

UPPER CANADA BRANCH UELAC

(Scarborough to Newcastle, Ontario)

1985 Spring

The new Durham Region Branch has been granted a charter as The Upper Canada Branch of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

An Executive was elected with Mr. Paul S. Clarke, President, Mr. Robert Booth, Vice-President, Mr. Don Fox, Treasurer, Mrs. Shirley Harris, Secretary, Mr. Steve Wood, Genealogist; and Mrs. Margaret Hendsbee, Archivist.

Two functions have been held in addition to the regular meetings. A tree planting ceremony to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Loyalists in Canada took place at Alexandra Park in Oshawa this winter with a dozen members and Alderman Cy Elsey attending.

Heritage Day in February was celebrated by a number of our members together with people from other local historical societies in Oshawa.

Extensive coverage of Branch activities has been given by the Durham area press, due primarily to the efforts of our Treasurer, Mr. Don Fox.

1986 Spring

Ours is a new branch, proposed and initiated in 1984, and chartered in February 1985, and has had a very successful year since. It was founded to serve Durham District, that is, the Oshawa area. We owe the existence of our branch in large measure to Mr. Don Fox for his able promotion of its early stages. His first steps were to locate the area Loyalists, see if support was strong enough and then to set up a program of talks on background and organization, of films, tours, and visits from neighbouring branches to give prospective members a genuine sampling of branch activities.

The following executive was elected: President Paul Clark, Vice-President - Robert Booth, Secretary - Shirley Harris, Treasurer - Donald Fox, Genealogist - Steven Wood and members-atlarge-Clarence Gunter, Robert Kennedy, and Eleanor Moulton.

Nine veteran members of other branches - Toronto, Hamilton and Bay of Quinte joined us as charter members.

Since September 1985 our regular meeting programs have included an evening and dinner at Indian Shores Museum at Lake Scugog, a presentation by Mr. Eric Glenholm of Whitby Historical Society interviewing several members in period costume about their ancestors, the branch as guests of the Genealogical Society to see a presentation by Mr. Gavin Watt and a display team from the King's Royal Regiment of New York, a film on the American Revolution, and a Heritage Night - a social event of fun and games with Loyalist themes held at the Magic Car Restaurant.

Branch President Paul Clark's excellent newsletter, contains a paragraph honouring Don Fox for his tireless work in helping to found our branch and make it thrive.

1986 Fall

The Upper Canada Branch continued to hold executive meetings making plans for the upcoming season. General meetings are to be held on October 14 and November 11, 1986, and on January 13 and April 14, 1987. The February meeting will be held in conjunction with Heritage Night at the Magic Car Restaurant in Oshawa. The latter meeting draws well over 100 guests each year and is an evening of fine entertainment. Tickets will be available from Mr. Donald Fox after a definite date is selected.

We would like to extend our invitation to members of other branches to attend any of our meetings. These are held in the Auditorium of the Whitby Public Library, Dundas Street, Whitby from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Our emphasis remains on recruitment and various ways and means to increase our membership and to create interest forms much of the discussion at our branch.

Programs for the general meetings are being formulated with this in mind and we hope to expand our membership during the coming year.

Our executive at present is as follows: Paul Clark, President; Robert Snetsinger, Vice-President; Clarence Gunter, 2nd Vice-President; Alvin Hendsbee, Secretary; Steven Wood, Genealogist; Donald Fox, Treasurer; and Mrs. Margaret Hendsbee, Archivist. Executive members-at-large: Eleanor Moulton, Robert Kennedy and John Galbraith

1987 December

Upper Canada Branch has shown considerable increase in membership and we continue to hold our meetings in the auditorium of the Whitby Public Library.

An arrangement had been made with the library by which, in lieu of rental for general meetings, books concerning Loyalists would be presented.

A total of twelve books have been presented and the arrangement will continue in future so that these books may be kept in the library to aid researchers.

Our branch received an invitation from Barbara L. Hewitt, UEL of Scarborough, to send two representatives to a genealogical seminar class held at the Church of Latter Day Saints, Rossland Rd. and Thorton Ave., Oshawa, which dealt during the whole day with genealogy and related subjects. Attending were Paul Clark (president), Steve Wood (genealogist) and Eleanor Moulton, who answered questions on UEL at the information table.

At our October meeting our speaker was the well-known Oshawa historian and photographer, Thomas Bouckley, who accompanied his remarks with a very fine selection of slides and photographs of early Oshawa and beginning with the first settler, John Kerr, in 1816, whose house is still standing, and going through a whole century and more with vivid and immensely interesting illustrations.

Our Vice-President, Clarence Gunter, was our speaker in November and he showed his personal collection of slides made during a trip made by Mr. Gunter and friends following his retirement from the Bank of Commerce. The trip involved a flight to the area above the tree line in the Arctic and the colour slides and accompanying commentary by Mr. Gunter were both revealing and interesting about the Inuit, and the terrain: growth, flowers, fishing and hunting.

Brian Winters, Whitby historian, our speaker in January, presented slides showing the history of Whitby area from 1860 to 1939, with a very full and interesting explanation and interpretation of each slide. Brian is a speaker much in demand and we are fortunate to have had him.

In April, Eric Glenholmes, past president of the Oshawa Historical Society, spoke to us about the points

of origin of the Loyalists and conditions which persuaded them to seek a new life in North America. A letter of resignation from President Paul Clark was read at the meeting. He resigned due to the pressures of business and was succeeded by our Vice-President, Mr. Clarence Gunter.

On Remembrance Day a tree planting ceremony was held in Alexandra Park, Oshawa, with officials from the Legion, Red Cross, Historical Society, City and Schools in attendance.

Refreshments were served by Misses Marjorie and Elta Sproull.

We are hopeful of being as fortunate in our next term's programs and the dates are now set as follows: Tuesday, Nov. 24 1987; Wednesday, Jan. 20, 1988; Thursday, April 7, 1988.

And we again extend an invitation to all interested in UEL to attend these meetings, which will be held in the auditorium of the Whitby Public Library on Dundas Street.

1989 July

1989 promises to be a year of growth for our Branch - we started out small, but we're not content to stay that way! We expect our membership to double this year, and a steady growth thereafter. However, growth in numbers is not enough. For any organization (or branch thereof) to be truly successful, there must also be a personal growth within each member, and this is what we are striving for. Our Loyalist ties bind us together in a mutual pride in who we are and what we are.

We started the year under the leadership of Robert Snetsinger, President, and Stephen Wood, Vice President, with Clarence Gunter still guiding us as Past President.

Our guest speakers at the meeting provide a well-rounded blend of history and general interest. At our January 25 meeting, Mark Jackman of the Clarke Museum treated us to a slide show featuring funeral artifacts and mourning fashions of the Victorian era. Upcoming speakers will highlight the plight of a Dutch family in the American Revolution and their subsequent settling in Upper Canada; a country fair supper on the grounds of Scugog Shores Museum will feature a speaker on the topic of family life in GreenBank, a tiny hamlet just north of Port Perry; our November meeting promises to be very special - Col. Gavin Watt and the Royal Yorkers will be our special guests and we will be sending press releases to local papers to get many of the local people out to this special event.

As of this writing, Robert Snetsinger, Clarence Gunter and Shari Grills are anxiously awaiting the convention in Lennoxville, Que. More in the next issue.

In support of the U.E.L. Association's membership drive, we are pleased to be introducing many residents of Durham region to the Loyalists, many of them for the first time since long-forgotten history lessons at school. Our Public Awareness Campaign is now in full swing.

A closing thought: the Loyalists lived in a historically interesting time. They made history and saw history being made. They were part of it and because they were a part of it, then we are also a part of it.

Contributed by Shari Grills, U.E., 2nd Vice President, Upper Canada Branch
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1991 Spring

A LOYALIST WEDDING

Casa Loma, Toronto, was the setting for a "Loyalist Wedding" on January 10, 1991. Upper Canada Branch President Robert W. Snetsinger and 2nd Vice President Shari Grills were married in a ceremony in the castle's conservatory, with an Honour Guard of the King's Royal Regiment of New York in attendance. A champagne reception followed in the wood-panelled library.

The wedding was attended by many members of the Association, including President Arnold Nethercott

and Vice President Paul Clark and their wives.

The colour scheme of the wedding and reception was red, white and blue, taken from the colours of the George III flag. Many such flags were placed on tables throughout the first floor of Casa Lorna. Dominion Council of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada gave the Snetsingers special permission to use the armorial bearings of the Association on their wedding invitations.

Best Man was Mr. Duncan McGlennon. Matron of Honour was Mrs. Mary Wong. Shari's sister, Arlette Hicks, and Robert's sister, Anne Taylor, were bridesmaids. Laura Grills, Shari's daughter and Upper Canada Branch's youngest member, was the flower girl, and Trevor Hicks served as ring bearer.

The re-created King's Royal Regiment of New York was the focal point of the evening. They preceded the wedding party down the aisle and lead the way out after the ceremony. After being piped into the library, they stacked arms in front of 150 delighted guests. They were lead by Gavin Watt, curator of the Museum of Applied Military History. Gavin also provided an antique sword of the American Revolution with which to cut the wedding cake.

The presence of the Yorkers had a very special significance. Robert is descended from Matthias Snetsinger of the First Battalion of the KRRNY, Light Company. Shari is descended from Lt. Henry Young of the Second Battalion. Therefore this marriage joins two of Ontario's oldest families.

In lieu of wedding gifts, the Snetsingers requested Association members to make donations to the UEL Charitable Trust Fund. As a result, a large amount of money has found its way into Head Office.

After the excitement of the Convention 1990 died down, Upper Canada Branch settled into a more normal routine. In September 1990 we held our annual Scugog Shores Country Supper at Scugog Shores Museum in Port Perry. This was arranged, as usual, by branch treasurer Donald Fox, and was a great success. The speaker was Jane Bennett Goddard, who wrote the book "Hans Walthmeyer". At this meeting President Robert W. Snetsinger presented Past President jewels to Paul Clark and Clarence Gunter.

At our November 1990 meeting, Mary Beacock Fryer, another noted Loyalist authoress, spoke on Elizabeth Simcoe, the subject of her latest book.

Our January 30, 1991 meeting, was the last one conducted by Robert Snetsinger. As his last official duty as Upper Canada Branch's President, he took part in Oshawa's Remembrance Day parade and placed a wreath on the cenotaph in memory of Canada's fallen soldiers. The Presidency was turned over to Stephen Wood. Also at our January meeting was speaker Captain Alex Hill, of the Ontario Tank Regiment.

1991 Fall

THE MEANING OF OUR NEW LOGO



The Flag:

The George III flag needs no further explanation. It is well-know to all of our members.

The Musket and Sword:

These are symbolic of the military service of our Loyalist ancestors.

The "GR" in the centre of the Flag: The Cypher of George III
"More Majorum": Our motto, translated from Latin as "In the manner of our forefathers."

Three Maple Leaves with "UEL" superimposed: These represent the three founding peoples of the Province of Ontario the Loyalists, French and Native Indians.

We are grateful for the talents of outgoing President, Robert W. Snetsinger who prepared our logo.

Loyalist Viewpoints

In April, Mark Jackman of the Clark Museum presented the Loyalist story from five points of view including a widow and her children, a retired soldier, and businessman within the community.

To mark the 200th Anniversary of the Constitutional Act of 1791, we planted trees at Alexandra Park in Oshawa. The event was coordinated by Donald Fox with Robert Snetsinger as keynote speaker. Shari Snetsinger introduced the newly re-formed Young Loyalists Committee.

The Young Loyalists' Committee

The Young Loyalists' of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada has been formed under the direction of Mrs. Shari Snetsinger of Upper Canada Branch. The purpose of the Committee is two-fold:

- to provide activities for the younger members of the Association, geared to their age groups;
- to educate these children, and the general public as well, about the role that the Loyalists played in the history of our country.

There are many activities children and teenagers can participate in. For example, at a recent Upper Canada Branch event, Mrs. Snetsinger's nine year-old daughter Laura did a reading which resulted in the branch receiving newspaper publicity. Another noteworthy example: Toronto Branch has had a successful Essay Contest, which resulted in a Scarborough high school student winning the McCleary Scholarship Award. While there are many other success stories throughout the branches of the Association, we believe that the children should be in a more structured program. For this reason, Shari Snetsinger has sent questionnaires to branch presidents across the country, to determine how many younger members are out there, and the wishes of the branches, as well as past accomplishments, such as examples presented here.

In the past the Young Loyalists have been explored, but only just explored. We must therefore bear down on this important issue that may very well affect the future of the United Empire Loyalists' Association. These children and teenaged members will one day be occupying the seats of the officers and councillors of the Association, and they cannot be lost due to a lack of programs that are interesting and stimulating to them.

There has been a great deal of interest in the formation of the Committee. Originally, Dr. Vera Vanderlip's Membership Committee began to address the Young Loyalist issue, and Dr. Vanderlip has graciously offered to help us in an advisory capacity. Robert Snetsinger, husband of the Chairperson, has in the past chaired the Education Committee, and has agreed to be of any assistance possible. We need your suggestions and comments to help us develop a blueprint for the direction the Committee will be taking in the future.

Please address your correspondence to:

Mrs. Shari Snetsinger, Chairperson,
Young Loyalists Committee, 841 Naroch Blvd., Pickering, Ontario, L1 W 1T1 Telephone (416) 839-2790

OF COURSE, WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR FROM ALL YOUNG LOYALISTS!!!

1992 Spring

Our annual Scugog Shores Thanksgiving Dinner went smoothly, as usual. Donald Fox is to be congratulated for his superb organizational skills. After the dinner, the guest speaker was the former Minister of Health, Dr. Matthew Dymond, who spoke on "Canada, my Country".

Our October meeting was a little different than we are used to. Our branch was treated to a tour of Oshawa's Airport Museum. This museum houses a fine collection of aviation history, and thanks are due to its curator, Mr. Robert Stuart.

The speaker at our January meeting will be Vice President Shari Snetsinger. She will be speaking on the topic of her forthcoming book, "Tout Bien ou Rien" The Genealogical History of the Hicks Family." Although the book covers the family history from the 1300s to present, the emphasis is on the loyalist Edward Hicks, Mrs. Snetsinger's 5th great grandfather, and his sons, who fought in the American Revolution as Butler's Rangers.

1992 Fall

Our January meeting was packed when Shari (Hicks) Snetsinger spoke on the Loyalist Hicks family, the subject of her upcoming book, "Tout Bien ou Rien", Mrs. Snetsinger's 4th great grandfather, Benjamin Hicks, fought with the Butler's Rangers, alongside his brothers and father Edward (the ancestor of Western Vice President John Orr). The family legend of Edward's hanging as a British spy, and the sentence and subsequent escape of this son, Edward, Jr., was the subject of Mrs. Snetsinger's prize-winning essay for the OGS in 1989. The book, which covers the history of the Hicks family from medieval times, is attracting the attention of Hicks descendants from all over North America. There is no word yet on a publication date, but Mrs. Snetsinger estimates that it will take two more years to compile. She also showed a video of Hicks Heritage Farms, in North Marysburgh, Prince Edward County, which received a plaque in 1984, commemorating it as one of six pioneer farms still in the original family. It is presently owned by a 7th cousin of Mrs. Snetsinger.

At our April meeting, were two of the foremost experts on Loyalist genealogy, Eleanor Moulton and Mary McGillivray. Eleanor was one of our original members. As two of the members of the Dominion Genealogists Committee, they answered questions from those present regarding the procedures of documenting your Loyalist ancestors, and after the meeting, gave personalized assistance to those needing it. We currently have several members who are very close to receiving their certificates and we feel that Mary and Eleanor have helped them a great deal.

1993 Spring

Our new executive is:
Shari Snetsinger, President; Robert Snetsinger, Vice President; Stephen Wood, Past President; Joy Ellis, Historian/Archivist; John Ellis, Secretary; Eric Glenholmes and Denise Carre, members at large; James Wilson Hicks, CD, UE, Treasurers.

On December 6, 1992, we held our first annual Christmas party at the Snetsinger home; also attended by Dominion President, Paul Clark and wife, Norma.

Rev. Charles Bull spoke at our annual Scugog Shores Dinner in September and a month later a meeting at the Canadian Automotive Museum on Oshawa was followed by a tour of the rare vehicles.

We are saddened to report the death of Norman R. Cormack, husband of one of our members, Mrs. Sheila Cormack.

1993 Fall

We are once again proud to host a UEL Convention, this time in 1995. It will be held at Oshawa Holiday Inn, the site of our successful 1990 Convention. Shari Snetsinger and her committee are already laying the foundations, and Gavin Watt, curator of the Museum of Applied Military History, has been booked as the speaker for the annual banquet. We would like to extend our congratulations to Lillian Lomas, Ed Scott and their committee for the enjoyable Hamilton meeting last June. Dominion Genealogists Peter and Angela Johnson spoke at our annual Scugog Shores Thanksgiving Dinner, held September 25.

Our Branch hopes to network with other groups and organizations in the Durham Region. On September 11, Stephen Wood, John & Joy Ellis, Denise Carre, Robert and Shari Snetsinger, and Marion Lapp joined the local OGS at a joint display for Whitby Heritage Day.

1994 Spring

Robert W. Snetsinger spoke to a local senior's group at the end of November; his talk on the Loyalists was well received and a film was shown. A donation was made to the branch by the group.

Our second annual Christmas party was held on December 5 at the home of Robert and Shari Snetsinger. It was attended by Stephen and Lori Wood and their daughters, Eleanor Moulton, Gord and Marian Lapp, John and Joy Ellis, and Denise and Eric Carre.

The branch has 1995 Convention plans well under way and the committee is looking forward to welcoming Loyalists from across the country to Oshawa, Ontario.

