

## **VANCOUVER BRANCH - Charter – 18 May 1937**

### **1932 August**

On March 30, 1932, a meeting was held for which notices had been sent to all known Members of the United Empire Loyalists' Association in this City. At this small informal gathering it was decided to organize a branch of the Association in Vancouver. It was thought that the best way to communicate with the families of U.E.L. descent was to insert an advertisement in a local newspaper.

A second meeting was held on April 18<sup>th</sup>. It was gratifying to observe a marked increase in the attendance of Chartered and Proposed Members. The result of the advertisement was reported. It was found that there had been more than thirty-five replies. These had all been duly answered and applications together with a letter of explanation were enclosed. A discussion followed as to whether we should organize, firstly, through becoming members of the Toronto Branch, and, then being subsequently transferred to Vancouver as a new branch. The alternative to this procedure was to obtain the necessary minimum membership of fifteen Chartered Members. These Members would then issue a Petition to the Central council of the Association. This latter method was most emphatically decided upon.

At the meeting held on May 2, it was decided to postpone our previous intentions of forwarding a Petition to the Central Council. It was found that many desiring to become Chartered Members were unable to supply their necessary genealogies in a complete state at the present time. It was proposed that a meeting be held early in June to which several speakers would be asked to give short addresses pertaining to the United Empire Loyalist migration and settlement.

A most successful social evening was held on June 15, at the home of Mrs. (Prof.) R. H. Clark. Two addresses were delivered during the evening. The speakers were Dr. W. N. Sage and Judge Forin. Dr. Sage spoke on the Original U. E. Loyalists of New Brunswick, while Judge Forin chose for his subject, the Hay Bay Settlement. Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

### **1933 November**

On October 6th, 1932. the Vancouver Branch was formally organized, the meeting being held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kirk. It was very well attended and after the election of officers, Colonel W. S. Buell, U.E., gave a most interesting address on the founding of the City of Brockville and its historical association with his family. This paper commenced the initial collection for official records of this kind by the Branch.

In November the meeting was held at the home of His Honour Judge and Mrs. T. A. Forin, when the address of the evening was presented by Professor M.Y. Williams, his subject being "Original Settlers of Prince Edward County, Ontario."

The January meeting was held at the home of the President, Professor and Mrs. W. N. Sage. Dr. Dudley J. Bell gave a descriptive paper on the "Early Settlers of New Brunswick."

Professor Sage addressed the February meeting, which was held at the home of Rev. Professor and Mrs. H. R. Trumpour. The President spoke on the "American Revolution."

In March the monthly meeting was held at the home of Colonel and Mrs. W. S. Buell when a paper was read by Miss B. P. Choate on "The Pre-Revolutionary Influences in the New England Colonies."

A dinner in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the first landing of the Loyalists at St. John, was held on May 18th. in the Spanish Grill of the Hotel Vancouver. Seventy-one Loyalists and their friends participated and the whole affair was a great success, particularly as it was the first attempt of the new

Branch to hold anything of this sort. It was most opportune that this occasion should have marked the twilight celebration of the Pacific Province, begun so early in the morning by the wonderful commemoration in the Province of New Brunswick.

The interest which has developed during the year is a wonderful stimulant to any effort on the part of the Executive to strengthen the organization. Letters have been received from practically every part of the Province enquiring as to the organization and what would constitute membership. Our list of membership now stands at thirty-five, with an additional list of nearly sixty whose applications will be passed.

Meetings for the ensuing year have already commenced and further success is looked forward to during this season.

### **1963 November**

The Annual Commemoration Dinner of the Branch was held May 16. The Vancouver organization has always honoured the 18th of May, being the anniversary of the arrival of the first Loyalists at Paratown, later to be known as Saint John, N.B., on that date in 1783.

Our first dinner held on May 18, 1963 was the 180th anniversary of that notable day. There were 21 members and their friends present and after the Toast to Her Majesty and the conclusion of the dinner, Mr. Donald Sage, President, gave a very interesting paper on Simon Fraser, Explorer, whose name is so vivid in the annals of this province. Apropos also of the fact that the new University to be established on Burnaby Mountain is to be known as the Simon Fraser University, and we think it opportune to make it known that this distinguished explorer was a U.E.L. born in Canada and not Scotland as has been deviously reported over radio broadcast.

We extend our every good wish for the progress in the resumption of this publication which keeps Loyalists throughout Canada mindful of their traditional; loyalty which should ever be uppermost in the minds of true-hearted Canadians today.

By Miss Bessie D. Choate

### **1964 November**

First meeting of the season was held at the home of the president and Mrs. Donald Sage. About 15 members were present. Professor M. Y. Williams gave a most interesting address on Newfoundland apropos of the Christmas card this year and illustrated his talk with many beautiful slides taken when in that Province quite recently.

The February meeting will be held at the home of the corresponding secretary, Mr and Mrs. Gordon Hitchcock, 550 North Esmond Ave., Burnaby 2.

By Miss Bessie D. Choate

### **1965 April**

The Vancouver Branch continues to hold three meetings during the year, the first being in October on or about the 13th of October commemorating the Battle of Queenston Heights, the second in February and the annual dinner on or about the 18th of May, commemorating Loyalist Day 18th May, 1783. Since 1935 and until this year, the Vancouver Branch has made an annual award to a winning undergraduate at the University of British Columbia for an essay set originally by the late Dr. W. N. Sage, Professor of History who was our first President. With the establishment of the Simon Fraser University on Burnaby

Mountain in a picturesque setting of 1,000 feet above sea level, overlooking Burrard Inlet on one side and the City of Vancouver on the West, we have decided to terminate our inducement of a medal to the University of British Columbia and to establish it with the Simon Fraser University which opens in September of this year. Later we also hope to dedicate a plaque when opportunity presents itself. We feel with a smaller institution there may be a keener interest taken amongst the students and as Professor Allan Cunningham is already in residence in the City we shall be able to look forward to considerable assistance from both him and the Faculty in the realm of history.

Our annual dinner will be held in the Burnaby Centennial Pavilion on 18th May, adjacent to the University buildings. Professor Cunningham has already consented *to* be the guest speaker.

We recently recorded the death of one of our Charter members in the person of Larry Hutchison Morton Breadon, who had for many years taught school in the City and whose family came from Norfolk County in Ontario.

By Bessie P. Choate

### **1965 November**

**O**ur annual Loyalist Day dinner was held at the Burnaby Mountain Pavilion on the evening of 18th May, which date we have always observed as the day on which the New Brunswick Loyalists arrived at Parr town, later to be known as Saint John.

We were particularly fortunate this year in having as our guest speaker for the occasion, Dr. Allan Cunningham, A.F.C., D.F.C., M.A., Ph.D., F.R.H.S., F.R.G.S., who has come from Oxford, where he was teaching history, to become head of the History Department of the new Simon Fraser University, situated on a one thousand acre area not far from the Pavilion on Burnaby Mountain. This is a most beautiful site located one thousand feet above sea level overlooking Burrard Inlet and the north shore

mountains on the north, and the City of Vancouver on the West, the lights making a veritable fairyland after dark. Dr. Cunningham's address consisted largely of plans for the University in his department and lamenting the great lack of teachers for Canadian history. Lord Lovat, head of the Clan Fraser, came to Vancouver for the formal opening of the University on 9th September and while the Vancouver Branch had hoped to have had a plaque dedicated to Simon Fraser for that occasion it was considered expedient to delay for the time being until the confusion of opening had subsided.

A press announcement has also disclosed that the 3,000 volume library of the late Dr. Walter N. Sage, former Professor of History at the University of British Columbia and first President of the Vancouver Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association, has been presented to the Simon Fraser University by Mrs. Sage, Donald Sage and his sister Mrs. Margaret Haywood. The Library will be known as the Walter Sage Library of Canadiana and will be continuing; its value is set at \$30,000.

Our next meeting will be held on or about 13th October, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Sage.

By Bessie P. Choate.

### **1967 Spring**

**T**he United Empire Loyalists in Western Canada are at a great disadvantage in respect to visual evidence since we have no specific locations with Loyalist traditions, no monuments, or churches which have

been revered for many years almost as shrines. Consequently, we find it exceedingly difficult to perpetuate Loyalist traditions amongst the younger generation.

On Saturday, November 19th, 1966, British Columbia marked the One Hundredth anniversary of the union by Proclamation, of the two original colonies of British Columbia - the mainland and Vancouver's Island. They were united under the governorship of Sir James Douglas, and in 1871 the province joined Confederation.

Fort Langley on the Fraser River, named after Simon Fraser, was founded by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1827. By concentrated effort on the part of the pioneer residents, and the assistance of the late Dr. W. N. Sage, some time Professor of History at the University of British Columbia, the Dominion Government re established the old fort with its massive barricades and hand hewn timbers. This is the "Big House" where official acknowledgment is made each year of the amalgamation of the two original colonies.

The Commemoration service and opening of the "Old Machinery" Museum adjacent to the regular museum, was attended by the Lord Mayor of London, the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, Premier Bennett and other dignitaries who signed the official records.

For many years we have held our annual Loyalist dinner at which we remember our forebears who landed at Parr-town in New Brunswick, May 18th, 1783. This year, at the invitation of Colonel and Mrs. Oscar Orr, a large attendance of members enjoyed a buffet supper at their delightful home. This is situated in view of the Spanish Banks, so named because of the meeting in this area between Captain George Vancouver and the Spanish explorers and navigators, Galiano and Valdez in June, 1792.

On the anniversary of the Battle of Queenston Heights in October we gathered at the home of our president, Mr. Donald Sage and Mrs. Sage. These two anniversaries mentioned are the two special dates we commemorate.

During the year we have been pleased to welcome three new members, Mr. William Searles, formerly of the Bay of Quinte Branch, and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Ross.

In October our first treasurer, Mr. William Blakely Stanley Bamford, died after a long illness. Mr. Bamford was born in Cornwall Ontario and came to Nelson, British Columbia, with his parents as a child. He retired from the service of the Bank of Montreal some ten years ago. Mr. Bamford is survived by one son William.

In August of this year, one of our very well known members Mr. Gordon Scott died very suddenly. A member of an old pioneer Vancouver family, Mr. Scott saw service in the First Great War with a Vancouver battalion and was chief City Magistrate, succeeding Colonel Orr upon his retirement.

By Miss B. Choate

## **1967 Autumn**

**T**he annual May Commemoration event was held on the 23rd of May, at the home of the President and Mrs. Donald Sage 2503 West 37th Ave., Kerrisdale. With summer weather at times quite promising, we "had hoped to be favoured that night with our usual balmy evenings so that the buffet supper could be held in the garden but the temperature did not permit.

After conclusion of the meal, Dr. Donald Sage introduced the speaker, Dr. Mack Eastman, sometime Professor 'Of History at the University of British Columbia and later attached to the Secretariat of the League of Nations at Geneva, where his experiences were varied and extremely interesting. Dr. Eastman also referred to his early life in and about the Adolphustown area.

There was a good attendance and members always anticipate this annual reunion with its informalities akin to a family gathering.

### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS SERVICE

Having been a member of the Toronto organization for a few years prior to 1932 it was through the persistent endeavour of the late Mr. Horace H. Van Wart that the Vancouver Branch was formed. At his suggestion we advertised in the local press regarding the possibility of forming a Vancouver Branch of the United Empire Loyalists. The results were astonishing and most satisfactory. A preliminary meeting held in September, 1932, in the old Hotel Vancouver was attended by several interested persons including His Grace, Archbishop A. U. DePencier, of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster who like myself was a member of the Toronto Branch; Professor W. N. Sage, of the University of British Columbia and head of the History Department, and Judge J. A. Forin, who while not eligible for regular membership, was nevertheless a keen student of history and possessed an extensive library of Rare Canadian records.

Under the circumstances I was asked to act as organizing Secretary. Notices were immediately dispatched with enthusiastic response from various parts of the Province - Mr. Allison from Quesnel in the north, Mr. Leon Mallory from Kamloops in the interior of the Province and many more names less remote from the city. On the 6th of October 1932 an open meeting was called and twenty eligible persons became charter members, (two of whom are still living) with the following Executive elected to office:

President, Professor Walter N. Sage  
Vice-President (deceased) Professor M. Y. Williams  
Treasurer, Mr. W. B. S. Bamford  
Secretary, Miss B. P. Choate

Being aware that the first Loyalists arrived in New Brunswick on May 18th, 1783, it was unanimously decided to honour that date as our official day of commemoration and for years this date was recognized with a memorial service at St. Helen's Church, Point Grey, with the Rector and Principal of the Anglican Theological College, the Rev. Dr. H. R. Trumpour, taking the service.

On the 18th May, 1933, we celebrated with what was perhaps the largest and most eventful dinner held in all the years. The gracious Oval Room of the Old Hotel Vancouver was brilliantly lighted with its beautiful crystal candelabra and tables generously decorated with masses of coloured blossom. Guests included members of the military, diplomatic service and many from out of town, including the late Mrs. Colin Campbell, from Winnipeg, well known woman of outstanding service to Canada.

In 1934 my sister donated a silver medal to be given to the winner of an Essay contest in the History Department of the University. This was duly accepted by the Faculty and plans inaugurated for an annual event plus a small cash prize for books. A replica of the medal was presented from year to year. Some splendid essays were submitted and passed along to the Society representing the efforts of some brilliant students. This contest was pursued continuously from the years 1935 to 1963 by which time interest was lagging amongst the students who found the compensation not worth the effort and it was consequently terminated in 1964 -two years having been without an award owing to lack of submission.

Professor M. Y. Williams became our second President and over the years has been most generous with his interesting addresses and pictures of the beautiful Bay of Quinte area from where he came. The late Colonel W. S. Buell whose family was closely allied to the Brockville area, became successor to Professor Williams as President and in turn was succeeded by the late W. C. Ditmare who came from the St. Catharines area.

With the great change in the mode of thinking during the last few years and the somewhat lessening of pride in Canada's past, locally we have experienced less of enthusiasm in the historical background we have been so proud to remember and revere. The younger generation tend to look forward instead of backward

to the past and must mature before they have regard for tradition. However, we manage to retain the warm association of a closely knit family and have three meetings during the year.

By Bessie P. Choate, Secretary.

### **1969 Autumn**

The annual dinner took place at the home of Mrs. Gordon Scott on May 20th in the form of a smorgasbord. The gardens were beautiful and the wonderful view of the mountain from Mrs. Scott's home added greatly to the pleasure of the guests. About twenty-five members and friends attended and after dinner Mr. Sage furnished an interesting record of genealogy of the members, which had been recorded at a previous meeting by his son, Dan. The next meeting will be held in October unless circumstances do not permit. Mrs. Norma F. Skilton of New Westminster was welcomed as a new member.

### **1970 Spring**

Vancouver Branch reported a fine attendance at their autumn meeting at the home of Mrs. Hooker. Danny Sage, son of the Branch President, displayed a very interesting collection of films taken during his summer holidays which were spent with a number of other youth groups in Europe travelling through picturesque parts of the countries and staying at youth hostels. Several of his young friends attended the meeting. Two applications for membership had been passed by our genealogist, Mr. Clayton W. McCall. We enthusiastically welcome Mrs. C. D. Morris, Ocean Park, Surrey, B.C., and Mrs. John Pozerek of Trail, as new members.

Miss Bessie P. Choate, Secretary, would like someone with the time and inclination to put together some of the fundamental history of the Loyalists for the purpose of familiarizing the younger generation of its wonderful significance. Television and other news media are full of American propaganda which too often displays none too dependable details of the revolution.

### **1973 Autumn**

A Vancouver Branch meeting was held May 4<sup>th</sup> at the home of Mrs. Gordon Scott with M.A. Skilton in the chair. The aims of the U.E.L. Association of Canada were read, hoping to supply some encouragement in getting the Vancouver Branch fully functioning.

Two new members were welcomed by Mrs. Skilton; Mrs. Florence Amey, 23432 River Road, Haney, Maple Ridge, B.C., and Mr. R. Bessey. Several applications have been sent out to potential members.

Mrs. Skilton announced the need for a Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Genealogist. Mr. Robert Bessey volunteered to be Recording Secretary and Genealogist pro tem and Mr. H. Beverley Smith volunteered for Treasurer.

The meeting was fairly informal but the responsible business was attended to. Tea was served. Mrs. J. E. Hooker moved a vote of thanks to the hostess, seconded by Mr. Col. Orr, and the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is to be held in October.

A lovely spring lunch was well attended by the Vancouver, B.C. Branch of the U.E.L. Association of Canada. The Bayshore is one of Vancouver's most beautiful hotels with a gorgeous view of the harbour of Vancouver. The food was excellent and the occasion a complete success.

## 1974 Spring

The Vancouver Branch of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada met on May 4, 1973 at the home of Mrs. Gordon Scott, with the President, Mrs. Marian Skilton, in the chair.

There were nine members present. The president read the Aims of The U.E.L. Association, hoping to get the Vancouver Branch moving.

There are ten possible new members.

Mrs. Skilton announced that there was a need for a Secretary, Treasurer and Genealogist. Mr. Beverley Smith volunteered to be the Treasurer. Mr. Robert K. Bessey volunteered to be Recording Secretary and temporary Genealogist.

After a very informal meeting, tea was served. Mrs. Hooker moved a vote of thanks to the hostess, Mrs. Gordon Scott.

### Obituary: **Miss Bessie P. Choate**

Miss Bessie P. Choate, Vancouver died on November' 1973. Miss Choate will be greatly missed by the members of Vancouver Branch which served as secretary since charter in 1932. In fact, Miss Choate will be deeply missed by all our older members to whom she endeared herself with her usual devotion to U.E.L. with a consistently wonderful disposition.

We have referred to Choate from time to time pages of The Loyalist Gazette as "Miss U.E.L. of the West"

In 1970 Miss Choate conferred the distinction of being made an Honourary Life Member of the Association.

## 1974 Autumn

The annual spring luncheon was held on May 16th at the Quarry House Restaurant in Queen Elizabeth Park. Special thanks to Mrs. Gordon Scott who selected the Quarry House Restaurant for our annual luncheon. Mrs. Scott is a very warm and friendly lady and a woman of excellent taste.

A meeting of the Vancouver branch was held May 30th for the purpose of electing officers for the 1974 term. The meeting was held at the home of Mr. Robert K. Bessey and his son Kenneth D. Bessey. Elected to office for 1974 were President Mr. Wm. Young Searles; Vice-President Mrs. Gay Curran Husband; Treasurer, Mr. H. Beverley Smith; Secretary Mr. Robert K. Bessey. Mrs. Gay Curran Husband agreed to carry on as Genealogist and we are most grateful to her.

The members would also like Mrs. M. A. Skilton to know how very much we all appreciate how hard she worked for the Vancouver Branch as the Pat President from November 21, 1972 to May 30, 1974.

## 1975 Spring

The Vancouver Branch held its Autumn meeting on the 12th of September at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur N. Post. Refreshments followed the meeting, through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Post. Mr. William Y. Searles, our President, presided. After welcoming the members with a few brief remarks, he then called for two minutes' silence in tribute to our late member, Dean F.M. Clement who passed away June 10<sup>th</sup> at the age of 89. Dean Clement was a member of the Vancouver Branch since 1942.

Mr. William Y. Searles and Mr. H. Beverley Smith attended the funeral held in White Rock at the Anglican Church.

Our President has recently appointed a Genealogical Committee of three to assist our genealogist, Mrs. Gay Curran Husband. The three members are Mrs. F .M. Merritt, Miss Florence H. Howden and Mr. John G. Searles.

Thus far this fiscal year we have increased our membership by eight and spurred on by the dynamic leadership of our President we expect to add ten more. Our bottleneck has been lack of help for Mrs. Husband in processing applications. However, Mr. Searles has taken care of this by the appointment of a Genealogical Committee. Mr. Robert K. Bessey has kindly offered his home for a meeting to explore the subject "How to trace one's ancestors". We wish to compliment the Christmas Card Committee on its selection.

On November 23 our respected member Mrs. Hazel E. Scott passed away. She was a native of New Brunswick, and widow of the late Magistrate Gordon Scott, U.E.L., native of Saint John, New Brunswick. Mr. Scott served as magistrate in Vancouver.

Persons wishing to join this Vancouver Branch are asked to write Mr. Robert K. Bessey, Secretary, 2630 East 3rd Avenue, Vancouver 12, British Columbia.

### **1976 Autumn**

A general meeting and luncheon was held at the Grosvenor Hotel in Vancouver on May 1, 1976. The election of officers for the coming year was held.

Miss Howden presented Mr. Donn Langford with his membership certificate which was proof of his lineal descent from a Loyalist ancestor.

The membership approved a fee increase of \$3.00 per year thus raising the annual fees to \$6.00. Also approved was a gift of \$25.00 to be sent to Dominion Headquarters for the Library Fund.

In June Mr. Donn Langford, our branch genealogist, moved to Kelowna and the Vancouver Branch lost an esteemed member. It was with regret that the executive accepted Mr. Langford's resignation. Over the past few years he has made helpful contributions to our Branch and through his initiative many new members were gained. We all join in wishing Mr. Langford and his wife a happy relocation in Kelowna and hope he will be able to attend some of our future meetings.

Our Bicentennial goal is to find new members to bring into our Vancouver Branch. Only a few years ago the Vancouver Branch almost folded due to apathy, but we are on the upsurge once again. If each member brings in one new Loyalist we could quickly reach a membership of 100 before the bicentennial of the Loyalists' arrival in Canada. There are hundreds of potential U.E.L. members who may not even know of our existence.

Since the May meeting the new branch executive has been active. After Mr. Langford's departure Mr. Gerstner, who has had many years' experience, graciously accepted the position as branch genealogist. Mr. Gerstner is well qualified to take on this added task. He has long been interested in family research and has been very active doing genealogical work. Anyone needing assistance with his/her Loyalist proof or anyone knowing of potential U.E.L. members can contact Mr. Gerstner. Members are also reminded that Mr. Gerstner now has the branch library books which contain a wealth of Loyalist information. Anyone wishing the use of these books can contact Mr. Gerstner.



The executive has also initiated a joint publicity historical committee to advertise and promote branch activities and to preserve and collect branch historical data.

Plans are under way to publicize our local association in the newspapers and information concerning our association will be displayed in appropriate spots in the Public Library, the Genealogy Library, Mormon Church, and the meeting room of the B.C. Genealogical Society. A scrapbook of Loyalist news, past and present, has been started. Unfortunately, a fire several years ago at Miss Choate's home destroyed a great deal of historical data and we are starting with very little.

Anyone with news clippings of historical merit is asked to send these to Mrs. M. Hewlett at her home.

### **1977 Spring**

**O**n December 5, 1976 a Loyalist tea was held at the home of Maureen Hewlett. Some members wore costumes from the Loyalist era. We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Hewlett and their delightful family for a lovely afternoon. In passing was contrasted the cosy fireside Christmases of today with those first few Christmases our Loyalist ancestors spent in Canada.

We have been most fortunate in obtaining a meeting room. Mr. Burton Slough has arranged for a large well furnished room and adjacent kitchen in the Fairview Baptist Church at 16<sup>th</sup> and Pine Sts. We held our February meeting there and our Branch Genealogist, Mr. Robert Gerstner announced he would hold U .E.L. oriented genealogy classes on the third Thursday of every month at his Church. Mrs. Hewlett and Kathy Peters have offered their help. We have several new people who have indicated their interest in joining and these classes will be a great boon.

All of us were delighted to meet Mr. Slough's bride, an Island girl who knew Mr. Slough years ago as a girl. A bouquet of tulips was presented to Mrs. Slough. Our president, Miss Howden, led the discussions on the acquisition of the new flag, the purchase of new books, and the raising of fees. Our present library is really a mini-library and is housed in a cardboard box. All agreed on the policy of purchasing one or two new books a year to be decided on by the genealogist.

The best laid plans of mice and men -- yes, we had a film, painstakingly arranged and a projector borrowed from the school board, but a light had burned out and the projector did not work. Sandwiches, cakes and tea were promptly served and the meeting ended after much genealogical discussion and trading of information.

We were greatly saddened by the passing of Marjorie Cameron McMillan, wife of Oscar Orr on the second of March, 1977. Residence 4389 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Vancouver, B.C.

### **1977 Autumn**

At the annual meeting and luncheon of the Vancouver U.E.L. Branch Mr. Robert Gerstner, as vice-president, took the chair due to the absence of the president Miss F.H. Howden and Mr. Robert K. Bessey was acting secretary due to the absence of Mrs. H.T. DeLong.

Mr. Gerstner called the meeting to order at 11.40 a.m. and welcomed the members to the annual meeting and luncheon. Mr. Gerstner then called on Mr. Bessey to read the minutes of the last annual meeting and also the correspondence. Mrs. Maureen Hewlett then gave the annual treasurer's report and a motion by Mr. Gerstner to file the treasurer's report was carried unanimously.

Mr. Gerstner then gave the Genealogist's report and informed the membership that there were six new members who received their certificates: Mrs. H.T. DeLong, Miss Marion Kidd, Mrs. Maureen Hewlett, Mr. E.C. Peters, Miss Kathleen Peters and Mr. Lloyd M. Brown.

The President's report was read by Mrs. Hewlett and Mrs. Hooker read the nomination convener's report and the executive for 1977-1978 are: President, Mr. Robert K. Bessey; Vice-President and Secretary Mrs. Joan DeLong; Treasurer, Mrs. Maureen Hewlett; Genealogist, Mr. Robert Gerstner; Assistant Genealogist, Miss Kathy Peters.

About our new President: Mr. Robert K. Bessey is a direct descendant of Jacob Bessey who served in Butler's Rangers at Fort Niagara and later settled at what is now St. Catharines, Ontario. Mr. Robert K. Bessey is 37 years old and the father of four children and has two granddaughters. He is an active member of the Monarchist League of Canada.

He works on his book that he is writing about the history and genealogy of the Bessey family.

The Vancouver branch had a very quiet summer with no meetings held since the annual meeting in May. However, an outing to the Vancouver Planetarium on July 6th to see the film "Royal Palaces of a Queen" was well attended both by the Vancouver members of the U.E.L. Association and their guests the members of the Vancouver branch of the Monarchist League of Canada. A cocktail party was held after the film at the home of the President Mr. Bessey.

The Vancouver branch was the recipient of two gifts this year, Miss Howden very kindly donated a copy of "Robert's Rules of Order" and Mr. Bessey donated a mahogany flag pole and stand with a brass maple leaf for the top and a gold cord with tassles.

### **1978 Autumn**

Once again we have weathered the storm that apathy bred - we are still a functioning Branch of the Loyalists' Association. On 25 April, our Annual meeting, the motion to dissolve the Vancouver Branch was defeated. The Dominion President, Mr. D. Stuart Gilmore, in his talk said it was easier to dissolve a Branch than to get together and form one. Mr. Bessey, our outgoing President, said that if the present volunteers for executive office had come forward before, the measure of dissolution would not have been necessary. We feel we have learned something from this experience and are working to make the Vancouver Branch grow.

The following members have volunteered and were duly elected to hold office for the ensuing year: President, Mr. Beverley Smith, Vice-President, Mrs. Audrey Hanshen, Treasurer, Mr. Smith, acting, Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Doreen Todhunter, Recording Secretary, Mrs. Lucile Hooker, Genealogist, Mr. Robert Gerstner.

As part of our program of public awareness we have sent out a "press release," have put 'posters up in the Greater Vancouver branch libraries, and have even had ourselves written up in the Vancouver Province as to how we were celebrating Canada Week - on July 1st "the Loyalists will fly their flag (the Union Jack as it was under King George III), toast the Queen, and commemorate the 200 years they have 'guarded the preservation of Canada.'" The Vancouver Branch had a luncheon at Grosvenor Hotel at which sixteen members and guests were present.

Ten of our members were invited to attend a reception on 7 August at Government House to honour the visit of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. It was a grand adventure going to Government House. Those who attended were Mrs. Audrey Hanshen, Vice-President; Mrs. Lucile Hooker, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Doreen Todhunter, Corresponding Secretary; Bishop Robert Gerstner, Genealogist; Mr. Robert Bessey, Jr.

Past President; Mrs. Maureen Hewlitt, Jr. Past Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. Joyce Gerstner; Ms. Judy Todhunter-Bowman; Mr. David Bowman; and Miss Linda Todhunter. Mr. Bessey, Bishop Gerstner, and Mrs. Todhunter wore U.E.L. jewels. True to stories about the Royal family, they do notice medals, decorations, etc. Each of us was singled out and spoken to by the Princes. Prince Andrew stopped and asked Mrs. Todhunter what the medal was. She replied, "United Empire Loyalist. He then looked to Premier Bennett who was walking with him for an explanation. Premier Bennett is of Loyalist descent and explained who the U.E.L.'s were to Prince Andrew who then turned and said "There are quite a few of them still down in the States aren't there? Mrs. Todhunter went on to explain that we are descendents of approximately 50,000 who left the States and came to Canada. Bob Bessey and Bob Gerstner had a similar experience answering questions for Prince Philip since he noticed the jewel on each of them.

Our branch wrote to His Honour the Honourable Henry. P. Bell-Irving, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia on 1 June to tender Honorary Membership in our Branch, which he graciously accepted in a letter from Government House of 9 June. We are currently designing an Honorary Member's Certificate to be presented at such times. In the same vein we have written to His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, and following are excerpts from this letter:

*... We are descendents of approximately 50,000 Loyalists who left the Thirteen Colonies and settled in what is now Canada. Full membership in our organization requires that an individual have documented proof of his descent from his Loyalist ancestor, which is proven by Dominion Headquarters before the person is able to write with pride "U.E." after his name. George III bestowed a title of honour in recognition of the loyalty of the early Loyalist settlers. On 9 November 1789 Lord Dorchester, Governor-General of Canada, created the Noble Order of Unity of the empire and proclaimed the hereditary title of U.E. Loyalist to be conferred upon those who had fought for the Crown and had suffered and sacrificed so much. The motto of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada is ducit amor patriae, "let love of Canada lead you," and if it were not for these Loyalists, the Canada that we know would probably not exist. The Association was incorporated by Act of the Dominion Parliament on 27 May 1914, and the Vancouver Branch was formed on 6 October 1932.*

*Our Loyalist bicentennial is in 1983. We are Canadians which have been guarding the preservation of Canada for almost two hundred years .*

### **1979 Spring**

**T**he Vancouver branch received two very nice gifts last year, namely a flagpole with a gold silk cord and tassel, gold maple leaf pole top, and stand, from Mr. Robert K. Bessey UE, Jr. Past President. This gift makes it possible to display our flag with the dignity it deserves. We also received a gavel and sounding board presented in memory of Victor Norman Pattullo U.E., the grandfather of Mrs. Phyllis J. Sutton UE, Mrs. Doreen G. Todhunter UE, and great grandfather of Ms. Judith A. Todhunter UE. This gift was presented on behalf of these families and Mrs. Todhunter assured us that the gavel and sounding board were manufactured in Canada of Canadian wood!

In our last branch news we neglected to mention that our guest speaker at our Dominion Day luncheon was Dr. Leslie F.S. Upton, Honorary Vice-President of the U.E.L. Association of Canada and Honorary Member of the Vancouver Branch. Dr. Upton favoured us with a very thought provoking talk on "Some of the possible aims and objects of the present day Loyalists after they have proven their descent". He showed what further use can be made of this research, as for instance: preparing comparative tables, trying to reconstruct the Loyalists' thoughts in those early days and why. they did some things and not others, etc.

A regular meeting of the Vancouver branch was held Tuesday, 17 October 1978. We welcomed a new member to Vancouver -- Mrs. M. Carolyn Boyd UE, transferring from the Calgary branch. One of our new "regulars," Mr. Gary Worth UE, was presented with his certificate. A brief from Headquarters, for presentation to the Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons, was read and discussed. The

meeting was told that a copy had been submitted to our local paper with a request that it be printed. The following members were appointed to act as liaison between the branch and Headquarter's Committees: History Committee Miss Florence Howden UE; Costume Committee - Mrs. Maureen Hewlett UE; Bicentennial Committee Bishop Robert Gerstner UE. These names have been sent to Toronto.

We have other new members: Mr. George Thomas Sutton UE. and Mrs. Margaret Lucy (Sutton) McIntyre UE; Miss Karen Lesley Todhunter UE, Mr. Ronald Stanley Todhunter UE, Miss Linda Doreen Todhunter UE, and Mr. Stanley Caswell Todhunter, Associate. These are all descendants of Mr. Victor Norman Pattullo through his daughter Mrs. Mae Agnes Powell and granddaughters Phyllis and Doreen. This group of ten members from the same family and all members of the Vancouver branch must be somewhat of a record. We have two other new Associate Members: Mrs. Joyce Gerstner and Mrs. Mary Worth. Previously we welcomed Mrs. Alice Slough and Mrs. Donald Smith as Associates. We currently have two more applications in the mail. Come on Canada, if you have relatives in B.C. let the Vancouver branch know and we will contact them and hopefully gather them into the branch.

The branch received Christmas greetings from our newest honorary member, the Honourable Henry P. Bell Irving, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia, and Mrs. Bell-Irving.

The Vancouver branch sent out news of a Christmas Open House to be held Sunday, 17 December 1978, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Our Loyalists rallied behind the plan and made our festive gathering a rousing success. We had thirty-nine present consisting of regular, associate, and prospective members, as well as a few friends thrown in for good measure. The Todhunter house was decorated in the old fashioned manner, and the warmth and spirit of Christmas was apparent to all. Mr. and Mrs. Todhunter were in Loyalist costume as were the three Todhunter daughters. Delicious refreshments were served: canapes and fancy sandwiches donated by Robert K. Bessey U.E., Jr. Past President, and Daniel K. Hellman and made by Sous Chef of the Terminal City Club. Mr. Hellman gave unstintingly of his time, and took charge of preparations and servings. The French pastries, homemade eggnog and wine were donated by the Todhunters. A table of home baking was featured in the dining room with the sale items described as "Old fashioned baking at old fashioned prices." The baking was donated by our members who opened their kitchens to help the branch. Our Loyalist flag was prominently displayed, as was our charter. The commemorative Loyalist plate was also displayed and all twenty-three plates have been sold. We also had a number of enquiries about the Loyalist pin. Miss Florence Howden UE, our Life Member and Past President, poured. Servings were by the Gerstner children: Stephen and Carole, and the Todhunter daughters: Judy, Karen and Linda; as well as various members of the branch. All members present were most helpful in answering enquiries from interested parties and numerous Associate Membership Applications were handed out.

As of 31 December 1978, we have thirty-five members in good standing and another nineteen who are inactive, but we are hoping to triple our membership by 1983.

### **1979 Autumn**

**T**he Annual Meeting of the Vancouver Branch was held on 18 May at the Yorkshire Inn, preceded by a traditional English dinner of Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding. Four officers were in appropriate Loyalist costumes. President Smith explained the significance of the date, Bishop Gerstner said grace, and Mrs. Hulda Clark our charter member, gave the toast to the Queen. Two past presidents were introduced: Col. Oscar Orr (1954-58) and Mr. Bob Bessey (1977-78).

The following were asked to serve for the ensuing year: President Robert Gerstner liE; Vice-President Gary Worth UE; Recording Secretary Lucile Hooker UE; Corresponding Secretary, Doreen Todhunter UE Treasurer M. Caro Boyd UE; Genealogist Robert Bessey UE; and Assistant Genealogist Mary Worth.

The membership was informed that we now have a permanent meeting place and meetings would be held on the fourth Tuesday of every month with the exception of July and August. The meetings would be at 7:30 p.m. following which genealogical assistance would be available until 10:00 p.m.

Pamphlets prepared by the Secretary were given out explaining the history of the branch.

The regular meeting of the Vancouver Branch was held on 26 June in the Board Room of the Kitsilano Community Centre. Discussion of officers' duties, future committees, prospective speakers and the purchase of made-to-measure blazers took place. A suggested Bicentennial project was approved: a float in the PNE parade complete with costumed members, followed by a tent on the grounds including appropriate food and information.

One of our members, Judy Todhunter UE, has had an article entitled "The Griffins of Smithville, Ontario, and the Hights of Connecticut" accepted by The Canadian Genealogist. Judy is also working on an article about the Robert Campbell UE family of Chinguacousy and is preparing a book on the Caswell family of Palmerston and Saskatoon.

A system of public awareness is being followed and the Vancouver Branch is strengthening and growing.

### **1980 Spring**

The Vancouver Branch has continued to hold regular monthly meetings and is steadily growing. Our progress is attributable to our program of "public awareness" adequately handled by Mrs. R.E. Schafer UE.

One of our new members, Mr. Jonathan Walford, gave a very interesting talk on antique clothing. He brought an eighteenth century man's hat, complete with leather hatbox, to the meeting (rather Quaker in design) and passed it around for all to see. He also presented the members with illustrations and descriptions of clothing worn by our Loyalist ancestors. Mr. Walford has donated his time to present an "Antique Clothing Fashion Show" at our Annual Meeting on May 24th.

The Branch had a very successful Christmas Open House and Tea held at the home of our charter member Mrs. Hulda Mills Clark FE on December 9th. We had a record turnout of approximately fifty people for the event with two people, Mr. Paul Monlezun, a new member, and his father Mr. Jacques Monlezun, flying in from Dawson Creek which is in northern British Columbia. As usual we offered "old fashioned baking at old fashioned prices" and found this was a successful money raiser for the branch. Again this year the event was catered by Mr. Daniel Hellmann, chef of the University Club who worked tirelessly creating canapes and fancy sandwiches, to say nothing of the piece de resistance, a croqu-en-bouche which centred the table. Another table showed the various commemorative items for sale which was most appropriate for Christmas giving.

The Vancouver Branch is honoured to have another complete family as UE members--Mrs. Vona E. Smith UE and her husband Mr. Gilbert D. Smith UE, and their four children: Mrs. Cori E. (Smith) Stevens UE, Mr. Gilbert I. Smith UE, Miss Ada L. Smith UE, and Miss Julie E. Smith UE. In addition Vona persuaded her brother Mr. I. George DeWitt UE to join the Vancouver Branch.

The Secretary, Mrs. Doreen G. Todhunter UE, prepared a booklet "North American Redcoats, Military Clothing, Headgear, and Flags" to be distributed to various branch members and a copy for Gavin K. Watt, Lieutenant Commanding, Colonel's Company, First Battalion, King's Royal Yorkers. The booklet was well received and Mr. Watt passed on first hand information as to how one gets recreated military clothing to fit and the approximate cost for outfitting personnel.

Our Vice-President, Gary Worth UE, was congratulated by the branch on the birth of his daughter on February 16th. It was moved by Robert K. Bessey UE, and seconded by Lucile Hooker UE, that we send a certificate of membership to Joanne Meredith Worth, the baby daughter of Gary and Mary Worth--the first baby born to accredited members of our Vancouver Branch.

The branch is researching funding avenues to bring to fruition the plans for a float in the 1983 Pacific National Exhibition parade and staffing a booth during the course of the fair. We are a long way from the centre of Loyalism and the funds for such events are hard to come by.

## 1980 Fall

**M**rs. Doreen Todhunter, Secretary of Vancouver Branch is honoured at a Ceremonial Dinner and receives an award from Mr. G.L. Van Koughnett of Heritage Branch, Montreal.

### CEREMONIAL DINNER

The Ceremonial Dinner was held on Sept. 23 at The University Club of Vancouver, suitably adorned with Canadian flags, Union Jacks, Association banners, the Loyalist flag, and the British Columbia flag, and began with a social hour followed by the piping in of the head table, by Hector Turnbull and Colin Cameron wearing the Buchanan tartan. The kilted pipers are members of two bands: the band of Gizeh Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. and the Vancouver Police Pipe Band.

The assemblage was called to Order by Robert K. Bessey UE, Dinner Chairman, and everyone rose as the colour party entered, composed of the two pipers and a standard bearer; Kenneth D. Bessey, UE. Mrs. Joyce Gerstner favoured us with a solo entitled "Our Pledge to Our Heritage" (adapted from an old military air) with words and melody by G. Van Koughnett, UE (CMH), arranged by D. Page, UE.

The Branch President, Bishop Robert Gerstner, UE, asked the blessing, followed by a superb gourmet meal prepared by Chef Daniel Hellmann. The special menu consisted of: Consomme de Gibier; Assiette de Fruit de Mer; Lemon Sorbet; Tournedos Cordon Rouge, Tomato Florentine, Haricots verts Amandine, Pomme Parisienne; Souffle Glace a l'Orange; and Cafe; accompanied by French Bourdeaux blanc and rouge.

The head table was introduced while dinner was being served, as follows: Stanley Todhunter; Mrs. Mary Worth; Gary Worth, UE Vice-President; Mrs. Caro Boyd, UE, Treasurer; Mr. E.J. Chard UE of Toronto; Mrs. Doreen Todhunter, UE, Secretary; Chancellor George van Koughnett, UE, of Montreal; Mrs. Joyce Bradford, UE of Toronto; Bishop Robert Gerstner, UE, President; Mrs. Liliane Stewart of Montreal; Colonel David M. Stewart O.C., O.St.J., K.H., K.L.J., F.R.S.A., F.H.S.(C) CMH of Montreal; Mrs. Joyce Gerstner; and Robert Bessey, UE, Dinner Chairman.

A word of welcome was extended to all present by the President. He then introduced visitors from other organizations and those coming from a distance as follows: Mrs. Vida Bessey, St. Catharines, Ontario; Mrs. F.Elva Borgerson, Past Queen, Zarah Temple, Daughters of the Nile; Dr. Jane Fredeman, Senior Editor, University of British Columbia Press; Professor W.E. Fredeman, Department of English, University of British Columbia; Mr. Klaus Kohlmeyer, Criminology Department, Simon Fraser University; Ms. Karenn Krangle, Assistant Editor "You" Section, The Vancouver Sun Newspaper; Mrs. Dolores McLeod UE, Victoria Branch, U.E.L.; Mr. Paul Monlezun, School History Award winner, Dawson Creek, B.C.; Mr. W. Bert Morrison, President - Newgate Branch No. 282 and Past Zone Commander, Royal Canadian Legion; Mrs. Margie Rae UE, Victoria Branch, U.E.L.; and Mr. Walter Robinson, Potentate, Gizeh Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for North America.

At the conclusion of the dinner the Chef and Daniel Hellmann, Chef of The University Club of Vancouver, was given a hearty round of applause for such a sumptuous repast.

Robert Bessey, UE, substituting for the Branch Genealogist Vona Smith UE presented a membership certificate to our youngest member Joanne Meredith Worth (ancestor Captain Benjamin North) aged seven months, who was at home asleep. Gary Worth UE then addressed a few words to those assembled asking for their support of our organization. Officers of the Order entered followed by the Master of-Exchequer Joyce Bradford carrying the leather tooled presentation chest. She, in turn, was followed by Chancellor George van Koughnett. They assembled at a special dias, opposite the head table, under and elegant floor-to-ceiling Indian wood carving. The ceremony to induct the Vancouver Branch Secretary, Doreen Gwyneth Todhunter UE, into the order was most impressive and dignified. She was escorted to the dias by the President where Chancellor van Koughnett explained the significance of the award, following which the Master-of-Exchequer Joyce Bradford came forward with the presentation chest and Mr. E.J. Chard removed the collar and clasped it around the neck of Mrs. Todhunter. Chancellor van Koughnett read the original application submitted by the branch. He then presented Mrs. Todhunter with the jewel, a framed copy of her certificate, and the application form, followed by a hearty handshake and congratulations. Bishop Gerstner escorted Doreen G. Todhunter to her seat.

Guest Speaker, David M. Stewart (CMH) of Montreal, was introduced and gave a most interesting slide presentation and historical talk on the origins of the Loyalists in general and a few outstanding historical figures in particular. His message was vividly reinforced by his command of Canadian History and his deep understanding for Canadian unity across this country. His speech was well received. The Vice-President, Gary Worth UE. thanked Colonel Stewart for the excellent address and for his coming from Montreal for this occasion he presented the Colonel and other eastern visitors with a small memento of the occasion (a carved Indian plaque typical of the west coast. The evening closed by a hearty singing of O Canada.

Mrs. Todhunter was not called upon to speak but she felt the occasion warranted a special thank you and has written the following letter to Mr. George van Koughnett, Mr. E.J. Chard, and Mrs. Bradford.

"When our President, Bob Gerstner, phoned to tell me I had been chosen, I was overwhelmed and very pleased. In the ensuing days I began to formulate my thoughts into just what this meant to me, personally, and began to think of a reply if I were called upon to speak. Since a speech was not necessary, and I do want to tell you how much your trip to the west coast for the induction ceremony has meant, I thought the words put together at the time of notification would express my feelings. Please accept them on that basis.

Mr. van Koughnett, Mr. Chard, and Mrs. Bradford, Companions Officers and Members of the Vancouver Branch, and Friends :

It is with deep humility that I accept this honour. I feel the knowledge of one's Loyalist ancestors explains the inner source of feelings that is the fibre of our soul--it is the moving force of our thoughts and actions. I am proud of this heritage.

I feel the receipt of this honour is one of the great moments of my life and I would like to thank my co-workers and friends in the Vancouver Branch for making it possible. Thank you.'

I am still 'in awe' of the happenings of Tuesday, the 23rd, your ceremony was so simple and dignified--its simplicity made it most impressive. I cannot tell you how much it has meant to me, and to have the beautiful collar and lapel jewel, in addition to the framed warrant, and application form, they will be treasured by me and my family for many years.

Thank you again for making such a memorable evening possible. With kindest personal regards, Sincerely,  
Doreen G. Todhunter UE (CMH)."

The evening will be long remembered by those seventy people attending the dinner and will go down in the history of the Vancouver Branch as truly a "night to remember."

Mr. Walter Robinson, Potentate of Gizeh Temple, presented Mrs. Todhunter with a commemorative book published in 1975 entitled: "G" for Gizeh: the' Life Story of a Temple" because she is the daughter of the late George S. Powell, Potentate of Gizeh Temple in 1954. Mrs. Todhunter is a Past Honoured Queen of Bethel No.1, International Order of Job's Daughters; and a charter member of Zarak Temple Daughters of the Nile.

Mr. Gary Worth closed this outstanding and memorable occasion with a hearty vote of appreciation to Mr. Robert K. Bessey, Past President, who was responsible for all of the arrangements.

### **1981 Spring**

The Vancouver Branch is continuing to hold monthly meetings, but it is currently locked out of its meeting hall because of a civic workers' labour dispute. Miss Ruth Schafer UE and Mrs. Sarah Schafer UE are keeping up their publicity campaign for public awareness and it appears to be working.

Our Annual Christmas Tea and Open House was again held at the home of our charter member Mrs. Robert C. Clark on, Sunday, December 7, and was well attended. Chef Daniel Hellmann of the University Club, created canapes and fancy sandwiches and also provided us with a croqu-en-bouche as the table centre.

A Bicentennial Cookbook Committee has been set up, chaired by Mrs. Norma McGuire UE with the assistance of Mrs. Kay Leonard. The branch is looking at various fund raising projects in preparation for 1983.

### **1981 Autumn**

The Vancouver Branch is continuing its efforts to make itself well known in the Greater Vancouver area and is still holding monthly meetings except for July and August.

Gordon Leonard UE and his wife Kay worked very hard to have a successful picnic in August at old Fort Langley. a reconstructed Hudson's Bay Company fort. It is called the "birthplace" of British Columbia and is located in Fort Langley National Historic Park. One of the original Hudson's Bay Company buildings survives - it had been a cooper's shop but has been converted into a warehouse cum general store where trade goods and furs are displayed. The reconstructed buildings are authentic in detail and furnishings and the day we were there they were baking "raspberry bannock" outside over an open fire. We all sampled this delicacy and were given a copy of the recipe.

The costumed attendants at the Fort commented on how nice it was to have other people around in costume. Mickey McGuire, the husband of Norma McGuire UE, was dressed in buckskins with an authentic rifle and coonskin cap and was quite the hit with the tourists. I'm sure the pictures taken would be shown to friends back home of what they considered "typical Canadians."

Vona Smith UE, genealogist, gave a very interesting talk at the September meeting on how and where to search for Loyalist information.

### **1982 Spring**

The Vancouver Branch of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada continues to meet on a regular basis and publicize the meetings.



A successful film night arranged by Mr. Gordon Leonard UE and his wife Kay was well attended. Gordon and Kay, our "Entertainment" committee also arranged a display of antique dresses plus patterns, style books, and helpful hints on "how to get yourself into costume by 1983." They are hard working members of the branch and the evening was enjoyed by all present.

The Annual Christmas Tea and Bake Sale was held at the home of the Secretary, Mrs. Doreen Todhunter U.E. The members were encouraged to attend this popular event in costume. Mr. Jonathan Walford U.E.L. displayed his private collection of antique clothing from the Loyalist period and gave a short talk. He is Costume Curator at the North Shore Museum. The success of the day was due to the efforts of the Convener, Mrs. Mary Worth.

The Bicentennial Cookbook Chairman, Mrs. Norma McGuire UE has done an excellent job of hand printing and illustrating the cookbook, but the project has stalled because of a lack of publishing funds.

A visit to the Vancouver Centennial Museum was arranged for the members to view an Undergarments exhibit which included all kinds of clothing of the Loyalist period and was much enjoyed.

A campaign of supplying "search" information at branch meetings is being conducted by the Genealogist, Mrs. Vona Smith U.E. She brings many useful books and pamphlets which might be of assistance to others. Vona is a very knowledgeable researcher and willing to share this knowledge and assist those who need help.

The February meeting was cancelled due to a freak Vancouver snow storm. However the branch continues to meet the fourth Tuesday of every month, except July and August. at the Kitsilano Community Centre.

The members continue to praise Mrs. Doreen Todhunter for her remarkable organization, leadership and greatly detailed work over recent years in rebuilding this fine expanding branch that had previously declined to the point of closing.

## **1982 Autumn**

**T**he Vancouver Branch continues to explore other areas of interest as well as holding monthly meetings. In February a group of us visited the Vancouver Centennial Museum to see a display of garments, some dating from Loyalist times.

The election of officers at April's meeting were the following: President, Mr. Gordon Leonard UE; Vice-President, Mrs. Maurice Walford (Ann) UE; Secretary, Mrs. Gary Worth (Mary); Treasurer, Miss Ruth Schafer UE; Genealogist, Mrs. Gilbert Smith (Vona) UE.

A special meeting was called for May 3, to meet the Dominion President, Mr. John Eaman, who spoke to us about "The Loyalists and the Future". In May we rented a table at a Flea Market and plan to do this project twice a year. Our Annual Luncheon was held on May 29, 1982 at the Dogwood Room (P.N.E.). Our guest speaker, Professor Peter Moogk of the Department of History at U.B.C., spoke about "The Limits of Loyalism: Canadian and Great Britain". We also had the ever popular Antique Clothing Fashion Show under the auspices of Jonathan Walford.

We have been unsuccessful to date in coming up with a workable Bicentennial project, but we continue to search for one, We encourage our members to make themselves Loyalist costumes and plan to foster an awareness of locally available U.E.L. material.

## **1985 December**

"The Loyal Americans," a collection of sixteen slides and commentary was prepared by Peter N. Moogk UE, Professor of History at The University of British Columbia. The production of these slides was supported by the Vancouver Branch as a second bicentennial project and is offered as a teaching aid to keep our Loyalist heritage alive.

President Doreen Todhunter UE and Genealogist Vona Smith UE attended the first night's dinner of the "Ninetieth Year of Service" Conference, Washington State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in Tumwater, Washington, on March 20th. Doreen and Vona went in costume and when Doreen concluded her few words of greeting by saying "like our Loyalist ancestors we came in our one good dress" she received much applause.

The Annual Luncheon was held May 18th at the Faculty Club at UBC. It was a costume event and Ivan Sayer, Curator of History at the Vancouver Museum, was guest speaker. Mr. Sayer told us girls were laced into corset stays at the age of 1-1/2 years and when adults many of these women could not stand erect without their stays! The wearing of stays from such an early age also contributed to many childbirth deaths. He exhibited two period dresses and took us step-by-step through its wearing.

"Hands Across the Border" Third Annual Tour was held July 27th. A busload of Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution, sponsored by the Greater Seattle DAR Regents' Council once again "invaded" Canada. They visited the Physick Garden (a typical sixteenth-century herbal garden) at UBC, had a brief "windshield" tour of the campus, and stopped for luncheon at the Faculty Club. They were then guided to other UBC gardens, the museum, library, and regrouped to continue their day touring the Expo 86 site.

Benjamin Worth UE (named for his Loyalist ancestor) is our new Life Member. We must have set something of a record with such a young family holding Life memberships: father Gary, daughter Joanne, and baby Benjamin. Mother Mary is an Associate member. Unique in Vancouver is Andrew Webb UE with four certificated Loyalist grandparents: Richardson Webb, Richard Currie, Jacob Segee, and Richard Jones. Congratulations to both families for such loyalism. Kudos for an unusual wedding go out to Past President Robert K. Bessey of Vancouver and Mrs. Marjorie Bessey of Ontario. They were married May 11th in the intensive care unit of the St. Catherine's General Hospital. The groom wore a lovely green gown and was surrounded by yellow mums! After a less than auspicious beginning Bob has regained his health and the newlyweds are living in Vancouver - congratulations!

A Christmas Tea is planned for December 8th at the home of Vice-President Peter Moogk UE and Mrs. Moogk. This is another costume event.

#### Obituary: **Miss Florence Howden UE**

Life member Miss Florence Howden, Vancouver Branch Past President, passed away October 27th. She was a long time benefactor of Dominion Headquarters and will be sadly missed. She was a pre-1910 UE and claimed Loyalist Jordan Post of York County, Ontario, as her ancestor.

Two long time members of the Vancouver Branch passed away this year, both were pre-1970 UE's. Major C. Bertram Huyck VE, born in 1889 in Tweed, Ontario, died March 8th. He saw service in both World Wars and went overseas in 1914 with the Sixth Field Company Engineers from Kingston. Major Huyck leaves his wife, sons, and their families in Vancouver. He claimed descent from Loyalist Isaac C. Huyck of Tweed, Ontario. Life Member Miss Florence Howden UE died October 27th. She was a Vancouver Branch Past President and a long-time benefactor of Dominion Headquarters. Miss Howden is survived by nieces and nephews. She claimed descent from Loyalist Jordon Post of York County, Ontario. Both of these "old" members will be sadly missed.

**1986 June**

Over two hundred years after their ancestors went into exile, members of the Vancouver Branch of the U.E.L.A.C. gathered on Sunday, December 8th, for their annual Christmas Tea and Old Fashioned Bake Sale. Thirty - some in eighteenth century costume came to the home of Dr. Peter Moogk in West Point Grey for the tea. President Doreen G. Todhunter introduced the new executive for 1986: Peter Moogk UE, President; Norma Raynor UE, Vice-President; Mary Worth UE, Secretary; Ruth Shafer UE, Treasurer: and Vona Smith-UE, Branch Genealogist - a post she has filled with great ability over a number of years. Newsletter Editor and past President, Robert K. Bessey UE, was there in a Butler's Rangers uniform. Doreen Todhunter poured tea and coffee while those present discussed the history of their families. Five year old Joanne Worth of Burnaby, one of our youngest members, attended in long dress and poke bonnet while the oldest members present were Lucile Hooker, a charter member, and Sadie Shafer, who are both in their nineties.

### **1986 December**

The Vancouver Branch though far away from original Loyalist settlements is presenting some very realistic ways of recapturing those early times. The latest branch newsletter, edited by Mrs. Doreen Todhunter, carried a Loyalist recipe for kedgereee and another for spruce beer! There were also instructions for knitting a pioneer shawl. The October meeting included an exhibition of artifacts brought in by the members and the Annual Costume Event was held in December at the home of the Branch President, Professor Peter Moogk and Mrs. Moogk.

The branch has discontinued selling the needlepoint kit for making the member's badge but still has the charts for this at \$5 and for the Armorial Bearings at \$12. To order write to Miss Ruth Schafer, Treasurer at 3363 West 39th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6N 3A3. The same issue of the newsletter indicates interest in the original settlements by informing members that the Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society has completed all the cemetery records from Kingston to the Bay of Quinte.

There is also a documentary of Loyalist days carried in the diary entries of a young officer, taken from A Journal of Thomas Hughes, 1778-1789, published in 1947. This describes what it was like to be a prisoner in the rebels' hands and what kind of treatment was meted out to Loyalists who found themselves behind rebel lines. Later entries recorded the remarkable progress made in settling the upper St. Lawrence area.

### **1998 Autumn**

The Vancouver Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association held its annual luncheon at the UBC Faculty Club. This event is held close to the anniversary of the 1783 landing of American Loyalist refugees at the River Saint John, New Brunswick. Guests of Honour at the luncheon were North Vancouver's mayor, Jack Loucks, who has Loyalist ancestors, and his wife, Olive. After the meal, Dr. Ronald Hatch, of the UBC Department of English, gave a talk on literary perceptions of life in early Canada. Mayor Loucks spoke of his pride in his Loyalist heritage. Dr. Peter Moogk, the branch president, concluded with the hope that the group's awareness of Canada's past would make them better Canadians. Many of those present were dressed in eighteenth century costume.

By Mr. Peter Moogk, President, Vancouver Branch

### **1989 July**

On August 20th, eighteen members of the Vancouver Branch stepped back into 1890's at Elgin heritage park in Surrey B.C. It was a perfect day: the Nickomekl river and North Shore mountains beyond reflected the clear sunlight. The children collected sour apples from an overgrown orchard and got to ride on a sailing boat in the river. Joan Fishleigh displayed her new grandchild. The adults, some in eighteenth century attire, shared their contributions to the fest at picnic tables and then toured the historic Stewart Farmhouse, which was furnished in the manner of 1890-1920.

Those who were not ashamed of their age exclaimed "I remember that!" at the sight of some bygone object, like a tin-lined ice box. An unexpected bonus of our tour was the Hooser Weaving Centre, which had a historic collection of looms and a sample file of diverse weaving techniques and cloth decoration. The picnickers then retired to the benches to reminisce, gossip and to drowse—it was a happy return to less hurried pace of life.

By Peter N. Moogk, President of Vancouver Branch.

### **1991 Autumn**

On October 16, 1990, Mr. Nethercott, UEL President, gave an overview of the objectives of the Dominion Executive and made his first presentation of Loyalist certificates to: John M. Graham UE, Vice President; John's sons Alexander M. Graham UE; and John T. Graham UE. The ancestors recognized are John Huyck and Joseph Morden. After the meeting all members gathered at the home of Mrs. Lucile Hooker UE to recognize Mr. Nethercott's visit.

Four of our members also attended the presentation of the Chilliwack *charter* by Mr. Nethercott, thus achieving two 'firsts' as our new Dominion President.

By John M. Graham UE, President, Vancouver Branch

### **1993 Spring**

A luncheon held May 2, 1992, at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club marked our 60th anniversary. Guest speaker, Lois Dickinson, President of Chilliwack Branch, spoke on the four "R's" of our Loyalists' conscience, namely Review our past, the Reality of the present, the Renewal of our objectives, and our collective Response to how we achieve the goals of our Loyalist organization. Lois presented the branch with a handsome book containing pictures and articles on the history of the Vancouver Branch.

In September, Vona Smith, branch Archivist, demonstrated with books, patterns and materials how members could use these materials to prepare their won costumes. Mrs. Smith was awarded the President's Jewel by the President for Vancouver Branch her devoted eleven years as genealogist and many more as branch supporter.

Mrs. Eunice Robinson, B.C. Genealogical Society, addressed members at an October meeting regarding many useful sources available to trace our ancestors. Dr. Peter Moogk's topic in November was "What Were Loyalists' Loyal To?"

Mrs. Lucille Hooker, 100 years young, was able to join us for Christmas Tea at Vona Smith's home. We regret that Col. Oscar Orr, former branch president, passed away in the fall at age 100. Col. Orr, a long time supportive member, had a distinguished career in the army and on the Bench in British Columbia.

By Joyce Tiplady, Secretary

### **1993 Autumn**

Our Annual Branch Luncheon was held May 1, 1993, at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. We were very fortunate to have Archie Miller, curator of Irving House Museum in New Westminster, B.C. His topic was about two rival Fraser River boat captains. The fascinating extracts from old newspapers seemed hilarious competition and flamboyant advertising of what was deadly serious to the winner and persistent loser.

#### **Branch News Highlights**

- . Muryl Geary, a friend of our Association, drew the convention '94 logo for the young Loyalist.
- . Margorie Gibbs gave a most informative talk on the Loyalists of The Bay Chaleur.
- . Rebecca Fraser enlightened us on her ancestor Ephriam Jones, as did Vona Smith about her ancestors Everet and Jacob DeWitt.
- . Dick Mackey illuminated his Palatines.
- . Past President, John Graham is 'working' for the Loyalists in the Okanagan.

#### **EIGHTEEN CERTIFICATES**

Over the summer, thanks to Peter and Angela Johnson, we've received certificates for Patricia Barchard - Robert Land and George Chisholm; Michael Lindburg - John Dingman; Allen Mackey - Benjamin Fralick; Dr. Gerald R. Brown - Johann Eberhardt Wager and Dr. Jay John Thompson, Lieutenant 2 NJ Volunteer.

We were saddened earlier this year at the death of Dr. Jay Turner but pleased to present his wife, Nell, with his certificate and those of his family.

By Branch Genealogist, Joan V. Fishleigh

#### **A BRANCH FIRST!**

An Associate Certificate was to have been presented to Margaret (Dolly) Hannay (down with the 'flu) for her considerable contribution to our Association. Her late husband, James, was a descendant of Col. John Butler and, with Dolly doing the research, had eight certificates.

Dolly's generous effort completed typing 'the regular list,' on file cards, under ancestor names, dating from 1970. She always had time to chat with our shut-in members. She is recent past President of the British Columbia Genealogical Society, served many years on their board, and was the long-time printer of their newsletter, publications, and members' books to raise funds.

She truly lives up to her motto, "If you join a Society you work for it." She is a much appreciated treasure.

By Vona E. Smith, UE .

#### **AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE: LCOL. OSCAR ORR** by Peter Moogk

On November 1st, 1992, the Vancouver Branch lost Cot. Oscar Orr, who had just marked his one hundredth birthday. Oscar's Loyalist lineage came from his mother; she was a descendant of Benjamin McConnell and Elizabeth Haines of Rye [Long Island], New York Province, who settled at Shelburne, Nova Scotia. Both came from active "Tory" families. The Loyalist connection was strengthened when Benjamin's son Elijah married Elinor, the daughter of Deacon David Shook, UE, from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Shooks and McConnells had been fellow passengers on a refugee ship from Boston. Elijah and Elinor had a son named after his father. More Loyalist ancestors came from Elijah McConnell II's wife Kate, daughter of Dennis Schoff or Shaw of Butler's Rangers. Oscar was also connected with the De Cous or Corsons of Upper Canada. His grandfather McConnell, born in Digby, N.S., moved to Elgin County, in Ontario. The Orrs were of Irish stock; Great-grandfather William observed that if William had caught the "little rebel" William Lyon Mackenzie, as he had hoped, we might have been spared Prime

Minister W.L. Mackenzie King, the rebel's grandson. The Orrs have served as officers in the Canadian armed forces, whether as reservists or career servicemen, for six generations.

Oscar's son Alexander was a Flying Officer with the R.C.A.F. when he was killed in an air crash in Burma in 1943. That was a dark moment in Oscar's eventful life.

Oscar was born on 27 July 1892 on the Red Pheasant Indian Reserve, some thirty miles south of the old town of Battleford, in the former North West Territories. His father had farmed in Manitoba and had been a mounted policeman. When Oscar was born, his father was employed as an agricultural instructor to the Indians, because he spoke Cree and knew about farming.

At the age of five, Oscar was sent to live with his grandparents at St. Thomas, Ontario. He was not happy there and ran away from them in May 1903 when ten years old, to join the Sells & Downs Circus. It was his third flight from their home. Being a farm boy, he knew all about haying and other chores, such as the feeding and tending of livestock.

For three months he cared for the circus camels. He was briefly employed as a cabin boy on a ship in New York harbour. Oscar next found work on a farm in Michigan State, but decided that "it was too cold for me," so he went to Galveston, Texas. "I was getting money and my keep, and I was just a kid. [...] I will never forgive myself for not writing my mother for two years." After two years and seven months in the United States, the fugitive was persuaded to return to Canada. After a Christmas dinner at Syracuse, N.Y., courtesy of the Salvation Army, he boarded an empty freight car of the Michigan Central Railroad going north with only a bag of boiled candy for food. He arrived at St. Thomas on December 27th, 1905, at 2 a.m.

Back in Ontario, Oscar attended high school until the age of sixteen, when his mother in British Columbia sent for him. She was working as a hospital nurse in New Westminster and had not seen her son for ten years. He arrived in the Pacific province in April 1908 and continued his studies at Columbia Methodist College in New Westminster. His maternal uncle was a barrister in St. Thomas. Oscar's cousins persuaded him to write the entrance examinations for the informal law school in Vancouver. There was not yet a University of British Columbia, not to speak of a Faculty of Law. Leading lawyers volunteered to give lectures to paying students. Oscar passed the test and was studying law when the First World War broke out in August 1914.

Oscar served briefly with the navy, but went overseas with Vancouver's 29th Battalion ("Tobin's Tigers") of the Canadian Expeditionary Force's Second Division. He had been in the militia in 1908-1913 and was enrolled as a private. He was commissioned in the field as a lieutenant in May 1916. Subalterns were then said to have a life expectancy of 90 days. He was with the 29th in the Ypres Salient when, on 16 July 1916, a three ounce piece of German shrapnel passed through the bridge of his nose and down into his throat. His optic nerves were damaged yet, miraculously, he survived what should have been a fatal wound. Oscar kept the fragment of steel on his mantelpiece with the plaque "From Fritz, to Oscar" attached to it. He was "still amazed" by his survival and on the fatal 90th day as a lieutenant, he was invited to have tea with the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace.

Oscar Orr was invalided back to Canada and, after "they patched me up," he resumed his law studies and then took the Law Society entrance exam at Victoria. He was called to the bar late in 1916. "Some colleagues used to say that was not the only one called to the bar with a hole in the head."

In 1921 he was hired to be Assistant City Prosecutor for Vancouver. He was City Prosecutor by 1939, when the Second World War began. Oscar could not pass the medical examination for active service overseas, and was taken on by the army as Assistant Judge Advocate General of Canada's Pacific Command. In 1946, after the war, Oscar was appointed to serve with the War Crimes [investigation] Section for the Far East under Lord Mountbatten. This appointment lasted for fourteen months. In Asia he learned about atrocities against civilians and the maltreatment of Allied military prisoners captured at Hong Kong and Singapore.

"Most of the prisoners buried in Yokohama Cemetery died of starvation and cruelty," he recalled. Oscar was Canadian prosecutor of some fifty Japanese war criminals tried at Tokyo. In October 1948 he spoke to the Vancouver Branch of the UELA about his experiences as a prosecutor for war crimes. He had given talks at Branch meetings in 1937.

Back in Vancouver, Co!. Orr was made King's Counsel in 1947 and became a Police Magistrate in 1953. When he retired in 1962, he was chief magistrate in Vancouver and a member of the Police Commission. He revisited Ypres, the scene of his injury, in 1955; despite this wound, he mused "I think I may have preferred being a soldier." Until his death, he lived quietly in the West Point Grey house he had built for himself in 1926. His wife Marjorie died in 1977. He was surrounded by an extensive library in which Loyalist and military history were well represented. He was an expert on the notorious 1894 trial of Captain Alfred Dreyfus; "I am still in doubt that Dreyfus was not a spy" he observed, "the second court martial, years after the first, still found him guilty and the President of France finally pardoned him." The Orr family papers that he had inherited and other historical documents he had acquired are now in the Archives of Ontario.

The Law Society of British Columbia honoured him with the Judge Begbie Award in 1988. Oscar was already the recipient of the Order of British Columbia and had been made a Freeman of the City of Vancouver. Co1. Orr attended Vancouver Branch May luncheons in the late 1980s and was at the 29th Battalion reunion in May 1992. On his one hundredth birthday he received congratulations from the Queen, Governor General, and Prime Minister as well as from family and friends. When interviewed by a newspaper reported in July 1992, Oscar said that he had no secret formula for a long life: "I just go from day to day. I don't worry about anything. I enjoy my memories here; I sit in my window and look out at the bay, the yachts and the garden and recall my boys growing up there."

LCol. Oscar Orr is survived by his son Oscar F. Orr and daughter-in-law Ethel as well as by three granddaughters Carole, Denise, Candace and two great granddaughters who live in Alberta. Co!. Orr was a source of pride to all of us.

*\*Based on conversations with Col. Orr in November 1988 and in January 1989.*

### **From Vancouver's Archives...** Rev. Dr. U.R. Trumpour, UE, Vancouver Branch President from 1937-39

**O**f United Empire Loyalist stock, Harry Ralph Trumpour was born in Napanee, Ontario in 1879. He graduated from the University of Toronto with first class honours in Classics in 1900 and was granted an M.A four years later. His theological course in Wycliffe College, Toronto, was equally distinguished. By ordination he spent two years as tutor at Wycliffe and assistant curate of the Church of the Redeemer, after which he became headmaster of Rothesay Boys' School, New Brunswick. Mr. Trumpour, in 1908, was appointed rector of All Saints', Peterborough, Ontario.

In 1911 he married Miss Helen Frink and came west to Vancouver, as Professor of New Testament in the new College. He held the post until his retirement in May, 1947 Dr. Trumpour's knowledge of New Testament Greek was profound, there were few his equal as a student of writings of the early fathers of the Church. He was often in demand as a teacher and speaker. For two years he served as President of the Vancouver Branch of the UELAC

In 1912 he organized an Anglican congregation in West Point Grey and in the following year became the first rector of the new parish of St. Helen's. In 1933, in recognition of his work, the Union College of British Columbia conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

For many years college students from both institutions attended his lectures. Wycliffe similarly honoured him in 1937. Dr. Trumpour was also a member of the Leonard Foundation and represented the College on the General Synod Board of Examiners for degrees in divinity.

He retired from the College in 1947 and died in November of that year, after a short illness.

## 1994 Spring

The Annual Banquet in May was at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. All savoured a delicious meal and enjoyed listening to speaker Archie Miller on "Conditions and Experiences of Travelling on the Fraser River, 1850-1880." Archie is Curator of New Westminster's historic "Irving House Museum" which overlooks Simon Fraser's mighty river. A Christmas Tea at the home of Rebecca and Robert Fraser closed out the year. It was a congenial occasion where members had a chance to visit and wish each other a Happy Holiday.

It has been a busy year for the Vancouver Branch, especially with the organization for Convention 94 - "Loyalists from Sea to Sea," - coordinated with the Chilliwack and Victoria branches. Our monthly meetings have been innovative and interesting, with members as well as guests speakers. Programs of great interest and variety were presented.

Dick Mackey recounted his travels researching his Palatine (German) ancestors in the United States and Canada. Their movements from Germany to North America by way of many European countries are very well recorded.

Barbara Rogers, a member of the B.C. Genealogy Society, presented a informative talk on her research into the Haldimand Papers. With much persistence and hard work source material was found, and subsequently a great wealth of information was uncovered. We are fortunate to be able to take advantage of Barbara's guidance.

Marjorie Gibb spoke of her family and its connection with the history of the Gaspé Peninsula. Marjorie outlined the geographic aspects of the peninsula, different towns and their historic interest, the arrival of the Loyalists, and referred to some of the notable people of the Gaspé who were well known figures in Canadian history.

Rebecca Fraser introduced her Ancestor Ephraim Jones and her Loyalist family, as well another branch of the family which goes back to 16th century France. She related the story of one family artifact called the 'Jones Shovel.' This shovel, designed by Ephraim Jones, was still in use during the construction of Canada's trans-continental railway.

Ann Corcoran, a local publisher, spoke on the subject of self-publishing. This was very informative and of great interest to those who would like to publish their family histories.

Vona Smith spoke on the value of carefully studying all available records. Researching family histories, health records, death certificates, etc., can give great insight into various conditions or diseases which might have a connection with, or give an understanding of, the health of past and present descendants. Several book nights were organized by Vona Smith and Joan Fishleigh, where we discussed resource material. On another occasion they gave us a demonstration of costumes for 'Convention 94' and suggestions of how they could be made.

A memorable way to celebrate the 1994 Victoria Day Weekend would be to attend Convention 94, and B.C. members are looking forward to greeting members from the rest of Canada. An exciting program is planned, and several unique locations have been arranged for the social occasions.

By Joyce Tiplady, Branch Secretary

## 1994 Autumn



After registration for the 1994 Convention, a reception was held at the Vancouver Museum where a Parks Canada exhibit "The Loyalists" was on display.

A salmon and chicken barbeque was held the evening of the seminars at Brock House Restaurant. Before dinner, delegates were bussed to nearby Hastings Mill, run by the *Native Daughters of British Columbia*. The Mill, the first sawmill in Vancouver, had been moved to its present location a number of years ago and the *Native Daughters* created a museum honouring its history and that of Vancouver and its earlier citizens.

Those not attending the Annual Meeting looked around the campus, took tours or saw more of Vancouver.

A great 'HURRAH' goes to Dorrine Macnab for her enthusiastic organization of the trip 'west'. We most sincerely thank Dorrine and both the Chilliwack and Victoria Branches for their support. Thanks also to the many who took the long journey 'out west' to our beautiful province. What would we have done without you?

By Joyce Tiplady, Branch Secretary

### 1995 Spring

The Vancouver Branch played host to the 1994 Convention, May 19-21. "Loyalists From Sea to Sea." held at the University of British Columbia, Canada. After registration on Thursday, May 19, a reception was held at the Vancouver Museum, where Parks Canada exhibit "The Loyalists" was on display for a month.

Seminars were held on Friday, May 20, and there were many interesting and challenging speakers: Justice William Goodloe, Washington State Supreme Court (ret.); Peter and Angela Johnson, UEs, Dominion Genealogists; Dr. Norman Knowles, lecturer, Dept. of History, University of B.C.; The Honourable Janice Potter MacKinnon, Ph.D., M.L.A., Minister of Finance, Province of Saskatchewan, and Professor, University of Saskatchewan; Dr. Peter Moogk UE., Professor, Dept. of History, University of B.C.; Dr. Carolyn Smith Pellettier UE, M.D.; Gerald A. Rogers UE, Industrial Engineer, Max Sutherland, Director, Parks Canada; Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Gretha Warren, History Association of Canada. A Salmon and Chicken barbecue was held the evening of the Seminars at Brock House Restaurant, located on Vancouver's beautiful English Bay. Preceding dinner, delegates were bussed to nearby Hastings Mill, run by the Native Daughters of British Columbia. The Mill, the first sawmill in Vancouver, had been moved to its present location a number of years ago, and the Native Daughters created a Museum honouring its history, and that of Vancouver and its earlier citizens. After inspecting the mill, the Loyalists, a great many in costume, were piped over to Brock House for their dinner.

The Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, May 21, and those not attending took the opportunity either to look around the campus, take tours, or see more of Vancouver. The banquet was held at the Faculty Club at the University. Guest Speaker, The Honourable Janice Potter MacKinnon, author of The Women Only Wept, spoke on some of the harrowing conditions and situations experienced by the Loyalist women during and after the American Revolution.

On Wednesday, May 18, the Chilliwack Branch arranged a reception welcoming the bus travellers from Calgary, and on Sunday, May 22, after the conclusion of the Convention, the Victoria Branch welcomed the visitors to their fair city, arranging a Loyalist service at the Victoria Cathedral, followed by a reception. On Victoria Day a brunch arranged at a restaurant overlooking the route of the Victoria Day Parade. Altogether a very busy but enjoyable five days.

A great HURRAH goes to Dorine McNab for her enthusiastic organization of the trip 'West'. We most sincerely thank Dorine, and both the Chilliwack and Victoria Branches for their support which made the Convention a VERY SPECIAL OCCASION. Thanks to the many who took the long journey 'OUT WEST' to our beautiful Province. What would we have done without you?

## 1998 Spring

### A VISIT FROM OUR DOMINION PRESIDENT, 20 SEPTEMBER 1997

The Vancouver Branch was so very pleased to meet with Bernice Flett. Bernice had met with other western branches before crossing the Rocky Mountains and meeting with the Thompson-Okanagan Branch and the Chilliwack Branch where she received (in her words) *very warm welcomes*. Vona Smith hosted her stay with the Vancouver Branch. They stopped to meet with our oldest and long serving member, Lucile Hooker, who is now 105 and still living alone in her own home! Bernice presented flowers to Lucile and they had a wonderful exchange of memories. What was so delightful about the visit was Lucile telling of her father, Adam MacKay, leaving for the Klondike to strike a claim; she and her mother followed a year and a half later. Bernice took a picture of Lucile's UEL certificate: ancestor - William Urquhart, KRRNY. Peter and Susan Moogk hosted a pot-luck dinner. We had time to share thoughts and ideas. Bernice is such a receptive listener. She in turn told us of some of her goals and expectations for our Association. We were encouraged to go to the Kingston AGM in 1998, to Edmonton in 1999 and in the year 2000 the Col. Butler Branch. We were again reminded to write our Loyalist stories: to get the word out. We Loyalists do not want to be the best-kept secret. On behalf of the Vancouver Branch Peter presented Bernice the book, Empire of the Bay, by Peter C. Newman with photographs by Kevin Flemming. The next morning Bernice was off to Vancouver Island where she was looking forward to meeting with the Victoria Branch.

Our love goes out to Dorinne at the death of her husband, Edward Nelson Macnab. We in the west have so much appreciated the times that we have met and worked with them, both such loyal members. We extend our condolences to Eleanor Elizabeth Sanderson's family, friends, and the members of the Victoria Branch. Eleanor was such an integral part of the Branch and also the Association.

Our condolences go to Audrey Condon Delaney, with the loss of her mother, Edna Mabel (Mitts) Condon. Audrey for many years has been the caregiver for her mother, a loyal daughter.

Phyllis Jaqueline Sutton will be greatly missed by her sister, Doreen Todhunter, and their respective families. Phyllis was originally a member of the Vancouver Branch, transferring to Chilliwack where she made her home. Phyllis gave greatly to the Association: The Armorial Bearings and Badge of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, issued in 1973 by the College of Arms, London, England, were interpreted and charted in 1983 by Mrs. Phyllis I. Sutton UE, V.S.A., as the bicentennial project of the Vancouver Branch. Mrs. Sutton was a graduate of the four-year Interior Decoration and Design program of Art (Emily Carr College of Art and Design) and worked as a draughtswoman with the B.C. Electric Company. It took these skills and untold hours (six months) of hard work to chart these copyrighted designs. Many of our members have seen Doreen Todhunter and Phyllis Sutton's exquisite needle work and have bought her patterns to be worked in cross stitch, petit-point, or other media of stitch to create the Armorial Bearings and The Badge. Phyllis will be remembered for her loyal support to our Association.

Doreen Corbett's father died July of 1997. Wilfred Roy Corbett, was a noted artist, with his works in private collections across Canada, USA and Europe, the most satisfying being in the Manitoba Legislative Buildings and in Her Majesty's Windsor Castle collection. The world was shocked at the untimely death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Doreen Corbett sent condolences on behalf of the Vancouver Branch to Buckingham Palace and received a letter of appreciation from: the Queen, the Prince of Wales and the young Princes, William and Harry.

### ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO GET THE WORD OUT.

Muryl Andrejciw Geary again coordinated a successful Ukrainian Lands seminar. '100 Years From Now Who Will Care' was held on November 8th, 1997 at Marpole Place Heritage Fire Hall, Vancouver, B.C. Joan V. Fishleigh, MC for the day, was commissioned to write a poem for the occasion. Joan and Frank Fishleigh, along with Vona DeWitt Smith, in Loyalist costumes greeted the seminar participants at the door. The three names just mentioned are not of Ukrainian descent (that they know of) but they, along with a German, First Nations and French Canadian in costume, represented early Canadians welcoming the newer Ukrainian settlers. Sylvia Fishleigh and Bob Braganza of *Fine Tooned* were also in Ukrainian costume. They sang in Ukrainian and English, encouraging audience participation. They also performed original songs (watch for Loyalist renditions). Muryl was wearing the skirt that her great aunt, Anna Verhun Negrych, had brought from the Ukraine over 110 years ago and in which she had been married. The Negrych Family Pioneer Homestead in Venlaw, Manitoba, was honoured this summer with a Heritage Plaque, 1897-1997 - a century with no running water, telephone or electricity. Muryl is a friend of the Association; she is the artist who gave us her drawing of the "Young Loyalist" to be used as our logo for Convention '94.

By Joan V. Fishleigh, Branch Newsletter/Genealogist

## 2001 Autumn

Vancouver Branch is growing and enjoyed several interesting meetings. Our annual Christmas tea was held at the President's home as well as a library day, which will be repeated more often. Our Branch has a good collection including Maritimes material.

A very special time in May was held at the new home of Joan and Frank Fishleigh UE. Chilliwack members were guests. Everyone enjoyed the Canadian and Loyalist decorations, great food and camaraderie in a beautiful outdoor setting. Joan recited some fascinating items from her book on *Canadian Sayings*. Votes of thanks were extended to Joan and Frank for their hospitality. Phillip Leith UE was honoured and his birthday was celebrated. There is already talk of a repeat next year.

Vona Smith UE represented Vancouver Branch at the sixth anniversary of Thompson Okanagan Branch and at the Cornwall Conference. Also attending Cornwall were Rebecca Fraser UE and Phillip Leith UE. It was a proud day for Phillip who was inducted by Heritage Branch as a Companion of Meritorious Heritage and can add CMH to other letters after his impressive signature. The Branch was pleased Phillip was further honoured at the Conference as Honorary Benefactor.

Our Executive consists of President Vona Smith UE, Vice President Doug Jackson, Secretary Peter Robertson, Treasurer Dennis Hill, Publicity Joyce Tiplady, Membership Rebecca Fraser UE, and Dolly Hannay is in charge of telephoning. Genealogist Joan Fishleigh also serves as newsletter editor.

Vancouver Branch was saddened to learn of the passing of Robert K. Bessey UE of Guelph, ON. He was a valued and active member of our Branch when he served as Secretary, Genealogist, and President.

By Vona Smith UE

## 2003 Spring

GOOD NEWS - The Vancouver Branch found a location for its monthly meeting at Bonsor Recreational Complex at 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby, B.C., a more central location for members who come from many directions. The first meeting held in the new location was the 2002 Annual Meeting. The February meeting was SNOWED OUT, in Vancouver! The March and April meetings were primarily question and answer nights.

On May 25th, Archie Miller a well known local Historian invited members of the Branch to attend the 226th Birthday Celebration of Simon Fraser's birth, at the Simon Fraser Discovery Centre, located on the wharf at New Westminster, a location where Simon Fraser's party was understood to have landed. A project is in process to erect a plaque at each historical site.

There were several Social Occasions during the last year. Shirley Dargatz showed pictures taken on Bill Terry's tour of the Branches. Janet and Gerry Brown hosted a Member's Tea in May to celebrate the Anniversary. Frank and Joan Fishleigh arranged a Picnic for the Vancouver and Chilliwack Branches at their home in Mission. Early in December the members were pleased to welcome Myrna Fox, Dominion President, on her arrival in Vancouver and enjoyed a luncheon at Van Dusen Gardens. The following Saturday seven members took the ferry to join the Victoria Branch at their seventy-fifth Anniversary Banquet. We all enjoyed a friendly afternoon.

By Joyce Tiplady UE

## **2004 Autumn**

**B**rock House was the chosen site for our honorary luncheon with Dominion President, Doug W. Grant, UE. Members agreed that Brock House was the perfect location. Before lunch, members had the opportunity to visit and mingle in the lounge area, overlooking English Bay and the Vancouver Harbour.

Once members and guests were seated, a cold plate- potato salad grilled and sliced chicken breast, tomato wedges, and sliced egg, followed by carrot cake, coffee or tea was served. Vancouver Branch President, Mary Anne Bethune welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the luncheon. Special Guests were introduced to the members: Mr. Doug Grant, UE, his wife Nancy Conn, UE and their son Corcoran Conn-Grant, UE. As well Mr. and Mrs. Roy (Agnes) Peever, who were visiting from Fredericton, New Brunswick.

As honorary guest, Doug Grant, UE, Dominion Office President made a surprise UELAC certificate presentation to Agnes Theresa (Stymiest) Peever, UE [Vancouver Branch Genealogist Carl Stymiest UE's sister ] who was visiting from NB. Agnes' UEL certificate was for her 4th. Great-grandfather, Loyalist Ancestor – Philip Hierlihy, Sergeant, Prince of Wales Royal American Regiment.

After lunch, Doug Grant UE – Dominion President – spoke to the members Empire Loyalist Association of Canada. There are plans to expand the Loyalist Burial Project and possibly make family information available to members, once privacy-issue waivers have been signed. Doug informed the members that if they had submitted a headstone picture and information about their Loyalist ancestor, members would be contacted and asked to sign a waiver, if they agree to share their information with others. This project has been expanded beyond its original intent. (New privacy laws make the signed waivers necessary).

Part 2 of the Loyalist Burial Project is now underway. Members do not necessarily need a picture of a headstone. A picture of the cemetery or private burial place is also acceptable. A suggestion of a story documenting the Loyalist Ancestor would also be accepted. Doug also touched upon ideas for individual and group projects for 2014. This was followed by a “question & answer” period from members.

## **2005 Autumn**

**M**argaret Joyce Tiplady UE received her long sought after UE certificate on 04 June 2005 at the Gala Banquet of the Annual Conference in Regina, SK. Joyce, who has lived most of her life in Vancouver, BC, was born in Moosejaw, SK. It was a thrill to see Joyce's surprise when Doug Grant UE, UELAC President, called Joyce to the podium to receive her certificate and Loyalist pin [Loyalist Ancestor: Arthur

Orser UE] from Vancouver Branch Genealogist and Pacific Regional Councillor, Carl Stymiest UE.

A wonderful luncheon and program was held at Confederation Centre, Burnaby, BC on 01 May 2005 to celebrate the landing of the Loyalist fleet at Saint John, New Brunswick, [then Parr Town, NS] in 1783. At a special part in the program, Shirley Dargatz UE, UELAC Regional Vice-President, Carl Stymiest UE, Vancouver Branch Genealogist and UELAC Pacific Regional Councillor, presented Janet White UE (Loyalist Ancestor: John Carl UE) with her UE certificate and Loyalist pin.

The Vancouver Branch Outreach & Education Committee participated in the British Columbia Scottish Highland Games & Festival on 25 June 2005 in Coquitlam, BC. This is the second year that Vancouver Branch has been asked to participate. Many individuals stopped at our booth to talk or to ask for information. Mary Anne Bethune UE, Branch President, and Carl Stymiest UE, Genealogist and UELAC Pacific Regional Councillor, were dressed in period clothing for the event.

Each year the Vancouver and Chilliwack Branch Outreach & Education committees unite to celebrate Simon Fraser's birthday by hosting a UELAC display and information booth during Multicultural Days on the Fraser River.

By Carl Stymiest UE

## **2006 Autumn**

### **BUSY WITH OUTREACH & EDUCATION:**

Since the last publication of the Spring *Gazette* 2006, the UEL Vancouver Branch has been quite active with its Outreach & Education Programs.

Dominion Past-President Doug Grant UE and his wife, Nancy Conn UE, attended the UELAC Pacific Regional Mini-Conference held in Fort Langley, BC. Four UEL Branches – Chilliwack, Vancouver, Victoria and Thompson-Okanagan – hosted the widely attended event.

Simon Fraser's, son of Loyalist Simon Fraser Sr. UE, birthday was celebrated by the UEL Vancouver Branch at New Westminster Multi-Cultural Days in New Westminster, BC. Special visitor to this event was Peter Julien, MP for Burnaby/New Westminster.

### **BC HIGHLAND GAMES**

Vancouver UEL Branch's Outreach & Education Committee attended the BC Highland Games with its displays.

#### **PRESS RELEASE**

“UELAC Vancouver Branch to Celebrate *“Landing of their United Empire Loyalist Ancestors [1783]”*

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Sept. 24, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

At the home of UEL Vancouver Branch President John Anderson UE. Program: Old Loyalist Landing Activities [Creating a Shelter; Loyalist Washing Day; Loyalist Games, Drawing for Land Lots, etc] and Typical Food of the Day – Food rations cost: \$8.00 per person to be collected on disembarkation. Come in period costume.

## **2007 Spring**

Since the publication of the Fall 2006 *Loyalist Gazette*, the UELAC Vancouver Branch has continued to be very active with regular monthly meetings and activities. Short-term Outreach & Education projects, certification and long range plans for hosting the UELAC Annual Conference 2010, by UEL Thompson Okanagan Branch, are the goals for the membership.

On 24 September 2006, Vancouver Branch and Chilliwack Branch members disembarked, in period costume, from His Majesty's Loyalist ship "*John & Grace*" and made their arduous trek to Fort Anderson. Here they registered their names and received their allotted portions of grog. Activities enjoyed during the day were: building a lean-to shelter, washing clothes, chopping wood, making a fire to cook, drawing for lots, games and listening to music. Members enjoyed an exceptional meal of boiled pork, pease porridge, baked beans, bread and dried fruit.

Vancouver Branch Outreach & Education, in co-operation with Chilliwack Branch, worked tirelessly on their Fall Display and Seminar entitled, "*So You Think Your Are Descended from a Loyalist.*"

Carl Stymiest UE, Vancouver Branch Genealogist and Pacific Regional Councillor, and Shirley Dargatz UE, Pacific Regional Vice-President and President of Chilliwack Branch, hosted a production seminar at the Church of the Latter Day Saints' Tri-Stake Genealogy Day on 14 October 2006.

Members of the Vancouver and Chilliwack Branches, in period costume, provided an elaborate and colourful display of UEL materials, photos and information. Many prospective members enjoyed their visit to the booth, inquiring about membership in the Association. During the afternoon genealogy sessions, Carl and Shirley presented their seminar on the importance of the UELAC, our Loyalist ancestors and how one can become a member. Shirley and Carl presented their individual Loyalist ancestors' and how one can prove the lineage, thereby receiving their UELAC certification.

Long standing UE member and Honoured Benefactor to the UELAC, Phillip E. M. Leith UE, passed away in West Vancouver, 14 November 2006.

Many Vancouver UEL members attended the funeral and Celebration of Life Saturday 18 November 2006 for Philip at West Vancouver's St. Francis-in-the-Wood Anglican Church. Flowers from his beloved UELAC, the Vancouver and Chilliwack Branches adorned the sanctuary.

A display of Phillip's life was also provided by the Vancouver Branch at a reception following. Interment followed, Monday 20 November 2006, with Carl Stymiest UE, Pacific Regional Councillor, acting as a pallbearer on behalf of the UELAC. Vancouver Branch presented a UE bronze plaque to the family to be placed on Philip's tombstone at a later date.

On December 2nd, the UEL Vancouver Branch celebrated the holiday season at their annual Christmas luncheon. Merriment and excellent food provided members with a relaxing afternoon.

By Carl Stymiest UE

## **2007 Autumn**

**V**ancouver Branch has been very busy since the last *Loyalist Gazette* publication. The year 2007 marks one of our biggest milestones; the 75th Anniversary of our branch's founding [1932]. Planning and events were the order of the day.

At an early Executive meeting in the year, it was decided to set a goal of approving seventy-five UELAC certificate applications for the year. We are pleased to announce that we had met that goal by the end of April 2007: seventy-five certificates, Wow! As well, by completing these seventy-five certifications, we

have also increased our branch memberships by over 144% to date. Thanks to Wendy Cosby UE, Assistant Genealogist, Vancouver Branch, and everyone else who worked so hard. A very special “*Thank You*” to Elizabeth Hancocks UE, Dominion Genealogist and Mette Griffin, Dominion Secretary for their help and support.

On Sunday, 06 May, during our 75th Anniversary, a SAILabration was held at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. Seventy-five UELAC certificates presented to proud members by Dominion President Peter Johnson UE, Shirley Dargatz UE and Carl Stymiest UE CG.

Another important undertaking this year was the UEL Vancouver Branch creation of the *Phillip E M Leith Memorial Award*. Phillip’s family was instrumental in providing funding for the perpetual trophy that recipients’ names are engraved upon. A neck medallion was also presented by the branch.

This being the first year of its inauguration, eleven Pacific Regional UELAC branch members were nominated. After a selection process, the chosen 2007 recipients were: Shirley Dargatz UE, President of Chilliwack Branch and Past Pacific Regional Vice-President; and Vona Smith UE, Past President of Vancouver Branch and former Genealogist and lecturer.

After our inclusion in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in March, the Vancouver Branch Outreach & Education Committee, in co-operation with the UEL Chilliwack Branch, worked tirelessly on their Spring Display at the Simon Fraser Day Celebrations during New Westminster’s Multi-Cultural Day 16 May. Members weathered a blustery day to display our education and outreach materials.

By Carl Stymiest UE, CG

## **2008 Spring**

**J**uly to December 2007 was industrious for our Branch. We have cranked-up our monthly activities, short term projects and long range plans and look forward to building our membership in 2008. The highlight of this Bi-Annual report was our participation, during the BC long-weekend in August, at Fort Langley’s “*Fur Brigade Days*,” held within Fort Langley National Park. Members, in period costume, were invited to take part in the re-enactments. As one of our members entered the fort dressed as his Loyalist ancestor, Lt. Col. Timothy Hierlihy UE of Hierlihy Corps, he was immediately recognized as the Senior Officer of the day.

Participating members were so captivated by this historical re-enactment event that we have planned to take part again in August 2008, this time however, not for just the one-day event, but for the entire weekend, living within the confines of the Fort. Our goal for this novel exploration in re-living history, will be fully realized when we pitch our colonial tent and live reminiscent of the life our ancestors experienced 225 years ago.

By Carl Stymiest UE

## **2008 Autumn**

**D**ecember to June 2008 were very busy months for the Vancouver Branch. One exciting project was to set up our new library. We moved our library from Rebecca Fraser’s home to a room at our President’s home, Wendy Cosby UE. We currently have a branch lottery underway with profits earmarked for Loyalist research microfilm for our library.

The Vancouver Branch also participated in Simon Fraser's birthday celebration at the New Westminster Quay, the St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Vancouver alongside the B.C. Genealogical Society, and the B.C. Historical Federation Book Sale, also at the New Westminster Quay.

At our Spring Fleet luncheon in April, our guest speaker, John Atkins, a local historian, spoke about the Myths of Historic Vancouver. At the Spring Fleet, two of our members, Duncan Cameron UE and Marvin Millis UE, received their UELAC certificates.

Our monthly meetings were very lively with the Black Powder Group of Chilliwack presentation in May and Dr. Eric Nellis, author and retired UBC professor, speaking in June about "*What happened to the Loyalists who remained in the States after the Revolutionary War?*"

At our Executive Meeting at John and Grace Anderson's home on June 2nd, we celebrated Carl Stymiest UE's sixty-fifth birthday.

The Vancouver and Chilliwack Branches look forward to our combined Mini-Conference and Fall Fleet celebration in September.

By Linda Nygard UE

## 2009 Spring

Since the last publication of the *Gazette*, our Branch has been buzzing with regular monthly activities, short-term projects and long range plans for the Annual UELAC Conference, Beyond The Mountains-2010, in Vernon, BC.

Four local Vancouver Branch members were fêted to a UEL tour extraordinaire conducted by Senior Vice-President, Carl Stymiest UE. The first stop on the itinerary was Ottawa where five wonderful days were spent touring the Capital city not to mention conducting research at the Public Archives of Canada as well as visiting the Canadian War Museum and National Gallery of Canada. Upon leaving Ottawa the group found themselves in New Brunswick sightseeing and getting some good old maritime R&R at Carl's new B&B, "*Loyalist House*" Miramichi, New Brunswick.

From here we sojourned to Fredericton to scour the archives of PANB and the Loyalist Collections at the Harriet Irving Research Library before meeting our Loyalist Branch friends/members from all over Canada at "*Kings Landing*." After a fantastic tour of this Loyalist site, we continued to the Saint John 225th Anniversary celebrations. Here we were the guests of an amazing time, hosted by the New Brunswick Branch. At the conclusion of the Annual Conference, we travelled the old Loyalist routes to Nova Scotia stopping at such well-known places as Digby, Annapolis Royal, Shelburne, Lunenburg, Halifax, Guysborough, Canso, Fort Louisbourg, Amherst and Truro. Here the entourage enjoyed all the sites, sound, smells, and festivities of these historical Canadian Loyalist settlements.

August found Vancouver Branch in cooperation with Chilliwack Branch preparing to co-host the Pacific Regional Mini-Conference, Fall Fleet Celebrations for the 225th Anniversary held in Chilliwack and Vancouver; Victoria Branch as well as Thompson-Okanagan Branch also participated.

Vancouver Branch conducted their first Lottery, under the auspices of the BC Lottery & Gaming Commission, to help raise monies for the new library. On September 06, the lucky draw was held with many excitement members in attendance for the lucky ticket-draw.

26-28 September: The UELAC Pacific Region was graced by the attendance of Dominion President, Fred Hayward UE and his wife Margaret Hayward UE at our Fall Fleet celebrations. What a pleasure to have



our special guests attend the Black Powder shooting trials on Friday evening. Not bad shooting, Mr. President!

Saturday's events of the Fall Fleet Celebrations, hosted by the Chilliwack Branch Program, was filled with pomp and circumstance, excitement, as well as a luncheon feast fit for a King, George that is!

Many UE certificates were presented to members of the Chilliwack, Vancouver and Victoria Branches. The yearly Vancouver Branch Phillip E. M. Leith Memorial Award was presented to Dr. Peter Moogk UE, Vancouver Branch for his achievements and volunteer work within the branch and the Association as a whole. Another special guest attending our lunch was the Hon. Chuck Strall, MP and his wife from the Chilliwack-Fraser Canyon Riding.

Sunday's events found members attending Vancouver Branch's Fort Anderson Celebrations honouring the 225th anniversary of the landing of our Loyalist ancestors in 1783. After disembarking from the Loyalist ship, *Fred & Margaret*, the Loyalists trekked into Fort Anderson, where they registered. Each received their allotted portion of grog.

Afternoon fort activities were enjoyed by all: games of chance and skill, best period-clothing vote, shopping at Anderson's General Store; looking over the great selection of period Loyalist clothing at the Maple Leaf Shop, and drawing lots. Members tasted a fine Loyalist meal of fresh hams, peas-porridge, beans, local greens, nuts and dried fruits. A satisfying meal since leaving the colonies several weeks ago!!! Fort Anne National Historic Site: Annapolis Royal, NS Midnight Graveyard Tour. Curator Allain Melanson, Wendy Cosby UE Judy Scholtz UE, Chilliwack Branch instructs President Fred Hayward UE. From left: Judy Killeen UE; Clark Shea, Hon. Vice-President, Vancouver Branch; and Janet White UE.

By Carl Stymiest UE

## 2009 Autumn

This has been an active time for Vancouver Outreach and Education. Although it was a cold, wet and windy day, a number of members marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade through downtown Vancouver. Linda Drake UE and Grace Anderson made our new Loyalist sashes.

On April 3rd members in period clothing attended the 1859 Re-enactment of the landing of Rev. White in New Westminster. He was the first missionary in the area and was the first minister at the church that is now known as Queens Avenue United. Later in April there was a one hundred and fiftieth anniversary celebration at the church. Rev. White's descendants, Janet White UE and Judith Killeen UE, attended both events. Janet has written a book about her ancestor based on his diaries.

Spring Fleet celebrations were held at the historic Beatty Street Drill Hall in Vancouver in early May. Following a delicious catered luncheon and visiting the Beatty Street Armoury Museum, nineteen UELAC certificates were presented to members. Following the certificate presentations, Shirley Dargatz UE, Pacific Regional Vice-President, and Peter Moogk UE presented the Phillip E. M. Leith Memorial Award to Rebecca Fraser UE of the Vancouver Branch. Al Huffman UE of the Victoria Branch was a co-recipient of this award. Al's presentation was made at the Victoria Spring Fleet in late May by Carl Stymiest UE, Wendy Cosby UE and Mary Anne Bethune UE of the Vancouver Branch.

Mid-May found members hosting their UEL displays at New Westminster Multicultural Festival, on the boardwalk along the Fraser River. This is the seventh year that Vancouver Branch has been represented at this popular event which also celebrates Simon Fraser's birthday. During the 2008 Fall Fleet Celebrations in Vancouver, Dominion President, Frederick H. Hayward UE, presented the Vancouver Branch with a UELAC certificate proving the lineage of Simon Fraser to his Loyalist father Simon Fraser Sr. UE.

In June, members set up our fifth annual display at the BC Highland Games in Coquitlam and, on the following day, attended our first Burnaby Multicultural Festival.

By Linda Nygard UE, Secretary and Genealogist

## 2010 Spring

July to December 2009 was an industrious time for the UEL Vancouver Branch. We achieved the following:

- . increased our monthly activities with many new guests speakers [check out our website link at: <http://www.uelac.org/Vancouver/meetings.php>];
- . enhanced our short-term projects;
- . and built our long-range plans.

We are also looking forward to building our membership in 2010.

Although we do not schedule regular monthly meetings during the summer months, the Vancouver Branch Committee for "*Beyond The Mountains 201a*" were gearing up for the AGM Conference scheduled for June 03 - 06 in Vernon, BC. The Pacific Regional Branches of the UELAC guarantees a Gold Medal welcome to our membership from across this country. If you haven't registered, better do so now at: <http://www.uelac.org/BTM2010.html>.

July started a new round of exciting activities with the first being our branches' representation at the Historica Finals in Victoria, BC. In September, Vancouver Branch executive members, John Anderson UE, Wendy Cosby UE, and Warren Bell UE attended the 78th Fraser Highlanders Battle of the Plains of Abraham Dinner. John Anderson and Wendy Cosby were the Guest Speakers at this event. The 78th Fraser Highlanders share two other events with the Vancouver Branch, namely, St. Patrick's Day Parade in March and the BC Highland Games in June. We do Love our pipers!

October found the Vancouver Branch appropriately attired in their period clothing offering outreach and education to the myriad of persons attending the Genealogy Tri-Stakes Seminars in Cloverdale, BC, and as November 11th approached, many Vancouver Branch members attended Remembrance Day Ceremonies at the Cenotaph in New Westminster, BC. Wendy Cosby UE and Vice-President, Dan Hilborn laid a wreath on behalf of the UELAC Vancouver Branch.

In December, members of Vancouver Branch were treated to two special events. The first was initiated by Wendy Cosby UE, Warren Bell UE, and Mary Anne Bethune UE as representatives of the Executive at an "*Evening of Eminence*," in conjunction with Historica. Then on December 06, the branch held their annual Christmas Social at the home of member Linda Drake UE.

## 2010 Autumn

The past months have been both busy and rewarding for the Vancouver Branch. We had a number of interesting guest speakers at our regular meetings. Stewart Goodin of Fort Langley attended our January meeting in full costume – including a 150-year-old top hat. He spoke about the history of the Hudson Bay Company. Then Shirley Dargatz UE (Chilliwack Branch) brought her quilt to our February meeting. This beautiful quilt is truly a work of art and symbolizes events related to our Black Loyalists. Shirley then led members in a singalong. At other meetings John Anderson UE evaluated members'

treasures at his “*Antiques Road Show*” and Dan Hilborn told stories of Simon Fraser UE and Alexander MacKenzie’s adventures in British Columbia.

We had a large Garage Sale at the home of John Anderson UE in the spring. Unfortunately we were rained out Saturday and faced more bad weather on Sunday. Lots of work for a small return but a local charity came out the winner.

Special events included B.C. Heritage Fairs, Beyond the Mountains 2010 and the Highland Games. Our participation in B.C. Heritage Fairs happened because of Wendy Cosby UE’s dedication and hard work. It was a chance to experience and evaluate the exhibits of many talented local students. The Vancouver Branch also hosted a workshop at Heritage Fairs where Carl Stymiest UE and Mary Anne Bethune UE pretended to rise in the morning and, with the help of Wendy Cosby UE and Gwen Dumfries, they dressed while explaining the various articles of Loyalist clothing to the students. Later the students had fun dressing themselves in period clothing. Vancouver Branch President, Warren Bell UE, was also involved with this project.

The convention in Vernon occupied much of our Executive’s time during late winter and early spring. Registration, goody bags, table seating, storyboards, prizes, Hospitality Suite... Also, Wendy Cosby UE and Linda Drake UE worked long hours on Linda’s thirteen applications, and those of her family, so they could be presented at the Vernon conference.

A total of twenty-nine certificates were presented to Linda and her family. These certificates were all for previously unproven Loyalists.

In June members of our Branch set up camp at the Highland Games for the sixth consecutive year. Some of our members are especially attracted to “*men with pipes, wearing skirts*” so this is always a popular event.

Once again the Vancouver Branch accepted nominations for the Philip Leith Memorial Award from among the four B.C. branches. This year’s winners will be announced at the Fall Fleet Celebrations on Sunday 24 October 2010, when Dominion President, Fred Hayward UE, and his wife, Margaret Hayward, will be in attendance.

Lastly, we are now the owners of thirty-seven reels of film of the Haldimand Papers. This represents one third of the collection. Thanks to Wendy Cosby’s perseverance we received a grant from Dominion Office. This is a welcome addition to our Branch Library and because of the low English pound it was a good time to purchase these microfilms.

By Linda Nygard UE, Secretary and Branch Genealogist

## 2011 Spring

This fall the Vancouver Branch hosted a Fall Fleet, participated in Remembrance Day services and came together for our Annual Christmas Social.

Vancouver Branch member, Dr. Peter Moogk UE, was our guest speaker at the September meeting. Peter recreated his presentation from the Convention in Vernon, *Moving Ever Westward*, the basis for our branch Centennial “*Book*” Project 2014. At November’s meeting, Vancouver Branch members Mary

Anne Bethune UE, Wendy Cosby UE and Janet White UE entertained those present with pictures and stories from their adventures along the Mohawk Valley two months earlier.

On 24 October our Fall Fleet was held at the historic Bessborough Armoury in Vancouver. Dominion President Fred Hayward UE and his wife Margaret were present, along with guests from Victoria, Chilliwack, PEI, New Brunswick, and Japan.

Dr. Peter Moogk UE, Curator of the museum at Bessborough Armoury, shared stories of some of the history that took place there. It is no longer a mystery why initials are carved in the wooden beams that line the high ceiling.

Dominion President Fred Hayward UE presented certificates to Lynne Charles UE of the Vancouver Branch, to Al Kennedy UE of the Chilliwack Branch and Catherine Fryer UE of the Victoria Branch.

This year's recipients of the Phillip E.M. Leith Memorial Award were Mary Anne Bethune UE (Vancouver Branch) and Wilma Seville UE (Victoria Branch). Carl Stymiest UE, Chairman of the Phillip E.M. Leith Memorial Award Committee, made the introduction while last year's winners, Rebecca Fraser UE (Vancouver) and Al Huffman UE (Victoria), presented medallions to the 2010 recipients. Wendy Cosby UE gave a short biography about Mary Anne while Joan Clement UE presented Wilma's biography. Shirley Dargatz UE (President, Chilliwack Branch) presented Commemorative Certificates to Mary Anne and Wilma and Carl Stymiest UE presented the Phillip E.M. Leith Memorial trophy. All previous winners of this award were present except for Vona Smith UE, a past President of the Vancouver Branch.



Past and present Phillip E.M. Leith Memorial Award recipients (from left): Rebecca Fraser UE, Alvin Huffman UE, Shirley Dargatz UE, Dr. Peter Moogk UE, Wilma Saville UE, Mary Anne Bethune UE.  
Photo: Joan Clement UE, Victoria Branch.

On 11 November several members attended Remembrance Day ceremonies at New Westminster where President Warren Bell UE and Wendy Cosby UE laid a wreath at the Cenotaph. Later there was a luncheon at the home of our treasurer, Gwen Dumfries.

December 5th was our annual Christmas Social graciously hosted by member Linda Drake UE and her husband George in their beautiful home in New Westminster.

By Linda Nygard UE, Branch Genealogist.

## 2011 Autumn

Since January the Vancouver Branch has been very busy with special events. We have also welcomed a number of interesting guest speakers at our regular monthly meetings.

In February, Black History Month, Jean-Claude Ndungutse shared his experiences of growing up as a child in Rwanda and his journey to Canada as a student refugee who was sponsored by a group at SFU. Jean-Claude shared with us his sense of optimism as a recent Canadian citizen and his personal experiences of coming to Canada as a refugee.

The guest speaker at our March meeting was Eunice Robinson from the B.C. Genealogical Society. Her specialty is Irish History and her presentation, "Not Everything was burned," was met with enthusiasm by our members.

In March several members of the UELAC Vancouver Branch Executive, accompanied by members of the Chilliwack Branch, Shirley Dargatz UE and Margaret Strocel, attended a wonderful luncheon with Bonnie Schepers UE, Central West Regional Vice President (now Dominion Senior Vice-President), her husband Albert, daughter Laura, and son-in-law Daniel from Victoria, B.C.

April was "Treasures and Troves" when our members brought their prized possessions and family heirlooms to the meeting. A Past President of the Vancouver Branch and former dealer in antiques, John Anderson UE, provided comment and evaluation: sort of an adult "show and tell." At our June meeting our guest speaker was Angelica Angeles, a Regional Winner at the B.C. Heritage Fairs. Angelica, although only 12 years old, shared her project with our members with great poise. Her storyboard was titled "The United Empire Loyalists, Their arrival changed the course of Canadian history." Angelica will compete in the provincial competition, in Victoria, later this summer.

Before Angelica's presentation, Certificates were presented to two of our members, Robyn Kendall and her mother, Barbara Wood. Each received their certificates for Jacob Anguish (Butler's Rangers) and his son Henry Anguish, also a Loyalist. These were Robyn and Barbara's first two certificates.

The Vancouver Branch participated in a number of special events since January. Once again a number of our members marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade (Vancouver) alongside the B.C. Genealogical Society.

May was an exceptionally busy month beginning with some members acting as adjudicators in the B.C. Heritage Fairs, open to elementary students throughout the province. Next we set up our tent and display at the Multicultural Festival along the Fraser River, at the statue of Simon Fraser at the Quay in New Westminster. We have attended this event for a number of years and, although the weather was cool and wet, many people stopped to talk and take in our display.

Also in May, along with the Chilliwack Branch, we hosted the Pacific Regional Mini-Conference & Spring Fleet "SAILabration" at Carmen United Church, Chilliwack. Members from three of the regional branches were well represented. Barbara Andrew UE, Prairie Regional Councillor, was the guest speaker and discussed the subject of "membership" with those present. Barbara encouraged discussion from the audience and many ideas were shared. Mary Anne Bethune UE and Gwen Dumfries, from the Vancouver Branch, performed a skit, "Flee to the Ship." Branch President Carl Stymiest UE read the narrative. Perhaps Mary Anne should consider a career in acting in the future as she is quite the drama queen.

The UELAC Vancouver Branch Phillip E.M. Leith UE Memorial Award for 2011 was presented at the SAILabration Regional Mini Conference. This year's recipients were Audrey Viken UE (Vancouver

Branch) and Judy Scholz UE (Chilliwack Branch). UE Certificates were presented to Al Kennedy UE (Chilliwack) for Loyalist ancestor John Lutz and Phyllis Cosby UE (Vancouver) for Loyalist ancestor Rebecca Haines. Phyllis was not able to attend. Lynne Charles UE was also not able to attend. Lynne has received two more Loyalist certificates to add to the four she already has. The latest certificates are for Loyalists Major Hooper and David Murray, both sons of Loyalists that Lynne has already proven. Some members set up their annual display at the Highland Games in Coquitlam at the end of June. Although the weather did not cooperate this event was well attended.

By Linda Nygard UE, Branch Genealogist

## 2012 Spring

**I**n August a number of our members dressed in period clothing and participated in Brigade Days at Fort Langley. This is a popular event when hundreds of people converge on the Fort where you can learn to spin wool, pan for gold, see how laundry was done in bygone days or wander through the old buildings. After lunch, many of the participants were led by a piper through the streets of the historic town of Fort Langley, ending at the Fraser River.

Canoes carrying re-enactors came down the river from Mission and recreated the original landing at Fort Langley. We rounded out our day with a picnic lunch under the shade of an old tree, providing some relief from the hot sun.

Our Fall meetings began in September with guest speaker, Carston Cramer Tylor. Carston was chosen by the Vancouver Branch as a regional winner in the B.C. Heritage Fair for his project on The War of 1812. His presentation to the Vancouver Branch was excellent and he displayed his knowledge about this subject when fielding questions from his audience. It would have been difficult NOT to get caught up in Carston's enthusiasm – a delightful young student.

Our October guest speaker cancelled so members brought "*Research Books and Internet Research Sites*" to share with others. There is **never** enough time for one of these "*sharing*" meetings.

Marlene Dance UE of the Chilliwack Branch spoke at our November meeting. Her presentation, "*Finding a Lost Home Child*," was excellent as she is very knowledgeable on this subject and quite riveting as a speaker. Marlene could relate her presentation on Home Children to her own research pertaining to a family member.

Close to a dozen members attended the annual "*Finding Your Roots Tri-Stakes Seminar*" at the Family History Center in Surrey. Classes are held throughout the day and address such topics as Chinese Genealogy, Dating Old Photographs, Constructing a Family History in the Maritimes, Legacy, Scrap Booking and much more. This year there was an especially large crowd at this event and that meant even more curious people at our display than usual.

Despite torrential rains, a number of members attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony in New Westminster. President Carl Stymiest UE and Secretary Diane Faris UE placed a wreath at the Cenotaph. Later we met at a local restaurant for lunch.

Once again the Drakes hosted our Christmas Social at their home, beautifully decorated for Christmas.

By Linda Nygard UE, Branch Genealogist

## 2013 Spring

We have had excellent guest speakers at our meetings over the past six months. The AGM in January was followed by our annual slide show – “A Year in Review.” At our February meeting (Black History Month), Roger Jones presented *Keeping up With the Jones’s: An African Canadian Family*. It was a fascinating history of African Canadians, focusing on his own family roots in Canada. Roger has a website at [www.rogerbjones.com](http://www.rogerbjones.com).

In March, we went on a field trip to the Vancouver Museum to see a presentation on the Chuck Davis book, *Vancouver Then and Now*. In April, Gordon Macintosh spoke to our members about life in the early years of British Columbia. He is a re-enactor and Friend of the Fort (Fort Langley, BC), who travelled from Nanaimo and was most entertaining. Gord Macintosh was followed by Tim Watkins in May. Tim’s presentation was “Perils of the Sapper: Life in the Royal Engineers,” an excellent talk with many wonderful stories and demonstrations of items representing the life of a sapper one hundred and fifty years ago. At two of these meetings, we also celebrated the 85th birthdays of members Duncan Cameron UE and Evelyn Anderson UE.

Along with our regular meetings, there were a number of special events that we either hosted or participated in. Once again, some of our members marched in Vancouver’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade. In April, some of our members served as adjudicators at the annual BC Heritage Fairs in Vancouver and Burnaby. One of the students selected by the Vancouver Branch for displays that best reflect our Loyalist heritage was Branch member Kirra Little (Vancouver). In May, we participated in New Westminster’s Multicultural Days (Simon Fraser’s birthday). The Vancouver Branch has set up a display along the Quay at the Fraser River for over ten years and often the weather is wet and cool. This year, we enjoyed a bright, dry day. In June, the Vancouver Branch hosted our Diamond Jubilee celebration in the multipurpose room at Carl Stymiest’s apartment. Our guest speaker was Keith Roy from the Monarchist League of Canada (BC Division). Keith has met most of the Royal Family and he shared his personal experiences with us. Many of his stories were comical and he had our full attention. Lunch was pot luck, with a large Diamond Jubilee cake for dessert.

And lastly, on 22 July, we celebrated BC’s 1<sup>st</sup> Loyalist Day at Queen’s Park, New Westminster. Pacific Regional Vice President and Vancouver Branch President, Carl Stymiest UE, was the Master of Ceremonies for the day’s proceedings. Carl spoke on the arrival of the first Loyalists and its historical significance from the archival writings of Vancouver Branch 1932. Mary Anne Bethune UE read the proclamation followed by a picnic lunch with all four BC branches represented. The Unfurling and Presentation of Flags was conducted by Shirley Dargatz UE (Chilliwack Branch), Carl Stymiest UE (Vancouver Branch), and Darlene Jones UE (Thompson-Okanagan Branch). A number of young Loyalists were present.

In other business, the Glenbow Museum in Calgary, Alberta, has returned fifteen to twenty boxes of archival materials to the Vancouver Branch. This represents much of our early history. It will join the rest of our historical material at the Archives of Vancouver.

By Linda Nygard UE, Branch Genealogist

## **2013 Autumn**

Our January AGM and meeting saw a Changing of the Guard as Gwen Dumfries UE became president of the Vancouver Branch, taking over for the very capable Carl Stymiest UE.

Leslie Hammond is now Vice President, Judith Ueland was elected Treasurer, and Linda Watson UE took over as Membership Chair. The AGM was followed by an abbreviated January meeting and the annual DVD video – A Year in Review.

The speaker at our February meeting, Wayde Compton, is a Vancouver author and one of the founding members of Hogan's Alley Memorial Project. This is an organization dedicated to preserving the history of Vancouver's original black community. Wayde's presentation about Vancouver's black history was very informative and entertaining.

In March, we were once again represented in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, downtown Vancouver. This year, sunshine made this annual event even more enjoyable (photo below).

At our April meeting, member Warren Bell UE spoke about his ancestor, Peter Warren Dease. Peter was the son of the Loyalist, Dr. John Dease UE, and an early explorer. He is most noted for his Arctic exploration and command of a twelve-man expedition to explore the Arctic coast from 1836 to 1839. Warren is very knowledgeable about his Dease ancestors and his presentation was excellent. It was apparent that Warren had spent many hours preparing for this presentation.

In May, a number of members attended the Mini-Conference in Chilliwack. Shirley Dargatz UE and Marlene Dance UE of the Chilliwack Branch, along with many helpers, put on an exceptional event. There were many certificate presentations. The Vancouver Branch members who received Loyalist certificates were Julie Stephenson UE (two certificates: Loyalists James Lee UE and Barnabus Hart UE) along with her parents Leslie and Marian (Hill) Stephenson UE, who each received one certificate. Leslie and Marian live in Calgary and were unable to attend. Janet White UE brought her one-year-old grandson, Brody Wilkinson UE, who received his certificate for John Carl Senior UE. Brody stole the show! Christine Manzer UE and cousin, Mavis Pickett UE, received their certificates for their Loyalist ancestor, John Manzer UE. Bob Proctor UE and his sons, Michael and David, received three certificates each (Loyalists: Jacob DeCou UE, Adam Young UE and Henry Young UE). Bob and his sons are cousins of Past Dominion President, Bob McBride UE. Bob and his lovely wife, Grietje McBride UE, were in attendance, so this presentation was extra special for Bob and his family. Bob's sister, Lynn Bokameyer UE of the Chilliwack Branch, also received her Loyalist Certificate along with others in her immediate family.

Also in May, a number of members helped with our annual display at the Multicultural Festival on the Quay in New Westminster. Sunshine and a view of the river helped make this a very good day.

At our June meeting, members Linda Watson UE, Diane Faris UE, Donna Little UE, Janet White UE, and Christine Manzer UE and her cousin, Mavis Pickett UE, entertained us with stories of their Loyalist ancestors. It is always interesting to learn about the lives of other Loyalists as often our family paths have crossed many years ago.

Also in June, a few members got together for lunch at the home of Audrey Viken UE to help celebrate a special birthday for Carl Stymiest UE. Good food, good wine, and an unexpected and entertaining stand-up comedy routine by member, Mavis Pickett UE.

By Linda Nygard UE, Branch Genealogist

## **2014 Spring**

**O**n 21 July 2013, the Vancouver Branch celebrated our Second Annual B.C. Loyalist Day at Queen's Park, New Westminster. Members from three British Columbia branches enjoyed a picnic in the park under sunny skies. Certificates were presented to Audrey Viken UE, Pat McKenzie UE, John Martin Jr. UE, and John Martin Sr. UE. Sadly, John Martin Sr. passed away suddenly four days later. He was a man who always had a twinkle in his eye and you never quite knew what he was up to. He will be missed.

On 05 August, members from the Vancouver and Chilliwack Branches enjoyed our annual picnic at Fort Langley. Our picnic is held on British Columbia Day and also Brigade Days at the fort. Each August, on this holiday Monday, a number of canoes paddle down the Fraser River with players, dressed in period clothing, re-enacting the beginning of Fort Langley. Hundreds of people line the bank of the river while blasts from black powder guns announce the arrival of the canoes.



Our September meeting was very special. Each spring, B.C. Heritage Fairs attracts many students in Grades 4 – 7. The quality of work is quite remarkable with both story boards and oral presentations. For several years members of the Vancouver Branch have worked as adjudicators at this history fair. We select students who best represent our Loyalist history to receive special awards. This year four of the five recipients made their presentations at our September meeting. Janet Morley was also in attendance. Janet is the person most responsible for the success of B.C. Heritage Fairs. The four boys were amazing, speaking from memory and answering questions with knowledge and confidence. Although every one of the boys spoke about the War of 1812, each presentation was unique.

The Tri Stakes Seminar at the Family History Centre in Surrey is one event that we try not to miss. It is a full day of classes on everything “genealogy.”

Vancouver Branch member, Judith Ueland UE, led a class in Ontario Research. This year our display was especially impressive.

On Remembrance Day, members attended the ceremony at the City Hall in New Westminster. Branch President, Gwen Dumfries UE, and Branch Secretary, Diane Faris UE, laid a wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of our members. Later we went for lunch at a local restaurant.

At our November meeting Jason Testar UE was congratulated on receiving his Commissioner of Oaths Certification from the B.C. Department of Justice. Jason then received his Loyalist Certificate for his Loyalist ancestor, Benjamin Betts UE. He also accepted certificates on behalf of his mother, Cora Lee Testar UE, son Daniel UE, and brother, Daniel Testar UE. Branch President, Gwen Dumfries UE, accepted twelve certificates on behalf of her nieces and nephews.

Our Christmas Luncheon was at the home of members, Linda and George Drake. It is always a good start to the holiday season. Certificates were presented to Betty Dumbrell UE (2), Phyllis Stratford UE (2), and Brody Mader UE.

Lastly, the Vancouver Branch now has its own Loyalist pin. They are for sale through our branch for \$7.50. Carl worked with Bart Nygard of Vulcan Enterprise to create this striking pin.

By Linda Nygard UE, Branch Genealogist

## **2014 Autumn**

We began the New Year with our AGM and annual slide show – A Year in Review. Other than a few problems with the out-dated DVD player, it was a good start to 2014.

At our February meeting, five of our members each presented a Canadian Explorer in order to determine which explorer was the greatest. Mary Anne Bethune UE was paired with David Thompson, Leslie Hammond presented Jane Franklin, Gwen Dumfries UE presented Robert Bylot, and Diane Faris UE presented Alexander MacKenzie. Following the presentations, Linda Watson UE conducted a vote and David Thompson was selected as Canada’s greatest explorer.

Once again we were well represented in the Vancouver St. Patrick’s Day Parade. It was a beautiful spring day. The family dog – cloaked in green – was a big hit.

At our April meeting, Judith Ueland presented information about early Ontario genealogical research. Our members had many questions for Judith and took home some valuable research information.

During April and May we had members who served as adjudicators at the BC Heritage Fairs. Students, whose presentations best represented our Loyalist heritage, were selected for special awards from the Vancouver Branch. Some of those students will bring their presentations to our September meeting.

At our May meeting I presented who *I think* is Canada's greatest explorer to our members. Peter Fidler – often referred to as the Forgotten Explorer – also happens to be my husband's fourth-great-grandfather. I was pleased that Peter received more “presentation time” than the five Canadian explorers at our February meeting!

In June our members brought their special heirlooms and books to share – a Show and Tell. This is always a fun theme for a meeting. We all have family stories and it is nice to have the opportunity to share. The theme for the evening seemed to focus on the Canadian Royal Tour of 1939.

Members of the Vancouver Branch set up a display at the Highland Games in Coquitlam. This is a popular event that we have participated in for a number of years. It is always a fun day with Scottish dancers, Scottish games and pipers in kilts.

Queen's Park in New Westminster was the setting for our Third Annual BC Loyalist Day. We were joined by a number of members from Chilliwack and although there was a light rain we were comfortable in our covered picnic area.

The Vancouver Branch will host the Pacific Regional Fall Fleet Centennial on 05 October. Dominion President Bonnie Schepers UE will join us at the Centennial Pavilion in Queen's Park, New Westminster. This will also be the official launch of the Vancouver Branch Project 2014, the book Moving Ever Westward compiled by Dr. Peter Moogk UE.

By Linda Nygard UE, Branch Genealogist

## 2015 Spring

Our final event of the summer was Brigade Days at Fort Langley. This day is also the Vancouver Branch Annual Picnic. We were joined by Chilliwack Branch members and spread our chairs and blankets under the shade of a large tree just inside the main gate of the fort. It is always a good day where some members choose to explore the fort and watch demonstrations of weaving, candle-wicking and gold panning while others walk to the river to watch the canoes land on the river bank where the founding of Fort Langley is re-enacted. Our September meeting is always special. This is when we host student presenters, and their families, from the B.C. Heritage Fairs. Vancouver members serve as adjudicators at the Fair and then select those projects that best represent our Loyalist heritage. This year we had four students who amazed and entertained us with their knowledge of Canadian history. Carl Stymiest UE, President Gwen Dumfries UE and Secretary Christine Manzer UE presented the students with various gifts after their presentations. October was a busy month with the Tri-Stake Seminar in Surrey and the Pacific Regional Fall Fleet Centennial at Queen's Park, New Westminster. We have set up an extensive display at Tri-Stake Seminar for a number of years. This is one of our most popular outreach events.

Dominion Branch President, Bonnie Schepers UE, and her husband, Albert, were special guests at the Fall Fleet, hosted by the Vancouver Branch. It was a beautiful, fall day in a very pretty venue. This was also the official launch of the Vancouver Branch 2014 Book Project: Moving Ever Westward. Dr. Peter Moogk UE, who compiled and edited the material for this book, presented a copy to Bonnie Schepers UE.

Loyalist Certificates were presented to Vancouver Branch members. Jeff Syme UE received certificates for Jeremiah French and Jacob Van Dusen. His parents, Glen and Anita Syme, were visiting from their home in Ontario. Anita recently received her UE from the Sir Guy Carleton Branch. Kevin McConnell and his daughter, Audrey, received their certificates for Loyalist, John Manzer. Kevin and Audrey are the son and granddaughter of Vancouver Branch Secretary, Christine Manzer UE. Carl Stymiest UE accepted his certificate for Loyalist, Alexander McDonald Sr. He also accepted a certificate on behalf of his sister, Agnes Peever UE, of New Brunswick. Audrey Viken UE received her certificate for Loyalist, Thomas Harris. Marlene Dance UE, Genealogist of the Chilliwack Branch, announced the nine certificates presented at the

Chilliwack Branch gala on September 20th. Of these nine certificates, one was for Marlene's third great grandmother, Agnes Hutchinson.

October was also the month of the Memorial Service for Vancouver Branch member Anne Grierson UE. Anne passed away on 02 October 2014. She was an important member of the Vancouver Branch who helped with phoning and made sure we had coffee at our meetings. Anne always had a smile on her face and her presence is missed by her cousin, Mary Anne Bethune UE, and her many friends at the Vancouver Branch. Rest in peace, Anne.

November members attended Remembrance Day in New Westminster. After the service, Branch President, Gwen Dumfries UE, and Diane Faris UE placed a wreath at the cenotaph. Then we met at a local restaurant for lunch.

Dr. Warren Bell UE and his wife, Arlene, hosted our Christmas luncheon at his lovely home in North Vancouver. This is always an excellent start to the Christmas season with good food and good company.

The recipients of the Phillip E.M. Leith Memorial Award were from the Victoria Branch and the Vancouver Branch. At the Pacific Regional Fall Fleet Centennial, Dominion President, Bonnie Schepers UE, presented the Phillip Leith Award to Maralynn Wilkinson UE of Victoria. At our Christmas Luncheon at the home of Warren Bell UE, Gwen Dumfries UE and Mary Anne Bethune UE presented the Leith award to Dr. Gerry Brown of the Vancouver Branch. Congratulations to both of you.

By Linda Nygard UE, Branch Genealogist

## **2015 Fall**

At our first meeting of 2015, Christine Manzer UE, Vancouver Branch Secretary, showed members how to enter their Loyalists in the Directory of Loyalists at UELAC.org. Then it was time for our annual slide show: A Year in Review.

In February we had a special Guest Speaker in honour of Black History Month. Jean Rae Baxter UE is an award-winning Canadian author who has written a number of books depicting life during the American Revolution. *Freedom Bound* (2012) "explores the history of black Loyalists." Jean was joined by members of her family and had prepared a power point presentation. Later Dr. Peter Moogk UE gave an interesting presentation on the history of the Canadian flag in honour of its 50th Birthday.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade was our big event in March. Although the Vancouver Branch was well represented, once again, the Little Family "Loyalist dog" was the only one to make the evening news.

At our April meeting, we had a "Clothing Loan and Sale" for those attending the May conference in Victoria. We would like to extend congratulations to Dr. Peter and Susan Moogk on their 50th Anniversary.

April and May celebrated BC Heritage Fairs in many Metro Vancouver elementary schools. A number of Vancouver Branch members serve as adjudicators to select presentations that best represent our Loyalist Heritage. Those students receive special awards from the Vancouver Branch and many of those students will bring their presentations to our September meeting.

We were well represented at the UELAC Conference in Victoria. Some of our members were very involved in the planning and implementation of this conference. What a wonderful time with good people from all across Canada. Three friends of Carl Stymiest UE, sisters Carol Kelly, Elaine Kenney, and Margaret Hay, received their Loyalist certificates for their Loyalist ancestor, John Kelly UE.

Our June meeting was dedicated to a Slide Show and review of the conference in Victoria.

In June, our branch display is always a familiar site at the BC Highland Games in Coquitlam. We have participated in this popular event for a number of years: a fun day with Scottish dancers, Scottish games and pipers in kilts.

On 19 July, four Chilliwack members joined the Vancouver Branch for the 4th Annual BC Loyalist Day celebration in Queen's Park, New Westminster. Mary Anne Bethune UE presented a new Loyalist Flag to the Vancouver Branch on behalf of her cousin, Anne Grierson UE. Anne passed away in 2014 and bequeathed money for the branch. Linda Watson UE did the research to make this flag a reality.

We finished our summer activities with a picnic at Brigade Days, Fort Langley. It was 03 August, the BC Day holiday Monday. Each Brigade Day, the weather has been extra hot so we meet under the shade of a large tree just inside the main gate. Some walked behind the Piper, through the historic town to the river, to watch the canoes come down the river.

By Linda Nygard UE, Branch Genealogist

## **2016 Spring**

**O**ur Branch ends its summer activities with Brigade Days, at Fort Langley on the holiday weekend in August. It is always a warm and sunny day when we gather beneath the shade of "our" large tree - near the entrance to the Fort - for our annual picnic. For three days "Friends of the Fort" live in tents and demonstrate gold panning, candle wicking, and many other early crafts. The highlight of the holiday Monday is The Arrival of the Fur Brigades, when re-enactors paddle down the Fraser River and arrive at Marina Park to the boom of ancient muskets. They are cheered by hundreds of people who have walked from the fort to greet them. Then we all follow the "Piper" and re-enactors through the little town, back to the fort.

This September, the Mayor and Council of New Westminster invited our branch to participate in a special service to honour Queen Elizabeth II as she became Canada's longest reigning Queen. On 09 September we set up our display at the foot of the steps of City Hall. After speeches by both Mayor Jonathan Cote and representatives from the Monarchist League of Canada, there were three firings of the Ancient and Honourable Anvil Battery.

Our September meeting is when we invite Student Presenters, along with family members, to share their story boards and research with our members. These students were selected from entrants in the Vancouver District Heritage Fairs in the Spring of 2015. The Vancouver Branch awards student projects that best represent our Loyalist Heritage. This year we had a dozen students who entertained us with their stories and incredible knowledge of the subjects that they had selected. Gifts were then presented to the students.

October is when we participate in Finding Your Roots / Tri-Stake Seminar at the Family History Center in Surrey. This is one event where we can always count on a number of interested people visiting our display. Later in October, some of our members attended the 25th Anniversary of the Chilliwack Branch's Fall Fleet celebrations.

On 11 November Diane Faris UE and Donna Little UE laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in New Westminster. After the service, members met for lunch at a local restaurant.

November was also our AGM and election of officers. Carl Stymiest UE is the newly-elected President of the Vancouver Branch.

Previously, in 2015, Carl and Gwen Dumfries UE had shared the duties of president. Diane Faris UE was elected as First Vice-President and Christine Manzer UE was elected as Second Vice-President. Gwen Dumfries UE has taken over the duty of Treasurer from Judith Ueland. Diane Faris UE takes over as Editor of the Vancouver Branch Newsletter.

During this meeting, Carl and Gwen also signed a joint contract for our UEL Branch library to be housed in the Walter Draycott Library of the BCGS — British Columbia Genealogical Society. Judith Ueland, our past Branch Treasurer and Past President of the BCGS, negotiated the acceptance of the UEL Branch Library as a separate collection within the BCGS Library. It is great to finally have a home for our large Loyalist collection of books and other resource material. The BCGS will continue to make this collection accessible to all Vancouver Branch members in good standing. Later in November, a number of volunteers from the Vancouver Branch helped move the material from storage in Vancouver to its new home at the BCGS in Surrey.

Following our AGM and November meeting, Chris Dumfries gave an excellent presentation on his trip to Holland for the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands. Chris had put together a slide show with pictures that he had taken at numerous sites in Europe where our Canadian soldiers had fought and fallen. It was the first chance that the Vancouver Branch had to utilize its new Epson Power Point wireless projector.

In early December, our Branch Secretary, Christine Manzer UE, hosted our annual Christmas Social. Carl Stymiest UE and Mavis Pickett UE gave a reading of *The Night Before Christmas* with an intermittent narration from a Stephen Davidson's early related article, found in *Loyalist Trails* in 2013. Later Carl, dressed for the part, played "Santa." As always, it was an excellent afternoon with good friends. A great way to end 2015.

By Linda Nygard UE, Branch Genealogist

## 2016 Fall

**E**ach January we end the first meeting of the New Year with our annual slide show, **A Year in Review**. It is always a surprise to see just how many activities Branch Members have participated in throughout the previous year.

In February, in honour of Black History Month, our guest speaker was from Passages Canada. **Yasin Kirago Misago** is the President of the United Black Canadian Community Association. He spoke with passion about the Black Loyalists of Nova Scotia and their connection to the former Vancouver Black Community at Hogan's Alley. To thank Yasin, Vancouver Branch President, Carl Stymiest UE, presented him with a Branch Membership for 2016, a certificate, a Loyalist pin and a copy of *Loyally Yours*. Yasin was also made a Vancouver Branch Honourable Vice-President for 2016 – 2017.

In March, some Vancouver Branch members participated in the Vancouver St. Patrick's Parade alongside members from the BCGS. Once again, the Little Family's Loyalist Dog was a big hit.

Vancouver Branch members went on a Field Trip to the New Westminster Anvil Museum instead of our April monthly meeting. Our guided tour ended in the Archives where we were able to search drawers for old records of the area.

On 21 April, the Vancouver and Chilliwack Branches got together to celebrate HRH Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday. A celebration was held in Oliver's Tea Room in Dickens Sweets & British Museum, Chilliwack.

During April and May, a number of Vancouver Branch members once again served as adjudicators for BC Heritage Fairs. Several students were selected for their project boards that best represented our Loyalist History. At our September meeting, these students displayed their presentations for members and received awards for their exceptional work. May was also our Show and Tell meeting where members bring their cherished keepsakes and share their stories. At this meeting Lenore Richards received her UELAC certificate for her Loyalist ancestor, Jacob Ball UE.

June brought the BC Highland Games in Coquitlam. We have participated in this popular event for a number of years although this year was much wetter than usual. Diane Rogers, of the British Columbia Genealogical Society, gave a presentation of Genetic Genealogy (DNA testing) at our June meeting. Diane is a genealogist, historian, educator and friend of the UELAC. She is an excellent speaker and helped to shine light on this complicated subject.

Because of the late date of the UELAC Conference, we did not celebrate BC Loyalist Day in July. Instead we had a Branch picnic, along with some members of the Chilliwack Branch, at Brigade Days in Fort Langley on 01 August. We have a large shade tree inside the Fort where we meet each August. Some members chose to walk behind the Piper and re-enactors through the historic town to the river to watch the canoes come down the river.

By Linda Nygard UE, Branch Genealogist

Vancouver Branch President, Carl Stymiest UE, presents guest speaker, Yasin Kirago Misago, [left] with gifts at our February meeting. Yasin was also appointed Vancouver Branch Honourable Vice-President for 2016 – 2017.

Vancouver Branch members join BCGS at St. Patrick's Day Parade, Vancouver.