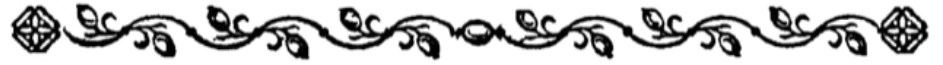




THE ROYAL YORKER



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





Winter 2020

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

 Instagram: www.instagram.com/st.lawrencebranchloyalist/

UPCOMING BRANCH EVENTS

CORNWALL HERITAGE FAIR:

Cornwall Square, 1 Water St. E., Cornwall, Saturday February 22 (9:00-4:00). We will be one of a dozen heritage groups at this annual well-attended event.

UEL BURIAL SITE PLAQUE UNVEILING:

Point Iroquois Cemetery, 6013 Carman Rd., Iroquois, Sunday, June 14 (2:00). Join us as we unveil our plaque during its annual memorial service.

Other 2020 branch events to be announced soon!

IMPORTANT BRANCH REMINDERS

Please renew your UELAC membership!

It's now fast and easy with our new online system. Fear not: You can still renew the good old-fashioned way. See page 7 for details.

New branch executive this spring!

A new branch executive will be elected during our upcoming annual general meeting (spring 2020 - specific date and time to be announced). Interested in participating in our branch projects, or assisting with branch administration? Join the executive!

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



Happy New Year! This being the first newsletter of the year, it is time to report on our winter activities. The visitors to the Loyalist Resource Centre (LRC) have dwindled somewhat, to a couple per week, but the requests are still coming in from places in the US and Canada. Now the requests are coming in for names for UE certificate applications like Gallinger, Lighthouse, Carpenter and Mathews.

We had a LRC volunteers' lunch before breaking for Christmas, with all in attendance. Also that day we had Branch Treasurer Michael Eamer visiting us, whom we plied with fruit cake made by Sandy Empey.

In January we went back to business at the LRC, working on applications and sorting boxes that we had packed for the recent move. Work is continuing on the school and church books, the girls are putting them together from our hundreds of clippings. It is much better to put these items in some sort of order, rather than leaving them in the boxes where no one can consult them.

At the LRC we have many more topics to be arranged for display. We also have a new display in the office every month. This month is Valentine's Day. This helps to decorate the office and makes the room a little more inviting to our visitors.

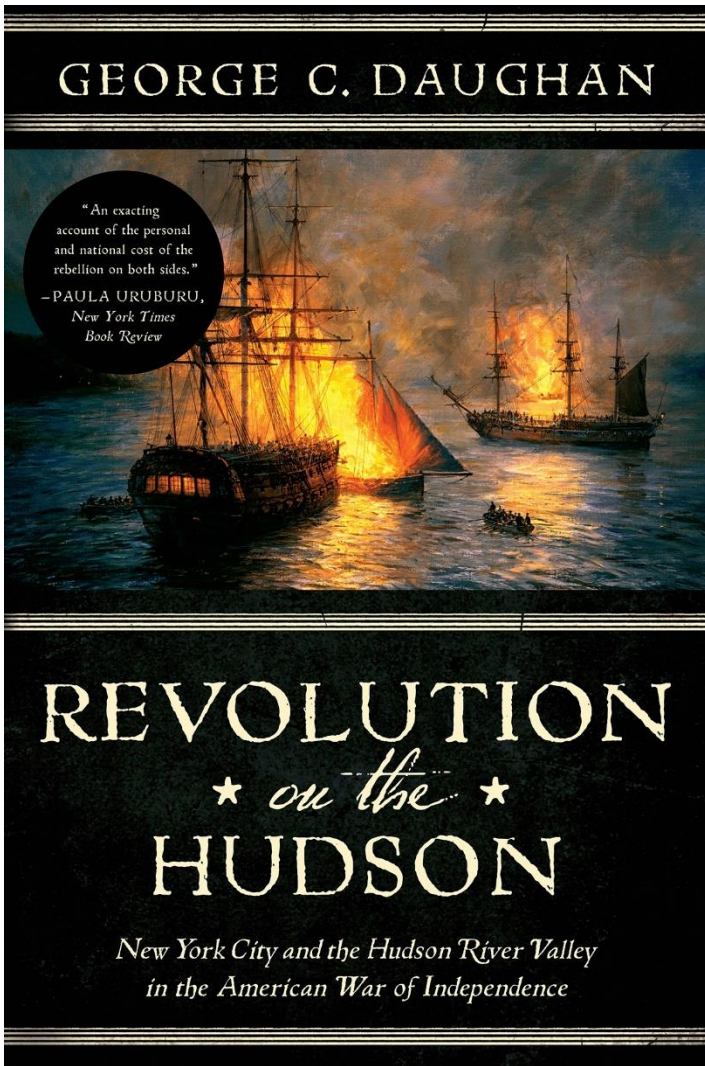


Happy Valentine's Day!

-Lorraine Reoch, Branch President

THE LOYALIST BOOKSHELF: DAUGHAN, *REVOLUTION ON THE HUDSON*

During the American Revolutionary War, everyone was obsessed with the strategic importance of the Lake Champlain and Hudson River watersheds. On the one side, the British and Loyalists were thoroughly convinced that this north-south corridor was key to quashing the revolution. Send a few red-coated regiments into the region, the theory goes, and you split the colonies in two and also isolate particularly-rebellious New England. On the other side, the Rebel Americans were equally convinced of the theory and determined to prevent the British from achieving these strategic goals.



All bunk, according to historian George C. Daughan! In his book *Revolution on the Hudson*, Daughan explores the development of the concept of splitting the colonies in two via the Champlain-Hudson corridor. He describes how the strategy originated from King George III, advocated by his ministers and entourage, put into practice by General John Burgoyne, and advanced as gospel by historians ever since.

“Probably the most important reason historians accepted the viability of the king’s strategy was that George Washington and every other patriot leader shared His Majesty’s fixation with the Hudson.”

In a nutshell, Daughan contends that it was impossible for the British, with the less-than-expected levels of Loyalist support they encountered, to possibly hold such a long line of communications. Surrounded by a hostile countryside, it was a fool’s game, as experienced by General Burgoyne in his ill-fated expedition of 1777 which led to the disaster at Saratoga.

The book also offers an informative history of military operations in the New York City region, including the British capture of the city in the summer of 1776, and forays in all directions including northward up the Hudson River, eastward to Rhode Island and westward to Philadelphia. Also interesting is Daughan’s description of the interplay between British army and naval commanders based out of New York City, where debilitating personality conflicts often crippled British strategy. Some things never change!

The book, originally published in 2016, remains in print. It’s available in convenient paperback format from the usual online booksellers (Indigo-Chapters, Amazon, &c.).

-Stuart Manson

LOW WATER AND A LOST RAILWAY – BY CRAIG STEVENSON

Early January's water level in the St. Lawrence was not without precedent, but low enough to capture the attention of residents and river-watchers between Iroquois and Cornwall.

It has been over 40 years since waters dropped three feet below the seasonal average. That's a long time, and when taken together with this year's slight snow and ice cover, it had a profound effect on those who saw the riverbed laid bare to the sky.

On January 5, with a few spare hours on a Sunday afternoon, I set off in pursuit of an arcane historical interest—capturing views of the former Grand Trunk Railway/Canadian National Railway rail bed flooded during the Seaway's construction. A number of rail line sections can be viewed between Cardinal and Cornwall if a person knows where to look, and the lowered waters had me hopeful that I'd be able to add a few to the collection.

The river did not disappoint.

My first stop, at the Ingleside parkway entrance, was going to be a guaranteed hit. The railbed east of the bridge is always visible, its height and straight length making it the most accessible section of inundated railbed in the area. What I wanted to see was the section west toward Ingleside and Farran's Park—and there it was, flat and exposed, but surprisingly lacking the definition of the line just a few hundred feet to the east.

A quick walk of that and a look at the mud flats in the immediate environment and I was off upriver to the campground at Riverside Heights. The creek mouth and shallows extending in both directions from the park's shoreline are familiar waters, this being one of my regular duck-hunting spots along the river.



The rail bed at the creek mouth rose visibly above the sand flats extending from the shoreline. One slight watery gap in the line was visible, and it was at this gap that I found what I'd hoped to find—the nearly-intact

stonework of the original bridge, now submerged by only a few inches of water. A short distance away lay a more recent structure—a concrete box culvert, dated “1924” and sitting at odd angles, clearly disturbed by the line’s removal.

Turning back east, I headed down the railbed, now clearly visible all the way toward Chrysler Marina. A distant jumble of blocks beckoned; here was another rail culvert, crossing a now-flooded creek that now is visible only in the campsite. At this point along the line a person is exposed more to river than to land, the winds are stronger, and the sense of distance from the shoreline becomes tangible.



Walking down the rail bed in this direction is not just the retracing of a railway story. This is the general location of the Chrysler’s Farm battlefield, and every step forward took me closer to that past scene of conflict. It does take a bit of work to imagine it, though, looking out over the shallow waters where soldiers fought and fell two centuries earlier.

A slight and distant rise of rock out of the waters caught my attention. Was it the former battlefield monument mound, once located along the edge of the river and the old Highway 2? Perhaps—but that requires further research, and a return trip. Time and circumstances will tell if that is possible, but the need to drain high waters from Lake Ontario may make these drops a more frequent occurrence along the winter river.

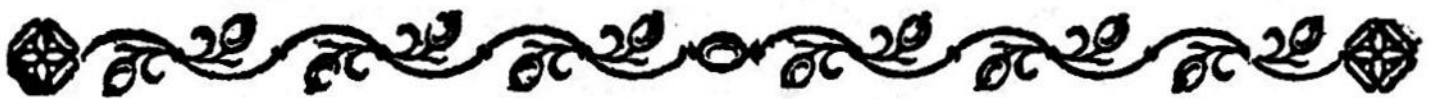
It may even be possible to hike the entire stretch of the original railbed running from DuPont Park east to Aultsville Station and Grand Trunk 1008. We’ll see.

As a postscript to this tale, the photos I took of the railbed circulated widely on social media after being posted them on a local Facebook page dedicated to ship-watching on the river. Within a couple of days of posting the first photo I was contacted by North Country Public Radio to give a brief interview on what I’d seen, and what remained underneath the waters.

There remains much interest in the river, and in its past. It may not always be visible—but it’s never far below the surface.



PUBLIC INVITATION



Plaque Ceremony - Loyalist Burial Site

The Loyalists were the first non-Indigenous people to settle our region in 1784, following the American Revolutionary War. Here they built the foundation of modern Ontario. The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (St. Lawrence Branch) erects plaques to commemorate our local Loyalist burial sites. We've now scheduled our next plaque unveiling:

June 14th 2020 at 2:00

POINT IROQUOIS CEMETERY

6013 Carman Road (adjacent to the Iroquois Lock), Iroquois, ON

The ceremony will occur rain or shine. In case of rain, the ceremony will take place at Riverview Presbyterian Church, 22 Church Ave., Iroquois. Everyone is most welcome!

For more information, please consult our branch website: uelac.org/st-lawrence/

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month. The histories of the Loyalists and people of African ancestry are intertwined in two different ways. First, numerous Black Loyalists fought for the Crown during the American Revolutionary War. Second, several Loyalists were slave owners prior to, during, and following that war. (Slavery was legal in Upper Canada until 1833, when it was finally outlawed throughout the British Empire.)

During our recent “UEL Burial Site” plaque unveiling in Bainsville, we dedicated a large part of the ceremony to the memory of Cato Prime, a Black Loyalist buried at that location.

One of the most famous Black Loyalists was Richard Pierrepont, a.k.a Pawpine (pictured below). A native of Senegal in Africa, he was sold into slavery in the Thirteen Colonies, but earned his freedom by joining Butler’s Rangers during the American Revolutionary War. He eventually settled near the Grand River in south-west Ontario.



The Canadian folk band *Tamarack* released a song about Pierrepont, called “Pawpine.” This haunting tune is driven by the powerful voice of the band’s lead singer James Gordon. You can find the song on YouTube by searching the keywords “Tamarack” and “Pawpine” or follow [this link](#). The song can also be purchased on Apple Music or other digital music services.

-Stuart Manson

UELAC MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Early in the calendar year, we ask members to renew their annual membership. We also recommend that prospective members also take the plunge!

Your support of our branch, and the UELAC in general, is important to us. It provides us with the ability to push forward our special outreach projects, for example.

Annual membership fees remains the same in 2020:

- Individual \$50
- Family \$65

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

The benefits of membership: Access to *The Royal Yorker*, the quarterly newsletter of the St. Lawrence Branch, always chocked full with local history; and an included subscription to *The Loyalist Gazette*, the beautiful glossy magazine of the UELAC, published twice a year.

The new website for easy online renewals is: <https://uelac.ca/>

Follow the instructions on that page to renew your membership. On this site, digital copies of *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

LOYALIST “RECIPT” BOOK UPDATE

In the 18th century, recipes were known as “receipts.” Work on the St. Lawrence Branch Loyalist Recipe Book is well underway. It is a collection of colonial, 18th century, and Loyalist recipes, some submitted to us by Loyalist descendants, and others found in existing cookbooks, and on the Internet. The recipes reflect a decidedly 21st-century spin on traditional recipes.

To give you a bit of a taste of what’s been included in the recipe book to date, have a look at some of the following recipe names:

- Hot Ale Flip
- Raspberry Shrub Bannock
- Loyalist Bread
- 18th Century Crab Apple Verjuice
- Beet Relish
- Crab Apple Jelly
- 18th Century Candied Orange Peel
- Blueberry Grunt
- Loyalist Baked Beans
- And much more!



If you have an old recipe, perhaps handed down through the generations that you’d like to share, please send it along to us. We’d love to include it in

the recipe book. It could be a recipe associated with the Loyalist experience, or one from early Upper Canada or colonial North America. We’re flexible. Please also include a short description of its history and origins.

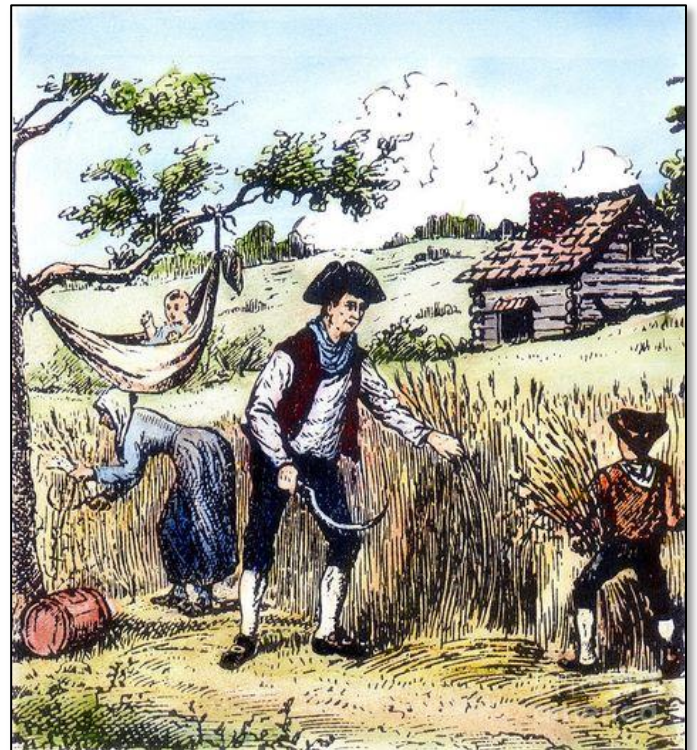
You can send the recipe to us in any format you wish (for example, typed, scanned, or photographed).

Please email the recipes to Laurie McDonald, who is part of the recipe book team, at the following address: imitvictoria@hotmail.com.

Or you can send it by regular mail:

**UELAC St. Lawrence Branch
Loyalist Resource Centre (LRC),
5 College Street, PO Box 58
Iroquois, ON
K0E 1K0**

All the proceeds from the sale of the book will be put towards our branch operations. You’ll be helping our branch grow!



A NEW LOYALIST EDUCATION PROGRAM (ST. LAWRENCE BRANCH)

During the winter, our Interim Vice President Stephen McDonald is revising existing educational material to create a new and modern teaching module for Grades 7 and 8. Stephen is working in close co-operation with Craig Stevenson, a new Branch member who also happens to be a middle school teacher.

They are assessing existing education packages being used by various branches as well as new teaching aids, including social media such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, that can assist in making the subject more appealing to our current generation of students.

Also currently in the works is a special Loyalist trunk being built by the Construction Class at Seaway District High School in Iroquois, Ontario. The replica trunk will be used to house various artefacts from the period 1775-1850. It will look like a trunk used Loyalist soldiers during the American Revolutionary War (pictured below).



One of those Loyalist soldiers was Sergeant Philip Serviss, 2nd Battalion, King's Royal Regiment of New York (KRRNY). Originally from the Mohawk Valley in the colony of New York, Serviss joined the regiment, commanded by Sir John

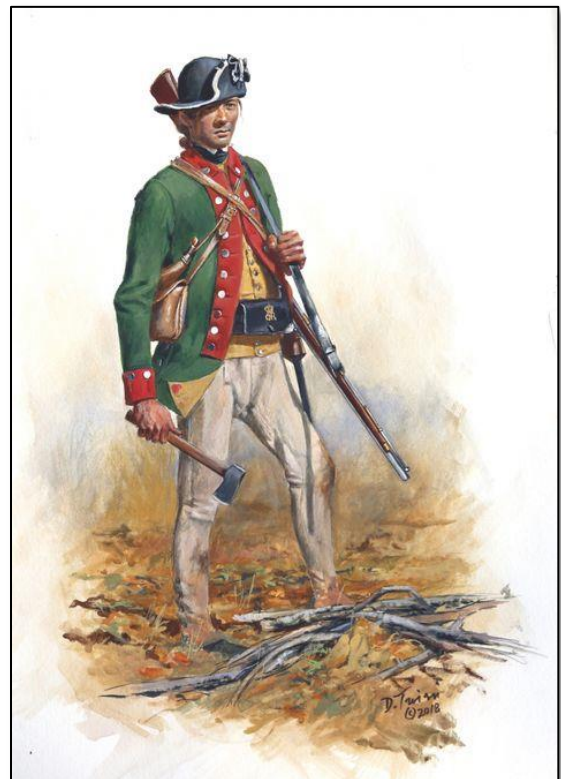
Johnson, in 1776 and fought through to the end of the war in 1783.

Our timeline is to have the new education module completed by June and ready to implement in September 2020.



Engraved on top of the trunk will be "Sgt. Philip Serviss, 2nd Bat. KRRNY."

-Stephen McDonald, Branch Interim V-P



(A member of the KRRNY)

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE OFFING

We are not at liberty to divulge this secret, but stay tuned to our social media accounts, and our website, in late February. We will be making an announcement about a special honour soon to be bestowed upon one of our own!

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES

February 25: John Graves Simcoe, British war hero (Queen's Rangers) and first Lt.-Gov. of Upper Canada, is born (1752).

March 4: The *Constitutional Act*, which would divide Upper and Lower Canada, is introduced in the UK Parliament (1791).

March 14: Sir John Johnson is appointed Superintendent General of Indian Affairs for British North America (1782).

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 LAST WORD

At the end of the American Revolutionary War, Sir John Johnson (commander of the King's Royal Regiment of New York) was concerned that vacancies in his regiment would be filled by outsiders. He wrote to Frederick Haldimand (Governor of Québec) on the subject on November 17, 1783:

"I must once more, in justice to the officers of my regiment, remind your Excellency of the vacancies in both battalions, and as they have been very instrumental in the raising of it, and have served their king and country faithfully, and with honor to themselves, for upwards of seven years, and have suffered considerable losses by their attachment to government, I cannot but flatter myself that your Excellency will, with me, think them the only persons justly entitled to them, and that you will promote them according to seniority and merit."



The next issue of *The Royal Yorker* will be published in April 2020.

