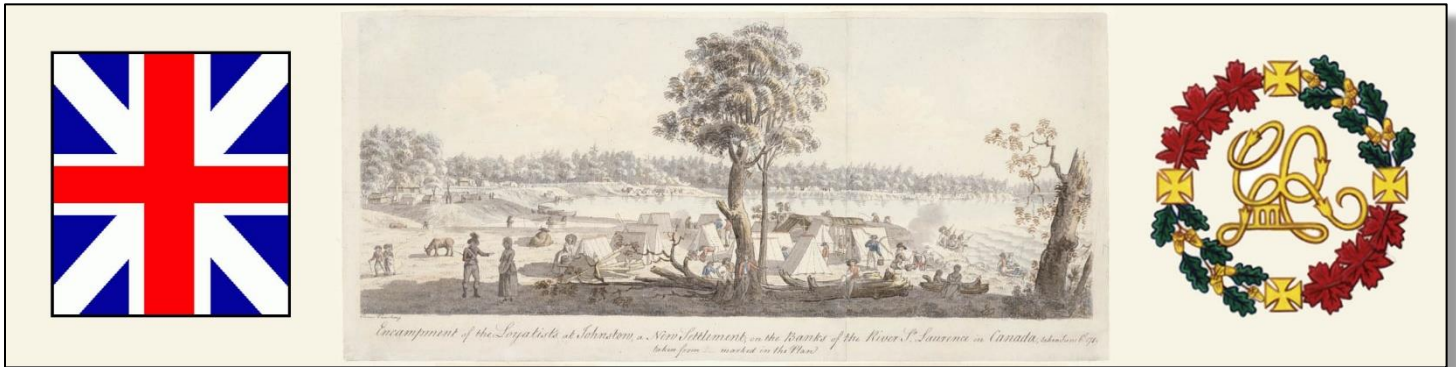


THE ROYAL YORKER

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

Autumn 2018



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 American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), who later settled in Canada. The St. Lawrence Branch serves the Ontario counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, comprising the former “Royal Townships” of Lancaster, Charlottenburgh, Cornwall, Osnabruck, Williamsburgh and Matilda.

WHERE TO FIND US

🌐 Branch website: uelac.org/st-lawrence/ 📘 Facebook: www.facebook.com/StLawrenceUELAC/

✉ Address (Loyalist Resource Centre): P.O. Box 607, 3 Augusta St., Morrisburg, ON, Canada, K0C 1X0

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

At this time of year, as the calendar turns from 2018 to 2019, please consider renewing your membership to the UELAC St. Lawrence Branch. We need your support!

For more info, see the Treasurer's Report on page 4 of this newsletter, and the membership page of our website: http://uelac.org/st-lawrence/?page_id=24

BRANCH EXECUTIVE

President:

Lorraine Reoch

Secretary:

Darlene Fawcett

Treasurer:

Michael Eamer

Genealogists:

Lorraine Reoch & Darlene
Fawcett

Social Convener:

Ashley Harper

Newsletter Editor &

Webmaster:

Stuart Manson

Directors:

Murray Barkley, Carol
Goddard, Archibald
MacDonell, William Patterson,
Gordon Reoch, Sandra
Shouldice, & Michelle
Walczak.

BRANCH PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greeting to All! As the long days of summer are replaced by falling leaves and frosty mornings, it is time to correspond with everyone again.

The annual dinner was a great success this year, with forty in attendance on a very nice evening. The meal was great, with roast beef and all the trimmings being served. The dessert table was adored with everyone's favorite kind of pie, as usual. With a staff that is willing to meet our every need. I gave out seven U.E. certificates to three members. Ashley Harper had five, Thomas Raub and Christopher Wert each with one. We sent out 21 others in the past year.

The guest speaker was none other than Sandra Shouldice (pictured below) who gave an interesting talk on the early circuit ministers of our area.



(Continued on page 7)

BRANCH PROJECT: PLAQUES FOR UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST BURIAL SITES

Beneath the ground, in numerous cemeteries located in Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry (SD&G), lie the mortal remains of Loyalists. The St. Lawrence Branch launched a project, earlier in 2018, to formally recognize these sacred locations. The project mandate: To identify and confirm the locations, and to erect an enduring plaque to recognize the importance of these sites. The plaque, illustrated below, commemorates the site in general; it does not name specific Loyalists. Branch executive member Stuart Manson is the project lead.



The first round of this project is currently underway. It is funded largely by the Edgar family, represented by James S. Edgar of Melville, Saskatchewan. This round involves the installation of plaques at two local cemeteries: Trinity Anglican Church Cemetery in the City of Cornwall, and St. Andrew's United Church Cemetery in Bainsville. Our target date for the unveiling of these plaques is the spring of 2019. (For the latest information, please check for updates on our [website](#).)

The following is a list of cemeteries in SD&G that are confirmed (or soon-to-be-confirmed) Loyalist burial sites. We expect to add more sites to this list, in due course.

- Trinity Anglican Church Cemetery, City of Cornwall
- St. Andrew's United Church Cemetery, Bainsville
- St. John's Presbyterian Cemetery, City Cornwall
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Williamstown
- St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church Cemetery, St. Andrew's West
- Salem United Church Cemetery, Summerstown
- Faulkner Settlement Cemetery, South Lancaster
- St. Raphael's Roman Catholic Church Cemetery, St. Raphael's
- Maple Grove Cemetery, Cornwall

The project is an important enterprise to raise awareness of the Loyalist history of our region, focusing attention on the oldest cultural landscapes in our communities. Please contact [Stuart Manson](#) for more information, or if you wish to make a financial contribution to this project.

TREASURER'S REPORT



As noted on the first page of this newsletter, membership dues are due January 1, 2019.

There are no changes in membership dues this year. Full information on how to pay is below. -Michael Eamer

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2019

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.

- \$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 also belong to the St. Lawrence Branch (\$15 for family branch memberships).
- Add \$1 if you want a membership card.

Non-members of the UELAC can subscribe to our newsletter, *The Royal Yorker*, for \$15 (members get it free).

We also accept e-transfers directly to the branch bank account. Please correspond with the treasurer on this matter, via eamermc@yahoo.com

LOYALIST SIGNPOSTS

[*Editor's note: The Loyalist history of the Carmans appeared in our spring 2018 issue.*]

The past year has been nothing short of turbulent for the Forward House and the Carman House Museum, two historic Loyalist properties in Iroquois. Last February, citing structural damage and the high cost of repairs, the South Dundas council voted to demolish the Forward House, which had been closed since June of 2017. Public outcry followed, and after two months of backlash, articles and letters in the local newspapers, and a petition to council with 400 signatures, Council reversed their decision in April. It now sits vacant and cannot be entered due to safety concerns on the order of Don Lewis, Director of Building, Planning & Enforcement and Chief Building Official for South Dundas.

Just a short way down the road, the Carman House Museum has also seen its fair share of struggles, many of which centred around the treatment of the upstairs tenant, Elly Bosman, who had lived there since 1990. In August of 2017, the tenant was given an eviction notice by the aforementioned Don Lewis after she had reported two leaking windows in her apartment. When the story was reported by the local papers the following March, public opinion sided with Bosman; within a week, the Municipality of

South Dundas reversed their decision to evict, instead setting aside \$35,000 for necessary repairs on the building. In October, however, it was reported that \$14,000 of the repair budget had been spent by Lewis to get an engineer's report, despite already having one, leaving only \$21,000 to work with.



The most shocking news came only weeks ago, however, when council accepted Lewis' proposal to decommission Carman House Museum in order to complete repairs. This decision was made despite knowing that a covenant dating back to the time of the Seaway Project existed between the municipality and Ontario Hydro, which gave the municipality ownership of the land on the condition that it would remain a museum. Should the museum discontinue, the land is supposed to be returned to Ontario Hydro.

Together, the Forward House and the Carman House Museum, both located on Carman Road, make up two of the three

buildings that remain in their original locations from before the St. Lawrence Seaway Power Project, the third being the Elizabeth Manor Bed and Breakfast on nearby Elizabeth Drive.

The museum was decommissioned just days before voting opened for the municipal elections and, whether the decision influenced voters or not, South Dundas got an almost entirely new council, with only one member returning for another term. In the months leading up to the election, several of the new members of council expressed their support for both the Forward House and the Carman House Museum, leaving those involved cautiously hopeful following the election results.

I had the pleasure of working at the Carman House Museum this past summer and it was an incredible learning experience. Oftentimes, it did not even feel like a job, as I was passionate about what I was doing. Sharing the history of the house and the community with the visitors was a privilege, and the fascination and happiness they expressed when walking through the family home, whether they were tourists, locals, or Carman descendants, is a testament to its importance.

With the back and forth of the past year, only one thing can be certain: The fight for the preservation of our history is far from over.

-Ashley Harper

THE BOOKSHELF

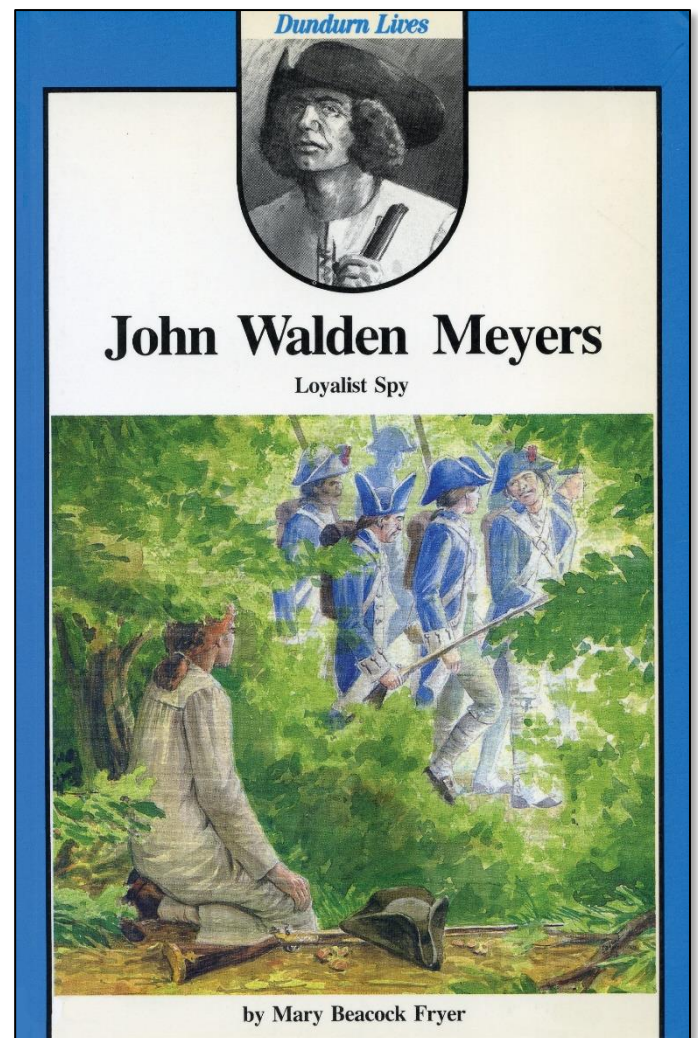
“The Bookshelf” is a recurring feature in *The Royal Yorker*. Here we examine books of interest - old or new - whose subject matter is dear to our hearts: The early history of our region, genealogy, the American Revolutionary War, and related topics.

In this issue we crack open Mary Beacock Fryer’s classic 1973 biography *John Walden Meyers: Loyalist Spy*. The subject of the book was a Loyalist from Albany County in the Province of New York. Also known as Hans Waltermeyer, he was associated with the King’s Loyal Americans, Delancey’s Brigade and the Loyal Rangers, but eventually settled into a role of spying and message-running through the Lake Champlain and Hudson River valleys. Frederick Haldimand, Governor of Quebec, called him a “most active and zealous partisan.” His enemies referred to him as “a troublesome fellow.” I’m sure Meyers would have considered both as compliments!

Fryer’s style of writing and historical interpretation is lively and energetic. While this is history based on a multitude of primary source documents, the author also speculates on the thought processes of her subject: She crawls inside Meyers’ brain, giving a voice to the many difficult choices he made for himself and the safety of his family. Many were the crossroads, both

literal and figurative, that Meyers encountered during his adventures.

Some historians will cringe slightly at this approach; after all, history is about documented facts and their cautious interpretation. But Fryer’s prolific research, writing and knowledge on the subject of Loyalists perhaps gives her some licence. Regardless, the book is a great read, and is highly recommended for anyone interested in the subjects of raiding, recruiting and espionage in the northern colonies during the American Revolutionary War.



One of the highlights of the book is the recounting of a raid on the house of rebel leader General Phillip Schuyler, in Albany. Its objective was to kidnap Schuyler, but in this they failed. The operation was also tarnished by the raiders' theft of some of the general's silverware.

John Walden Meyers was in the news recently. Last spring, newspapers in the Belleville area, where Meyers settled after the war, were emblazoned with this headline: "Slave Ownership Stops Moira Secondary Name Change." Earlier, the local school board decided to rename Moira Secondary School as "Meyers Creek Secondary School." But they discovered soon after that Meyers owned slaves of African descent, both during his time in the colony of New York, and during his settlement of the Belleville area. (Slavery was practiced in the British Empire, including Canada, until abolished in the 1830's.) That put an end to the school's name change. This is an issue that is also pertinent to our neck of the woods: Local Loyalist leaders, such as Sir John Johnson, Major James Gray and Captain Samuel Anderson were also slave-owners. A melancholy aspect of our history, to say the least.

John Walden Meyers: Loyalist Spy is currently out of print. It was re-printed in 1983, and again in 1996, by Dundurn Press. Copies are available, easily and economically, through second-hand booksellers. -Stuart Manson

BRANCH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(continued from page 2)

Circuit ministers came on horseback or walked through the bush. While in the area, they would marry, baptize or bury. If there was a need, a service might be held in your barn or at a neighbors'. They were strong believers in getting their message out, while travelling miles to do so.

At the banquet we also had a mini Hare Family reunion, with two ladies coming to meet Thomas Raub from Pennsylvania. Our own Larry Empey also has, as ancestors, Henry Hare and his wife Alida Vrooman.

The fall meeting was held at Hulbert Valley Church, a neat little building north of Iroquois. We had a lot of business to discuss, about some upcoming things as well as events that happened over the summer. The Show & Tell consisted of some books found at the resource center, and other artifacts like a 100-year-old black powder gun. Lunch was served, with more discussions.

An agreement has been signed with North and South Dundas but no date has been set for moving our Loyalist Resource Centre to the new Dundas County Archives. We have been packing what we do not need for daily use. The Clarence Cross records need some attention, especially the boxes. It is a large part of the local family history collection and is very informative. -Lorraine Reoch

DUNDAS COUNTY ARCHIVES

The Dundas County Archives (DCA) were officially dedicated during a well-attended event held on Sunday, November 4 at the Iroquois Community Centre in South Dundas. In attendance were representatives from local historical societies, businesses and persons interested in the preservation and promotion of the local history in Dundas County. Along the outside walls of the room were displays from the collection of the DCA, Chesterville & District Historical Society, the Chesterville Record, South Dundas resident John Carruthers and the St. Lawrence Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.



Lorraine and Larry with their plaques!

With the passing in 2016 of the St. Lawrence Branch charter member and Branch Genealogist Lynne Cook, President Lorraine Reoch and several members of the St. Lawrence Branch have been working

with Larry Empey and family of South Dundas to prepare Cook's extensive collection of genealogical records, family histories, obituaries and newspaper coverage of significant local events, for relocation to the DCA, located at 5 College Street in Iroquois, once space becomes available.



During the dedication ceremony, Reoch gave a brief overview of the work which has been undertaken to secure and protect the work done by Cook since the late 1970's. She explained the large amount of paperwork which was sifted through, weeded, transcribed and secured for the future. Two plaques, which acknowledge the role of the United Empire Loyalists in the history of Dundas County and establish the Lynne Cook Research Room, were unveiled for use at the DCA. -Carol Goddard

AN INVITATION FROM UELAC KINGSTON AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Our friends to the west - UELAC Kingston and District Branch - invite the public to their next meeting:

Saturday, November 24th, 1:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall - 137
Queen Street at Montreal Street.

The speaker will be Ruth Nicholson UE, a retired educator from the Hamilton, Ontario area. Ruth's topic is 'Three Loyalist Heroes.

"This will cover different acts of greatness in different time periods," says Ruth: "The American Revolution where you will meet a courier, the War of 1812 where you will meet a young spy and the beginnings of parliament in Upper Canada where you will meet an early politician. These are my three heroes: Robert Land, Isaac Ferriss and John Cornwall. Come to hear the intrigue!"

You are also invited to join with them for an optional sandwich 'n square lunch, 11:30 am for 12:00 noon. Cost \$4 for those not asked to bring food.

All visitors with an interest in Canadian history are cordially welcome.

-Nancy Cutway, UELAC Kingston and District Branch

MARRIAGES AT FORT HALDIMAND (CARLETON ISLAND)

Dennis McCarthy of Cape Vincent, New York, submits a request for information:

"We are trying to find information about deaths/birth and marriages that would have taken place on Carleton Island and at Fort Haldimand from about 1778 to 1783 or later. It was suggested to me to see if UEL would have any of his records for John Bethune when he was on Carleton Island (1783-1784). Any help or suggestions would be appreciated." Dennis can be contacted at srhf@ix.netcom.com or via his websites:

<http://www.forthaldimand.com/>

<http://home.ix.netcom.com/~srhf/>

<http://www.srhf.info>



Fort Haldimand, located on Carleton Island, near the confluence of the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario.

VALENTINE CRYDERMAN: THE LOYALIST LEFT BEHIND

Valentine and Catherine Cryderman were simple settlers in Johnstown, New York, prior to the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War. There they toiled, with several children, clearing and cultivating a 125-acre farm. By 1780, however, Valentine was dead, his family scattered.

Valentine Cryderman was a “Loyalist very true to King George,” a position that ultimately led to his demise. Too old to perform military service, but evidently overzealous in voicing his Loyalist beliefs, the Rebels threw him into prison. There he was “used terribly ill,” meaning he was abused by his jailors.

In 1776, his keepers demanded that he take an oath to the United States of America. Valentine refused. “He became so ill in consequence of his sufferings, that he never recovered,” said his widow Catherine, “he lost his senses and was confined to his bed a long time and died in 1780.”

The Cryderman contribution to the Crown war effort was not small, however: Three sons fought in Loyalist regiments during the conflict, serving their King and country in ways that their father could not. Valentine’s family resettled in Canada, where his descendants, to this day, remember his sacrifice.

-Stuart Manson

THE LAST WORD

“In the years during and after the American Revolution, thousands of families were forced to flee their homes due to their loyalty to the Crown. For the soldiers in the King’s Royal Regiment of New York, the area that is now Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry became their new home. They worked this land, opened businesses, and created communities that still thrive today. These people were our ancestors and we owe it to them to remember. We do that when we tell their stories, when we sign U.E. after our names, and when we fly their flag next to our own. That is also what we are doing tonight.”

-Ashley Harper’s toast to our Loyalist ancestors, at our annual banquet, September 22, 2018.

Acknowledgement: The Ontario Ministry of Culture provides a heritage grant to the branch for its outreach program. The content of this newsletter is subject to copyright, held by the St. Lawrence Branch UELAC or the individual authors cited. Reproduction only with permission. Photo credits in this issue (order of appearance): Page 2, Stuart Manson; Page 5, Ashley Harper; Page 6, Dundurn Press, Page 8, Dundas County Archives; Page 9, www.forthaldimand.com.



The next issue of The Royal Yorker will be published in February 2019.

