



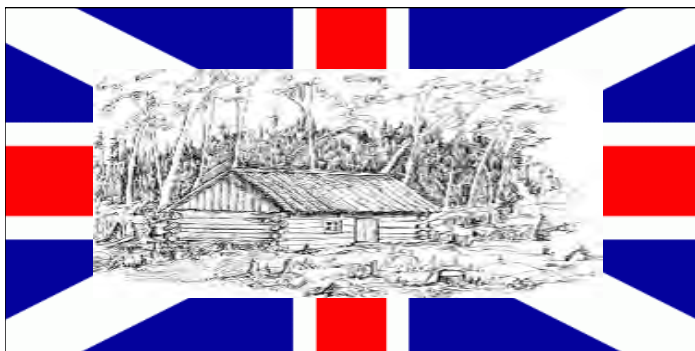
The Kawartha Periodical



Newsletter of the **Kawartha Branch** of the **United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada**

Web site: <<http://www.uelac.org/Kawartha>>

Volume 24, Issue 02 *The Kawartha Branch was granted its charter on 23 June 1979* Fall 2024 / Winter 2025



The President's Message

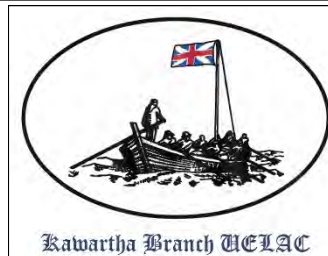
Our Kawartha Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada has been busy since my last report.

This is the first year that our Branch participated in three Wreath-laying ceremonies on Remembrance Day! In October, Richard Staples, in charge of our Colour Guard, rented tables at the Peterborough Armouries in order to set up war memorabilia and a Branch display introducing the public to what Kawartha Branch does and where we meet. Patricia Staples, Grietje McBride, Joan Lucas and I greeted folks and gave out pamphlets. Our display attracted much interest. Mr. Christopher Scott, one of the three managers of the Museum at the Armouries, was very interested in joining our Branch activities and, indeed, came to our Christmas luncheon.

Interest and attendance in our gatherings at Kelseys has grown with more members and spouses attending than last year. At the dinner, Richard Staples donated post cards for us to write a cheerful message to the sailors on a new ship on its way to patrol the Arctic (a great idea to get our group known).

To welcome everyone, Grietje McBride gave each attendee a signed Christmas ornament and a card with humorous or witty thoughts about family trees and genealogy and history. Reading the cards provided entertainment and a sense of community among us. Door prizes were given along with a promise of meeting again around Valentines' Day to celebrate friendship and family.

Chris Scott is inviting any who would like to have a private tour of the Armouries and museum to contact Ken or Grietje for planning a tour in the New Year.



I would like to thank everyone for remembering my wife, Gail, who passed away so recently. Your gift card will help out with meals! It is at time like these that having wonderful friends and relatives really helps. Thanks ever so much to everyone.



I wish you all a Merry Christmas and I look forward to many get togethers in the New Year.

Ken Spry UE
President,
Kawartha Branch
UELAC.

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From The Editor's Desk ...

Here in Kawartha Branch, we feel that we have a great deal to offer to our Members as we continue into the future.



To maintain an informative and interesting newsletter, we are actively seeking your family history or passed-down stories of Loyalists and their family adventures.

I trust that you find this Fall - Winter 2024 issue of our *Kawartha Periodical* newsletter of interest and we look forward to hearing from you !!!

Sincerely and loyally yours,
Bob McBride UE,
Kawartha Branch
Newsletter Editor.



We have successfully completed the Certificate Application for Anne Dunec's Loyalist ancestor, Joseph Hicks UEL. Hopefully we can present it formally when we meet in-person and virtually on April 13, 2025.

As always, we are happy to meet with you to talk about what you have discovered as you explore your family tree !!!

Enjoy your time discovering new leads, meeting people with common interests and learning.

Grietje and Bob McBride UE
Kawartha Branch Co-Genealogists
Phone: 705-295-4556
E-mail: maplegm@gmail.com
or: uelbob@nexicom.net.



Genealogists' Report

Grietje is looking into Genealogists or researchers in other areas of Canada, such as the Gaspé region for some Members needing proofs that are not yet online.

At our September Branch meeting, Angela Johnson UE, UELAC Genealogist, presented Ryan Killins UE and Brandon McDermott UE with their Loyalist Certificates and found two more Loyalist ancestors for them that we can prove based on the Certificate applications that they have already submitted.

As well, we wanted to share with you the success we have had using AI [Artificial Intelligence] to translate old French marriage records. AI can search and apply formal language usually used in these documents as well as letter recognition that forms words and names in the document scanned.



Shhhh!
Be vewy,
vewy quiet.
I'm hunting
forebears.





Treasurer's Report

August 31 through October 31, 2024 (unaudited)



Opening Bank Balance Aug 31, 2024	\$858.00
Received from CIBC Wood Gundy portfolio	500.00
Paid Angela Johnson - Guest speaker Sept 15/24	100.00
Paid OHS Dues to Nov 1, 2025	55.00
Paid Door Prize for Sept 15 meeting (T. Staples)	25.00
Paid Remembrance Day wreath (B. Atkinson)	80.00
Paid for Unicell Locker #11 shelves, storage boxes (F. Lucas)	649.00
Paid Bank fees	5.00
Closing bank balance Oct 31, 2024	444.00



Respectfully submitted,
Frank Lucas, Treasurer,
Kawartha Branch UELAC

Frank has been our Kawartha Branch Treasurer for many years and is about to retire. We wish him well in his well-deserved retirement !!!



Membership Report



We have 90 members in Kawartha Branch. Membership renewals have been underway since October 31st. Once the Postal Strike is over, mail delivery of Branch renewals will be received. Our Executive Board is trying to provide you with interesting and entertaining speakers and activities.

Our luncheon with its fun activities at Kelseys was very well attended. Events like this help us get to know each other. Please see the last two pages of this newsletter for Membership details.

We are planning two meetings before the annual flag raising on June 19 this year.

Mark your calendars for a February 16th Zoom meeting with our guest speaker to be announced.

Our April Annual General Meeting will take place on April 13th when Dr. Amy Barron will speak to us about conservation on early paper records and documents.

At this AGM Members will install Madeline Lucas UE as our new Branch Treasurer.

Also in the planning stage is an opportunity to have a private tour of the Armouries and Museum in the new year.

Please contact me if you would like to join the executive. We still need a Secretary and a Social Convenor.

The other exciting news is that Bill Russell, one of our Kawartha Branch Members, will be installed as the National President for UELAC at the National Conference in July. We are hoping that as many as possible will attend the Conference in St. John, New Brunswick, to support him. There will be lots of information in the new year about how to register to attend.

We are more than a group of history-minded researchers: we are family.

Sincerely and loyally yours,

Grietje R. McBride UE,

Kawartha Branch Membership Chair.





FROM THE HISTORIAN'S CORNER:

Our Kawartha Branch UELAC Historian, Joan Lucas UE, has offered to share with you an article in each up-coming issue

of *The Kawartha Periodical* newsletter.

Here's the one that she wrote for this issue:

IN SEARCH OF " *FRENCH EYES* "

In my family, my third great grandmother, Mary Jane (Campbell) Stephens, claimed that some of us had "*French Eyes*". My aunt, her great granddaughter, was one of them and Grandma (Campbell) Stephens left her beautiful clover dinnerware to her. Grandma had those "*French Eyes*" from a French Canadian ancestress. Deep into genealogy, I had to believe there was a French connection somewhere, but where?

I set out to find what I believe is a Campbell U.E. ancestor. I knew only minimal information. Some members of the Campbell family had dark brown eyes and had settled in Cramahe Township, Northumberland County, in 1797. My research goes back to Michael Campbell, b. 1800 in Cramahe Township (family lore), who, I think, may have been a grandson of Oliver Campbell U.E. of Cramahe Township, Northumberland County, Ontario. Michael received a land grant as a settler in Hallowell Township, Prince Edward County, Ontario. There is much to prove. Somewhere a dark-eyed French Canadian girl had married a Campbell man. Where would a soldier have met just such a girl?

There was Oliver himself and four sons, all U.E., and that meant they were all "*of age*" to have fought in the American Revolution. Oliver first was evacuated from Long Island, New York, to Shelbourne, Nova Scotia. Oliver was already married but his sons were of marriageable age. Lots of Acadian families living there offered a chance meeting.

The Oliver Campbell families didn't stay in Nova Scotia but moved to Sorel, Quebec, as part of Peter Van Alstine Associate Loyalists. Lots of brown-eyed lassies there. The Peter Van Alstine group were relocated and settled in Cataraqui, Township #4, (Adolphustown Township) in 1784. Oliver Campbell was part of Captain Michael Grass' refugees group and, with him, moved to Cataraqui Twp. # 1, (Kingston), around the former fur trading Fort Frontenac. Several French families settled there as they were employed in rebuilding Fort Frontenac and the harbour facilities. They also operated the bateau service of transporting Loyalist refugees from Sorel to Kingston and points west. Oliver's family settled there until 1797 when Cramahe Township was surveyed and settled.

Oliver Campbell and his four sons all received Loyalist land grants in Cramahe Township.

**My question now was, “*Who did the sons marry and what children did they have?*”
Or am I just chasing shadows?**



Quebecois Voyageurs moving settlers by bateau along the St. Lawrence River

My next question was, “*Why did the French Canadians and their daughters, live on friendly terms with former British soldiers?*”

If one of my Michael Campbell’s ancestors was a French Canadian with those sparkling brown eyes, then her family must have been on somewhat friendly terms with the Loyalist soldiers. I found several reasons why this occurred.

The French Canadians had not forgotten their losses to the British fifteen years earlier, during the French and Indian War (1754-1763) or the Battle of the Plains of Abraham that resulted in the fall of Quebec to the British. It was still fresh in their minds. The Quebec French were bitter and the British needed to do something to appease them as there was unrest and trouble brewing in the American colonies.

The British parliament passed the Quebec Act that became effective in May of 1775, before the outbreak of the American Revolution. The Act guaranteed the people of Quebec the right to their French language, their Catholic religion, their existing land ownership, and to be ruled by the Napoleonic Code of Laws rather than the English Common Law. The Americans listed this Act as “*One of the five Intolerant Acts*” and it was one of the sparks to the American Revolution. The Americans would have forbidden the use of the French language and the Catholic faith. This would have been devastating to the Quebecois, to their French language and to their faith.

The Quebecois were also angry at France for the French lack of support during the French and Indian War, and the Quebecois felt betrayed.

So while the Quebecois didn’t particularly like the British, they felt they would be assimilated into the American culture. So, most of them remained neutral. Then the Americans led an assault on Quebec City. The Quebecois resisted and an enmity, that diplomacy could not heal, resulted in the Quebecois militia supporting the British. The assault was defeated. The attempt to make Quebec the fourteenth colony of America failed.

Quebec Act, 1774

The *Quebec Act* received royal assent on 22 June 1774. It revoked the *Royal Proclamation of 1763*, which had aimed to assimilate the French-Canadian population under English rule. The *Quebec Act* was put into effect on 1 May 1775. It was passed to gain the loyalty of the French-speaking majority of the *Province of Quebec*. Based on recommendations from Governors *James Murray* and *Guy Carleton*, the Act guaranteed the freedom of worship and restored French property rights. However, the Act had dire consequences for Britain's North American empire. Considered one of the five "Intolerable Acts" by the Thirteen American Colonies, the *Quebec Act* was one of the direct causes of the *American Revolutionary War* (1775–83). It was followed by the *Constitutional Act* in 1791.



The assault on Quebec City by the American forces under Major Gen. Benedict Arnold during a snow blizzard

France, in the meantime, in 1776, established a pact with the American Revolutionaries to supply them with military supplies and money. Convoys of French merchandize were shipped to the American colonies. As French merchants continued to lose money to the British Naval defences, France declared war on England and French troops joined the Americans in time for the Siege of Savannah.

The Siege of Savannah



Meanwhile the Quebecois did not join the French forces in America. They had had enough war and didn't want any more. The Quebecois considered the Americans to be New England Puritans and enemies to the Catholic faith. When the Americans invaded Quebec and captured Montreal, they ordered churches burned and stole supplies from the Quebec farmers, "*paying*" for them with paper script which was worthless. When the Americans were forced to retreat from Montreal, they attempted to burn the city. Wet, rainy weather foiled them. The Quebecois chose, "*the lesser of two evils*", and remained neutral or supported the British with their militia.

That brings me back to those "*French Eyes*" in my family. As people will, individual friendships developed and a pair of sparkling brown eyes attracted a Loyalist soldier far from home. The rest is history.

I have yet to find my source of flashing brown eyes and the Quebecois sweetheart of my Loyalist soldier but I'll keep trying!

Happy ancestor hunting!

Joan Lucas, U.E., Kawartha Branch Historian. Saturday, 16 November 2024.

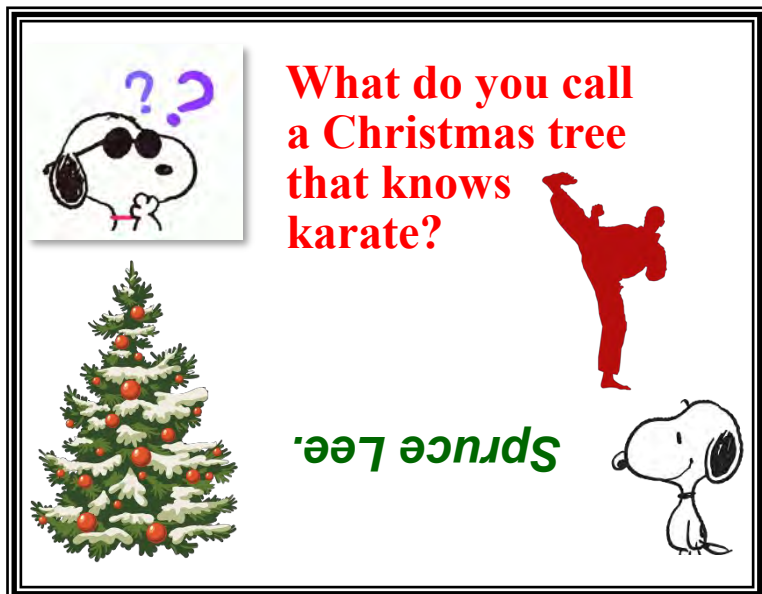
The picture of the bateau is by artist Frances Anne Hopkins, Library of Canada.

The two pictures of the Assault on Quebec and the Battle of Savannah came from Wikipedia.

For further information see "*French-Canadian and Acadian Loyalists*", an article written by John P. Dulong, Ph.D., Wayne State University, Michigan. The emphases in this article is on the Quebecois militia joining with the British at the Battle of Detroit.

Kawartha Branch Board of Directors and Committees for 2024 - 2025

President	Ken Spry UE	705-745-6422	ken309810@gmail.com
Immediate Past President	Bill Russell UE	705-313-9820	billrussell10@gmail.com
First Vice-President	To be announced		
Second Vice-President	To be announced		
Secretary	To be announced		
Treasurer	Frank Lucas (looking forward to retiring soon !!!)	705-876-9800	frank.lucas@sympatico.ca
	Madeline Lucas UE Treasurer-elect	C: 705-957-7990	madelinelucas@ymail.com
Co-Genealogists	Grietje McBride UE and Bob McBride UE	705-295-4556	maplegm@nexicom.net uelbob@nexicom.net
Programme Convenor	Graham Hart UE	705-743-6837	egrahamhart@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor, Publicity and Publications Chair	Bob McBride UE	705-295-4556	uelbob@nexicom.net
Sales and Displays	Bill Atkinson UE	705-313-9828	xpitco@gmail.com
Historian-Archivist	Joan Lucas UE	705-876-9800	jflucas@sympatico.ca
Membership and Telephone Chairperson	Grietje McBride UE	705-295-4556	maplegm@gmail.com
Web Master & Publicity	Bob McBride UE	705-295-4556	uelbob@nexicom.net
Education Advisors	Grietje McBride UE	705-295-4556	maplegm@gmail.com
	Bob McBride UE	705-295-4556	uelbob@nexicom.net
Social Convenor	To be announced		
Lending Library	Ken Spry UE	705-745-6422	ken309810@gmail.com
	Patricia "Trish" Staples UE		trishstaples@gmail.com
Colour Party	Dr. Richard Staples	705-930-6408	richardeveryman090@gmail.com
	Graham Hart UE	705-743-6837	egrahamhart@yahoo.com
Directors	Bill Atkinson UE	705-313-9828	xpitco@gmail.com
	Graham Hart UE	705-743-6837	egrahamhart@yahoo.com
	A. Joan Lucas UE	705-876-9800	jflucas@sympatico.ca
	Bob McBride UE	705-295-4556	uelbob@nexicom.net



What do you call a Christmas tree that knows karate?

Spruce Lee.



I, OF COURSE, VOLUNTEER!

We need volunteers to serve as:

President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Branch Secretary, Social Convenor.

If you are interested, please contact any Member of our Board of Directors !!!



Our Immediate Past Kawartha Branch President, and Senior Vice-President of the Association, Bill Russell UE, thought that you would enjoy reading this article:

This is about my 6th great grandfather, John Munroe. It will be a two part series, with the second part in the Spring issue.

JOHN MUNROE: PATRIOT/LOYALIST

I recently received my Loyalist Certificate for my 6th great grandfather, John Munroe UEL. While researching his life, I was surprised to discover he originally served in the Massachusetts 9th Regiment during the Revolutionary War. He later switched sides serving with Lt. Colonel John Graves Simcoe in the Queen's Rangers and received land as a Loyalist in Pennfield, New Brunswick.

I decided to do a two-part article for *The Kawartha Periodical* with the first part highlighting his life as a Patriot/Rebel and doing a future article as a Loyalist. I will included sworn affidavits that he and others submitted when he applied for a pension from the United States for his earlier war service that shows his early life and military career.

John was born on Indian Island in the Passamaquoddy Bay, Massachusetts, in the spring of 1760; he did not know his birth date. John's father died before he was a year old and his mother moved with him to Truro, Massachusetts, where she worked as a domestic for the Lombard family. His mother died before he was 10 years old and he was indentured to the Lombard family.

When the War broke out, James Lombard was called to duty. He took 16 years old, John, with him to the army headquarters in Athol, Massachusetts. James Lombard signed John up to serve in his stead as was permitted by law and returned home. John was assigned to the 9th Regiment of the Massachusetts Colonial Army with a local friend, James Hutchins. James kept a diary during the War and later wrote a book on his experiences and this is how John Munroe recounted his war service.

His muster roll states, John was five feet five inches tall with brown hair and a brown complexion. During the summer of 1777, Fort Stanwix, near Oriskany, New York, was held by the Colonies but was surrounded by the British and a body of their Indian allies.

The American fort was about to fall and they sent out a request for help. Major General Benedict Arnold volunteered to lead an American force up the Mohawk Valley to aid the Fort. Arnold asked for volunteers, so John Munroe and his friend, Moses Hutchins, stepped forward. They were instructed to prepare light packs and be ready to march within the hour. While marching to Fort Stanwix, Arnold heard that the British were recruiting local Loyalist residents to join their forces. Arnold's troops surrounded a farm house and captured the Loyalists who were at the meeting.

Among the captured were two native boys, one named Hon Yost Schuyler. His mother plead for their lives. Schuyler was known as a “*half Wit*” and Arnold decided upon a way he could use this to his advantage. The natives had a special respect for the mentally unbalanced people. They believed that they were closer to God. Arnold offered to give them their freedom if they would go to Col. Butler’s camp and tell his Indian friends that Arnold’s force was 3,000 men strong and were marching to surround the British camp to free the Fort.



Arnold sent a friendly Oneida Indian to confirm Schuyler’s story.

The plan worked and the Mohawks mutinied with part of the British supplies and headed home to their village. The British, with their ranks diminished, abandoned the siege and left their heavy equipment and supplies, hurriedly rushing to escape.



Arnold stayed in the camp overnight and, in the morning, followed the British to Wood Creek and managed to capture more equipment and supplies. A heavy rain began to fall, however, and turned the trail into a swamp, so they decided to return to Fort Stanwix. Arnold left 700 men at the Fort and, along with Munroe and Hutchins, marched to Schenectady. After resting and patrolling the area, the troop was ordered to Stillwater under the command of General Horatio Gates where they would face the British, led by General Burgoyne.

The forces met for battle at Freeman’s Farm, in Stillwater, New York, on September 19, 1777. The fighting continued for a month with Munroe and Hutchins participating in these battles. During one of the last battles, Arnold saw General Learner’s brigade marching toward the west end of the British defenses. He dashed across the entire battlefield and rallied his troops to follow him. This hit a weak part of the link and two log cabins were overrun. Col. Wesson’s regiment was among those Arnold had ordered to charge the enemy. The Americans succeeded in making a hole in the British defense line and repulsed a German Hessian charge. The British evacuated this defense line and retreated to Saratoga. On October 17, 1777, John Munroe stood nearby and saw General Burgoyne surrender his sword and army to General Gates.

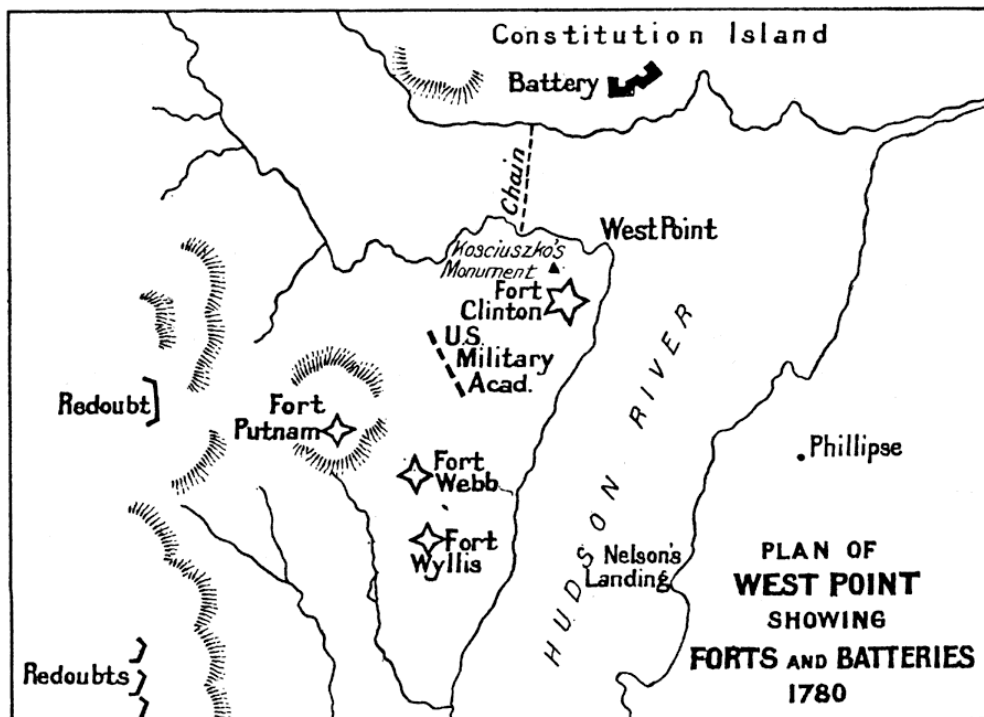
This was a pivotal win for the Colonial Army and changed the course of the War.

John and his friend, James Hutchins, then marched with the army to Valley Forge in Pennsylvania and wintered with General George Washington’s troops. John later stated that, at Valley Forge, the men were cold and hungry and they lived in make-shift huts. Many soldiers were dressed in rags and some were barefoot. At one point the entire army was without meat for a week. All were at the point of starving and many soldiers did not survive the winter.



Valley Forge

John took part in the Battle of Monmouth. Following the battle, the troops moved to White Plains, New York, and John was stationed later at West Point. General Arnold quarreled with the Pennsylvania authorities and, as a result, received a reprimand from General Washington. His pride was hurt but he requested command of West Point and was given it on August 3, 1780.



West Point, 1780

Arnold, after taking command, began to plan his revenge and employed Major John Andre in his plot to surrender West Point to the British in consideration of a high command in the British Army. Andre was caught as a spy and was executed while John's friend, Uri Babbit, was on guard duty.

Before Arnold could be arrested, he escaped to the British Army and was given a command. According to Hutchins' diary, "*the men at West Point could not believe their ears when Arnold had betrayed them and fled to the enemy*". Arnold was a living legend to the Patriots and soon became the most hated man in America.

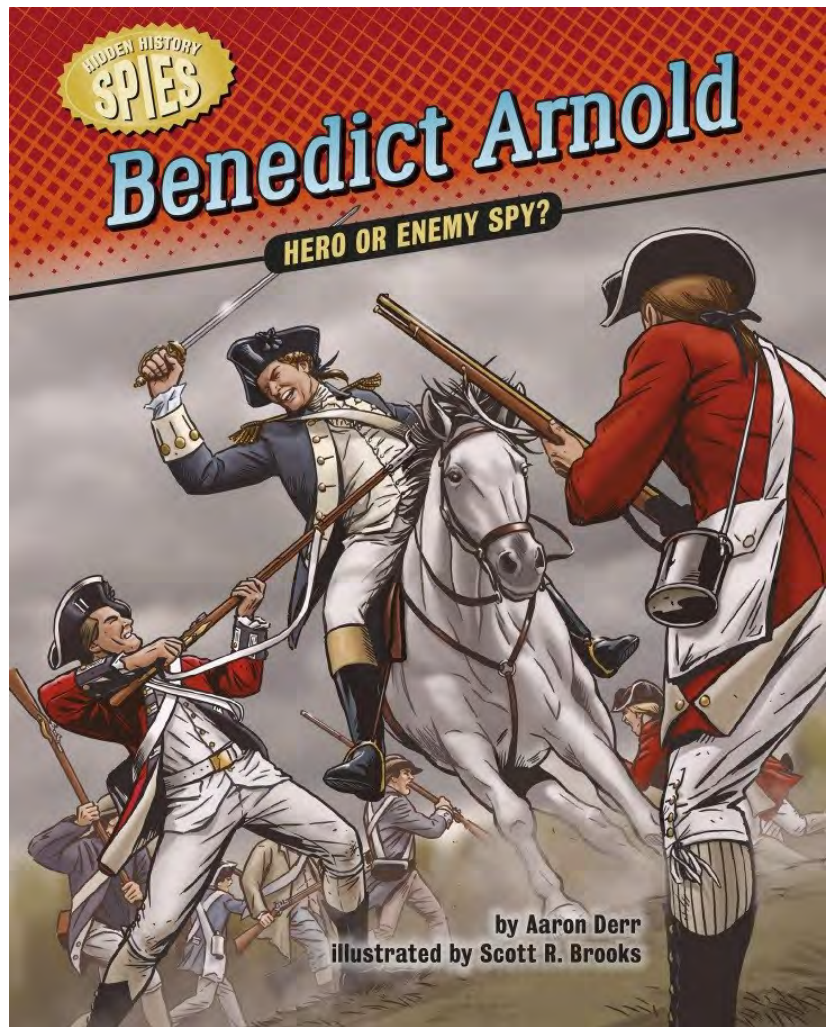
The Continental Army pay accounts reported that John Munroe and Elijah Coates deserted from the American Army on September 22, 1780, not long after Arnold's defection and joined the Queen's Rangers Hussars as Privates in Captain Alexander Wickham's troop under the command of Lt. Col. John Graves Simcoe.



Queen's Rangers Hussars



Lieutenant Colonel John Graves Simcoe.



We know that both Armies had an elaborate spy network.

Were John Munroe and Elijah Coates two of Arnold's spies and had to leave before they were outed?

Editor's Note: outed = In English, many past and present participles of verbs can be used as adjectives. "As court cases proceeded, the military outed many of their soldiers." From Wikipedia

The further story of John Munroe UEL will be continued in the next issue.

Bill Russell UE



Kawartha Branch
United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Visit Branch Information
- Kawartha Branch, UELAC
@ www.uelac.org/Kawartha/branch.php

We believe that the study of the United Empire Loyalists and their contribution to the development of Canada should be promoted, encouraged and communicated to the public through education, genealogical research, the teaching of Loyalist history in schools and the preservation of Loyalist records and artefacts; for the legacy from our Loyalist ancestors has been a significant factor in forming the strong roots that makes Canada the best country in the world in which to live.





Loyalist Corner



Each of these UE ancestors have been highlighted in issues of *The Kawartha Periodical* :

Issue	Loyalist
Volume 5, Issue 1	· William Fairchild UE · Andrew Denike UE · Adam Young UE & Henry Young UE
Volume 5, Issue 2	· Sgt. Henry Buchner (Boughner, Buckner) UE · Jacob DeCou UE & Captain John DeCou
Volume 6, Issue 1	· Martin Silmzer UE
Volume 6, Issue 2	· Richard Rogers UE · James Rogers UE
Volume 7, Issue 1	· Capt. Jacobus Peck Jr. UE · James Peck Jr. UE
Volume 7, Issue 2	· Sgt. Gabriel Purdy UE · Timothy Pringle (Prindle) UE · Daniel Fraser UE
Volume 8, Issue 1	· John Hagerman Sr. UE · Peter Irish UE · McGregor Van Every UE
Volume 8, Issue 2	· Thomas Goheen Sr. UE · John Howell UE · John Stevens Sr. UE
Volume 9, Issue 1	· Col. David Breakenridge UE
Volume 9, Issue 2	· Philip Hartman UE
Volume 10, Issue 1	· David Springer UE
Volume 10, Issue 2	· John Howell UE · Descendants of Adam Young UE
Volume 11, Issue 1	· Henry Munger UE
Volume 11, Issue 2	· Catherine Kester
Volume 12, Issue 1	· John Lake Senior UE
Volume 12, Issue 2	· Robert Land UE
Volume 13, Issue 1	· Col. William Marsh UE
Volume 14, Issue 1	- Ordella Pymar, Mrs. (John) Eastman Orser UE
Volume 14, Issue 2	- The Palatine LOTT Family
Volume 15, Issue 1	- Robert Bessey Senior UE
Volume 15, Issue 2	- The Finckel Family



Volume 16, Issue 1	- "Old" John Conklin UE
Volume 16, Issue 2	- Fort Ninety Six and Robert Graham UE
Volume 17, Issue 1	- My Morden Trail by Douglas G. Morden UE
Volume 17, Issue 2	- Murder of John Irish by Anna Isabel (Irish) Wessell UE
Volume 18, Issue 1	- Adam Young UE updated
Volume 18, Issue 2	- Major the Reverend James Donald Howson UE is 104
Volume 19, Issue 1	- Abraham Dafoe UE and family by A. Joan Lucas UE
Volume 19, Issue 2	- Memories of Major the Reverend James Donald Howson UE, by Graham Hart UE
Volume 20, Issue 1	- John Lake Senior UE, by Joan Lucas UE
Volume 20, Issue 2	- Memories of World War Two by Members of Kawartha Branch
Volume 21, Issue 1	- Troy Easter UE restores tombstones
Volume 21, Issue 2	- War of 1812 Veterans: Alexander McDonnell Captain Charles Rubidge Francis Brockell Spilsbury
Volume 22, Issue 1	- Loyalists As Absentee Owners by Allan McGillivray UE
Volume 22, Issue 2	- General James Wolfe, Sir Guy Carleton, Chief Joseph Brant THAYENDANEGEA
Volume 23, Issue 1	- A Descent into Heritage Research by John Hooper UE
Volume 23, Issue 2	- "Christmas With The Loyalists" by Marcus Van Steen (originally published in the <i>Family Herald</i> , No. 26, December 21, 1967, pp. 33, 35.
Volume 24, Issue 1	- "Frederick Keller UE, a United Empire Loyalist" By Brandon Edward Thomas McDermott UE
Volume 24, Issue 2	- "How We Were Flooded Out" By Lois Barron (nee McNairn) UE

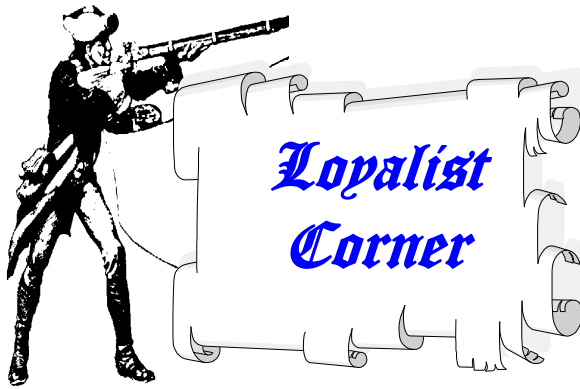
Reminder

Please send any change of address or contact details to
Grietje McBride UE
 so that we can keep
our Kawartha Branch Membership List up-to-date !!!

She can be reached at:

Grietje McBride UE
Maple Grove Farms,
2260 North Esson Line,
Indian River, Ontario. K0L 2B0
Phone: 705-295-4556
E-mail: maplegm@gmail.com





Here for your reading pleasure is an article from one of our Members of the Kawartha Branch UELAC:

HOW WE WERE FLOODED OUT

By Lois Barron (nee McNairn) UE



Here's a picture of the McNairn family home before the seaway as it sat next to the canal beside the wonderful St. Lawrence River. This home was about one mile east of Mille Roches and the area was called Maple Grove. It was about six miles west of Cornwall, I believe.



Here is a picture of the house as it now stands across from the Lost villages Museum. It does not have the lovely veranda on the front that it had pre-Seaway.



Here is a picture that shows the canal and river behind our two homes.



As well, here are two pictures of our small home on the farm which was next door to the McNairn family home as it was pre-Seaway



and afterward is now in the village of Long Sault, which was one of the towns built for the displaced people of Mille Roches and Moulinette.

Bill and Judy McNairn, brother and sister, in front of the former McNairn home that was moved to Long Sault.





Here's a picture of the barns across Highway 2 that went between the houses and the barns.

I even have a copy of the lots as they were laid out for the UE people when they got their land with my great grandfather's name on it.

I have included a picture of my Grandfather, William, and Grandmother, Arazetta.

William was the third in the McNairn line: there was John McNairn UE, then Elisha McNairn, John's son, then my Grandfather, William, then Stanley McNairn, who was my Uncle.

My father, Geoffrey, ran the farm from the time he was in the 8th Grade as his Dad, William, was quite ill and died in 1940. Sadly, when my Grandma died in the early 1950's, Dad did not inherit the farm as everyone presumed he would.

The farm was left to my Uncle Stanley who had it from the early 1950's until the Seaway took it away.

The Seaway and the land was buried in water. About 60 feet of water is over our farmland !!!

It was a very sad day, when we had to leave the farm and everything on it when

Uncle Stanley took over and another sadder day seeing all the buildings removed or destroyed when the Seaway came along.



My dad went on to open the first Dairy Queen between Montreal and Toronto about 1956 in Cornwall, ON.



Cornwall

AUG • 62



The McNairn farm was the only land that remained in the same name from 1784 until the time of the Seaway.

The *Cornwall Freeholder* on Saturday, April 27, 1946, did an article on the “*Unusual Record Held by the McNairn Family*”.

It is believed that my great great grandfather, John McNairn, came over to Canada with Sir John Johnson in the advance party that scouted the Canadian riverfront for suitable homebuilding sites back in 1776.



The *Loyalist Corner*

Wants Your Stories !!!



Many years ago an appeal was made for Kawartha Branch Members to submit a summary or vignette of their Loyalist ancestor. When I revived our Branch Newsletter in the spring of 1997 with Volume 5, Issue 1, Joan Lucas UE, then our Branch President, provided me with seventeen vignettes of varying lengths that had been submitted to her over the years from Branch Members. Now, having published over fifty vignettes, we have none left in our archives. Thus we are in desperate need of new material to ensure the continuation of the *Loyalist Corner* in future issues. You will find a complete listing of what is in our archives and the vignettes that have been published in the past issues on page 14 of this newsletter. Vignettes or histories of your Loyalist ancestor need not be lengthy nor fully documented. Our readership is most interested in the story of your Loyalist ancestor and it is best described in your own words.



Please help !!!

MORE ABOUT THE JOHN MCNAIRN UE FAMILY

The McNairn Farm, at Maple Grove, was in our family for about 172 years from the 1784 until approximately 1956 when the St Lawrence Seaway began to be built.

There was John McNairn UE, my 3rd Great Grandfather, his son, Alexander, my 2nd Great Grandfather, next Alexander's son, Elisha, my Great Grandfather, and next, Elisha's son, William McNairn, my Grandfather.

Six generations lived on that land which was at first 262 acres but, by 1946 or before, it was only 100 acres due to roads and the canal next to the river being built as well as some acreage being sold.

This McNairn family can be traced back to 1672 to Alexander McNairn who was born in the highlands of Scotland. He lived until 1742 and then his son, William became the 1st Laird of Tyntellock Knowe.

John (UE), one of Alexander's sons, came to the United States, where he had a prosperous farm in the Mohawk Valley, Province of New York. John became acquainted with Sir John Johnson and when Sir John fought his way north to Canada, John McNairn was one of his Officers. John McNairn had been persecuted due to wanting to work out a deal with Great Britain instead of fighting. He was put in jail perhaps more than once because people thought he was not loyal to the States.

It is believed that John was in the advance party scouting out suitable sites for building homes as early as 1776 along the St. Lawrence River in Upper Canada.

The original deed is still in the McNairn Family's possession. The Hon. Peter Russell, Administration for Upper Canada, signed the deed on behalf of King George III of Great Britain, France and Ireland.

John died in 1814 and the farm was taken over by his son, Alexander McNairn, until 1854 when he died and the land was passed on to his son, Elisha, who owned it for the next 50 years and, in 1904, his son, William, my grandfather, took over the farm until 1936 when he died leaving the farm to his wife, Arazetta.

Arazetta passed the farm upon her death to her youngest son, Stanley, in about 1951 who had it until the St. Lawrence Seaway began about 1954.



The McNairn house was large and beautiful in its day. There were big, old maple trees all around the house and a lovely large veranda on the front with rocking chairs to sit on enjoying sunsets or just having some cooler air in the heat of summer.

The house was built in the late 1800's because the old homestead had to be torn down to make way for the canal which would bypass the Long Sault Rapids.

The canal was built on the north side of the river, quite close to the river, for ships to move up the St. Lawrence to bypass the huge, dangerous Rapids. This took a fair bit of the McNairn property at the back of their home.



Geoffrey's house Miller Rocks



Our house at Miller Rocks

It also meant the house we eventually lived in, just west of the big brick house, was very close to the canal.



When the Seaway came to be, the brick house of the McNairn's was moved minus its bricks, to its new and present location across Highway No. 2 from the Lost Villages Museum, west of Cornwall.

The bricks on the house were removed for moving the house and then put back on once it was moved !!!

It was in the McNairn family until just a few years ago when my first cousin, Stanley's son, Nelson, sold it.

By Lois Barron (nee McNairn) UE



Kawartha Branch
United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

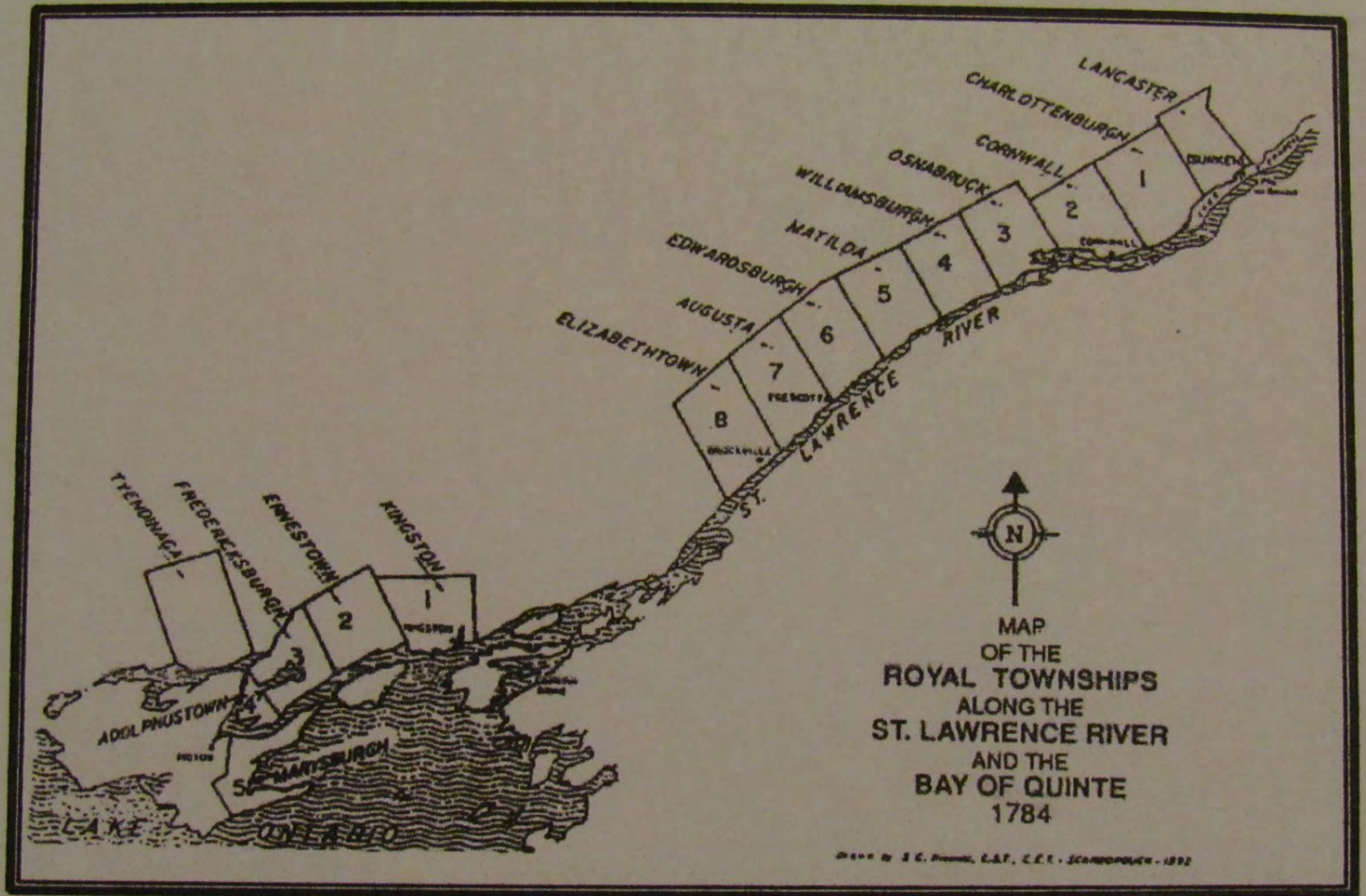
Mission Statement

We believe that the study of the United Empire Loyalists and their contribution to the development of Canada should be promoted, encouraged and communicated to the public through education, genealogical research, the teaching of Loyalist history in schools and the preservation of Loyalist records and artifacts, for the legacy from our Loyalist ancestors has been a significant factor in forming the strong roots that makes Canada the best country in the world in which to live.

Objectives

- To promote our United Empire Loyalist heritage.
- To encourage Loyalist Family History research.
- To encourage membership in Kawartha Branch.
- To publish and inform members and interested persons of Kawartha Branch activities, programs and historical notes.
- To support the purposes of the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada.

to military rank, with a minimum of 50 acres given to each member of a Loyalist family, including unborn children.



(Ontario 11)

Here's a map of the Royal Townships along the St. Lawrence River 1784.

Wonder if ...

John McNairn was indeed in the advance party
scouting out suitable sites
for building homes as early as 1776
along the St. Lawrence River
in Upper Canada.

NOMINATIONS REPORT

2025 is the year that our April Annual General Meeting takes place.

We are accepting Nominations for the following positions: Secretary, Social Convenor, President, and First-Vice President.

Mentor guidance is available and will make every position on the Board much easier for volunteers.

**Please contact: Bob and Grietje McBride UE, Ken Spry UE or Bill Russell UE.
(See contact information on Page 8.)**



DID YOU KNOW ???

If you haven't already ordered your UELAC Ribbon with your Loyalist ancestor's name plate(s), please contact Patricia Groom UE at: Patricia Groom <patricia.groom.uel@gmail.com>.

**A number of us here in Kawartha Branch have already bought our own and they are fabulous !!!
You can also order other Loyalist items at uelac.ca**



CHRISTMAS 1779: THE SLOW BEGINNING OF THE END

© Stephen Davidson, UE

It's not particularly easy to find a Loyalist-themed Christmas story that has a happy ending. However, with Orson Welles' familiar quote in mind, perhaps we can make the Christmas of 1779 suit our purposes.

The quote? *"If you want a happy ending, that depends, of course, on where you stop your story."*

Any time of the year is a difficult time for soldiers to say good-bye to family and friends, but perhaps Christmas time is the most heart-wrenching.

But during the American Revolution, very few colonists outside of the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England would observe Christmas.

So perhaps when General Sir Henry Clinton ordered upwards of 14,000 soldiers and sailors onto 90 transports and 10 warships to set sail for Charleston, South Carolina, it may not have been especially hard for them to bid adieu to friends and relatives in frosty New York City.

According to a Rebel newspaper based in New Jersey, some of Clinton's fleet left as early as December 23rd. The last left New York on the 26th.

So, if any of the deployed British, Hessian or Loyalist troops were in the habit of celebrating Christmas, some would have been able to enjoy their Christmas dinners before boarding their southern-bound transports.

Clinton had received intelligence that conditions in the southern colonies were ripe for a British victory. The war in the middle and northern colonies was at a standstill; the British believed that Loyalists were in sufficient numbers in the south to defeat the Rebel forces. A British presence was all that was required.

As recently as December 15th of that year, Vice Admiral Arbuthnot of the Royal Navy had received an address from *"the Loyal Refugees from the several revolted Provinces of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Three Lower Counties of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South-Carolina"*.

Writing to his office in New York City, the Loyalists assured Arbuthnot that *"the same Principles of Duty which urged us to the free, and great sacrifices we have made, will also actuate us in future, to afford to you, upon all occasions, as well as to his Excellency the Commander in Chief, every aid, and influence in our Power, for restoring Peace, Order and good Government, to these his Majesty's Colonies."* It seemed that the Loyalists of the southern colonies were primed and ready to help the British.



Once they brought North and South Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia to heel, the British commanders reasoned, it would simply be a matter of time before the northern colonies would taste defeat.

Memories of Christmas feasting and gift exchanges quickly evaporated as the fleet encountered a winter storm that pushed some of Clinton's ships northeast. A Rebel newspaper reported, "*Off Cape Hatteras, about four weeks since, they met with a severe storm, which separated the fleet, and obliged the two sloops, as well as most other vessels having horses, to throw them overboard.*"

Clinton's fleet was supposed to be sailing south for Charleston, South Carolina, the largest city in the American South and a strategic port. Its 12,000 citizens were almost evenly divided between blacks and whites. Blacks saw the British as their liberators from slavery. White Loyalists were sure to hail the troops as their saviours from harsh Rebel persecution. No wonder British optimism was high.

By January, the scattered and battered fleet had regrouped in Georgia. Two weeks later, Clinton's forces disembarked below Charleston on Valentine's Day and began their siege of the city. By May 12, 1780, the Rebel forces had surrendered.

The Patriot newspaper in New Jersey had bad news for its readers. "*We are sorry to inform our readers that the garrison of Charles-Town, consisting of 2571 continental troops, including Officers of every rank, surrendered prisoners of war on the 12th ult. but the particulars coming late to hand, and being very lengthy, are deferred till our next.*"

It was, in fact, the single greatest Rebel defeat of the American Revolution.

Clinton saw to the establishment of armed camps in the colony's interior and began to raise Loyalist units from among the population.

Whatever sacrifices the British, Hessian and Loyalist soldiers made in their Christmas holiday departure from New York, they seemed – in the long run – to have been worth the cost. That is, if we "*stop the story*" in May of 1780.

Of course, the rest of the year did not go as the British had planned. Loyal colonists did not rise up in the thousands. Rebel victories at Ramseur's Mill, Hanging Rock, and King's Mountain decimated both the King's forces and their morale.

By the fall of 1781, American and French forces had surrounded the British army in Yorktown, Virginia. The eventual British surrender on October 19th was the death knell for any hope of victory over the American Rebels.

As British soldiers, Hessians and Loyalists gathered around their campfires for the Christmas of 1781, they had no way of knowing that the American Revolution was nearing its end. By the following Christmas, British vessels had already sailed away with Loyalists from Savannah and Charleston — the first of hundreds of evacuation ships that would eventually take the King's loyal Americans to Nova Scotia, Canada, Britain, and the Caribbean.

Another Loyalist Christmas story by Stephen Davidson UE is:

A LOYALIST MINISTER REMEMBERS THE "JOYFUL SEASON"

© Stephen Davidson

The American Revolution interrupted the theological training of Frederick Dibblee, a Connecticut Loyalist. After operating a store on Long Island, marrying his sweetheart, migrating to New Brunswick, and teaching First Nations children, Dibblee finally fulfilled his lifelong dream of serving God in the Church of England. In 1791, at 38 years of age, he became the first Anglican clergyman in the Loyalist settlement of Woodstock, New Brunswick.

In his 50th year, Rev. Dibblee began to keep a diary, taking a moment each day in the succeeding 22 years to record the seasonal changes, family gatherings, and community events that he thought were significant. Dibblee's diary provides a fascinating glimpse into the life of a Loyalist town, including how it celebrated Christmas.

Mind you, the Anglican minister could have been a bit more verbose. His first entry to mention Christmas was in 1804. Despite being surrounded by family and friends, tending to the needs of Anglicans along the upper St. John River, and remembering the 30 Christmases he had celebrated in Connecticut, Dibblee's entry is only two lines in length. "*Cloudy but not Cold. Wind North-East, and Soon begins to Snow Continues all Day and Night.*"

However, his record of the events just before and after December 25th helps to give us an insight into what Christmas was like in a Loyalist settlement. Three days earlier, Dibblee noted that he had worked with his sons to "*get wood for Christmas*". The need for fuel to keep the settlers' homes cozy was greater than usual. Two weeks earlier, Woodstock had "*been attended with the greatest cold weather than ever experienced this season before.*" The positive side of this cold snap was that the St. John River had frozen over so completely that people could ride their sleighs on its smooth surface along its 90 km course to Fredericton. This Christmas was the first time this natural highway had provided such "*good travelling*" since the Dibblees had settled in Woodstock. Instead of trudging overland through snowy forests, family and friends found it much easier to visit one another over the holidays in 1804.

Two years later, Dibblee noted that the holiday weather was warm and things were thawing. The Woodstock Anglican Church had a large congregation at its Christmas service, making the sanctuary *"too warm for comfort"*. While no mention is made of the festivities at the minister's home, he noted that the young people had *"gone to celebrate the Holy Days"* with a neighbour. In 1808, Dibblee noted *"A most Excellent Christmas - Warm enough for Pleasure."* If only he had taken a moment to record what it was that his family did outdoors! Five days after Christmas, the minister and his wife, Nancy, butchered a cow and invited nine friends over for dinner.

As in the 21st century, Maritime Christmas weather could vary greatly from year to year. In 1809, *"it rained severely all night and has carried the snow almost off ... the cattle are all over the fields."* A holiday thaw meant that Christmas correspondence might be delayed. The frozen highway provided by the St. John River was breaking up. Three days after the 25th, the local mailman just managed to make it to Woodstock with the *"English mail"* (letters from abroad) before crossing the river became impossible. A grateful minister gave the mailman a bed for the night.

Sawing wood was a major chore during the Christmas of 1810 -- and Wiggins Everett, the Dibblees' hired hand, was kept busy constructing a bridge. The minister and his wife enjoyed a Boxing Day dinner with fourteen others; but the next day was filled with smoking meat and grinding wheat at the local mill. The hired hand was given the 27th as a holiday since he had had to work on Christmas Day. Dibblee and his wife were among eleven Loyalists who had *"a very pleasant evening"* attending a tea party at Captain Bull's home three days after Christmas.

Christmas 1815 was the year of a bad cold in the Dibblee household. It started with the minister's two sons being *"laid up"* on Boxing Day. On the 27th, there had been a *"party of 21 with us, celebrating the joyful season"*. The following day Dibblee noted that he was *"very unwell with a bad cold"*, so miserable in fact that there was no church service that Sunday.

Turkeys are noted as being part of the Christmas meal in the entries for 1816. There were the usual round of parties, including a sewing part and a singing school. Typically, the latter involved a music teacher instructing parishioners to read notes in the hymn book and to sing in harmony. Singing schools were held in the evenings when the chores of the day were done. In addition to benefitting congregational music, the singing schools also provided colonists of all ages and genders with a means to *"meet and mingle"*.

In the following year's holiday entries, Dibblee noted that the family was "*preparing for Christmas – fixed church for the Great Festival of the Birth of Christ*". In 1819, the minister described this as putting "*up the emblems of the approaching season*".

Again, no details as to what these decorations were!

Dibblee's sons had time to go skating when they weren't hauling wood. During one Christmas, a Dibblee son attempted to make a bobsled.

The "*joyful season*" was a favourite time for weddings, and many of the minister's diary entries over the years note the fact that he had married a young couple between Christmas and New Year's.

In 1820, Rev. Dibblee celebrated his 67th birthday. His Christmas entries begin to reflect the declining activities of an aging pastor. Twice over the holidays, he notes that "*the young celebrated the season*". Missing from his diary are references to feasts with his friends and family – although he was able to preside over "*the largest congregation we ever knew at Christmas*" and hear the vows at a "*large wedding*".

In the following year, Dibblee was one of 55 people at a holiday gathering – "*never a larger company in Woodstock*" — that included "*dancing and rejoicing*". However, one gets the sense that the Anglican minister was more a spectator than a participant.

In 1822, Dibblee and his wife did nothing to observe the holiday, but the "*boys had a party to dine and girls at night to dance*".

At seventy, the minister's social life got a second wind. On 1823's Boxing Day, his diary records "*celebrating the season with a party at dinner and a large party at night dancing*". There were other dancing parties on both the 29th and 30th. The Loyalist settlers of Woodstock were hardly a dour lot.

What is interesting by its omission in the first eight years of Dibblee's diary entries is the celebration of New Year's Day. Everet, the hired hand, was given a day off on January 2, 1811 as his "*keeping New Year*", so it was clearly part of the Loyalist holiday calendar.

However, New Year's was not mentioned again for seven years.

In 1818, the Bull family hosted a "*most extensive*" ball "*to all the young ladies and gentlemen*".

Five years later, Dibblee mentions a "*merry party last night*", but — as was typical for his diary — gives no details of a Loyalist New Year's Eve party.

In 1823, "*all hands*" were at "*a large party, celebrating the New Year by eating, drinking and dancing.*"

The last entry in the Rev. Dibblee's diary that refers to "*the joyful season*" is the one for Christmas 1824: "*Never a better Christmas*".

The diary stops in June of 1825.

On May 17, 1826, Frederick Dibblee died.

Thanks to his diary, we can still hear the voice of a Loyalist who, like Ebenezer Scrooge, ended his days knowing "*how to keep Christmas well*".



Kawartha Branch meets five times a year: in February, April, June, September, and November. Elections are held every April.

The June meeting is our annual Loyalist Flag-Raising ceremony at Peterborough City Hall.

Important Reminder of Dues

You can now renew your 2025 membership in Kawartha Branch and the UELAC.

Our Branch Constitution and By-laws state:

AR-16.06
The Treasurer shall, upon receipt of membership dues, provide a membership card of the year to each member the Branch and shall maintain records of the Branch membership in consultation with the Branch Genealogist and Branch Membership Chairperson. These up-to-date membership lists will be made available for distribution to the Executive upon request, with copies being supplied to the Branch Genealogist, Branch Membership Chairperson and the Branch Newsletter Editor.


AR-16.07 The Treasurer shall work with the Membership Chairperson who will record payments electronically using civiCRM. He or she will pay all appropriate per-capita dues to the UELAC on an annual basis by 01 February. Using data from all sources, he or she will complete the Membership form, as well as *The Loyalist Gazette* choice of paper or e-copy, and submit these to the UELAC for the up-to-date Branch Membership records.

Kawartha Branch Fees are:

- Individual Member pays \$40.00 add \$10.00 for Branch operation.
- Individual half-year pays \$20.00 add \$10.00 for Branch operation.
- Family pays \$55.00 and adds \$10.00 for each Member including self.
- Family half-year pays \$27.50 and adds \$10.00 for each Member including self.
- Student pays \$20.00 and adds \$10.00 for Branch operation.

Mail your Dues Cheque to:

Grietje R. McBride UE
2260 North Esson Line,
Indian River, Ontario. K0L 2B0
705-295-4556
e-mail: maplegm@gmail.com



Did You Know ??

UP-COMING EVENTS!!!



**Sunday, February 16, 2025:
2:00 p.m. via ZOOM.
Guest Speaker to be announced.**

**Valentine's Gathering
Kelsey's Restaurant
Date to be announced.**



**Sunday, April 13, 2025:
2:00 p.m. Annual
General Meeting
at Activity Haven
Speaker: Dr. Amy Barron,
Program Co-ordinator,
Heritage Programs
Haliburton, Ontario.**






United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada Web Site:
<http://www.uelac.org/> and <http://uelac.ca>

Kawartha Branch's Web Site: <http://www.uelac.org/Kawartha/>

***VIEWS IN AND AROUND
 KAWARTHA BRANCH***

On Thursday, 08 August 2024, Members of Kawartha Branch UELAC, Liz Kerr UE, Frank and Joan Lucas UE, and Grietje and Bob McBride UE, met at Swiss Chalet in Peterborough for a hearty dinner,



before going to the Fourth Line Theatre production, entitled *Jim Watts: Girl Reporter*.



Written by Beverley Cooper
 Directed by Kim Blackwell
 Original Compositions & Musical Direction by Justin Hiscox
 Costume Design by Korin Cormier
 Set Design by Michelle Chesser
 Fight Direction by Edward Belanger



Emma Meekins, *Bombare: Engaging The Warfield*, 2017. Photo by Frederick Urtequia.

Jim Watts: Girl Reporter is a fascinating exploration of the experience of trailblazing youth who illegally flocked to Spain to fight fascism, attempting to stop its march across Europe, in the mid-1930s. Jean 'Jim' Watts was the only woman to join Canada's regiment in Spain, the MacKenzie-Papineaus. The play takes us from Toronto to Madrid, from political rallies to the battlefields of Spain. And Peterborough's own Jim Higgins - union organizer and hero - figures prominently in the story.

Production sponsored by Pyle Wealth Advisory – CIBC Private Wealth Wood Gundy & Alf Curtis Home Improvements Inc.

On September 15, 2024, we met, both in-person and via ZOOM, at the Peterborough Activity Haven. After the flags were piped in by Brandon McDermott UE, and the singing of God Save The King, Angela Johnson UE, Dominion Genealogist, presented a power-point presentation: *“Researching Frankford history and area Loyalists who lived there”*.



Angela shared the stories about the Loyalists who founded the village of Frankford and area with us. She was thanked by our Immediate Past Branch Genealogist, Joan Lucas UE, the two of them sharing many stories about the times when they held Genealogical Workshops at Dominion Conferences over the years.



Grietje then read a poem, entitled *“Membership”* written by a Past President of the Chilliwack Branch, Shirley Dargatz UE



Dominion Genealogist, Angela Johnson UE, then watched as Brandon McDermott UE



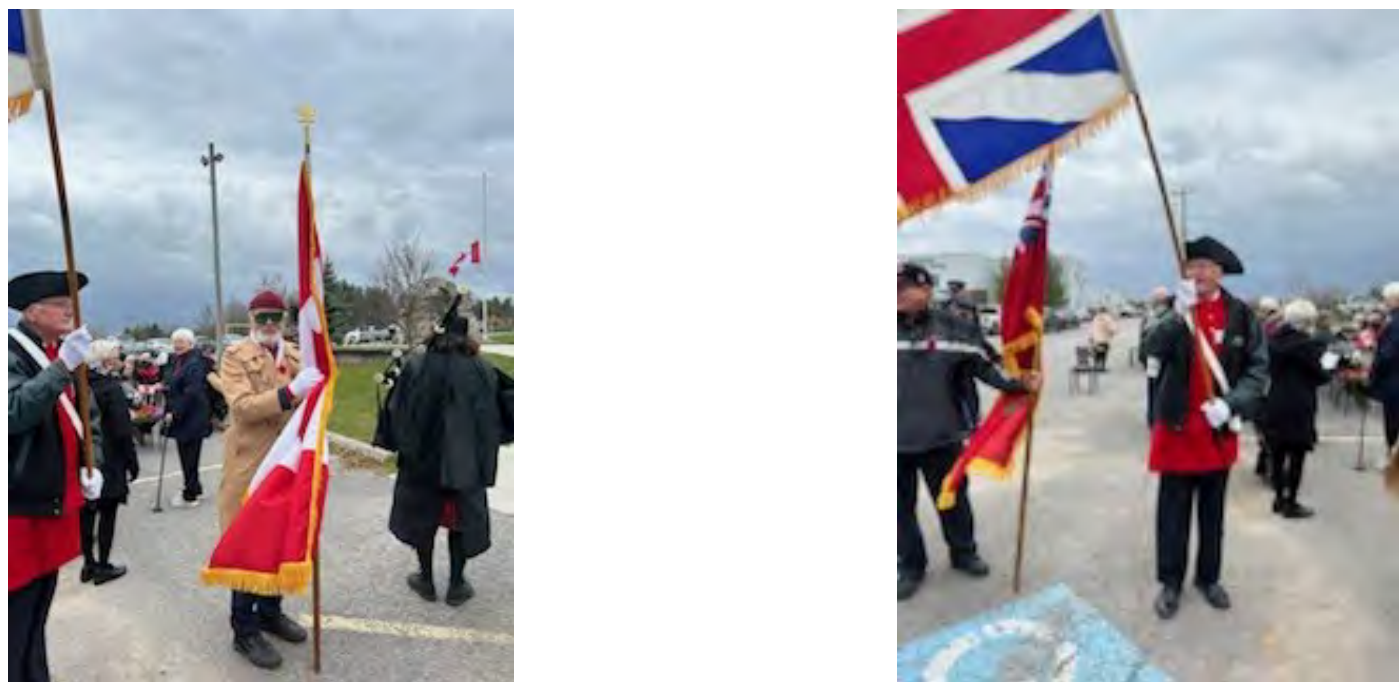
receive his Certificate as the descendant of Frederick Keller UEL,



and Ryan Killins UE received his Certificate as the descendant of William Ketcheson Senior UEL, while his parents watched.



Then, on Friday, November 08, Branch President, Ken Spry UE, and other Members of Kawartha Branch laid a wreath at the Ennismore Garden Club:





On Monday, November 11, Branch President, Ken Spry UE, and other Members of Kawartha Branch laid a wreath at the Keene Cenotaph at 11:00 a.m.:



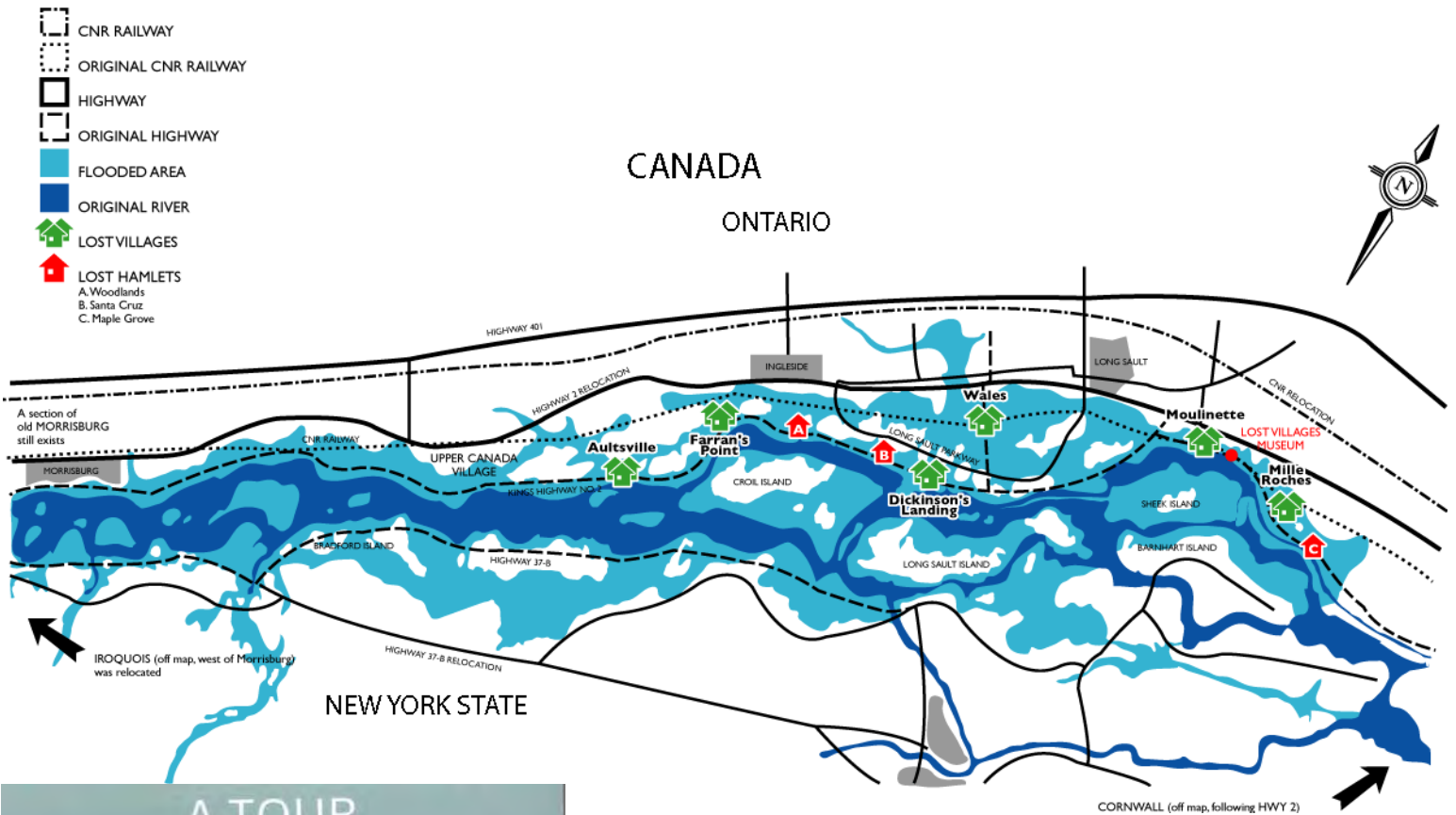
While Bill Atkinson UE and Graham Hart UE laid a wreath at the same time at the Peterborough Cenotaph:



Then, on Sunday, November 17, Kawartha Branch held a ZOOM meeting with our guest speaker, Jim Brownell, talking about A tour, "Through the Lands of the Lost Villages":







A TOUR "THROUGH THE LANDS OF THE LOST VILLAGES"

Take a moving journey with A Tour "Through the Lands of the Lost Villages" by Jim Brownell. This detailed guide reveals the heartbreaking story of six villages and three hamlets lost to the unstoppable march of progress. As the St. Lawrence Seaway and Hydroelectric projects reshaped the landscape in the late 1950s, a vast area was sacrificed, submerging communities forever. Jim Brownell seamlessly weaves the past and present, and leads you through the journey as he did on his popular bus tours. With its step-by-step driving instructions, this comprehensive guide ensures you won't miss a detail, recreating the feeling of being on a guided tour.

The book delves into the stories of the lost villages, while shedding light on the birth of new towns like Ingleside and Long Sault, constructed to re-home displaced residents. With over 500 names indexed for reference, the guide transforms into a living archive—a who's who of the individuals who once thrived in these now-submerged communities.

Through meticulous research and personal memories, Jim traces the footsteps of those affected. The relocation of properties is detailed, serving as a permanent reminder of the profound impact on the community and a testament to the resilience of those who navigated the turbulent waters of change. A Tour "Through the Lands of the Lost Villages" is a testimony to what once was, linking the past to the present so that this important part of Ontario's history is never lost.



Jim Brownell

Jim's extensive talk to the Branch about the *Lost Villages* described the heartbreaking story of six villages and three hamlets being submerged by the St. Lawrence Seaway and the hydro-electric project, reshaping the landscape in the late 1950s, when a vast area was sacrificed, submerging communities forever. Through meticulous research and personal memories, Jim traced the footsteps of those affected and the relocation of buildings and other artefacts.

Jim Brownell was 10 years old when the flooding of 16.2 hectares along the shoreline between Iroquois and Cornwall took place and seven villages and a farming community on Sheek's Island were inundated with water to raise the navigable waters of the St. Lawrence Seaway by creating Lake St. Lawrence on July 1st 1958. The Lost Villages Museum was dedicated to documenting the history of the lost villages and the families who once lived there, dating back to the Loyalists who came there in the 1780's.

Jim is a beloved retired teacher who still connects warmly with former students. He began running tours of the area and getting snippets of family history from engaged tour guests. He, with other family members, were part of The Lost Villages Historical Society who have been gathering, sorting, documenting and displaying the history of the lost villages so that researchers can easily lay their hands on any piece of information or biography of any villager and family. Historical Society and municipal leaders convinced Jim to write about the knowledge he passed on during his tours.

Members of Kawartha Branch and others across Canada who joined the ZOOM talk virtually, enjoyed Jim's personable, friendly manner as we became very attentive listeners to his passionate story.

The feature article in this newsletter, "*How we were flooded out*", by Lois Barron (nee McNairn) UE, on pages 15 to 23 describes how her family and others were affected by this project.

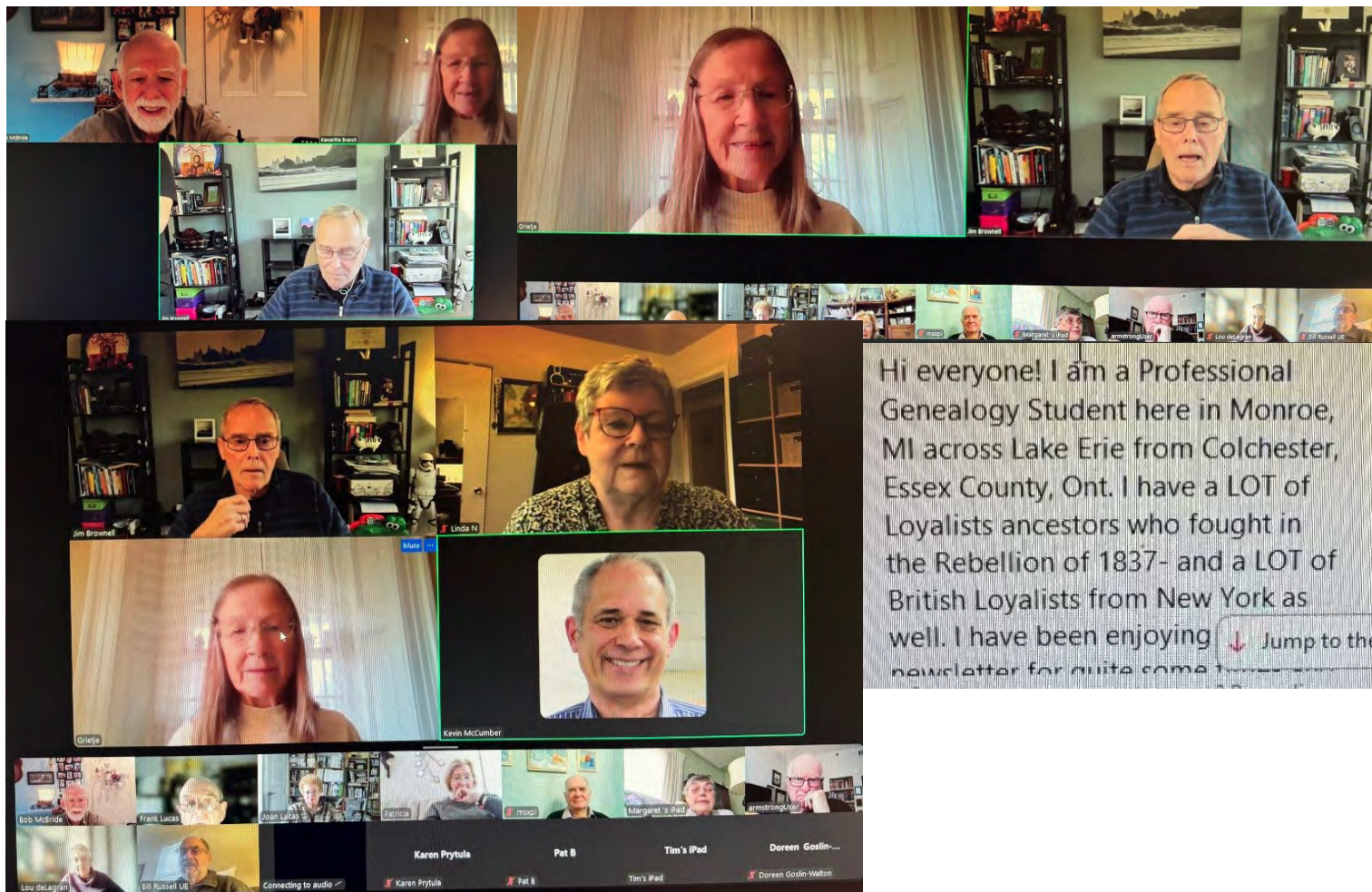
An Honorary Member of Kawartha Branch, Ken Armstrong, sent an e-mail in which he wrote:

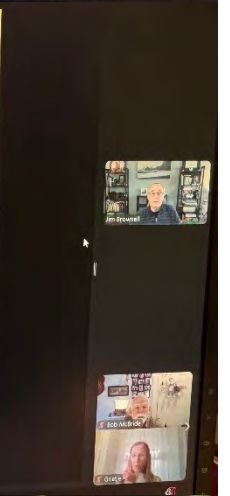
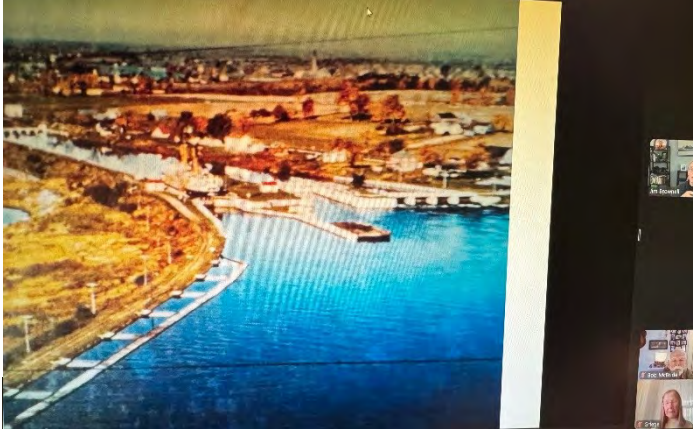
"Thank you for including me in the Zoom meeting yesterday with Jim Brownell. I related to everything that Jim said regarding the removal of the six villages along the St Lawrence River. In fact, I was home on leave from the Royal Canadian Navy and heard the explosion breaking open the coffer dam on July 1st, 1958. Dad and I were at the kitchen table having breakfast at the time. It was a massive undertaking which disrupted the lives of so many people and changed the river forever."



“Inundation Day - July 1, 1958. The last cofferdam, between Barnhart and Sheek Islands, was breached by dynamite at 8:00 a.m. that morning.”

Source: archive.sdgcountries.ca/index.php/lvmc-mg-1-056





Then, on Thursday, December 05, Kawartha Branch Members and friends gathered at Kelseys Roadhouse in Peterborough for a Christmas Celebration:



SEE OUR MENU

KELSEYS
original
ROADHOUSE

CLICK HERE



IN MEMORIAM

Remembering:



Gail Patricia (Myles) Spry
March 1, 1949 ~ November 6, 2024 (age 75)

It is with great sorrow my wife and best friend passed away at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at the age of 75.

She was the daughter of the late William “*Bill*” Myles (Maria) and the late Dorothy Arnburg (Garnet).

Beloved wife of Ken Spry.

Loving and devoted mother to Laura Ann Wilson (Rick), Warren Michael Taylor (Kelly) and Jennifer Ellen Spry, and step-mother to Pamela Lynn Spry

and Mark Kenneth Spry (Shelly). Proud grandmother to Parker Runnett and Andrew Wilson.

Two of Gail’s favourite pastimes were going to bingo and the casino where she met many of her friends. She found so much joy in simple things like seeing a rainbow or a flower bloom, watching fireworks and travelling.

She loved to visit her extended family in Oshawa, and will be missed by many loving aunts, uncles and cousins in the area.

She also enjoyed time at the cottage in Marmora.

Gail’s greatest gift was her family. Spending time with them for holidays and special events provided so much love and comfort. She will be deeply missed by her family, the Spry family, friends and all who knew her.

There was a private service and interment at Highland Park Cemetery.

A celebration of Gail’s life will be held at a later date.

In memory of Gail, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be greatly appreciated by her family and can be made at

< www.highlandparkfuneralcentre.com >

Rest in peace Gail,
from the Kawartha Branch UELAC.



IN MEMORIAM

On Tuesday, 26 November 2024, Bill Russell UE, Kawartha Branch UELAC Immediate Past President and current National Vice-President, wrote:

*“Please be advised Dave Hill Morrison has passed away. He will be missed by our Community.
Bill Russell UE”*

Then, on 27 November, Grand River Branch of the UELAC, in their Fall/ Winter 2024 edition of **BRANCHES** newsletter, posted this tribute to David Hill Kanowakeron Morrison UE:

In Memory of David Hill Morrison UE (1954-2024)

We were saddened to learn of David’s passing in October. For many years David was our webmaster and a valued member of the Grand River Executive. His commitment extended far beyond our Branch. Please read the tribute written by Carl Stymiest UE, our Dominion President.

Tribute to David Hill Kanowakeron Morrison UE (1954 – 2024)



David Hill Kanowakeron Morrison UE, who passed away on October 16, 2024, was a cherished member and leader of the United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada (UELAC). A resolute Central West Councillor for many years, National UELAC Board Director, and a great historian.

“David’s life was a testament to perseverance, cultural pride, and service to his communities.

Born in Rochester, New York, in 1954, David’s journey to uncovering his Loyalist roots began after reconnecting with his birth mother in 1991. This led to the revelation that he was the seventh great-grandson of Joseph Brant (Thayendanagea), the renowned Mohawk leader and Loyalist. This connection sparked his deep involvement in the UELAC and his work to honour the intertwined histories of Indigenous and Loyalist heritage.

David played pivotal roles in the UELAC. He was a founding member and served as Vice-President for the former virtual Bridge Annex Branch and as Grand River Branch Webmaster. His commitment extended far beyond administrative duties. He was instrumental in promoting education about Haudenosaunee culture and Loyalist contributions to Canada. David was also an advocate for Native adoptees and an enthusiastic supporter of Indigenous and Loyalist history.

In 2018, David’s remarkable contributions were recognized with the UELAC Dorchester Award, celebrating his excellence in volunteerism and leadership.

Throughout his life, he balanced identities as a Mohawk, Canadian Loyalist, and citizen of the United States, bridging diverse cultural perspectives with integrity and grace. David’s work left an indelible mark on the UELAC and the communities he served. His passion, wisdom, and dedication will be deeply missed but fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. May he rest in peace, leaving a legacy of unity, history, and inspiration for generations to come.

***Warm Regards,
Carl Stymiest UE
UELAC National President”***



**A proud moment at the Grand River Branch
50th Anniversary in Paris, Ontario. 2023.**



David proudly presenting the Grand River Branch with the Haudenosaunee flag

**When I was the Editor of *The Loyalist Gazette*,
I had the honour of highlighting David with this article
in the Spring 2013 issue:**

PEOPLE

Behind the Scenes

David Kanowakeron Hill Morrison UE

Central West Regional Councillor, David Kanowakeron Hill Morrison UE, was born in Rochester, New York in 1954 and has lived in that area all of his life. Adopted at birth, after a ten-year search Dave was able to reunite with his birthmother in 1991 when he discovered that she was living on the Six Nations of the Grand River reserve near Brantford, Ontario, and that he was a Status Mohawk of that community.

Raised in a non-Native family in suburban Rochester, Dave always felt and appeared a little “*different*” from his peers due to his Mohawk genetics. After graduating from high school, Dave attended SUNY College at Potsdam and, in 1977, earned his B.A. in Psychology with one course short of a double major in Computer Science.

Dave began his working career in IT as a computer operator back in the early days of IBM mainframes, eventually becoming a Database Administrator at the corporate headquarters of Eastman Kodak. Along with other Kodak Natives, he was an original member of the Native employee diversity group and travelled extensively, representing the Aboriginal faction of his company at national conferences.

Dave came to know his Loyalist connections purely by accident. While getting to know his birthmother, she happened to mention that he was descended from Joseph Thayendanegea Brant.

Being educated in the U.S. public school system meant the United Empire Loyalist version of the American Revolution was either downplayed or ignored altogether and he was never made fully aware of the sacrifices or importance of the Loyalists to Canadian history.

Despite being born in Rochester, since Dave was born to a Mohawk woman from Six Nations, upon learning of the circumstances behind his birth, he also discovered that he had dual-citizenship. He’d always had an inexplicable draw to Canada, first noticed as a child while vacationing at an annually rented cottage on the Rideau River between Smiths Falls and Merrickville. The constant tug of Canada, however illogical, was also unmistakable.

Fate, serendipity, or perhaps some innate urge to “*return*” to his origins, would compel him to pursue Canadian citizenship in the years immediately prior to his adoption revelation, while not realizing that he’d had Canadian citizenship all his life.

While attending the Canadian National Exhibition in 1992, he happened to visit a UELAC exhibit at a Heritage Day display on the grounds. Curious about the oddly-appearing British flag, he mentioned that he’d been told he was a descendant of Joseph Brant to a member staffing the display, whose eyes lit up at the name.

Not knowing the historical relevance of the prominent Native Loyalist, he naïvely asked if this was significant and, within minutes, was being given a crash course on the influence his ancestor had on the development of Canada as well as who and what the UELAC were.

As fortune would have it, Bay of Quinte Branch Genealogist, Eleanor Carleton Moulton UE, was the generous educator and would become his guiding mentor in exploring the necessary proofs to document his UEL application. Living in the Rochester area, however, presented a bit of a quandary to research as well as to which Branch he should join. Dave wanted to be involved with Branch activities but the logistics of his residence posed a problem.

Eleanor suggested it might be appropriate to join the Branch that included his Six Nations family roots and, considering the amount of time he was spending on the reserve getting to know his newly-found family, Grand River Branch became his choice.

Preponderance of evidence became the key factor in Dave proving his Loyalist ancestry. A signed statement from his birthmother attesting that he was indeed her biological son, became the sole link which connected him to Joseph Brant. The Brant ancestry is well-documented with proofs and sourcing but, minus necessary legal documentation, adopted individuals are often at a loss in their ability to prove their relationship to their Loyalist identity.

In Native culture, oral traditions are considered as immutable facts not to be contested or questioned. As such, it became a delicate and sensitive matter for Dave to ask his birthmother to look beyond her traditions and accept that much of the non-Native world requires empirical facts. Upon seeing the importance of what this meant to Dave, and somewhat grudgingly, she relented and signed a statement attesting to the fact that he was her son.

Thanks to the tremendous assistance of Eleanor Carleton Moulton UE, Grand River Branch Genealogist, Eleanor Chapin UE, and the Dominion Office staff, on a hot July day in 1993 at the Brantford Military Heritage Museum, Dave was presented with his UELAC certification, marking yet another milestone in his life.

Since his reunification with his birth-family at the age of 37, Dave has enthusiastically immersed himself in Haudenosaunee culture as well as extensively studied all aspects of Canadian history and society. Thanks in great part to his attendance at UELAC Dominion conferences, his Canadian travels have extended from the tip of Prince Edward Island to the waters of Victoria, British Columbia.

Dave has also visited most of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec and, during his marriage, owned a year-round home in Crystal Beach in the town of Fort Erie. He maintains an address in St. Catharines and has been familiar with the Niagara Region for well over fifty years.

Dave lives in two distinctly different worlds. Straddling the border of two countries, he also lives in two different cultures of Native and non-Native alike and, while that can sometimes pose a challenge, he finds that perspectives and priorities are guiding principles to seeking a balanced life.



As one might imagine, the American sense of patriotism and nationalism can often take a dim view of a resolutely-held belief of a Canadian Loyalist and monarchist. Nevertheless, Dave follows his conscience and ideals, quietly devoted to an ethic his ancestors may have felt as they firmly supported their beliefs amid a sea of critics.

Determined to establish an even greater connection, Dave installed a Canadian satellite TV system at his residence in the Rochester area and enjoys all-Canadian programming, keeping him informed of the news, events and culture of Canada.

Today, residing in the Rochester New York area, ironically, in a town called Ontario, New York, due to serious health issues, Dave is physically challenged yet tries to contribute to his Loyalist heritage by serving as Grand River Branch webmaster. He tries to attend as many Branch meetings as he's able, even though the 500+ mile round-trip can be daunting.

Fortunately, the internet allows him to stay in touch and allows him an opportunity to support an allegiance he holds deeply and with a firm conviction.

Jokingly referring to his home as being within "*Rebel territory*", he felt compelled to promote his pride with a New York car license plate of "*UELAC*", a feature often noted as he passes through Customs back into the States.

As a further statement of his fidelity, Dave is also a Lifetime Member of the Monarchist League of Canada and is in solid agreement of the spirit of conviction of his illustrious Loyalist ancestor.

For many adoptees, a sense of natural place, identity and commonality with their birth-heritage is a strongly compelling motivation to reach out and seek knowledge. To a Native adoptee in search of becoming a wholly-formed adult, it becomes almost an imperative.

In a bid to claim his rightful ownership in his Haudenosaunee identity, he also celebrates his Native heritage by embracing his Loyalist history that is a pivotal part of the story of the Six Nations of the Grand River. He believes no history of the Haudenosaunee is complete without including the contributions made by the Loyalist factions of these unique First Nations.

Dave feels he's come full circle and has returned to his rightful status as a proud Native Canadian Loyalist.

Not only a part of whom he has become, it is a bold definition of who he is.



At the Dominion Council Meeting on 09 June 2012 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, David Kanowakeron Hill Morrison UE presented Robert C. McBride UE, Dominion President, and the UELAC, with the Haudenosaunee Flag of the Six Nations for use by the colour party at future Dominion occasions.





The last time
that we (Grietje and Bob) met
was at the UELAC Conference,
June 06 - 09, 2024.

We had a great time together
with David !!!



**REST IN PEACE,
OUR GOOD FRIEND !!!**

**YOU WILL BE SORELY MISSED
BY ALL YOUR CANADIAN FRIENDS
AND FELLOW LOYALIST DESCENDANTS !!!**

*Sometimes you will never know the value
of a moment until it becomes a memory.*



- painting by Garth Dittick



**Finding your
Loyalist history
is a very
rewarding task !!!**





Kawartha Branch Mugs

These mugs are now available through Kawartha Branch Sales

Perhaps you'd like to buy one or half a dozen.

Cost: \$ 7.00 each



Contact

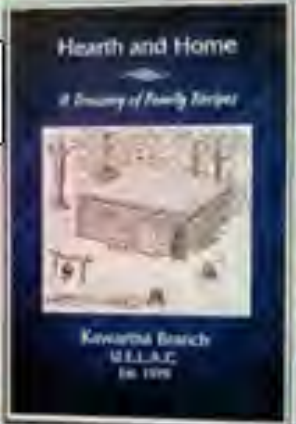
Bill Atkinson UE
Kawartha Branch Sales and Displays
855 Kensington Drive
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 6J8
Cell phone: 705-313-9828
E-mail: xpitco@gmail.com



COOKBOOKS For Sale



\$ 20.00 each



Contact

Bill Atkinson
UE
705-313-9828
xpitco@gmail.com



IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR FREE PERSONALIZED NAME TAG FOR KAWARTHA BRANCH UELAC CONTACT

GRIETJE R. MCBRIDE UE at maplegrm@gmail.com !!!

Kawartha Branch UELAC



Grietje McBride U.E.



Kawartha Branch UELAC



REMINDER

Please send any changes in contact details to Grietje McBride UE so that we can keep our Kawartha Branch Membership List up to date.



Memberships in Kawartha Branch can be renewed at half-price after 01 July. You will receive a dues card and a thank you letter as well as two Branch newsletters informing you of local historical events and opportunities to meet others sharing your interest in the Loyalist era.

Regular renewals for 2025 Membership begin on 01 November.

You can use the registration page at the back of this newsletter to complete and mail to me with a cheque written out to Kawartha Branch UELAC.

You can also renew online by searching <<< uelac.ca >>>

Why renew?

- * To read about what is happening in your area and to learn about Loyalist history.
- * To make or renew friendships in the Branch.
- * To share your research that you have spent up to a lifetime gathering.
- * To hear interesting presenters talking about books they have researched and written.
- * To access the Branch Co-genealogists who will review your research and help you to apply for your UE Certificate.
- * To access regional and national news through the online **Loyalist Trails** UELAC Newsletter.
- * To find a place to publish your photos or stories or break-throughs in family research.
- * To buy Loyalist memorabilia such as rings, pins, clothing, badges, mugs and the like.
- * To share fellowship when we meet to eat together at a local restaurant like Kelsey's. Watch for up-coming dates !!!
- * To support your local Branch which has been active in this community since 1979.



Thank you to those Members who renew their membership regularly.

Your support is very much appreciated.

Grietje McBride UE
Membership Chair.



Kawartha Branch UELAC

Note: Your Renewal Form is to be used after 31 October 2024:



Renewing your membership helps our Branch plan for the future.

Please complete the following form and submit with payment to the address below or renew on-line at www.uelac.ca.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Or...Cheques may be made out to: **Kawartha Branch UELAC**

and mailed to Grietje McBride c/o 2260 North Esson Line, Indian River, ON K0L 2B0

Please select one category for Membership:

_____ Single \$50.00 (which includes \$10.00 for Branch operations).

_____ Family \$55.00 Add \$10.00 for each person in your household starting with you.

_____ * Additional Branch \$10.00 Branch name _____

_____ Student Total cost \$30.00 which includes 10.00 Branch operation fee

If you have selected Family, please print their names
(This enables us to accurately order pin-less magnetic badges for Members)

Please list UE ancestors you are descended from or that you are researching.

Would you like to receive your twice-yearly national magazine, **The Loyalist Gazette**, in electronic form? _____ or in print form by postal delivery? _____, or both? _____

Signature _____

Please check any statement that apply to you:

- _____ I would be willing to help with Branch events
- _____ I would be available to help others with research
- _____ I would be willing to phone local members about Branch activities
- _____ I am interested in giving a talk about my family research.

Note: This form can be saved into your computer and returned to me electronically at maplegm@gmail.com.