

AUGUST 2026

Volume 15 - Issue 4

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

<http://www.uelac.org/Chilliwack/>

First issue - May 1994

Branch Chartered October 18, 1990

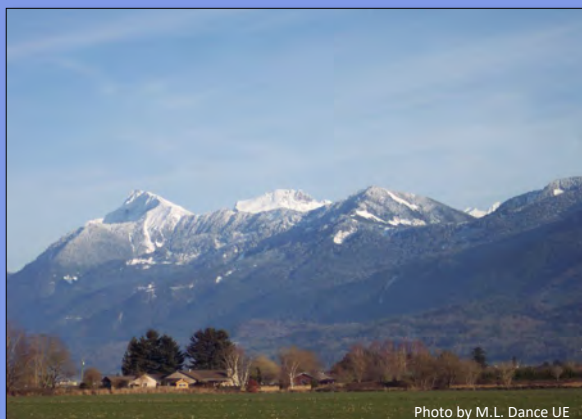
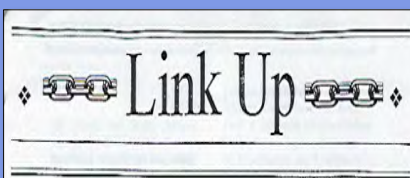


Photo by M.L. Dance UE

President's Message

Each morning I go out and do a bit of gardening before the heat takes over. I am no fan of hot weather and hide indoors when a heat wave hits. It is cooler now and I like it that way.

On July 18th, we gathered at the Rosedale home of Rebecca UE and Kelly Hiebner, to enjoy a BC Loyalist Day picnic. Our thanks for their wonderful hospitality.

This is our first picnic since 2019 when we would go to the home of Shirley UE & Ken Dargatz. We had our flags flying and the tables were all set with red and white cloths with the maple leaf showing. It was just a small group on a cool day. But a few members from Hope came down to join us. Perfect! The sun came out later in the afternoon and it was a delight seeing the kiddies in a sack race, playing on the slide, the swings and the trampoline in the back yard while the rest of us chatted in comfort on the back patio. There was door prize fun. A big thanks to Amber Mulder UE for cutting the cake. People were scattered about doing various things and we forgot to try to get a group picture. But please go to page 3 for the pictures we did get. We are also happy to share pictures from each of the other picnics in the Pacific Region.

Our Branch membership sits at 67 right now and we have met two possible new members through the Library Genealogy Workshops I facilitate. In addition, we are assisting nine members working on their applications including two for Thompson/Okanagan Branch. Our thanks to those who stepped up and asked for a few of the items we were giving away. There are still a few items left, but we have not shown again this issue. Please refer to the April and June issues on our branch web page.

We are planning an October 3rd gathering at the Alliance Church and have arranged for a guest speaker from the Abbotsford Genealogy Society. Have a look at our Calendar page for other events scheduled this year.

We hope to see you at one or all of them.

Loyally yours,
Marlene Dance UE



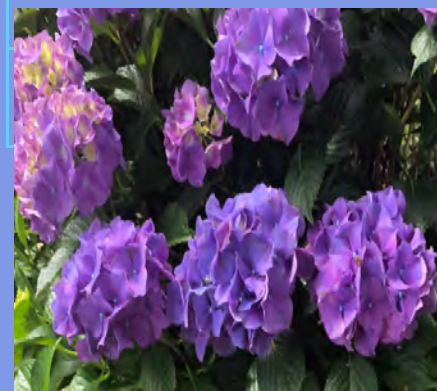
**United Empire
Loyalists' Association
of Canada
Chilliwack Branch**
Your Management Committee
for 2025/26

President: Marlene Dance UE
Vice Pres: vacant
Past Pres: S. Dargatz UE (deceased)
Secretary: Judy Scholz UE
Treasurer: Carole Lefler UE
Genealogist: Marlene Dance UE
Asst. " " Janet McCartney UE
Web Mistress: Vicky Heibner UE
Honourary member:
Margaret Strocel UE
Branch Directors:
Chris Hay UE
Cindy Lyfugt UE
Helena Bastedo Smith UE
Jan Duelliet
Social Conveners:
Vicky Heibner UE
Rebecca Heibner UE
Newsletter: Marlene Dance UE

Pacific Regional VP
Carl Stymiest UE
Pacific Regional Councilor
Michael Woodcock UE



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Calendar of Events for 2026

Print and save with your calendar



Meetings will be scheduled individually.

Details as to location, Zoom links and guest speakers, will be sent via email and/or included below in each edition of this newsletter.

2026:

Oct. 3 Fall meeting with a guest speaker Linda Revershon from Abbotsford Genealogy Society.

Oct. 17 LDS Church, Abbotsford, BC - Finding your Roots.

Nov. 11 Remembrance Day @ Cenotaph & Canton Gardens luncheon

December Annual Christmas event w/Vancouver Branch details TBA

UELAC Conference—June 24– 27, 2027 @ Kingston, Ontario **Note date change**

Be sure to send suggestions, information and/or pictures for this publication to: chwkbrielcontact@gmail.com



United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Please visit our branch webpage: <http://www.uelac.org/Chilliwack/>

Partnering with Heritage Chilliwack Society since 2019

www.heritagechilliwack.org/

"On the Porch" - beautiful old homes in Chilliwack. Just Google to find all eight episodes on YouTube.

Featuring:

Hazel House, Carmichael House, Higginson House, Gwynne Vaughan House, Brock House, Skelton House, Gibbens House.





14th Annual BC Loyalist Day events!

British Columbia Loyalist Day, officially observed each year on **22 July**, was established through **Order in Council No. 903** during the tenure of the Honourable **Steven Lewis Point, OC, OBC**, former Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia and a 2025 UELAC Honorary Fellow.

The day commemorates the remarkable achievement of **Sir Alexander Mackenzie**, the son of a Loyalist, whose historic arrival at the Pacific coast on **22 July 1793** completed the first recorded transcontinental crossing of North America north of Mexico by a European explorer.

Chilliwack Branch Picnic - July 18th in Rosedale, BC



We forgot to do a group shot. But everyone who is there got into a picture. Left is the Sack race & right is the start of the 3-legged race.

**BC Loyalist Day - Picnic Vancouver Branch July 19th
at Port Royal Park, New Westminster.**



Phillip E.M. Leith Memorial Volunteer Award for 2026 (presented at the Picnic)
Rose Marie Curylo UE & Ed Curylo and Daniel Curylo UE (absent)
Congratulations! So well deserved. Photo's thanks to Linda Nygard UE
 L-r: Donna Little UE, Ed Curylo, Kirra Little UE, Rose Marie Curylo UE, Diane Faris UE, Carl Stymiest UE.



Thompson/Okanagan Branch Loyalist Day Picnic - Thursday, July 16th



Email from Sandy:
Here is our Loyalist Day picnic at the Armstrong Gazebo.

Had a lovely lunch and played Linda's Loyalist bingo game.

L-r: Darlene, Linda, Gloria, Dennis, myself and Dorothy.

It was a bit cloudy that morning, so wasn't too hot until we were ready to go.

Perfect day.

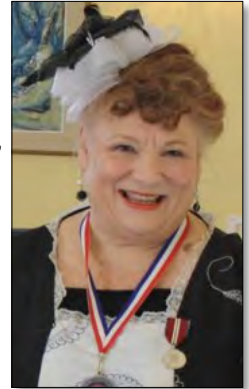
Victoria Branch Loyalist Day picnic at Willows Park, Wednesday, July 22nd, Another beautiful sunny day. Check out all the happy faces!





Certificate issued by Chilliwack Branch

Shirley joined the UELAC Chilliwack Branch in late 1992, having learned of the Loyalists, and her possible connection to them, from her friend and fellow teacher Lois Dickinson UE.



Shirley became the Vice President of the branch in the Fall of 1993, and our second Branch President in March 1996.

She served until April 2018, when she retired to the Past President position. During her tenure, Shirley amassed many honours for her contributions to our Branch, the UELAC, and the Chilliwack community at large.

Here we present her certificate to **Loyalist John Thornton** MC 7495-94.

Generation #1: Shirley Anne Dargatz nee Thornton (1937– 2023) is the daughter of Russell Stanard Thornton (1904-1982) and Constance Fairclough.

Generation #2: Russel Thornton is the son of George Israel Thornton (1860-1942) and Rebecca Jones

Generation #3: George Israel Thornton is the son of John Lewis Thornton (1834-1911) and Sarah Ann Hunt

Generation #4: John Lewis Thornton is the son of George Thornton (1809-1873) and Teressa Pickel

Generation #5: George Thornton is the son of John Thornton Jr. (1782-1850) and Alice Hodges

Generation #6: John Thornton Jr is the son of John Thornton (1750-1825) and Mary Snell

Generation #7: Loyalist John Thornton

Children of this Loyalist are Sarah, John Jr, and Mary (all baptized at York Co.)

Proofs used for Loyalist generation:

#1) 1904 Bureau of Archives page 276-7 - Evidence on the Claim of John Thornton. Also states he served with General Cunningham in 1775.

#2) Loyalists of New Brunswick by Esther Clark Wright page 335, lists John Thornton.

Back in the early 1990's, proofs were not easily found.

And, even now, there are still some difficulties with New Brunswick and Nova Scotia .

So a Fredericton, NB Genealogist and Consultant, Mrs. Elizabeth Sewell was hired to research the name John Thornton. Success!

Since this 1994 approval, another **27** certificates have been approved all using this research.

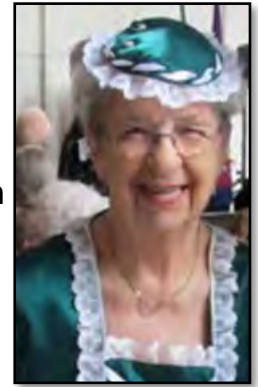
That is money very well spent!

If you have a connection here, please be in touch with us.



Vera Aileen Webb (nee MacDonald)

was a founding member and signer of the application for the Branch Charter in 1990. Her husband Andrew Vincent Webb, (a holder of eleven certificates) was also a founder and signer. Vera received her first two certificates from Vancouver Branch and her third from Chilliwack Branch in 1994.



Here is her certificate for **Loyalist Samuel Kierstead** (MC 3656-86).
A number of branch members also have a Kierstead Loyalist (yet to prove).

Generation #1: Vera Aileen Webb (nee MacDonald) is the daughter of

Generation #2: Julia Annetia Kierstead (1897-1977) and Lewis MacDonald.
Julia is the daughter of

Generation #3: William Robert Kierstead (1862-1935) and Suzanna Milton.
William is the son of

Generation #4: Gilbert Kierstead (1806-1888) and Amelia Nickerson
Gilbert is the son of Isaiah Kierstead

Generation #5: Loyalist Isaiah Kierstead (1761 - 1845) and Elizabeth Lester
Isaiah is the son of Samuel Kierstead (1719-1778) and Mary Johnson of Jamaica, Long Island, New York colony.

He is also the brother of a whole series of Loyalists: check out page 297 of Esther Clark Wright's "Loyalists of New Brunswick".

There you will see listed; Benjamin, Hezekiah, James, Johnson, and Luke.
First Families of New Brunswick: lists all as children of Samuel Kierstead and Mary Johnson. Samuel Kierstead is listed as the son of Samuel Kierstead and Lydia Day. As Samuel died in 1778 before the end of the war, his widow and children (listed above) came from Long Island, NY to NB as Loyalists.

They eventually settled in Kingston Parish, Kings Co.

Proofs used for Loyalist generation #5:

#1) Land grants New Brunswick: Grant #33 dated 1786-05-20 - Queens Co.,
Later to Kings Co.

#2) Loyalists of New Brunswick by Esther Clark Wright page 297
(also names other Kierstead's: Benjamin, Hezekiah, James, Johns(t)on and Luke)

#3) First Families of New Brunswick: Arrivals 99: Section "K" page 16

NOTE: The Kierstead family line appears to have arrived in New Amsterdam (New York) about 1638. Dr. Hans Keirstead (Keirsteade) and wife Sarah Jans Roeloffson married about 1646. They had eight children between 1647 and 1685) .

The Roeloffson line claims descent from the royal house in Holland.

We found this information in a number of places, but do not know if or how this has been verified. So interesting!



When the Maritimes were in Dutch hands!
From Facebook post on Kingston & District Branch of the UELAC
via Backyard History.
Thanks to Anne Redish UE

We're taught in school that what's now Canada was always a colony of England or France. But for one strange stretch in the 1670s, the Maritimes belonged to the Dutch — a colony called Nova Hollandia.

It began in 1673, when a Dutch fleet under Captain Jurriaen Aernoutsz came sailing up the coast in his flagship, the Flying Horse. At a little settlement called New Amsterdam — you know it today as New York City — he met a mysterious figure named John Rhoades, later described at trial as "a pirate," "a coasting pilot," and "an adventuring type." Rhoades convinced him that French Acadia was wealthy, thinly populated, and barely defended. He wasn't wrong. The Dutch stormed up the coast, taking the main French fort at Pentagoet in just two hours, then sailed up the St. John River, dismantling Fort Gemisick and carrying off everything — even the fortifications themselves.

Aernoutsz declared the land Dutch and buried bottles along the river with notes claiming it for the Prince of Orange. As far as anyone knows, they've never been found.

(Maybe they're still there!)

Lurking behind it all may have been the VOC — the Dutch East India Company — the most valuable corporation in human history, worth an estimated \$8 trillion in today's money.

But then the Dutch made a mistake.

They declared a trade blockade that turned everyone against them.

Nova Hollandia ended in a chaotic 1675 sea battle so confused that Dutch ships tore down their own flags and fired on each other — yet remarkably enough, nobody died.

So, Nova Hollandia was not a very long period in The Maritimes' history. In fact, by the time the Dutch government finally learned that they even HAD a colony called Nova Hollandia, it had already fallen and was gone!

🎧 That's the short version of Nova Hollandia! Hear the full strange saga on the Backyard History Podcast:

<https://apple.co/3Mzwlvp>

📖 Or read the long-form story here:

backyardhistory.ca/f/when-the-maritimes-were-dutch

📖 The story of Nova Hollandia appears in the second Backyard History book. Order signed copies at:

backyardhistory.ca/books





Save The Date!

Our Victoria Branch of the United Empire Loyalists will be 100 years old in 2027.

Please plan to join us as we mark that exciting milestone with a very special luncheon!

Details:

Centenary Luncheon on April 10, 2027 at noon,

**At the Union Club,
805 Gordon Street
Victoria, BC**

We will have a very special buffet menu, fascinating historical displays, engrossing audio visual presentations and enlightened speeches and storytelling. We expect visiting royalty, special guests from our National Office and other branches, incredible decor, and you, dear members (and please plan to bring your special partner). Ok, so maybe no royalty, but it won't be for lack of trying!!

To help commemorate this auspicious occasion, period Loyalist dress will be appreciated but please consider wearing optional **"1927"** attire. For this centenary, it will be absolutely appropriate. Lindy Hop anyone? Feather boas and swinging fringes - this is your opportunity to sparkle!

Now, while everyone is excited and in the mood, please send us an email as soon as possible to let us know if you are planning to attend. This will really help us with our reservation numbers. Ticket sales will follow at a later date.

Hope to see you there! It'll be the Bees Knees! The Cat's Meow!

Your Centenary Committee

Kris Cavers
Joan MacKenzie

2027 UELAC National Conference dates: June 24 - 27th

Mark on your Calendar! Note the date change please.

If you marked your calendar, please note that due to a Hotel Booking conflict, the 2027 UELAC Conference date has been changed to the above.

This Conference is being Hosted by the Bay of Quinte and Kingston Branch UELAC.



**The primary hotel is the
Holiday Inn Waterfront,
2 Princess Street,
Kingston, Ontario**

Right: Waterfront view from a balcony.



Below: Banquet room set up.



**United Empire Loyalists
Association of Canada**

