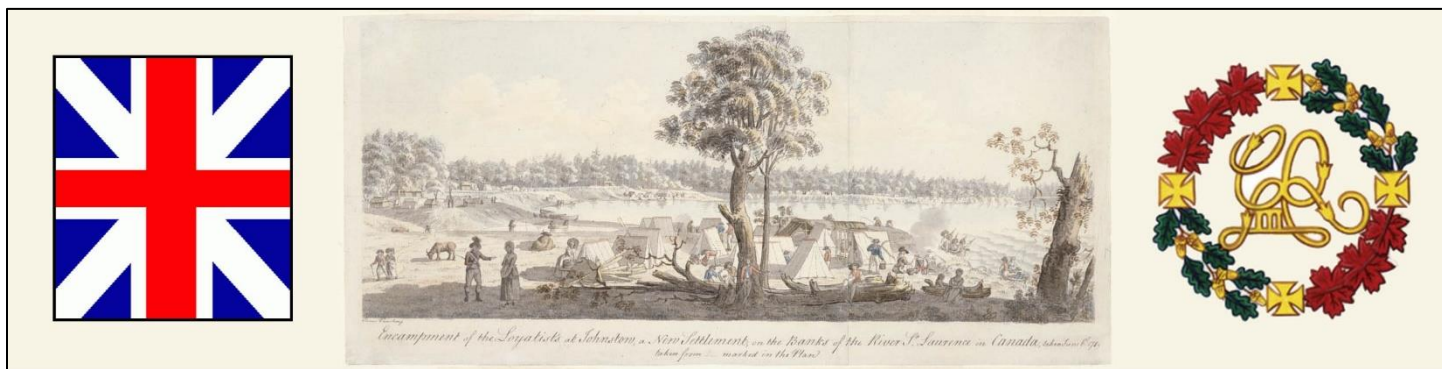


THE ROYAL YORKER

The Quarterly Newsletter of the 'United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (St. Lawrence Branch)

∞ Autumn 2017 ∞



Who We Are

The association is dedicated to promoting the history of the United Empire Loyalists: North Americans who remained loyal to the Crown during the Revolutionary War (1775-1783), and who later settled in Canada. The St. Lawrence Branch serves the Ontario counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, comprising the former “Royal Townships” of Lancaster, Charlottenburgh, Cornwall, Osnabruck, Williamsburgh and Matilda.

Branch Executive: President: Lorraine Reoch; Vice President: Vacant; Past President: Vacant; Secretary: Carol Goddard; Treasurer: Michael Eamer; Genealogist: Lorraine Reoch; Social Conveners: Carol Goddard & Lorraine Reoch; Webmaster & Facebook Admin: Jennifer DeBruin; Newsletter: Stuart Manson.

Acknowledgement: The Ontario Ministry of Culture provides a heritage grant to the branch for its outreach program.

Where to Find Us

🌐 Website: uelac.org/st-lawrence/

📘 Facebook: www.facebook.com/StLawrenceUELAC/

✉ Mailing address: P.O. Box 607, 3 Augusta Street, Morrisburg, Ontario, Canada, K0C 1X0

Upcoming Important Events

- **BRANCH EVENT - October 22, 2017, 1:00 PM: Open House and Show & Tell**, UELAC St. Lawrence Branch, 3 Augusta Street, Morrisburg. Attend this event for an update on our progress with addressing the voluminous historical records housed within the walls of our branch headquarters. And bring an item to show & tell!

Editor's Note

In addition to our usual bits and bobs, this issue of *The Royal Yorker* contains a special contribution by Loyalist historian Stephen Davidson, on the early blacksmiths in New Johnstown (Cornwall).

This issue also contains content on the 40th anniversary of our branch, and the soirée that we held to celebrate that important milestone.

President's Report



Summer has faded and fall is about to begin. We are hoping for a better fall than summer.

We had a successful annual dinner with 46 in attendance.

The food was good and the speaker Randy Douglas, pictured below, had a great message. The ladies of St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church (Ingleside) are always very helpful and accommodating. This is reason, we return year after year.



Below are some of the attendees of our annual dinner, marking our 40th anniversary as a branch, as well as a shot of the head table and piper.



This has been a busy year, but with the 40th anniversary, it is a time to remember who have spent their time and energy getting us to the present day. On the night of the banquet, I said "the group was much larger and more active than we are at present." If we can attract more members, there are projects we can take on.

I hope everyone has enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Do not forget about the next meeting, which is an open house at 3 Augusta Street Morrisburg, on October 22. The time is 1:00 PM. Bring an article for show & tell! We will also have a mini meeting and refreshments.

-Lorraine Reoch

Pictured below are the members who received Loyalist ancestor certificates at the annual dinner. From L-R: Lorraine Reoch (branch president), Joseph Wheeler, John Wert, Darlene Fawcett, Brenda Crotty, Heather Bazinet and Murray Barkley.



Treasurer's Report



All Loyalist ancestry certificates are now \$45. The Dominion office recently cancelled the discount for additional certificates. Unfortunately the branch was caught having to pay more for a few, because we didn't know of the price change before they were submitted.

Charitable donations can be sent directly to Dominion HQ, with our branch name in the reference line, to receive the donation. You will receive a tax receipt from them, and the branch receives the funds.

With the increasing cost for rent, the branch executive agreed to pay more to maintain the house in which our resource centre is located, until we can find a new venue in Dundas County. We will therefore be in a loss situation on our Income Statement. Lynne Cook's will stipulated that the records stay in Dundas County. We are continuing to look for a suitable location. We hope to collocate with other groups, if possible, to reduce costs.

-Michael C. Eamer, CD, UE

Membership Dues for 2018

Membership dues can be paid by cheque, made out to "St. Lawrence Br. UELAC" and mailed to Michael Eamer, 667 Hamilton Cr., Cornwall, ON K6H 5N6, or to the St. Lawrence Branch UELAC, 3 Augusta St., Morrisburg, ON K0C 1X0.

- \$50 for individual regular, associate, and affiliate members.
- \$65 for families (up to two people). Additional family members (same address) are \$5 each.
- \$10 for branch members who pay their dues to another branch, but wish to belong to the St. Lawrence Branch (\$15 for family branch memberships).

The treasurer also accepts e-transfer directly to the branch bank account. Please correspond with the treasurer via eamermc@yahoo.com

Genealogist's Report



The resource centre is still in Morrisburg, but soon we hope to be on our way to a new home. The resource center has been tidied up, creating more room to work. Most of the boxes of papers have been sorted and filed in their place. Many boxes of old newspapers have been pressed and packed. New labels have been placed on the books of records and family history. The files have been cataloged and organized with the help of Sandra Shouldice.

The organizing and scanning of the births, deaths and marriages has been the work of Sandi Empey. The indexing of the names from the vital records has been the work of Sadie Reoch. Larry is still trying to sort through Lynne's work on the computer with a few problems with the old computer.

I am going to start training a couple of ladies to help with the research work on the Loyalist certificates. This should speed up the work in this department.

This year, we have several new members, and I now have about fourteen applications on my desk. Most of them have Casselman ancestors, so we will be keeping it in the family.

-Lorraine Reoch fancyllass@hotmail.ca

In Memorium: Frank Ault, UE

The UELAC St. Lawrence Branch offers our sincere condolences to the friends and family of Frank Ault, UE. A lifetime resident of the Brinston area, Frank Ault passed away at the Winchester District Memorial Hospital on Friday, March 10, 2017, following a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 73. Mr. Ault was a long time member and supporter of the UELAC St. Lawrence Branch. Johannes (John) Ault, UEL was his proven Loyalist ancestor.

New Johnstown's Refugee Blacksmiths: An Embarrassment of Riches

Following 1783, refugee blacksmiths could be found in almost every loyalist settlement from Niagara in the west to Halifax in the east. Cornwall, Ontario became the sanctuary for at least four such craftsmen when it was founded under the name of New Johnstown. Could one loyalist settlement provide work for so many blacksmiths? Did they share bellows, tools and anvils as they set up shop in the wilderness? These are questions that the records do not answer.

However, documents of the loyalist era do answer our queries about the wartime adventures of these blacksmiths. Here are the stories of Christian Schtick, John Staring, Michael Cline, and Philip Chrysler.

Christian Schtick (or Sheck) had once served as blacksmith for the settlers of Johnson's Bush in New York's Tryon County. Living on a 40 acre farm just outside of town, this German immigrant had built his house and stable near his forge just as rumours of civil unrest began to reach western New York. A fellow loyalist would later recall that Schtick did "considerable business as a blacksmith". He must have done well as he had both apprentices and journeymen working for him.

Schtick's first contribution to the war effort was to release his employees so that they could join Sir John Johnson's loyalist regiment. The loss of skilled workers would have limited the blacksmith's income -- and drawn attention to his loyalist convictions. Because he refused to take an oath of allegiance to the new republic, local patriots imprisoned Schtick on several occasions over the next few years.

By 1779, Schtick had also enlisted with Johnson's regiment, serving with them for the remainder of the revolution. Upon leaving Johnson's Bush, the blacksmith lost all of his possessions and property. Rebels seized his buildings and sold off his cows, sheep, ox, horses, hogs, furniture, utensils and his valuable blacksmith tools. His forge also contained

a "sleigh load" of iron that Schtick had bought at the outbreak of the revolution.

At war's end, Schtick and his family found refuge in New Johnstown along with other loyalists -- and other blacksmiths.



Like Schtick, **John Staring** had once lived in Tryon County and later joined Johnson's First Battalion. Staring worked as an apprentice in a Johnstown blacksmith shop near the Mohawk River. His intentions to go and fight with the British upon the completion of his apprenticeship were thwarted when rebels put him in prison. After escaping, Staring made his way to Canada in 1780 where he joined the famous loyalist corps.

Among Staring's wartime losses was the land his grandfather, Henrick Markil (Markle/Markley), had left him. Also a loyalist, Markil was driven from his property by rebels and died in 1781. Patriots also confiscated all of Staring's blacksmith tools and

seized the forge he had opened before his imprisonment.

The third loyalist blacksmith from Tryon County to settle in Cornwall was **Michael Cline** (Clyne). He, too, was a German immigrant and fought in the revolution as a member of Sir John Johnson's 2nd Battalion. He had a house and forge on a single acre of land with just a cow and heifer for livestock.

Cline's story differs from other blacksmiths in the fact that he described himself as an "armourer". His specialty, then, would have been the creation of hatchets, knives and daggers rather than such traditional smithy products such as horseshoes, nails, and tools. Often an armourer would travel with an army, using a portable forge to make bullets or repair rifles. Cline must have been older than his blacksmith peers as he only joined his loyalist regiment in January of 1782, saying that "his age prevented his coming in sooner".

Philip Chrysler is the last of the known blacksmiths to have made New Johnstown his home following the revolution. American born, the loyalist had a potash work and store in addition to his blacksmith shop, farm, and house in Tryon County. Chrysler joined the British forces that were stationed at Fort Stanwix in 1777, serving first with Johnson's Regiment and then Butler's Rangers.

When the war drew to a close, Chrysler had to reconcile himself to the loss of all that he had acquired as a blacksmith and the owner of a potash works. The latter involved gathering wood ash that was then soaked and leached before being boiled in large tubs. The end product was white potash, a material essential in the making of glass.

In the inventory of all that Chrysler lost because of his loyalist principles are the various tools of the blacksmithing and potash making trades: three kettles, iron ladles, 30 large tubs, two tons of boiled (and five tons of unboiled) potash, 500 pounds of iron and 200 pounds of steel. In addition to his cattle, horses, sheep, and hogs, his rebel neighbours auctioned off Chrysler's well-furnished home, potash works and blacksmith shop.

Tyron County's loss was Upper Canada's gain for Chrysler brought a wealth of skills with him to his

frontier community. How he and three other loyalist blacksmiths set up their shops and forged new lives for themselves is a story waiting to be told.

-Stephen Davidson, UE

Editor's Note: This article is reprinted with permission of the author. Since his 1975 thesis that dealt with an aspect of Black Loyalist history, Stephen Davidson has been researching the history of the Loyal Americans. The descendant of more than 12 loyal refugee couples, he has contributed articles to the Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Loyalist Trails, Canada's History, the Loyalist Quarterly and the Loyalist Gazette. In 2014, he served as a historical consultant for Peter C. Newman. The year 2016 saw the publication of Davidson's first book, The Burdens of Loyalty, which recounted the life and times of a Connecticut loyalist family.

The Kutryk Family: Empey Descendants Who Have Made Their Mark

Kathryn Marlene Kutryk, pictured below, an Empey descendant living in Saskatchewan, stopped by our Loyalist Resource Centre to say hello to Sandra and Larry. She was impressed with all the Empey information in our archives. That brought about a discussion of family - my oh my, she has a family to be proud of!



She and husband Barry Donald Kutryk have four children: Two girls who grew up to become large

animal veterinarians, and two boys (pictured below) who grew up to be military aviators.



You may recognize the scene below if you watched the July 1st celebrations on Parliament Hill.



Justin Trudeau and others stand by as Shania Twain introduced Canada's newest astronauts, one of whom was Col. Joshua Kutryk. As Joshua was introduced, it was noted that his brother Cpt. Mathew Kutryk of the RCAF was flying overhead as part of the elite "Canada 150" CF-18 demonstration team. Kathryn proudly shared these pictures with us and remarked that since her husband's death last August, she was taking time to reconnect with family and friends in the east. She may at last have time to explore her Empey roots. -Sandra Shouldice

Newsletter Submissions

The Royal Yorker heartily welcomes submissions from our membership. Please send information on upcoming events, photos, feedback, or articles for consideration to the newsletter's editor, Stuart Manson. His email address is: Manson1763@gmail.com.

To Arms! The Royal Coat of Arms on Discharge Papers of Loyalist Soldiers

At the end of the American Revolutionary War, the Crown discharged thousands of Loyalist soldiers. On the day of discharge, government authorities provided each soldier with discharge papers: A document certifying his period of service and release from the army. The document also provided some basic biographical details.

Emblazoned prominently, and appropriately, at the top of the document was a handsome engraving of the royal coat of arms, reproduced below.



The above image was taken from the discharge papers of Adam Hartle, a private in the King's Royal Regiment of New York. The original is held by the SD&G Historical Society (used here with permission). Hartle settled in our area, and is the ancestor of more than one local resident.

This coat of arms is not dissimilar to that used in the United Kingdom today. Then, as now, the main device is flanked by "a lion rampant gardant or crowned" on the left, and "a unicorn argent armed, crined and unglued proper, gorged with a coronet or composed of crosses patées and fleurs-de-lis a chain affixed thereto passing between the forelegs and reflexed over the back." At least, that's how the heraldry nerds describe them!

The 1784 coat of arms differs slightly from the modern one, however. The crest now used in the

centre of the coat of arms contains the standard devices representing England, Scotland, and Ireland. The 1784 version also has these elements, albeit rearranged slightly, and some extra bits: First, a section containing fleurs-de-lis representing the Crown's residual territorial claims in France; and second, a section illustrating its German connections in Hanover, surmounted with the Imperial Crown of the Holy Roman Empire.

Historically in Canada, the coat of arms graced public buildings, and was featured in official documents such as legislation or ordinances. In fact, it graced the printed *Statutes of Canada* as late as 1920! Gradually, in the Canadian context, it was replaced by the Canadian coat of arms.

-Stuart Manson

Signposts

“Signposts” is a recurring feature in *The Royal Yorker* that points to a current place name in our region that has Loyalist origins. In this issue we examine Amelia Street, in downtown Cornwall.

Most of the streets in Cornwall's “Old Square Mile” were named in the Loyalist era, and thus reflect the spirit of its first European settlers. It is thought that Amelia Street was named after Her Royal Highness Princess Amelia, born on August 7, 1783, just prior to the survey and settlement of the area.



Amelia was, apparently, the favourite daughter of King George III and Queen Charlotte. She was the last of their children and was quite a bit younger than her siblings (there was a six-year gap between Amelia and her next-closest surviving sibling).

Her life was beset with illnesses; tuberculosis eventually claimed her in 1811, at the young age of 28. She never legally married, for a variety of reasons. One of these was the set of difficulties caused by her father's bouts of “madness.” Nonetheless, she considered herself to be the spouse of Charles FitzRoy, who she met in 1801 during one of her restorative visits to the seaside.

One of the significant landmarks on Amelia Street in Cornwall is the Cline House. The stately brick home was built in the 1850s by Samuel Cline, grandson of Loyalist Michael Cline of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. Michael Cline's history as a Loyalist blacksmith is detailed elsewhere in this issue of *The Royal Yorker*. The Cline House is protected by a designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

-Stuart Manson

Demolition of the Cemetery Monument and Tombstones in St. John's Presbyterian Cemetery in Cornwall

On August 14, 2017, St. John's Presbyterian Church demolished the tombstone monument in its Sydney Street cemetery in Cornwall. A wrecking crew performed the work without notice to the community at large.

Our branch of the UELAC was not informed of the demolition beforehand; nor were any other heritage groups. Heritage Cornwall (LACAC), was consulted briefly, but were told that the church was considering only a “renovation” of the monument.

Pictured below is what greeted local residents in the morning hours of the day of the demolition. In the background is the backhoe used to perform the work.

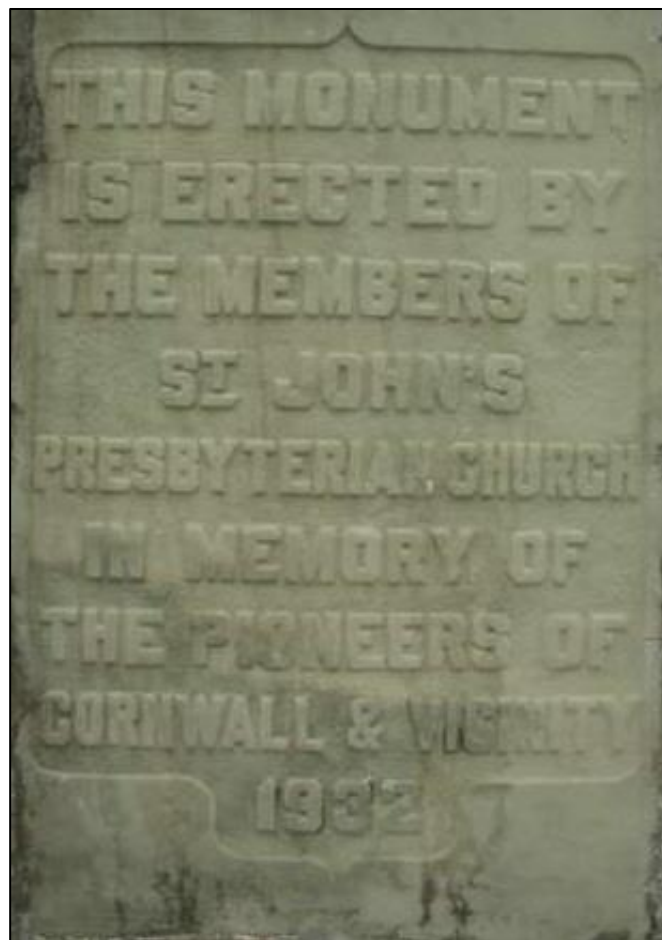


The cemetery was founded in 1831. Burials continued there until the late 1880s, when the Town of Cornwall passed a by-law prohibiting burials within the town limits. While there may have been a small number of reburials elsewhere, most of those who were buried in the cemetery lie there still.

In 1932, after years of neglect, the cemetery was overgrown with vegetation and several tombstones had toppled. After receiving a donation, supplemented by a general subscription, the church cleaned up the cemetery and mounted some of the tombstones in a central monument in the middle of the one-acre property, pictured below.



It was this monument, sometimes referred to as a cairn, that was recently demolished. Only a couple tombstones were salvaged. This low number is not surprising, considering the wrecking crew used a backhoe on the job.



The above stone was also mounted on the monument, along with the historical tombstones, at the time it was constructed in 1932.

Our UELAC branch wrote a letter, signed by our president, which we sent to the church. It expressed our displeasure with the demolition of the cemetery monument and most of its tombstones.

The province investigated the demolition, after receiving at least one official complaint, through the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO). At the time of writing, the BAO has not rendered its decision on possible fines or charges on the case. Its decision, however, is expected soon.

While the demolition is a tragedy regardless who is buried in the cemetery, it will be of interest to our membership to know that it contains the mortal remains of at least three Loyalists:

- Neil McLean (1759-1832), who was said to be the last surviving officer of the Royal Highland Emigrants (84th Regiment of Foot).
- William Wood (1763-1850), a member of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. Wood was also the builder of the Wood House, now occupied by the Cornwall Community Museum.
- Henry Gallinger (1761-1835), yet another member of the King's Royal Regiment of New York.

Of these three Loyalists, only William Wood's tombstone was part of the monument. (Those for McLean and Gallinger must have been too damaged when the church built the monument in 1932.)

Special thanks to Francis Racine (fiancé of local historian Sara Lauzon) for permission to use the pre-demolition photo of the monument, and to local resident Barrie Brown for the photos of the demolition aftermath.

-Stuart Manson

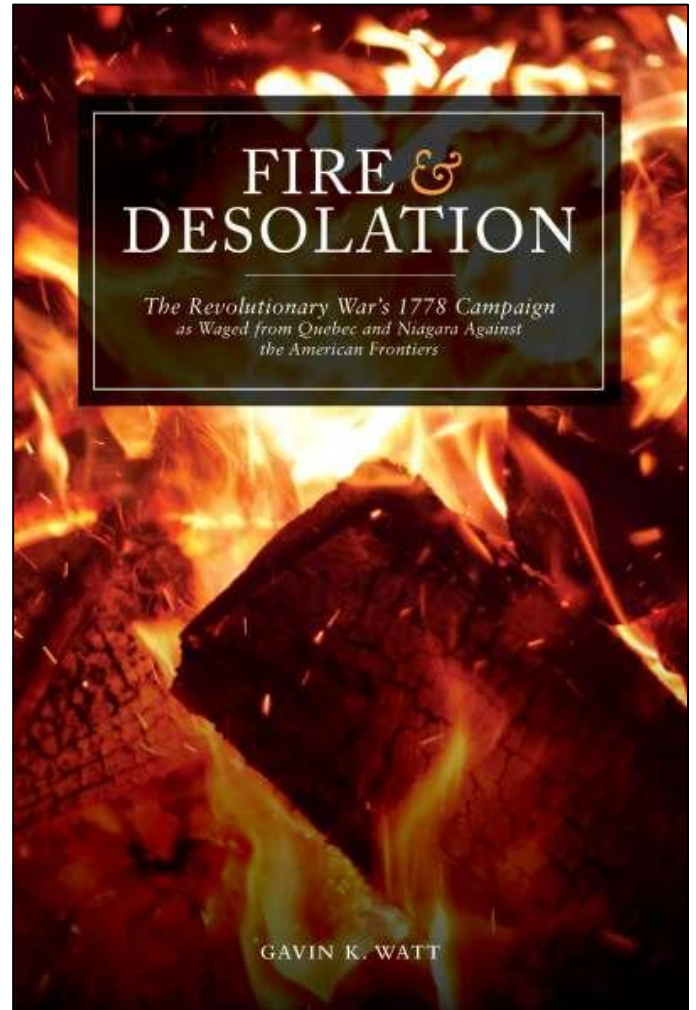
The Bookshelf

"The Bookshelf" is a recurring feature in *The Royal Yorker*. Here we examine books of interest - old or new - whose subject matter is dear to our hearts: The early history of our region, genealogy, the American Revolutionary War, and related topics.

In this issue we examine the latest monograph offering by historian Gavin Watt. Published last June, the book is titled *Fire & Desolation: The Revolutionary War's 1778 Campaign as Waged from Quebec and Niagara Against the American Frontiers*. Published by Dundurn Press, it's available from the standard online booksellers, as well as from the publisher.

Watt is the most prolific writer on Loyalist military history, on the Revolutionary War's northern front. *Fire & Desolation* is a book that's big on precise information. Watt is well known for his predilection for meticulous detail - right down to the amounts of lead (for musket balls) and powder taken by raiding parties on small expeditions.

The book begins with the after-effects of Britain's failed Burgoyne campaign, which took place in the summer and fall of 1777. These after-effects included rebel attempts to mount a campaign against Canada in early 1778, and small raids and skirmishes back and forth between British and Rebel-held areas along the northern frontier.



The focus then shifts to the different regions on the north-western frontier. The author details the raids that occurred in northern Pennsylvania, the upper Hudson Valley, and of course, the Mohawk Valley, which is allotted two entire chapters.

The book is illustrated with black and white drawings, photographs, maps, and paintings. It is heavily footnoted, contains a comprehensive bibliography, and an index with plenty of names to peruse.

-Stuart Manson

Our Branch Charter, 1977-2017

As described elsewhere in this newsletter, we recently celebrated our 40th anniversary as a branch of the UELAC.

Below is pictured our beautifully-displayed branch charter. It was framed in memory of Eva A. Baker, UE, by Lois Baker MacDonald, UE, Wilda Baker Parkinson, UE, and Marie Baker Gordon, UE. A close-up of the plaque honouring these generous people is also found below.



The Last Word

“This is to give notice that His Excellency the Governor, in order to fulfill His Majesty’s gracious intentions for the welfare of the refugee Loyalists and disbanded troops residing in this province, has caused such lands to be examined by the Surveyor General and his deputies, as he thinks best calculated to establish advantageous settlements for them.”

“Such, therefore, of the Loyalists and disbanded troops who are now dispersed throughout the province (Sorel excepted) and who wish to have concessions of land from the Pointe au Baudet (where the last settlements are) to Cataract and its vicinity, are required to repair to Lachine (where quarters will be allotted to them) by the 2nd day of April next, and where proper persons will be appointed to muster them, in order that the quantity of land that will be wanted may be ascertained, and that seigneuries may be marked out and granted by the Governor in Council according to His Majesty’s orders.”

– *The Québec Gazette*, March 4, 1784

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∞ The next issue of *The Royal Yorker* will be published in February, 2018 ∞