



GRAND RIVER BRANCH
United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada
114 Delatre Street, Woodstock, Ontario N4S 6B9

News Release

For immediate release

Something New – Something Old

January 6, 2021 (Port Credit, Ontario) – The Grand River Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada today announced Nicholas Michael Parsons UE as one of its youngest members ever at its branch. Nicholas will celebrate his first birthday on January 6th. He is the son of Oksana Szymanska and Michael Parsons of Port Credit, Ontario.

At just 250 days old, Nickolas received his UE designation at a ceremony in Brantford, Ontario. UE stands for Unity of Empire coming from a 1789 Proclamation by Lord Dorchester, Governor-General of Upper and Lower Canada granting families that had defended the unity of the British Empire the hereditary right to add the capital letters UE after their name.

Loyalists began leaving America then consisting of thirteen newly independent American states at the end of its Revolutionary War with Great Britain between 1775 and 1783. Those refugees, who were fiercely loyal to Great Britain, were later called United Empire Loyalists.

Janet Parsons UE, Nicholas' grandmother of Sturgeon Falls, Ontario stated "It's important to me that my three sons and seven grandchildren are aware of their ancestry. We are who we are because of those who have gone before, and we have a rich background of loyalty. As we enjoy the immense privilege of calling ourselves Canadians, we need to recognize the struggles that have given us this opportunity and do our part to enhance our country during our own lifetimes." She added "I have three wishes for my children and grandchildren ... feel good about yourself, be honest, and contribute to society. Being a United Empire Loyalist and continuing to be an active member of Grand River gives one the underpinning of pride and grounding that is basic to everyday life."

All three sons and seven grandchildren of Janet have their UE certification.

Parents Oksana Szymanska and Michael Parsons said "We are extremely thankful to the Grand River Branch, especially its genealogist Heather Smith for guiding us through the certification process. Anyone thinking of delving into their ancestry to verify their United Empire Loyalist status should contact her. Thank you Grand River."

Bev Balch UE, President of the Grand River Branch stated, "We are delighted to assist the Parsons family in obtaining their UE designation and we are especially proud of Nicholas, one of our youngest members ever".

The Grand River is one of the larger branches of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (UELAC). The Branch covers much of Southwestern Ontario in the vicinity of the Grand River from the Bruce Peninsula to Long Point. Membership is open to all those interested and supportive of Loyalist history and heritage and new Members are always welcome. They need not be Loyalists.

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For more information including membership, contact Ellen Tree UE, Membership Chair, Grand River Branch, 1-519-537-7437 or jtrees7437@rogers.com. Photo courtesy of Oksana Szymanska.



United Empire Loyalists' Association
Of Canada

This is to certify that
Nicholas Michael Parsons
Has provided acceptable documentation proving descent from
William Osterhout
A United Empire Loyalist

Given under our hands at
The Dominion Office of the
Association, Toronto
This 13th day of September, 2020

Suzanne Anne-Harris President
John M. Tustin Secretary