

THE ROYAL YORKER

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

❧ SUMMER 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/

f Facebook: www.facebook.com/StLawrenceUELAC/

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

UPCOMING IMPORTANT EVENTS

- August 17-20, 2017: Loyalist Days, Prescott, ON (Fort Wellington National Historic Site).
- September 23, 2017: UELAC St. Lawrence Branch Annual Dinner (Charter Night), St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church, Ingleside, ON. See President's Report for more info.
- October 22, 2017: UELAC St. Lawrence Branch Open House Show and Tell. Location and time in our upcoming autumn issue.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As summer continues, our weather is the same as spring: Little sunshine and ample amounts of rain. We are still located at 3 Augusta Street in Morrisburg, but the mounds of paper have slowly been sorted and are now being filed. There have been interruptions along the way. As people drop

in and others make appointments to be sure we are there.

The obituaries, weddings, birth and anniversaries are still being entered in to the Empey.ca website for future use. This is part of Lynne's legacy, as she spend hundreds of hours cutting this information from local newspapers to be preserved for generations to come.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

Our annual charter night dinner is coming up, on September 23 at St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church in Ingleside, ON. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM, with doors open at 5:30.

This will be a beef dinner for our fortieth anniversary as a branch. Tickets will be available by reserving in advance by text at (613) 294-4550, by email at fancylas@hotmail.ca or by phone at (613) 821-2327. The cost is \$22.

- Lorraine Reoch

CAROL GODDARD, SDSG CANADA 150 SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

On the 150th edition of Canada Day, Member of Parliament Guy Lauzon bestowed SDSG (Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry) Canada 150 Service Award medals upon deserving local residents. One of those recipients was our very own Carol Goddard, UELAC St. Lawrence Branch secretary.



Hundreds of residents were nominated for the medals, intended to recognize those "who have made outstanding contributions to their community." Only 150 were selected.

Even fewer were interviewed by the media, yet Carol was profiled in the *Cornwall Standard-Freeholder* newspaper story about the medal ceremony.

In the newspaper story, Carol demonstrated her commitment to her causes:

"If you're going to be a member of a community, then you should help make that community a good a place for everyone to live in as possible."

In addition to her labours as our secretary, Carol also performs sterling volunteer work with the Chesterville and District Historical Society, and The Friends of Crysler's Farm Battlefield, to name but a few.

Congratulations Carol!



ST. LAWRENCE SUNDRIES

- Jennifer DeBruin, our branch Facebook administrator and webmaster, has been elected to the UELAC position of “East Region Counsellor.” Congratulations, Jennifer!
- On June 16, 2017, your friendly neighbourhood newsletter editor unofficially represented our branch at the Loyalist flag-raising ceremony at Ottawa City Hall. (See photo, page 8.)

MILESTONES IN LOYALIST HISTORY

Dates are the bookends of history; they frame the rich stories contained in the volumes they support. Alternatively, dates are the bones of history, providing structure for the fleshy, meaty parts of the narrative. Enough with the metaphors! Here’s a list of key milestone years in Loyalist history, of particular relevance to our neck of the woods.

- 1775 The Revolutionary War began, with skirmishes between Rebels and British troops at Concord and Lexington, Massachusetts, and the Battle of Bunker Hill outside of Boston. This year also saw the start of the failed Rebel invasion of British-controlled Canada. The war wore on for nine calendar years, involving Rebel and Loyalist soldiers, British and German troops, and Indigenous warriors.
- 1783 The Revolutionary War ended with the Treaty of Paris, in which Britain formally recognized the independence of the USA. The treaty also set a boundary line between the new republic and British-held Canada.
- 1784 The settlement of Loyalist refugees, exiled from their homes in the USA, began in new settlements in Canada. These included the “Royal Townships” on the St. Lawrence River, upstream from Montréal, which in 1791 became part of Upper Canada.
- 1789 Guy Carleton (Lord Dorchester), the Governor of Québec, bestowed a “mark of honour” upon the Loyalists and all their descendants: They are “to be distinguished

by the following capitals affixed to their names: U.E. alluding to their great principle the unity of the empire.”

- 1801 Ireland officially became part of the United Kingdom, triggering a change to the design of the Union Jack: The diagonal cross of St. Patrick was added, creating the modern Union Jack as we know it. This change is important to our history: The pre-1801 flag, used since 1707 and throughout the Revolutionary War, became a relic of history and a symbol of the Loyalists.



- 1914 The United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada (UELAC) was founded.
- 1977 St. Lawrence Branch of the UELAC received its charter, covering the Ontario counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry. Obviously the most important UELAC branch, given our rich Loyalist history! Happy Fortieth to us!
- 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 Hoople’s Creek, located midway between Long Sault and Ingleside.

Descendants of United Empire Loyalists who settled in Osnabruck Township have the knowledge and expertise of Mary Whitmore Hoople to thank for saving their ancestors, beginning with her arrival in that settlement in 1788 until her death in 1858.



Mary Whitmore began life in 1767 on the Pennsylvania frontier. She was the daughter of Peter and Mary Whitmore. As a child she was captured by Indians, along with two other siblings, after a raid on their home in 1779, eventually being adopted into the Delaware tribe, along with her brother John. She was raised by the tribe’s

medicine woman who taught her the art of healing during the nine years she lived with the Delaware.

Eventually her brother left while she was away from camp. A few years later, Whitmore allowed herself to be ransomed to the British so she could search for her brother at Detroit and her Delaware family could be provided with food during a year of starvation. She was “sold” to a French Canadian from Detroit for a year’s work, part of which was ensuring the safe delivery of the child his wife was expecting after several miscarriages. A few months later, the woman safely delivered her son which eventually led to Mary being able to leave Detroit and be reunited with her uncle, Jacob Sheets who had settled in the Loyalist settlement at Osnabruck.

Mary travelled by fur trade canoe from Detroit, down the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River to her uncle’s home on Hoople’s Creek in Stormont County arriving in late November 1788. She immediately noticed the telltale signs of famine in the settlement. She was astonished at how the settlers could be hungry so close to the forest full of food and set about collecting the food which fed the hungry people, saving the settlement from a death from starvation as well as administering to the sick using her healing skills.

Whitmore eventually married Loyalist Henry Hoople, settling initially along the front at Hoople’s Creek before establishing their second home in the Second Concession of Osnabruck Township prior to the War of 1812.

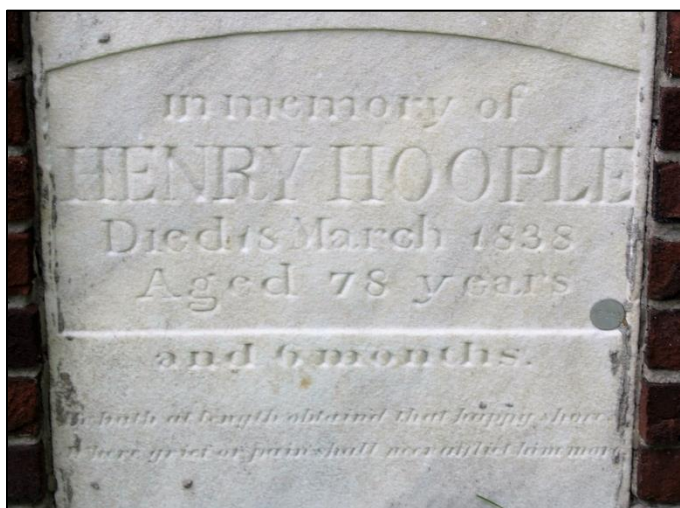
In the autumn of 1813, during the War of 1812, an advancing American Army *en route* to Cornwall and its military stores fought members of the local Stormont militia in a skirmish near Henry and Mary’s first house along the front, now occupied by John Hoople, Henry’s brother, and his wife Elinor. During this Battle of Hoople’s Creek, sometimes referred to as the Skirmish at Hoople’s Creek, Elinor and Mary tended to the wounded including a mortally wounded American soldier (Daniel Holden) who was eventually buried next to Elinor’s house. The US Congressional Record indicates that on June 30, 1854, Elinor Hoople received \$300 from the US government in consideration for these acts.



As noted above, while Henry and Mary (Granny) Hoople's first home was on the St. Lawrence riverfront, their second home was built on the second concession of Osnabruck Township (see photo above). While the house has had additions to it since it was their home, the house, located near the village of Long Sault, stands as link to our Loyalist heritage in the lands of the Lost Villages.

In 1851 Mary was reunited with her brother John on Sheek's Island. John had lived in the Niagara area after he was ransomed, married his benefactor's daughter and raised a family. He was able to give Mary news of other family members including Sarah who had been adopted by the Seneca Indians.

Mary died in 1858 at the age of 91, accomplishing much in the 91 years on this earth, including saving the inhabitants of one of the earliest European settlements in Ontario.



Henry and Mary Hoople, as well as other family members, were buried in Woodlands Cemetery. When the St. Lawrence Seaway was constructed, some of the oldest tombstones were selected to be placed in a memorial wall at Upper Canada Village. There are five Hoople stones located there, with Mary and Henry's tombstones among them. Elizabeth L. Hoople, in her book *The Hooples of Hoople's Creek* mentions on page 140 how the top of Mary Whitmore's tombstone is missing.

- Carol Goddard

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

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

SPRING MEETING AT THE BETHUNE-THOMPSON HOUSE

On May 21, 2017 we had our spring meeting at the Bethune-Thompson House in Williamstown. Historian David Anderson (pictured below), who resides in the historic dwelling, regaled us with interesting stories about the house and its occupants. A pleasant group discussion ensued!





David also allowed our party to view the oldest portion of the house, constructed for Loyalist Peter Ferguson. It was built, as David likes to say, in “Year One.” (Otherwise known as 1784!) In the photo above, David explains the unique “poteaux sur sol” construction method and highlights the hack marks on the wood, which was required in order for the plaster to adhere to the wall.

Thanks to the Andersons for their hospitality.

- Stuart Manson

RAINY DAY PICNIC, JUNE 25, 2017

It was a dark and stormy day. St. Lawrence Branch UELAC met for a picnic at the lovely Ault Park, just west of Cornwall. The Lost Villages Historical Society has lovingly preserved eight buildings destined for destruction or decay - due to the flooding of the villages along the shore of the river when the St. Lawrence Seaway was built. Entry is free to all buildings, and they are beautifully maintained by the society and quite accessible.



A summer storm of some consequence threatened to dampen the day, but luckily we were able to set up inside the Forbes Memorial Library. Bagpiper Bill Morrison, pictured below with Lorraine and Gord Reoch, started the meeting.



After the usual business, Lorraine described the history of Forbes Hall. Our intention was to tour the buildings but this was impossible due to the prevailing storm. Not to be deterred, Lorraine described the origin of several of the buildings. A description of the “Little Red Schoolhouse” brought forward a happy discussion of school days of yesterday. Gord Reoch told of a prank played on his teacher in the little rural in Ormond. She was deathly afraid of mice so those naughty boys planted one in the matchbox kept in her desk drawer. When she set out to light the fire in the old box stove - well you can imagine what happened next. Let’s just say there was a hot time in Gord’s school that day.

- Sandra Shouldice

GENEALOGIST'S REPORT



It has been awhile since the last report. We are still in the old location waiting for the county to find a place for us.

Meanwhile, I am working hard at putting together applications and sending out information for family historians to update their information. We are helping prospective new members put together their information to get applications in for review. The many names I have researched Casselman, Wert, Curry, Serviss, Eaman and Grant.

The Grant application was one Lynne would not tackle, as it was a large box of papers. I asked if we could look at it, and was told "go to it," but she had mixed it up and I tried to sort it with no luck. After taking over this job I tried again from the beginning and with luck.

Another gentleman has contacted us via email and said Lynne had started his Casselman ancestors. I was able to find the application, which was partly done, but it was not in the new format.

Each week someone wants information on how to join and I send out application forms and instruct them how to fill them out. Several people have come from out-of-province as well; many of our inquirers come from the United States.

- Lorraine Reoch fancyllass@hotmail.ca

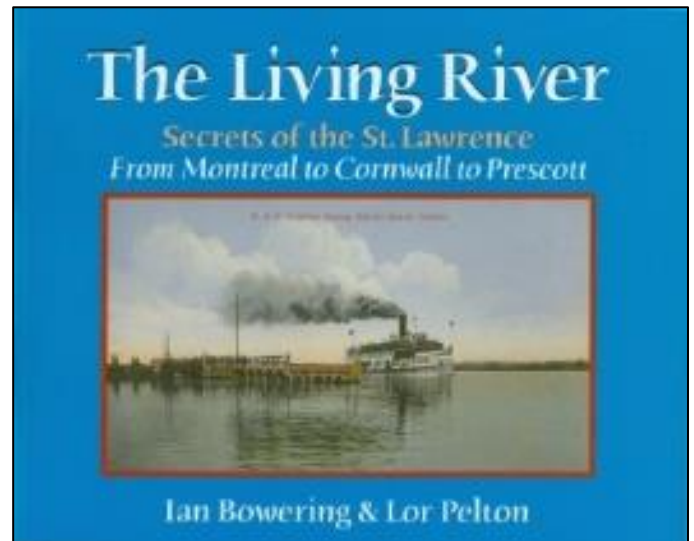
THE BOOKSHELF

"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.

The latest local history publication that has appeared in bookstores is called *The Living River: Secrets of the St. Lawrence from Cornwall to Prescott*, by Ian Bowering and Lor Pelton (Quarry Press, 2017).

The book touches briefly on Loyalist history, and more deeply into the early development of our

region, offering a synthesis of secondary sources in bite-sized chapters. The book is interesting primarily as a photographic history of the area, focussing on later periods. Modern publishing methods mean that the archival photos presented in the book are beautifully reproduced in high resolution.



One prominent subject in the book is the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project, which flooded many Loyalist villages upstream from the City of Cornwall in the late 1950s.

- Stuart Manson

A MONUMENTAL AND CIVIL CAUSE

The Grays & Blues of Montreal and the Lost Villages Historical Society are pleased to announce a fundraising "Celtic Concert" in support of the Canadians in the American Civil War Monument Project, August 26 between 1:30 to 4:30 PM at the Township of South Stormont Community Centre. The project recognizes the contributions of over 40,000 Canadians who served in the Union or Confederate armies during the American Civil War (1861-1865). Construction on the monument is well underway, with the unveiling ceremony set for September 16 at 2:00 PM in Aultsville Park, South Stormont. Tickets are available at the Lost Villages Museum in South Stormont (open 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily) and Scotiabank (Brookdale) in Cornwall. Ticket prices are \$5 for Youth aged 13-17 years, children 12 and under are free and Adults are \$15.

- Carol Goddard

THE LAST WORD

“At last we are preparing to leave forever this land of my birth. The long weary years of war, followed by the peace years, that have been to us worse than the time of fighting, are over. As soon as it is possible we shall set foot on our travels for a new land of promise...

When I leave this beautiful Mohawk Valley and the lands that I had hoped we would always hold... we must follow the old flag wherever it takes us. It is again ‘The March of the Cameron Men’ and wives and children must tread the hard road.”

- Nancy Cameron, en route from the Mohawk Valley to New Johnstown (Cornwall), May 15, 1785



The Loyalist flag-raising ceremony at Ottawa City Hall, June 16, 2017.

The content of this newsletter is subject to copyright, held by the St. Lawrence Branch or the individual authors cited. Reproduction only with permission. Photo credits in this issue (order of appearance): Page 2: Kim McInnis, Office of Guy Lauzon; Page 3: History of the Union Jack...; Page 4: The Hooples of Hoople's Creek; Page 5: Carolyn Thompson Goddard (1st and 2nd), Stuart Manson; Page 6: Stuart Manson, Sandra Shouldice, St. Lawrence Branch UELAC Facebook; Page 7: Stuart Manson; Page 8: Stuart Manson.