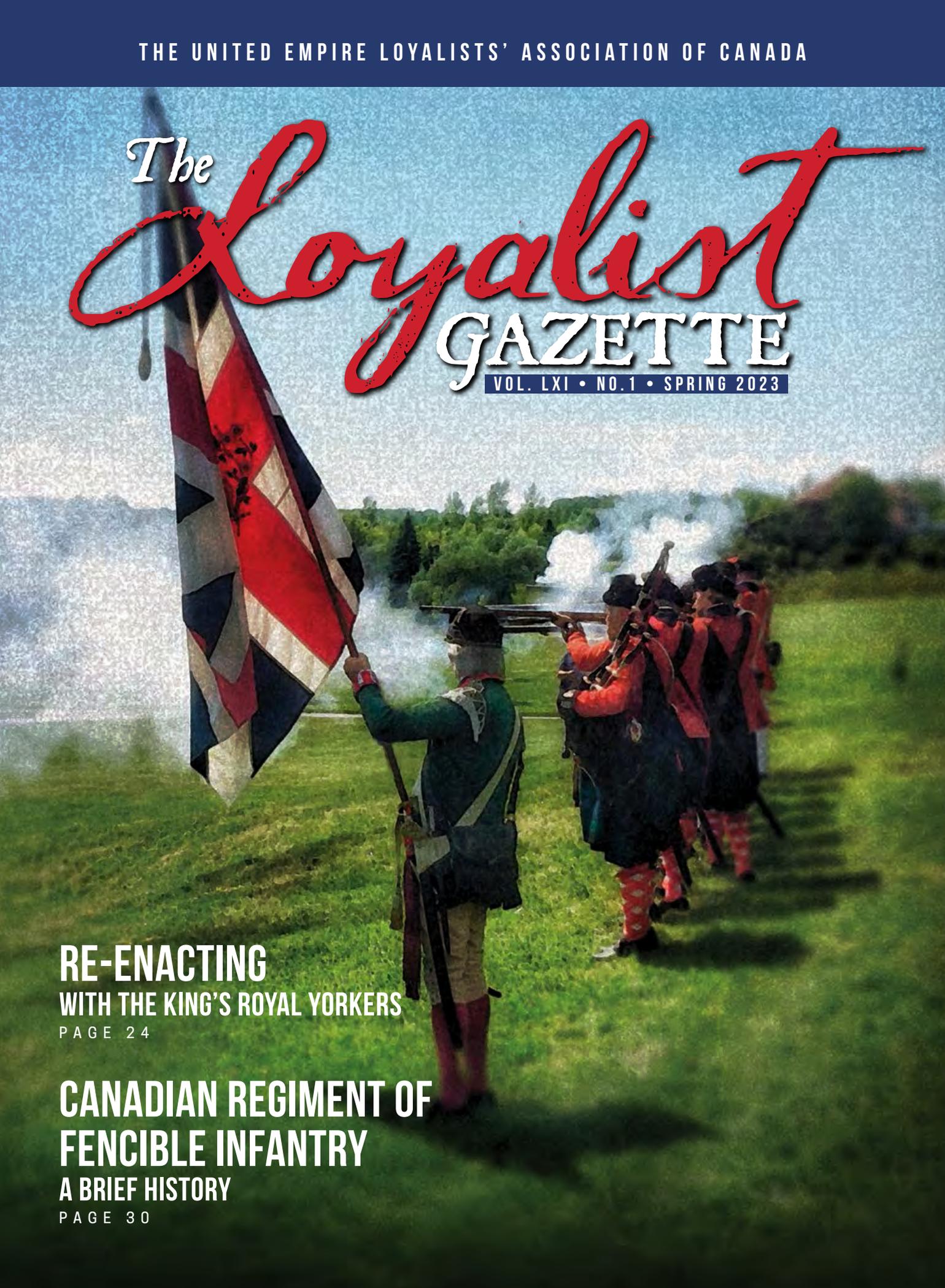


THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

The **Loyalist** GAZETTE

VOL. LXI • NO. 1 • SPRING 2023



**RE-ENACTING
WITH THE KING'S ROYAL YORKERS**

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**CANADIAN REGIMENT OF
FENCIBLE INFANTRY
A BRIEF HISTORY**

PAGE 30



BY AMANDA FASKEN UE
LOYALIST GAZETTE COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Loyalist Quill



When asked to be the guest editor I was hesitant. I prefer to be the one in the background doing the layout and graphic design. But when suggested I focused on my hobby of living history, I got excited. What you see in this issue is only scratching the surface of living history and the many ways and roles people passionately portray. We come from so many different backgrounds (and two countries) but it's our shared love of history and wanting to ensure it's survival. It's more important then ever in a time of 'cancel culture' and the desire to rewrite our history. What our children learn in school has also been greatly reduced. My son's knowledge of Loyalist history comes almost exclusively from me and the years of having them participate in living history events at various locations across Ontario and New York. What has made the experience even more enriching is the friendships formed across the border. We are able to truly see and listen to the other side of history and have a greater understanding

and empathy. As we know, war is not always black and white.

In trying to understand my own personal love of history I recall visiting many forts and places like Upper Canada Village with my family as a child. One memory I had forgotten about was going to the Gettysburg Battlefield. It wasn't until I stumbled upon the photo to the right (I'm the little one in the yellow jacket) of my sister and I at the top of one of the monuments that I ever knew I was ever there. No doubt these early family trips helped shaped my love of history, especially military history. I'm thankful that my parents give us these experiences.

At the end of June this year I will be returning to Gettysburg with a musket in my hand to participate in the 160th anniversary of the historic battle.

Please support living history by coming out to events. Participate and ask questions. Reenactors love to talk about history to anyone who wants to listen. And yes, we do actually sleep out in those little tents that are on display.



P.S. Thank you to Jennifer and Carl for all of your hard work and much patience. You guys are the best!

Amanda Fasken UE

History IN MOTION

How Re-enactments Bring History to Life & Immerse Us in the Lives of our Ancestors

PHOTO ESSAY BY JENNIFER DEBRUIN

In The Footsteps of the Ancestors Tour, Johnstown, NY, October 2019



Over the years I have explored the lives of my ancestors in many ways including genealogical and historical research and travel to places of origin, but there is a unique ability to connect with the past when I attend an historical re-enactment.

Historical re-enactors have a commitment to learning and 'living' history. Their knowledge, and sharing this at various events, allows me to step into a long ago past, while having the ability to ask questions that can only be answered by having experienced similar situations.

While the challenges of the past cannot be truly replicated, re-enactors often immerse themselves in history at these events by living in rudimentary canvas tents, preparing and eating authentic foods of the period, wearing the clothes and uniforms made of traditional materials, which are often hand-sewn by the re-enactors themselves, they participate in skirmishes and battles using authentic weapons (made safe of course) to understand strategy and tragedy of facing your opponent nearly eye to eye, and they partake in the comradery and merriment of sharing a passion for the past. Re-enactments are multi-sensory experiences where the sights, smells and sounds of the past come together.

I have been fortunate to attend many historical events featuring re-enactors, and have found their insights, extensive knowledge, and welcome of my many questions to be an invaluable part of continuing the exploration of my own family story.

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Anne Clothier & Paul Supley demonstrate 18th century food and medicines at Johnson Hall State Historic Site.

> An Evening of Merriment at the Burk Inn Liaison Plaisantes perform 18th century music; Bernadette Weaver of the Johnstown Historical Society & Paul Supley of Van Wyck Chocolate House making a traditional spiced hot chocolate once enjoyed by people in the Georgian period.





BY PATRICIA GROOM UE
UELAC DOMINION PRESIDENT



Spring 2023 DOMINION PRESIDENT'S Message

What a year! Our Cornwall head office has a new administrator! I would like you to welcome Rodney Appleby to our organization. As I write this, Jim Bruce is in Cornwall for 2 days of training so Rodney can begin the task of learning all there is to do at UELAC. We are aiming towards late fall to have the archives open on an appointment basis for research.

I would like to thank Jim for the past several years as he trudged through two jobs as we could not hire nor train anyone through COVID. Jim will remain as our Business Administrator, aiding in all things financial. I'm sure he is looking forward to passing on all the tasks that go along with the office admin role.

The move of our head office and archives to Cornwall over the last year will change the way the public view UELAC and will make us much more accessible. Working closely with the Cornwall Museum staff, we are looking forward to being recognized as being an inclusive organization.

We are excited to welcome as

many of you as possible to Cornwall in 2024 so you can see what we have been working so hard at!

As my term as President comes to a close, I want to pause a moment and thank those who guided me along the way. Barb Andrew and Carl Stymiest were instrumental in helping me through a difficult time after Sue Hines' passing (and then the remainder of my tenure) and Jo Ann Tuskin,

who made sure I didn't forget anything from board meeting dates, zoom links and agendas.

I certainly hope to see you all in Vancouver.

Loyally Yours,
Patricia Groom UE,
UELAC President



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GUEST EDITOR
Amanda Fasken



ON THE COVER:
Members of the King's Royal Yorkers and the 84th Royal Highland Emigrants fire a salute at a UEL plaque unveiling in Cornwall ON..

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT:
Amanda Fasken UE



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95TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING
of the Victoria
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RE-ENACTING
with the
King's Royal Yorkers



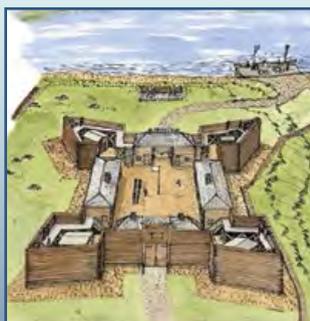
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COLOURS OF THE
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THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

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BY JENNIFER DEBRUIN UE

GUEST EDITOR

AMANDA CAMPBELL-FASKEN

EXPLORES THE PAST THROUGH IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

Amanda is a woman of many talents. She is a mixed media artist, freelance graphic designer, and resolute member of many community and historical groups. Quiet by nature, Amanda is not one to tout her own accomplishments, but when you start speaking to her about her many passions, particularly living history, and it is evident she is someone who not only loves learning through experience, but truly enjoys the sense of community and comradery within these groups. Her enthusiasm and creativity are contagious.

LOYALIST GAZETTE GRAPHIC DESIGNER & LG COMMITTEE MEMBER

If you are wowed by the new full-colour, professional design of the Loyalist Gazette in recent years, you have Amanda to thank for that. UELAC was excited to secure Amanda as our graphic designer in 2018. Her design talent, married with her involvement in UELAC and the historical community has meant Amanda's contributions to evolving the publication have been immeasurable and our readership has responded with numerous compliments on the magazine we produce.

As a mixed media artist, Amanda uses her talent to create exciting, evocative art pieces, but this too carries over into the design of the Loyalist Gazette.

"I studied Graphic Design for three years at St. Lawrence College in Kingston, Ontario and have been working in my field in newspaper for the last ten years. I've taken various night school classes from water colors, life drawing to mixed media along the way finding that I needed to balance my time spent on the canvas as on the computer."



View some of Amanda's art at: www.facebook.com/amandafaskendesigns

LIVING HISTORY

"The term "living history" refers to a method of interpreting the past through the use of a person or persons dressed in period clothing. The technique is usually enhanced



by having the person or persons use period tools and engage in period activities." - http://wemadehistory.com/definition_of_living_historian.htm

Exploring various periods, perspectives and experiences is something Amanda is passionately committed to. At various historical events, one might find her re-enacting the roles of soldier, camp follower, or manning an historical booth or assisting in some other way. Her enthusiasm for immersive experience is evident at these events.

If you have ever attended a living history event, you'll quickly realize that these provide a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the past. Those who re-enact are dedicated to learning about the details and nuances of the period, of the experience, of the people, so that they can accurately depict this

as a method of educating themselves and others. Most re-enactors will tell you that their method of sharing and teaching history requires accuracy at every detail. When you visit Amanda at events, she is often found sleeping in rudimentary canvas tents of the period, with only the most basic, and historically accurate foods and drinks being served. To many it would seem uncomfortable, but this is where passion and dedication meet. Amanda embraces the entire experience. What she can then share with others is more realistic and useful in expanding our understanding of the lives of our ancestors or those in the past.

Notably, Amanda is often the only female re-enacting traditionally male military roles, which in itself is interesting, because it is not historically inaccurate, as you will learn.



➤ Canadian Fencible Infantry 1812 at Saint-Jean Quebec.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION (1776-83)

A member of the *84th Royal Highland Emigrants*, Amanda states that, “I was interested in this time period to learn more about my Loyalist ancestors during the American Revolution. The majority of them served with the Kings Royal

Regiment of New York. But I also have Scottish blood, my maiden name being Campbell.”

Over the years, Amanda has continued to learn more about her Loyalist ancestors and others of this period and shares what she learns in a very hands-on way, whether it be at school education programs, history fairs, or historical re-enactments. She is often showing others her “kit,” the dress and accoutrements she dons, or demonstrating techniques of marching or holding weaponry, replicates for the public. Her welcoming manner makes her a valuable educator, and advocate for historical preservation.

WAR OF 1812 (1812-1814)

Where it all began. Amanda states, “I first started re-enacting with 1812. I also had ancestors that were involved with the War of 1812. I started doing a militia impression as my ancestors served with the Stormont Militia, but when this group closed up, I was invited by a friend to join the Canadian Fencible Infantry. It’s been a great experience, the group becoming like family.”

Amanda has also participated in



➤ The 84th Royal Highland Emigrants at Fort Erie Ontario.



➤ 118th New York Volunteer Infantry, Union Civil War.

projects and events marking the recognition of War of 1812 veterans, of course many of them being United Empire Loyalists.

US CIVIL WAR (1861-65)

Member of the 118th New York Volunteer Infantry – The Adirondack Regiment

Interestingly, Amanda’s involvement in US Civil War re-enacting as a Canadian is historically accurate. In fact, it’s estimated about 50,000 Canadians participated in this bloody conflict, most in Union forces, but some did fight for the Confederacy. Amanda mainly re-enacts this period as a soldier, and this too is an area of interest to her, as she has shared stories of the women who dressed as men to fight alongside their husbands, or in defence of the cause, not being satisfied with being a camp follower, as many women were.

According to Amanda, “I enjoy participating in school education days and showing students photos of soldiers, having them guess if it’s a man

or woman. Surprisingly, American students are not taught much about the Civil War.”

In 2018, a monument to Canadians who fought in the US Civil War was erected in Long Sault, Ontario at the site of the Lost Villages Museum.

Learn more about the involvement of Canadians in the US Civil war:

When Johnny (Canuck) Comes Marching Home Again: Canadians in the American Civil War, 1861–1865 (Canadian Forces Website); <http://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/vol20/no1/>

With all her accomplishments, it would be remiss not to mention that Amanda shares her many experiences with her two sons, who have camped, re-enacted, and learned along with her. She is a genuine person who loves to share many experiences with family and friends.

We are proud to have Amanda as our Spring 2023 Loyalist Gazette Guest Editor, and we know you’ll learn much from the content she has curated for you through this beautifully designed publication.



[PDF/CMJ201Ep40.pdf](#)

Perhaps you need a refreshment after all this? Well, Amanda can assist with this also! She and her husband are co-owners of Riverhead Brewing Company in Kingston, Ontario. A quote from their website sums up her talent and wry sense of humour:

“Amanda is our Graphic Designer who makes us, and the beer look good... Amanda goes on frequent adventures into the past where she enjoys firing her black powder flintlock musket at Americans in 1775 & 1812.”

www.riverheadbrewing.com



➤ Speaking to students and visitors about the women who served in disguise during the American Civil War. Hadley, NY.

Loyalist SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

UELAC LOYALIST SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND.

The year 2025 will mark the 250th anniversary of the American War for Independence and the first of many chapters of our Loyalist story. Our current and past Scholarship winners are joining others now writing new research that challenges the mythology of the American Revolution.

We acknowledge that the plight of loyalists has been misrepresented or ignored in some popular teaching and film production. The UELAC Scholarship is a very important aspect of our organization. It is helping to ensure that the story of the Loyalists in the American Revolution and the

aftermath of settlement in Canada continues to be researched and shared by Masters and PhD graduate students who apply and qualify for the scholarship money. Do you have a friend or relative doing graduate studies in history. Please share the opportunity with them. See [Scholars Wanted](#) on the UELAC website.

The UELAC Scholarship Committee is please to launch the 2023 Scholarship Challenge at the conference “Where the Sea Meets the Sky” in Richmond, British Columbia.

August 1, 2023 will be the closing date of the challenge, but the

opportunity for donations to towards UELAC scholarships is always available to you at [Donate now](#).

Thank you from the full UELAC Scholarship Committee: Christine Manzer UE, Chair, Tim Comepeau UE, Heather Smith UE, Rebecca Brannon and Stephanie Seal-Walters



Funding Future Knowledge

2023 UELAC Scholarship Fundraising
Challenge goal is \$5000.
Challenge dates: June 1 – August 1, 2023

UELAC SCHOLARS WANTED!



The UELAC Loyalist Scholarship is available to Masters and PhD students undertaking a program in research that will further Canada's understanding of the Loyalists and our appreciation of their, or their immediate descendants', influence on Canada.

The award is for \$2,500 Canadian per year and, on approval, will be provided for each of two years for Masters and three years for PhD students.

Preference may be given to students who have taken an undergraduate degree in history, to those who are of proven Loyalist descent, and to students at Universities in Canada. The UELAC reserves the right to award the scholarship in accordance with its sole discretion. Upon completion, a copy of the thesis must be presented to the Association.

The application requirements are available at www.uelac.org

The deadline for applications is 28 February.

UELAC PEOPLE Behind the Scenes



LIZ ADAIR UE
PRAIRIE REGION COUNCILLOR

PRAIRIE REGION COUNCILLOR
UELAC BRANCH MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
ASSINIBOINE BRANCH GENEALOGIST

ASSINIBOINE BRANCH MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

I was incredibly lucky to have enjoyed a childhood living in two provinces. My family (parents, three older sisters, myself and my dog) drove back-and-forth each year between their acreage just outside of Pickering, Ontario to spend six months farming the land northeast of Indian Head, Saskatchewan that my Grandfather first homesteaded in 1883. I had the opportunity to develop friendships in both places (for six months!) and enjoyed the unique experiences of fall-winter-spring in Ontario, followed by another spring-summer-fall in Saskatchewan – six seasons, all in one year. It's no wonder I'm time zone challenged.

Growing up in the summer on the prairies provided me an overwhelming appreciation for the freedom I had, as well as a love for being able to see 'forever'. I went to a one-room school for the spring and fall and, when we relocated to Ontario, I attended a much larger school. There was a big difference between taking a school bus in Ontario and occasionally riding horseback to school in Saskatchewan. I loved it.

When I graduated from Grade 13, I entered nursing at Oshawa General Hospital to obtain my RN, after which I moved to Regina, Saskatchewan and

worked in a newly opened ICU/CCU for a year. During this time, I met my husband James and, after marriage, we moved to Thompson, Manitoba for one year.

We then moved to The Pas, Manitoba for two years, where I was a Supervisor and worked in Emergency while James attended college. After James completed his Mineral Science course we moved to the gold mining community, Red Lake, Ontario, where our son Paul was born. Two years later, we moved to an acreage south of Brandon, Manitoba and lived there for the next 13 years. It was during this time our second son Jonathan was born. In 1988 we moved back to Thompson for the next 17 years before moving in 2005 to our current home in Winnipeg. Lots of friends were made along the way. Our grandson Nixon was born in 2013, and I know you've all heard me speak of him.

Throughout my career in nursing, I have worked mainly in the Critical Care areas of ICU and Emergency, Hemodialysis, Staff Education, and Management. I even started my own company, Northern Health Education, that included teaching across the North on everything from 12-lead EKGs, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and even Mine Rescue at the mine in



Thompson. Nurses are versatile to say the least, and providing emergency care underground is just the same as above ground – only darker!

I've always loved computer technology and have especially appreciated and enjoyed throwing out the White-Out and correction tape! With the Internet, my interest expanded to other applications and peripherals that could be utilized in accessing health care support for clients at a distance. In 2000, I worked in the development of MBTelehealth,

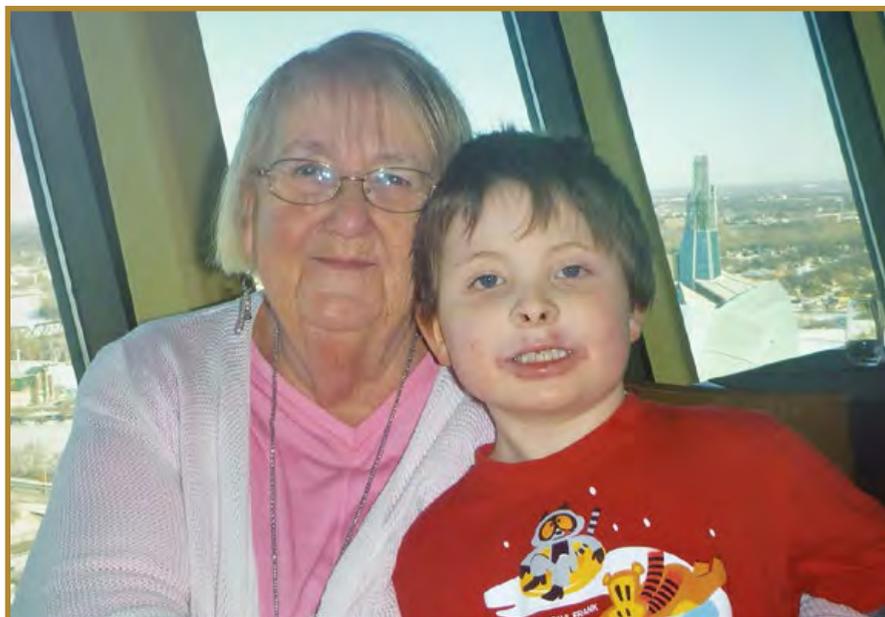
an interactive provincial health system to connect sites within Manitoba to health care providers at other sites. My role was to work with the staff at all the sites outside of Winnipeg to provide support in their learning needs and assist them in working within the different regions. The program used peripherals, such as otoscopes, stethoscopes, cameras and scanners.

When I left that position, I worked with an international business working with telehealth peripheral cameras. My role was to assess clinical applications suitable for this technology. During this time, I spoke at conferences in Canada and the United States about the applications that we were utilizing.

Our interest in the United Empire Loyalists started when Pat and Gerry Adair invited us to attend the banquet at the 2012 UELAC Winnipeg Conference. Gerry has been instrumental in James' search for his ancestors and assisting me in my role as Genealogist for the Assiniboine Branch. Both James and I joined the Manitoba Branch the next year and attended our first Conference in Toronto in 2014 – and we've attended everyone since!

In 2015, we were two of the founding members of the Assiniboine Branch. I personally don't have any Loyalist ancestors that I can find, as my family emigrated from Scotland to Ontario in the early 1830s. James has 13 UEL Ancestors proven so far, but I like to say my relatives were pacifists and wanted to move here after all the fighting was done.

I currently volunteer with our Branch as the Membership Chairperson and Genealogist (with the wonderful assistance of Amy Foster, UE), as well as putting together the newsletter. I'm also on the UELAC Board of Directors as Prairie Regional Councilor. Here I co-chair the UELAC Branch Membership Committee with Frans Compeer,



➤ Liz Adair and her grandson, Nixon.

Victoria Branch. This committee has proven to be the most dedicated and innovative group I have worked with; their sharing of information, support for the UELAC, and development of roles is appreciated.

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided me the opportunity to work with Dominion in developing instructions and learning opportunities for our use of Zoom virtual meetings. This allows the various Branches – and Dominion – to meet virtually and

continue the work of the UELAC. We now have moved on to hybrid meetings, which allow people to assemble 'in-person' and join 'virtually' through the Zoom platform.

For me, the best thing about Zoom is that it has allowed me to meet and work with so many members across the country. It's also made the past three years fly by, and the opportunity of meeting and working with so many of you has been one of the highlights of my life.



Thank you to The *Loyalist Gazette* magazine - published twice yearly and the Loyalist Trails newsletter - published weekly for their constant support. The **Loyalist Scholarship Fund** and the **Scholarship Endowment Fund** benefit greatly from all the editors do for us.

UELAC Scholarship Committee



VOLUNTEERING IS A NOBLE ACT.

UELAC Vancouver Branch inaugurated the Phillip E. M. Leith UE Memorial Award in Phillip's memory following his passing in November 2006. The Memorial Award is awarded annually to a person from the Pacific Region in recognition of their outstanding volunteer work on behalf of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

The Phillip E. M. Leith UE Memorial Award exemplifies Volunteer Excellence, by conferring recognition on recipient(s), and their contribution as a member "in good standing" of the Pacific Region. Exclusive to UEL Pacific Regional membership, this Award salutes the "best in volunteerism" amongst our members within the UELAC.

The 2023 Phillip E.M. Leith UE Memorial Award will be presented this year at the 2023 UELAC Hybrid Conference & AGM (01 – 04 June 2023) in Vancouver/Richmond, British Columbia.

2022 PHILLIP E.M. LEITH UE MEMORIAL VOLUNTEER AWARD

Christine Manzer, UE

UELAC VANCOUVER BRANCH

BY DIANE FARIS UE, 2023 UELAC CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR
LINDA NYGARD UE, VANCOUVER BRANCH GENEALOGIST

Christine Manzer UE joined the Vancouver Branch of the UELAC in 2012 after attending our Loyalist Day Picnic in Queen's Park as a guest. Christine has served as Vancouver Branch Secretary, Vice President, President, and Past President. When we were looking for a new home for our branch library, Christine was instrumental in inventorying our collection and preparing a proposal to the British Columbia Genealogical Society to incorporate our branch library into their Society Library located in Surrey, B.C. The Society accepted our collection of over 600 books. Christine was right there with other Vancouver Branch and BCGS volunteers to help with the move in 2016. Christine's time as President was particularly challenging, as it coincided with the onset of the Covid 19 virus, and we all had to learn to do things differently. Christine learned to set up and



➤ Leith Award Recipients 2022 (Christine Manzer UE and Chris Hay UE)

host Zoom meetings and was able to keep members in touch, active and interested in the organization throughout the Covid crisis. As Past President, Christine revived the Vancouver Branch Newsletter. On the national level, Christine was elected to the position of Pacific Regional Councillor in 2021. She has served on the UELAC Scholarship Committee, becoming its chair in January 2022, and on the UELAC Archives Committee. With everything she does, Christine is well volunteering organized, efficient, considerate of others and makes fun for those who collaborate with her in the UELAC.



➤ Leith Award Recipients 2022, Christine Manzer UE and Chris Hay UE.

2022 PHILLIP EM LEITH UE MEMORIAL VOLUNTEER AWARD

James Chris Hay, UE

UELAC CHILLIWACK BRANCH

BY MARLENE DANCE UE, PRESIDENT CHILLIWACK BRANCH

Records show that in the Fall of 1997, James Christopher Hay (known as Chris) joined the Chilliwack Branch of the UELAC looking for help and information on his loyalist ancestor Capt. John Cogle, 1st Battalion of the New Jersey Volunteers. John served for seven years and upon discharge, and settled in Kings County, New Brunswick. By December of the same year, Chris was submitting applications for himself and in the following year for his three children. Duly supported by branch Genealogist Mildred Hall UE, all certificates were awarded January 14th, 1998. In researching John Cogle, Chris also found Maj. Richard Witham Stockton of the 6 Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers and another

great loyalist story was uncovered. A certificate for Maj Stockton was awarded in January of 1999. he ensured his three children also applied and received certificates. Again, Always curious about his family, Chris investigated all branches uncovering and s haring many stories with us over the years. He could always be relied upon to share his various adventures at branch meetings and in articles published in *The Loyalist Gazette*, *Loyalist Trails*, *The Link up* and in the *British Columbia Genealogy Society Newsletter*. His searches led him in many directions other than Loyalists, but he always shared what he learned at many branch meetings over the past 25 years.

A LIST OF HIGHLIGHTS IS AS FOLLOWS:

- #1) A presentation at Branch meeting in 2007 told of his great grandfather John Montgomery, who had created a Rock Garden in Stanley Park in 1911. A famous landmark at the time, it became overgrown and lost by the 1950's. The winter windstorm of 2006 revealed it again. Chris, who had been looking for records about its location could now research in earnest. Working with the Vancouver Parks Board over the next 10 years, he achieved recognition from the Board for the site when a bronze plaque was placed recognizing it as of historic interest. He rec'd the City

of Vancouver Heritage award for this work in 2015. Then in May 2020 The British Columbia Historical Federation (BCHF) announced Chris Hay as recipient for the 2019 Certificate of Recognition for his invaluable efforts to have the Stanley Park Rock Garden recognized as a historic site in Vancouver and nationally.

#2) In March of 2015 we were presented with the research Chris had done in uncovering a never seen before picture of Chris' Loyalist Maj. Richard Stockton. During that search, he found a book called "*Kidnapping the Enemy*" written by C.M. McBurney that revealed the key roll played by Stockton during this operation to capture key military figures in the Revolutionary War.

#3) In June of 2016 Chris presented the story of the "*Loyalist Window*" at the Canadian Memorial United Church in Vancouver. One of the few Loyalist dedications in the province of BC.

#4) Chris provided information to author C.M. McBurney on a new book titled "*Abductions in the American Revolution*" about his loyalist Maj. Stockton who was a part of various covert operations.

#5) Chris contributed an article published in *the Loyalist Gazette* in the Spring of 2017 about the above item.

#6) In December 2016, Chris rec'd "The most improved Genealogist award" from the BCGS.

#7) Chris contributed an article the branch newsletter "*Link Up*" in Feb. 2021 on his loyalist John Cogle.

#8) Chris contributed an article for the 30th anniversary celebration of our Branch published in our "*Link Up*" about his adventure finding the "Rock Garden" in Stanley Park which is now on the City of Vancouver Heritage Register as a place of importance.

#9) 2022 - Submitted an article published in our branch "*Link Up*" about his elusive Scottish heritage about his grandfather Johnathan Hay. Recently Chris has come on become a Director for the Chilliwack Branch contributing his research skills on different projects for our Archives. He has just completed a master list of all Loyalist Certificates issued by this branch since it's charter in October 1990. We are now working on a new idea to explore more fully the "Chilliwack Pioneers and the Loyalist Connection" idea as a community offering. Chris' volunteer contributions to our branch take a very different form from the accepted norm of attending meetings and offering ideas and often "physical labour." But they are so valuable to us none the less. We are very pleased to offer his name as a Phillip E.M. Leith Volunteer Award nominee.

**An Amazing
Volunteer**
Offers their gift of time
INSPIRES HOPES & DREAMS
Enjoys Helping Others
ENCOURAGES TEAMWORK
IS SELFLESS, GENEROUS & KIND
EXTENDS A HELPING HAND
& *Makes a difference*

The UELAC Board of Directors
and the UELAC Volunteer
Recognition Committee Wish to
Congratulate and
Thank ALL UELAC Volunteers
for their hard work, commitment,
and continued support to
the life of the United Empire
Loyalists' Association of Canada.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA- SOVEREIGN'S MEDAL FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD 2022

Dr. Peter Moogk, UE

UELAC VANCOUVER BRANCH

It was an Honour as UELAC Vice President and Chair of the UELAC Volunteer Recognition Committee to be present at Vancouver's Bessborough Armoury for the Presentation of the Governor General of Canada's "Sovereign's Volunteer Medal" to Dr. Peter N. Moogk UE.

Dr Peter Moogk CD, UE, is a highly respected member of the UELAC Vancouver Branch; Professor Emeritus, UBC Department of History, and Major (Ret'd), 15th Field Regiment RCA (2018).

The Sovereign's medal and certificate was presented to Dr. Moogk UE by Vancouver Quadra's, The Hon. Joyce Murray

PC, MP. Following the presentation, a reception was held in the Bessborough Armoury Officer's Mess Hall. It was an Honour to be able to support Dr. Moogk's Nomination for the Sovereign's Volunteer Medal.



Carl Stymiest UE, UELAC Dominion Vice President; Hon. Joyce Murray, PC, MP; Dr Peter Moogk, CD, UE; Shawn M. Wade CD, LL.M.



The Hon Joyce Murray PC, MP; Dr Peter Moogk UE

DO YOU HAVE A STORY OR A FEATURE ARTICLE? SUBMIT TO THE LOYALIST GAZETTE

- The **Loyalist Gazette & Communications Committee** is now accepting submissions, manuscripts for feature articles on the American Revolution, a loyalist story, your loyalist ancestor(s), or a major branch event, etc. for the **Fall 2023 Loyalist Gazette** publications.
- Whether you are a new contributor or have been previously published, **The Loyalist Gazette** would like to hear from you.
- Our scheduled deadline for submission for the **Fall 2023 Loyalist Gazette** is **05 August 2023**.

PLEASE FORWARD ALL SUBMISSIONS TO:
UELAC Loyalist Gazette & Communications
Committee Chair communications@uelac.org

- What to include in your submission?
 - Your full name (and pseudonym if applicable)
 - Your postal address, telephone number, and email address (if you have one)



Education & Outreach



BARB ANDREW UE

Etablishing relationships is the fundamental principle of an Education and Outreach /Public Relations committee. As a not-for-profit association it is imperative that the task of cultivating relationships is not taken lightly if growth and the opportunity to raise the visibility of Loyalist history, the Association and Branches is to occur. As members of UELAC, we are a team, however a team is not just people who work at the same time and

same place. A real team is a group of very different individuals who enjoy working together to help their organization achieve its goals and purpose. A number of projects are currently underway that follow the associations' Mission Statement "to preserve, promote and celebrate the history and traditions of the United Empire Loyalists."

LOYALIST MIGRATIONS PROJECT

To date UELAC has provided funding for four student interns at Huron University College at Western who have spent their summers and much of the school year exploring the history of the Loyalists and the dedicated work of their descendants. To date they have plotted the journeys of nearly 2000 Loyalists and their families, and produced a new Story Map that explores the lives

and journeys of four Loyalist exiles. Loyalist Migrations has attracted international attention. Tim Compeau, PhD. Assistant Professor, History Department Huron University College at Western has presented the project at the Historians Collaborate workshop in the United Kingdom, and the McNeil Centre for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania in 2021, and at the International Federation of Public Historians in Berlin, Germany this past summer.

One of their largest and most time-consuming projects was linking the plotted journeys to the revised UELAC Loyalist Directory. They are also working on adding additional interpretive layers to the map (such as Indigenous-Crown treaties) and allowing users to search by source category such as UELAC genealogy, Book of Negroes, and eventually Loyalist Claims. Work is also underway on adding supporting material to explain the map and the Loyalist migrations more fully for a public audience.

LOYALIST CLAIMS COMMISSION

In August 2022, Dr. Sophie H. Jones (FHEA), postdoctoral researcher working in the Department of History at the University of Liverpool approached UELAC regarding a project she



planned to undertake. Her PhD was a study of the records of the Loyalist Claims Commission, and she was awarded a UELAC Scholarship. Wishing to develop a project that explores American Loyalism, to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the Revolution, she requested a letter of support from UELAC as she moved forward with grant applications. One of the main outputs from the project will be a database of the 3000+ loyalist claims. She plans to host the database on a platform developed at the University of Sydney. This platform has built-in technical features that will allow end-users to perform functions, including analysis of loyalists' social networks and chronological "story mapping" of loyalists' key life events. It will also be interoperable with other databases for the same period, which should help loyalist descendants more easily locate their ancestors in other project's databases. She is also planning a program of public events that transform public knowledge and understanding of the loyalists, particularly in Britain.

MEMORIAL MARKER

Members of the Victoria Branch are in the process of compiling a list of Loyalist descendants that settled on Vancouver Island. The names and stories will be part of a new on-line "Loyal-List" website that will be maintained by the Branch. The list will include the family history of William DeLong, the son of a Loyalist and Eleanor Bunnell, granddaughter of a Loyalist. The two were married on



> Long Point Beach, Turkey Point Ontario.

November 3, 1842. As a part of the project, a grave marker for the couple will be installed at the Ross Bay cemetery where currently there is none.

THE TURKEY POINT PROJECT

The Grand River Branch recently came into possession of a very old (c1810) map of an area of their region on which the location of lands of several loyalist families has been noted. The Branch members plan to use the map as the central part of the design of a plaque that would honour the Mabee and Secord families. The plaque will provide written historical information and family connections that would help to tell their "loyalist" story. Many descendants of these two families still reside in this area of Southern Ontario and of course, it is well known that both these families have descendants across all of North America and beyond. The project will meet the terms of both the Vision and Mission Statements of UELAC, being *Construction and preservation of monuments and memorials* and *Participating in*

projects that honour and celebrate the legacy of the Loyalists. The County of Norfolk Council on property that they own has tentatively approved the location of the plaque. The area, which is a park-like location, overlooks the inner Long Point Bay at Turkey Point, Ontario. Turkey Point is a lakeside resort community with a steady flow of visitors from the local population to thousands of cottagers, tourists, swimmers, golfers, etc., from both Canada and the United States. It is a Provincial Park visited year-round. The plaque will be along one of the major thoroughways into the park area at an already designated lookout site and will be seen by many, many visitors.

This project will offer an excellent learning site of interest to many, both locals and those from away. It is an area often visited by those seeking both genealogical and loyalist family history. It is hoped that students and teachers of Loyalist History will visit this site.

Many other educational projects are either underway or in the planning stages and each one offers UELAC the opportunity to educate and tell the stories of the United Empire Loyalists.



BY MICHAEL WOODCOCK UE
PRESIDENT VICTORIA
BRANCH

THE YEAR 2022 MARKED THE *95th Anniversary* OF THE FOUNDING OF THE Victoria UELAC Branch

At its initial formation on February 4, 1927, the branch was named the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Vancouver Island. A later iteration was the United Empire Loyalists of British Columbia Branch. While the Victoria Branch is the official name on the current branch charter, the branch serves all of Vancouver Island.

As an anniversary project the Victoria Branch has created a list of Loyalist descendants who made their way West to Vancouver Island in the early days after the founding of Fort Victoria in 1845.

This idea for the project was first proposed by the Branch President Mike Woodcock, UE and is now under development and called the **'Loyal List'**. The project was inspired by the 2014-15 booklet *Moving Ever Westward: Loyalist Descendants Come to British Columbia* which documented how 25 Loyalist descendent families came to British Columbia between 1857 - 2000. The booklet was developed by the Vancouver UELAC Branch with contributions from the other three B.C. Branches.

Just as Dr. Peter Moogk UE



outlined in his introduction to *Moving Ever Westward*, the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railroad in 1885 is a key date in B.C.'s history as it created a reliable and efficient connection to the rest of Canada. Prior to this transportation linkage, it was said that it was easier to get to B.C. from Hong Kong than it was from Eastern Canada.

In a tribute to our 95th anniversary, we envision to include all UEL descendent families who lived on Vancouver Island in the 90 years between 1860-1950.

The **'Loyal List'** project includes the creation of an online interactive database listing the early arrivals of

Loyalist descendants to Vancouver Island and thereby showcase interesting UEL descendant "firsts" for Vancouver Island including the first UEL descendant arrivals, their marriages, births, deaths, etc. As has been documented, the Fraser Canyon and subsequent Cariboo Gold rushes had a massive impact on Victoria and Vancouver Island. Prior to these large influxes of gold seekers and camp followers, Victoria was just a sleepy Hudson Bay Company (HBC) fort. There were no UEL descendants in the initial company town folk. The first UEL descendants arrived in the 1860's with other fortune seekers with some of them marrying into

HBC community. The *'Loyal List'* captures our early UEL descendants' integration into this early settlement stage.

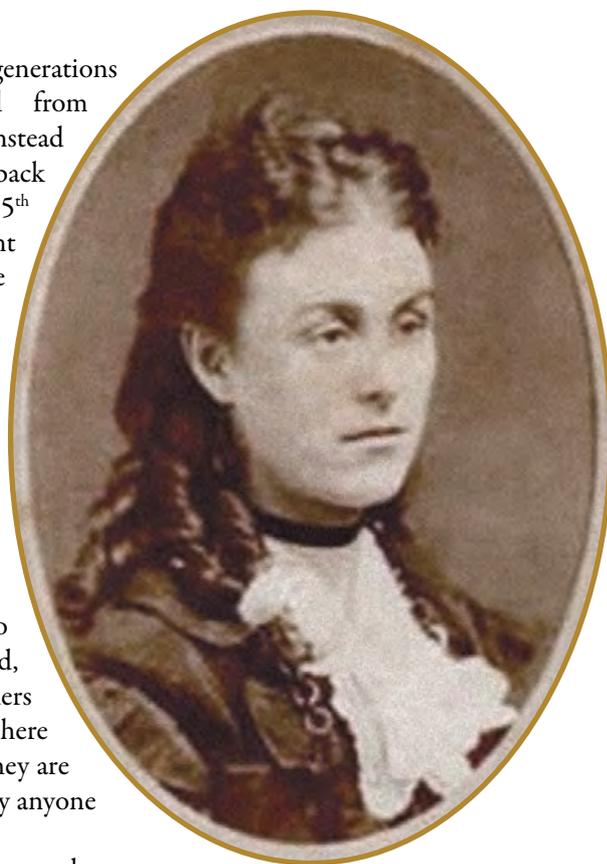
An excellent snapshot of the small cohort of UEL descendants on Vancouver Island during this early period is available through the 1881 Canadian Census. This was the first Canadian census to include B.C. since joining Canada in 1871.

The twenty-five individuals or family units UEL descendants living on Vancouver Island in 1881 make a solid foundation for construction of the *'Loyal List'*. This UEL descendent group includes the Overlander Robert Burns McMicking who walked/rafted across the country and B.C.'s second Lieutenant Governor Albert Norton Richards. While most of this group are not well known, they do have fascinating stories and provide key insights into the early history of Vancouver Island. The sheer distance of Vancouver Island from the Loyalist heartland and the massive early emigration into B.C. from the United Kingdom, China and the United States naturally limits the UEL impact and influence on B.C. development. However, a good case can be made that the descendants of UEL to B.C. always "punched above their weight."

A major *'Loyal List'* benefit will be facilitating the discovery of UEL descendance by those who are not aware they have this ancestry. Given the elapsed time and great distances, many people on Vancouver Island with UEL ancestry and heritage have lost all connection to their past beyond one or two generations. The *'Loyal List'* will identify Vancouver Islanders of our grandparent and

great grandparent generations who are descended from Loyalists. Therefore, instead of needing to search back eight generations for a 5th or 6th great grandparent UE Loyalist, one only needs to search back three or four generations for their great or 2nd great grandparent UEL descendent. Essentially, the *'Loyal List'* should serve to reduce the size of the family tree that needs to be searched by half. And, as all Vancouver Islanders know, if families were here between 1860-1950, they are likely still here as hardly anyone leaves "The Island".

Aside from census records, we have already been able to find and confirm many UEL descendants from Newspaper archives and Cemetery burial records. While the building of the *'Loyal List'* is challenging work, it is amazing what we have been able to find in few months at this project. An example is, we discovered William and Eleanor DeLong from the Ross Bay Cemetery internment records. Ross Bay Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in B.C. with the 150th anniversary coming in 2023. After raising their large family on a tanner's income in New Brunswick, William and Eleanor decided to relocate to Victoria in the late 1880's. Both William and Eleanor were UEL descendants. Eleanor was the granddaughter of Loyalist Benjamin Bunnell and Aaron was the youngest son of



Loyalist Aaron DeLong. While we have found several grandchildren of UEL descendants for the Vancouver Island *'Loyal-List'*, William is the only actual son of a Loyalist identified to date. William and Eleanor were also likely the first of many UEL descendants from Eastern Canada to retire to Victoria.

An exciting discovery from the 1881 Census records for Vancouver Island was finding the Mahood UEL descendent family including Lucretia Clinch Mahood, born Seelye, son James Adam and daughters Letitia Maria and Lucretia Augusta. Their Loyalist ancestors were Benjamin Milliken, Peter Clinch, Justus William Seeley and Levi Handy. After the father William Mahood died in 1855, this New Brunswick family (mother and three children) made their



way to Victoria well before the construction of transcontinental railway in 1885. They may have come to Victoria as Lucretia's brother Henry Edward Seelye had already been in Victoria since at least 1866. Mr. Seelye had been a delegate from the citizens' committee on B.C. Confederation and had worked unremittingly to have a clause granting responsible government for British Columbia contained in the terms of confederation with the Dominion. He died in March 1876 and is buried at the Cranbrook Old General Cemetery with a plaque commemorating his contributions to Confederation. Coincidentally, his sister Lucretia died the very same month in Victoria. Given that Ross Bay cemetery only opened in 1873 and the mother Lucretia was buried there in 1876, she is likely the first UEL descendant buried at Ross Bay cemetery.

William Mahood had been the Deputy Surveyor of Crown Lands for Charlotte County in New Brunswick. Like his father, James Adam Mahood was a surveyor and civil engineer and led an 1871

CPR survey from the Yellowhead Pass west across the Cariboo for a possible rail line. Mahood Lake and Mahood Falls in Wells Gray Park are named for James Mahood. By 1879, James had an engineering and surveying business in Victoria with R. C. Critch and was hired by the City of Victoria to do an official survey of the city.

The daughters were both early teachers on Vancouver Island. In the 1881 census, Letitia was 36 years old, divorced from Dr. William Minns Caldwell, residing with her brother James and her two young sons at 23 Burdett Avenue, Victoria. According to her obituary, she taught at schools all across Victoria from at least 1872 until 1897 and was one of the best-known teachers in the city. She was a teacher at the Girls Central School until her sudden passing in 1897.

The February 1874 marriage record of Lucretia Marie to widower William Berkeley is the first record of the family presence in Victoria. In the 1881 census, the younger sister Lucretia was living in the Nanaimo area, married to William C. Berkeley with two

children, and working as a school mistress. Like her sister, she also became a young single parent when her husband passed away in 1883. She later spent a number of years in Santa Cruz, California and returned to Canada once her son died in 1911. Like their mother, her three children are buried at Ross Bay Cemetery.

A strength of the online *'Loyal List'* is that it fosters interactivity with people searching for their relatives and/or researching early Vancouver Island history. Each overview of a UEL descendant will request feedback (edits, additions, corrections) and provide an easy means to provide feedback to the *'Loyal List'* site manager. The *'Loyal List'* will be a "living document" that has unlimited potential. The greater the number of UEL descendants in the *'Loyal List'*, the greater the refinement and ongoing growth of the List. Once you have a look at the *'Loyal List'*, be sure send suggested edits, additions and corrections using the Comments form at the end of each web page.

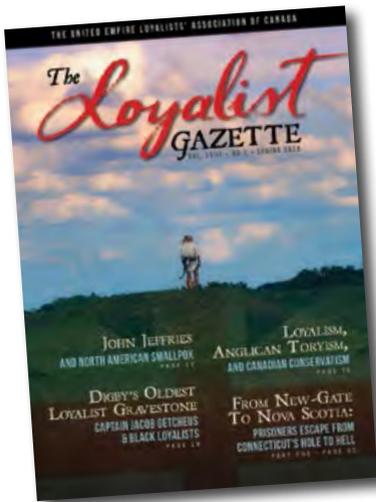
The website of the inaugural version of the *'Loyal List'* is UELVictoria.ca. This version focuses on UEL descendants whose personal information was collected in the 1881 Canada censuses for Vancouver Island and the Ross Bay Cemetery Internment records. The next addition to the growing *'Loyal List'* will be using the 1891 Canada censuses for Vancouver Island and cemetery records from all Vancouver Island communities.

ADVERTISE IN

The Loyalist GAZETTE

The UELAC Loyalist Gazette, published twice yearly in the spring and fall, is the magazine of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (UELAC). Focussing on the history of the Loyalist era and UELAC information, with a circulation of 2,000+ to a readership across Canada, the USA, the British Isles, Europe and abroad, as well as to Canadian and American universities, it utilizes a 44-47-page format in colour. This audience is interested in Canadian and American history and genealogy, especially the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Our Loyalist Gazette is issued in Digital format as well as a professionally produced publication.

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DEADLINES:

- Spring 2023 issue – January 15, 2023
- Fall 2023 issue – August 05, 2023



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BY DAVID MOORE

MAJOR OF THE RECREATED
KINGS ROYAL REGIMENT
OF NEW YORK



RE-ENACTING WITH THE KING'S ROYAL YORKERS

Some of you may have seen the King's Royal Yorkers at parades, memorial events and displays over the years. You may have wondered what exactly this re-enactment unit is and where did these people come from. Re-enacting has a roughly 60-year history in Ontario and covers a wide variety of activities. This paper will look at re-enacting through the lens



Members of the recreated KRRNY engage with the enemy in a public tactical demonstration.



Members of the Loyal Refugees recreate life for women in the 18th Century.

of the King's Royal Yorkers, one of the largest re-enactment groups in North America.

Re-enacting, in simplest terms, is bringing history to life by displaying to the public how people lived and interacted in the past. At some sites in Canada and the United States you will see the staff of the site dressed in period clothing and demonstrating the activities that the site was associated with. This can be everything from weapons demonstrations, to leather working, baking, milling and so on. If you visit most pioneer villages in North America, you will see examples

of this. In Canada this is usually done in the 3rd person, where the interpreter will say "I am dressed like a soldier of the 49th Regiment and he would have..." In the States you will sometimes see this done in the 1st person, where the interpreter will speak as if you have time travelled into the past and they'll say "I am John Smith, and this is my hat shop and..." You will often hear this museum related form of display called "Historical Interpretation".

Re-enacting by volunteers in a non-museum setting really started in the 1960s. In the US groups came together to re-enact the major battles

of the Civil War (1861-65). These displays often involved infantry, cavalry, artillery and hundreds or even thousands of participants. The participants were all volunteers who purchased their own uniforms, weapons and equipment and formed a wide spectrum of units from both sides of the conflict. National and international organizations were created to coordinate the larger events and commemorations. It quickly evolved into a family hobby with women and children attending in period costumes. By the 1970s, with the approach of the bi-centennial of the American Revolution (1775-1783), units began to appear for this period.

This was when the King's Royal Yorkers were first formed. It was financed by its individual members. This effort began in 1975 and was founded by members of Service



➤ A recreation of a Loyalist landing on the shores of Prescott Ontario during Loyalist Days.

Rifle Shooting Association (SRSA). Gavin Watt was the driving force in this creation and he and the original members decided they wanted to recreate a United Empire Loyalist Regiment of the Revolutionary War. At that time, the primary umbrella group of the Revolutionary War was the Brigade of the American

Revolution (BAR) which had been founded in 1962. The BAR welcomed the Canadian addition to the American bicentennial. It was decided to recreate loyalist a regiment from the Canadian Department – units that had been raised in Canada and garrisoned and fought from Canadian bases from 1775-1782. After the war, having lost their homes in the newly created USA, they were settled in central Canada as the founders of modern Ontario. So, the question was which unit to portray.

They applied to the Brigade of the American Revolution to recreate two loyalist corps - Butler's Rangers, which of all the northern regiments was the best known, and the King's Royal Regiment of New York (King's Royal Yorkers) which was the largest regiment in the British Army in Canada and the second best known. As there were already Butler's Rangers units in the BAR that would be senior to us, it was decided to portray the Royal Yorkers, as there were no re-enactment groups for that unit. Over the years many Butler's Rangers units have come and gone, but only one Royal Yorkers has existed.

The original Royal Yorkers, under the command of Sir John Johnson,



➤ Members take advantage of the environment to fully immerse themselves in the 18th Century.



➤ Members of the KRRNY artillery wait for the enemy to advance.

received a beating order from Governor Guy Carleton in 1776 near Chambly, Quebec. The regiment primarily recruited from the New York and modern Vermont. They took part in the St. Leger expedition of 1777 with loyal Indigenous warriors, Indian Dept rangers and German Jaegers. They fought the bloodiest battle of the Revolution at Oriskany near modern Utica, NY. In May and October 1780, the regiment mounted two large expeditions into New York's Mohawk River region. In 1781 another Yorker expedition was sent against the Mohawk River area supported by a large contingent of Butler's Rangers, with the usual support of British and Hesse Hanau Jaegers, including the 84th Royal Highland Emigrants (RHE) and Indigenous parties. The final two raids of the war in the Mohawk Valley were fought in 1782, the first led by Mohawk Captain John Deserontyon with KRR and RHE assistance and the latter led by Captain Joseph Brant with the 2Bn KRR Light Company. At the end of the war the King's Royal Yorkers were disbanded and their members

issued land grants in what would become eastern Ontario.

The recreated King's Royal Yorkers first appearance was on the Plains of Abraham in 1975 at a massive commemorative battle marking the defeat of the American armies that



➤ Loyalist memorial service at Adolphustown Loyalist cemetery.

almost captured Quebec City. There were five founding members under the command of Gavin Watt.

There were many decisions about the design of uniforms and choice of accoutrements. Unlike the US Civil War, Boer, Great and Second Wars, there were no photographs, nor

even that many contemporaneous paintings to point the way. The Royal Yorkers under the direction of the BAR, selected what was considered at the time the correct Provincial uniforms and kit. Decades later, those quick, early decisions have come back to haunt us, as it appears many errors were made which could not be easily addressed with 100 members. Therefore, if you saw the Yorkers in the 1980s they would look very different from the unit you see before you in 2023. For example, the length of the coats is now shorter. The facings (i.e. cuffs and lapels) have been changed from blue to red. The research supporting these changes is based on often very little material taken from a great number of sources. But in the name of accuracy, they have been implemented by the members.

Since 1975 over three hundred people have volunteered to serve in the Royal Yorkers. Their ages have ranged from babes in arms, to

students, to families, to people in mid-career, to retired folks. At one time we had nine veterans of the Second World War serving in our ranks. A number of members have been former and current members of the Canadian Armed Forces. All of these people have purchased their

own kit, uniforms, and weapons. They paid for their tents and donated their weekends to serve King George III and keep Canada's history alive.

In order to be a "big tent" and included as many members as possible, several subsections were created. They included in 1975 what became a line infantry company designated Duncan's Company, and in 1977 the Light Infantry Company. The Royal Yorkers' Loyal Refugees and Followers quietly got underway in 1978 to give structure and direction to the non-military part of the unit. A corps of Fifes and Drums started a year later. We dedicated a stand of Colours in 1982, and a replacement stand in 2004 at which time the Honourary Colonel-Commandant, Sir Colpoys Guy Johnson, 8th Baronet of New York took a key role with his lady, Marie-Louise. A Grenadier Company was founded in 1983. An Artillery section with a 3pr Brass gun was added later including a Cohorn Mortar.

The Royal Yorkers put on three types of displays as part of their mission. The first are talks and displays, done by one or two members, to historical societies, school groups, and United Empire Loyalist Branch meetings, explaining the history of the original Regiment.

The larger scale displays consist of parades and demonstrations of the weapons and tactics of the period. Sometimes there are hundreds of participants in these and sometimes even thousands. They consist of artillery, cavalry, infantry and sometimes naval elements all firing and bringing to life the period. These are usually carefully scripted and narrated for educational purposes.

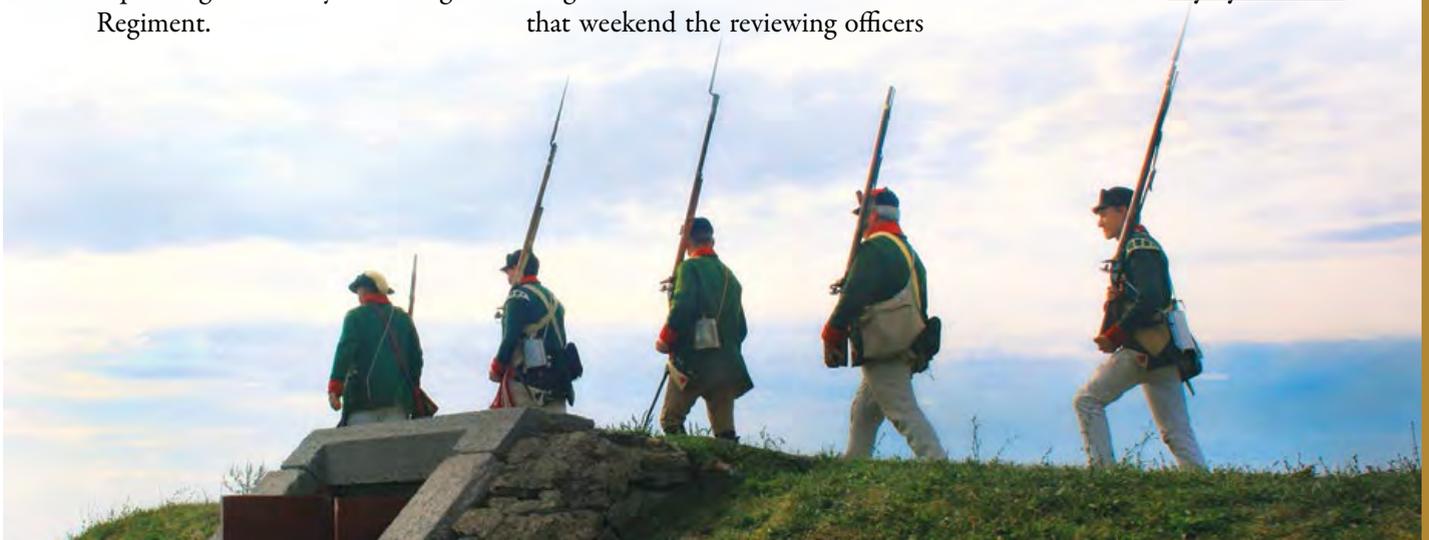
Finally the unit participated in war games. These are done without the public present and with umpires to judge and control the actions. As units manoeuvre and fire the umpires call "hits" or require units to "give ground". It really allows the reenactors to show how good they are at implementing the tactics of the time.

Since its inception the Royal Yorkers have had some memorable moments. In the 1980s the unit went to Britain and took part in displays at Dover Castle, Audley End House with the then new British Brigade. In the 70s and early 80s the unit took part in most, if not all, the bicentennial events in the Mohawk Valley where the original regiment fought. As a culmination of the bicentennial of the rebellion in October 1981 the unit rented a coach bus and went to Yorktown Virginia to recreate that battle. On that weekend the reviewing officers

were the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, and the President of the French Republic, Francois Mitterrand. The security was tight, and the Secret Service insisted on checking everyone's musket before the march past.

In 1984, for the bicentennial of the founding of Ontario, the unit paraded both at Fort Wellington and later in Toronto before His Royal Highness Prince Philip and Her Majesty the Queen. In September 2022, upon hearing of the death of Her Majesty, the Yorkers arranged to fire, along with the artillery of several other units, a 96 gun salute at Ft. Wellington to commemorate Her Majesty's passing. As we fired across the St. Lawrence that morning from the mist covered ramparts of Ft. Wellington, a Canada Steamship Lines freighter passed before us saluting with its hoses, the arches of water soaring above the masts of the ship.

We've paraded at the Roger's Centre before a Jay's Game. We have paraded many times up University Avenue to Queen's Park in Toronto. Our boots have covered a lot of the original battlefields of the Revolution. We have brought history to life before thousands of people. If you are interested in further information, or in joining, visit our website at royalyorkers.ca





HISTORIAN'S CORNER

UELAC DOMINION ARCHIVIST, CARL STYMIEST UE



UELAC LIBRARY & ARCHIVE HAPPENINGS 2022-2023

160 WATER STREET WEST, CORNWALL, ONTARIO

The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (UELAC) announced the move of Dominion Office from Toronto to the Cornwall Community Museum in Cornwall, Ontario last May.

Over the past few years, the UELAC Archives have been appraising, accessioning and documenting, preserving and uploading its collection to the AtoM [Access to Memory] software program.

This exciting development will provide researchers and the general public with streamlined access to the vast collection of loyalist historical materials held by the UELAC Library and Archives, now located in Cornwall, ON.

The AtoM system is a web-based software application that provides users with a user-friendly interface to access digital information and copies of historical documents, photographs, and artifacts found in the UELAC's collection. With AtoM, UELAC members and researchers will be able to search the online portal at uelac.ca, once uploaded. The UELAC Library & Archives will be offering *timely visit appointments* for those articles not yet digitized or privatized. Online researchers may search the system from anywhere with an internet connection.



Descendants of UEL's are from the most diverse backgrounds!
Estimates have placed one in six Canadians have a Loyalist ancestor



The development is a significant step forward for the UELAC Library and Archives, as it will allow for broader access to its collection in the future. The move from Toronto to Cornwall was motivated in part by the need to provide a more central location for researchers and a larger space to accommodate the growing collection. The UELAC looks forward to the Cornwall Community Museum and the UELAC Library & Archives future planned expansion of its physical space. With AtoM, access to the collection will be more accessible to a wider audience.

The AtoM system also provides more efficient storage and management of the UELAC's collection. Digital copies of documentation are easier to store than physical copies which can be subject to wear and tear over time. We do, however, for the time being, store all physical documentation as a precaution.

The system allows the UELAC to store these documents in a more secure and organized fashion, ensuring that they are preserved for future generations.

Perhaps most importantly, the AtoM system enables the UELAC

Library and Archives to reach new audiences. Many researchers and members of the public who were previously unable to visit the UELAC's facilities in Toronto due to distance or time constraints will now be able to access most of the collection from their homes, offices or libraries, or where they work. The AtoM system represents a significant expansion of the UELAC Library and Archives' Outreach efforts, as it will be easier for the UELAC membership, researchers and the general public to engage with the collection.

The launch of AtoM will also represent another important milestone in the UELAC ongoing efforts to preserve Loyalist Canadian historical heritage. The collection curated by the UELAC Library and Archives has grown to be an irreplaceable resource that documents the experiences of Loyalists as a group and their contribution to Canadian society. Researchers will benefit from the ease of access to the collection, and the UELAC hope that AtoM will help increase interest in the Loyalist Story and the history of our nation as a whole.

In conclusion, the UELAC



Library and Archives new AtoM system is a significant development for the organization and the wider community. Creating an online accessible platform for accessing loyalist genealogical records is essential in ensuring that important records are preserved and available for research. The use of digital copies provides a more secure and efficient manner for preservation of the historical artefacts. The development of AtoM and the UELAC Library and Archives in Cornwall, Ontario represents a significant step forward in the organization's ability to share our Loyalist Canadian history and heritage with new audiences. It will provide access to a wealth of information, which was previously inaccessible due to geographic or time-based constraint. The AtoM system will represent a remarkable development, and the UELAC's commitment to digitizing the collection, ensuring that Loyalist Canadian heritage is stored, accessed, preserved and shared with the membership, other academic researchers, and the general public for generations to come.

Carl Stymiest UE
UELAC Dominion Archivist





BY DAVID SMITH UE
SERGEANT OF THE
RECREATED CANADIAN
REGIMENT OF FENCIBLE
INFANTRY



BY KEITH LINDSAY UE
COLOUR SERGEANT OF
THE RECREATED
CANADIAN REGIMENT OF
FENCIBLE INFANTRY



1803-1816 CANADIAN REGIMENT OF FENCIBLE INFANTRY A BRIEF HISTORY

Originally the Regiment was to be raised in Scotland amongst highlanders willing to emigrate to British North America. Rumours that the Regiment would be sold to the East India Company caused the recruits to go into open mutiny in Glasgow. In response to this, the men were all discharged in late 1804. The Officers were sent to the Canadas to re-raise the Unit started to actively recruit in 1805.

Initially the Regiment consisted of English and Scottish Officers and NCO's, the rank and file would be predominately French Canadian and sons of English Loyalists. The unit would also include Irish, German troops as well one soldier who was born in Finland. The Scottish origins of the regiment are apparent in the belt plate and buttons of the regiment which bares the thistle and the acorn.

When war arrived in 1812, the Regiment had risen to a strength of six hundred. The Regiment were drilled and paid as British Regulars and served with

distinction at the Battle of Chateauguay, the Battle of Crysler's Farm and the Battle of Lacolle Mills. The Canadian Regiment was disbanded in Montreal in August of 1816.

Today the Battle Honours from Chateauguay, Crysler's and Lacolle awarded to the Regiment are proudly perpetuated by The Royal 22e Régiment of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry (Re-created)

The recreated Canadian Fencibles started in 1984 with a meeting of a group of interested hobbyists, some of whom were already portraying a Crown Regiment from the American Revolutionary War period. They were interested in forming and portraying a Canadian Regiment from the War of 1812-14. The Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry, more commonly know as the Canadian



Fencibles, was a logical choice because they too had operated in eastern Ontario and Quebec and fought battles in the general area.

The first task was to further research the regiment's history, clothing, and equipment. The regiment was very fortunate to have amongst its members dedicated people with interests and backgrounds in Canadian history, military history, military articles collection, and other related areas.

Sources for many articles were found, patterns were developed for clothing, and, in a number of cases members were able to produce articles for the regiment. An ongoing goal was historical accuracy of uniforms and equipment and a high standard of drill and actions on the field.

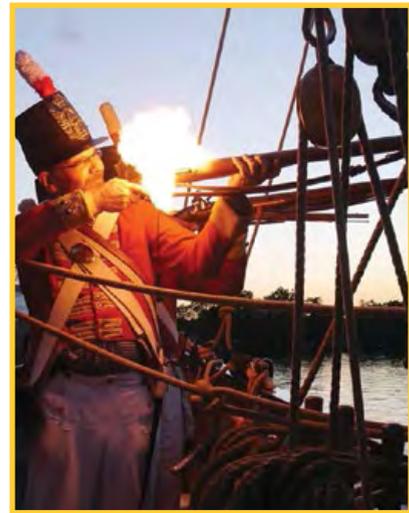
The regiment grew in strength. In early January 1990, the Canadian Fencibles were represented at the Battle of New Orleans. Later in June 1990, about 25 members traveled to Belgium to take part in the 175th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. The event was popular



➤ War of 1812 veterans plaque ceremony at the Catarqui United Church in 2020, in Kingston Ontario.

in North America with many of these reenactors of the 1812 period coming along.

In preparation for the trip to Waterloo, the regiment attended the early June Battle of Stoney Creek in full strength and focused on drill, their equipment and appearance, and marching. There they did their final drill and preparations such as branding canteens with the British BO and broad arrow symbol using an iron heated in a campfire. Visitors and re-enactors observed



this activity with great interest.

Today, after many years of service to the regiment and the King, almost all of the original members have retired from the regiment or have been absent from reenacting for several years. A new generation has assumed the Regiment's responsibilities.

We traditionally attended one or two events each year where all members strive to attend. For example, in mid-July of even numbered years, we march at Crysler's Farm Battlefield Memorial Park near Morrisburg, ON (<http://www.cryslersfarm.com>). With great interest in and





dedication to portraying and interpreting Canadian history and events surrounding the War of 1812, members of the regiment also attend other events during the year. For example, most years we set up tents and operate a children's muster at the Bath, Ontario Canada Day festivities as well as march proudly in the parade. We have appeared at Upper Canada Village to assist with their Education Day helping explain and portray the life of soldiers of the 1812 time period.

The Re-created Unit grew in strength as the Bicentennial of the

War of 1812 approached, fielding over 60 members (including Music) at Queenston Heights, Skirmish at Gananoque, the Battles of Ogdensburg, Crysler's Farm, Chateauguy and Plattsburgh.

Several members planned and hosted the Bicentennial Signature Event, the Flight of the Royal George which featured 6 tall ships (including the Brig Niagara) and over 1500 re-enactors. The event was held over 3 days on the July 1st Weekend in Bath and Kingston Ontario hosting over 55,000 visitors.

In April of 2013 the re-created

Regiment completed the last leg of the 104th's 66 march from Fredericton in the dead of winter from Gananoque to Kingston.

This event proved to be the most spiritual event of the Bicentennial.

Since the Bicentennial, the Regiment has undertaken marking War of 1812 Veterans at rest in Eastern Ontario and primarily along the Loyalist Parkway.

Over 60 veterans have received their Upper Canada Preserved Markers and have been placed in the National Data Base. They



➤ The Battle of Ogdensburg, a Fencible tradition every February.



have continued this project during Covid marking three cemeteries in Warkworth last year. The Unit are looking forward to marking eight more veterans in Stone Mills Township this September.

The 2023 Season will see the Regiment return to the field at Fort Erie and hopefully Plattsburgh in September.

For more information on the Re-created Regiment, joining our ranks or our Grave Marking project please contact Sgt. David Smith, UE at canadianfencible@hotmail.com

➤ Educational outreach at the History of Canada Museum in Hull, Quebec.



➤ Major Moore leads the charge to push the American forces back.

➤ The Loyalist Fife and Drum lead the Fencible Infantry into battle.



THE LOYAL REVIEW

Loyalist-era history is being presented to the public in a variety of avenues ranging from university textbooks to historically-based fictional novels and television documentaries.

The Loyalist Gazette invites publishers to send publications for review to:

The Loyalist Gazette Review's email:
communications@uelac.org

SEWING GIRL'S TALE



Author: John Wood Sweet

Soft cover, 384 pages, © 2022

Henry Holt and Company

ISBN 1250871484 also available
as an audiobook.

Review by

Journal of the American
Revolution

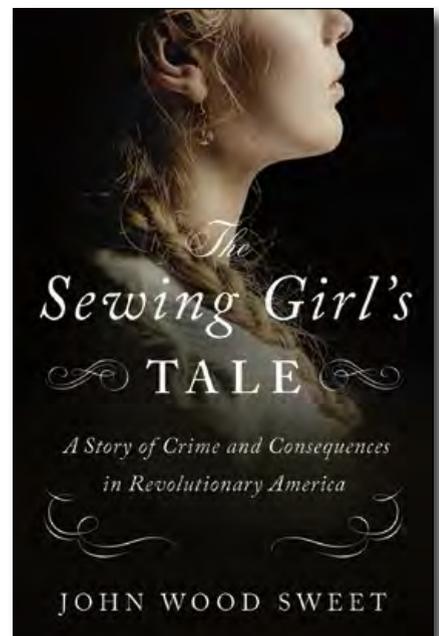
Since 2014, the Journal of the American Revolution has recognized the adult nonfiction volume that best mirrors the mission of the journal with its national Book-of-the-Year Award. This year the editors are pleased to announce an outstanding contribution to the history of the Revolutionary and Founding Eras.

AWARD WINNER

The Sewing Girl's Tale: A Story of Crime and Consequences in Revolutionary America by John Wood Sweet. (New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 2022)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Professor John Wood Sweet has published an intense narrative of a crime committed against a young woman in post-Revolutionary New York City. The main character, the seventeen-year-old seamstress Lanah Sawyer, found that she had reserves of courage by doing the unthinkable: she accused Harry Bedlow, a well-connected young man, of rape. Doing so was unheard of, since women of Lanah's age were expected to keep quiet about being seduced or forced into sex.

John Wood Sweet writes about



the culture of 1790s New York City, when it was the national capital and George Washington was the first president. He explains how the crime of rape was handled in the court system and how powerless the victims were whenever they came forward, which they rarely did. That is what makes *The Sewing Girl's Tale: A Story of Crime and Consequences in Revolutionary America* so unique: Lanah did come forward and pointed her finger at her

attacker. What follows is a story of New York City, its brothels, the neighborhoods at the tip of Manhattan, and how rape cases were heard in both criminal and civil courts. Besides Lanah Sawyer and Harry Bedlow, the reader is introduced to various characters, such as Mother Carey, attorneys John Callahan and Richard Harrison, and Sawyer's family and neighbors. Alexander Hamilton even plays a role at one point. Wood includes how the press dealt with rape cases, and the bad conditions of debtor's prisons.

Lanah Sawyer's case was well-documented, which John Wood Sweet successfully takes advantage of. Unfortunately, little is known about the life of Lanah Sawyer herself outside of the details recorded in trial records, typical of working-class women during this period. But the author skillfully fills in the gaps in the historical record to complete what her life and her small world were probably like. Highly readable and original, *The Sewing Girl's Tale: A Story of Crime and Consequences in Revolutionary America* deserves to win the Journal of the American Revolution National Book Award.

Read our review of *The Sewing Girl's Tale*.

BOOK REVIEW:

The Sewing Girl's Tale: A Story of Crime and Consequences in Revolutionary America by John Wood Sweet (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2022)

It is one of the great ironies of historical studies that the people who were most numerous are the ones about whom, as individuals, the least information survives. The ordinary citizens, the working class people, tend to be lumped together as homogeneous masses, not because their importance is not recognized but because specific information is lacking. It is a real treat, then, when

an entire book can be devoted to the tribulations of a single person, a sewing girl in post-revolutionary America, for whom chance would leave a substantial documentary record of one event in her life.

Lanah Sawyer lived and worked in the city of New York in 1793. Her life became eventful, and her place in history was secured, that year, but her story carried on for another half-decade. Moreover, what began as her story gradually became the story of men and other men, initially involving only a harbor pilot and a petty gentleman, but gradually adding in many of the city's most prominent politicians and lawyers including Alexander Hamilton. As the story becomes ever more complex, author John Wood Sweet deftly introduces characters and provides background without straying too far from the plot, giving the story texture while maintaining its pace. We learn, for example, that her stepfather had a dangerous interaction with the British military in early 1776 that could have cost him his career; rather than a space-filling side story, the author shows the importance of this event in establishing his reputation and legal acumen that would play an important part in his stepdaughter's life almost twenty years later. Each character is introduced with enough context to make their point of view, and their role in the story, understandable if not sympathetic. To be sure, there are heroes and villains, but in all cases we can see, if not accept, why they act the way they do. Context is vital to understanding history, and the author does a superb job of establishing context succinctly.

It becomes clear in the book's first pages that the author put substantial effort into researching Lanah Sawyer's world – the city streets where she lived, the profession at which she earned a modest living, the neighbors that she encountered during her daily

routine. These details quickly draw the reader into her world, giving the first few chapters a strong sense of realism and relatability. There are parts of the book that are, by necessity, slower and more tedious to read, but by that point the story is well-enough developed that the reader cannot lose interest. This is a story that does not get stale, a story that must be read to completion.

There are, invariably, gaps in historical records, details that we would like that simply were not recorded. Authors are faced with challenges about how to fill in gaps, whether with analogous information from other areas of history, or with educated guesswork. John Wood Sweet relies mostly on the former technique, occasionally relying on the latter, but always making it very clear the difference between what is known and what is not known. There is no confusion about what we are learning from Lanah Sawyer's story, and what we are learning from the author's extensive research on related stories.

It is striking, but in the context of the era not surprising, that the Sewing Girl herself is at the same time both pervasive and absent through much of the story. Nothing survives of her own actions, much less her thoughts and feelings, during years of machinations over events that were set in motion because of her. That is one of the key takeaways from this book: even though women had substantial impact on history, little about them survives in the historical record. In writing *The Sewing Girl's Tale*, John Wood Sweet has made a major contribution to our understanding of the world of working-class women who are so often overlooked.

Sources: The UELAC Loyalist Gazette appreciates the "*Journal of the American Revolution*" for allowing us to reprint this book review.

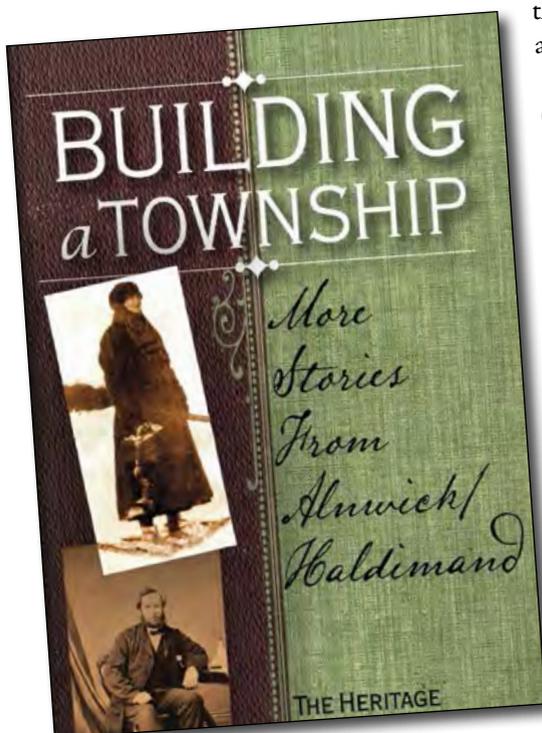
www.johnwoodsweet.com

BUILDING A TOWNSHIP: More Stories From Alnwick/Haldimand

Written by Gary Mossman, with Joan Kelly, Robert Dean, and members of the HAHC

2022

A publication of the
Heritage Alnwick/
Haldimand Committee
(HAHC)



By dedicating the opening chapters of *Building a Township: More Stories From Alnwick/Haldimand* to the millennia of Indigenous history prior to European settlement, and by exploring how the rich oral history of Indigenous peoples intertwines with a less Euro-centric interpretation of archaeological evidence, we have tried to shine a small light on the pre-contact history and have attempted to contextualize the history of Alnwick/Haldimand after settlers from the United States and Europe arrived.

United Empire Loyalists (U.E.L.) and Americans in search of inexpensive land were the first settlers. The U.E.L. were either second-generation descendants of families who had first settled in Prince Edward County, or “late loyalists.” Well-known U.E.L. family names including Rogers, Ruttan, Hare, and Ferguson figured prominently in the Northumberland Militia during the War of 1812 and became part of a nascent “local elite” - the property of Major D. M. Rogers was a refuge for soldiers retreating from York in 1813 and his home provided General Scarfe with a desk where the general wrote the first letter informing his superior that the capital of Upper Canada had been captured by the Americans. The Merriams, Spaldings, Masseys and other families also have U.E.L. connections that are explored in this book. The end of the larger, European war which had spawned the War of 1812 resulted in a mass migration of

settlers from Scotland, Ireland, and Great Britain. Each village, hamlet, and farming community they established, along with every church, school, inn, tavern, and mill that they built, has helped build the history of Alnwick/Haldimand Township.

While succeeding generations of residents have contributed to the character of the township, immigration has continued into the twenty-first century. Fresh stories are told about Jewish families from Toronto and Rochester building a summer resort on the shores of Lake Ontario, and post WWII Ukrainian refugees building cottages and reviving a European camping movement at the same location. Cottagers, eco-tourists, and spa guests all contribute to the ever-changing history of Alnwick/Township. All have stories to tell, including the twenty-first-century seasonal labourers, whose roots can be traced back to slaves brought to Upper Canada by U.E.L. in the eighteenth century.

Building A Township: More Stories From Alnwick/Haldimand is the kind of book that can be written about any township in Ontario because it is based on stories about people, their institutions, their environment, and their history. However, because it is a book about Alnwick/Haldimand Township, it is unique. The nature of the stories may be universal, but the people who inhabit them are all special.

All of this and more you will discover in the pages of *Building A Township: More Stories from Alnwick/ Haldimand*. The book is available for \$20.00 in and around Grafton at the Alnwick/Haldimand Municipal Building, 1812 Antiques, Grafton Pharmacy, the Farmer’s Co-op, and Ste. Anne’s Spa giftshop, as well as at the Chamber of Commerce in Cobourg.

For more information contact Gary Mossman at gdmossman@gmail.com

HECTOR MACLEAN: The Writings of a Loyalist-Era Military Settler in Nova Scotia

Recent scholarship has placed more focus on the plight of Loyalists who were displaced from their homes and livelihoods in the United States, and the struggles they faced settling tracts of newly surveyed land in Canada. A number of excellent books and articles tell portions of the countless tales of individuals and populations, but there are few published accounts by the participants themselves. The stories become more poignant when we can read the words of those who experienced them. A book from Gaspereau Press allows us to do that.

Hector Maclean: The Writings of a Loyalist-Era Military Settler in Nova Scotia is a compilation of material written by a man who served as an officer in the Royal Highland Emigrants, a regiment raised by the British army in America in 1775 which, by the time the war ended, had become the 84th Regiment of Foot. Hector MacLean spent most of the war recruiting for the regiment, including an unfortunate sea voyage along the Nova Scotia coast that ended by being shipwrecked in Ireland. The resilient officer returned to North America, fought in one campaign in the Carolinas, and then was among the thousands of Loyalists forced to resettle in Canada after hostilities ceased. McLean's letters and journal, although often personable and upbeat, reveal the struggles he faced for more than a decade with displacement, debt, and deprivation caused by war. Contrary to the impression given by the book's title, a substantial amount of the content was written by McLean during his service in the Revolutionary War. He was in only one major battle, but it was a significant one, Eutaw Springs in September 1781, and his letters include the most detailed surviving first-hand account

of that action.

It is McLean's post-war letters from Canada that strike the most compassionate chord. It sounds simple enough to say that displaced Loyalists were given land grants with which to establish new lives, and the typical grant of 100 acres for an individual sounds quite generous by modern standards. Lost in this brief view are the years-long personal struggles that included administrative issues of getting land surveyed and allocated, and, more significantly, the labor of building first shelter, then home, then village infrastructure, followed by clearing land, and eventually cultivating sustainable crops, surrounded by hundreds of others facing the same challenges. As a former military officer, McLean had leadership responsibilities in his new community similar to those he'd had in the army, helping individuals through myriad difficulties while also dealing with issues of his own.

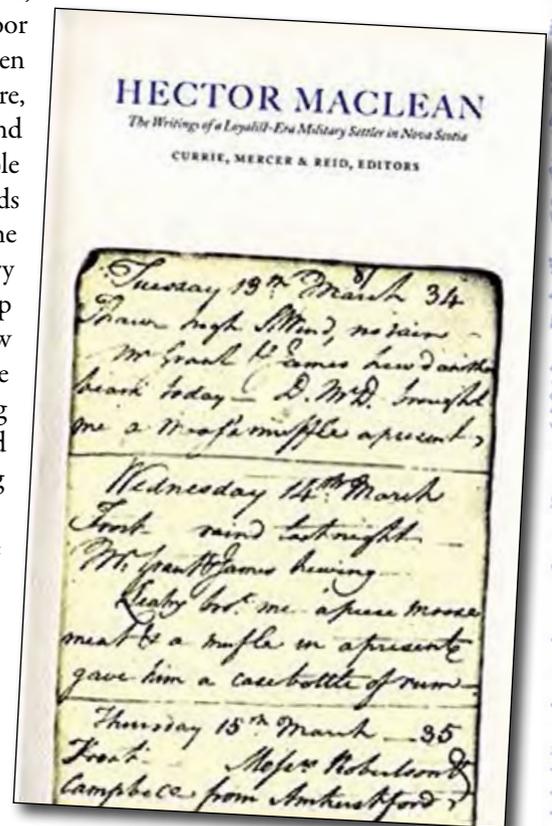
Historians, including the editorial staff of this journal, tout the importance of primary sources; there is much post-period misinformation about the American Revolution in print, so it's critical to seek out accounts that were recorded when the events actually occurred, or as close to them as possible. What this admonition usually fails to mention is that using primary sources is often difficult. It's rare that writers simply recorded the events that they witnessed; most often, they wrote with some other purpose in

Authors: Jo Currie,
Keith Mercer, John G.
Reid

Gaspereau Press Ltd.,
2015

ISBN 13: 9781554471522

Reviewed by
Don N. Hagist



mind, and included only the details necessary to make their point, or things that stood out as remarkable. Primary sources give us fragments rather than a complete picture, and perceiving the picture based on the fragments is the historian's challenge.

Hector McLean's orderly book exemplifies this challenge. McLean used one notebook to record orders in 1781, and then in 1786 and 1787 used the same notebook to keep a journal for a twelve-month period. The orders, a series of daily entries recording directives to his regiment, contain fascinating details on the issues and activities of soldiers on campaign. But the entries are like a random handful of pieces from a jigsaw puzzle; without extensive support from other documents, the entries can be difficult or impossible to interpret. The book contains extensive introductory material and annotation to provide context for the orders, but they are nonetheless challenging reading for those not familiar with period military terminology and operations.

The editors have done an excellent job of transcribing McLean's handwritten material, a task always complicated by the tendency of writers to use dots, dashes, and other scrawls instead of the consistent punctuation conventions used

in print; the assumptions and conventions used by the editors are explained in the introduction, and the result is very readable text. The orderly book contains a large number of charts describing mundane activities such as duty rotations. These are faithfully rendered and very readable, but the information they provide is of questionable value; page after page of grids with shaded boxes are useful only to those few researchers attempting to understand details of military duties within this specific regiment, while leaving the more general audience wishing for other content. This represents the difficult choices faced by anyone attempting to publish primary source material – include everything, and risk limiting the appeal, or abridge, and risk omitting important details.

Although eclectic in content, *Hector Maclean: The Writings of a Loyalist-Era Military Settler in Nova Scotia* offers valuable information for a diverse audience, including those interested in the war in the Carolinas, those focused on military operations, and most importantly anyone wishing to have better insight on the plight of displaced Loyalists.

Reprint: Courtesy of "Journal of the American Revolution"



DON N. HAGIST

Don N. Hagist, managing editor of *Journal of the American Revolution*, is an independent researcher specializing in the demographics and material culture of the British Army in the American Revolution. He maintains a blog about British common soldiers (redcoat76.blogspot.com) and has published a number of articles in academic journals. His books include [*The Revolution's Last Men: the Soldiers Behind the Photographs*](#) (Westholme Publishing, 2015), [*British Soldiers, American War*](#) (Westholme Publishing, 2012), [*A British Soldier's Story: Roger Lamb's Narrative of the American Revolution*](#) (Ballinalloch Press, 2004), [*General Orders: Rhode Island*](#) (Heritage Books, 2001) and [*Wives, Slaves and Servant Girls*](#) (Westholme, 2016). Don works as an engineering consultant in Rhode Island, and also writes for several well-known syndicated and freelance cartoonists.

2022 FALL LOYALIST GAZETTE CORRECTION

The Loyalist Gazette Editorial Team would like to apologize for the error on P11 - UELAC People Behind the Scenes for an erroneous identifier in the subtitle for Richard Parry UE,

UELAC

Central East Councillor.

Subtitle should read.

"UELAC Central East Councillor, Kingston & District Branch,
Assistant Genealogist and Historian."

Loyally,

Loyalist Gazette Editorial Team

History IN MOTION

PHOTO ESSAY BY JENNIFER DEBRUIN

African Traditions in Colonial New York, Johnson Hall State Historic Site, October 2017

➤ Event highlighted 18th century African life and customs. The Children of Dahomey, "...an educational performance group specializing in the historical experiences of African slaves in colonial New York, will demonstrate aspects of traditional African culture that were preserved and practiced despite the bondage of slavery."



▼ Lavada Nahon, Culinary Historian, demonstrate openhearth cooking and interpret historic African and African American food ways in the West Stonehouse, once quarters to the enslaved at Johnson Hall.





BY DALLAS ROBINSON
MEMBER OF THE
FORT LA PRÉSENTATION
ASSOCIATION



A VISIT TO FORT LA PRÉSENTATION OGDENSBURG, NY

Across the St. Lawrence, within sight of Fort Wellington, stands a 28 acre area of ground which is steeped in the history of Canada and the United States, known as Van Rensselaer Point .

First settled in 1749 by Abbé Piquet, as a French Mission for the conversion of First Nations people from the St. Lawrence Valley to the Catholic Faith. It was a prosperous mission due, in part, to the damming

of the Oswegatchie River and the building of a sawmill. It was also a military post and the Abbé led French armies to the Mohawk River and other various areas of conflict during the French and Indian (Seven Years War). The Abbé was chosen to lead this mission due in part to the success he had at a previous mission north of Montreal. The Abbé was, in effect the French King's Religious representative in this area of New France.



During the American revolution the English flag flew over the fort, now named Fort Oswegatchie. While there were no battles fought at the fort, its soldiers were successfully engaged the American army at the Battle of the Cedars The fort served as a location for rest and repair for Major Barry St. Legar enroute upriver on the St. Lawrence to enter the Mohawk River Valley and lay siege to Fort Stanwix. The fort was kept under observation from scouts sent up from the Mohawk Valley by General Washington. The English held the Fort and surrounding territory until the adoption of the Jay treaty in 1793.

From 1793 to 1813 the fort was a military post and served as the administrative centre for St. Lawrence County, and renamed once again, as, Fort Presentation



➤ Forsyth Rifles and Fort La Presentation Association demonstrate 18th Century Maple Sugaring.



➤ Overhead view of fort property.

The end of the occupation occurred as British and Canadian troops forced the withdrawal of (at this Time) Captain Benjamin Forsyth , in pitched battle on February 22, 1813.

Today the property is owned by the Fort La Présentation Association, whose goals are to preserve and educate the public of the history of

Ogdensburg and the wider St. Lawrence Valley encompassing the United States and Canada.

The Association offers a variety of historic programming. In February it hosts the “Battle of Ogdensburg” which recreates the battle that drove U.S. Forces from Ogdensburg and allowed the British to have unhampered access to the St.

Lawrence River for the duration of the War of 1812.

In July, the Fort Association hosts the “Le Siege du Fort de la Présentation” which focuses on the regional French heritage at Fort De La Présentation.

Vaan Rensselaer Point features the Abbé Piquet walking trail for the public’s year-round usage from sunrise to sunset. Along the 1.8-mile trail there are informational signage depicting Van Rensselaer Point’s, cultural and natural history. The Point’s central feature is the 1812 Peace Garden, and the Abbé Piquet Monument.

In 2019 the Fort Association constructed a footprint of the original fort based on the actual plans. This footprint gives the visitor a full-scale representative dimensions the fort and includes the location of the Fort’s Chapel, the King’s warehouse, and barracks.

During the pandemic the Fort Association was able to acquire additional property which,



➤ Gary Jacobs of RIT digitally created the Fort in 3D. The Fort La Presentaton Association is working toward a goal of reconstructing the fort near its original site with associated outbuildings and market it as an historic destination.



➤ his monument marks the site of Fort la Présentation erected in 1749 by Abbé François Picquet for the protection of his mission among the Indians of the Five Nations.

according to previous archaeological study, contains the actual location of the bastion, that housed the chapel. During the “Siege” a mass was held at this location for the first time since the French evacuation.

As a descendant of Loyalist, on my mothers side, (Jacob Countryman, Kings Royal Regiment of New York), I can almost envision the trials they must have faced starting anew in a unfamiliar land, having their former homeland just a brief boat ride across the river. I can do this because some of the historical events in Canadian history can be viewed from our shore.

During the Seven Years War, the last water battle for the conquest of New France, Battle of Fort Levi, was within earshot of Fort La Présentation. Anything of defensive use was removed and put in place at Fort Levi helping the French hold off General Amherst in a desperate attempt to save lower Canada from English rule.

From family history I understand the area where the International Bridge enters Canada, was originally part of the Land Grant Jacob Countryman received for his service in the British Army during the Revolutionary War. Jacob’s grandson, William, was part of the crew of the Robert Peel which was set afire. In the fire, he lost all his possessions.

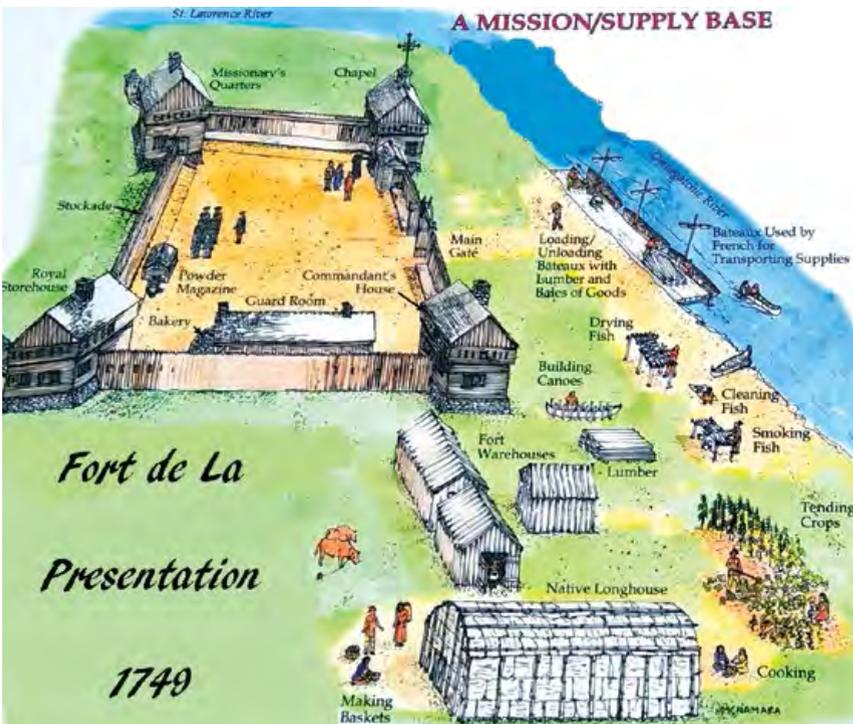
From Van Rensselaer Point shore, American citizens could witness the military steamships from both United States and Canada, patrolling the St. Lawrence River to reduce the men of the Hunter Lodges either escaping from or rendering aid to the Windmill. Citizens would be able to witness the bombardment of the Windmill and hear musket fire as the battle progressed. As seen in records William Countryman as a member of the First Regiment Grenville Militia, Dunham Jones Company, which was called into action.

These and many other stories are part of the history of the Fort La Présentation Property at Van Rensselaer Point.

So please make Van Rensselaer a stop on your visit to the Ogdensburg area. For more information about our events please visit www.fort1749.org

Sources: [Jacob Countryman United Empire Loyalist Ancestors and Descendants in Canada and the United States](#), Authors: Dr. Paul Countryman, Dr. David L Montgomery, Barry J. Countryman ISBN 0968449905, 9780968449905





➤ The Fort La Presentation Association is working toward a goal of reconstructing the fort near its original site with associated outbuildings and market it as an historic destination. By joining the association, you can help with this effort.

AKA SE WE'KA TSI (OSWEGATCHIE) CULTURAL & ECONOMIC CROSSROADS

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
During the French and Indian War, the French fort and the Oswegatchie Iroquois villages were of strategic concern to the British. By 1754 more than half of the Onondagas had moved to the Iroquois villages near Fort de la Presentation. The Oswegatchie Iroquois also maintained strategic trading relationships with the Palatine German settlers living to their north in German Flatts (Berkmans, NY) and the British feared they might use the Germans as a supply source in their war against them.

GREAT COUNCIL
The Oswegatchie Iroquois distinguished themselves in battle and diplomacy. Beginning in 1756, they appeared before the leaders of the Senecas, Cayugas, Oneidas, Tuscaroras and Onondagas to argue the usefulness of siding with the French.

IROQUOIS VILLAGE
In 1751, approximately 1,000 Iroquois lived in villages on both sides of the Oswegatchie River and the small islands in between, with the most influential families living in the three villages neighboring the fort. Together these homes numbered nearly 50 longhouses, each between 60 and 80 feet long and housing three or four families.

1752 MAP of THE of the OSWEGATCHIE

Iroquois Settlement 1749-1759

➤ A few of the newly placed interpretive panels showcasing the areas rich history and cultural importance.

FORT OSWEGATCHIE 1760-1796 STAGING FOR ATTACK

A BRITISH FOOTHOLD IN THE ST. LAWRENCE VALLEY
Fort de la Presentation was renamed Fort Oswegatchie by the British when they occupied the abandoned French mission at the end of the French & Indian War. Though on American territory after the American Revolution, the fort remained under British control and added the settlement and supply of refugee British Loyalists along the north shore of the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario.

SHIPBUILDING AT FORT OSWEGATCHIE
Two distinct vessels called scows (shown with cross) were built here. The larger vessels were for the British. The smaller ones were for the French. They were used to transport supplies to the fort. The Lake Ontario was used to transport supplies to the fort. The Lake Ontario was used to transport supplies to the fort.

UNDER THE STARS AND STRIPES
Nearly 20 years after the American Revolution, the Jay Treaty forced Britain to evacuate forts in American territory. Nathan Ford, an agent of land speculator Samuel Ogden, arrived with the first American soldiers and established his office in the fort. Under the Stars and Stripes, the fort was renamed Fort Presentation in recognition of its original French name, and the new community was named after Samuel Ogden.

Revolutionary War
This fort served as a strategic site in the contest of military campaigns that shaped our country.



BY GAVIN K. WATT

FOUNDER OF THE RECREATED
KINGS ROYAL REGIMENT
OF NEW YORK



A HISTORY OF THE COLOURS OF THE KING'S ROYAL YORKERS

On May 24, 1982, a set of Colours was presented to the 1st Battalion, King's Royal Regiment of New York in a formal ceremony held at historic Fort York in Toronto. The Colours were fashioned in silk with a painted centerpiece to a pattern researched by the noted historian, and regimental member, Private John A. Houlding, Colonel's Company, the author of the much-acclaimed book on the British Army in the late 18th Century entitled, "Fit for Service."

Ironically, no record had been



➤ The colours Being Consecrated.

found to confirm that a set of Colours was carried by the original KRR NY. Edward Anderson, one of the unit's founders, recalled finding a reference to Governor Guy Carleton criticizing the regiment's Lieutenant-Colonel, Sir John Johnson, for purchasing Colours before the completion of his battalion; however, this document has never seen the light of day again.

Consequently, Houlding researched a number of Colours carried during the Revolutionary War period. The fundamental elements of the King's and

Regimental Colours were dictated in the Royal Warrant of 1768; however, there was a great deal of latitude taken in the design of the decorative wreaths and cartouches which formed the centrepieces of many Colours. Houlding measured and sketched the Colours of the 9th, 12th, 33rd, 55th, 93rd, 103rd and the Queen's Rangers, 1st American Regiment, which had been presented over the years 1771 to 1786. From his extensive examination, Houlding made specific recommendations which were adopted.

The complex work of cutting and piecing the silk material was skillfully performed by Deborah Mills, a noted seamstress and reenactor from Toronto. While Mills was completing her work, a pair of 9'9" staves, with the requisite brass fittings, was custom manufactured by James Alexander of Toronto. After the Colours were assembled, the demanding painting of the wreaths and cartouches on both sides of each Colour was undertaken by Royal Yorker Drummers, Mike Wylie and Garth Armstrong, two talented artists employed by the Toronto Historical Board at historic Fort York.

Although the original 1st Battalion of the Royal Yorkers had been headquartered in and about Montreal during the Revolution, the recreated regiment was without a base in that city, so it was decided that the presentation would be in Toronto at historic Fort York where the unit had enjoyed a particularly warm welcome from the staff over the seven years of its existence.

Of course, with Regular Force and Reserve regiments, the presentation of Colours is always a gala event



➤ The Royal Visit: The KRRNY and a handful of Brigade of the American Revolution member units on parade for the arrival of Her Majesty at Fort Wellington, Prescott, 1984.

with support from Defence Headquarters, the regimental family, the local community and media and often a representative of the Crown. Naturally, the recreated Royal Yorkers wished to stage a similarly grand event, but the reality of only being an amateur military formation dictated otherwise. Many members of the United Empire Loyalists' Association had become staunch friends and supporters.

Two of their Dominion Executive members, who were descendants of the original regiment and honorary officers of the recreated regiment, were invited to make the presentation. The Honorary Major, Colonel Judge John R. Matheson UE, a former Federal cabinet minister, represented the Crown and presented the King's Colour. Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Mrs. Elizabeth Blair UE, past UEL

Dominion Genealogist, presented the Regimental Colour. Special guests were Mary Beacock Fryer UE, a noted author of several books about the loyalists, and her husband Geoffrey and Judge Matheson's son Murdock.

The conduct of the ceremony was researched with the Director of Ceremonial at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa by Captain Robert Anglin, 2RCR, a Serjeant in the Colonel's Company.

The ceremony was held on Sunday, May 23, 1982. A record turnout of sixty-one troops and eighteen regimental followers and refugees were under the command of Captain-Lieutenant Gavin K. Watt. Nine soldiers were Light Infantrymen led by 1st Lieutenant William Severin, thirty-seven were Hatmen of the Colonel's Company led by 1st Lieutenant Edward Anderson and thirteen composed a superb Drum corps under the direction of Drum Major William Henry.

The very next day was a holiday and featured the annual Military Festival at Fort York where the Royal Yorkers' new Colours were given their first public exposure in



Led by Her Majesty, the platform party rose as the King's Royal Regiment of New York's colour party marched past to draw the impressive military pageant to a close.

> The Royal Visit: A very welcome, impromptu review of the regiment; the Queen is introduced to the Colour Party.

Vice-Regal style when Ontario's Lieutenant-Governor, John Black Aird inspected the troops.

Over the following two decades, the Royal Yorkers' Colours were flown at a great number of historical celebrations and venues, but none were more important than two appearances for Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip in 1984 - Ontario's bicentennial year. The first of these occurred at mid-week at Fort Wellington in Prescott and saw a new record turnout of seventy-five troops and twenty-five followers, including a battalion 3 pounder brass 'Grasshopper' Gun

and 4.2" 'Cohorn' flatbed mortar. Regimental members were deeply honoured when Her Majesty rose to greet the Colours during a formal march past. Shortly thereafter, the regiment was caught entirely off guard (and delighted) when the Royal party made an unscheduled inspection. The second appearance occurred two days later in Toronto at a massive Reserve Army Tattoo at Exhibition Stadium. Once again, the men were flattered when the Queen and her Consort waved most specifically in their direction as they were driven out of the stadium in a carriage.

In keeping with historical precedent, the KRR Colours have not been fielded with small detachments, unless they were required for a Colour guard. For several years, in the spirit of maintaining the absolute maximum number of bayonets in the line, the regiment's junior officers - the Ensigns - who were responsible for carrying the Colours - were



> The Royal Visit: The Colours are dipped in a Royal salute to Her Majesty and Prince Philip.

appointed on a temporary basis. More frequently, they served in the ranks as Gentlemen Volunteers in the absence of the Colours. In more recent times, the permanently appointed Ensigns have stepped back into the line as required.

Historically, as there were no Ensigns in the Grenadier Company, the company's Second Lieutenant has been assigned to that role. It should be noted that the Colours have often been carried by senior commissioned officers, Serjeants and Volunteers in the absence of the Ensigns.

During a Tour of England in 1987, an accident occurred at Tilbury Fort when the Colours were paraded in abnormally tight circumstances. The detachment was demonstrating alternate line firings when a strong gust of wind snapped the Regimental Colour across the face of the right platoon and the lower right canton was disintegrated in a discharge. Fortunately, this



➤ 23, May 1982 - Colours' Presentation: Immediately following its first unshoeing, the Regimental Colour is flourished before the regiment by Serjeant Joyner UE, Colonel's Company, prior to laying it over the stand of drums for the prayer of dedication.

damage was easily repaired by Loyal Refugee Nancy Watt who sewed in a large rectangular piece upon our return to Canada.

By 1999, the Colours had become extremely frail. The King's Colour had torn edges along the fly, which were readily repaired by Watt, but the body of the flag exhibited stress

separations. The same was also true of the Regimental Colour and its lower left canton had separated from the staff sleeve. Again, Watt made repairs, but these were recognized as temporary only. Due to this general deterioration, it was decided to commission a new set of Colours and, in the interim, not to field the old set except on particularly important occasions.

Through the assistance of Radford Polinsky, officer commanding the 33rd Regt of Foot (British Brigade) and confirmed by Duncan's Company Serjeant, Eric Fernberg, a curator of the Canadian War Museum, that our 1981 choice of weave of silk cloth had been incorrect. Radford was particularly helpful in locating a source of proper silk faille and a quantity was imported from California.

Dianne Sharp, master seamstress to the Royal Yorkers, was given the commission to cut, piece and decorate the new Colours.



➤ 06, Oct 1990 - 210th Anniversary of the raid on the Schoharie Valley. In a fog of war, the Colonel's Company engages the rebels at the Middle Fort.



Reenactors broadcast a historical pub night over Zoom during Covid for the M&L Conference.



Adolphustown, Ontario

