

UELAC

CALGARY BRANCH CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER: 2022



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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

This newsletter is issued to update all on our recent activities. Included is our Fall Meeting, the Remembrance Day wreath laying, an update on our U of C History Prize and pictures of the ceremony to present the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal to some of our members. January 1 is the beginning of a new membership year. Please renew your membership. New members are welcome. Page 12 has information on how to renew.

Our ongoing communications include our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CalgaryBranchUELAC/> and website <https://uelac.org/calgary/>



We are thankful that we were able to gather in person this year. The branch now has the necessary equipment to host a hybrid meeting from anywhere that has an internet connection. This is thanks to a grant provided by Dominion and David Hongisto's purchasing power.

We used the equipment twice for our Spring and fall Meetings. For our Spring Meeting we connected via Zoom with our presenter, Darlene Montgomery- Fawcett, from Ontario. She gave us an overview of the "Loyalist at the Table" cookbook which is based on research into recipes from the Loyalist period. The cookbook is available by contacting her at dmfawcett@ripnet.com or the St Lawrence Branch Facebook page.

Our second use was for the Fall Meeting where we had a local presenter, Linda Murray, whose topic was Genetic Genealogy or how DNA could be of use in researching your ancestors. For that meeting we had some members from Calgary and across the province connect via Zoom. Both meetings were successful.

During the summer we had a picnic at South Glenmore Park. We had a shelter which kept us dry during the inclement weather. We will plan to organize a picnic again and hopefully have better weather.

This will be our third newsletter for 2022. Generally one is issued after each meeting.

The Dominion Conference for 2023 is an in person gathering on June 1 to 4 in Richmond, BC hosted by the Pacific Region Branches. There is some information on the uelac.ca website.

We expect to have our regular meetings in the Spring and Fall next year along with a picnic in late summer.

If you have any suggestions for topics for our future meetings please contact me by email s_e_davidson@hotmail.com. For any concerns or suggestions please also contact me.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We can offer assistance if you are interested in applying for a Loyalist certificate.

Hope all have a Merry Christmas and are able to gather with family.

Happy and Safe New Year.

Suzanne

MINUTES: NOVEMBER 6, 2022 FALL MEETING

PRESENT: Layla Briggs, Suzanne Davidson, Lori Greig, Gene Peters, Neil Garlough, Chery Hanna, Wayne Hovdestad, Barbara Hongisto, David Hongisto, Lorna Laughton, Ian McIlreath, Linda Murray, Bill Simpson, Karen Stevenson, Gord Miller, Tim Strocel, Shirley Swanby, Tom Swanby, Jacquie McGowan, Sharon Terray, John Terray



ON ZOOM: Liz Adair, Beatrice Aucoin, Pat Brown, George Himann, Linda McClelland, Janice Tye (Bill Tye's daughter)

WELCOME

Suzanne and David set up Zoom. Suzanne welcomed everyone. We enjoyed our tasty lunch. Suzanne had everyone introduce themselves, both on Zoom and around the tables. A BIG thank-you to Bill Simpson for providing the ideal room for the meeting.

PRESENTATION

Linda Murray gave a most informative power-point presentation on "DNA: Getting Started". There were good questions and a great handout too. (See excerpts below the minutes of the meeting.)

MINUTES

The minutes of the May 1st AGM were available and were addressed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Suzanne announced that the website is still a work in progress as things are being re-organized with the Library and Archives Canada website. We can contact Beatrice for any updates for Facebook.

Remembrance Day service is at the Military Museums and Tim volunteered to lay our wreath there on Remembrance Day. Thank-you, Tim.

SCHOLARSHIP

Ian explained how our scholarship has developed over time. It will be joining in with U of C's awards. Our award will still be \$500, but will expand to \$1000, perhaps next year. The winner's details will be coming soon. Ian also reminded us that anyone may donate to the scholarship fund.

MEMBERSHIP

Bill announced that there are 13 families, 31 individuals and 4 + new members. There will be more updates at the next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Not much change from the last meeting.... ie...the cost of wiring for the Zoom meetings.

Suzanne ended the meeting with the singing of O Canada.

Getting started with Genetic Genealogy

If you are new to the world of DNA testing, here are some resources to help you get started. We suggest you start by viewing some short but informative videos which explain the basics of DNA testing: <https://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/basics/molgen/>

Once you understand the basics behind the various tests, check out the many resources on this list put together by a mother and daughter team of professional genealogists: <https://familylocket.com/resources-for-learning-about-genetic-genealogy/>

One of the best websites is maintained by The International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG). ISOGG has a comprehensive beginner's guide at: https://isogg.org/wiki/Beginners%27_guides_to_genetic_genealogy

The AFHS Library has a collection of DNA materials including over 20 books and a series of quick guides on DNA research by Diahan Southard, <https://www.yourdnaguide.com/>

One of the most popular blogs is DNAExplained – Genetic Genealogy written by Roberta Estes. Started in July 2012, Roberta reached her 1,000th article in June 2018 and is still going strong. Her blog is searchable for any DNA topic. <https://dna-explained.com/>

If you prefer to learning by viewing webinars, there are many about genetic genealogy. Legacy Family Tree Webinars now has over 200 DNA presentations in their library, including a 5-part DNA Course by Blaine Bettinger. An annual subscription is required; however, all webinars are free to view in the week following the live presentation. <https://familytreewebinars.com/>

Another great resource for videos can be found at the RootsTech video archive. Many sessions from 2015 to 2022 are available for free and cover a range of topics including DNA. The videos include beginner, intermediate and expert level DNA talks. You can also sign up free for RootsTech 2023 which takes place March 2 – 4, 2023. [Home • RootsTech 2022 • FamilySearch](#)

Facebook groups can be very helpful with for learning about DNA. Two of the most popular are Genetic Genealogy, Tips and Techniques and AncestryDNA Matching. YouTube is another great resource for DNA videos. Check out Family History Fanatics for some great talks by Andy Lee.

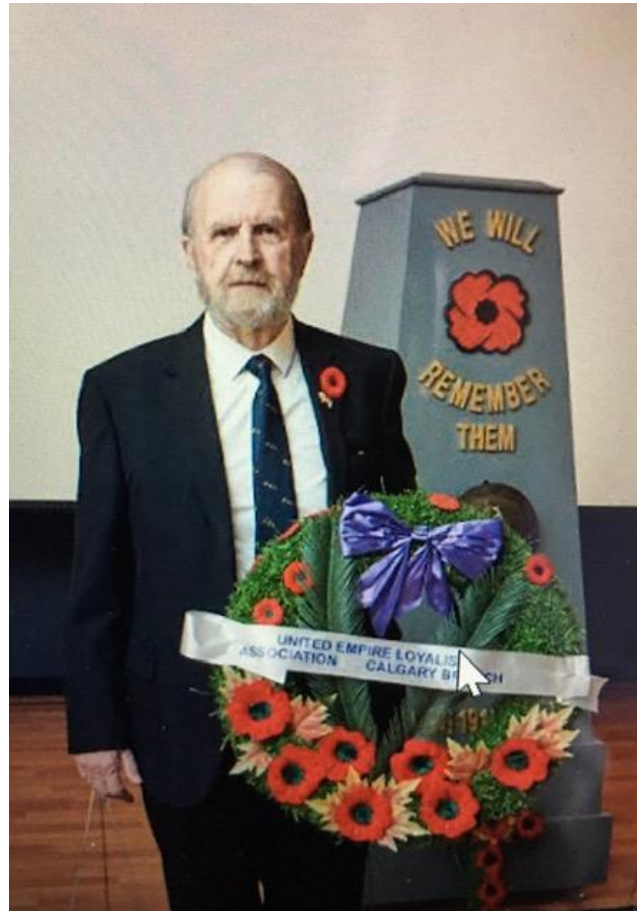
If you are a visual learner, you will probably enjoy DNA Painter. This easy to use tool helps you paint or map segments of your DNA to specific chromosomes. Another tool offered here is called WATO (What are the Odds) which is a more advanced tool used to solve DNA puzzles. [DNA Painter | Visualizations and chromosome mapping for genealogists](#) Blaine Bettinger's Shared cM Project tool which is very helpful for determining possible DNA relationships can be found here [DNA Painter | Shared cM Project 4.0 tool v4 with relationship probabilities](#)

The five main companies involved in DNA testing at this point are Ancestry, 23 & Me, MyHeritage, Family Tree DNA and Living DNA. If you are interested in buying a kit, watch for sales which often occur for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Summer, Black Friday, Christmas, etc.

REMEMBRANCE DAY: NOVEMBER 11, 2022



Major Timothy Strocel, UE, CD Ret'd, a new member from Chilliwack, placed the UELAC Calgary wreath during the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Military Museums.



David Hongisto, UE, placed a UELAC Calgary wreath at the Al Azhar Shrine Centre.

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE MEDAL CEREMONY



The Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta) presentation ceremony was held on December 9, 2022, at Knox Presbyterian Church in Calgary. Photo by Julien DeSchutter.

Medals were presented by Nicholas Milliken, MLA Calgary-Currie, to the following UELAC, Calgary Branch members: Beatrice Aucoin, Patricia Sadler Brown, Suzanne Davidson, Barbara Hongisto, David Hongisto, Wayne Hovdestad, Ian McIlreath, William Simpson, Roy Smith, Karen Stevenson, Sharon Terray, and Ivy Trumpour.

Below are photos



David Hongisto and Suzanne Davidson with MLA (Calgary-Currie) Nicholas Milliken



Sharon Terray and Glynnis Grigg (Master of Ceremonies)

Wayne Hovdestad and Barbara Clark (Guest)



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FOR DAVID HONGISTO



David Hongisto and Suzanne Davidson with the framed certificate of appreciation that was given to David for his organizing the presentation ceremony as well as the volunteer work he has put into the Calgary Branch over the years as President, Treasurer, Genealogist, Membership Chair, Flag person, and Audio-visual specialist.

CALGARY CHAPTER'S \$600.00 HISTORY PRIZE (Ian McIlreath)

This year's prize winner is Cerys Neumann, Bachelor of Arts (Political Science), Faculty of Arts. She is currently in fourth year working towards a degree in History and Political Science. Her home province is Nova Scotia where she started her university education before transferring here to University of Calgary. Her comments follow:

"I would like to thank the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada for providing me this award and helping me finance my education. I am doing a combined degree in history and political science, and this award has helped me be confident in my choices of degree program. Thank you for everything!"



BOOK REPORT by Ivy Trumpour

The Sewing Girl's Tale. A Story of Crime and Consequences in Revolutionary America,
By John Wood Sweet. Henry Holt and Company, New York. 2022. ISBN: 9781250761965

If you would like to know what daily life was like in Manhattan during the 1790s, this is a book for you. It is an account of the date rape of a 17 year old working girl by an upper class "gentleman" and the court cases which followed. It is hard to imagine that such an event could fill 286 pages (and 60 pages of notes), but there are many details about other characters and similar trials. The author seems to have done an astounding amount of research.

Lanah Sawyer was the unfortunate victim who had to repeatedly describe details of the assault to judges, lawyers and jury, all of whom were elite white men. At the same time, she was almost on the sidelines because the general attitude was that her stepfather was the one who had been wronged. In fact, even after sitting through the trial, her assailant thought her name was Helenah.

The rape trial took place within weeks of the event, and at the time the penalty was death. The verdict caused a riot, and later there was a seduction trial, for which the penalty was a fine. The higher the status of the woman seduced, the greater the fine because a high class woman was of greater value than a lowly servant girl or black woman. The charge was made by the husband or father of the victim, and he received the money if the jury decided in his favour.

In addition to discussions of the court cases, there are descriptions of the businesses, farms and lodgings that existed at the time. New York was still recovering and rebuilding after the recent revolution. Lanah's stepfather was a pilot boat driver and this occupation is explained in detail.

There is even a mention of a Loyalist family that had returned to America after spending a few years in England. The daughter, Susanna Rowson (née Haswell) was a celebrated author.

Due to the paucity of records and the insignificance of women, information about Lanah's later life is scant. There is more to be found about the rapist, Harry Bedlow, and his difficulties with money, women and family.

Lanah was a seamstress, and as a stitcher myself, I was intrigued by the photograph of a darning sampler made by Anna Hofmann. This marvellous work can be seen online at diligentneedle.winterthur.org/diligence/darning-sampler and was included in the book as an example of the type of sewing that Lanah may have done.

LETHBRIDGE CEMETERY UPDATE (Patricia Sadler Brown)

Pat Sadler Brown took this photo of the UEL plaque at the Lethbridge Cemetery and reports that all is well. The entrance map has been updated with colour coordination.



Newsletter: Linda McClelland and Suzanne Davidson

UELAC BRANCH MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2023

Our fees are \$50 for individual, \$70 for more than one person at the same address and \$10 for an additional branch membership.

There are 4 ways you can pay your Branch Membership Fees

1) By Credit Card or Pay Pal •

- Log in at uelac.ca (if first time logging in and have difficulties logging in send email to: williamsimpson@live.ca)
- Go to the Members section
- Near the top, follow the link in "Renewing Your Membership" line to Membership Renewals • Read the page
- Follow the link at the bottom to "Your UELAC.ca Account"
- Then go to "Member Dashboard"
- For the membership you will renew click on "Renew Now" If you paid by e-transfer or cheque previously this will not show.

2) By Interac E-transfer

If your bank account is a **Canadian participating financial institution**, you simply log in to your online bank account, navigate to the section for Interac e-Transfers and follow the instructions to add a recipient and start sending the funds.

Contact: Name – enter **UEL Calgary Branch**

E-mail address = contact Bill Simpson at above email for address

Security Question and Answer: Do not enter anything as none are necessary The Branch will be notified of the transaction – we will then acknowledge receipt of your payment and process your membership renewal.

If you changed your mailing address, email address or phone # in the past year – please advise us by email at williamsimpson@live.ca

3) By Cheque

Make your cheque payable to: UELAC Calgary Branch

Send payment to: Treasurer: David Hongisto

3743 36 Ave SW

Calgary, Alberta T3E 1C3

If you changed your mailing address, email address or phone # in the past year - please include a note with the current information

4) By Cash

At a Branch meeting or Branch event –

DO NOT send cash payment by mail