

THE ROYAL YORKER

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

≈ Spring 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 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; Newsletter Editor & Webmaster: Stuart Manson; Other executive members: Murray Barkley; Gordon Reoch; Sandra Shouldice; Michelle Walczak.

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

Upcoming Branch Events

May 20, 2018: St. Claire’s Anglican Church, Winchester, ON. Come join us for our first branch meeting of the year! The church is located at 2530 Falcone Lane, which is just south of Winchester proper. Falcone Lane is off St. Lawrence Street, near the intersection with Highway 31. Speaker is to be determined.

June 24, 2018: McIntosh Memorial Park, Berwick, ON. Our annual summer picnic takes place at this pretty spot located on Chrysler Road just south of the great metropolis of Berwick.

The park has a gazebo and plenty of shade trees to shelter us from the sun. Presuming, of course, that we actually get a summer this year (at the time of writing, summer seems questionable!).

St. Lawrence Branch Website

Branch member Stuart Manson has recently become the webmaster of our website. He has made a few changes, including a brand new page called "Loyalists of SD&G."

Please visit the site, to see the results so far!

uelac.org/st-lawrence/

Treasurer's Report



We are pleased to report that our membership numbers are up this year. We thank everyone for their membership. We still would like to attract more members to meetings, and volunteers, and we're always interested in increasing our membership rolls in general. Members to date, this year / last year:

- Individual 35 /22
- Family 8 /7
- Other Family 13 /12
- Life 3 /3
- Branch 6 /4

For those paying their membership dues by e-transfer, please also send me an email so I don't miss your name and current address to be passed onto Dominion Headquarters for your subscription to *The Loyalist Gazette*.

If you also use e-transfer to pay for UE certificates, please ensure that you email me the details of the transaction, *i.e.* how many certificates and for whom.

In a nutshell, when paying anything by e-transfer, please send me and email, even if it's just to say "hi" so I have confirmation of the working email, and in case I have questions.

Since it's important to keep branch costs low, if you need a receipt or want a membership card, you can either add \$1.00 to your payment for postage, or include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

-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

Newsletter Submissions

We're keen to receive newsletter submissions from our membership. If you have anything you wish to share, whether it be wee tidbits of information, photographs, or articles, please contact the editor, Stuart Manson, at the following email address: manson1763@gmail.com.



New Look for Loyalist Trails

Loyalist Trails is the weekly email newsletter of the whole UELAC organization. It's a fantastic resource, always chock full of branch news, research tips, interesting links, queries, and sometimes even detailed historical articles.

Anyone can subscribe, for free, by following the link below and inputting your details.

<http://www.uelac.org/Loyalist-Trails/Loyalist-Trails-index.php>

Loyalist Trails also has a new look! Designed by UELAC member Amanda Campbell-Fasken, the new logo is a thing of beauty!



Finally, if all that is not enough to convince you to subscribe, there's more! Every issue of the newsletter is indexed back to the year 2004.

That's fourteen years' worth of weekly newsletters to search for that family name, that specific subject, that obscure location, that rare book, or that off-the-beaten-path archival source that you've mislaid.

Cornwall Heritage Fair

In February, the branch once again participated in the Cornwall Heritage Fair at Cornwall Square. The turnout was great. We had both brief and in-depth conversations with probably hundreds of people, handed out pamphlets and recruiting posters, and waved the flag (many flags, actually).



Above is a photograph of our spread. Our members who attended the fair, from left to right: Stuart Manson, Lorraine Reoch, Gord Reoch, and Michael Eamer (Carol Goddard is behind the camera!)

In Memorium: Mary Beacock Fryer

Mary Beacock Fryer, who passed away on October 29, 2017, was not a member of our branch, but she was well known to us. One of the most significant historians of the Loyalists, she authored the following books:

- *King's Men: The Soldier Founders of Ontario* (1980).
- *Buckskin Pimpernel: The Exploits of Justus Sherwood, Loyalist Spy* (1996).
- *John Walden Meyers: Loyalist Spy* (1983).
- And numerous others on early periods and characters of Canadian history.

Fryer was born in Brockville. She studied at the universities of Toronto and Edinburgh. Her contributions to Loyalist history will forever be her legacy.

Signposts

“Signposts” is a recurring feature in *The Royal Yorker* that points to a current place name in our region that has Loyalist origins.

Every day, several thousand motorists encounter Loyalist history as they hurtle down the 401 in Eastern Ontario. When passing the village of Iroquois, they see the sign for Carman Road. The Carmans were prominent Loyalists in that neck of the woods, and their name has been applied to more than just a street.

The Carmans (Kirmans) were Palatines - Germans who left their native land to escape persecution. First they settled in Pennsylvania, and then the Mohawk Valley in the colony of New York. Michael Carman Jr. served during the Revolutionary War in the King's Royal Regiment of New York. He came to Matilda Township in 1785.

Located just off Carman Road is Carman House Museum. It was built by Michael Jr.'s son, also named Michael, circa 1815.



Structurally, as seen above, the house is a Georgian limestone cottage that has been carefully restored to its original form. While dating from a period somewhat after the Loyalist period, it nonetheless celebrates its Loyalist origins.

The Carman House Museum is located at 5895 Carman Road South, Iroquois, Ontario. Please visit their Facebook page for more information on opening hours and special exhibits and events:

<https://www.facebook.com/CarmanHouseMuseum>



The Carman House Museum should not be confused with another structure in Iroquois that is also connected to the Carman family. The Forward House is of a similar vintage, with just as much history, but with little future, unfortunately: It is currently slated for demolition.



There is an online petition that is gathering support for an attempt to save the house. If you're interested please follow the following link:

<https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-the-forward-house-in-iroquois-ontario>

Special thanks to Murray Richer, Director of the Carman House Museum, for info on the family.

-Stuart Manson

Query: Loyalists Up-bound from Montreal, 1784

Richard Poaps submits the following inquiry:

The obituary of my Great Grandfather Jacob J. Poaps (1823-1896) of Osnabruck, indicates that his grandfather and family emigrated from the USA via the Oswegatchie River and travelled in flat boats with the Mattices, Fykes and Wearlys to Hoople Creek. (Actually he was probably not released from Butler's Rangers, until mid-1784, so it could have been his grandmother and maybe her oldest son Rudolph, reduced in early 1784 from the KRRNY).

To me, this sounds like they were conveyed upstream from Lachine in the spring of 1784 and off loaded at the German township #3, (maybe at Dickinson's Landing) later to be called Osnabruck.

Rud'l Papst's name is on the McNiff map of 1784, (Con 2-Lot 12W1/2), indicating a 100 acre land grant for his service with the KRRNY, so I assume that would have been the destination.

Is there a source document where I can confirm those who were encamped at Lachine, Isle aux Noix or other refugee camps in the Montreal area? I do not believe that J.F. Pringle's, "The Old United Empire Loyalist's List", confirms those that were transported up stream in the spring of 1784 and later, but I understand there is a list of those who were accepted as UEs. Does this mean the Haldimand papers at Brock might contain this kind of information?

Thanks for any pointers.

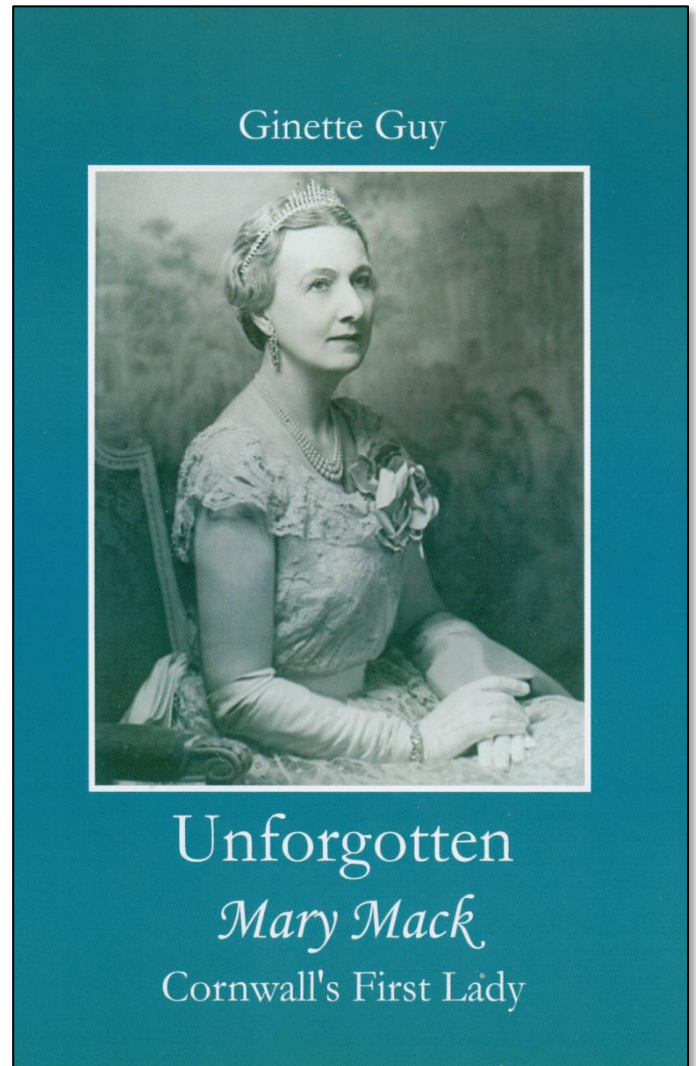
-Richard Poaps, UE rapoaps1@gmail.com

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 take a peek at one of the latest local history books to be published in our region: *Unforgotten: Mary Mack, Cornwall's First Lady*,

written by Ginette Guy. Mary Mack was a well-known artist, politician, social activist and history promoter on the Cornwall scene. She was born in 1899 and passed away in 1978.



What's the Loyalist connection, you ask? As stated briefly on page 10 of the book, Mary Mack's mother was a Snetsinger, descended from a Loyalist. To this we can add the following details: Mack's great-great-grandfather was Matthias Snetsinger, a corporal in the King's Royal Regiment of New York, who settled in Royal Township No. 2 (Cornwall) in 1784.

Snetsinger was no simple soldier: Late in the war he was involved secret service activities, in Vermont and elsewhere, operating out of the Loyal Blockhouse on an island in Lake Champlain. For more information on this interesting period of

history, see Mary Beacock Fryer's book titled *Buckskin Pimpernel: The Exploits of Justus Sherwood, Loyalist Spy*.

There's also another Loyalist connection to Mary Mack: She was involved in the early history of our branch of the UELAC. During our second branch meeting, which took place on November 20, 1977, Ms. Mack discussed the exploits of her Loyalist Snetsinger ancestor.

The biography chronicles Mack's life as part of an early industrialist family, her artistic pursuits, and her dedication to social and other causes. She was involved with the Children's Aid Society, the Victorian Order of Nurses, and was "a stalwart in almost every community organization in Cornwall."

It also details her activities associated with her privileged social and economic status. How many Loyalist descendants can say they were in the presence of the reigning monarch? For Mary Mack, she did it twice!

Mary Mack became the first female alderman (city councillor) in Cornwall when she was elected in 1946. She held on to the post for 10 years.

She also was front-and-centre with the creation of Upper Canada Village. This preservation effort salvaged some significant architecture that otherwise would have been destroyed by the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project. Mack's Snetsinger ancestors hailed from Moulinette, one of the Seaway's municipal victims, and she may have been the first person to coin the phrase "Lost Village."

Unforgotten is an enjoyable and informative read. Copies can be purchased directly from the author, via her website:

<http://ginetteguy.vistaprintdigital.com/store>

It is also available from the publisher (the SD&G Historical Society) at the Cornwall Community Museum.

-Stuart Manson

The Last Word

"I am so happy to find that there are, in the gift of the Crown, lands of so good a soil and in a favorable climate, sufficient not only to settle the Provincial Corps when disbanded, but all such Royalists as may come from the southward with a view to find an asylum for the tyranny and oppression of their countrymen. I foresee great advantages from this settlement."

-Québec Governor Frederick Haldimand, November 6, 1783, describing the new townships soon to be settled by the Loyalists.

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∞ The next issue of *The Royal Yorker* will be published in the summer of 2018 ∞

