



THE ROYAL YORKER



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



Spring 2019

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/

Mailing address: P.O. Box 607, 3 Augusta St., Morrisburg, ON, Canada, K0C 1X0

UPCOMING BRANCH EVENTS

We have two special events upcoming, related to our "Loyalist Burial Site" plaque project. We'll be unveiling a plaque at two locations. We'd absolutely love to see you there:

Trinity Anglican Church

105 Second St. West, Cornwall

Tuesday, June 11 (7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

St. Andrew's United Church

21102 Second Con. Road, Bainsville

Wednesday, June 12 (10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

Also, our upcoming regular events are as follows:

Annual Meeting - Sunday, June 2 (1:30 p.m.)

Dundas County Archives, 5 College St., Iroquois.

Come see our new digs!

Summer Picnic - Sunday, July 14 (12:00 noon)

Our annual potluck picnic, this year to be held at the base of the Chrysler Farm mound near Upper Canada Village. Bask in the sun or relax in the shade. Bring food for yourself or to share, as well as a chair (there are no benches or picnic tables).

BRANCH EXECUTIVE

(2018-2020)

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

Carolyn Goddard

William Patterson

Gordon Reoch

Sandra Shouldice

Michelle Walczak

BRANCH PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greetings to all.

As I write this, the sun is shining. What a wonderful day, but this spring we can only expect more rain. The winter we had was not

great, with all the ice and snow. At the end of April we had no leaves, spring flowers or nice weather!

We are in moving mode. With any luck at all, as you read this we will be moving to our new location at the Dundas County Archives, situated at 5 College Street, Iroquois. Over the last couple weeks we packed dozens of boxes to move. Many shelves were bare but for the packed boxes. Each box has a letter and number to help the movers, and for us to unpack everything. *[Editor's note: See pages 4-5 for a photo gallery of the big move.]*

Our new quarters are not as large as Lynne Cook's old house; we have downsized a little. We have discovered many surprises, in the last three years, as we have gone through the mountain of papers and books that represent the collection. For example, we have not one, but two copies of the Noah Webster dictionary from 1903!

The big move was scheduled for Wednesday May 15. All the materials will be placed on the new shelving, filing cabinets will be shifted, as well as some desks. We hope it all goes well. We will advise when our new location is open for business.

There was a man who never was

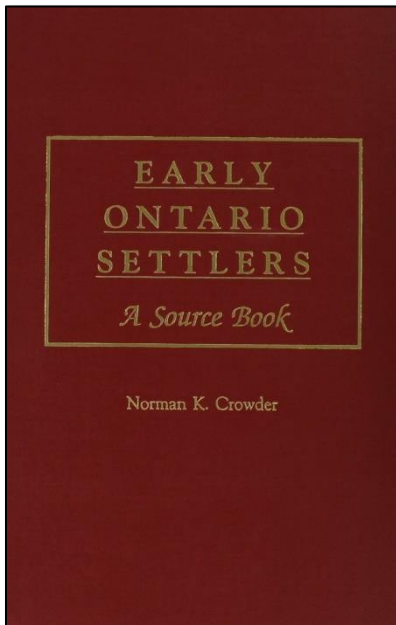
This tragedy occurred because

His parents, being none too smart

Were born two hundred years apart!

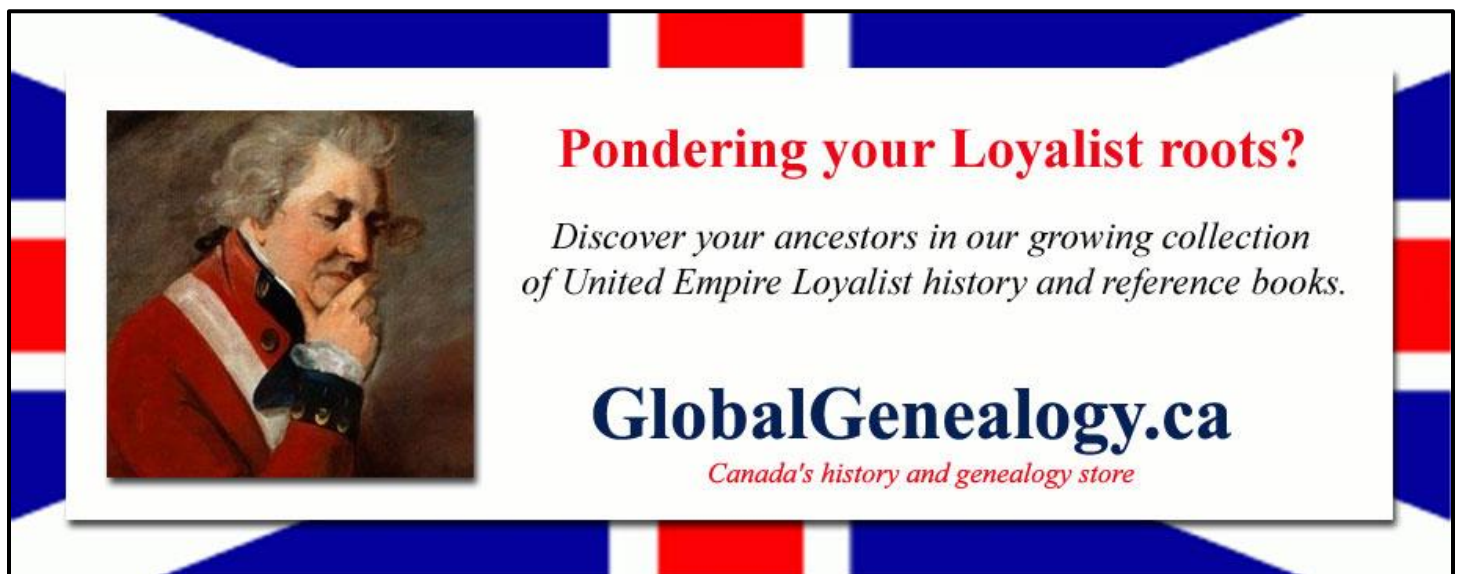
THE LOYALIST BOOKSHELF

At the time of Loyalist settlement in Ontario, the British government supplied settlers with food provisions to assist them, until their new lands became productive. Naturally, these distributions were recorded in lists, which are of interest to Loyalist genealogists and historians. It is always good practice to consult original documents when performing research, but transcriptions of documents that are nominally-indexed can be quite useful. Norman K. Crowder's book titled *Early Ontario Settlers: A Source Book*, reproduces these important documents. It was originally published in 1993 by the Genealogical Publishing Company, and is currently available for sale in Canada from Global Genealogy (see the advertisement at the bottom of this page).



An interesting aspect of this book is that it retains the integrity of the original lists: The order of the names in the book is the same as that appearing in the source documents. This can be important, as there may be hidden meaning in the order in which the names were recorded, such as family connections not otherwise obvious. As with any genealogical source, researchers must beware of the wide variety of spelling variations that can occur in these types of documents. This is particularly relevant with a book such as this, due to possible transcriber error. For example, the book contains an entry for “Jeremiah Trench,” a settler in Royal Township No. 2 (Cornwall). This, of course, must refer to Jeremiah French, a prominent local figure.

The book covers the period 1783-1789 and the original Loyalist townships from Lancaster westward to Quinte. It also covers Niagara, Detroit and other locations. As an added bonus, it includes a list, from 1786-1787, titled “List of Sundry persons as Emigrants from North Britain.” These were non-Loyalist emigrants, directly from Scotland, who settled in Glengarry County.



Pondering your Loyalist roots?

Discover your ancestors in our growing collection of United Empire Loyalist history and reference books.

GlobalGenealogy.ca

Canada's history and genealogy store

A MOVING EXPERIENCE: OUR LOYALIST RESOURCE CENTRE'S MIGRATION FROM MORRISBURG TO IROQUOIS

On May 15, 2019, our Loyalist Resource Centre was moved to its new location (Dundas County Archives in Iroquois). An army of local volunteers completed the move in three hours. A Herculean effort! Now for the unpacking...

We will let you know when our new location is open for business. For now, here are a few snapshots of the big move.



One of the many, many boxes that left the late Lynne Cook's home that day. This particular box was a light one - a rarity known by anyone who has moved a collection consisting primarily of books and file folders. Boxes of this kind tend to be a bit cumbersome too. Additional effort is usually required to maintain the integrity of the box and to protect their important contents!



A chain gang (of sorts) was established between the house and the awaiting truck. Teamwork at its finest.



The porch of the Cook house, which served as the staging area between the collection inside the house and the awaiting truck, is now clear of boxes! A sure sign of progress, and of fatigue. Who needs a gym membership when you can move a Loyalist Resource Centre!



Break time!. Beverages laden with caffeine and foods filled with sugar: The perfect life-sustaining provisions consumed by movers! The mighty St. Lawrence River looks on.



Real men carry two boxes at a time!



Back inside the Cook house, more boxes are prepared for transport. This photo demonstrates the scale of the job.



"The Supervisor." Our branch president, Lorraine Reoch, deserves high praise for her efforts in making this important migration happen!

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

We're keen to receive newsletter submissions! Please send anything (articles, photos, news items) directly to your friendly neighbourhood editor, Stuart Manson: manson1763@gmail.com

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

or

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).

Half year dues start 1 July to the end of the year.

The treasurer also accepts e-transfer directly to the branch bank account, which work well for both membership dues and UE certificate applications. Please correspond with the treasurer via eamermc@yahoo.com

Our membership figures, 2019 (so far)/2018:

Individual 27/44; Family 8/10; Other Family 15/19;
Branch 8/6; Life 3/3.

LOYALIST SIGNPOSTS

Nestled in Glengarry County is the community of Martintown. It takes its name from a Loyalist officer who served in the King's Royal Regiment of New York during the American Revolutionary War.

In the spring of 1784, among the hundreds of Loyalist settlers who flooded into our area was Lieutenant Malcolm McMartin, Jr. He was originally granted land elsewhere - in Stormont and Dundas counties - but eventually found his way to Glengarry in 1801. There, on the banks of the Raisin River, he established an early industrial complex that included a saw, planning and cording mill, as well as an ashery. The location was first known as McMartin's Mills.



(Courtesy Martintown Mill)

McMartin was part of a large Loyalist family, but there was a branch of the family that remained in Johnstown, New York after the war. It appears that the McMartin clan - like many others in the Mohawk Valley where the conflict was as much a civil war as anything else - was divided in its loyalties.

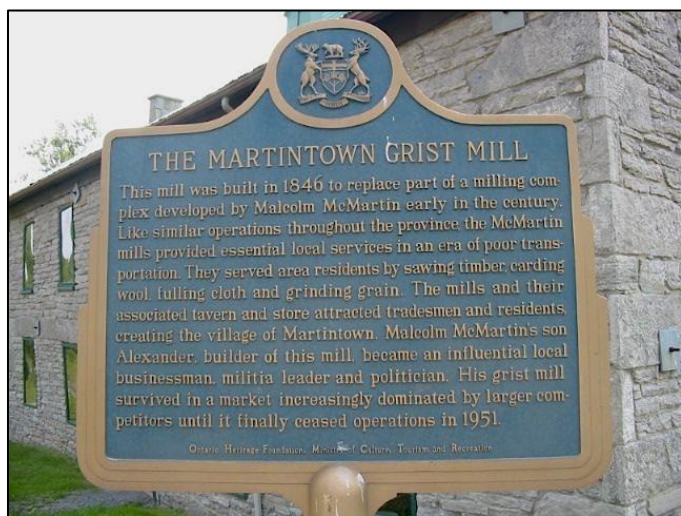
Malcolm McMartin was born in Scotland, and had migrated to the Province of New York just prior to

the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War. He enlisted in the first battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York on June 19, 1776, which was that regiment's first date of existence. This suggests that McMartin was part of Sir John Johnson's entourage who made their escape from the Mohawk Valley several weeks before that date.

McMartin's Mills flourished. A flour and grist mill were added later, as well as a store. The current stone mill that graces the site, pictured on the preceding page, was built in 1847. At one point, the settlement was the second-largest town in Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry! Eventually, by 1857, the name "McMartin's Mills" was shortened simply to "Martintown."

Malcolm's son, Alexander McMartin, served in the colonial legislature, 1812-1824 and 1828-1834. At the time of his first election, he was the first member of the legislature to have been born in Upper Canada. Alexander had also operated the family's industrial business, was the sheriff of SD&G, and had a local military career.

There is a provincial plaque at the site of the mill, which honours Malcolm McMartin (pictured below).



Martintown Grist Mill Provincial Plaque

The 1847 mill operated for a century. By the 1980's, however, the structure was in poor condition. Due to the efforts of many dedicated volunteers, it was saved. It is now owned by the Martintown Mill Preservation Society, which provides public tours of the historical site. There are also special events, as well as a market for local products. Check out their website: <http://www.martintownmill.org/>

The mill relies on donations for ongoing maintenance and repairs of the historical structure. They offer tax receipts for such donations, and also sell t-shirts, sweatshirts, ball caps and artistic photographs.

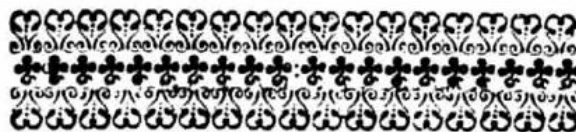
-Stuart Manson

In Memoriam

On February 4, 2019 we lost a great friend to our branch, **Archibald MacDonell**.

Originally from Williamstown (Glen Road), he passed away at the age of 93. He was the beloved husband of Isabel MacDonell (née MacDonald), formerly of St. Raphael's. In his earlier years he worked a bi-centennial farm and was active in municipal politics. He was known as a major contributor to Glengarry's rich history and clans genealogy. Archibald MacDonell was also a past president of our branch.

We offer our sincere condolences to his family and friends.



OTHER BRANCH NEWS

In addition to the events listed on the front page, we're planning other branch events for the latter part of the year. We can tell you, in advance, that our "glorious feast" (annual banquet) in the fall will feature a presentation by Stuart Manson. His topic: "Loyalist Cemeteries of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry." We'll supply meeting details in the next issue of *The Royal Yorker*, and also on the "News & Events" page of our branch website.



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THE LAST WORD

"Colonel Butler says that none of his people will ever think of going to attend courts of law in the colonies, where they could not expect the shadow of justice, and that to re-purchase their estates is what they are not able to do... and that they would rather go to Japan than go among the Americans, where they could never live in peace."

-Allan McLean, Commandant at Fort Niagara, to Governor Frederick Haldimand, May 1783.

(McLean was describing the impossibility of Loyalists returning to their homes in the Thirteen Colonies following the termination of the American Revolutionary War, in particular those who took up arms to defend the Crown, such as the men of Butler's Rangers and the other Loyalist regiments.)



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

