

UELAC

CALGARY BRANCH SUMMER NEWSLETTER: 2025

Linda McClelland and Suzanne Davidson



**UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA**

Calgary Branch

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MINUTES OF THE SPRING MEETING AND AGM

MAY 25, 2025

LOCATION

Alberta Family Histories Society meeting room at 8500 McLeod Trail Southeast Suite 251S

IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM: 1PM

In attendance were Annie Murray (speaker), Suzanne Davidson (President), Bill Simpson (Membership), Ian McIlreath (Scholarships), Linda McClelland (Newsletter), Pat Sadler Brown (Director), Karen Stevenson (Director), Gordon Miller, Neil Garlough, Cheryl Hanna, Jacquie McGowan, Lorna Laughton, Charlie Lund and two first time members, Bruce Miller and Frank Clifford.

ON ZOOM: David Hongisto (past president and treasurer), Barbara Hongisto (Past secretary), Ivy Trumpour (Director)

ROYAL ANTHEM

After a welcome from Suzanne, the Royal Anthem was sung accompanied by a computer rendition.

MEMORIAM

Suzanne announced the passing of two people who had been members of the Calgary Branch; Stan Clayton, Helen Backhouse, and Sean McIlreath. They were remembered with a moment of silence.



Stan Clayton
10 Nov 1929 to 5 May 2024



Helen Backhouse
6 Dec 1931 to 9 Feb 2024



Sean McIlreath
25 Oct 1970 to 1 Jan 2025

INTRODUCTIONS

Two new members, Frank Clifford and Bruce Miller were introduced. Each gave a short description of their Loyalist relative. Bruce, a former MLA, talked about Andrew Miller's story from abduction as a teenager to a Loyalist settler in the Niagara region. Bruce has written this story in a book for his relatives.

Frank is in the process of researching the Loyalist background of his deceased wife, Edith L. Kemp. He needs one more birth certificate to verify a link to a Loyalist. Her grandmother was Katy Jane Kemp (nee Lundy) and Katy's parents were Thomas Lundy and Catherine Silverthorne Lundy. Catherine's parents were Joseph Silverthorne and Jane Chisholm. (Joseph is a noted UEL.)

Frank is waiting for the birth certificate to be sent from Manitoba's Vital Statistics.

This was followed by lunch.

SPEAKER

Annie Murray, from the University of Calgary spoke on the life of our benefactor Evelyn deMille, 1919 to 2013. Evelyn attended most meetings of the Calgary Branch and willed the Branch \$30,000 and many Loyalist books.

Annie talked about Evelyn as the "author of her life with main character energy, and a layered knowledge of self".

Evelyn was a prominent Calgary bookseller and entrepreneur who built a successful bookstore chain before selling it to WH Smith in 1974. After regrouping she started Owl's Nest Books in 1975 and deMille Technical Books in 1979.



AGENDA

It was moved by Bill Simpson and seconded by Charlie Lund that the agenda be accepted as sent out by Suzanne Davidson. This was passed.

MINUTES

The minutes of the past two general meetings were previously circulated. It was moved by Ian McIlreath and seconded by Pat Sadler Brown that they be accepted as written. This motion was passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bill Simpson reported that at present, there is \$4675.47 in the bank with payment for insurance of approximately \$600.00 to be made as well as paying \$50.00 for a donation to the Alberta Family Histories Society. The financial report was moved by Neil Garlough, seconded by Ian McIlreath and passed.

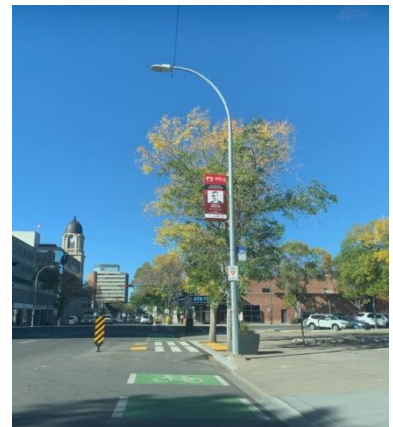
MEMBERSHIP

Bill Simpson informed us that membership is stable: 26 individual memberships and 14 family memberships for a total of 72 members. Three new people were added this year.

JESSE BIGELOW BANNER IN LETHBRIDGE



Pat Sadler Brown reported that the banner was completed in October, 2024, and will be set up each fall until it is destroyed by the wind. Dr. Jesse Bigelow fought in WW1 and headed west with a medical degree in 1927. He is related to the Jesse Bigelow who was in the war of 1776.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Ian McIlreath explained that both U of C and U of L will not officially release financial reports on their endowments until later in the coming summer, however in consulting informally with the U of C, as of May 13th we got an unofficial estimate that the Market Value of our fund is \$47,000. This means we probably will finally achieve our goal of creating a \$1000 prize for the next winner, to be awarded later this year.

- At U of C, we had \$13,837 in the fund on Nov. 25, 2019 when our prize was \$200. So over the last 6 years we have grown our fund by \$33,163 and the prize has increased by \$800.
- The Market Value of our U of C fund on March 31, 2024 was \$34,265 which resulted in awarding \$900 to our latest award winner, Logan Jaspers, last December. At that time Logan was a 5th year Political Science student with a minor in History, in the Faculty of Arts.
- At U of L, the market value of our fund was estimated at \$58,871 on May 14th. In 2023, U of L matched the \$25,000 from Evelyn deMille's estate so we started with \$50,000. On that basis the first winner of our prize in Canadian History. Jaxon O, received \$2000.
- Again it is not official but this year's winner may actually receive \$2500.
- **Finally, U of L is still matching donations so if anyone would like to donate, Ian McIlreath can provide contact information.**

CONFIRMATION OF BRANCH OFFICERS

Much discussion took place regarding the Calgary Branch executive positions for 2025-26. There were no new names put forth for current positions. Linda McClelland volunteered to write the minutes for the current meeting and Frank Clifford offered to be secretary at the following meeting and possibly take on the role as secretary.

Pat Brown mentioned that her daughter, Wendy, is studying genealogy and would likely be willing to help with research for people who are trying to obtain their certification. Suzanne also mentioned that Ivy Trumpour has offered to help with genealogical research.

Pat Sadler Brown suggested that the Branch consider collaboration with the Chinook Historical Society and Alberta Historical Society for expanded reach and potential grants.

We still need someone to take on the role of Treasurer. Pat Sadler Brown suggested that someone may have a person in their family who would be willing to do so. (As an aside, that would look good on a student's resume!) David Hongisto has set up an Xcel spreadsheet for the treasurer.

And we still need someone who is interested in being a **Vice President**.

It was moved by Gordon Miller and seconded by Lorna Laughton to keep the current slate of officers with some adjustments, including Frank Clifford as a director and designating David Hongisto and Barbara Hongisto as consultants. The motion was passed.

The slate of officers is then

President:	Suzanne Davidson
Vice-President:	vacant
Treasurer:	William Simpson (interim)
Membership:	William Simpson
Secretary:	Frank Clifford (possible)
Directors:	Ian McIlearn Ivy Trumpour Pat Sadler Brown Karen Stevenson
Consultants	David Hongisto Barbara Hongisto

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Suzanne informed us of an Insurance quote of approximately \$600. Discussion followed indicating that the Dominion UELAC already covers directors and officers insurance and that there is no need for hired automobiles; both of which were part of the quoted \$605 from ecclesiastical insurance. It was moved by Pat Sadler Brown and seconded by Lorna Laughton that the insurance for \$605 proceed. All voted in favour of the motion.

CERTIFICATES and STORED DOCUMENTS

A discussion regarding accessing help with genealogical research took place. Suzanne mentioned that the boxes of Branch documents (including completed certificate applications) that were en route one time to the Alberta archives are currently being stored in her basement. In the past it was thought that we wouldn't have easy access to the documents if they were stored in Edmonton.

Karen Stevenson received her certificate through the PEI Branch for Loyalist Ancestor, Jeremiah Myers.

Karen described her Loyalist ancestor, Jeremiah.

Jerimiah Myers/Meyers

Jerimiah Myers was a Loyalist from Pennsylvania thought to be of Quaker, German or Dutch ancestry. Born about 1750, we find him in the "Company of Armed Batteau Men" under the leadership of Captain Peter Van Alstine.

He was also listed on the Muster Roll of Artificers and Sawyers" as a carpenter on Staten Island in 1781. On 7 July 1782 his daughter Ruth was born in New York.

Jerimiah, a woman and 4 children paid their passage in 1783 to Shelburne, N.S. They travelled as "Port Roseway Associates" and on arrival were granted 50 acres of land below Shelburne in "Masons division". In 1786 they sold the land and moved to York, PEI. In the 1798 census, there were one male and one female 16-60 and one male and one female under 16.

In the 1798 census their daughter Ruth was living next door with her husband Conrad Younker son of Hessian soldier Johann Christian Ernst Juncker. Johann was regimental drummer with General Wilhelm von Knyphaussen in America and died of natural causes fighting for the British.

Conrad and Ruth had 12 children from July 1798-1824. Ruth lived to be 100 years old and her daughter Barbara 1811-1881 married David Robert Moore Hooper, one time mayor of Charlottetown. Their daughter Emma Jane 1839-1901 married Angus MacKenzie of Cavendish PEI in 1859. Their daughter Clara 1876-1975 married Richard Stevenson in 1901 and my father Robert was the youngest of 10 children, being born in 1920.



100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CALGARY BRANCH

Linda McClelland said that the history of the branch needs to be updated from 2013. This history could be written as a booklet and distributed for the 100th anniversary of the branch in 2028.

Anyone who is interested in helping with small jobs to get the history updated can contact Linda McClelland. (cell is 403-771-7056)

CONCLUSION

The meeting was concluded with Suzanne giving details about the upcoming Dominion Conference in Saint John and the singing of **O Canada**.

LAST POST: Shirley Dorothy Gloria Swanby, U.E. d. 10 June 2025



Shirley was born near Ottawa to Donald and Dorothy Campsall. She trained as a laboratory technician working for the Federal Department of Health.

Shirley married Tom Swanby in 1956. They moved to Calgary and they raised two children; Eric and Nancy.

Shirley was very involved in the community and church. She played tennis and golf, volunteered extensively, and obtained a degree from U of C. She was a proud United Empire Loyalist and member of the Calgary Branch.

Shirley is survived by her husband Tom; her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Shirley's full obituary can be found in the June 14th Calgary Herald.

Shirley's Loyalist ancestor was James Jackson, who served in Jessup's Loyal Rangers and Butler's Rangers. He came from Chester County, New York to Digby Nova Scotia and then Ernest town and Mountain Township, Upper Canada

Also descended from James Jackson are Catharine Harradence and her father, James Richardson. They were long time members of our branch and James was a president early in the branch operation after the first presidents, Lewis Clarry and Clifford Jones.

ADDITIONAL UPDATE ON AWARDS

The fund, which our award for U of C is based on is now at \$43,000. Thank you to those who donated in April during the matching campaign. This means the award for this year should be \$1200. We are awaiting an update from U of L. To add to the U of L award please contact Ileana Garcia Ortegon at (garciaortegon@uleth.ca).

The National UELAC organization is having a challenge for their Scholarship Fund which benefits post graduate students studying a Loyalist topic. The challenge ends on September 1. Please check the website at [Scholarship Challenge 2025 – UELAC](#) for details. Donations can be made at anytime also.

FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE

We are in need of someone to update our Facebook page.

The website [Calgary Branch UELAC – Welcome to the Calgary Branch website of UELAC](#) has been checked and the links are valid. Please consult the References page for websites with Loyalist related information.

FALL MEETING

We are planning our Fall Meeting. It is to be held on Sunday, October 26 at the Alberta Family Histories Society's Resource Centre. The topic is to be confirmed. We are approaching Stephen Davidson for a Loyalist topic or a local historian for a Calgary History topic.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO YOU

Alberta Family Histories Society [Alberta Family Histories Society: Home](#)

The society has a Resource Centre at 8500 Macleod Tr SE Suite 251S which has a number of books on Genealogy and areas of the world, including United Kingdom and all provinces and territories of Canada. It also manages a number of databases on local cemeteries, births, marriages and deaths. Access to Newspaper Archive for Canadian papers, family search.org locked microfilms and Findmypast are available at the Centre.

Historical Society of Alberta [Historical Society of Alberta - Keeping Alberta's History Alive](#)

Chinook Country Historical Society is the Calgary chapter of the Society [Chinook Chapter - Historical Society of Alberta](#) It has monthly meetings and newsletters and has a presence on Instagram, Facebook, X and LinkedIn.

Lethbridge also has a branch [Lethbridge Chapter | Historical Society of Alberta](#) They have a newsletter, monthly meetings and a presence on Facebook, X, Instagram and YouTube.

Alberta Genealogical Society [Alberta Genealogical Society](#)

Both Lethbridge and Calgary have chapters that can be found at [Calgary](#) and [Lethbridge](#)