

SHELBURNE BRANCH

1975 Autumn

Mrs. Evelyn Drew, Dominion President of the U.E.L. Association of Canada, of Picton, Ontario, presented a branch charter on August 20 to the Shelburne Branch, Nova Scotia, the first main home of the Loyalists in this country. Dr. Esther Clarke Wright of Wolfville was in attendance for this historic event.

Mrs. Rita Bower, Secretary, took on responsibilities in preparing branch float and displays for the parade and exhibition that took place at the same time for this occasion. Those representing the branch in the parade were Mrs. Drew, Dominion President, Mrs. Emily Harris, President, Mrs. Rita Bower, Mrs. Joan Crise, and Mrs. Alice Jones.

Mrs. Emily A. Harris, Box 102 Shelburne, Nova Scotia B0T 1W0 would welcome enquiries for membership.

1976 Autumn

Shelburne Branch, Nova Scotia, entered a float in the historical category of the Shelburne Exhibition parade, and were awarded second prize.

There were seven adults and one child on the float all wearing detailed Loyalists' costumes that were greatly admired.

Mrs. Dorothy Freeman has become President while Mrs. Emily Harris has taken over the position of Treasurer. Mrs. Rita Bower and Mr. Terry Bower are handling the genealogical details, with Mrs. Joan Crise assisting on U.S.A. letters of enquiry. There have been many enquiries for information, and some more applications are being filled out.

Our membership will include people with Loyalist ancestry who settled in all parts of Nova Scotia. We expect to obtain several reference books and other material to assist applicants in establishing proofs of ancestry. We are gradually acquiring some authentic costumes. We have hopes for the future of our branch becoming quite expansive.

1977 Autumn

Nova Scotia, has an increasing membership: many of our members live at a great distance in Alberta, Ontario, Pennsylvania, and as far away as Georgia. We hope for at least ten new members by April. Our working members are few but we do a lot of correspondence for interested prospective members. Several of our members are working with the Shelburne Historical Society which is a very active group.

The Fall meeting is being planned for November. We invite enquiries for membership in this Nova Scotia branch. Write to Mrs. Rita Bower, Branch Genealogist, Box 879, Shelburne, Nova Scotia B0T 1W0.

1978 Autumn

Shelburne Branch, Nova Scotia, received a Young Canada Works grant for \$2,482.00 for which three students were hired for six weeks. The purpose of the project was to catalogue written The United Empire Loyalists material found in the Ross-Thomson House which is now in the Provincial Archives in Halifax.

Mrs. Rita Bower, genealogist for the Shelburne Branch, stated that another purpose was to copy archival material in Halifax that will be useful in the Loyalist Resource Centre. This Centre will be housed in the new Shelburne Museum.

1979 Spring

The Shelburne Branch has scheduled a meeting for late March. Over the past year much was accomplished, especially from the benefits of the Young Canada Works grant for \$2,480.00. Students were hired to copy documents and records in the Provincial Archives in Halifax for material that would assist descendants of Nova Scotia Loyalists to document their ancestry and complete full application forms. This very valuable material is now deposited in the museum in Shelburne readily available for use, thus relieving interested persons from travelling to Halifax for documentation.

It is anticipated that the grant may be continued this year to extend the collection of Loyalist resources for our branch.

Mrs. Emily Harris, Mrs. Rita Bower, Mr. and Mrs. W. Camp, in particular, and others have worked closely with the Shelburne Historical Society in their projects of expanding resources at the Shelburne Museum and restoration of Loyalist places.

Each year a booth and float depicting the Loyalists is entered at the local exhibition.

There is an increasing interest in the Loyalists in this area as the two hundredth anniversary approaches.

1979 Autumn

We have been working hand-in-hand with the Shelburne Historical Society ~s our aims are in the same area.

We are pleased to announce that Shelburne Branch has again this year received a Young Canada Works Program Grant for the sum of \$2,718.00. The project will copy and catalogue written archival material found in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia on the history of Shelburne County. Also will summarize on cards information from records at the Registry of Deeds and Wills at the Court House at Shelburne. The material will be added to and will supplement existing information in the Loyalist Resource Centre located in our new Shelburne County Museum.

Our branch has been busy on genealogy. Our committee consists of Rita Bower, Dorothy Freeman, Joan Crise and Terry Bower. One member of our committee went to the Shelburne Regional High School to talk to some grade twelve and grade eight students on genealogy.

1980 Spring

The Shelburne Branch has been working diligently toward our Loyalist Bicentennial in 1983. Committees are being set up to deal with long-range planning, budget and finance, publicity and promotion, fund raising and programme development. We have received support from more than forty social and service groups from all areas of Shelburne County.

Extensive plans for the Loyalists Bicentennial are already in progress. Our activities will extend from May until November. Here are just a few: Re-enactment of the landing of the Loyalists, Gigantic Parade, A series of Loyalist Plays, Open house at several of our Loyalist houses, Loyalist Banquet and Ball, Loyalist Garden Party, Loyalist style picnic, and Loyalist Arts and Crafts show.

A slide/sound presentation compiled by Sharon Martin, special services officer of the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, on the history of Shelburne county will soon be made available to all United Empire Loyalist Branches from headquarters. The purpose of this presentation is to promote tours of visitors to the Loyalist areas of Nova Scotia in 1983. In December the Department of Tourism sent Mrs. Rita Bower to Toronto to show a slide presentation on this area.

"Shelburne County is the place to be in nineteen hundred and eighty three."

1981 Autumn

Mrs. Dorothy Freeman has been honoured recently by the Shelburne Branch for her many hours of service to the Branch. The Branch nominated her for "Volunteer of the Year". Mrs. Freeman has served in the regular way as the Treasurer; and in addition, has been handling the majority of the genealogical inquiries received.

Present officers include Mrs. Emily Harris as Past President, Mrs. Rita Bower as President, and Mrs. Dorothy Freeman as Genealogist and Treasurer. The Branch regrets that Mr. William Camp has had to give up his duties as Secretary, Mrs. Elsie Walsh has accepted that position.

The Shelburne Branch has sent a telegram of congratulations and best wishes to His Royal Highness, Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer: and has received a telegram in response to this.

The Branch is in the process of selecting someone to fill the position of town crier for Shelburne during 1983; and on 2 May, 1981, it held a meeting in Middleton of the 3rd Bicentennial Planning Conference with the purpose of encouraging other Loyalist areas of Nova Scotia to celebrate in 1983. It is also encouraging its members and their friends to prepare costumes for use in 1983.

Mrs. Rita Bower is playing an active part for Nova Scotia in the preparations being made for Bicentennial Celebrations in the Maritimes in 1983. She is on the Committee set up by Dominion Council on 16 Feb., 1980, and headed by J.R. Zavitz to plan the 1983 Convention and Annual Meeting to be held in the Maritime Provinces. Mrs. Bower has been recognized for her contribution in publicizing Nova Scotia by an award from the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia. On 28 April, Mrs. Bower gave a talk in Annapolis on the Loyalists and the Bower Family.

As this Branch and others across Canada are realizing this is a period of great interest in the Loyalist heritage.

1982 Spring

February 22nd was a "Red Letter Day" for the people of Loyalist Shelburne. Mr. Robert S. Allen, Deputy Chief, Treaties and Historical Research Centre and Military Consultant and Mr. Bernard Pothier, acting Senior Historian at the Canadian War Museum, Ottawa, came to Shelburne to see what contribution the Shelburne' area could make toward the gathering of artifacts for the Loyal American Exhibition. The representatives went away excited and pleased with their response. Approximately 55 people attended the reception at the Shelburne Co. Museum.

Shelburne Branch is pleased to welcome our newest member Mr. Ian M. Campbell. His ancestor was Colin Campbell Sr.

Plans for a historical and fun filled 1983 are nearing the final stages of preparation. Costumes and Loyalist style recipes have been researched very carefully, workshops have been set up and many local residents have already begun work on their families' new clothes.

Communities are busy settling up committees to handle the various projects all across Nova Scotia. "Shelburne County is the place to be in 1983."

1982 Autumn

The entire country is buzzing with preparations for our year of celebrations. More than 70 events are programmed, the first of which will be the New Year Levee at the Canadian Forces Base at Shelburne, January 1st. This is the official opening of our Loyalist Heritage celebrations.

We are busy making costumes for our Bicentennial Loyalist play and other re-enactments, the Garden Party, as well as the Convention Banquet and Ball on July 1st. We shall require more than 60 costumes for the play alone.

Many of our events are directly related to the heritage of our ancestors; for example, Heritage Day on Feb. 21 will be a special day within the schools, the students will trace their family tree and learn about the Loyalists who came to their particular area. On May 4, the day that the Port Roseway Associates arrived in 1783, they were given rations of pork and flour, etc. Likewise, we are going to roast piglets and serve baked beans and brown bread. We expect to play some 18th century games that are now being researched by Cathy Holmes.

The writers and authors in our county have been burning the midnight oil and have released several new booklets and soft covered books. Some of these include: Rules and Orders of the Friendly Fire Club, Loyalist Dress in Nova Scotia 1775 - 1800, A Pocketful of Nova Scotia History, Series No.2 and The Loyalists of Nova Scotia (a delightful package containing many facsimiles of authentic documents, great for use in schools) Elenor Smith expects to have her book of Loyalist cooking on the market by April of 1983, Alice Jones and Rita Bower hope to have the story Twice a Refugee (the John Adam Bower story) ready by Christmas of 1982.

We would like to welcome our new members Nanette and Jenny Holden and Eileen Lloyd Pierce.

We hope to see all of you in Shelburne during our Bicentennial year.

Shelburne Co. is the place to be in nineteen hundred and eighty-three.

1985 June

The official opening of the United Empire Loyalist Commemorative Exhibit occurred at Shelburne, Nova Scotia on October 13, 1984. This exhibit consists of a park area with silhouettes of a Loyalist Lady and a Loyalist Man against a wall that has a window overlooking the harbour. The ceremonies opened with the singing of O Canada, and the reading of the Proclamation by Perry Wamback, Shelburne Town Crier.

Opening remarks were made by the Chairman Mr. Frank McGill, area Superintendant, Historic Sites, South Western Nova Scotia. The Address was by His Worship William Cox, Mayor of Shelburne.

Mrs. Eileen Loyd Pierce, United Empire Loyalist and Mr. W.C. Turnbull, representing the Honourable Suzanne Blais-Grenier, P.C.M.P. Minister of Environment were present.

The Plaque was unveiled by Ike Farmer, a Loyalist descendant. The Reverend John Earle gave a prayer of dedication and the ceremony was closed with God Save the Queen.

A reception followed at the Town Hall.