

CALGARY BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2021



UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

Calgary Branch

Executive

President: Suzanne Davidson

Past President: David Hongisto

Recording Secretary: Barbara Hongisto

Treasurer: David Hongisto

Genealogists: Suzanne Davidson, Ivy Trumpour

Membership: William Simpson

Newsletter: Linda McClelland, Suzanne Davidson

Scholarship: Ian McIlreath

Members-at-large: Pat Sadler Brown, Ivy Trumpour, Karen Stevenson

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PRESENTATION OF APPRECIATION CERTIFICATE TO GEORGE TAPLEY

Recently, David and Barbara Hongisto presented George Tapley with a certificate of appreciation for George's contribution to the Calgary Branch. He served as treasurer from 2011 until 2019. Thank you, George. Photo by Barbara Hongisto



MINUTES of UELAC CALGARY BRANCH FALL MEETING

OCTOBER 24, 2021

Present: Layla Briggs, Pat Brown, Marian & Paul Beer, Suzanne Davidson, Louise Ferriss, Neil Garlough, Barbara Hongisto, David Hongisto, Linda McClelland, Jacquie MacGowan, Denise McGuire, Ian McIlreath, Bruce Miller, Robert Rogers, Karen Stevenson, Bill Simpson, Ivy Trumpour, Rick Wood.

Suzanne welcomed us and we each gave our ancestor's name and any connection to the Butler's Rangers.

The meeting opened with a royal presentation of the singing of the National Anthem.

SPEAKER

Suzanne introduced **Denise McGuire** who presented the results of her 1999 archaeological excavation of the Butler Homestead in Niagara-on-the-Lake. It was a detailed account of the Butler history, detailed maps of the area, and excellent photos of what they discovered. Quite a presentation! Any questions

can be sent to denise.mcguire@gmail.com. See below for a summary and some pictures. The presentation was recorded and available on request to Suzanne.

PAST MINUTES

The June 27, 2021 branch minutes were moved for acceptance by Suzanne, seconded by Pat, and passed by all, (with a typo correction).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Suzanne tried contacting Queen's Park with no response.

Her other comments will appear in the following reports.

TREASURER'S'S REPORT

David presented \$4758.02 in the chequing account and \$25277.36 in the term deposit.

MEMBERSHIP

Registration will be on line starting November 3. Bill will send out the information on changes for membership when it is available. Please see separate attachment for details. Payment by credit card or Pay Pal can be made on the uelac.ca website by logging into your account with your email address. For payment by e-transfer please contact us for the address. For payment by cheque mail the cheque with any change in information to David Hongisto at the address on the separate attachment. .

Membership is the same as last meeting.

U of C AWARD UPDATE

Ian has not had any reply as of yet to his inquiry of the university as to who is the recipient this year. He will send out any news re this award when it is available. An update has now been received. The recipient for this year is Sabrina Kooistra, a fifth year Bachelor of Arts student with majors in History and Communications and Media Studies.

TRIP TO ALIX ALBERTA

In September, 2019, Pat Sadler Brown provided a very noteworthy and diverse presentation of a United Empire Loyalist plaque that was placed in a Lethbridge cemetery where descendants of Loyalists are buried. That service has spurred on interest in other Alberta cemeteries that might also have graves of Loyalists' descendants. Research by Pat Sadler Brown, Ivy Trumpour, Karen Stevenson, and Suzanne Davidson dug into Irene Parlby's ancestry. That research and the fact that Irene Parlby was one of the "Famous Five" led Ivy and Suzanne Davidson to Alix Alberta in September, 2021.

Parlby memorial stone



Ivy took these photographs and wrote this account of their experience.



Main Street Alix



Alix Lake

Visit to Alix

On a gorgeous day in early September, we (Suzanne Davidson, Jack Twells, and Ivy Trumpour) made the two hour drive to the lovely village of Alix, Alberta, home to fewer than 1,000 people. Alix is located on Highway 12, about 5 km west of Highway 21. Travelling down the neat and tidy main street we passed the hotel, shops, museum, Home Hardware, grocery store, credit union and other businesses. At the end of the street are the war memorial, campground, beach and Alix Lake, which was being enjoyed by some canoeists.

The Wagon Wheel Museum is open daily during the summer and by appointment from September to April. Donna, the Historical Society President, kindly gave us a personal tour of

the facility. It is called Wagon Wheel Museum because Alix is at the centre of several school districts whose locations form the spokes of a wheel. The artifacts are creatively displayed in one building. A recent donation of over 100 ladies' hats that were used at a tea party farewell to the student workers before they returned to their studies in Lethbridge was first to capture our interest.

One corner of the museum describes Irene Parlby, who lived in the area. She is known for her participation in the "Persons Case" as one of the Famous Five who signed the petition to the Supreme Court, although the movement was led by Emily Murphy. Mrs. Parlby's greater accomplishments were being elected to the Alberta Legislature in 1921, and becoming the second woman in the British Empire appointed to a cabinet position. In this capacity she was a delegate to the International Council of Women in Washington DC, and investigated education and co-operatives in Scandinavia and Britain. She was one of three Canadian delegates to the League of Nations (forerunner of the United Nations) in Geneva in 1930.

The museum recognizes several other noteworthy women from Alix including writer Barbara Villy Cormack, journalist Marj Ludvigsson, artists Alice Nielsen and Alice Whitfield. The village is named for Alix Westhead, the first white woman to settle in the area. The vivacious woman met Sir William Van Horne in Montreal, and as the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, he selected the name of the village when it was incorporated in 1907. Previously it had been called Toddsville in recognition of Joseph Todd, an early settler. It was at the invitation of her friend Alix that Irene Parlby first came from England to Canada in 1896. Alix and her husband Charles had arrived in 1890, and after Charles joined the Boer War in 1900, Alix managed the Westhead Ranch until she returned to England in 1913 where she managed the Exbury Estate. When Charles finished his military service he settled in British Columbia.

A gigantic beaver that was trapped in the area is the focal point of the wildlife section of the museum. Even the largest form available had to be modified by the taxidermist to fit the animal skin. There were exhibits of toys, churches, a pioneer kitchen, farm tools, education, sports, industry, military and service clubs. A huge book that must have been a foot thick could have provided a lifetime of reading at one page a day. A lacrosse stick found in a farmer's field might have been used by aboriginal people. The Central Alberta Dairy Pool was a thriving business from 1916 to 1976 when it tragically burned. A large solidified aluminum "sculpture" that was created in the fire is on display.

Donna was pleased to receive our research of Irene Parlby's Loyalist ancestry. Irene's father Lt. Col. Lindsay Marryat took up farming near the Parlbys after he retired from engineering management in India and Egypt. Several descendants still live in the area. We did not meet any, and as in most families, some are interested in history and some are not.

After soaking up information from Donna we crossed the street to Sweet Crumbs Cakery for lunch. Despite the small size, it had a good variety of lunch fare. We topped our meal off with a monster mouth watering apple cinnamon roll that was easily shareable by the three of us.

The cemetery is fittingly located next to the Haunted Lakes Golf Course. The Parlby and Marryat families are buried in the older section on the west side of the road. Irene and Walter Parlby memorials are at the far southeast corner and the Marryat family in the far northeast

corner. It is a peaceful and well kept burial ground on either side of a "fairy dell" alleyway of graceful trees.

Next time you find yourself travelling on Highway 21 or 12 we recommend you stop in Alix. An ideal time would be in mid-August when Alix Days Parade and Rodeo takes place. Be sure to keep an eye out for Alixgator, the village mascot.



Museum interior



Irene Parlby display

OTHER BUSINESS

We may have a restaurant get-together after Christmas. Any ideas can be sent to Suzanne.

Shona Wards passed away in August. She left books, clothing and material, shoes, hats, etc. for our use. If you are interested in any of these items, please contact Suzanne or Ivy. The books are listed below and the clothing includes skirts, accessories, underclothing, hats, cotton fabrics, and patterns.

Books from Shona Wards

Our Canada, Origins Peoples Perspectives, by David Rees, Darrell Anderson Gerrits, Gratien Allaire, 2006

A resource with Grade 7 components

escape, adventures of a loyalist family, by Mary Beacock Fryer, 1976.

The Book of Negroes, by Lawrence Hill, 2007

Revolutionary War on Wednesday, by Mary Pope Osborne, 2000

King's Head Inn Taste of History, by King's Landing Historical Settlement, New Brunswick. A recipe book.

The Summer of 1744, a Portrait of Life in 18th Century Louisbourg, by A.J.B. Johnston, 2002

Gideon White Loyalist, by Mary Archibald, 1975

Louisbourg Portraits, Five dramatic, true tales of people who lived in an eighteenth century garrison town, by Christopher Moore, 2000

Rough Crossings Britain, the Slaves and the American Revolution, by Simon Schama, 2008

Origins Canadian History to Confederation, third edition, by R. Douglas Francis, Richard Jones, Donald B. Smith, 1996

To Stand and Fight Together, Richard Pierpoint and the Coloured Corps of Upper Canada, by Steve Pitt, 2008

With Nothing But Our Courage, The Loyalist Diary of Mary MacDonald

Land of the Loyalists, Their struggle to shape the Maritimes, Ronald Rees, 2000

The Saint John River, by Esther Clark Wright, 1949

Canada, Growth of a Nation, by Stan Garrod, Fred McFadden, Rosemary Neering, 1981

Moving Ever Westward: Loyalist Descendants Come to British Columbia, Vancouver Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, Dr. Peter Moogk, U.E., Editor, 2015

Alberta Bound Voices of Loyalist Descendants, by Linda McClelland, U.E.

The United Empire Loyalists, Alberta Bound, Linda McClelland, U.E., 2013

Life of the Loyalists, Rosemary Neering, Stan Garrod, editor Daniel R. Birch, 1975

Loyalist Dress in Nova Scotia, 1775 - 1800, by Mary Archibald, Elizabeth deMolitor and Cathy Holmes, 1982

Rising Above Circumstances, The Rogers Family in Colonial America, by Robert J. Rogers, U.E. 1998

National Geographic, April 1975, with an article *The Loyalists* by Kent Britt and Ted Spiegel

CLOSING

The meeting ended with the playing of **O Canada sung in a variety of languages.**

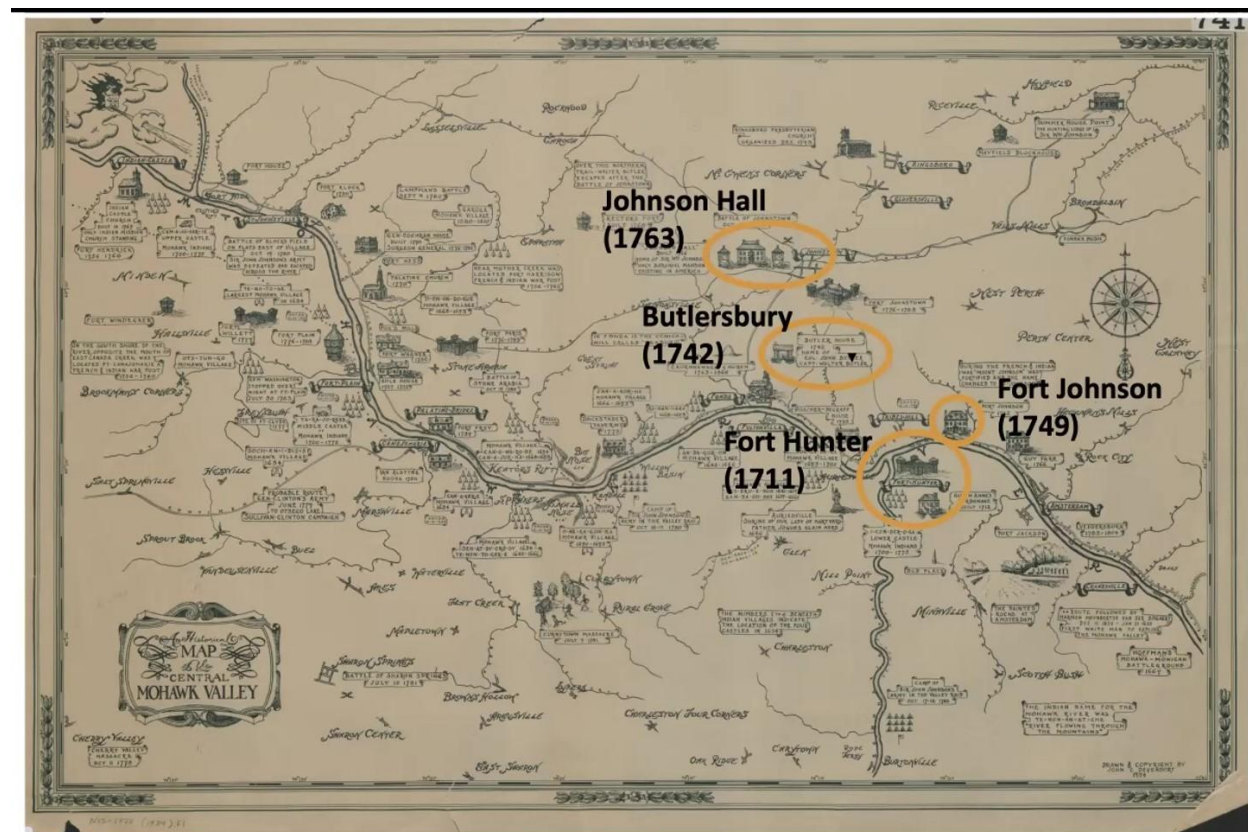
PRESENTATION ON BUTLER'S RANGERS

Denise McGuire presented information on the excavation of the Butler homestead that was at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

John Butler formed the Butler's Rangers in 1777 after the Battle of Oriskani. Members were required to be acquainted with the woods and be able to communicate in a native language. Frontier Loyalists were recruited.

John grew up in the Mohawk Valley of New York. His father, Walter Butler arrived in Connecticut in 1711 as part of a British force that was to attempt to invade Quebec. This operation was eventually abandoned.

Walter had two wives, Mary Harris in 1712 and Deborah Dennis in 1726. John Butler was born in 1728. Walter was posted at Fort Hunter in the Mohawk Valley. His family did not move from Connecticut until 1742.



John was employed by William Johnson and learned a number of Indigenous languages during his dealings with the Mohawk Valley natives.

Walter Sr was killed in 1755. His son Thomas died of illness in 1759 and son Walter Jr died in 1760. John Butler then inherited the Butler lands in the Mohawk Valley. He was an interpreter in the Indian Department in the 1760s and then an area judge and Lt Col of the militia for Trion County.

After the deaths of his step brothers, John became responsible for the welfare of their wives and children. He was also guardian for the children of William Johnson and Molly Brant.

In 1775, the Rebellion reached the Mohawk Valley and John left. However his wife, Catherine and their younger children were arrested and remained captive for three years.

The Butler's Rangers were disbanded in 1784. John's sons Thomas and Andrew were also in the Rangers. John took land at Niagara-on-the-Lake where he died in 1796. Some of the Ranger's families settled in Newark or Niagara-on-the-Lake during the Rebellion since it is across the river from Fort Niagara.

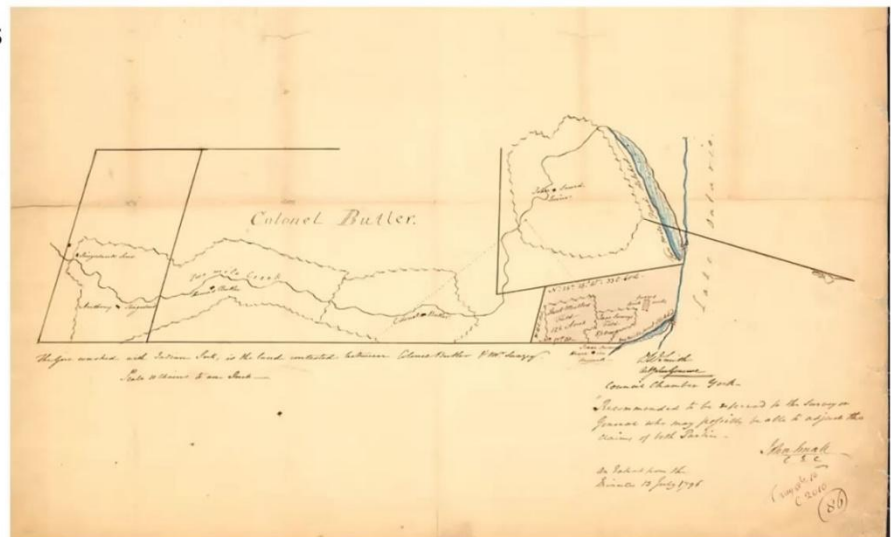
Since John was an original settler, his land was irregular in size. It did not correspond to the sections that were later surveyed.

The Butler Homestead Site (AhGs-18)

Map of Col. John Butler's property in Niagara from July 1796.

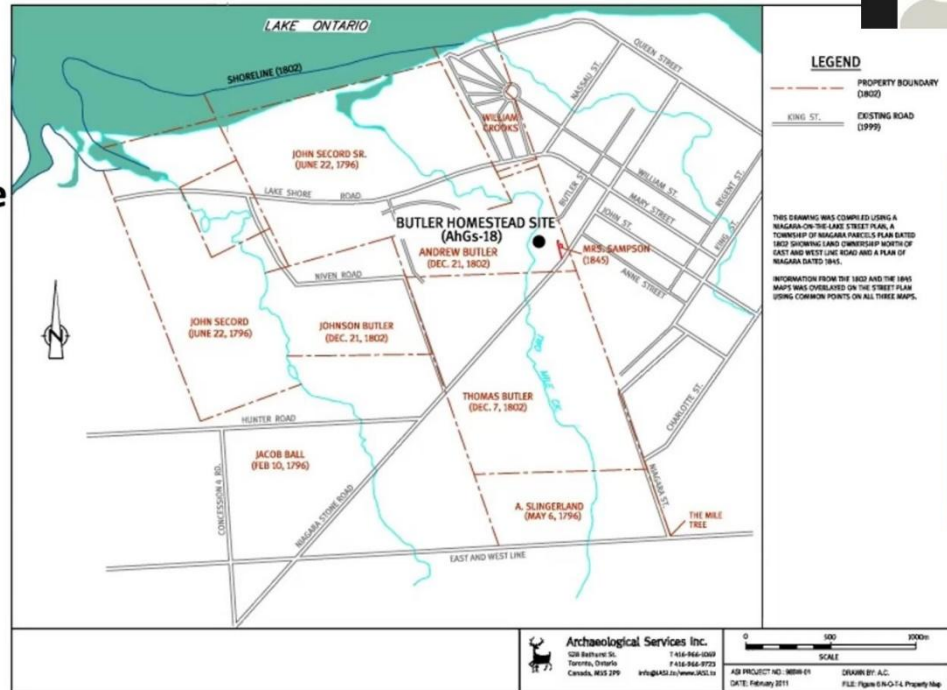
Utilized to determine a property boundary dispute.

Note: Thomas Butler's farm adjoins his father's farm to the south.



During the War of 1812, American forces occupied his house in 1813 for about six months before it was burned along with most of Newark or Niagara-on-the-Lake when the Americans left the region. The house was never rebuilt.

The Butler Homestead Site (AhGs-18)



The remains of the homestead were discovered in 1996 and a partial salvage was initiated in 1999. The overall size of the house was 10 m x 20 m and the foundation was shale and sandstone with fieldstone being used for additions to the base house.

The Butler Homestead Excavation

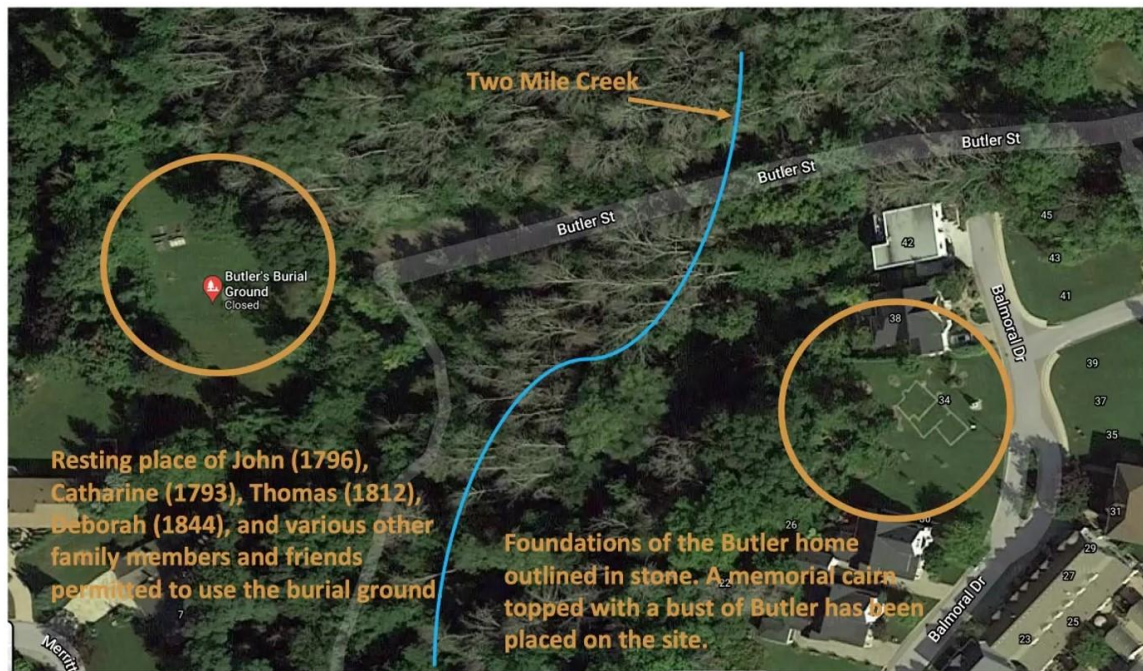


Looking south over the stone foundation and builder's trench when they were first exposed in the northwest corner of the structure.

It took about ten years to catalogue the about 50,000 ceramic pieces found at the site. Most of these pieces were the size of a quarter. About 250 food and beverage items were identified with most of these related to tea service. Some of these were Chinese porcelain which would have cost a significant amount and been hard to obtain. This would signify the affluence of the family. Other items included a milk pan with a pouring spout and mustard condiment bottles.

The homestead walls have been highlighted at the site and a memorial cairn installed. Across the creek is the Butler Burial Ground where John, who died in 1796 and his wife, Catherine who died in 1793 are buried along with other family members and neighbours.

Memorialization of the Butler Homestead Site



DID YOU KNOW

...that the Alberta flag has the St George's cross on it representing King George III and our heritage?

This cross is also on the United Empire Loyalist flag.



hanks to Pat Sadler Brown