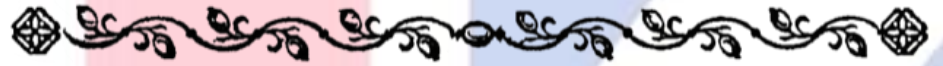
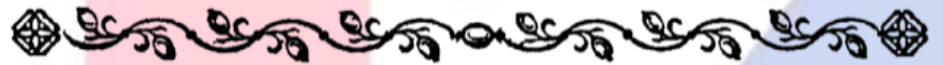




THE ROYAL YORKER



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



Summer 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

Saturday, October 5, 2019 (5:30 p.m.)

St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church Hall, 15 Memorial Square, Ingleside, ON.

Our annual banquet, which will feature speaker Stuart Manson, who will give a PowerPoint presentation on “Loyalist Cemeteries of SD&G.” Stuart will also offer a brief review of our content-rich website.

See page 8 for information on the harvest basket.

The cost is \$20, payable at the door. Please RSVP with Lorraine Reoch at fancylass@hotmail.ca.

Sunday, November 3, 2019 (1:30 p.m.)

Cornwall Community Museum, 160 Water St. West (Lamoureux Park, near the foot of York St.), Cornwall, ON.

Our late-autumn meeting will feature a presentation and tour by museum staff, which will focus on the Loyalist history of Cornwall and area. The museum is located in the former home of William Wood, a Loyalist who served the Crown as a member of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. There is no cost, and the public is most welcome!

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



Summer has finally arrived after our very wet spring. The flowers are blooming, the gardens and crops are looking great.

We have moved into our new quarters, at 5 College St., Iroquois (Dundas County Archives), and have enough material unpacked to be open. The new shelving is being filled, and after packing over 200 boxes, it takes time to unpack and organize things for easy access. This has not been easy, as we had five rooms in our old location. I am pleased with how everything went. We have use of a kitchen, bathroom, and meeting room plus our resource room.

The visitors are beginning to come and are emailing to find out when we are open. Many are showing interest in getting U.E. Loyalist certificates and we have three applications on their way to Toronto (UELAC Dominion office) and other applications that are awaiting birth and marriage records. Last week, we were given a large donation of Dr. David Lloyd Montgomery's letters, family histories and other very interesting memorabilia.

Since we have opened we have had a lot of interest from those who wish to volunteer, to help with the many jobs still to be done. Darlene Fawcett has undertaken the huge job of refacing the Clarence Cross records. Come and visit us six days a week between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

For more information, see page 7!

If you dig up the past, you may get more information than you bargained for... So don't delve into the past, if you are not willing to have some surprises!

THE LOYALIST BOOKSHELF: HEAVYWEIGHTS OF LOCAL HISTORY

Pringle and Harkness: The two heavyweight contenders of local history. Those who yearn to learn the rich history of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry - the catchment area of our branch - will peruse the output of those pioneer historians. Like “Gretzky” or “Atwood,” they and their books are often referred to, and well-known by, their surnames only.

“Check Pringle,” means scurrying to the bookshelf for Jacob Farrand Pringle’s *Lunenburgh or the Old Eastern District*. It was first published in 1890 and has been reprinted over the years, first by Mika Press in the 1970’s, then recently by Global Heritage Press. Pringle was not originally indexed, much to the chargin of those who used it. Local historian/genealogist Lyall Manson filled this void by producing a stand-alone nominal index in 1975. We all tucked this slim volume into the back Pringles. Later reprints incorporated this index, reformatted, as part of the volume. Of course, modern digital versions are fully text-searchable. Below is a photo of Pringle, the man, and his good lady Isabella Fraser.



“Look in Harkness,” will result in similar movement towards the stacks, to consult John Graham Harkness’ book *History of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry*, published in 1946 and reprinted since that time. Unlike Pringle, Harkness contains an index. Anyone who has used it, however, agrees that this index is sub-optimal. Its numerous illustrations are also problematic, unfortunately.

If you’re from Cornwall, the name Senior must be added as a third heavyweight contender. Elinor Kyte Senior’s book *From Royal Township to Industrial City* was published for the bicentennial of 1984. It was the first professional history of the city and environs, and is particularly detailed on the early Loyalist history of the community, including the initial settlement of those wartime refugees, and its early growing pains.

Alternatively, if you hail from the rolling hills of Glengarry, your third go-to author is likely MacDonell (*Sketches Illustrating the Early Settlement and History of Glengarry in Canada*) or perhaps Ross & MacGillivray (*History of Glengarry*). The former is incredibly detailed and contains many transcripts of early primary documents.

If your idea of the “far west” is Dundas County, then the names Croil and Carter must be added to the mix. They are the authors of *Dundas, or a Sketch of Canadian History* and *The Story of Dundas from 1784 to 1904*, respectively. Croil wins the prize for being the earliest-published local history book of significance (1861).

-Stuart Manson

BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT



The way we do membership renewals in the future is changing. But you have options on how to pay and where.

We are one of the five pilot branches, plus Dominion (HQ) working on the trial run of the system. The main reason for the online change is to cut administration work at Dominion, as Mette Griffin has retired and the new administrator is looking to update the process. This will allow instant reports for Dominion and board members plus branch executives authorized to view them.

Only selected people will be authorized to update records; this includes one at the branch for its members. But members themselves will be able to edit their own records, such as updating contact information and changing family member information, where necessary.

Here's what you need to know:

- Starting in 2020 membership must be paid prior to the start of the year, to get the full UELAC benefits and to keep your online account unlocked. Late payments are still accepted, but you may not get your *Loyalist Gazette* in that case.
- Half-year dues, at half price, are still available (after July 1st) for individual and family dues.
- Membership renewals online will be available on November 1st (to be confirmed). You can pay by credit card or debit. Other payment options, such as e-transfer, are still being considered. This will be one-stop shopping, especially for those who belong to more than one branch.
- For those who prefer not to renew online, you may still do so through the branch. You can pay by cash or cheque (the latter can be mailed) or by

e-transfer. In these cases, the treasurer will do the inputting online.

- The new system will also accommodate charitable donations.

Please note membership dues for the upcoming 2020 calendar year are not changing.

- Individual \$50
- Family \$65
- Branch \$10

“Individual” and “Family” memberships are standard memberships: You are a member of the UELAC and the St. Lawrence Branch.

A “Branch” membership applies only when you are a member of another branch (your primary branch) but wish to also associate with our branch.

A “Family” membership is for two members at the same address. If you have additional family members (at the same address) who wish to be members, then the cost is an additional \$5 per person. For example, a family of three members would be \$70 (\$65 + \$5).

All of the above membership options include access to *The Royal Yorker*, the quarterly newsletter of the St. Lawrence Branch. Another benefit of membership is the included subscription to *The Loyalist Gazette*, a magazine published twice a year.

Interested parties, who do not wish to be members, can simply subscribe to our branch newsletter by paying an annual \$15 fee. [*Worth every penny, in our humble and unbiased option! -Ed.*]

You may be interested in knowing that approximately 20% of your standard membership dues go to the branch, while 80% go to the UELAC as a whole.

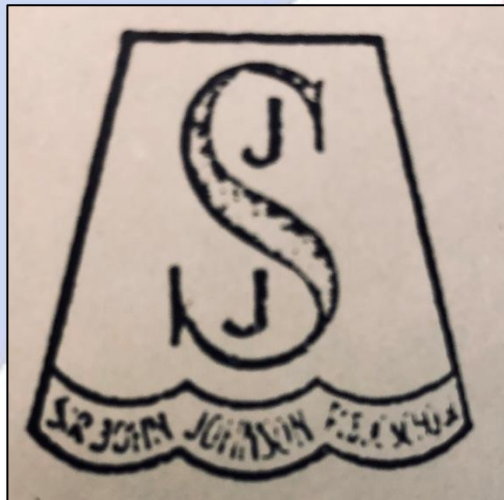
-Michael Eamer, CD, UE, Branch Treasurer

LOYALIST SIGNPOSTS: “SIR JOHN”

In this space we profile the Loyalist origins of a current settlement, street, or other feature. In this issue, our subject is a former school named after a prominent Loyalist: Sir John Johnson.

The educational institution in question was Sir John Johnson Public School (SJJPS), located on the aptly-named Mohawk Drive in the north-west part of the City of Cornwall. Known as “Sir John” by its pupils, the school grounds were nearly surrounded by farmer’s fields, despite being well within the city limits.

Opened in the 1950’s as a basic four-room school with no gymnasium, by the 1970s SJJPS also had two portables: one for French classes and the other for the Grade 7-8 class. (Every class was a double grade: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8). By this time, one of the rooms in the main building was a library \ general-purpose room, but there was still no gymnasium. The school also had no kindergarten class; students started their education at other nearby schools. One of these was Eamer’s Corners Public School, which is also named after a Loyalist family.



(The crest of Sir John Johnson Public School, taken from a 1980’s report card.)

The building occupied by SJJPS still exists, minus the portables, but it’s no longer used as a school.

Sir John Johnson, the man, was the commanding officer of the King’s Royal Regiment of New York, the largest Loyalist regiment to operate out of Canada during the American Revolutionary War.



(Sir John Johnson, before the Revolutionary War)

Johnson once called his regiment “a force sufficient to enable me to stand upon my legs and look my enemies in the face.” Its disbanded members and their families, from its first battalion, settled part of our region in 1784.

-Stuart Manson

“LOYALIST BURIAL SITE” PLAQUE UNVEILINGS

On June 11 and 12, the St. Lawrence Branch unveiled the first two plaques in its Loyalist Burial Site project. It was the culmination of months of careful planning and preparation.

Mother Nature smiled upon us for the unveilings. The spring of 2019 was extremely wet and gray; not so on both our unveiling days. We enjoyed a lovely evening ceremony on June 11th on the grounds of Trinity Anglican Church in Cornwall, and a glorious sunny-morning observance on June 12th in the cemetery surrounding Knox-St. Andrew’s United Church in Bainsville.



(The Cornwall unveiling. Photo: Carol Goddard)

The Cornwall *Standard-Freeholder* newspaper published an article on the events, on the Monday previous. We thank them for the exposure. The full text of the article can be read here:

<https://www.standard-freeholder.com/news/local-news/plaque-to-commemorate-loyalists-being-unveiled-at-cornwalls-trinity-anglican/wcm/206fe150-a126-40e9-898f-13d9aabe696e>



(Organizers Stuart Manson and James Edgar at the Bainsville unveiling. Photo: Robin Edgar.)

We would like to thank the Edgar family, represented by James Edgar. They initiated the project and donated a significant chunk of the funds towards the plaques and installation costs.

Amazing news: We’ve formed a partnership with a British charitable organization called “Terrestres Servo Coronas,” which is Latin for “Serving Earthly Crowns.” They generously offered to fund our project, including the cost of an annual plaque and installation, for a period of five years!



TERRESTRES SERVO
CORONAS

What’s next? We’re hoping our next plaque will be placed at the Point Iroquois Cemetery. We’re currently making arrangements for that purpose, and hopefully an unveiling sometime in 2020.

OUR NEW LOYALIST RESOURCE CENTRE IS NOW OPEN!

We've migrated from our original location, in the home of the late Lynne Cook in Morrisburg, to the Dundas County Archives. The archives is situated in the bustling metropolis of Iroquois (5 College Street). We're now open for business! Our hours: Monday to Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Lorraine Reoch, UELAC St. Lawrence Branch President and Genealogist, is available to help researchers with the UE certificate applications on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturday mornings, Larry Empey mans the battlements.



It's always a good idea to touch base with us before a visit. Please do so by emailing Lorraine at fancylass@hotmail.ca.

“WITTHOFT” WIT AND WISDOM

Herman Witthoft was a resident of Chatham, State of New York, not far from state capital of Albany. Members of our branch came into contact with Mr. Witthoft during bus tours we formerly organized into that neck of the woods, in the upper reaches of the Hudson River valley.

Witthoft was a genealogist who quickly adhered to the possibilities of using computers and databases to organize genealogical information. He was also an amusing character with the “gift of the gab.”

Branch member Edward Kipp recently provided *The Royal Yorker* with the text of a speech Witthoft gave in 2000, during one of these tours. It's filled with entertaining anecdotes and comments on genealogy, history, and life. We'd like to reproduce a portion of that speech here:

“The first book I published was in 1966, and it was about my wife's family, entitled the ‘Waltermire Family Tree: The Descendants of George (Fury) Waldenmeyer, Emigrant to America.’ At their 1966 family reunion, I had a table set up with copies of my book on display. I sat there, proudly displaying my wares and answering questions, when one of the older family members who was reviewing the book exclaimed, ‘You have me dead!’ I looked and sure enough I had her husband's date of death noted for her. What an ego deflation that was! And it took her a couple years before she purchased a copy of the book.”

Witthoft passed away in 2010, at the age of 84.

HARVEST BASKET

We are preparing a “harvest basket” for raffling-off at our annual banquet, Saturday, October 5, 2019. Members may bring articles such as jam, cookies, wine, etc., or any small gifts for this basket. For more information, contact Lorraine Reoch at fancyllass@hotmail.ca.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Contribute to *The Royal Yorker*! Send submissions (articles in text format, photos, news items) to the editor, Stuart Manson: mansonr763@gmail.com.

DONATIONS

Are you interested in making a donation to the St. Lawrence Branch, or including such an arrangement in your will? If so, you can contact our treasurer Michael Eamer at eamermc@yahoo.com.

UPCOMING BOOK OF INTEREST

Branch member Vicki Holmes has published a book titled *Three River Valleys Called Home: The Rhine, The Mohawk, and The St. Lawrence*. The book describes the Loyalist experiences of the Eamer, Gallinger, Alguire, Silmsner and Myers families. Future editions of *The Royal Yorker* will provide more information on this interesting publication, and a book review!

<https://books.friesenpress.com/store/title/119734000057656494/Vicki-Holmes-Three-River-Valleys-Called-Home>

THE LAST WORD

“We wish to know whether you will allow the inhabitants of Johnstown and Kingsborough to form themselves into companies, according to the regulations of the Continental Congress, for the defense of our country’s cause...”

- Tryon County Committee of Correspondence, to Sir John Johnson, shortly before the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War.

Sir John Johnson’s clear and loyal reply:

“Concerning myself, sooner than lift my hand against my king, or sign any association with those who would, I should suffer my own head to be cut off.”

Acknowledgement: The Ontario Ministry of Culture provides a heritage grant to the UELAC St. Lawrence Branch for its outreach program.

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

