

**UELAC**

**CALGARY BRANCH FALL NEWSLETTER: 2022**

Linda McClelland and Suzanne Davidson



**UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA**

*Calgary Branch*

## Table of Contents

Page 3	Executive listing
Page 4	Fall Meeting
Page 4	University of Calgary UELAC award
Page 5	Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta)
Page 6	Summer Picnic
Page 7	Member certificates
Page 9	Memorial
Page 10	Spring AGM Minutes
Page 11	Executive meeting Minutes of Sept 20, 2022
Page 12	Book report – Land of the Loyalists
Page 14	Book Report – To Stand and Fight Together

## Executive Members of the Calgary Branch in 2022



Suzanne Davidson President



Barbara and David Hongisto Secretary and Treasurer/Past President



Bill Simpson Membership

Linda McClelland, Newsletter Members at Large: Ivy Trumpour, Pat Brown, Karen Stevenson



Missing Photo: Ian McIlreath, UofC Award

## **Fall Meeting**

Our Fall meeting is on Sunday, November 6, 2022 at 1:00 pm at 7575 8 St NE. The doors will open at 12:30 pm. A Zoom option will also be available. With a meal, our business and a presentation the meeting should be over by 4:00 pm.

The cost is \$25 for our meal. If you have any food restrictions, please ensure we are notified.

We will have a presentation on DNA and what it can show us. Linda Murray from Alberta Family Histories Society will present information on what we can find out when we submit a DNA sample.

Please confirm your attendance by October 31 to either Suzanne at [s\\_e\\_davidson@hotmail.com](mailto:s_e_davidson@hotmail.com) or David at [davidhongisto@gmail.com](mailto:davidhongisto@gmail.com). We have an email address for payment. That will be sent when you RRSP.

## **University of Calgary UELAC Calgary Branch Award**

One of our members has been increasing the principle of our award for a couple of years. This is after our branch used some of Evelyn De Mille's bequethed funds to increase the award amount to \$500. Anyone can also donate to the University of Calgary to add to the principle of our award. We will discuss details of donating to our award fund during the November meeting. Please contact Suzanne at [s\\_e\\_davidson@hotmail.com](mailto:s_e_davidson@hotmail.com) if you wish details for donating before that.

## Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta)



The Calgary Branch of UELAC has been designated a partner in gathering and submitting names of Albertans who meet certain criteria for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta) program.

### Eligibility and Criteria

The Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta) was created to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession to The Throne as Queen of Canada. To celebrate this historic event, the Medal program recognizes outstanding service from Albertans who, like the Queen, have dedicated themselves to family, community and country.

To be eligible for the Medal program, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident in Canada;
- Living as of February 6, 2022; and
- Demonstrated contributions to Canada, Alberta, a particular region, community or field.

The deadline for submitting names to the Calgary Branch UELAC is [October 31, 2022](#).

Nominations should be submitted to Lori Greig, [lorigreig22@gmail.com](mailto:lorigreig22@gmail.com), including:

- Full name of nominee, including salutation (Mr., Mrs., Ms. etc.);
- Contact information for nominee (address, phone, email);
- Full name of the person submitting the nomination; and
- Explanation of the significant contributions the nominee has made as stated in eligibility criteria above. Please provide as much detail, including examples, as possible to allow the selection committee to fully understand the full significance of these contributions.

Subsequent to October 31, 2022, nominations will be reviewed by a selection committee after which the final list will be submitted to the Provincial authority in time for the filing deadline with the Provincial authority which is [November 30, 2022](#).

Once the nominees have been approved by the Provincial authority, contact will be made with them and a presentation event will be scheduled.

## August 28, 2022 Picnic

This year we organized a summer picnic at South Gelnmore Park. The idea was to play some games , some with a Loyalist connection. This unfortunately did not happen since Saturday, August 28 was one of our wet summer days with cool temperatures. Our group of about fifteen huddled in the shelter and discussed our summer exploits and family history. We had a meal of beef on a bun with salads and macaroni and cheese. Bill Simpson was presented with his Loyalist certificate that was received earlier in the year.

The photos below show some of the participants keeping warm and eating the delicious meal.



## Certificates received so far this year

### Bill Simpson



At the August 28<sup>th</sup> picnic, **Bill Simpson** received a UEL certificate. Here is what Bill has to say about his ancestor, **Jacob Smith**.

My 6x great grandfather, Jacob Smith Sr. aka Jacob Schmidt, along with many other German settlers in North-western New Jersey, was a supporter of the British out of gratitude for having been granted refuge from religious persecution in earlier times. Jacob Smith Sr. was a soldier in the New Jersey Volunteers, a unit commissioned on July 1st, 1776.

Jacob and his family were subject to the usual persecution meted out to Loyalists. His son-in-law, Christian Huffman, also a New Jersey volunteer, was summoned to appear before an inquisition as a result of his military service; other "legal" proceedings were to follow in 1789 to "liberate" his assets. By the middle of August 1788, Jacob Smith Sr., his wife, Elizabeth, and thirteen children travelled by oxen cart north to Canada. They settled near Hamilton, Ontario, where they took up farming.

By the time war was declared in June 1812, the Smith family had begun to prosper, only to be called into active service and plunged into a new conflict. Jacob's eldest son, Lewis, a Gunner, was dead by December 3, 1812. Lewis's son, Matthias, a private in a Flank Company, was dead by December 17, 1812.

Many of the Smith family are interred in the Bowman United Church cemetery in Hamilton.

## **Christopher Pitman**

Christopher received his certificate for John Bailey Williston. John Williston settled in Bay du Vin, Northumberland County, New Brunswick in the Miramichi area after escaping the American Colonies from Long Island, New York. He was born in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1757. John was a Surveyor of Lands and a Constable in the Bay du Vin District. He also entered into a co partnership with his father-in-law Benjamin Stymiest in order to build a saw mill on the Bay Du Vin River. Proofs used for John Williston were the Muster Roll from Ward Chipman's papers from General Hunter Master General's Office and Esther Clark Wright's book "The Loyalists of New Brunswick" listing those who landed and made homes in New Brunswick. Christopher's line of descent is from John Williston UE to his son, Luther to his son John Bailey Williston to John Alexander and then Harvey Alexander Williston and through his daughter Thelma Marjorie and her daughter Deborah Ann Kinsella. Christopher is the person in his family who moved west from Oromocto, New Brunswick.

## **Elaine Rancier Fuller**

William Arthur Rancier was the Loyalist who Eliane proved. He settled in the Kingston and Loughborough area of Upper Canada. During the Revolution, he served with the Kings Royal Regiment of New York and The Queens' Loyal New Yorkers. William was born in Schoharie, New York. Elaine's line of descent is from William Rancier to his son George to his son William Rancier to his son William Henry to George Douglas Annesley and his son William Arthur Rancier. George Rancier was Elaine's ancestor who moved west to Ponoka, Alberta

Both Christopher and Elaine were mailed their certificates directly in the summer.

An application by Shirley Swanby for her Loyalsit ancestor, James Jackson has recently been submitted. We hope it will be accepted before the end of the year.



## **Memorials**

We are sorry to hear of the recent passing of Verna Reid on October 4, 2022. She was a member of our branch until her health started to decrease. She received her Loyalist certificate for Peter Brouse Sr in 2012. Verna was an instructor at SAIT, the Alberta College of Art and Design and University of Calgary. Over the years she was also involved in many arts and literary arts boards. This involvement was recognized in 1993 when she received the YWCA Woman of Distinction Award.

# Minutes of the Spring AGM

These minutes are reprinted below from the Spring Newsletter.

## **UELAC CALGARY AGM MAY 1, 2022**

This meeting was a hybrid- zoom one.

**PRESENT:** Layla Briggs, Suzanne Davidson, Neil Garlouch, Cheryl Hanna, Barbara Hongisto, David Hongisto, Lorna Laughton, Linda Murray, Kevin Miles, Bill Simpson, Karen Stevenson, Roy Smith, Ivy Trumpour, Jack Twells.  
**ON ZOOM:** Liz Adair, Barb Andrew, Pat Brown, Jacquie McGowan, Ian McIlreath, Darlene Montgomery Fawcett.

Suzanne welcomed both groups of people.  
We opened with the Royal Anthem with photos.  
Suzanne thanked the Alberta Family Historical Society for providing its library for this meeting, with a little tour of books available.

**PRESENTATION:** Darlene, from the St, Lawrence Branch, gave us an interesting overview of the book, "Loyalists at Table, 18<sup>th</sup> Century Loyalist Recipes for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". We enjoyed the photos and realized that we still make many of the food items they prepared, like maple syrup, tea biscuits, sourdough bread. However, it is so much easier for us now.

**MINUTES** of AGM March 7, 2021, and branch meeting of October 24, 2021. These were discussed and Jack Twells moved, while David Hongisto seconded, that these minutes be passed. They were accepted.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The website has been updated. Our presence on Facebook is developing too, thanks to Beatrice.  
George Tapley passed away and we gave him a certificate for all his contributions to our branch.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

David presented the financial statement; it hadn't really changed from the last one. He said that the statements have been updated to match the Dominion. Bill Simpson moved to accept this report while Roy Smith seconded. It was passed.  
David bought equipment for Zooming.... projector and screen, at half price, with a free speaker.  
Jack Twells moved and Neil Garlouch seconded to buy this equipment and it passed.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Bill announced that we have 4 additional members with 15 family memberships and 27 individual ones.

### **BRANCH OFFICERS**

## **Executive Meeting Sept 20, 2022**

The following topics were discussed at the Executive meeting on September 21, 2022:

- Zoom Equipment and Account
- Minutes
- Finances
- Membership (There are three new members: Edward Mosier, Alexa Moore, Karen Lundin)
- Facebook
- Fall Meeting (to be announced)
- Certificates that are pending
- U of C Award

Suzanne explained that the U of C award recipient receives \$500 now and \$600 next year. **If the award money is increased by \$4000.00, the award would be \$1000 for the recipient.**

**Member donations are eligible for a tax receipt and are very welcomed.** The Branch might consider adding money. This may be a discussion topic at the next general meeting.

## **Book Report** by Ivy Trumpour

### **Land of the Loyalists, Their struggle to shape the Maritimes by Ronald Rees**

Nimbus Publishing Ltd. 2000 ISBN 1-55109-274-3

The book begins with a description of the ideals of Sir Guy Carleton and others to build New Ireland as a province superior and more prosperous than rebellious New England and loyal New Scotland. It would conform to the British monarchial system of large estates with many workers. At the time of the Loyalist influx, there was already a population of 4,000 to 5,000 Indigenous people, Acadians and New England planters in Nova Scotia. In what later became New Brunswick, land had been granted to officers from the Seven Years War in 1765. Prince Edward Island was unavailable because it was owned by absent proprietors.

Land was allocated to Loyalists according to rank, from 100 acres for privates to 1,000 acres for officers. A group of 55 prominent Loyalists, later known as the Committee of Fifty-five, expected grants of 5,000 acres each. Not surprisingly, this resulted in tension.

The estate system of landowners and tenants that operated in England was not sustainable in Nova Scotia where climate and soils were poor. Landowners built mansions on grounds that were wilderness and few settlers were interested in tenant farming when they could obtain their own land. The end result was that the elite became penniless while tradesmen and merchants prospered.

Within a short time span 30,000 Loyalist refugees arrived in Nova Scotia expecting to be granted a piece of ground to start a new life. There is an explanation of the survey process as it proceeded in different locations. The surveys could not progress quickly enough for people to occupy their lots and many spent the first winter in tents or huts.

Black Loyalists were promised lots, but generally got the least desirable locations if any at all, and over 1,000 of them left for Sierra Leone in 1792.

The section on building the towns describes the town plans. Port Roseway, renamed Shelburne, had a population of 8,500 in 1884, and for a short time was the largest town in Canada, and the fourth largest in North America. There are pictures and explanations of the kinds of houses, churches and public buildings that were erected in the various towns.

Some public and official buildings were constructed on a grand scale to emulate the affluence of England and New England, although made of timber rather than cost prohibitive stone. Sir John Wentworth's Government House in Halifax was particularly opulent. The Charlotte County courthouse in St. Andrews gave evidence of devoted loyalty to the monarchy. Numerous drawings and pictures supplement the text.

The Anglican establishment's deference to grand churches and symbolism did not resonate with many of the general population who rejected class systems of the wealthy. Explanations of interactions and tensions among religious and educational institutions are enlightening.

This book is organized by the subjects of land description, settlement, and buildings. It does not deal with geographic areas or towns separately, rather it compares and discusses the subject, for example manors, as it applies in several different places. With my woefully inadequate knowledge of the local geography, and my familiarity of the wide open spaces of the prairies, I found this jumping around from one unfamiliar place to another disconcerting. Once I gave up worrying about where a particular creek or settlement might be and accepted that it was in the overall general area, I could concentrate on the information at hand.

Reading this was a worthwhile way of learning the who, how and why of Loyalist settlement in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. If you have ancestors who lived in a situation that is discussed in the book, it gives useful insight into their experiences.

## **Book Report** by Ivy Trumpour

### **To Stand and Fight Together, Richard Pierpoint and the Coloured Corps of Upper Canada**

By Steve Pitt. Dundurn Press, Toronto, Ontario ISBN 978-1-55002-731-0

This book of 144 pages is easy to read, and full of information. It is a summary of history that reminds me of lessons from my school days, but from a different viewpoint, like looking at a mountain from two different sides. It is world history from an African perspective.

The first chapter explains that from the beginning of human interaction slavery was a fact of life that existed everywhere in the world and was accepted as normal. When the New World economy was in need of labour the use of slave labour among African tribes was expanded to become an intercontinental financial enterprise. The story starts with an individual who was captured in 1760.

This person was given the name of Richard Pierpoint and the book describes world events as they shaped his life. It is about his life but includes facts about many other things, both micro and macro that were happening at the same time. In this way it is more like a general history covering the time from pre revolutionary America, the American War of Independence, life in Upper Canada after this war, the French Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Upper Canada rebellions of 1837-38.

Pierpoint joined Butler's Rangers and later received land in Niagara, but having no wife or family he struggled to clear it alone. At the age of 68, to support the British in the War of 1812, he raised a Coloured Corps of 30 Black men when there were only about 100 free Black men in all of Upper Canada! He served as a private since commoners and Blacks were not allowed to be in command.

Most members of the Corps were skilled tradesmen so the Corps was engaged in the dangerous and important task of building Fort Mississauga, a job done mostly at night. After the War of 1812 Pierpoint asked only for enough money to return to Africa, but instead he was awarded more uncleared land. He lived into his nineties but his will states that he had no heirs nor relations.

The story of the Coloured Corps continues through its participation in the 1837 rebellion, its demise and reactivation for building highways and constructing the Welland Canal. There is further discussion of the American Civil War and the First and Second World Wars.

There are a few pictures and almost half the pages in the book have a "Fascinating Fact" or "Wordplay" box. The facts cover a wide range of topics such as the origin of the name of Penny Lane in Liverpool, pineapples and wealth, the Iroquois Confederacy, soul food, and Prince William of Orange. Wordplay explains the origins or meanings of various words, for example, point blank, rout, picket line, quartermaster.

There is a useful timeline for the years from 1444 when the Portuguese started capturing slaves to 2005 when Michaëlle Jean became the first Black governor general of Canada. There is also a selected reading list of books and websites.

I expect to refer to this book in future to remind myself of the interconnection of historical events, especially how they impacted Black people.