



Ottawa Loyalist
 Newsletter of the Sir Guy Carleton Branch,
 UELAC
 Volume 40 Issue Number 2
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The Beechwood Loyalist Cemetery Tour: June 20

Let's meet again at [the Beechwood Cemetery](#) for the tour of Loyalist descendants, including our own Dorothy Meyerhof. Let's meet at Beechwood National Memorial Centre, 280 Beechwood Avenue.

Date: Thursday, June 20

Time: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm



Among the Loyalist Descendants at Beechwood are (we may not be able to visit all the sites below):

Resting at Beechwood	Loyalist Ancestor
Ethel Bennett	Philip Derick
Norman Bethune	Reverend John Bethune
William Robert Canham	George Kenter
John Clark	Robert Land
Elizabeth Finley	Philip Crysler
Thomas Keefer	George Keefer
Walker Powell	Abraham Powell
Henry Tory	James Tory

Beechwood has a golf cart available if you prefer not to walk.

Message from the President

Hello, everyone,

Welcome (finally) to summer weather. Our spring showers are bringing up the plant life. Every spring I try to track the progress of our botanical friends, and every year I miss the *opening ceremony*'.

We have added some new members to our Branch. The Board is keeping on top of things, but we still need to fill some positions. A social convenor to help find a venue for the luncheons would be very helpful.

Congratulations to our Vice President Kevin Wisener, who was elected to the Board of Trustees of UELAC, as well as serving as President for the Abegweit Branch.

Thanks to our Librarian/Archivist, Janet Kennedy, for all the resources and revisions she has made for our web page.

Thank you Marg, for all the advice, history and feedback you've provided me over the past 6 years. And a big thanks to Nat for taking on 'Ottawa Loyalist'. Nat is always looking for feedback, story suggestions and your articles to share. If you had an article in an earlier issue, an update would be welcome.

Holly has been a great asset (get your information in early if you want a certificate by Christmas, only 7 months away)

Don't forget the flag placement and tour at Beechwood Cemetery, June 20th, 11:00 am. Thank you Sylvia for making this happen.

We need your input for future branch activities. Check our Facebook and Instagram pages, we need input and material from you to keep it interesting.

I'm thankful I have a great board, and would like more members to join us. Contact me if you want information on the duties of the open positions.

Have a good spring, a great summer and see you in the Fall.

Rose
Rosemarie Pleasant, President
Sir Guy Carleton

The 2024 UELAC Dominion Conference

The [UELAC annual conference](#) is coming up: June 6 to 9 in Cornwall.

And so “**The Story Continues....**”

- visit Cornwall’s history in person;
- meet up with old Loyalist friends, and make new ones;
- learn more about New Johnstown (now Cornwall) and surrounding settlement areas in the then western Quebec Province (becoming in 1791 part of eastern Upper Canada and today part of eastern Ontario);
- stand on the ground where our Loyalists of this area drew their lots;
- visit the encampment and live the re-enactment taking place at Lamoureux Park;
- visit Pioneer museums in the area and tour the Woodhouse & Lost Villages;
- see the museum where the **UELAC Dominion Office and UELAC Archives** are now located ([schedule & tour details](#)).

Don’t miss this special event; be part of “**The Story Continues....**”.

Heritage Day, February 20

Once again, the Sir Guy Carleton Chapter, represented by our President, participated in the City of Ottawa’s Heritage Day activities on February 20, 2024 at [Jean Piggott Hall](#). It was a great opportunity to meet the different historical societies across the city.



Book Review: New Addition to our Branch Library

James Fitzgibbon, Defender of Upper Canada
By Ruth McKenzie, Dundurn Press, 1983

The vast majority of us don't get to ride the path of fame and glory in life. Most of us toil behind the scenes, we might achieve the great and the good but don't get more than a mention in the footnotes section: James Fitzgibbon was one of the rest of us. Many thanks to Ruth McKenzie for relating the many unheralded accomplishments of James Fitzgibbon over more than four decades of military and civil service in Upper Canada (1802 to 1845).

Born and raised a Protestant in humble origins in a majority-Catholic region of Ireland, Fitzgibbon learned early the importance of mutual understanding and reconciliation that would later serve him well in Upper Canada. He decided early in life on a military career with the British army and was posted to Upper Canada in 1802 in the regiment commanded by Colonel Isaac Brock.

When Fort George (Niagara-on-the-Lake) fell to American forces in May 1813, the entire Niagara Peninsula was in jeopardy of coming under their control. Now Lieutenant Fitzgibbon volunteered to set up a forward position with 50 soldiers at a site called Beaver Dams, located in the centre of the Niagara Peninsula. Soon this small force was reinforced by approximately 400 Indigenous fighters. After several skirmishes with American light infantry, Fitzgibbon received an unexpected visitor on the evening of June 22. Her name was Laura Secord, who informed Fitzgibbon that a force of 500 was headed toward Beaver Dams to seek out and destroy the British-Canadian-Indigenous force (as we know so well, Loyalist Laura Secord overheard a conversation and walked through 32 kilometres of bush to warn her compatriots.)

On the morning of June 24, the shooting at Beaver Dams began. After three hours of fighting, the Americans began to run low on ammunition. Just then Lieutenant Fitzgibbon rode into American lines and informed the American commander that they were hopelessly outnumbered, and they could not possibly escape. Better to surrender now with terms than be annihilated. In actual fact it was a ruse but the American commander fell for it and surrendered his entire force. Overnight the American position on the Niagara Peninsula became untenable and they withdrew across the border..

A second example of this man's character was demonstrated in peacetime, a decade later (1824), when Fitzgibbon was no longer in active service but in the militia. He was assigned to investigate a series of riots in our own peaceful Ottawa Valley (Ramsay Township (Almonte) and Morphy's Falls (Carleton Place)) between Protestant and Catholic settlers. Remembering his own experience in living between the two worlds, Fitzgibbon used his formidable persuasive skills to defuse the situation. History would knock on Fitzgerald's (now Colonel Fitzgibbon) a third time, this time as the commander of the Government forces, which stopped and dispersed the short-lived comic-opera rebellion of 1837 at Montgomery's Tavern, just north of the new City of Toronto.

This book is an enjoyable 180-page read for persons interested in the early history of Upper Canada. It's also a reminder of how difficult it was to rise from humble origins in that era.

Reminder: you are invited to submit your suggestions for acquisitions to our Library at sgclibrarianarchivist@gmail.com

Share Your Family Stories in 2024!

The Sir Guy Carleton branch is pleased to invite members to share their family research stories online or in-person during our upcoming meetings this year. Enhance your storytelling skills, help other researchers, and find a receptive audience all in one spot!

Sharing suggestions include:

- How you finally broke through a difficult brick wall to locate your elusive ancestor's details.
- An interesting and successful visit to a museum, cemetery or historical site over the years.
- A visit to a lesser-known local repository that held the clues needed to assist you with your family tree.
- Website(s) that were most helpful in advancing your research.

We would like to hear from you whether you are a new or long-time branch member. Tell us about an ancestor who has inspired you, intrigued you or frustrated you...especially if they are on your Loyalist line.

Your talk would ideally be between 5 - 15 minutes in length. If you have photos, artifacts, screenshots, or other images pertaining to your ancestor, we look forward to seeing these treasured memories. As our meetings are recorded, your stories will be saved and with your consent, would also be featured on our website as a helpful tool for other researchers.

Let's share our stories, tips, and experiences with our fellow branch members in 2024!

Send your topic details or any questions to Holly Haimerl, Sir Guy Carleton Branch genealogist, at sgcgenealogist@gmail.com.

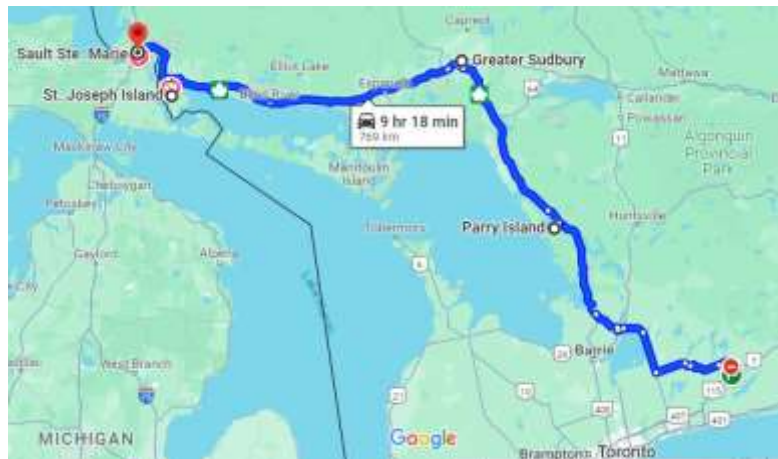
Tombstone Travels: My 2023 Loyalist Research Trip – Part 2: Peterborough to Sault Ste Marie

Written by Holly Haimerl

Photos courtesy of Holly Haimerl unless otherwise indicated

The Route:

Google Maps: Peterborough, Wasauksing First Nation (formerly Parry Island First Nation), Sudbury, Richard's Landing/St Joseph Island, Sault Ste Marie, Ontario



Wasauksing First Nation (formerly Parry Island First Nation):

In part one, I alluded to a scary experience at Wasauksing cemetery on Parry Island. To continue, I found some interesting tombstones, but many were hard to read. I admit that I am wonderfully comfortable wandering through cemeteries but as I stepped closer to one old headstone to read the engraving on the front, the earth caved in near the foot of the grave causing me to sink in up to my left hip. Luckily, no one was nearby to hear my short and horrified shriek! I was able to quickly pull myself free as only one of my legs sunk into the hole. Unlike the marshy Carpenters' cemetery earlier in my trip, the ground was very dry and brittle.

Further to my escape, I discovered I was in the wrong cemetery. I stopped at the cemetery near the entrance to the island after I crossed over the Swing Bridge. My GPS did not work on the island. I searched the entire cemetery after my mishap but did not find the headstone for my paternal second great-grandfather William John Fetherstonhaugh (or Featherstonhaugh) c.1857 -1944.

William John Fetherstonhaugh is a direct descendant of my Landon/Phillips Loyalist lines through his mother, Rocksia (Roxy) Landon. My second great-grandmother Rocksia is the daughter of John Landon and Betsey Phillips. Last summer, I visited the tiny Landon Cemetery near Fitzroy Harbour on an earlier day trip from Montreal.



**My 3rd great-grandmother, Betsey Phillips Landon
in Landon cemetery**

One of my reasons for traveling to Parry Island was to look for verification of the family lore concerning William John Fetherstonhaugh and his immediate family. William John moved to Depot Harbour, Parry Island First Nation after he married his second wife Eva Jane Davis Salt (c. 1868 -1949) on June 27, 1900.

His first wife, my second great-grandmother Elizabeth Culbertson (born c.1868) died in 1900 and the younger children went to live with their maternal relatives. I have not found a death record for Elizabeth Culbertson to verify the date she died. The two eldest children, Thomas Victor(18) and Alice Etta appear(16) on the 1901 census with their father and stepmother.

Anecdotal accounts refer to family conflict arising from William John and Eva's hasty marriage after his first wife's death. Eva Jane was "Indian" according to census records. One of William and Elizabeth's sons, my great-grandfather Duncan Fetherstonhaugh stated on his marriage certificate in 1911 that his father William John was "dead". His father did not die until 1944. Great-Grandpa Duncan dropped the Haugh portion of his surname and spelled it, Featherstone or Fetherston, on official documents.



**William John Fetherstonhaugh, daughter Allie,
and one of William's sons. Courtesy Lee Hayes**

William John and Elizabeth's oldest daughter, Alice Etta Fetherstonhaugh, was 18 when she married Charles Salt in 1903. Charles (29) was the younger brother of Alice Etta's stepmother, Eva Jane.

Eva Jane's father, Rev. Allan Salt, was a Methodist minister, born to an Ojibwe mother. Eva Jane's mother was Jane McCue from the Mud Lake reserve(now Curve Lake First Nation) near Peterborough.

William John and Eva Jane had one child; a son named Charles William Edward born on July 24, 1901. According to his death record, Charles died of consumption on August 7, 1902.

In the 1931 Canada census, William John was identified as a carpenter, Eva Jane as a homemaker, and they owned their own home on Parry Island. I have not found a street address for their home yet, but the 1935 Canada voter list indicates that they lived in "Depot Harbor or Parry S." I am not sure why it indicated both places on the census unless they had another home in Parry Sound. Depot Harbour no longer exists.

After doing a bit of online research I learned that Depot Harbour on Parry Island is regarded as [Canada's largest ghost town](#).

"Located on Parry Island, which is part of the Wasauksing First Nation, Depot Harbour was once the western terminus of the Canadian Atlantic Railway and a very busy shipping port on the eastern shores of Georgian Bay. While Parry Island and Depot Harbour are still occupied by residents of the [Wasauksing First Nation, Depot Harbour](#) is a shadow of its former self. " ¹

On a future research trek this year, I will stay overnight near Parry Island and explore the area more extensively. I still have a lot to discover about my paternal Loyalist ancestors.

Sudbury, St Joseph Island then on to Sault Ste. Marie:

The drive from Sudbury to the Soo on July 15th was long, but I did make a few pleasant stops along the way, although none related to any Loyalist research.

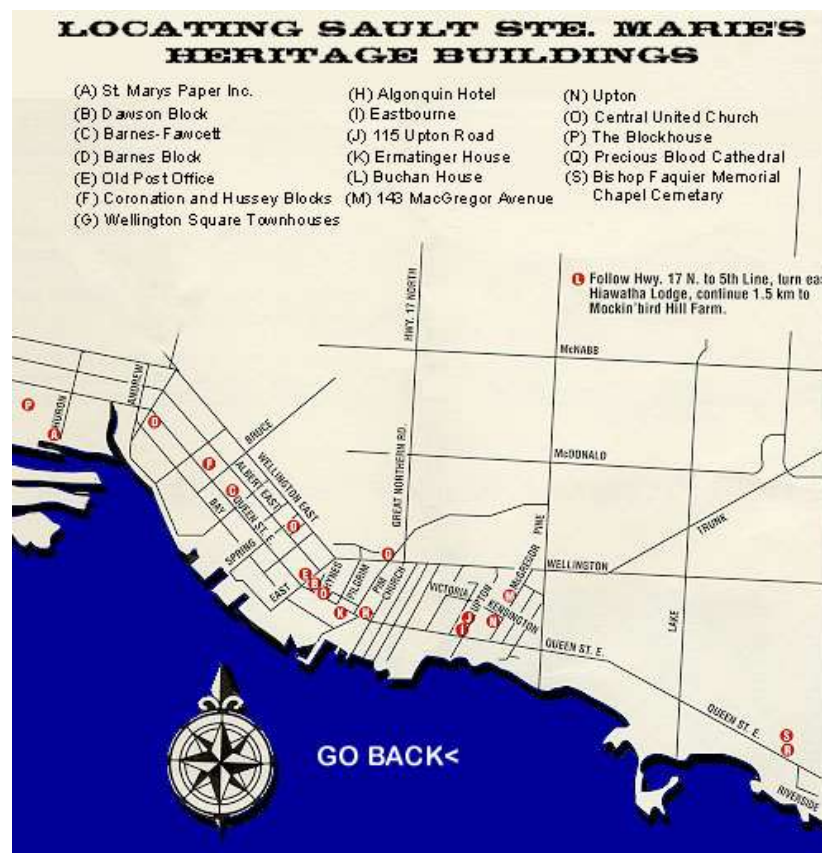
I had a quick visit with my oldest maternal cousin who lives on St Joseph Island. I did phone him while I was an hour away to warn him that I was stopping by. He likes to maintain his grumpy image and I didn't want him taking any "potshots" at me from his porch. I have not found any Loyalist lines on my maternal side, but I like to visit the graves in the area and pay my respects to some of my maternal ancestors on the Island. And it is a great way to catch up with relatives and create more family stories.

¹ Forsyth, Bruce Canadian Military History, Oct 2016, <https://militarybruce.com/the-train-doesnt-stop-here-anymore-depot-harbour-ghost-town/>



St. Joseph Township Cemetery
Final Destination Sault Ste Marie (Soo):

I arrived in [Sault Ste Marie \(Soo\)](#) late that evening and settled in at my paternal cousin Karan's home for the next few weeks.



There were so many historical sites that I was keen to visit, not only for research purposes but to become reacquainted with places from my past:

1. Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre
2. Precious Blood Cathedral
3. Sault Ste Marie Museum
4. Waterfront area
5. Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
6. Greenwood Cemetery
7. St. Anne's Cemetery
8. Goulais Bay
9. Francis Hib Preserve – Nature Conservatory (a new discovery)

1. Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre:



Holly and Jenna – OCAPG genealogy colleagues

On July 18th, I had lunch with Jenna Lemay, a colleague and fellow genealogist from OCAPG (Ontario Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists). Jenna is an archivist at the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre at Algoma University in the Soo. With Jenna as my guide, I visited the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre, which includes the archives, the chapel, and the cemetery. Shingwauk Residential School is designated a [National Historic Site](#).

For more information visit the website at: <https://algomau.ca/research/shingwauk-residential-schools-centre/>

The Church which is located at 778 Queen St E, Sault Ste. Marie dates to 1875 and is designated a [historic site](#). In 1904 the church became the Diocese of Sault Ste Marie. The beautiful pipe organ was built by the [Casavant Freres company](#) in Ste Hyacinthe, Quebec in 1912 The name was changed from [Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church to Precious Blood Church in 1936](#).

I have many familial connections to Precious Blood church. My parents were baptized and then married in Precious Blood Church. My sister and I were baptized here. Jennifer, the church secretary was

extremely helpful and pulled my baptism record from the archives to show me. We also looked up my parents' marriage and the baptismal record for my mom.

3. Sault Ste Marie Museum:

My cousin's granddaughter accompanied me to the [Sault Ste Marie Museum](#). It was originally the Old Post Office. By a stroke of luck, we showed up on free museum day.



(North of Fourth Line at the intersection of Fourth Line and Peoples Road)

At one time, the Holy Sepulchre cemetery was only for Catholic burials and the Greenwood cemetery across the street was for Protestants. My paternal great-grandparents Duncan and Georgina Fetherston are buried here as are my maternal great-grandparents, Samuel, and Mary Kenoski(Kochanowski). My paternal grandfather, Alois Haimerl was buried in Holy Sepulchre in 1989.



Grandpa Alois Haimerl



Great-grandparents Mary & Sam Kenoski



**Great-grandparents Duncan & Georgina Fetherston
Greenwood Cemetery:**

(South of Fourth Line at the intersection of the Fourth Line and Peoples Road)

On the other side of the road is the former Protestant cemetery. My Aunt Vi was buried there in 1990 and according to my mom, it was because she was Protestant. However, according to the Holy

Sepulchre website, that cemetery has been non-denominational since 1971. Why did they choose a plot in the “other cemetery?” Aunt Vi passed away in 1990.

Uncle Pete passed away about 3 weeks after my mom in 2011, so we had a joint celebration for them in 2012 with a brief graveside gathering in both cemeteries.



Greenwood Cemetery Mom & Bill niche Holy Sepulchre

Goulais Bay:

I was about a year old when my Uncle Pete and my mother selected the lots for a future cottage on the shore of Goulais Bay. [Goulais Bay](#) is about 30 minutes from the Soo. The cottage on Mission Rd was always one of my favorite places in winter and summer. My uncle and aunt moved out to the cottage permanently after the last bit of the McNabb St. farm was sold in the 1980s.

Uncle Pete, Holly & Donna in the 1960s

We visited Uncle Pete’s former next-door neighbours while in Goulais and they directed Savannah and I to the new Francis Hilb Preserve in Goulais Bay. Worth a visit!

<https://superiorconservancy.org/2018/06/14/the-history-of-francis-hilb-preserve/>

It was a fun experience revisiting my hometown with a pre-teen cousin. Especially one with a spirit of adventure and a good sense of humour! Savannah accompanied me to the Sault Museum, the library,

the Canal Museum, the cemeteries, Goulais Bay, Bruce Mines, the Mall, and numerous other sights. She never complained once and even went swimming with me at the local YMCA.

No visit to the Soo is ever complete without visiting the former site of our Kenoski farm on McNabb St. An old elm used to tower over the backyard and outbuildings. My uncle Pete credited its massive growth to its location near an underground septic tank.

All that is left now is a decorated tree stump. The tree was diseased and had to be cut down a few months before my mom Margaret and my Uncle Pete passed away in 2011. The stump was looking a bit neglected on my 2023 visit. I have a cover photo of the decorated stump on my FB page and wrote a blog post about that old tree on my [genealogy website](#) titled “Finding my Roots”.



Mom & Elm tree in 1950s



The Stump 2023

I will be posting more details and photos of my research trips on my personal genealogy website: <https://familyfootprints.ca/>

The title of this multi-part blog was inspired by an interesting article I read while planning my Loyalist research trip: “[Tombstone Tourism.](#)”

Comments, critiques, and suggestions are always welcome. Feel free to email me at hhfamilyfootprints@gmail.com or at sgcgenealogist@gmail.com

Would you like to see more photos of branch activities? Then please join our Sir Guy Carleton FB page or Instagram page. Our branch FB page is private but open to all UELAC members.

Next: Tombstone Travels Part 3: Heading back to Montreal via North Bay, Mattawa, Burritts Rapids, and Ottawa