council. Individuals who vacationed in the Mohawk Valley, or Saint John will be contributing to our programs and projects. At least seven newly-certificated members have been welcomed, some from the IT .S. We regret the death of a charter member, Mr. Roger Eamer of Chatham, whose enthusiasm aided the early years of the Branch.

In October the Rev. Orlo Miller, London historical writer and genealogist, recounted his 43-year-long project of correcting and extending the Roster of Butler's Rangers. He has now listed about 850 names, even after eliminating some spelling variant duplications from Cruikshank and Van Dusen. Reasons for finding more Rangers include cases of short service due to release with old age, death on active service, and transfer from other regiments and back again. Some Rangers without heirs for subsequent land claims never would appear in those lists. Think of deserters, one shot as a spy by the Rangers, and even one murdered in Barracks by a fellow Ranger and wife! Orlo reminisced about old Walter Butler, (the father of Col. John and true pioneer of the Mohawk Valley who sold land to Sir William Johnson,) as though he were an old Mend. He praised the fine treatment of Blacks and Indians by these Tory families. Orlo – Miller's cross-indexed card file contains up to 5,000 cards, and he would like to publish the data. Colourful individual cases proved him a great raconteur.

Branch member Judith Jamieson Mitton UE., of Chatham pleased us in November with her presentation of UE Loyalists in the Western District. The previous month a Windsor seminar for Essex, Kent and Lambton find land Registry, but also gave resources. Judith named numerous old families of which about two-thirds originated in Pennsylvania. Some treasure family histories, but no collection or organized account of settlement in the Western District has yet been made. Questions about church records and old

cemeteries and present research were also answered by her husband, David Mitton, president of Kent Genealogical Chapter.

We are starting to compile a slide and tape Branch History. For the Bicentennial, conceptual planning for liaison with other London historical and genealogical groups is under way.

About fourteen members were prepared to look back from January, 1980, to the times when their Loyalist ancestors were very mobile people indeed. Jim Zavitz described how an early "lady ancestor of Shirley (McCorquodale) Zavitz was repeatedly widowed and moving for survival until descendant James Turner emigrated from Castine on the Penobscot River and his descendants eventually to Pickering Township and Milton. Betty MacMillan is descended from Capt. Michael Grass, whose adventures took him from a German state to England, and from Indian captivity in America to the founding of Kingston.

Duncan Hoople's ancestor, Michael Hoople, and sons John and Henry left Germany for the Mohawk Valley, then pioneered Hoople's Creek on the St. Lawrence near the Long Sault Rapids. John Eaman similarly traced Laurence Eaman from Germany to the Mohawk Valley, and his son Jacob as a settler in Stormont County only two lots distant from the Hooples. And now neighbours in London!

Douglas Crawford gave the lives of Huguenot Rattans on the Hudson River who left in 1783 on the brig "Hope", taking nine weeks to reach Quebec. Their child died on the trek from Sorel to Adolphustown. A Methodist convert felt obliged to burn his popular violin, and the owner of the first clock always blew her dinner horn at twelve o'clock sharp so the community would know the time. In the 1788 hungry year, two black slaves were sent back to Albany with a pack horse and returned with four life-saving bushels of Indian Corn. Philip Roblin is another ancestor. Ruth Crawford described New Jersey veteran Andrew Denike's exploits in Kingston. His take-home pay in silver coins for building the dock heavily loaded a two-wheeled horse-drawn cart. Court records of a boat skirmish near Wolfe Island with American official Hart Massey, out of Sacket's Harbour, exemplified near-piracy tension eventually culminating in the hostilities of 1812.

Helen Pincombe displayed the 1755 parchment land grant with large hanging seal of her Scottish forebear, Donald McCall obtained after service in the Seven Years' War. Later in a New Jersey Regiment, he served at two Ticonderoga battles and in Cuba. One of Grace Spencer's ancestors, Solomon Austin, went from Wales to Maryland, ultimately settling near Simcoe in the Lynn Valley. Another was Elder Titus Finch, who became a Baptist circuit preacher at Long Point. The Catherine Rockefeller named in the family was unfortunately a poor relation.

Don Carroll gave Margaret Carroll's story of James Burwell. Of English origin, the family lived in Virginia, then New Jersey. He obtained a grant in New Brunswick, but went instead to Pennsylvania. Eventually coming to Bertie Township, he obtained land at Southwold, near the Talbot Road by 1810, in time to be harassed by Kentucky raiders. The Carrolls' home today is nearby. Marguerite Dow's descent from Richard Markell, an Alsace Huguenot, was traced to New York, the Mohawk Valley, and Niagara. Another family branch spelled Merkley went to Williamsburg.

Maurice Comfort quoted humorous excerpts from contemporary letters about the surveying career of Allan McDonald in various areas of Ontario. Maurice also advised on the use of land petitions in the London Public Library, and old surveys in the Regional Collection of U.W.O.'s Weldon Library. With many fine contributors two were postponed until February, when Arnold Nethercott - told of the Lockwoods, from Glanford to Caradoc, and the Springers, from Barton Township to Delaware. By slides of buildings in Grimsby, Netta Brandon showed where Allan and Mary (Moore) Nixon, their in-laws, Robert and Elizabeth (Moore) Nelles, and their children had lived and worked and worshipped. Branch members

Doris Hoskins and Fred Kingsmill are also descendants of the former, and Mary Nelles connected with the latter.

On the topic, "Loyalist Days on the Saint John River", Miss Clara Tisdale showed pictures from last July's celebration and of historic scenes in Fredericton and Saint John. Maps of Land Grants from the Archives of New Brunswick were also of great interest. Her Tisdale ancestors had been in Massachusetts before coming to New Brunswick. She found material about her great-uncle, Walker Tisdale, whose ships had sailed to the Barbados and West Indies, and berthed at Tisdale's Slip, now the Coast Guard location in Saint John. This man died in 1857, before the great fire of '77 wiped out the store and indeed all the area's buildings, but the name still lingers in a street-name'. Clara's Tisdale family moved up to Ontario after 1808 to Simcoe. James Tisdale in 1837 sheltered William Lyon Mackenzie before his escape to the U.S., but Col. David Tisdale was a staunch Tory. A classmate of Egerton Ryerson, he became a lawyer and M.P. and Minister of Mines and Transportation, Clara fittingly remarked that she hoped U.E. descendants were not guilty of puffed-up family pride. because telling of their ancestors' Counties' historical and genealogical groups had heard this. By concisely tracing the Loyalist set-up from Lord Dorchester on through nineteenth-century changes and the aims of our Association, this effective speaker \ provided excellent public relations. She warned of Loyalist semantics and the complexity of places to contributions to business and public life, church-building and community leadership, all made a far better memorial than a tombstone, and could inspire Canadians today.

Canadians today.

Netta Brandon ended the program with slides of Loyalist buildings at King's Landing, the village recreated on the Saint John River by the Mactaquac Hydro Project. Perhaps you would like to be "Squire John's" guests for pancake breakfasts, guided tours, lobster suppers, the re-enacted Loyalist Landing, and much more in Saint John in 1980 from Tuesday to Saturday, July 15 to 19, when Loyalist Days live again.

1980 Fall

April 1980's speaker, Dr. Colin Read, is Assistant Professor of History at Huron College, London, Ontario, which is affiliated with University of Western Ontario. He presented "The Historiography of the Loyalists" (the official written history) by providing a select bibliography of fourteen books which are popularly used in secondary schools and University history courses.

Historians pose three questions about the Loyalists who came to Canada: Who were they, in terms of ethnicity, social class, and American place of origin? What did they believe? What impact did they make on Canada over a period of time? Written history is available from the 1850's, but reaches a peak for the Centennial of 1884. Egerton Ryerson's 1880 "The Loyalists of America and their Times" is of greater interest because of its prominent author than as objective history. Carl Berger's 1970 "The Sense of Power" presents some factors involved in Loyalist thinking such as Romanticism Filiopietism, later position of declining importance, insecurity from rapid industrial change and massive European immigration, and opposition to American Reciprocity movement.

Esther C. Wright was 25 years ahead of the present fashion for the quantitative approach in "The Loyalists of New Brunswick," which showed the settlers as a whole to be a cross-section of the American Society they left behind. The brevity of this report prevents dealing with such historians as James H. Coyne (1898), Henry Scadding (1892), E.A. Cruikshank (934) and J.J. Talman (1946 and 1967).

The Loyalist chapters in three widely-used textbooks by H.H. Herstein with L.J. Hughes and R.C. Kirbyson (1970), and by Edgar McInnis (1948 revised 1969), and by J.M.S. Careless (1953) variously point out that more pioneer farmers came to Ontario, but more urbanites were in the Maritimes. They did come on principle, and for love of Britain, but Dr. Read indicated we still need individual studies and

documentation regarding their motives. If some American frontiersmen were illiterate, how much could they have known about British tradition? However, the Loyalists brought the Conservative outlook to Ontario, with its distrust of Republicanism.

Dr. Leslie Upton in "The United Empire Loyalists: Men and Myths" concluded that because Nova Scotia was already organized with local officials, the new Loyalists did not dominate the scene: however, in the Upper Canadian wilderness they became predominant among leaders.

Political scientist D.J. Bell's view of "The Loyalist Tradition in Canada," based on John Locke's philosophy, found longterm benefit from differences among Loyalists, but not distinct ideologies. Loyalists were anti-American but inarticulate about what they wanted, perhaps setting the long trend of Canadian lack of positive national attitudes.

Thus stimulated, the members raised questions about the part played by religion, and the lack of biographies about common folk, and statistics and Petitions, etc. available locally today. During a brief Annual Meeting, officers were returned for a second year, except that Mrs. Ruth Crawford became Treasurer, and Maurice Comfort Membership Convenor.

Several members benefitted from the "Basics of Historical Writing" one-day workshop offered by the Ontario Historical Society at King's College, London, in May. Professor Jacques Goutor discussed organizing material, preparing to write, linkage, effectiveness, and pitfalls. Fictitious documents were provided for practice material and subsequent criticisms in the afternoon.

Of course our Branch felt special pride when Mr. John Eaman became President of the U E L Association of Canada at the Toronto Annual Meeting, and extend best wishes to him and thanks to Mr. Jack Aikman, retiring President. We are confident of John's abilities because he was our first Branch President.

Picnic weather prevailed in June for the drive from Union in Elgin County, site of former Zavitz mills, to the St. Williams Forestry Centre, founded by a Dr. Zavitz. Convenor Mrs. Helen Pincombe of St. Thomas provided written commentaries about the Fruit Ridge, and the quaint buildings in Sparta, especially the Sparta Mercantile Friends' Meeting House of 1865, the original having dated from 1819. Tobacco farming and summer resorts abound today. Stripping the original pine forests for the Buffalo lumber market led to sandy ruin until the Province reforested.

In Simcoe, Curator Bill Yeager - a Loyalist of the Grand River Branch welcomed us to the Eva Brook Donly Museum. This 1840s former Postmaster's home is noted not only for its paintings, antiques, maritime historical objects, etc. but also for its Library and Archives of Norfolk County history and genealogy, and prerevolutionary American roots. This treasure trove provided a great finale to our season's activities.

Persons wishing to become members of our Branch should write to Mrs. Netta Brandon, 374 Wharncliffe Road North, London, Ontario N6G 1E6.

1981 Spring

Research near and far set the theme for the autumn meetings.

Maurice and Jean Comfort are both U.E. in descent from Rebecca Field and the New Brunswick Lawrence family respectively. They have gained experience "rooting around" in Britain. Now, with slides, Maurice showed their bus trip to Salt Lake City to further their English and Irish lines in the world-wide genealogical collections of the Mormon Archives. Place names en route recalled the hard

Mormon migration of 1846-7 through Winter Quarters, between Iowa and Nebraska, Immigration Canyon, and on to "The Place" in Utah.

In the five-storey Archives are recorded ancestors of non Mormons, with guides available, and one floor for Canada and F.S.A., and another for Britain and Europe. Maurice and Jean had organized their queries, established time priorities, and even studied paleography to decipher the script of old wills and parish registers. They took along Xeroxes of finding aids and pertinent excerpts from their previous research, to save the time of borrowing library books when on the scene. They enjoyed daily recitals at the Tabernacle, and saw the unique architecture and memorial sculptures of Temple Square, and lovely gardens, for relaxation. Then back to search among 400,000 microfilms, which are readily accessible, and one million more in cabinets. People may use 200 readers from 7:30 a.m. until 10 p.m. many days of the week. In their opinion, serious research in Salt Lake City should be undertaken before going abroad to Britain, because records are centrally held at Salt Lake City, but many different places must be sought out abroad.

Mrs. Helen Pincombe, F.E., of St. Thomas, Ont. presented the Branch with a copy of her recent book, "The Military History of Donald McCall, F.E." which occurred in the French-Indian Wars. We are proud of her achievement, and pleased that she is also donating a copy to Headquarters, Toronto.

The following month the Branch met at the London Stake Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon) to hear their assistant librarian, Mrs. James (Muriel) Moon demonstrate with her own pedigree how to discover ancestors. Look up the surname in the International Genealogical Index, to determine the location. (They have strong holdings for north eastern U.S.A.) This leads on to Parish. Records, Local Histories, etc. Microfilms are then ordered on loan from Salt Lake City for various lengths of time. Forty to fifty million names of individuals have been extracted. In London 4 microfilm readers, 2 microfiche readers, and one microfilm printer with Mormon volunteer staff may be used by appointment for 30 minutes or 1 hour Thursday and Friday evenings and Saturdays.

1981 Autumn

The London and Western Ontario Branch began 1981 by hearing fellow branch-member cum Dominion president Mr John A. Eaman speak on "The Loyalists: Focus on the Future". When chartered in 1897 at the peak of British Empire fervour. the Association naturally felt quite elite. Now. with the national changes of four decades, our strength and survival lie in stressing the common and equal aspects of loyal Canadians. Surface threats to the unity of Canada must not hit at what has always been the Loyalist core: continuing to make institutions workable. "Living tradition" challenges heads as well as hearts. The influence of the late Dr. Dorland (of our own city of London) was recalled. Our future watch on fulfilling our purposes might include Bicentennial outreach especially to young people and Branch expansion even beyond our present 23 in eight provinces. Birthday cake for the speaker was enjoyed.

Branch representatives attended the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation meeting in Toronto. and found stimulation for Bicentennial planning from Mr. Carl Thorpe. of the Heritage Conservation Division.

Ruth and Douglas Crawford in February presented "Some Family Sketches from the Quinte Area". Through incidents in the lives of various Denikes. Roblins. and Ruttans we saw dock-building. the founding of Hay Bay Methodist Church. and a provocative hostage-taking by the Americans before the war of 1812 began to mention only a few vivid events.

Thanks to our member. Professor Marguerite Dow who is President in London of the Monarchist league. we enjoyed jointly in April a gala dinner to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's birthday. The

speaker. Dr. Richard Toparoski of Toronto. warned us of how links with our Queen have been weakened. but had specific suggestions for Canadians to strengthen them.

Arnold Nethercott coordinated the April Workshop on "My Loyalist Family History" which is to be compiled for a Branch Bicentennial project. We welcome him as our new President. Vice-President is Douglas Crawford. past president. Netta Brandon: Secretary. Ross Rupert: Treasurer. Ruth Crawford: Genealogist. Jim Zavitz: Assistant. A. Nethercott: Social Conveners - Marv Nelles, Norma King and Eleanor Fleck: Membership. Maurice Comfort: Chaplain. Bishop M. Robinson: Historian. Leslie Gray: President Emeritus John Eaman.

The members who were able to travel to Ottawa in late May for the Convention greatly enjoyed the hospitable arrangements of the Sir Guy Carleton Branch. and appreciated the dedicated work revealed in the reports presented by officers and chairmen of committees at the Annual Meeting.

A perfect June day in unspoiled. bucolic South Oxford County ended our season. About 30 members from the district, Oakville, Chatham, and Wallaceburg had a picnic at the farm home and art studio of Ross and Ruby Butler, R.R. 4. Woodstock. Ross displayed his domestic animal and historic paintings, and reminisced about the large butter sculptures at the C.N.E. and Royal Winter Fairs. By chartered bus. Ross gave the local lore of the Old Stage Road. We saw the new post-tornado Oxford Centre. Quaker Street. which bristled with discord in 1837 and. Otter Creek. The Norwich and District Historical Museum in the 1889 brick. former Meeting House of the Society of Friends has fine displays of rural life. pioneer handicrafts. and vast. mirrored dispensing cabinets and contents from Ionson's Drug Store. The next-door Archives and Pioneer farm equipment in a barn at the rear also were full of interest. We proceeded to Innesfree Conference Centre, saw the octagonal house at Springford. and many fine residences through Phillipsburg to Ingersoll. Some of the party concluded with dinner at 1872 "Elm Hurst", Victorian Gothic villa formerly of the Harris cheese-making family near Ingersoll.

1982 Spring

At our October 27th meeting Mr. Carl Thorpe, Ministry of Culture and Recreation, spoke to the 27 attendees on an informal basis regarding the Ministry's plans for the 1984 bicentennial observance of the coming of the Loyalists to this province. Your executive will be acting on several of his recommendations to enhance our branch participation.

On November 24th there was a larger-than-expected turnout of more than fifty to hear Mr. Gerald Rogers, President of Heritage Branch, Montreal, make an exceedingly fine slide and-narration presentation on the areas from whence our Loyalist ancestors originated in both the Old and New Worlds. Mr. Arnold Nethercott, President, expressed appreciation to him for coming and sharing his experiences and slides with us.

Our January 1982 meeting was shared with the London Branch, Architectural Conservancy Society of Ontario, with our past president and the current president of that organization, Mrs. Netta Brandon, giving a very fine slide-and-narration commentary on Colonial Architecture in America. The turnout of both groups was good considering the wintery difficulties of travel and parking, and the programme excellent follow-on Rogers' November presentation.

Our congratulations go to Mr. Robert Moore, for whom a certificate has been received from Dominion Headquarters, and to others who are very near completing applications. We urge you, who are still working on your documentation to press on, and by all means to seek advice if you feel you need it.

Members are reminded that there will not be a March meeting, so the next scheduled meeting will be on April 27th when it is planned that the John Blackburn UE of Kent County story will be presented.

Our Dominion President, John Eaman UE, has asked that we try to double our membership by 1984, and we can do so easily if each and every member, regular, affiliate, and associate brings in at least one new member. Better still, why don't we bring in a new member, each year, 1982, 1983 and 1984. In that way, we can really make some significant gains in our membership.

Your executive is looking for suggestions for other projects that the Branch can become involved in, as well as ways that we can get the community involved. Give us your ideas, and we will see what can be done with them.

Finally, let us see you on Tuesday the 23rd, and let us hear that page from your ancestor's history; and let us not forget that the distaff side of our ancestral families must certainly have had their own stories, so some tales of their experiences will hopefully be included.

1982 Autumn

Members of the London Branch have been approached by the London Library and Museum Board. Offering facilities for a library and possibly a meeting-room at Lawson Museum. 1017 Western Road. London. Londoners know the Museum as the Samuel Peters estate. Grosvenor Lodge. There was a tour of the facilities of the Genealogical Centre. being manned on a volunteer-basis by some members of the London Branch. Ontario Genealogical Society. on Tuesdays. Fridays and Saturdays. The purpose of the Centre is to alleviate the floods of visitors to the Regional Collection. The University of Western Ontario. and provide them with a place where they can get advice on records available in the area. After our picnic supper. on the lawn. interested visitors returned to the Centre.

Arrangements for the coming 1982-83 season have been made for a classroom and faculty lounge facilities. as we have enjoyed during the past year. through the courtesy of our penultimate past president. Prof. Marguerite Dow. to whom we are deeply indebted for arrangements made during previous years, as well as during the past year. It is because of her position on the faculty of Althouse College. that we are able to use the facilities at the College. The idea of having a place for our modest library is also worthy of consideration. When all members have turned in their histories of their' Loyalist ancestor(s), we shall need a spot to display them.

Twenty-seven members attended our April meeting on the 27th, when our good friends. Mrs. Judy Mitton. Mrs. Helen Blackburn. and Miss Diane French, provided the programme. They showed us a slide-and-tape presentation about "romantic Kent", with the emphasis on its genealogical past. They are to be congratulated for a first class presentation. Through slides. we toured Kent County from Chatham. then to Lake Erie. then back through the mainly agricultural. countryside of the finest agriculture in the country. to the Thames. and on to Lake St. Clair. and the oldest. settled part of the County. The ladies then followed the presentation with the story of Helen Blackburn's husband's Loyalist ancestor. John Blackburn. who although he came late to the area. founded a dynasty. which still thrives in the area.

At our last meeting, three certificates were presented to: Mr. Robert Moore, St. Thomas, Mrs. R.T. Moore, and to Rev. James Van Slyke. Come on those of you who have not yet completed your certification research. Our genealogist. James R. Zavitz will help if you ask. Members were admiring of the new-look certificates.

1984 December

In honour of Ontario's bicentennial, a Loyalist play "The Constant Mind", has been written by Edwin R. Procunier, who is, himself, of Loyalist descent. The play was produced by the London Community

Players and has been accepted for publication. soon to be available.

We have undertaken a compilation of the genealogical background of our branch members. Other branch projects are a trip to Fort Malden at Amherstburg (a tour of the area followed by several addresses of historical content). special exhibits at the Children's Museum and Centennial Museum, and a dinner in November with guest speaker, Robert Nixon.

1986 December

London Branch reports some very successful activities beginning with the picnic last spring and a field trip along the Thames River as far as Kent County Loyalist areas. Arnold Nethercott and Shirley Willcox gave commentaries and answered questions at each stop.

October's meeting was held at St. Thomas where members toured both the Pioneer and the Military Museum and heard an account of the War of 1812 by George Thorman.

In November the Branch met at the Lawson Museum in London to hear about the excellent resources of the London Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. After a question period members were given the opportunity to make use of the film readers.

The January meeting at the Children's Museum will have Dr. Paul Keown who will speak on early medicine and diseases of our ancestors.

The main project of our branch is the indexing of the London District marriage registers for the years 1833-1853. Volunteers are needed to do film reading in their own homes.

1994 Spring

With the passing of two prominent historians, J.J. Talman and H. Orlo Miller, London and district has suffered Irreplaceable losses...

Talman Remembered for His Interest in People by Doug Bale, *The London Free Press*,
November 23, 1993

James John Talman, who pursued, preserved and popularized his country's history, has become part of it at last. He died Sunday in London at age 89. He retired in 1970 after 23 years as the University of Western Ontario's chief librarian. Months later he was made an officer of the Order of the British Empire, not only for his services to the university but also for his work as a historian, with more than 300 publications.

Perhaps his best-known work is *Winter Studies and Summer Rambles*, Anna Jameson's impressions of pioneer Canada, co-edited with E.M. Murray in 1943 and still in print.

Fellow historian Fred Armstrong says Talman's most notable quality was the enthusiasm he communicated - "enthusiasm for local work and local history. He was always ready to advise and help on new projects. Until two years ago, he still had an office at the university and he was in every day." He thoroughly deserved his "Professor Emeritus" standing.

Ontario provincial archivist and legislative librarian before coming to UWO of 1939, Talman was an archive in himself, Armstrong recalls.

"He had an astonishing collection of notes. You'd mention that you were working on something and he'd say 'Oh yes, I have a note about that somewhere' he'd noted down back in 1930 or so. He'd remember exactly where he'd found it."

Talman said his interest was always "people - what they had to eat, what they did for sport, how they lived, what they died of."

With his wife Ruth, who survives him, he wrote histories of UWO, and a history of Huron College. He had headed the Canadian Historical Association, the Ontario Library Association and the Governor-General's Award board.

UEL Ties

Dr. Talman was long associated with the UELAC, firstly as an associate editor of *The Loyalist Gazette* from Autumn, 1972 issue and from 1977 as Honorary Vice-President.

He was the guest speaker at several London Branch functions. Although born in Mozambique, Africa, he had a special interest in Loyalists and was editor for the Champlain edition of *Loyalist Narratives of Upper Canada* a collection of memoirs of Loyalists and their sons and daughters.

Orlo Miller; author, minister, historian by Doug Bale, *The London Free Press*

Orlo Miller, who at 52 became an Anglican priest, was widely known as an author and historian.

His widest fame was as the author of *The Donnellys Must Die*, his 1962 history of an infamous feud and massacre in pioneer Biddulph Township near Lucan, and *Death To The Donnellys*, a 1975 follow-up written as a novel. Miller estimated that together they sold more than 100,000 copies. He also wrote more than 50 plays, most of them for radio.

Miller produced nearly a score of books, on subjects ranging from bizarre Canadian murders to the 1816 explosion of the Indonesian island of Sumbawa. His last was the illustrated local history, *This Was London*, which appeared in 1988.

He remained active as an historian, with a special interest in the preservation of London landmarks.

Miller began his career with *The Free Press* in 1932 and produced radio programs for CFPL Radio until 1945.

In 1944, he began freelancing for the CBC. For over 20 years he sold plays, documentaries and stories to them, as well as to CBS and BBC.

He is survived by his wife Maridon, his son Gordon Kevin Miller and his sister Mae Miller Tennant.

{Editor's note: H. Orlo Miller was a dedicated researcher of Butler's Rangers. Although not a UE, Miller addressed the London Branch on many occasions. Article submitted by Arnold Nethercott.}

1996 Spring

Quilt Winner

London and Western Ontario Branch UELAC is pleased to announce that Mr. Glen Curnoe of London has won the Heritage Quilt which was raffled to fund our Education Outreach Program. While not of Loyalist ancestry, Mr. Curnoe has assisted many Loyalists in doing research in his position as Curator of the London Room at the London Public Library. Congratulations to Mr. Curnoe, and thanks to all who supported our project.

1997 Spring

1996 Regular Meetings: An Overview

January: John Sigsworth traced John Wesley's involvement with the American Revolution. When Wesley reversed his initial sympathy with the colonists, the Methodist movement suffered. Among the many Methodist Loyalists who fled to British North America was Barbara Heck who became the 'Mother of Methodism' in Upper Canada February: Five members of the *Community Players of London* and the playwright, Prof. Ed. Proconier, presented a dramatic reading of Prof. Proconier's play 'The Constant Mind'. The play and the actors captured the drama of the maltreatment, the heroic determination, the despair and the hope experienced by Loyalists.

March: It is now a tradition of our Branch to join the London and Middlesex Historical Society for one meeting each year. This year we enjoyed hearing Prof. Fred Armstrong describe the machinations of one of London's early con men, John Wesley Kermott. Obviously, Kermott did not live up to the high standard set by his Christian names!

April: Attired as the Rev. David Springer, Arnold Nethercott, one-time National President, relived the life of this Methodist circuit rider whose twofold mission during the Revolution was to preach the Word and to "Beat the standard for John Butler" i.e. to recruit volunteers for Butler's Rangers.

September: Angela Files, authority on Joseph Brant and on Brant County, gave an excellent presentation entitled "Joseph Brant: A Man of Two Cultures." Brant's skills and accomplishments were all the more notable because he bestrode two distinct cultures.

October: We were privileged to have the reincarnation of Private Martin Walter, 1st Batt'n, K.R.R.N.Y., address us, albeit in a strong German accent. 'Private Walter' is the persona adopted by Mr. Keith Croucher when he visits Grade 7 and 8 classes in London and area as part of our Branch's educational outreach.

November: At our annual Pot-Luck Supper, paradoxically, the delicious feast was followed by the reading of an excerpt from William Kirby's poem, 'The Hungry Year'.

Special Events in 1996

The Loyalist story was taken to the Dorchester Heritage Fair, the Genealogical Fair at London Public Library and the 20th annual Norfolklore Genealogical Fair. Visitors to these fairs are attracted by the striking display created by our member, John Rogers.

There were bicentenaries to be celebrated. Several members attended the Butler Bicentenary at Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Bicentenary of the Founding of Vittoria. A special edition of our Branch newsletter, *The Update*, included a brief biography of Colonel John Butler and a listing of the eighteen members of our Branch who are descendants of Butler's Rangers.

In June, at the Annual General Meeting of the U.E.L.A.C. in Halifax, our Branch President, Bernice Flett, was elected National president. That same month, at the Eldon House - London's oldest residence and one with strong Loyalist ties- Garden Party, Bernice presented both the Loyalist flag and the Canadian flag to Eldon House.

In August, she presented both flags to Trinity Anglican Church of Port Burwell on the occasion of its 160th anniversary. The presentation of both flags by a descendant of a Loyalist emphasizes the original and continuing loyalty of U.E.L.s. *Ut incepit fidelis sic permanet.*

Trinity was built and endowed by Col. Mohlon Burwell, the Loyalist land surveyor for Col. Thomas Talbot who surveyed most of Elgin and Middlesex Counties. Mahlon never lived in the town but his sons did and many of the early settlers were of Loyalist parentage.

1997 - thus far

January: The Branch's Annual General Meeting was held. Our guest speaker, Myrna Fox, Membership Chairperson, U.E.L.A.C., enthusiastically narrated her search - a very fruitful one - for her forebears in Connecticut.

This was also the occasion for Bernice Flett to hand over the gavel to her successor as Branch President, Mr. Don Axford, UE. Bernice can, with pride, look back on her time in office. We wish her well as she continues her role as National President.

By Gene Corbet, UE

1999 Spring

Irene Eaman, London, Ontario

London Branch suffered a great loss on 10 December 1998, with the sudden passing of Irene Eaman, wife of Charter President, John Eaman. It was in the Eaman home that the first meetings to organize our Branch were held. For 25 years, Irene was an enthusiastic Associate member welcoming newcomers and supporting our activities.

Irene was active in teachers' groups, in the Women's Canadian Club, in her church and was devoted to her family and friends. Her grace and friendliness will be missed by everyone who knew her. Our sympathy is extended to John and his family.

[From: *Update*, the London Branch newsletter]

1999 Fall

Aug/98. Forty members visited the Edison Museum in Vienna, Ont. Our mission there was to recognize the Loyalist ancestry of Thomas Alva Edison. To that end, we presented the museum with a Loyalist flag, a brief history of his Loyalist ancestors, and a genealogy of the Edisons. We then proceeded to Port Burwell where we visited several Loyalist and other historic sites.

Oct./98. Bernice Flett presented a slide show of the Gerry Rogers Memorial Mohawk Valley Tour, 1998.

Nov./98. We celebrated our 25th anniversary in the same dining room where, on May 26, 1973, Howard W. Warner presented the Branch's charter to our Founding President, John Eaman. Among the 60 attending, there were three former National Presidents; John Eaman, Arnold Nethercott, and Bernice Flett, and the current National President, Ed Scott. In his remarks, John Eaman paid special tribute to the energetic leadership of Jim Zavitz, Arnold Nethercott, Bob Tordiff, and Bernice Flett.

Feb./99. In a presentation of remarkable scope, President Marg Glover sought to answer "Whence Came Your Ancestors and Why?" She explained why our Loyalist ancestors, of diverse origins, migrated from the Old World to the New.

Mar/99. Each March, we meet with the London and Middlesex Historical Society and alternate responsibility for the program. Our Branch organized a tour of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ont.

Apr/99. Our guest speaker was Mr. Bill Irwin, Executive Director of Fanshawe Pioneer Village. He presented the history of the Village and the goals to be reached in the next five years. At the same meeting, it was announced that our Branch membership had reached one hundred!

June/99. On June 19 and 20, we celebrated Loyalists' Weekend at Fanshawe Pioneer Village. Thanks to the organizing skills of Marg Glover, Bernice Flett, and Bill Irwin, it was a memorable event. On the 19th, a flagpole was dedicated and the Loyalist flag raised. At the same ceremony, certificates were presented to 18 new members. On the 20th a Loyalist church service was conducted by the Branch Chaplain, Rev. Robert Carson. In mid-afternoon, Loyalist Lane and a memorial plaque were dedicated. Fifty trees had been planted in memory of our Loyalist ancestors.

2000 Fall

In September of 1999 Jane Hughes gave a well-illustrated lecture on the history of gristmills in Ontario, and their workings. She and her husband have owned two gristmills and still own one.

In October of 1999 Gavin Watt, Colonel of the King's Royal Yorkers and author of *The Burning of the Valleys*, spoke on 'The American Revolution and Canada'.

Bernice Flett and Charles Wright informed us in November 1999 of the Loyalist 'New Settlement' which occupied the area from Amherstburg to just west of Point Pelee. Charles's family settled in the area. For Dec. 1999 Debbie Burr organized a Christmas social evening. The highlight was a slide show by Debbie's father-in-law. His photographs of rural Ontario illustrated that it is possible to turn the commonplace, the prose of everyday life, into beautiful verse. He is a Wordsworth with a camera.

At our Annual Meeting in Jan. 2000 John Sigsworth delivered an address on Barbara Heck. He traced her family from the Palatinate to England, then Ireland, where she came under the influence of John Wesley. She and her family carried Methodism to NY and then, as Loyalists, to Upper Canada.

In Feb. 2000 our Branch met for the first time outside London. The venue was St. Thomas where we were treated to an excellent lecture on the Battle of Lundy's Lane by noted speaker and historian Cliff Barwick.

In March 2000, we had our annual meeting with the London and Middlesex Historical Society. Prof. Colin Read of Huron College spoke on the treason trials of 1838 and 1839. His lecture was made all the more dramatic as it was given in the very courtroom where the trials took place.

As for April 2000, what better way to end our regular meetings for the year than to have a visit from Lt. Gov. John Graves Simcoe? Mr. Woody Lamb has adopted this persona so frequently in the past decade that it has become difficult to distinguish one from the other. Mr. Lamb then set aside 'Simcoe', and provided us with a brief biography of the man, noting, especially his military achievements. Joining Mr. Lamb in period attire were descendants of: a New Jersey Volunteer, A Jessup's Loyal Ranger, a Butler's Ranger, and a descendant each of Capt. John W. Meyers UE, and of the Rev. David Springer UE. It was a colourful assemblage!

In August we continued what has become a Branch tradition - touring historic sites within a day's drive from London. In 1998 we visited Vienna's Edison House, where we recognized the Loyalist ancestry of Thomas Edison with the presentation of the Loyalist flag, a genealogy of the Edison family and a brief history. Then we went on to Port Burwell, and returned via Nova Scotia Road, as it was originally called, and is called again, because so many Nova Scotian Loyalists settled along it.

Last year our tour took us to Delaware, Fairfield/Moraviantown, St. Peter's Church at Tyrconnell, and the Backus-Page House. The highlight was the visit to Moraviantown, because we had as our commentator, Linda Judd who had recently completed the first translation from German, of the journals of the Moravian missionaries from 1792 to 1813. Moraviantown was destroyed at the time of the Battle of the Thames, but the mission was refounded in 1815. The journals continued to be written in German until 1840 when they switched to English. They were discontinued in 1902.

This year's tour takes us to Tillsonburg, Sparta, Port Stanley, and St. Thomas.

In both 1999 and 2000 we celebrated Loyalists' Weekend at Fanshaw Pioneer Village. These were replete with: a town crier, period costumes, the raising of the Loyalist Flag, certificate presentations, display of the plaque commemorating the UE ancestors in whose names trees have been planted along Loyalists' Lane, and a church service. The Rev. Robert Carson preached memorable sermons on 'The Faith of the Loyalists' in 1999 and 'Loyalty' in 2000. Last year also saw the performance of Ed Procnier's moving Loyalist play, *The Constant Mind*.

By Gene Corbet UE

2003 Spring

The Branch undertook several new initiatives last year. As a number of our ancestors were involved in the War of 1812, we were eager to participate in the Education Day associated with the Battle of Longwoods re-enactment near Deleware, ON. Over 2,000 grade seven and eight students heard the story of our exile and resettlement only to find ourselves being chased off our farms by American soldiers once again. They also heard our opinion of (American) General Hull's proclamation, which assured the local inhabitants

that he knew we all just wanted to be Americans again. Some prominent local turncoat SUEs like Andrew Westbrook gave us a little gossip and indignation to add to the mix. We'll be doing a repeat performance on May 2, 2003.

We also put on a very successful Education Day in collaboration with Fanshawe Pioneer Village in London ON, to mark June 19th. Jane Hughes and Debbie Burr ran the schoolhouse, and Fred Berdan UE and Shirley Berdan UE welcomed the children to life in the log shanty. Bob Tordiff UE and Marvin Recker UE talked about their experiences in the Revolutionary War, and I met the children at the frame house and told about the long trek from Pennsylvania. Bruce Bedell helped the children burn off a little energy by building a snake fence, and Bernice Flett UE presented the video, *The World Turned Upside Down*. The Thames Valley District School Board already has Loyalist Day/ Fanshawe Village Posters for this coming June 19th.

We initiated an essay contest to complement the new Ontario curriculum, which includes a study of the Loyalists at the Grade 7 level. Three of the four winners attended the Loyalist Day Celebration last June 16th. They were Yaru Un, Sarah Cuddie, and Kristen Beastall. The essay topic was, "Ontario's Loyalist Heritage: Who were the Loyalists and how did they influence the development of this Province?"

By Jan Pennycook UE

2006 Fall

Our Branch has had a busy year. We had our displays set up for Heritage Week at a local library. We presented geraniums in memory of Loyalist descendants who participated in the War of 1812 at the Longwoods re-enactment and also donated geraniums to Fanshawe Pioneer Village for the gardens around the flagpole and a rock with a plaque commemorating the "*Loyalist Lane*," trees, planted around the quad, that were donated by members in memory of Loyalist ancestors.

In May we held a joint luncheon with the Monarchist League at Grosvenor Lodge and in June were out at Fanshawe Pioneer Village to celebrate Loyalist Day with a flag-raising and church service and afternoon information session with our displays, a video, a quilting display and members on-hand to talk with the public.

By Jane Hughes UE

2008 Spring

Our Branch celebrated Loyalist Day at Fanshawe Pioneer Village last June. We had a flag-raising prior to our service held in the Anglican Church at Fanshawe, a procession to the marker for "*Loyalist Lane*," trees planted in honour of our Loyalist ancestors, lunch, and then an afternoon of displays and information for visitors to the Village. In the fall season, we were pleased to have Peter Johnson UE as our speaker and presenter of our latest certificates. Bernice Flett UE gave an interesting and informative talk on the Jamestown Settlement. We also had Donna Moore, who gave a talk on the Moore House, Sparta, built in 1822 by the son of Samuel Moore UE. This house is still under threat of demolition. At present, the repugnant "*compromise*" is that the owners will keep the shell, (house updated 1970s) as a garage to a new house. Needless to say, our community is quite upset at the potential loss of this historic Quaker home but there may yet be hope.

Our Christmas meeting was held at Westmount Library, where we meet the second Tuesday of each month except January & February and July & August.

Sherri Pettit is our Web Master and our news will posted regularly through the web site.

By Jane Hughes UE, Outreach and Education Chairperson

2010 Fall

June 2009: As is the usual custom, London Branch celebrated Loyalist Day in Ontario at Fanshawe Pioneer Village. Town Crier, Don McIlmoyle, made the opening proclamation, followed by the raising of the Loyalist flag and the singing of the Royal Anthem. The church service was held in historic Trinity Anglican Church and, in lieu of a sermon, three members expressed their ideas of the three core values of the UELAC as first conceived by Bernice Flett UE, Past Dominion President. Arnold Nethercott UE spoke about loyalty, June Klassen UE, Branch President, spoke about courage and Don McIlmoyle talked about faith. Following the service members and visitors walked to the UEL Memorial Boulder led by Bob Tordiff UE and Gerry Tordiff where a wreath of geraniums was placed and Gerry explained the significance of Loyalist Day. After lunch in the Village Café, visitors viewed historic and genealogy displays set up in the Brewery Building.

October 2009: London Branch was honoured that Dominion President Fred Hayward UE attended our meeting. He was presented with two Loyalist dolls created by Lorraine Rogers UE. Lorraine's late husband was graphic artist John Rogers.

November 2009: Bernice Flett UE spoke to the members about the Loyalist influence in developing the government of Upper Canada while Arnold Nethercott UE explained the meaning of Loyalist symbols.

December 2009: After a Swiss Chalet Christmas dinner, our guest speaker was Stephen Bourne who impersonated Charles Dickens and entertained by reciting "*A Christmas Carol*."

April 2010: Three branch members received Ontario Voluntary Service Awards: Arnold Nethercott UE for 30 years, Jean Norry UE for 20 years and Dorothy Chisholm UE for 10 years.

May 2010: The Branch celebrated its thirty-seventh anniversary with a coffee/tea dessert party enjoyed by all. Dr. David Beasley was the featured speaker and he told about his book *From Bloody Beginnings*, a creative non-fiction story of his third great grandfather Richard Beasley UE, an early and prominent settler in the Hamilton area.

Finally, we congratulate Ruby McIlmoyle UE and her husband, Gordon, on the occasion of their sixtieth wedding anniversary in April 2010.

By June Klassen UE

2013 Spring

The Branch initiated an informative Educational Outreach Project during 2012, in which Robert Tordiff UE was inspired to tell the captivating story of Capt. Jonathan Snyder UE (1981 – 2008). Bob felt that a strong link could be made between the courage of United Empire Loyalists and their descendants in today's world of strife. It would make the story of UELs more relevant to the youth of today. To this end,

he had bookmarks printed with Captain Snyder's photo and information about the UELAC, had the cover photo of the *Loyalist Gazette* framed, and also made reprints of the *Gazette* article that had been researched and written by the current Dominion President, Robert McBride UE, who published the article as the lead story in the Spring 2009 issue, Volume XLVII, Number 1. These were displayed and the bookmarks and reprints were distributed to visitors at Doors Open in September.

Branch member Major (Retired) Greg Childs received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal on 01 July 2012 at Christ Church, Chatham. He was honoured for his many years of volunteer service to the war veterans and soldiers of the Canadian Military and specifically to the Essex and Kent Scottish, of which he was a serving member for forty-four years.

Two Branch members received Ontario Volunteer Service Awards in the spring. Gerry Tordiff received a twenty-year award, having been Branch genealogist, and Keith Bull received a five-year award for serving as a director of the Branch.

For his keen interest in history, Steven German was the recipient of the Branch History Scholarship of \$100.00. He is a student at Saunders Secondary School and, next spring, plans to travel to Europe to tour historical museums. In the fall of 2013, he plans to study business or medical science at university.

Among the outstanding speakers at Branch meetings were: Stephen Boume of Guelph who, resplendent in his red British uniform, portrayed General Isaac Brock; educator Nathan Tidridge who enlightened us about Canada's Constitutional Monarchy; Kim Lundberg, Western University professor, who, on two occasions, informed us about Mohawk life and the War of 1812; and Dominion President, Robert McBride UE, who spoke about how the Loyalists brought Freemasonry into this province.

Jennifer Childs arranged a summer event in which members travelled to St. Thomas to tour the Elgin Military Museum and then went to a local church for a delightful "high tea."

London Branch is preparing to celebrate its fortieth anniversary in spring 2013 with a luncheon. The honoured guest speaker will be Edwin A. Holder, MP for London West, whose Loyalist ancestors settled in Holdersville, New Brunswick.

By June Klassen UE, Branch President