

**UELAC**

**CALGARY BRANCH FALL NEWSLETTER: 2024**

Linda McClelland and Suzanne Davidson



**UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA**

*Calgary Branch*

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We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season. It was great to see some of you at our Spring and Fall meetings. Our presentations were by Doug Coates on Calgary and the Railroad in the spring and by Nicole Hughes on her research at the Fortress of Louisbourg. A summary of the spring presentation is in the Spring newsletter, available on our website. A summary of our fall presentation is included here. Both meetings were recorded so a video is available upon request. Thank you to all of our members. If you are considering applying for a UE certificate, assistance is available to members.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

# **UELAC CALGARY BRANCH FALL MEETING**

OCTOBER 19, 2024

IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM: 12:30 PM

Suzanne Davidson, Barbara Hongisto, David Hongisto, Linda McClelland, Ian McIlreath, Pat Sadler, Bill Simpson, Karen Stevenson, Gord Miller, Janice Tye, Murray Hanna, Sharon Terray, Eugene Peters, Layla Briggs, George Himan, Susan Himan, David Dunsmore, Frank Clifford

On Zoom: Jacquie McGowan, Wendy Stremlaw, Wayne Hovdestad, Nicole Hughes (presenter), Barb Andrew (part time)

## **INTRODUCTION**

The meeting opened with the singing of the Royal Anthem and Suzanne's welcoming everyone, with each of us naming ourselves and our ancestor.

## **MINUTES:**

The minutes of the August 28<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting were summarized.

## **TREASURER REPORT**

There was discussion on who is signing authority on the branch bank account. Currently it is David, Linda McClelland and George Tapley. As George died in 2022 and David is moving from the city, additional names are required.

David moved and Ian seconded that Bill Simpson and Suzanne Davidson be added as bank account signers. The motion was passed.

The account balance is similar to the amount stated in the last Executive meeting which is \$4300.95 in the account.

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

Memberships consist of 15 family members (39 people), 5 other branch members, 26 individual members, for a total of 70 people. New members during the last half of the year are Michael Lighthouse, Craig Nichols and Frank Clifford.

## **HISTORY AWARD UPDATES**

The Lethbridge award recipient is Jaxson. He is considered to be well deserving by the department and plans to pursue being an educator after his university studies. A congratulations note was sent.

The Calgary award winner is not announced until later in November.

Ian explained that U of C's award would be \$900 and U of L's prize would be \$2500, the difference being a factor of timing and matching funds.

Ian met the new contact person for U of Calgary. As of March, we had \$34255 to allow \$900 gift. We hope to reach a \$1000 prize in a year.

At U of Lethbridge, with different rules, our \$25000 was matched by the university, with \$2000 being the first award. As of March 31, our total is \$56606.72. So next year the prize would be \$2500.

#### JESSE BIGELOW BANNER

Thanks to all the hard work of Pat Brown, the banner is in position in Lethbridge on 4th Ave.

Glen Miller and Rory Cory helped Pat with this amazing project. We can check out the website, [lethbridgeveteransfamily.ca](http://lethbridgeveteransfamily.ca)

#### OTHER UPDATES

It has been found that the Calgary Branch website does not open in Microsoft Edge. Doug Grant will be contacted to get clarification.

Karen talked about the upcoming UEL conference this July in St. John NB.

Suzanne will send out the info regarding the Hamilton branch survey for saving important statues of UEL significance.

#### PRESENTATION

Nicole Hughes of the University of New Brunswick gave an interesting talk of her thesis work on a group of graves at the Fortress of Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia.

A power point was shown with pictures of David and Barbara Hongisto over their years as members and executive of the Calgary Branch. We thank them both for their service to the branch and hope to continue to hear from them after their move to Thunder Bay.

The meeting ended with the singing of O Canada

## **WEBSITE UPDATE**

After some difficulties accessing our Calgary website ([uelac.org/calgary](http://uelac.org/calgary)) in October, the problem has been fixed. The security update was not done on the full web address. This affected all who are connected to the uelac.org site. The Reference page on our website, along with the sub pages connected to it have been updated. All of the links have been checked and connect as close as possible to the expected data. An update thanking David and Barbara has been added to acknowledge their contributions over the years as they have moved to Thunder Bay. The list for Alberta Referneces has been increased with some of the entries listed below. Since Library and Archives Canada is revising their website, the search of census records has changed to have all of the censuses accessed form one page. This is updated and a mention of the commercial genealogy search websites is added, since the search engine on those sites is a less rigid to deal with. Theses sites are FamilySearch, Ancestry and MyHeritage

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

It is time to renew your membership for 2025. The fees remain the same as last year. An Individual fee is \$50 and a Family fee is \$70. The fee for an additional branch is \$10. Due to the current postal strike, mailing a cheque is not possible. Renewals can be completed online at [uelac.ca](http://uelac.ca) on the Add/Renew Membership page. Scroll down to find the Calgary Branch. When you open that, your information will appear. Continue to pay by credit card. If you wish to pay digitally. Payment by e-transfer can be made. Send the payment from your bank account to [uelcalgarybranch\(@\)gmail.com](mailto:uelcalgarybranch@gmail.com). When the postal strike is over a cheque can be sent to William Simpson at 339 Evanson Dr NW, Calgary T3P 0E4.

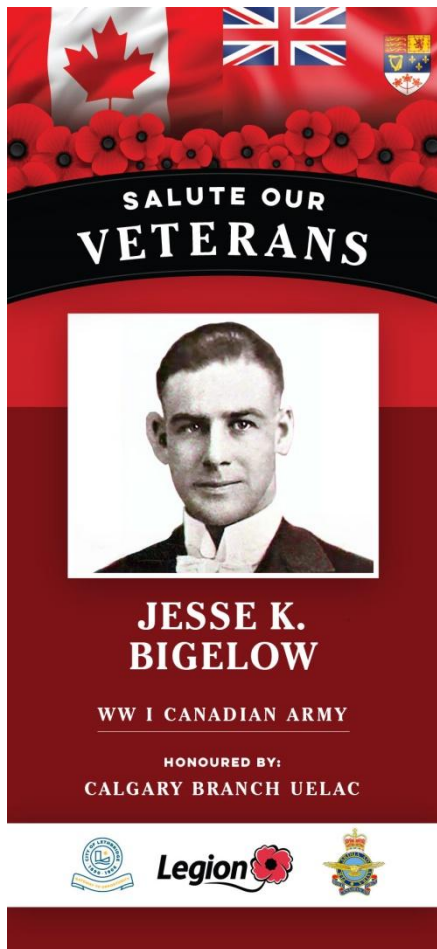
## **UNIVERSITY AWARDS UPDATE**

As stated in the above minutes The University of Lethbridge history Prize of \$2500 was awarded to Jaxson O.

The University of Calgary award has now been annouced. The recipeint is Logan Jaspers, a fifth year student studying Political Science and History.



## LETHBRIDGE LEGION BANNER UPDATE



Pat Brown has been instrumental in promoting the UELAC by researching, locating photos, sending information about a Lethbridge veteran with Loyalist connections to the Lethbridge Salute to Veterans Project. She told us that the veteran banners have been displayed on the streets of Lethbridge including the one of Jesse Bigelow that has been sponsored by the UELAC Calgary Branch. It is located near City Hall.

Jesse's loyalist ancestor was also called Jesse Bigelow. He fought in the American Revolution and sought refuge in Ontario in 1790. More information can be found at

<https://lethbridgeveteransbanners.ca/jesse-k-bigelow>

## REMEMBRANCE DAY WREATHS

Four of our members participated in the Remembrance Day Programs in Calgary.



Suzanne, Karen and Elaine placed our UELAC Calgary Branch wreath at the Military Museums.



Bill placed our UELAC Calgary Branch wreath at the Al Azhar Shriners of Southern Alberta facility.

## CELEBRATING EVELYN DEMILLE, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE CALGARY BRANCH

The presentation starts at about 12:15 pm and is free.



### CHINOOK COUNTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

#### **CCHS Christmas Luncheon Saturday, December 7, 2024**

**Danish Canadian Club, Tivoli Room 727 11 AVE SW**

Tickets must be reserved in advance by contacting Sarah Harvey at [sarpatharv@gmail.com](mailto:sarpatharv@gmail.com), or by calling 403-404-8717. The buffet is \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members

**Doors open at 11:00 AM**

**Lunch at 11:30**

**Presentation at 12:15**

#### **How to Know Someone You Never Met: The Case of Evelyn de Mille, Bookseller Annie Murray, University of Calgary's Archives and Special Collections**

This talk offers a reflection on the life, work, and legacy of Evelyn de Mille (1919-2013), the late Calgary bookseller, entrepreneur, reader, collector and philanthropist.

Through an examination of de Mille's archival materials, her vast book collection, and other sources, Annie will present the beginnings of a portrait of a compelling Calgary figure who was the first Canadian woman to found a chain of bookstores. De Mille garnered many honours throughout her career. Her career is a testament to her strength and skill in navigating the tumultuous ups and downs of the book business in the latter part of the 20th century.



**Evelyn de Mille  
After Receiving Her Honorary  
Doctorate  
Courtesy of University OF  
CALGARY Archives Collection**



**Vintage Evelyn  
de Mille  
Bookmark  
Ebay**



**Evelyn de Mille  
Photo courtesy of the  
Calgary Herald**

#### **Chinook Country Historical Society**

**A Chapter of the Historical  
Society of Alberta**

Chinook Country boundaries  
are from Olds to Nanton, from  
the British Columbia to  
Saskatchewan borders

#### **Contact Us**

##### **Office:**

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##### **Website:**

[chinookhistory.ca](http://chinookhistory.ca)

##### **Email:**

[info@chinookhistory.ca](mailto:info@chinookhistory.ca)

##### **HSA Website:**

[www.albertahistory.org](http://www.albertahistory.org)

##### **X:**

ChinookCHS

##### **Instagram:**

[www.instagram.com/chinook\\_historical\\_society](https://www.instagram.com/chinook_historical_society)

##### **Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/ChinookCountryHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/ChinookCountryHistoricalSociety)

##### **YouTube:**

Look for the Chinook Country  
Historical Society

#### **Vision Statement:**

Chinook Country Historical Society envisions a united community that values and is engaged with our shared history. We strive to be the central hub of historical programming, collaborating to preserve and bring oral, written, and physical history to life for current and future generations.

## ORGANIZATIONS THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO YOU

**Alberta Family Histories Society** website: [Alberta Family Histories Society: Home](http://afhs.ab.ca)

(afhs.ab.ca). The society is a Calgary based genealogy society with monthly meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, a Resource centre, special interest groups and research databases. The Society has a public Facebook page and a members only Facebook page.

**Historical Society of Alberta** website: [Historical Society of Alberta - Keeping Alberta's History Alive](http://albertahistory.org) (albertahistory.org). A number of chapters across the province are part of the society.

The Calgary Chapter is **Chinook Country Historical Society** with website: [www.chinookhistory.ca](http://www.chinookhistory.ca) Monthly meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. There is a monthly newsletter and Instagram, Facebook, X and LinkedIn presences.

The Lethbridge Chapter is the **Lethbridge Historical Society** with website: [www.lethbridgehistory.org](http://www.lethbridgehistory.org)

Monthly meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month. There is a monthly newsletter and Instagram, Facebook, X and YouTube presences.

**Alberta Genealogical Society** website: [Alberta Genealogical Society \(www.abgenealogy.ca\)](http://www.abgenealogy.ca)

There are a number of branches across the province.

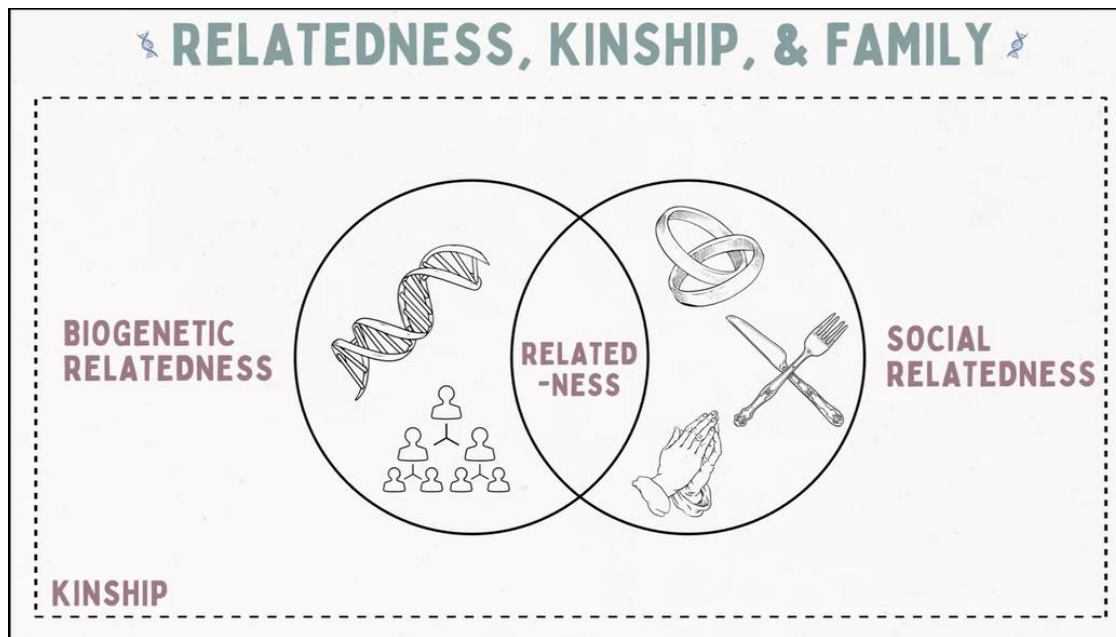
The Lethbridge branch is **Lethbridge and District AGS Branch** with website of [Lethbridge Genealogy Society](http://lethbridgeags.theboss.net) (lethbridgeags.theboss.net). The branch has monthly meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday and a presence on Facebook.

A Calgary branch has recently been started. Their meetings are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.

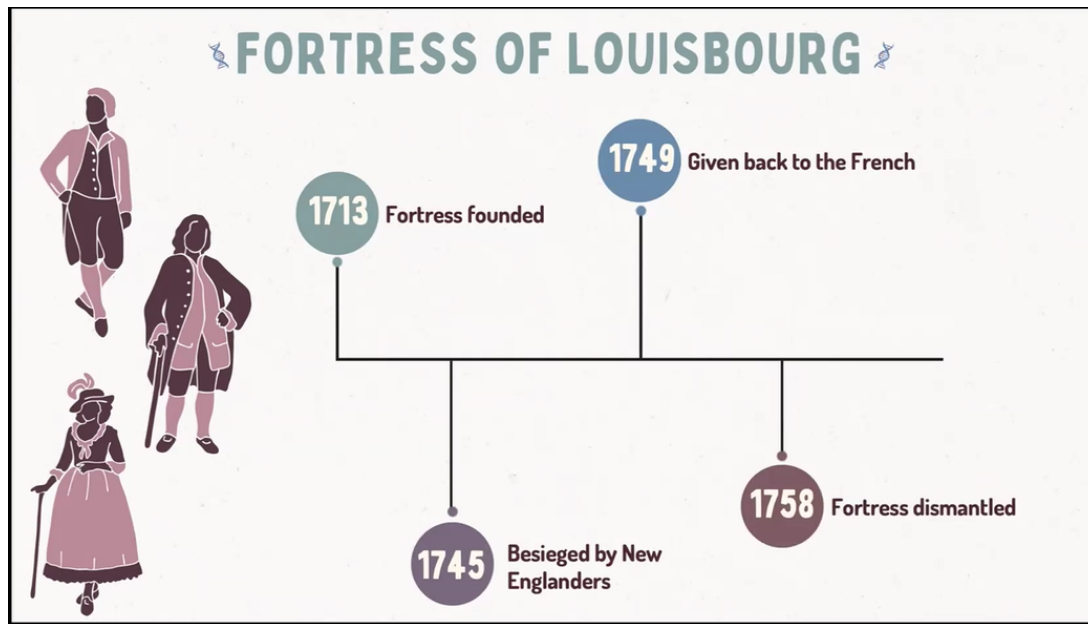
**Southern Alberta Pioneers and their Descendents** website: [Southern Alberta Pioneers and their Descendants](http://pioneersalberta.org) (pioneersalberta.org). There are meetings and activities throughout the year. They have a presence on Facebook and X.

## Fall Meeting Presentation

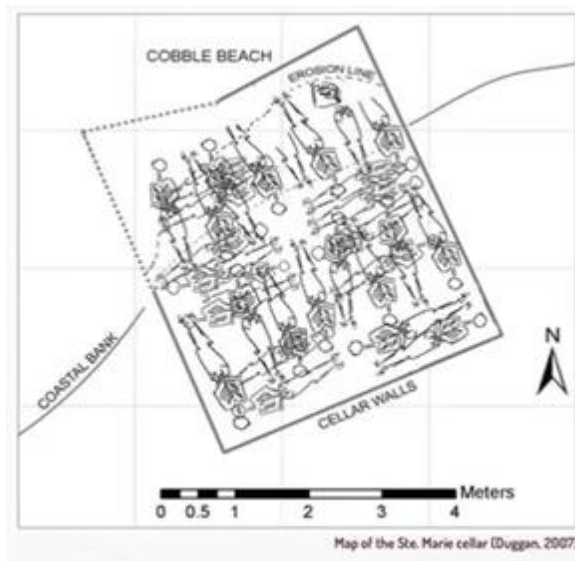
The presentation at our Fall Meeting was by Nicole Hughes, a recipient of the Dominion Scholarship in 2022. The meeting was recorded so a copy can be obtained by contacting Suzanne at [s\\_e\\_davidson\(@\)hotmail.com](mailto:s_e_davidson(@)hotmail.com). Nicole is a PhD student in Interdisciplinary Studies at University of New Brunswick. She is researching Kinship in a Colonial 18<sup>th</sup> Century Multiple Burial site of the Rocheport Cemetery at the Fortress of Louisbourg in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. She is concentrating on Bioarchaeology. This involves studying human skeletal remains to determine biosocial lived experiences and kinship. Kinship analyzes a culture bound system and mortuary patterns. The connection of biogenetic and social relatedness forms kinship.



The Fortress of Louisbourg was in operation from 1713, when it was the centre of the French cod fishery and a military base until 1758, when the British took it over and dismantled it.



Nicole's prime research is the period of 1745-1746 when a multiple burial of New Englanders were buried in the cellar of a burned house near the water edge. The bodies were laid in two layers with the above layer being perpendicular to the bottom layer. The excavation was in 2006. A large number of the New Englanders involved in the siege of the Fortress died.



There were 25 burials with one female. The ages ranged from 2 to 45 years, with most in their early 20s. Parks Canada is in charge of storing the skeletons.

Genetics is determined through DNA. The molars were used to analyze for mitochondrial and Y DNA to determine female and male genetic relations. Only 11 bodies had molars

sufficient to generate enough sample to measure DNA.

Social relatedness was investigated using stable isotope analysis for diet information, personal adornments such as buttons and buckles which indicate place of manufacture and mortuary patterns. Mortuary patterns reflect religious practices and family preferences. A Christian practice is to face the bodies to the east.

Corn was primarily consumed by New Englanders and not British. It therefore became part of the New England identity. Beef and wheat was part of the British identity. All New England soldiers are meals

together regardless of rank. A number of journals were kept and letters were sent home. British soldiers ate only within their ranks, thus limiting the social relatedness. Since most New Englanders were farmers, they had a kinship to land and animals.

The burial pattern was organized with 2 layers. The bottom layer was oriented east west, since they were Puritans. Heads were oriented to the west so they rise to face the east. The top layer was oriented north south, probably to give integrity to the burial. Coffins and shrouds would not then disintegrate and fall on the lower level. The persons were buried equally, showing the same social status.

There were very few personal adornments. Both civilian and military buttons and buckles were found. Food rations were very poor so a lot of deaths due to disease and frost bite.

## THANK YOU TO DAVID AND BARBARA HONGISTO

A number of pictures over the years were gathered to thank David and Barbara for their contributions to the branch over the years. The full power point with more pictures will be sent separately. Below are some teasers from early days and later days.



David receiving his UEL certificate for John Belyea from former Branch Genealogist Jim Stewart in 1999.

Barbara in 2002





David and Barbara at Lethbridge cemetery  
dedication 2019