



THE ROYAL YORKER



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



Autumn 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

 Website: uelac.org/st-lawrence/

 Facebook: www.facebook.com/StLawrenceUELAC/

 Twitter: [@UELACB](https://twitter.com/UELACB)  Mail: P.O. Box 607, 3 Augusta St., Morrisburg, ON, Canada, K0C 1X0

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We're planning a Loyalist recipe book! Would you like to share one? Please send it, in any format, with the story behind it. The recipe can be connected to the Loyalists or to early Upper Canada. Send it by mail (see above) or to mansonr763@gmail.com



UELAC MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

'Tis the season for membership renewals! Your continued support of the UELAC and St. Lawrence Branch is vital! Renewing promptly will ensure you receive uninterrupted access to some important benefits of membership. For example:

**The Loyalist Gazette*, the gorgeous glossy magazine of the UELAC.

**The Royal Yorker*, the quaint quarterly newsletter of our branch, packed with local history.

See Page 3 for details on how to renew!

BRANCH EXECUTIVE (2018-2020)

President:

Lorraine Reoch

Interim Vice-President:

Stephen McDonald

Secretary:

Darlene Fawcett

Treasurer:

Michael Eamer

Genealogists:

Lorraine Reoch &
Darlene Fawcett

Social Convener:

Ashley Harper

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Stuart Manson

Additional Directors:

Murray Barkley; Carolyn Goddard;
William Patterson; Gordon Reoch;
Sandra Shouldice; Michelle Walczak



BRANCH PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As summer fades and fall-winter begins, our Loyalist Resource Centre (LRC) has been extremely busy. With the children back to school, seniors and others like to travel in the cooler weather, so we've had visitors from as far off as California, Washington State, Florida and many distant places in Canada. This week has brought more requests for application forms. Darlene Fawcett has finished re-facing the Clarence Cross boxes which are now in a shelving unit made especially for them.

We have six volunteers at the LRC, who come in on a weekly basis and all have different interests. This is ideal because I can assign jobs which fit those interests. We hope to get the rest of the unpacking done this winter, when it's quieter. Besides working with applications and records, we take time for seasonal displays (Thanksgiving and Hallowe'en, for example).

On Remembrance Day this year, St. Lawrence Branch laid wreaths in honour of our veterans: Michael Eamer and Ashley Harper did so at Crysler's Farm, Darlene Fawcett at Dixon's Corners (pictured below), and I in Morrisburg.

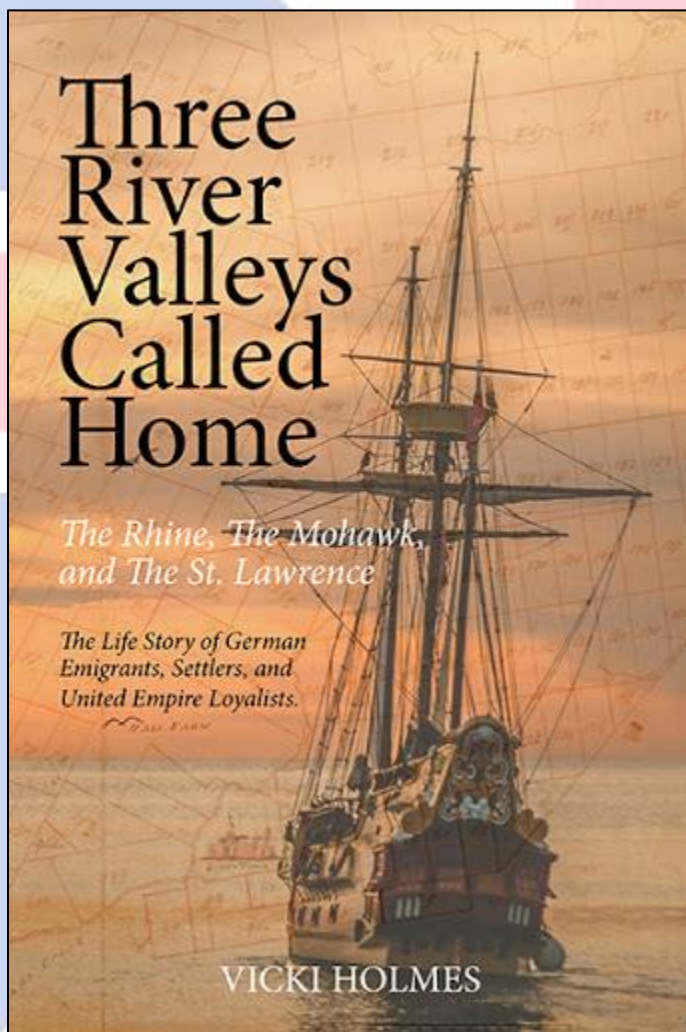
-Lorraine Reoch



THE LOYALIST BOOKSHELF: *THREE RIVER VALLEYS CALLED HOME: THE RHINE, THE MOHAWK, AND THE ST. LAWRENCE*

“The Loyalist Bookshelf,” a recurring column in *The Royal Yorker*, contains reviews of interesting books describing the Loyalist experience. Vicki Holmes’ new historical novel, titled *Three River Valleys Called Home: The Rhine, the Mohawk and the St. Lawrence* is an important addition to that body of literature.

Perhaps it’s not completely accurate, however, for us to call it an historical novel. Rather, it’s an intriguing blend of solid primary-source history and genealogy on the one hand, and narrative fiction on the other. The book chronicles the lives of Loyalists Catrina and Phillip Eamer, ancestors of the author, as well as several of their neighbours in the Mohawk Valley, Province of New York, all of whom were Loyalists and who settled in the catchment area of the St. Lawrence Branch. It’s a “Who’s Who” of local Loyalist families!



As indicated by the title, waterways are a backdrop to the events chronicled in the book. We follow Catrina and Phillip’s travels along the Rhine River in what is now Germany, across the Atlantic Ocean to the Mohawk River in what is now New York State, to the St. Lawrence River in what is now the Province of Ontario.

Holmes’ attention to detail, her focus on the social and material history of the times, and her powers of description are a treat. Readers can virtually smell the odours on the Eamers’ trans-Atlantic sailing ship; taste the wholesome food prepared by Catrina in the Mohawk Valley; feel the tension and pain suffered by the family due to their loyalty to the Crown during the American Revolutionary War; and experience the hope presented by their newly-allotted lands in our region.

The author has generously donated a copy of her book to our branch. But if you’re interested (how could you not be?) consider purchasing a copy. It’s a hefty tome to which you’ll want to refer frequently! It can be purchased at the usual online booksellers (e.g., Amazon) or directly from the publisher:

<https://books.friesenpress.com/store/title/119734000057656494>

The link above also contains a slick commercial for the book. It’s a worthwhile click!

–Stuart Manson

BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT



As noted in the Summer 2019 edition of *The Royal Yorker*, the UELAC will soon adopt an online membership renewal system.

However, memberships can still be arranged the good old-fashioned way, by sending a cheque to our branch treasurer.

Here are some important issues regarding memberships:

- 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 soon be available (they were not at the time of writing).
- When online renewals are available 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.



The new website for online renewals is:

<https://uelac.ca/>

Soon you can follow the instructions on that page for how to renew your membership. On this site *The Loyalist Gazette* is also available to members.

For more information on memberships, including the old way to renew, please consult our branch membership page:

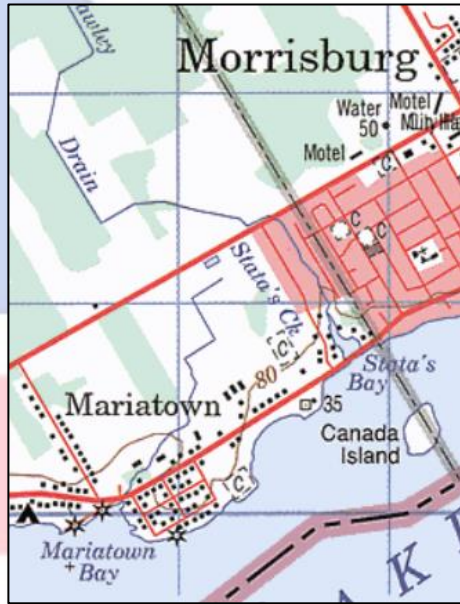
http://uelac.org/st-lawrence/?page_id=24

Memberships paid by cheque can be made out to “St. Lawrence Br. UELAC” and mailed to Michael Eamer, 667 Hamilton Cr., Cornwall, ON K6H 5N6.

-Michael Eamer, CD, UE, Branch Treasurer

LOYALIST SIGNPOSTS: MARIATOWN

Mariatown is a hamlet on the St. Lawrence River, in Williamsburg Township (now part of the Township of South Dundas). Like all communities on that part of the river, its waterfront was affected, in the 1950's, by the flooding caused by the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project. It survived and remains, to this day, a spot on the map west of Morrisburg.



Mariatown is said to be named after the daughter of Captain Richard Duncan, of the King's Royal Regiment of New York, who settled nearby in 1784. Duncan's mother was also named Maria, so that raises the question: Was the community named after Maria the elder, or Maria the younger?

Duncan hailed from northern England. He first settled in Schenectady, NY, and during the Revolutionary War he joined Crown forces in 1777. After the war, Duncan obtained administrative positions, and also served on Upper Canada's legislative council. As of 1791, however, he spent most of his time back in the United States, which is unusual for a prominent Loyalist. He died in Schenectady, NY in 1819. -Stuart Manson

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL "CHARTER NIGHT" BANQUET

On the evening of October 5, 2019, St. Lawrence Branch members and their friends gathered for the annual "Charter Night" banquet. The location was St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church in Ingleside, which serves our needs perfectly. The ladies of the church filled our bellies with a fine meal of roast beef with all the fixings. The home-made desserts were also a big hit.

The featured speaker at the banquet was branch executive member Stuart Manson, who delivered a PowerPoint presentation on "Loyalist Cemeteries in SD&G." Stuart has been leading our Loyalist Burial Site project for the last two years.



The presentation touched on the plaque unveilings that took place this year, as part of the branch project. In addition, Stuart discussed the importance of historical cemeteries, the early history of burial grounds in our region, the effects of the Seaway, and specific historical information and anecdotes about a few local cemeteries.



(The head table at the annual banquet)

An important part of the meeting was the presentation of new U.E. certificates to those who proved their descent from a Loyalist. In 1789, it was proclaimed that all descendants of Loyalists could use the post-nominal initials U.E. (for “Unity of the Empire”). The recipients are pictured below. From left to right: Branch President Lorraine Reoch; Branch Secretary Darlene Fawcett; Roger Tupper; Claire Warring; and William Rodford.



A HEARTY WELCOME

Stephen McDonald of Iroquois is the new Interim Vice President of the St. Lawrence Branch. He has lost no time in making his mark: Among other responsibilities, he’s now captaining our social media ship, which is quickly becoming a fleet. His efforts on that front, on Facebook and Twitter in particular, are already bearing fruit! His enthusiasm is infectious, and his professional and collaborative approach to issues and projects is most welcome.

It’s also a two-for-one deal: Stephen’s wife Laurie has also jumped aboard. She’s making important contributions to the branch, including acting as the driving force behind our recipe book project.

Welcome Stephen and Laurie!

In Memoriam

Gordon Bruce Okill Stuart passed away in Montreal on August 28, 2019. He was 98.

Stuart was not directly connected with St. Lawrence Branch, but he was a heavyweight on the Loyalist scene, known to many of our branch members who encountered him at UELAC events. His obituary prominently declares that he was a “proud descendent of Untied Empire Loyalists.”

He was born in Montreal in 1921, and later studied in Scotland at the Gordonstoun School, where one of his classmates was H.R.H. Prince Philip. Stuart served during the Second World War, in the Royal Canadian Artillery, in the Normandy and North-West Europe campaigns.

Our condolences to his friends and family.

AN EXCITING YEAR AHEAD OF US!

From restoring a derelict Loyalist graveyard to writing a Loyalist recipe book. These are just two of the projects and activities in which our branch will be involved in the coming year.

It all started at a brain-storming session held this past September, where a total of twelve projects and significant activities were identified, over and above our usual undertakings. The highlight items are:

- A Loyalist recipe book;
- A Loyalist cemetery book;
- Researching and possibly restoring an old Loyalist graveyard also believed to be a War of 1812 burial site;
- Loyalist Day 2020 celebration and picnic;
- Designing a new branch brochure and marketing pamphlets for our Loyalist Resource Centre and Loyalist Burial Site Project;
- Developing partnerships to create a Loyalist tour of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry;
- Expanding our social media presence to Instagram and Twitter and interface with our Facebook Page;
- Revitalizing our school education program;
- Developing a plan to attract youth and new members supported by a revenue stream strategy to be pursued in 2020.

Our two pillar initiatives: UEL Burial Site plaques and the ongoing enhancement of our very busy Loyalist Resource Centre will occupy much of our time. Coupled with the fact that we will have volunteers manning booths at three events next summer means we'll certainly have a busy year coming up.

-Stephen McDonald, Branch Interim V-P

LATE-AUTUMN MEETING AT THE CORNWALL COMMUNITY MUSEUM

On Sunday, November 3 we held our late-autumn meeting under the roof of William Wood, a young member of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. Wood's solid limestone house is home to the Cornwall Community Museum (CCM). Holding meetings at the sites like the CCM highlights our new focus on establishing connections with other like-minded local organizations. (Stay tuned for more of this in the future!)

We were first warmly welcomed by SD&G Historical Society President Lily Worrall, who represents the organization that operates the museum. This welcome was also a show-and-tell, as Lily shared the coffin plaque of Michael Gallinger, who died in 1893 at the age of 74 years. Pictured below are Lily (left) and our branch president Lorraine Reoch (right) with this plaque.



After branch business was discussed, we received a detailed museum tour, led by its knowledgeable curator Don Smith. We paused at the Loyalist corner of the museum, which features the original

Historic Sites and Monuments Board plaque on the UEL's, flanked by the Loyalist flag, information on the Johnson family, and other relevant items.



The museum is a treasure trove and well worth a visit. It is located in Lamoureux Park, in downtown Cornwall. We sincerely thank the museum for hosting us for this meeting, and for the tour.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Contribute to *The Royal Yorker*! Send submissions (articles in text format, photos, news items) to the editor, Stuart Manson: manson1763@gmail.com.

THE LAST WORD

"I was a volunteer or cadet in [my father's] company, and hold my discharge under date, 1783. It is true I was too young to do much service, even in devouring the King's pork, but in those days it was not unusual for the nursery-maid to say to her mistress, the Colonel's lady, 'Ma'am, the major won't take his pap this morning,' and this may account for my having been an infant soldier."

-Thomas Gummersall Anderson, describing how he became an extremely young recruit in the King's Royal Regiment of New York. His father, Samuel Anderson, was the regiment's senior captain. The Andersons settled in the "East Front" of Cornwall in 1784.

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 February 2020.

