

THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

The **Loyalist** GAZETTE

VOL. LXII • NO.2 • FALL 2024

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ERNESTTOWN**
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Upper Canada Loyalists



BILL RUSSELL UE
UELAC SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

The Loyalist Quill



The Gazette Editorial team would like to welcome everyone back from a very busy summer. Our Loyalist community celebrated a very successful and enjoyable Conference in Cornwall, Ontario.

Our Branches hosted Loyalist Day Flag raisings, picnics, anniversaries and cemetery plaquing.

This issue of the Gazette will feature articles about our Loyalist ancestors, historical sites and buildings, and of our brave veterans who repelled the American attacks in the War of 1812, all

taking place in Upper Canada (present day Ontario).

Our features will focus on the 2024 Conference, introducing our newly appointed Honorary Fellows, and Dorchester and Sue Morris-Hines Award winners.

I would like to thank the volunteers who responded to our call for book reviewers, we have 8 new book reviewers, so please send us your books to review.

I would like to congratulate our editorial team member Stephen Davidson, on completing 50 years of

Loyalist research and studies. Stephen has published 900 articles in the Loyalist Trails plus many others in various magazines. Well done Stephen.

In closing, the Spring edition of the Gazette will feature articles and news from the Western Provinces and Territories. Please send your articles and stories pertaining to these provinces to : billrussell10@gmail.com.

Bill Russell UE

Chair, Editorial Committee

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 44-48-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.

Order today as advertising space is limited, on a first-come, first-served basis.

You may specify where you want your ad: in book reviews, etc.

Rates: Note Ad layout: V = Vertical, H = Horizontal

• Full page, V (8 x 10 in.)	=	\$ 500.00
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• Business card, H (3.8 x 2.3)	=	\$ 100.00

Multi-issue discounts:

- There is a 20% discount on orders for advertisements that will appear in multiple issues.

Deadlines:

- Spring 2025 issue - January 31, 2025
- Fall 2025 issue - August 31, 2025

Contact:

Bill Russell UE,

UELAC National Vice President

UELAC Loyalist Gazette & Communications Committee,

E-mail: Communications@uelac.org

Education & Outreach



BARB ANDREW UE
CHAIRPERSON

Recently while surfing the internet I came across an article on the UELAC website entitled “**THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JUNE 19TH LOYALIST DAY**” written by *Alexander Roman Ph.D.* Senior Researcher Government Members’ Services Queen’s Park, Toronto.

A link to the article is: uelac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Loyalist-Day-in-Ontario.pdf.

I was very struck by the following two paragraphs in his article.

“Like so many Canadians today, the Loyalists were immigrants in a new land. We remember them and their descendants for their many ongoing achievements, the most important one being, of course, the great society in which we are all privileged to live”

‘On June 19th, we celebrate this great, living heritage that continues in the descendants of the Loyalists and which also implies members of succeeding

multicultural immigrations to Canada.”

Since 1974, the third Monday every February has been identified as Heritage Day in Canada...what an opportunity to reach out in our local communities to raise awareness of who our Loyalist ancestors were and their contributions to this great land!

Although not every province entitles the holiday “Heritage Day”, the third Monday of February is observed as “Family Day” in the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia (BC), New Brunswick, Ontario, and Saskatchewan; as Louis Riel Day in Manitoba; as Nova Scotia Heritage Day in Nova Scotia; and as Islander Day in Prince Edward Island, no matter in which provincial jurisdiction we reside, as members of UELAC an effort should be made to organize some sort of Loyalist Heritage education and outreach activity during the month of February.

In many parts of our country the

weather in the month of February can be bitterly cold, snowy or rainy and in person events may not be reasonable, but with modern technology at our fingertips opportunities to reach out are endless and consideration could be given to designing a “Loyalist Heritage Minute” to be broadcast on a YouTube channel or local cable television station. Perhaps an outing for a group lunch wearing period clothing could be organized. The local library made be interested in holding an event with a showing of a film featuring Black Loyalists History. Simply wearing UELAC promotional gear as you go about your day and posting news about any Loyalist Heritage related events you attend on your social media is also a wonderful way to celebrate and educate.

Please mark your calendar for February 17th, 2025 and celebrate your Loyalist Heritage!





BY CARL STYMIEST UE
UELAC NATIONAL PRESIDENT



The Story Continues

UELAC NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To UELAC Members and Friends,
It is with great pride and joy that I reflect on the tremendous success of our recent 2024 UELAC Conference, "The Story Continues," held in conjunction with our 'Living History' partnership with the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Counties Historical Society. This momentous event, taking place from June 6-9 in Cornwall, Ontario, celebrated the 240th Anniversary of the Landing of the Loyalists in 1784.

As your President, I am honored to share the key takeaways that our UELAC members and their guests experienced during this deeply meaningful gathering:

1. DEEPER APPRECIATION FOR LOYALIST HERITAGE:

Through the immersive historical reenactments, informative lectures, and engaging discussions, our attendees gained a profound appreciation for the resilience, sacrifices, and enduring legacy of the United Empire Loyalists.

2. STRENGTHENED CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE UELAC COMMUNITY:

The conference provided an invaluable opportunity for UELAC members from across the country to come together, share their stories, and forge even stronger bonds within our vibrant community.

3. RENEWED COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING LOYALIST HISTORY:

Witnessing the 240th anniversary of the Loyalist landing inspired our members to rededicate themselves to the vital work of preserving and sharing the Loyalist narrative for generations to come.

4. INSPIRATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS:

The energy and enthusiasm of our younger participants demonstrated the enduring relevance of the Loyalist story and the importance of passing on this cherished heritage to the next generation of UELAC members.

The 2024 UELAC Conference, "The Story Continues," was a truly remarkable event that will be etched in the hearts and minds of all who were fortunate enough to be a part of it. As we look to the future, let us carry the lessons and inspiration gained from this momentous celebration as we continue to honor the legacy of the United Empire Loyalists.

We hope to see you all in Saint John, New Brunswick for the 2025 UELAC Conference.

Sincerely,

Carl Stymiest UE

Carl Stymiest UE

UELAC National President

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CORNWALL
2024 UELAC
Conference



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Mutiny at
FORT GEORGE



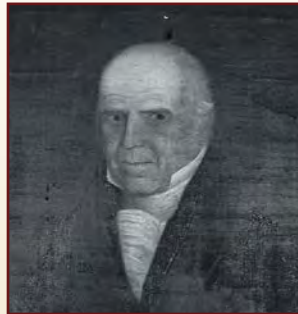
ON THE COVER:

Fairfield House located in Amherstview Ontario was built in 1793 by Loyalists William and Abigail Fairfield. Today, Fairfield House is eastern Ontario's best preserved 18th century dwelling, distinguished by the survival of many of its original interior features.

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND LAYOUT:
Amanda Fasken UE

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A brief history of
THE UEL HERITAGE
CENTRE & PARK

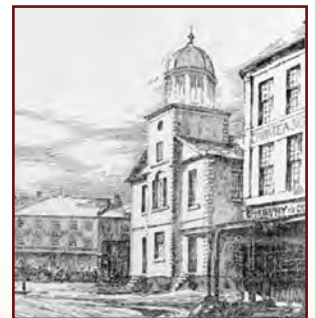


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Scottish Immigrant,
Loyalist Refugee
GEORGE CHISHOLM

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NELLES MANOR:
A Loyalist House of
Distinction

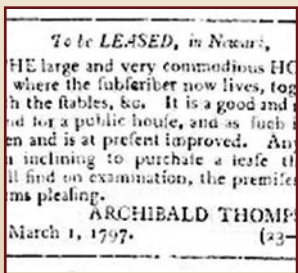


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ROBERT LAND
Head of the Lake
Settlement

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Men of
ERNESTTOWN



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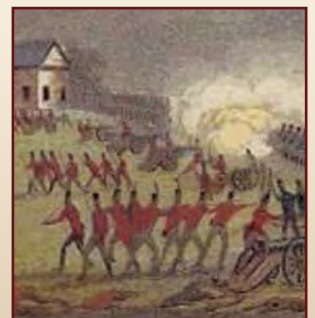
The two
ARCHIBALD
THOMSON UELS

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The Loyalists of
ADOLPHUSTOWN



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ROBERT LAND
Head of the Lake
Settlement



THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

REGIONAL OFFICERS AND BRANCH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2023

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National Systems	Rodney Appleby	160 Water Street W, Cornwall
Family Search Project	Bill Russell/Richard Parry	Kawartha/Kingston
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UELAC PEOPLE Behind the Scenes



CAROL CHILDS UE
CENTRAL WEST REGION VICE PRESIDENT

CAROL CHILDS UE

LONDON AND WESTERN ONTARIO
BRANCH PRESIDENT

CENTRAL WEST REGION
VICE PRESIDENT

Ontario's Southwest UELAC Region extends west from Toronto to Windsor and north to include the Bruce Peninsula. This region includes the seven UELAC branches of Bicentennial (Windsor), London and Western Ontario (London), Grand River (Brantford), Hamilton, Colonel Butler (Niagara), Toronto and Governor Simcoe (both in Toronto).

Although Carol Childs has held the post of president for the London and Western Ontario Branch since 2014, she was approached to take on the Central West vice-presidency in 2022. This has given her the additional responsibility of assisting the six sister branches within this region. Carol and her husband Greg have made a concerted effort to not only visit most of the branches, but to also help them with their concerns and when required, to voice them to the National Board of Directors.

Several examples of co-operation between the region's branches can readily be cited. The London Branch worked closely with the Grand River Branch to host a very successful 2017 National Conference in London, Ontario. The Zoom platform has been



➤ Greg Child's, Carol Child's and UELAC President Carl Stymsiest..

quite successful for London branch meetings as they featured many very gifted guest speakers. Other branches were invited to share in those sessions.

With the assistance of a Dominion Council grant, the London Branch received funding to have six very robust Loyalist Burial Site plaques created for cemeteries where proven Loyalists are known to be resting. (All of these Loyalists were also combatants who fought in the War of 1812-15.) Guests from several sister branches attended

commemoration ceremonies to help honour these nine soldiers and sailors at both the West Bayham Cemetery and the Old St. Thomas Churchyard. Granite combatant plaques were placed at each gravesite.

It has been Carol's goal to bring the seven branches closer together, as they each share the same difficulties. As she has demonstrated, working together makes it easier to formulate solutions and involve our National Board of Directors.



VOLUNTEERING IS A NOBLE ACT.

UELAC DORCHESTER AWARD RECIPIENT William Charles Terry UE

The UELAC Dorchester Award of distinction was established by the Board of Directors in 2007 to honor long-standing members from across Canada who have gone the extra mile with their contributions to UELAC.

The 2024 Dorchester Award was presented at the Saturday Gala dinner at the Conference in Cornwall, Ontario, June 8, 2024. This year's recipient was William Charles Terry UE.

Bill has been an active volunteer at the branch, region, and national levels. He joined the UELAC in 1980, and served as branch president. In the larger community, Bill is known for his years of involvement in the Loyalist Day in Ontario celebrations, and his work in documenting headstones in more than 100 cemeteries in Norfolk County, Ontario.

In the 1990s, he was elected to the Board of Directors where he served as Vice-President, Chair of the Finance Committee and President. He was active on a number of Board Committees, establishing a Scholarship Committee and chairing the Celebration 2014 Committee. During his presidency, he organized



➤ William Charles Terry UE receiving his award during the 2024 conference in Cornwall Ontario.

receipt of the Phillip Leith bequest to the Association.

While serving as National President, Bill kept meticulous records that now exist in the UELAC Archives as a special font.

Bill has been honored outside UELAC, receiving the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario's Lifetime Achievement Award for "dedication to history and heritage".



SUZANNE MORSE-HINES MEMORIAL GENEALOGY FAMILY HISTORY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Beverly Craig UE and Joan Lucas UE

The Suzanne Morse-Hines Memorial Genealogical Family History Award, established in 2022, exemplifies research into one's own family history and confers recognition on recipients for their contribution to their family story and to the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

Sue Morse-Hines was an avid and excellent researcher, always willing and able to lend a hand to others researching their family history.

The 2024 Suzanne Morse-Hines Memorial Genealogical-Family History Award was presented at the Saturday Gala dinner at the Conference in Cornwall, Ontario, June 8, 2024. This year's recipients were Beverly Craig UE and Joan Lucas UE.

BEVERLY CRAIG UE

Beverly Craig has had a deep interest in family history and genealogy for many years. Together with her husband, the late Rodney Craig, Bev traveled to England, Ireland, and Scotland, spending many hours in those countries researching family history.

Bev and Rod wanted to help others learn about their family histories and as of March 1997, become Branch Genealogists for the Col. John Butler (Niagara) Branch of UELAC. They were very dedicated in their roles as Branch Genealogists and continued in that capacity until April 2019. Bev and Rod went far above and beyond the requirements of Branch Genealogists. They traveled and spent many hours conducting research in London, Ontario, St. Thomas, Ontario, the Eva Brook Donly Museum in Simcoe,



at Library and Archives Canada, at the Archives of Ontario, and various other libraries, to help members find the documentation necessary to prove descent from United Empire Loyalists. Rod and Bev were also instrumental in setting up and maintaining the Friends of the Loyalists collection at Brock University. This collection has been a huge help to people researching their family histories and their Loyalist ancestors.

JOAN LUCAS UE

As a charter member and Branch Genealogist, Joan Lucas UE volunteered at the Kawartha Branch and at the national level for 45 years. Since 1988, Joan served the Kawartha Branch as Genealogist and Membership Chair. She assisted members in completing over 600 certificate applications, along the way, helping certificate recipients understand how to do research effectively. She sets high standards for herself and others. Her intense scrutiny and attention to detail ensures that applications are acceptable at the national level.

She served as the Genealogy Support Person at the national level for 24 years. In this role she designed and presented Genealogy workshops for 17 National Conferences and many UELAC Board meetings. Using her vast experience, she helped to revise the Dominion Genealogist's Handbook.

At the local level, Joan attended Heritage Day events around the district. Armed with a table full of helpful resources, Joan could always be found cheerfully talking to people about their Loyalist ancestors and how the Kawartha Branch could support their research. In her retirement, she remains a willing and capable adviser to the current Branch Genealogists.

Joan has proven 18 Loyalist ancestors, and more recently she has turned her attention to helping relatives research their family history.

Always thinking about making resources available to researchers, she has organized much of her genealogical resource material and sent it to the Kawartha Ancestral Research Association in Peterborough.



UELAC *Loyalist* SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Readers of the Fall 2022 issue of the *Loyalist Gazette* were excited by the information Jacob Breadman shared in his article entitled *British-Indigenous Relations during the War of 1812* beginning on page 27 of the Fall 2022 issue.

In 2023 Jake was awarded a UELAC Scholarship. With his permission the Scholarship committee is pleased to share his 2024 progress report here.

Dear Committee Members,

I am currently enrolled full-time in a PhD in History at Queen's University and entering my third year of the program. In February 2023, I defended my dissertation proposal before a committee of four historians (Jeffrey L. McNairn, Scott Berthelette, Jane Errington, and Jenna Healey) and am now officially a PhD Candidate. I have completed my coursework, comprehensive examinations, dissertation proposal, and am now researching and writing my dissertation.

The last few months I have intensively read William Wood's four volumes of the *Select British Documents of the Canadian War of 1812* and part of Ernest Cruikshank's expansive, nine volumes of the *Documentary History of the Campaigns upon the Niagara Frontier, 1812-1814*. All the while, I have acquainted myself with Library and Archives Canada's immense collection of War of 1812 records in RG 8 C (British Military and Naval Records). I have mastered the index for RG 8 C and now navigate the War of 1812 collection with ease.

Loyalists, both settler and Indigenous alike, continue to feature prominently

in my study. I posit that the success of British military operations around the Great Lakes can be partly attributed to the environmental knowledge of Loyalist participants, who held a vast reservoir of ecological knowledge that British soldiers and officers drew from. On the Great Lakes, for example, Captain A. Gray of the Provincial Marine relayed to Sir George Prevost that the Provincial Marine needed the strict governance of the Royal Navy but must also maintain sailors from around the Lakes because "their local knowledge renders their services as sailing masters and pilots indispensable."¹ Similarly, Lieutenant-Colonel John Harvey (of Stoney Creek fame!) wrote to Major Titus Greer Simons of the Incorporated Militia and asked for his assistance while the British were headquartered at around Burlington Bay because "Your local knowledge and other qualities not necessary to enumerate render you particularly valuable to [General John Vincent] at the present moment."² On both land and sea, civilians (many of whom were UEL) and their "local knowledge" were vital to British military operations because they had an intimate knowledge of the environment in which they served. They knew, for example, hidden paths to take around the Americans, how to navigate the unique current of the Niagara River, or which roads were useable amidst torrential downpours of rain. "Local knowledge" gained through civilians, I argue, positively impacted British military operations around the Great Lakes, while largely hindering Americans who were less familiar with the environments they invaded.

I recently published some preliminary research for my dissertation with the Network in Canadian History & Environment (NiCHE) for their "Winter in Canada" Series, titled "[A Disposition to Carry on a Winter's Campaign](#)": British Winter Military Operations during the War of 1812. I encourage the Committee to read this short article because it explores the major themes I tackle in my dissertation. I conclude, for example, that "The numerical superiority of the Americans meant that the British relied heavily on Indigenous peoples and 'Canadian' civilians. These combatants supplemented the small British force in the Canadas but, more importantly, they provided essential environmental knowledge and logistical support that facilitated British military operational success."

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) recently recognized the potential and significance of my dissertation in the form of a CGS-D award. This award, and the continued generosity of the UELAC, will allow me to continue researching and writing without obstacle. I will continue my archival research in the fall by looking for untapped War of 1812 sources in local archives, particularly in Kingston, Toronto, Niagara, London, and Windsor.

Thank you for your continued support. If the Committee or any other members of the UELAC have suggestions for how I might improve my project, please reach out.

*Thank you,
Jake Breadman*

INTRODUCTIONS TO OUR 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The committee had four entries by February 28, 2024. This was both a rewarding and difficult experience as we only budgeted for two new winners in addition to the four returning scholars who all continue to work hard towards their PhD credentials.

GRAHAM NICKERSON

University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, PhD candidate, Historical Studies. *To be Made Majesties of*. In his submission Graham wrote: “The evolution of community will help historians better understand the broad motivations of Black Loyalists and their descendants within the broader Black Atlantic as a response to barriers and opportunities. The interactive

database will empower future scholars to quickly access source material, including recorded community oral histories. Further, a publicly accessible database will allow community to both access and contribute to the body of knowledge that leverages both traditional archives and community history, centering Black voices, preserving them for posterity.”

BLAKE MCGREADY

PhD Candidate in History, The Graduate Center, CUNY. *Making Nature's Nation: The Revolutionary War and Environmental Interdependence in New York, 1775–1783*. In his submission Blake wrote: “Paying attention to the Revolution’s environmental legacy can shed new

light on the meaning of the war and independence. I’m curious to see what these sources reveal about the extent of anthropogenic assumptions among the revolutionary generation. In what ways did these subjects see themselves as intertwined with the natural, non-human world, and how did they see themselves as superior to or distinct from the environment? As the world grapples with interrelated environmental emergencies of climate change and biodiversity loss, we must better reckon with how earlier generations responded to environmental crises. Support from the UELAC will be essential for my research into these vital questions.”

Read the full biographies of these students at <https://uelac.ca/scholarship/>

1 Captain A. Gray to Sir George Prevost, Montreal, 12 March 1813, in Ernest Cruikshank (Editor), *Documentary History of the Campaign on the Niagara Frontier in 1813*, Part I (Welland: Tribune Office, 1902), 107.

2 Lieutenant-Colonel John Harvey to Major Titus Greer Simons, Richard Beasley's, 3 June 1813, in *Ibid.*, 294.

UELAC SCHOLARS WANTED!



The UELAC Loyalist Scholarship is available to Masters and PhD students undertaking a program in research that will further Canadians' 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

2024 UELAC Honorary Fellows

It is with great pleasure that the UELAC Honorary Fellows Committee offered the following two outstanding nominees (11 May 2024) as Honorary Fellows of the Association: **Dr. Bonnie L Huskins, Ph.D.**, and **Dr. Timothy Compeau Ph.D.** The members at the 2024 UELAC AGM agreed to the nominations by a unanimous vote.



**Dr. Bonnie Huskins
PH.D.**

is an assistant Professor at the University of New Brunswick at Saint John, and an adjunct Professor, Loyalist Studies Coordinator and Honorary Research Associate at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick. She teaches courses on the American Revolution and Loyalist history; Canadian history; immigration history; gender and women's history; British Atlantic World; and pirates and piracy in world history. Dr. Huskins is a well-published author of books,

an enthusiastic Loyalist researcher, producing detailed articles and has conducted many Loyalist-related podcasts and in-person presentations. Dr. Huskins' research has received funding from many history research sources. Bonnie Huskins possesses a unique blend of expertise, passion, and dedication that makes her an ideal ally for the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. Her extensive knowledge in Loyalist history aligns seamlessly with the historical context of the UELAC, fostering a deep understanding of the challenges faced by the Loyalists during the American Revolution.



**Dr. Timothy Compeau
PH.D.**

currently teaches as Assistant Professor, History Department Huron University College at Western University and is in partnership with UELAC for the *Loyalist Migration Mapping Project*. Tim is a prolific author of published books and

research articles related to Loyalist history and is a gifted speaker.

As a former recipient of our UELAC Scholarship Program, Dr. Compeau has provided funding for four student interns who have spent their summers since 2019 exploring the history of the Loyalists and the dedicated work of their descendants. At the end of the summer of 2023, Dr. Compeau's Loyalist Research Team had plotted the journeys of 2307 Loyalists and their families, and produced several new Story Maps that explore the lives and journeys of individual Loyalists, the Six Nations, and others included as a new feature on the site, Spring 2025. The Team is excited to continue this work and plans for the 2025 summer to complete populating the map and turn their attention to interpreting the data, accessibility, and functionality of the site; providing mini essays on elements of the Loyalist experience, a glossary of terms, and an interactive bibliography for a proper unveiling in 2026 in time for the "Sestercentennial" of the Revolution. The Team will continue to add until the 250th anniversary of the Loyalist arrival in Canada.

Loyally Yours,

Carol M. Childs UE
(Central West Region Vice President UELAC)
Jayne Leake UE
(Councillor, Atlantic Region UELAC)
2024 Honorary Fellowship Committee
United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada



11 May 2024

Dr. Huskins and Dr. Compeau,
On behalf of the UELAC Board of Directors and the UELAC Honorary Fellows Committee of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, it is with immense pleasure and profound admiration that we extend our warmest congratulations to you both on being selected as UELAC Honorary Fellows for the year 2024.

Your exemplary contributions to the field of Loyalist history have not gone unnoticed, and it is with great pride that we recognize your outstanding achievements.

Dr. Huskins, your extensive knowledge and passion for Loyalist history have been instrumental in fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the Loyalists during the American Revolution. Your dedication to research, teaching, and outreach has greatly enriched the scholarly community and inspired countless individuals to explore this important chapter in our shared heritage.

Likewise, Dr. Compeau, as a former UELAC Scholarship recipient, your remarkable leadership in the Loyalist Migrations Project exemplifies the spirit of inquiry and collaboration that defines our association. Through your innovative scholarship and dedication to mentoring students, you have not only expanded our understanding of Loyalist history but also paved the way for future generations of scholars to follow you. Your commitment to excellence and tireless efforts to preserve and disseminate the legacy of the Loyalists are truly commendable.

We are particularly impressed by the significant milestones achieved by both of you, from Dr. Huskins' prolific publications and engaging presentations to Dr. Compeau's groundbreaking research and the invaluable contributions of your Loyalist Research Team. Your collaborative efforts have not only enriched our understanding of Loyalist history but also ensured that their stories continue to resonate with audiences everywhere.

I have just been informed that the UELAC Board of Directors Conference Committee have secured Dr. Bonnie Huskins as the 2025 UELAC Conference Guest Speaker, to be held in Saint John, New Brunswick.

As Honorary Fellows of the UELAC, you will join a distinguished community of scholars and advocates dedicated to preserving the legacy of the United Empire Loyalists. We have no doubt that your continued leadership and contributions will inspire future generations to engage with this important chapter in our nation's history.

Once again, Congratulations on this well-deserved Honour, and we look forward to celebrating your achievements at the upcoming UELAC events.

Loyally Yours,

Carl Symiest UELAC

UELAC National President
UELAC Honorary Fellows Committee
United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On June 19th, members and friends of the UELAC Saskatchewan Branch gathered at the Atlas Hotel in Regina to celebrate the branch's 40th anniversary. The room was decorated in Saskatchewan tartan, and many members were in period dress. His Honour The Honourable Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, and her Honour Donna Mirasty, the Honourable Laura Ross, Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport, Carl Stymiest UE, UELAC National President,

and Barb Andrew UE, Vice President Prairie Region were on hand to celebrate this milestone.

As guests arrived, they were invited to view tabletop displays while a power point of photographs played in the background. Shortly before twelve o'clock, Alex Huzil, our guest piper, led everyone in period dress into the room. Once everyone was seated, the Vice Regal Party, consisting of their Honours and their Aide-de-camp, Deputy Chief (ret'd) Rod Stafford were piped in; the Vice Regal Salute was played followed by the singing of *God Save the King*. After a welcome message, and then grace by Carl Stymiest, everyone enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch of chicken, veggie lasagna, sides, and dessert. Barb Andrew gave the Loyal Toast to His Majesty the King before our guest speakers brought greetings.

The Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, Minister Ross, Carl Stymiest UE, Barb Andrew UE, and Jennifer Schafer UE, Branch President, each spoke of the continued work of our branch in the importance of remembering

our history. His Honour stated, *"We see you coming to Government House, and we like seeing you there. We see you in your period dress and you stand out, but that's OK. You're representing your heritage and that's important."*

Following the official greetings, Barb Schmuland UE and Kathy Webster UE made a presentation. They touched on the histories of the Loyalists, the UELAC, and our branch. They discussed the four mandates of the UELAC that were established in 1914 --the building blocks for the National organization-- which Saskatchewan adopted as a trust that unites its Loyalist descendants.



➤ Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty.



The branch genealogist Gerry Adair presented a UE Certificate to Cathy Forester affirming her as a descendant of John Annable UE. Jennifer Schafer UE, Cathy Forester UE, and their seemingly unsuspecting volunteer, Margaret Adams presented us with a demonstration of the dressing rituals of 18th century women; from the multiple layers of heavy fabric head to toe and from the inside out.

As a conclusion to the events at the hotel, we presented our official guests with decorative plates of the cairn at Wascana Park, we sang *O Canada*, and the Vice Regal Party departed. A number of those in attendance then headed to the cairn for the completion of our celebration and the reward of cake.

After arriving at the cairn, Cathy Forester UE read the ancestral history of her Annable family. Then, as the rain started, Donna Sanders UE told



> At our 40th Anniversary, we had three guests in attendance who were members at the time that the 1984 Charter was received by the Regina Branch, now the Saskatchewan Branch. Left to Right: Marilyn Houlden, Donna Sanders, Lorna MacKenzie.



us of the early days of how she and her sister Margaret Dodson UE formed the branch that we know today. As she finished telling us their story, the rain became a downpour with rumblings of thunder overhead.

We decided that the cake would be held off until another day, and there was a rush to the shelter of cars. So, no cake!

All in all, it was a great day that seemed to be enjoyed by all, but as the old adage says, you can't have your cake and eat it too!

Scott Hazelwood

2024 UELAC NATIONAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 6-9, 2024 ■ CORNWALL, ONTARIO

“THE STORY CONTINUES...”

UELAC conference attendees were treated to the opportunity to participate in a double event in Cornwall Ontario where they were able to attend a variety of tours of the area, visit the new home of the UELAC Library & Archives that are housed within the Cornwall Community Museum, and to participate in the [1784.ca](https://www.1784.ca) event organized by the SD&G Historical Society.

A number of registrants took advantage of pre-conference tours to Upper Canada Village and The Glengarry Pioneer Museum that offered a glimpse into the way of life as it was during the mid 1800's in eastern Ontario. Despite the cool and rainy weather on Thursday, the tour to the Glengarry, Nor'westers and Loyalist Museums which preserves and interprets the history of the United Empire Loyalist migration to Glengarry County and of the Glengarry partners of the North West Company was most informative and enjoyable.

The host hotel for the conference was the Best Western Parkway Inn and Conference Centre where registration was well underway on Thursday afternoon and a reception took place during the evening featuring welcoming remarks from President, Carl Stymiest UE.

The Lost Villages Museum Site in Ault Park, Long Sault, Ontario



was the destination of attendees on Friday. One of the main goals of the Lost Villages Historical Society is to inform the public, and specifically school children, about the loss of communities which formerly existed along the St. Lawrence River, prior to the building of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project in the late 1950s. Over 6500 people were displaced in the name of progress for the sake of the St. Lawrence Seaway and International Hydro Electric project. Casualties of progress, the villages and hamlets disappeared beneath the waters of the newly created Lake St. Lawrence, but they have stayed alive in the memories of their former residents.

A time of fellowship and a delicious Fish & Chips dinner at the Cornwall Royal Canadian Legion afforded folks a time to relax after the busy day and

catch up with previous friends and become acquainted with new ones.

Back at the hotel fellowship continued in the hospitality room.

Shuttle buses were at the ready on Saturday morning to supply transportation to and from Lamoureux Park for the 1784 Event, celebrating the 240th Anniversary of the “Landing of the Loyalists” and the founding of New Johnstown & the Royal Townships organized by the SD&G Historical Society. Living History groups were on hand living in an encampment as the people would have in 1784 and presented interactive-educational demonstrations. During the afternoon a re-enactment of the Loyalist Landing and Drawing for the original 1784 land allotments took place in front of a very large crowd.

More than 25 local history/heritage



organizations shared the area's rich heritage in a large tent where English, French, and Mohawk groups had set up interactive displays, presented performances and demonstrated crafts showcasing local history and heritage.

Tours of the UELAC head office, Archives and Library that are now housed in the Cornwall Community Museum and Archives were offered by appointment by Rodney Appleby, Office administrator.

All the pomp and ceremony that is expected at the Gala Dinner did not fall short. The colour party, followed by Piper Shane Kelly, President Carl Stymiest and those dressed in period clothing paraded into the space to

begin the festivities.

Following a beautiful meal, presentations to the recipients of the association national honours took place. Congratulations to William (Bill) Terry UE member of the Grand River Branch who was the most deserving recipient of the UELAC Dorchester Award, that salutes "best in volunteerism".

The Suzanne Morse-Hines Memorial Genealogy Family History Award was presented to two ladies who most certainly exemplify Volunteer Excellence and Participation for their contributions to UELAC. Congratulations Beverly Craig UE, member of Col. John Butler Branch

(Niagara) and to Joan Lucas UE, member of Kawartha Branch.

"History v. Heritage: Blending the Past and the Present" was the title of guest speaker for the evening, Brent Whitford, Senior Curator and Administrator at the Cornwall Community Museum and Archives.

A musical performance by Stephen Bruce Medd rounded out a most enjoyable evening.

As we closed the curtain on the 2024 conference Sunday morning, a tour of the Trinity Anglican Church cemetery followed by the Service and lunch signalled farewells with hugs and well wishes till we meet again next July in Saint John, NB.



BY BRIAN TACKABERRY UE

Brian Tackaberry UE has been a member of Bay of Quinte Branch UELAC since 1992 and is a retired secondary School teacher. He has served as Newsletter Editor and Branch President, and is currently Branch Vice-President and Financial Officer for the UEL Heritage Centre & Park. In addition to his work with the branch and park, he is a member of several other historical and genealogical groups. He has been a director with the North Lanark Highland Games in Almonte since 1985. He is also conductor of the Perth Citizens' Band, Canada's Oldest Continuous Town Band.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UEL HERITAGE CENTRE & PARK



➤ UELHCP Museum in Allison House.

The UEL Heritage Centre & Park, located in Adolphustown, Ontario is owned and operated by the Bay of Quinte Branch UELAC. It has a long association with our loyalist history.

The first Loyalists to arrive in Ontario landed at this site on June 16, 1784, under the direction of Major Peter Vanalstine. They sailed from New York in September of 1783, spent the winter in Sorel Quebec and came down the St. Lawrence on bateaux boats in the spring. They were provided with tents and supplies by the British Government, then drew lots for the land in the area and were expected to clear a spot and build a shelter before winter would arrive. Within a

few days a young child died and was buried here, which created the first Loyalist Cemetery in Ontario. The second burial was for Casper Hoover who was killed by a tree he was cutting on his property. It is not known how many burials are in the UEL cemetery, but it is estimated well over 200 graves exist, mostly unmarked. In the early years, a simple wooden marker would be used, and those rotted away over time, thus the lack of gravestones. Even by the 1860s historian William Canniff noted that the cemetery was in major disrepair and the location of the graves of the original loyalists, including Major Vanalstine, had been lost.

The property remained as private farmland for years. In 1876 David

Wright Allison constructed the large Victorian mansion on the site and had a shipping wharf on the shore. In 1884, plans were made in Ontario to mark the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Loyalists in the province. A huge three-day celebration took place in Adolphustown on June 15-17 of 1884, the largest in the province, followed by other celebrations in Toronto and Niagara. During that event, this Monument was erected to mark the Arrival of the Loyalists, and is today the oldest Loyalist Monument in all of Canada. At that time, the cemetery was cleaned up and partly fenced in. Into the early 20th century the Ontario Historical Society made steamboat trips from Toronto to visit the UEL Cemetery and Monument, as well as nearby Hay Bay Methodist Church built in 1792.

Within a few more years, the cemetery had been neglected again, and fell into disrepair. In the 1950s there was an effort to restore the cemetery. This was led by the work of Adelaide McLaughlin, a descendant of the area Loyalists. She was the wife of Colonel Sam McLaughlin, the founder of General Motors of Canada, and put up some of the initial funds. The cemetery was cleaned up and the surviving stones put into the rear wall, and wrought iron fencing and gates were built. The United Empire Loyalist Park was then established by the Province of Ontario and officially opened by Premier Leslie Frost in on June 26, 1956.



➤ Restored UEL Monument in summer of 2014, National President Bonnie Scheppers, Ketcheson Family President Trevor Ketcheson and Bay of Quinte Branch UEL President Peter Johnson

The park was run as a campground by the province and the St. Lawrence Parks Commission. 1959 was another important year as it saw the unveiling of an Ontario historic site marker by descendants of Major Vanalstine, and the opening of the museum in Allison House run by Bay of Quinte Branch. In the 1990s the branch formed the Loyalist Cultural Centre, and jointly operated the park and museum with the province. In 2001 the Bay of Quinte UELAC received full ownership of the park and all the grounds, and have operated it since.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National UEL Association in 2014, our branch had the monument and paving stones fully restored, levelled and made accessible by Campbell Monuments in Belleville, at a cost of over \$35,000, entirely fundraised by our group. We unveiled the new

plaque in the cemetery and also had several broken white marble stones which were in storage repaired and replaced in the cemetery. Just outside the cemetery is a new plaque to show Sir John A Macdonald's connection to the area. He grew up near the park and attended the local school in the village of Adolphustown.

Each year in June the UELHCP hosts an annual Flag Raising Ceremony in the cemetery to mark UEL Day in Ontario and the arrival of the original loyalists in Ontario on this site. Various celebrations in the park with re-enactors displaying how our Loyalist Ancestors lived, sometimes including military displays and tactics. The museum has a large library and research centre for those who are tracing their Loyalist roots and operates seasonally. For more information on the site, visit www.1784@uel.ca



DAVID SMITH, U.E.



LOYAL THEN, LOYAL NOW

THE MEN OF ERNESTTOWN

Loyalist Township was originally known as Second Town because it was surveyed after Kingston Township, but was renamed Ernest town (original spelling) in 1784 after Prince Ernest, the fifth son of King George III.

For years Historians have claimed that Cataraqui Township #2 and the Village of Ernesttown were primarily founded by members of the disbanded Jessup's Corps. While they represent the largest concentration of men from that Regiment, including my ancestors Lt. Guisbert Sharp, William Rogers and John Weist, it is important to recognize that the foundations of Ernesttown were forged by men from a number of different Provincial Regiments.



➤ Built by Captain Jephtha Hawley in 1785, it is the oldest continuously occupied house in the Province.

Jephtha Hawley, whose house (c.1785) stands on the west end of the Village (East Half, Lot #8), was a "*Capt of Ye Battoemen*" in Captain Samuel Adams Corps. Hawley's other neighbour was John Davy (Lot #10). Davy had served under Captain Richard Duncan in the King's Royal Regiment of New York, better known as Sir John Johnson's King's Royal Yorkers. Lt. Oliver Church had served with Davy and his farm was just west of the village.

Other settlers in the area included Henry Finkle (Lot #6) and Mathias Rose, the younger, (West Half Lot #8). Both were veterans of Jessup's Rangers. George McGuiness drew Lot #11, where the Fairfield Gutzeit house now stands. McGuiness served with the British Indian Department and is believed to have lived in a log cabin with his slave on Lot #11 for a brief time. He would later settle on Amherst Island. The Crown deeded Lot #11 to William Fairfield Junior. William Jr. and Benjamin Fairfield started to build the house that now stands on the property in 1796. It was later the site of the American attack in November of 1812.

Names like Asselstine, Briscoe, Church, Daly, Davy, Hagerman, Hawley, Fraser, Parrott, Lockwood, MacKenzie, Rogers, Sharp, Thompson and Weist (Weese) are amongst the original families that settled the area. Many of these men were called to serve with the 1st Addington Militia and the 1st Addington Troop of horse in the early 1800's.

A Grave Marking initiative began in 2011. Brandt Zatterberg and I started to research cemeteries along the Loyalist Parkway. On June 18th, the 200th Anniversary of the American declaration of war in 1812, the Canadian Fencibles marked the graves of fourteen veterans in six cemeteries in the region.

A decade of researching over 70 of the cemeteries in Lennox and Addington County was undertaken with the intention of installing the United Empire Loyalist Burial Ground Plaque and marking the 1812 Veterans with the Upper Canada Preserved Marker.

An interesting pattern emerged from this research. Many of these men served the Crown in both the Revolutionary War and the War of

1812. This was confirmed on the 1805 Muster roll of the Addington Militia, as the list is comprised of primarily Ernesttown Loyalists¹. In 1811, the Town Clerk tallied 400 males, (over the age of seventeen) of a possible 500 enrolled in the Addington Militia².

In 2019, the Upper Canada Preserved Markers, (1812 Veterans), were made available, leading to the commemoration of eight veterans and numerous United Empire Loyalists at rest in the St. John's Anglican and Bath United (formerly Methodist) Church cemeteries.

On June 12, 2021, the Lutheran Union Cemetery in Bath, was marked with a UEL plaque. The Loyalists and 1812 Veterans buried there were also honoured, bringing their stories have come to life. The following are two of the more interesting stories.



➤ St. John's Anglican Church, at Bath, was erected in 1793 and is the oldest place of worship in continuous use in Ontario. Fire destroyed the building in 1925 and it was rebuilt that same year to continue services to the present day.

Capt. Norris Briscoe 1764 - 1849

Norris Briscoe was born in Vermont to Isaac Briscoe and Ruth Hawley (sister of Jephtha Hawley). His father Isaac was the Town Clerk in Arlington Vermont and had his property confiscated in 1778. Isaac enlisted in August 1777 and appears on the muster roll of Jephtha Hawley's Batteaux Coy as a sergeant/foreman in May 1779³.

Briscoe enlisted in 1779 with Captain Samuel Adams Independent Ranging Company and was utilized by the Engineers at Yamaska in May of 1781. He appears on William Fraser's Company of Jessup's Rangers muster roll in December of 1781⁴. Briscoe arrived in Ernesttown as a single man in October 1786 and was granted the East 1/2 of Lot #19 in the 4th Concession and Lot #7 in the 5th Concession of Ernesttown Township⁵, (his actual deed for the land came with a lead seal that is hanging on the wall of the Bath Museum).

Norris Briscoe married Elizabeth Aylesworth in January 1795⁶ at St. John's. Elizabeth was from Saratoga County, New York. They had seven children – Benjamin, Catherine, Esther, Isaac, Nathan A, Ruth and Sarah Ann. Briscoe was listed as a Captain in the 1st Regiment of Addington Militia on October 14, 1809⁷ and also served as Quartermaster. With the outbreak of War of 1812, the Quartermaster would have been responsible for arming and equipping the men. It was reported in 1812 that of fifty of the muskets issued to the Regiment



in 1799, thirty-one required repair⁸.

Cpt. Briscoe was also responsible for drilling his Company of men. An order survived in the Parrott Papers outlining that Briscoe would assemble his Camden Coy of the Addington Militia on Tuesday September 29th, 1812 at Peter Davy's house⁹. Less than two months later, the village would come under attack under Isaac Chauncey.

Norris Briscoe and his wife Elizabeth are buried in St. John's Anglican cemetery in Bath.

Lt. Colin MacKenzie 1773 – 1850

Colin MacKenzie was the son of Colin MacKenzie Sr, a sergeant with Jessup's Loyal Rangers, and Sarah Powers. Colin Jr. was born at Crown Point, New York, and he was listed as a drummer on Jessup's Muster Roll of 1783 in Captain Peter Drummond's Company at the age of 10¹⁰.

Mackenzie petitioned for his land when he came of age

and was granted ½ of Lot 24 in Ernesttown Township¹¹. Colin Jr. married Mary Howard on April 15, 1794, on Amherst Island, in a ceremony performed by Rev. John Langhorn. Mary was the daughter of Lt. John Howard of the King's Royal Yorkers. MacKenzie started a mercantile business in the village with his partner James Rankin. He also served as the President of the Bath Academy that opened in 1811. During the War of 1812, MacKenzie was called to duty as a Lieutenant in the 1st Regiment of Addington Militia on February 22nd, 1813¹². In the years following the war, he would serve as the Captain of the Militia.

On January 3, 1829, he was appointed as the Custom's officer for the Port of Bath and would also serve as Justice of the Peace¹³. Colin Jr. served as the Warden at St. John's Anglican Church and was instrumental in organizing the Centennial of St. John's in June of 1898¹⁴, where he and Mary are buried.

Ensign David Lockwood 1770 – 1821

Sergeant Joseph Lockwood served in a batteaux company under General Burgoyne¹⁵ with his wife and seven-year-old son, David, in tow. After the capture of Burgoyne, Joseph, his wife, and son went to New York to await transport. Joseph suddenly died, leaving his widow Rachel Mallory and David to make their way to Sorel. At Sorel, she married Captain Jeptha Hawley; the newlyweds then made their way to Ernesttown in 1784. Hawley was a prominent Loyalist in the village. His house still stands at the west end of the village, and is considered

the oldest continuously occupied house in Ontario. In November of 1789, David Lockwood petitioned the Land Board of the Mecklenburg / Midland District that he be admitted as a settler. He asked that he be granted the same portion of land that his father would have been entitled to as a sergeant. He was granted 200 acres on Lot #3 in Sydney Township¹⁶.

David married Hannah Fraser (daughter of Loyalist Daniel Fraser, Sr.) on July 1, 1792. The Rev. John Langhorn married them at St. John's Anglican Church. David took the rank of Ensign in the 1st Regiment of Addington Militia on October 19,

and was captured while going out a window. He was imprisoned in the jail as a possible American spy. Johnson and Lockwood had been childhood friends¹⁸.

David was a life-long member of St. John's Anglican Church¹⁹ and is buried there with his wife Hannah.

To date the Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry have marked over 60 veterans in 10 cemeteries. The veterans are entered in the national database at www.gravesideproject.ca.

This project could not have happened without the support of generous partners. We would like to thank the Bay of Quinte Branch of the UELAC and the Loyalist



➤ The Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry marking a War of 1812 veteran.

1809 and served during the War of 1812¹⁷.

Of note, David was part of the pursuit of Bill Johnson in 1812 when he refused to turn out with the Addington Militia. Lockwood and Matthew Clark pursued Johnson with some men. Upon encountering him at his residence, Lockwood used the butt of his musket to knock open the door. Johnson attempted to escape

Parkway Association who have provided financial support from the beginning. This article is an excerpt of a forthcoming book of the same name by the author. For more information, or if you have an ancestor that you would like to honour, please contact David Smith, UE at canadianfencible@hotmail.com

DID YOU KNOW?

The number of Loyalists who settled in Upper Canada are estimated at 7,500. Half of those Loyalists were Scots. About 2,000 were Iroquois and other Native people who were allies of the British. The remainder were mostly German, Dutch, Irish or English descent, or were former Black Slaves.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Ernestown, Rural Places, Urban Places, Larry Turner Page 54
- 2 Ernestown, Rural Places, Urban Places, Larry Turner Page 78
- 3 The British Campaign of 1777: Volume 2, The Burgoyne Expedition, G.K. Watt Page 197
- 4 A service History and Master Roll of Jessup's Loyal Rangers, G.K. Watt Page 97
- 5 The papers of the First Land Board of Mecklenburg / Midland District 1789 – 1794, page 300
- 6 Anglican Registers 1787 – 1814, Rev. John Langhorn
- 7 Soldiers of the King, William Gray, page 64
- 8 Ernestown, Rural Places, Urban Places, Larry Turner Page 78
- 9 Ernestown, Rural Places, Urban Places, Larry Turner Page 78, 79
- 10 A service History and Master Roll of Jessup's Loyal Rangers, G.K. Watt Page 177
- 11 The papers of the First Land Board of Mecklenburg / Midland District 1789 – 1794, page 299
- 12 Soldiers of the King, William Gray, page 65
- 13 Bath on the Bay of Quinte, Jane Foster, Page 71
- 14 Bath on the Bay of Quinte, Jane Foster, Page 122, 123
- 15 Ref. Upper Canada Land Petition "L" Bundle 3, 1797, RGI, L3, Vol 284 Public Archives of Canada
- 16 The papers of the First Land Board of Mecklenburg / Midland District 1789 – 1794, page 44, The papers of the First Land Board of Mecklenburg / Midland District 1789 – 1794, page 82
- 17 Soldiers of the King, William Gray, page 65
- 18 Ernestown, Rural Places, Urban Places, Larry Turner Page 79
- 19 Bath on the Bay of Quinte, Jane Foster, Page 12



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BY OLIVER BROCK

Oliver Brock is first cousin six times removed to Major General Sir Isaac Brock, and lives on the island of Guernsey, General Brock's childhood home. He has an amateur interest in military history and the lives of his forebears, and a passion for enhancing the relationship between his home island and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec through their shared connections. Oliver is currently working on a project that will deliver an appropriate public memorial to Sir Isaac Brock in St Peter Port, Guernsey, and hopes to engage the War of 1812 community in that process.

MUTINY AT FORT GEORGE: A DISTANT PERSPECTIVE

In August 1803, there was serious threat of mutiny at Fort George, a British garrison at the west end of Lake Ontario. The discontent has previously been attributed to the strict discipline of the officer in charge.

This article seeks to delve deeper into the possible factors influencing the mood of the regular troops and the actions of the commanding officer involved.

Approximately 35% of the 49th Regiment of Foot like most regiments of the British army in the 19th century -- was made up of Irishmen, a mix of both Catholic and Protestant. Recruitment had also been focussed in the Channel Islands and around East Anglia in the years preceding its transfer to the Canadas in 1802.

The 49th had enjoyed success in battle both at Egmont-Op-Zee in Holland in 1799 and at Copenhagen in 1801.

Having proved themselves in the field, they might have expected to be deployed in the active war zones of the time, but their arrival in North

America saw their removal from the theatre of conflict in Western Europe. Being so far from the paymaster

General also meant a period of inconsistent pay and limited rewards for many soldiers. Furthermore, the relatively recently formed United States of America was just a stone's throw away to the south.

The new republic offered a free society with a pioneer spirit, a far cry from the royalist traditions found in the British colonies of the Canadas, and a world of difference from the almost feudal oppression felt by the poor in rural Ireland, where the reward for a hard day's work rarely garnered enough to feed and clothe an individual, let alone a household.

Roger Sheaffe, one of the 49th regiment's lieutenant colonels, had been born in Boston, Massachusetts where his father was employed in the Customs office. After his father's death in 1771, Sheaffe, his mother, and his siblings had been supported by Lord Percy, later the 2nd Duke of Northumberland, who led the



British Forces in Boston during the revolutionary war. Lord Percy became Sheaffe's benefactor and friend.

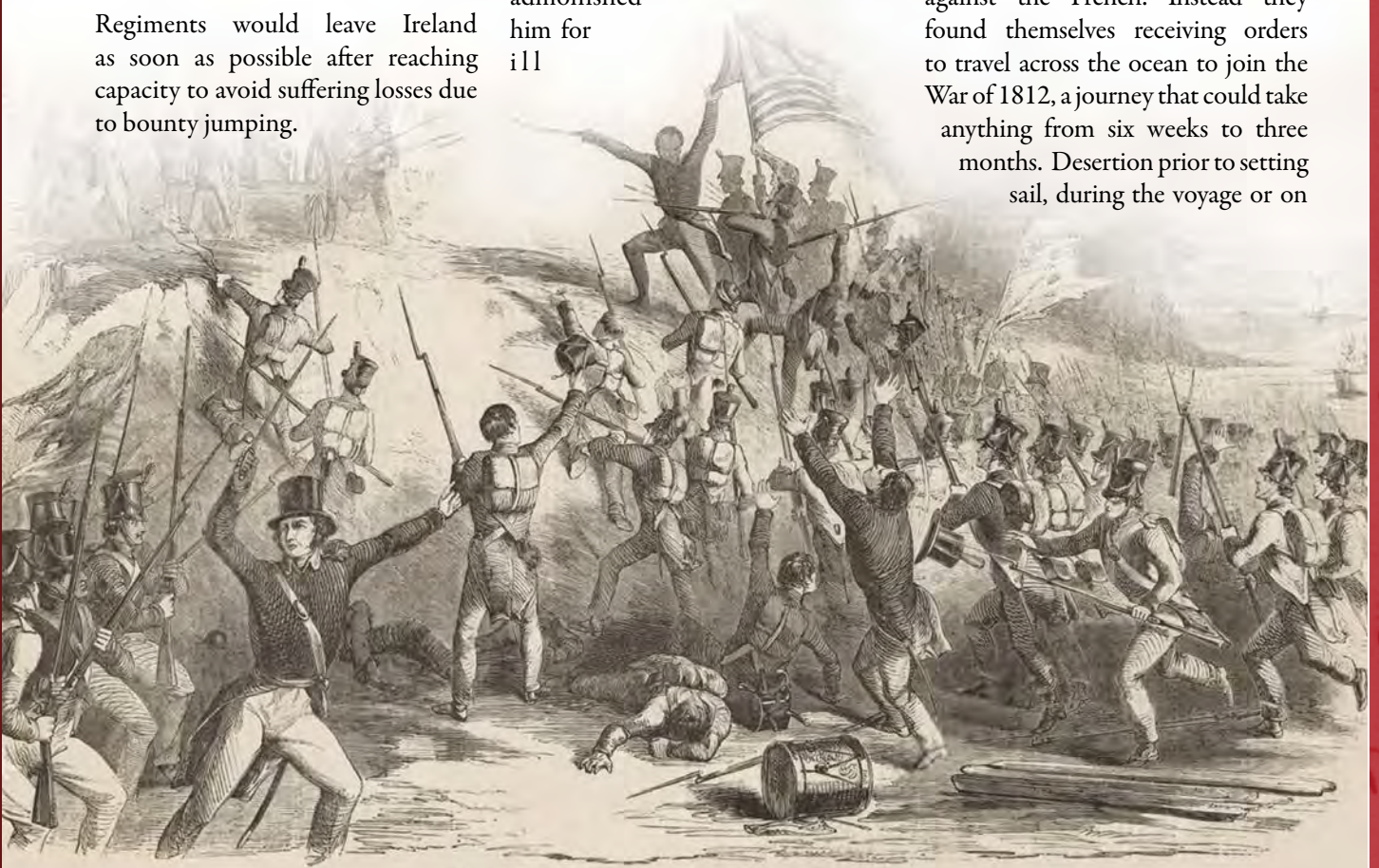
After attending military academy in London, and purchasing his first commission (both paid for by Lord Percy), Sheaffe spent the first six years of his military life in Ireland, during a time when a predominantly Protestant elite subjugated a Catholic peasantry; desertion by enlisted Irishmen was rife. A practice called bounty jumping involved enlisting in one regiment, claiming the bounty offered for enlistment, then deserting, laying low for a number of months, and enlisting again with another regiment in a different county, claiming a second, or third, or fourth bounty. The income from bounty jumping far exceeded the expected income of a peasant labourer in rural Ireland at the time. Regiments would leave Ireland as soon as possible after reaching capacity to avoid suffering losses due to bounty jumping.

Around the same time, in 1783, a whole garrison of the 104th Regiment (over 500 men, all Irish) mutinied in Fort George, Guernsey, killing two officers and capturing the fort. The mutineers only seceded when a greater force of local militia and regulars laid siege under the determined leadership of the escaped officers. The Channel Islands were a prime spot for desertions due to their maritime connectivity with countries and colonies far across the globe, giving quick and easy access to ships for those wishing to embark on a new life abroad.

Immediately after seeing action in Copenhagen in 1801, the 49th Regiment found themselves in the Channel Islands, recruiting new soldiers and guarding the small but strategically vital islands from invasion by the French. It was whilst in Jersey with the 49th that Sheaffe's commanding officers first admonished him for
 ill

treatment of his men. It is probable that Sheaffe felt the threat of mutiny at this time, despite the regiment's recent success. The precedent of the incident involving the 104th, proximity to international shipping routes, and his early exposure to desertion in Ireland gave Sheaffe cause to be hyper-aware of the disposition of the Irish contingent within the regiment.

From the Channel Island, the 49th moved to Colchester and then across the Atlantic to their North American posting. A long arduous sea journey in the opposite direction to both the safety of home and the glory of battle must have been challenging. It is widely held that the highest rates of desertion encountered in the British army were recorded immediately after Napoleon's defeat in the Peninsula War, when battle-hardened soldiers expected to be discharged or given rest following their intensive action against the French. Instead they found themselves receiving orders to travel across the ocean to join the War of 1812, a journey that could take anything from six weeks to three months. Desertion prior to setting sail, during the voyage or on



THE STORMING OF FORT GEORGE, MAY 27TH, 1813.

> Sketch of the opening phase of the battle of Fort George, the morning of 27 May 1813. (Public Archives of Canada.)



arrival at their port of arrival were all common, as the weary soldiers sought to avoid yet more fighting on foreign soil.

So the 49th arrived in Lower Canada and spent their first winter in Montreal, a depth of cold few would have experienced before, with temperatures as low as -27°C . As the temperatures rose early in 1803, Sheaffe was sent from Quebec to Fort George in Upper Canada with a detachment of men from the 49th regiment. At the same time Isaac Brock, Sheaffe's immediately senior Lt. Colonel, moved with the regimental headquarters to York (modern day Toronto). It was a coincidence that this Fort George bore the same name as that in Guernsey that had been witness to the 1783 mutiny, twenty years earlier. Sheaffe and his men, would not have been ignorant of that connection.

Conditions in Upper Canada were not so different from those in Ireland, in so much as making a relatively short journey to the United States could find a deserter offering his service to the new continental army for a bounty of over five times that offered by the British army, as well as hundreds of acres of land on top of the cash sum. Men of Irish descent had made up between 40-

50% of Washington's continental army 25 years earlier, and the cause of the independent United States rang true with many who considered the British rule of Ireland to be less than mutually beneficial. The Union of 1801 had brought Irish politics into the responsibilities of the British parliament in Westminster, with both positive and negative effects.

It may have been the combination of these factors that led Sheaffe to be particularly stern with his men, stemming from the desire to enforce strong discipline in a location so close to the United States. Whatever the reason was, Sheaffe made life for his men in the fort so unbearable that a number of them hatched a plan to imprison the junior officers and kill Sheaffe, leaving them free to escape across the border to begin a new life in the United States.

Sadly for the men in question, one of their number, a Private Fitzpatrick, let slip their plan in conversation. The young soldier tasked with conveying the news to Lt. Colonel Brock, Sheaffe's commander in York, a private named Arthur Wade, buckled under interrogation and gave up the names of the ringleaders before turning King's evidence to save himself from court marshal.

The men, predominantly Irish,

were not expecting Brock to arrive at Fort George so soon, and had no idea that he knew of their plan. In a short exercise involving Brock's Sergeant-Major James Fitzgibbon (a loyal Protestant Irishman), the men were flushed out of the ranks and put in chains. There were twelve in all, among them a Sergeant Clarke, a Corporal O'Brien and Privates Fitzpatrick, Daly and Rock.

Brock had previously been lenient with deserters of the 49th, believing that kindness would instil greater loyalty than the application of the 'cat', but on this occasion the men involved had taken measures beyond those even Brock could accommodate. They were sent to Quebec for Court Martial under the jurisprudence of the acting Lt. Governor, General Peter Hunter, who brought down sentences of death by firing squad for four of the twelve mutineers.

The commonly held view was that Roger Sheaffe was a cruel and hard officer, who applied strict disciplinary measures to even minor misdemeanours. Having understood his early experiences -- and the wider political and economic factors at play -- it is understandable that he may have considered his methods necessary or even essential.

UELAC CONFERENCE 2025

10 - 13 JULY, 2025

LOYALIST CITY SAINT JOHN NEW BRUNSWICK



The UELAC Conference Committee is excited to announce that the 2025 Conference will be held in the "LOYALIST CITY", Saint John New Brunswick on July 10th-13th, 2025.

Our host will be the Delta Marriott Hotel, situated in downtown Saint John, within easy walking distance to the newly renovated harbour, markets,

restaurants and artisan container village.

We have a great line up of guest speakers, Loyalist musical entertainment, historical tours and a Drumhead Church service at the historic Loyalist Church, Trinity Anglican, featuring the reenactors "Delancey's Brigade".

The Gala dinner will be attended by Lt.Governor Brenda Murphy, and newly appointed

UELAC Honorary Fellow; Dr. Bonnie Hoskins will be our guest speaker.

The conference will host a silent auction as well as a 50/50 draw.

Booking information and the itinerary will be coming soon to the Conference Website, so mark your calendars and be our guest in Atlantic Canada.





GEORGE F. CHISHOLM,
CD, UE

George F. Chisholm, CD, UE is a great-great-great grandson of George Chisholm, UE. A retired high school shop teacher, he and his wife live in an 1830's Regency Cottage in Oakville, and he is the long-time President of the Oakville Historical Society. Information comes from "Oakville and The Sixteen" and "Chisholms of Croy" by Hazel Chisholm Mathews both of which are available from the Oakville Historical Society.

GEORGE CHISHOLM: SCOTTISH IMMIGRANT, LOYALIST REFUGEE

George Chisholm was born on July 19, 1752 in the parish of Croy, Scotland. He was the second youngest of seven children born to John Chisholm and Janet MacGlashan. Croy is situated to the northeast of Inverness very near where the Battle of Culloden was fought on April 16, 1746. The family had lived there for at least two generations, but it is not known why they were so far removed from the main clan holdings in the Glen Affric area.

Life in the highlands after Culloden was pretty grim, and Scotland, as a whole, was suffering from overpopulation. The Clearances had not yet reached the area, but in the summer of 1773, George Chisholm joined some 400 other highlanders on the chartered ship *Pearl*, and set off for the Port of New York. George settled in Kortright Township at the head of the Delaware River in the Catskill Mountains. His brother John followed in 1774. Another brother, William, is said to have emigrated but there is no record of him. The names John, William and George occur frequently in the family, and it can be difficult to keep them sorted out.

On May 1, 1777, local rebels confiscated the property of George and several other Loyalists. That summer, Burgoyne brought war into



➤ George Chisholm Sr (1752-1842). "John and George Chisholm of the Parish of Croy" page 23, unpublished manuscript by Hazel Chisholm Mathews in the library of the Oakville Historical Society.

the Province of New York, and the two brothers joined the highlanders recruited by Capt. John Macdonell. They participated in the first skirmishes fought against the rebels on this frontier at The Flockey and with St. Leger at Oriskany.

George did not stay with Macdonell, but headed east to join the army of General Burgoyne, serving as a carpenter. He was at work on the defences at Sugar Hill, later Mount Defiance, at Ticonderoga when Continental Rangers under Captain Ebenezer Allen attacked, and took George prisoner. He escaped, and, by

1778, was in New York where he became a member of the Highland Volunteer Militia under Captain Normand Tolmie. In the summer of 1778, he married Barbara, daughter of William McKenzie, a refugee from the Scotch Settlement on Ouleout Creek, a tributary of the Susquehanna. Their first two children were born there: Janet, who died in infancy, and Mary Christina.

In 1783, George and his family joined about 2,500 Port Roseway Associates and moved to what became Shelburne, Nova Scotia. During their seven-year stay in Nova Scotia, George and Barbara



➤ John Chisholm (1784-1861). "John and George Chisholm of the Parish of Croy" page 30, unpublished manuscript by Hazel Chisholm Mathews in the library of the Oakville Historical Society.

his brother, John, had settled after leaving the United States. Today, Brock's Monument is on what was once John's farm. In 1792, George signed the address of welcome to John Graves Simcoe. He found employment working on the construction of Fort Erie, and their next child, George Jr., was born there.

In 1793 George petitioned Governor Simcoe for a Loyalist land grant and by Order in Council dated July 11, 1793. He was allowed 400 acres of the wastelands of the Crown. By the time the paperwork was complete, he and Charles King had already jointly purchased 600 acres on the north shore of Burlington Bay, having paid 150 pounds New York currency. George's part of the land comprised lots 1 in the Broken Front and 1st and 2nd Concessions of East Flamborough Township, immediately to the east of the Burlington Golf and Country Club. The last of their children were born there: twins Nancy,

who died in infancy, and Christie.

George timbered his land, exporting barrel staves to England and was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1796. He also served as the government negotiator with the Mississauga First Nation for the purchase of the land to the east of his. In August 1797, this 3,000 acre parcel was granted to Joseph Brant for his services during the Revolutionary War. Brant called it Wellington Square. In 1804, George was commissioned by Lord Selkirk to travel back to the Head of the Delaware to find experienced Highland settlers to establish a settlement to be named Baldoon that the Earl was



➤ William Chisholm (1788-1842). "John and George Chisholm of the Parish of Croy" page 34, unpublished manuscript by Hazel Chisholm Mathews in the library of the Oakville Historical Society.

had four more children: John; James, who died in infancy; William, and Barbara.

By 1790, George was not able to provide for his growing family in Nova Scotia, so he sold out and moved to the Niagara area where



➤ George Chisholm Jr (1792-1872). Collection of the author

planning for the Western District on Lake St Clair.

George held a commission as a captain in the 2nd Regiment of York Militia. In 1812, at the age of sixty, he marched to Niagara with his three sons, but he was not permitted to remain. In



➤ Curved infantry sword that belonged to George Chisholm Jr. Engraved "George Chisholm, 2nd Gore Militia". Collection of the author.

1813, he turned out again when American ships appeared off Burlington Heights, remaining with his volunteers until the fleet disappeared. He died on December 5, 1842 at the age of ninety, and was buried beside his wife in the family plot on Filman's Point on the north shore of Burlington Bay. As he was a founding member of Barton Lodge in Hamilton, thirty-four fellow masons attended his funeral.

As part of her research in the early 1950s for Oakville and *The Sixteen*, his great-great-granddaughter, Hazel Chisholm Mathews, found his headstone leaning against a trellis at Greenwood Cemetery in Burlington. It was apparently moved there when land was cleared for pasture. She received permission from the cemetery board to move the stone to Oakville Cemetery. It was re-cut and installed in the Chisholm

plot there. Some years later, pieces of another, identical, stone were discovered holding up part of a boathouse on Burlington Bay.

Most of George and Barbara Chisholm's nine children went on to fruitful lives.

Mary married Ephraim Land, second son of Robert Land and Phoebe Scott. She died in 1865 and is buried at Oakville Cemetery.

John married Sarah Davis, daughter of William Davis and



➤ Flintlock Land Pattern Musket (Brown Bess) that belonged to George Chisholm Jr and carried by him while in command of troops at Montgomery's Tavern during the 1837 Upper Canada Rebellion. Separate photo showing rebel musket ball embedded in stock. Made at the Tower of London. Collection of the author.



Hannah Philipse of Saltfleet. He became Collector of Customs at Burlington Beach and died in 1861. Both are buried at St Luke's in Burlington. In 1812, John was captain of the First Flank Company, York Militia. His Lieutenant was his brother-in-law, George King.

William married Rebecca Silverthorn, daughter of John Silverthorn and Esther Corwin of Cherry Hill in Etobicoke and went on to found the Town of Oakville by purchasing 960 acres around the mouth of the Sixteen Mile Creek in 1827. He, too, served in the York Militia and then the Gore Militia.

All three sons became Lieutenant Colonels in the Gore Militia. In 1812, he accompanied Brock to Detroit. He was also a Member of the House of Assembly and formed the first joint stock venture for the use of hydraulic power in the province. He became overextended financially and died in 1842. William and Rebecca are buried at Oakville Cemetery.

Their son, George King

Chisholm, was the first mayor of Oakville, a member of the Legislative Assembly and the first Commanding Officer of the 20th Halton Battalion of Infantry, perpetuated today by The Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin and Halton Regiment). His wife was Isabella Land, daughter of Robert Land Jr. Another of William's sons, Robert Kerr Chisholm, built the Erchless Estate at the foot of Navy Street in Oakville. It is now the home of the Oakville Museum. Other descendants of William include Hazel Chisholm Mathews, author of Oakville and The Sixteen and Mark of Honour.

Barbara married George King, son of Charles King of Flamborough. King died during his service at Fort Erie during the War of 1812, Barbara followed in 1817.

George Junior married Eliza McCarter, daughter of Isaiah (Oziah) McCarter and Abigail Land. He too, participated in the War of 1812. When lenders foreclosed on William, George lost the family farm in Burlington.

During the 1837 Upper Canada Rebellion, George Jr commanded troops at Montgomery's Tavern in Toronto. When a rebel shot at him, the musket ball lodged in the butt of the musket he was carrying. It and his sword from 1812 have been handed down from George to George and are now owned by the author. His grandson, Daniel Black Chisholm, served as Mayor of Hamilton. Perhaps George Sr's most famous descendant was George Jr's great grandson, Major General George Brock Chisholm, CC, CBE, MC, ED, MD, first Director General of the World Health Organization. George Chisholm Jr died in 1872. He and Eliza are buried at St Paul's Cemetery in Burlington, not far from his father's farm.

Christy married Dr Alexander McKenzie of Sandwich and then Barnett Griggs of Trafalgar Township.

Seven generations of the family, both male and female, have served Canada and her Armed Forces from 1812, through both World Wars, Korea and Afghanistan.

DID YOU KNOW?

Loyalist preacher Jonathan Boucher dared to baptize and educate formerly enslaved Black people in Virginia and Maryland, which made him controversial from the start. But when he took to his pulpit to oppose patriot firebrands like Thomas Paine and Patrick Henry, he put a target on his back.

"Boucher ended up preaching in his church with two loaded pistols," says Marsh. One day a patriot mob gathered outside the church and threatened that if Boucher stood up to preach they would drag him out. Ever defiant, Boucher shouted "God Save the King," grabbed a local patriot leader, put a pistol to his neck and escaped with his life. Boucher, once a close friend of George Washington, fled to Britain in 1775 where he wrote one of the first histories of the American Revolution outside of the United States.



DR. STEPHEN BOWLEY UE

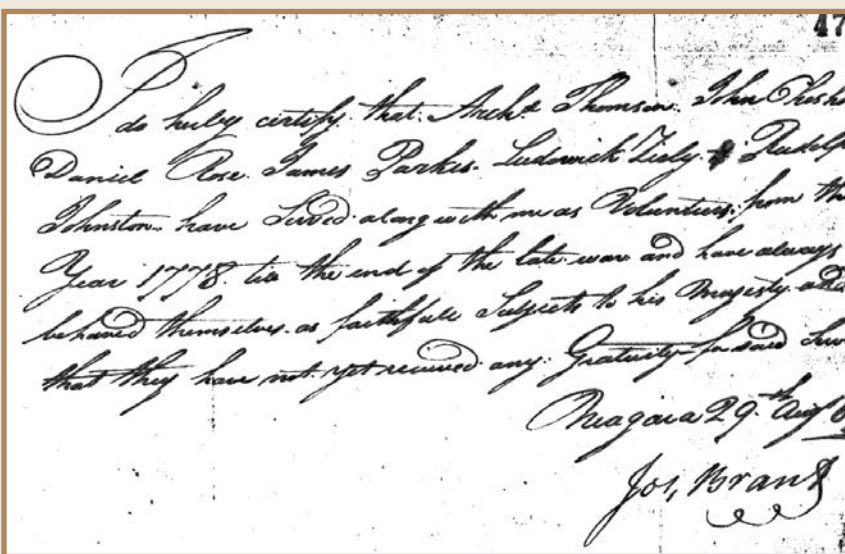
Dr. Stephen Bowley retired in 2018 from the University of Guelph following a 35-year career as an Associate Professor in forage breeding and biotechnology. Now that he is no longer teaching and providing statistical consultation to graduate students he has a little more time to devote to his “back burner” research on Brant’s Volunteers. Stephen is descended from Daniel Rose UEL who began farming in 1782 on the west side of the Niagara River at the top of the escarpment. His research encompasses 84 [identified] men who served as Brant Volunteers—some for a short period and others, like Daniel Rose, for the duration of the conflict.

THE TWO ARCHIBALD THOMSON UELS: THE BRANT VOLUNTEER AND THE CARPENTER/MERCHANT

The biographies of these two different Loyalists were unfortunately merged when the life story of Archibald Thomson UEL of Scarborough Township, Upper Canada, was compiled a number of years ago. I had uncovered the error while researching the roster of Brant’s Volunteers. Unfortunately the fusion of their stories has been promulgated into many documents relating to the Thomson families of Scarborough. The following is a brief extract of their respective activities during the War of Independence and their subsequent resettlement in Upper Canada. A more extensive summary, with references to the primary sources, is appended to their respective entries in the UELAC Loyalist Directory.

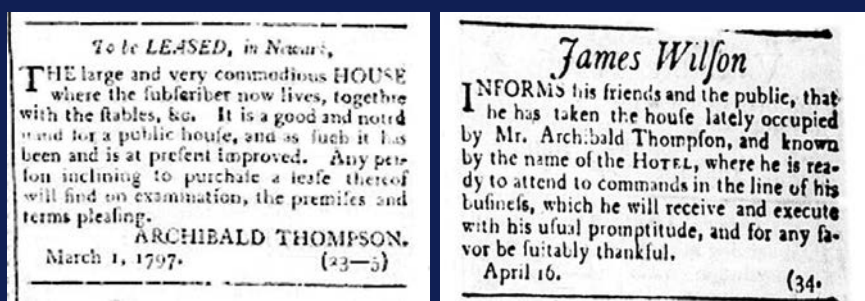
I. ARCHIBALD THOMSON UEL, THE BRANT VOLUNTEER

Archibald Thomson of Stamford Township Upper Canada was born in Hawick Parish, Roxburghshire, Scotland and emigrated to New York in 1773. In partnership with fellow Scotsman James Park, he leased land near Harpersfield, Tryon County. Loyal to the King, Thomson and Park were not able to escape the attention of their landlord John Harper—a member of the Tryon County Committee of Safety—and were indicted by the Tryon Committee of Sequestration. Not surprisingly, they took up arms in July 1777 under John McDonell (of Scotus) and joined on the raid of Harpersfield. Unfortunately the party was attacked by a dragoon unit—the battle of the Flockey—and they were forced to escape into the woods. By the end of the year, Thomson, Thomas McMicking (also a Brant Volunteer) and John Brown (later a Butler’s Ranger) were impressed for service in Capt. Alexander Harper’s Ranger Company. The Company’s orders were to guard the Commission of Sequestration while they were seizing the property of Loyalists.



➤ Attestation by Joseph Brant confirming Archibald Thomson (of Stamford) was a Brant Volunteer, 29 Aug 1787. Source: American Loyalist Claims, AO 13/13, pp 476, The National Archives of the United Kingdom, Kew, Surrey, UK.

Notices regarding the lease of Archibald Thomson's house/hotel in Newark in 1797. The hotel was later renamed the Wilson Hotel. Source: Upper Canada Gazette, 22 Mar 1797, Vol. 3, No. 19 (left) and 17 May 1797, Vol. 3 No. 30 (right). NJ.FM.1178 Library & Archives Canada.



In May 1778 Archibald Thomson joined as a Volunteer with Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant)—a member of the Kanyen'kehà:ka (Mohawk) Nation. In late July 1778 he carried a message from Brant to the recruiter Charles Smith near Harpersfield, Tryon County. The latter wrote two letters and gave them to Thomson to return; one to Capt. Walter Butler and the other to Joseph Brant. At the Servos homestead a detachment of Rebel soldiers killed Thomas Servos, and took Thomson and others prisoner. On the 22 August 1778 Archibald Thomson and others who had become ill were moved from Albany prison to the hospital. How he escaped custody was not recorded.

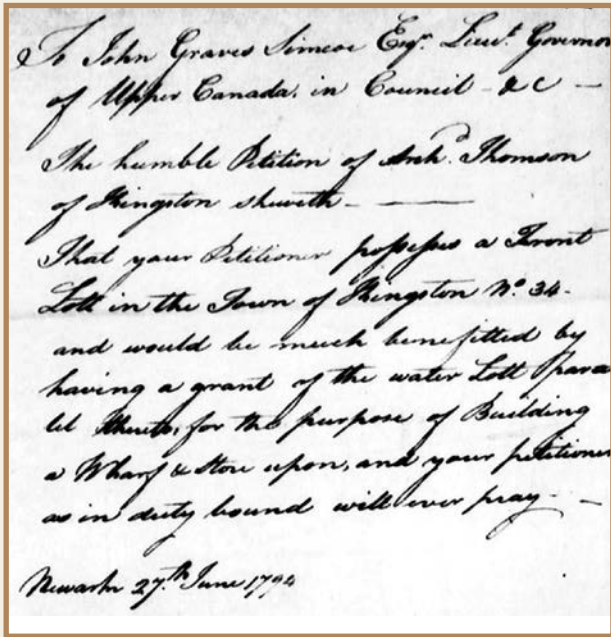
When Archibald Thomson came into Fort Niagara in Oct 1779, Guy Johnson offered him an appointment in Johnson's new group of Rangers he called Foresters—so named to differentiate those under his direction at Niagara from the Rangers commanded by Lt.-Col. John Butler. The offer was declined "as they served the Crown from principle and not for the sake of Emolument, they would continue to serve [Brant] without pay during the remainder of the war." On 7 Apr 1780 Thomson was a member

of Brant's party that took twelve captive, including Capt. Alexander Harper who had commanded the guard for the Committee of Sequestration. On 4 Sept 1782, in a rare return which listed Brant's Volunteers by name, Thomson was recorded as one of those stationed at the Upper Landings on the Niagara River (present day Queenston ON and Lewiston NY). His post-war loss claim included an attestation by Joseph Brant confirming his volunteer service during the war (Figure 1). Following the war, Isaac Patchin Sr. made a deposition which listed those who joined McDonell in 1777 "who were then actively and zealously employed in the Service of the King." Consequently, Archibald Thomson was one of the Loyalists indicted in 1783 by the New York Supreme Court for adhering to the Enemies of the United States.

In spring of 1782 land was cleared for farming on the west bank of the Niagara River. In contrast to the disbanded Butler's Rangers that started their farms near the Ranger Barracks, the Brant Volunteers established theirs at the more defensible position at the top of the mountain. Thomas McMicking and Daniel Rose had farms in production in 1782 and

were joined by Archibald Thomson and others on lots assigned to them by Brig.-Gen. Powell. By July 1784 Archibald Thomson had married Catherine Emerick (née Scharff), widow of David Emerick. Catherine and her daughter Margaret had been captured in 1781 by Indigenous Warriors in Pennsylvania, and taken to a village near Niagara. About 1790 Margaret Emerick, Catherine's daughter, married Archibald's brother James.

Archibald Thomson and three other Brant Volunteers, submitted a petition in 1795 for additional lands based on their service with Thayendanegea. As part of the submission, both Lt.-Col. John Butler and John McDonell attested to their service. The land records that resulted from this petition confirmed that the Archibald Thomson that settled in Stamford Township was the Brant Volunteer. The Warrants were sequentially listed in the Register of Fiats and include the notation "Volunteer with Capt. Brant 1000 acres including former Grants & such family lands as he may appear entitled to" (Figure 2). As the lot descriptions were issued their numbers were added to the Fiat Register and those documents are in the Township Papers. The bequests in his will also correspond to these properties. In addition to the Crown



To John Graves Simcoe Esq. Lieut. Govern
of Upper Canada: in Council - &c -
The humble Petition of Arch. Thomson
of Kingston sheweth -
That your Petitioner possesses a Town
Lot in the Town of Kingston N. 34.
and would be much benefitted by
having a grant of the water Lot para
lel thereto, for the purpose of Building
a Wharf & store upon, and your petition
as in duty bound will ever pray -
Newark 27th June 1794

➤ Archibald Thomson (of Scarborough) penned all of his numerous petitions to the Land Committees of Upper Canada. Source: Upper Canada Land Petition, Archibald Thomson, Newark, 27 Jun 1794, read 28 Jun 1794. T1/12. R10875-4-5-E, Reel C-2832. Library & Archives Canada.

grants, Thomson also received an option from the Six Nations to lease 400 acres of Grand River lands.

Archibald and Catherine had at least eight children. Their son John was killed in action at the Battle of Chippewa on 5 July 1814. Archibald Thomson Sr. died in 1821 and Catherine in 1823 and were buried in Stamford Presbyterian Cemetery, Niagara.

II. ARCHIBALD THOMSON UEL, THE CARPENTER/MERCHANT

Archibald Thomson of Scarborough Township Upper Canada, emigrated from Britain to America in 1773 and settled near Johnstown NY along the Mohawk River. In 1775 due to “attachment to his Sovereign” he relocated to the Province of Quebec. He was likely one of the Loyalists that accompanied Superintendent Guy Johnson and Haudenosaunee Allies who left the Mohawk Valley at the end of May 1775. Thomson was

engaged as a carpenter at Forts Oswegatchie, Niagara, and Detroit. He was Master Carpenter on Lt.-Gov. Abbott’s 1777 expedition to St. Vincennes on the Wabash River. The following year he “was three months with Gov^r Hamilton on his expedition to post St. Vincennes.” Once he returned to Detroit he became “engaged in other business” for the duration of the War –he began operating a trading company called Thomson and Company. By 1780 he had relocated to Carleton Island in the St Lawrence River and was trading merchandise both there and at Detroit. At Carleton Island he was supplying both the troops and the Navy.

On 27 July 1781 Archibald Thomson married Elizabeth McKay in Québec City; she and her mother Mary were trading spirits and dry goods alongside the garrison at Carleton Island. Archibald Thomson continued supplying the troops from Carleton Island and by 1782 he was also operating out of Niagara. On the 1784 provision list for Cataraqui Township No. 3. Archibald was listed as having been discharged from the 2nd Battalion KRRNY and was then at Niagara but returned the following year. For the next fifteen years the family was located in Kingston. Thomson submitted at least 14 petitions to the

Land Committees of Upper Canada. He penned them all and, atypical for petitions, not one included a third-party attestation (Figure 3). In Kingston he received a town lot near the waterfront and later acquired the adjoining lot for use as a timber yard. Thomson was contracted to build a house for Sir John Johnson and later St. George’s Anglican Church. By 1796 his family had relocated to Newark residing in a “very commodious House” – Thomson’s Hotel. This building was later known as Wilson’s Hotel (Figure 4). At Newark he was joined by his two brothers from Scotland. When the capital of Upper Canada was moved to Toronto (renamed York) so did the Thomsons. There Archibald built houses including ones for William Jarvis (Provincial Secretary), merchant William Allen, and William Chewett (Deputy Surveyor General).

In addition to Town Lots, the Thomsons also received extensive acreage east of York in Scarborough Township. On their Scarborough lands the Thomsons erected a saw mill in 1808 and a grist mill by 1811. Archibald Thomson also received a lease of a Scarborough lot for “the Purpose of Erecting a House of Entertainment.” As the community grew it was called Benlomond (later named Bendale). Archibald and Elizabeth Thomson had 11 children. She died in 1817 and Archibald passed in 1819 and both were buried in St Andrew’s Presbyterian Cemetery, Scarborough, Toronto.



CATHERINE
BINGLE-GONNSEN

NELLES MANOR: A LOYALIST HOUSE OF DISTINCTION

In 1787, 46 loyalist families sought sanctuary in the Niagara area. Four were from Pennsylvania; the rest had been residents of New Jersey. Among the latter were the Nelles family headed by Henry Nelles. Having settled in the Mohawk Valley, these Loyalists were forced to flee from the wrath of American rebels that – tragically-- included other Nelles family members. The son of Henry Nelles was among the first settlers of Forty Mile Creek, today's Grimsby, Ontario.

On April 5, 1790, Forty Mile Creek became the site of the first municipal meeting in Upper Canada. Twenty-three years later it witnessed the “Engagement of the Forty”, a battle that saw the defeat of American raiders on June 8, 1813.

Important as these landmarks are in Grimsby's history, the survival of a loyalist home built between 1788 and 1798 is perhaps even more significant. During the American Revolution, Colonel Robert Nelles, a son of Henry Nelles, served in the Indian Department at Fort Niagara. There, he became friends with Joseph Brant. An officer with Butler's Rangers, Nelles led a number of scouting parties and



raids deep into rebel territory.

At the end of the war, Brant offered his white allies' homes on the reservation that the British Government had given the Six Nations as recognition of their services during the war. Among those veterans were Robert Nelles, his father and his brothers. Robert's name can be found in a deed issued on February 26, 1787 to Brant's loyalist comrades. His father Henry Nelles received a 999-year lease for a tract of land of 9 square miles that became known as the Nelles Tract (Seneca Township).

At age 27, Robert married Elizabeth Moore with whom he would have five sons and three daughters. In that same year – 1788--, Robert moved his family

to Forty Mile Creek. In the decades that followed, Nelles ran a farm, owned stores and mills, and found time to serve his loyalist community as a member of Upper Canada's legislative assembly. In 1798, he commissioned Francis Waddell and a crew of shipbuilders to build Nelles Manor, a stately Georgian home in Grimsby. It was a project that would take ten years to complete – and would provide such a large edifice that it was commandeered by two different armies during the War of 1812.

As American forces pushed their way into Upper Canada, the Niagara Peninsula became a gateway for the invader's forces to work their way from the American frontier to Burlington,



York, and eventually Kingston. Consequently, British and the local militia commandeered Nelles Manor as an outpost during the war. On at least two occasions, it was also occupied by American forces that had moved up from Niagara. At this time, Robert was away fighting, leaving Elizabeth and his 8 children at the manor.

It is not known what the builder of Nelles Manor did during the War of 1812. A Scottish immigrant, Francis Waddell had come to the New World with a family that included his daughter, Maria Jane, and son, Robert. The Waddells settled at Niagara on the Lake where Maria married a British soldier named Samuel Bingle on November 2, 1804. The groom was 30; the bride was 21.

Bingle's family, like Maria's, was part of a long line of shipbuilders. Details about Maria are scarce, but she is known to have "traveled", and was fluent in French as well as English. Maria and Samuel had two children, Thomas and Catherine, before Bingle died at age 34 in 1809. Maria would be a single mother for the next five years. Given that her father was in charge of building Robert Nelles' home,

it may be that Francis Waddell is the one who introduced Maria to the man who would become her second husband.

Nelles had also suffered the loss of a spouse. His wife Elizabeth died at age 44 in 1813. Within a year's time, he met and married Maria Bingle. The bride was 31 years of age, and the groom was 52 years old when the couple married on July 3, 1814. If they had had a honeymoon, it would have been a short one. Twenty-two days later, Nelles -- a lieutenant colonel in the Niagara District's 4th Regiment-- and at least two of his male relatives were fighting at the Battle of Lundy's Lane. Americans captured his son and wounded

one of his brothers in what history has come to regard as one of the bloodiest battles of the war.

Robert Nelles came home to his new bride alive and well. The Loyalist veteran returned from a battle that saw 3,500 British and Upper Canadian combatants fighting 2,500 American invaders. Those defending the Niagara region suffered 84 fatalities, 559 wounded, 169 made prisoners of war, and 55 who were missing in action. Now a veteran of the War of 1812, Nelles would eventually have two sons and four daughters by his second wife.

A blended family has its inherent challenges. Not all of the children of Nelles' first wife were happy with their father's marriage to Maria. One daughter wrote Robert with the hope that Maria would be "worthy of her position". Another daughter who lived with an older sister refused to return Nelles Manor because she was afraid of becoming a servant in the new domestic arrangements.

Despite the fears and concerns of her stepchildren, Maria was more than a necessary replacement for Nelles' first wife. Due to Robert's



many absences from Grimsby to serve at the colonial legislature in York (Toronto), the widower and his second wife wrote a number of letters to one another. York University professor, H.V. Nelles has observed their correspondence has given posterity “a rare collection of touching love-letters between husband and wife”. Clearly, the second marriage for both Robert and Maria where one based on mutual affection.

Robert Nelles died at age 80 on July 27, 1842; Maria died 6 years later on January 2, 1848 at age 64. Nelles Manor would remain within the family for four generations. However, later owners divided the house into apartments, changing the interior architecture.

Purchased by Barry and Linda Coutts in 1971, Nelles Manor was slowly and carefully renovated, eventually becoming a depiction of how it would have looked in the

final years of Robert Nelles’ life. In the process of the renovation, workers discovered its original flooring, fireplaces, and a red British uniform jacket that Robert Nelles had worn during the War of 1812. Nelles Manor eventually became a heritage museum in 2016.

Operating from Victoria Day to Labour Day, the museum is open to visitors from Wednesdays to Sundays. Dressed in period costumes, knowledgeable staff members are available to guide

tours through rooms furnished in artefacts from the early 19th century. Its grounds are now recognized as a War of 1812 battleground. Nelles Manor Museum is one of the oldest buildings in Ontario that people can enter and view. It is where visitors can hear the story of Robert Nelles, one of the province’s Loyalist founders, and the two women who once called Nelles Manor their home -- Elizabeth Moore and Maria Jane Waddell Bingle.



CALL FOR PAPERS & STORIES - PACIFIC & PRAIRIE REGIONS SUBMIT TO THE LOYALIST GAZETTE

• The **Loyalist Gazette & Communications Committee** is now accepting submissions, manuscripts for feature articles from the the Pacific and Prairie Regions on the American Revolution, a loyalist heritage story, your loyalist ancestor, etc. for the **SPRING 2025 Loyalist Gazette** publication.

• 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 **Spring 2025 Loyalist Gazette** is **05 March 2025.**

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)
 - Attached photo's with cutlines.
- Jpeg files 200-300 dpi resolution.





JANE LOVELL UE

Six generations after her family left Adolphustown, Jane returned to the township to build a home and take up a new life just a short paddle from where the Loyalists first arrived in 1784. Now well established in the community, she has been able to pursue her interest in local history by taking on executive roles within the Adolphustown-Fredricksburgh Heritage Society, the Greater Napanee

Municipal Heritage Committee, and Friends of St. Alban's, a charity established to preserve and promote Adolphustown's St. Alban the Martyr United Empire Loyalist Memorial Church. In editing and contributing to the Heritage Society newsletter, Jane has learned much about the Loyalists and the part they played in the area's heritage and in her own ancestry. Her latest endeavour has been to co-author *The Windows of St. Alban's*, a book exploring how art and craftsmanship came together in this rural Gothic Revival church to create an enduring tribute to the Loyalists of Adolphustown and beyond.

CELEBRATIONS & NEW BEGINNINGS: THE LOYALISTS OF ADOLPHUSTOWN



➤ St. Alban the Martyr U.E.L. Memorial Church in the quiet hamlet of Adolphustown close to the landing site of the fourth town contingent of the United Empire Loyalists in Adolphustown Creek on June 16, 1784.

This year marks the 240th anniversary of the landing of the United Empire Loyalists on the shores of Adolphustown in eastern Ontario. Having overwintered in Sorel, Quebec, a group of roughly 250 refugees from the American Revolutionary War proceeded to Adolphustown to settle on land granted to them by the British Crown. It was June 16, 1784, when the "brigade" of twelve bateaux carrying the sixty-two families arrived—only to find the survey of the new township still underway. A full three months would pass before the survey was declared complete. Despite this setback, by the time a muster was taken at the beginning of October, the new arrivals had taken up their lots and begun to clear their land. The muster recorded that during the previous

two months a child had been born, but also that three other children had died along with a man and a woman—a considerable blow to the those families and to the nascent community. It was not an auspicious beginning for the refugees in their new home.

Initially known as Cataraqui Township No. 4, or Fourth Town, but soon named in honour of Adolphus, the tenth child of King George III, Adolphustown is almost entirely surrounded by the waters of the Bay of Quinte. With the bay affording water access to most of the township lots, the early settlers prospered from the bounty of the waters surrounding them and from the ease of transportation and communication that travel by boat or over ice provided in the days before roads.

Nearly a hundred years after the

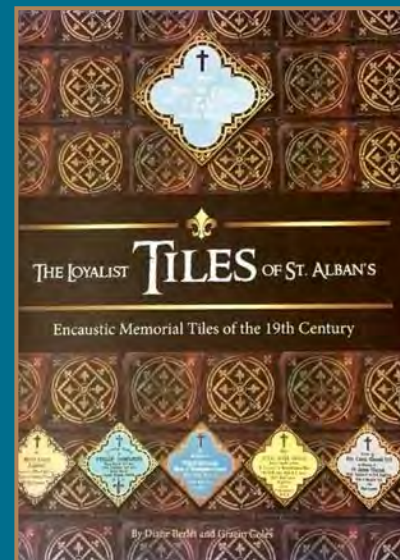
settling of the township by Loyalist refugees, Reverend Richard Sykes Forneri arrived in Adolphustown. An Irish immigrant, he knew well the plight of political refugees: Reverend Forneri's father had fled to England and Ireland from his native Italy for the part he had played in the uprisings that took place across Europe in the aftermath of the French Revolution. Reverend Forneri took up his new charge as rector of the Parish of Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh in 1883, and was soon caught up in the fervour of the plans taking shape across Ontario to celebrate the centennial of the 1784 arrival of the Loyalists. In acknowledging Adolphustown as the site of the initial landing and still the home of many Loyalist families, and dismayed by the crumbling stones and the dilapidated state of the nearby Loyalist cemetery, Reverend Forneri embraced the

With less than a year to garner support for his project, Reverend Forneri embarked upon an ambitious province-wide quest for patronage and funding. Such was his success that the setting of the cornerstone of St. Alban the Martyr United Empire Loyalist Memorial Church took place on June 17, 1884, as the central event of the three-day centennial celebration held in Adolphustown. That celebration was one of only three held across Ontario that year—the other two being in Toronto and Niagara. The Adolphustown events were attended by a number of influential people, with the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario John Beverley Robinson setting the cornerstone of St. Alban's. The local member of parliament David Wright Allison and his long-serving parliamentary colleague Sir Richard Cartwright were among the many notables to deliver addresses during the festivities.

Completed six years later, Reverend Forneri's church was "of the Early-English Gothic style, solidly built of limestone from the Kingston quarries" and intended to be "a Monumental Church of chaste design and finish, according to plans submitted... by Kingston architects, Messrs. Power and Son."

These were lofty aspirations for the small village of Adolphustown, recorded in the 1884-5 Ontario Gazetteer and Business Directory as having only 90 inhabitants. Engaging Joseph Power to design the church lent prestige to the endeavour and ensured a certain level of grandeur to the finished structure. Power and Son were well-known and respected architects, having designed many imposing ecclesiastical, institutional, commercial, and residential buildings in Kingston and surrounding communities.

Paying for the new church, at a cost of approximately \$8,000—a



➤ The the story of the construction of St. Alban's Gothic Revival stone Church and the tiles that summarizes the lives of many of Upper Canada's founders.

then substantial sum, roughly twenty times Reverend Forneri's annual salary—was a daunting task for the small congregation of fewer than two dozen families. Reverend Forneri undertook the task of raising funds with great zeal and perseverance, acquiring subscriptions from around the province. Notable contributors were Lieutenant Governor Robinson, Sir Richard Cartwright, historian and author Dr. William Canniff, and then Prime Minister Sir John Alexander Macdonald.

One of Reverend Forneri's most impassioned and successful efforts to raise funds was the selling of memorial tiles. In this he encouraged descendants of Loyalists to commission "Mural Tablets" memorializing their ancestors. Orders for more than half the tiles were received and installed before the first service in the church in 1890. Further commissions for the remaining tiles ensured that the full complement of sixty-four tiles that now encircle the interior of the church had been put in place within the the next two decades or so.



movement to erect a memorial to those early settlers. His proposal for a suitable monument: A United Empire Loyalist memorial church. Fitted throughout with memorial stained glass windows and wall-mounted memorial tiles, the church would serve as a lasting monument in honour of not only the sixty-two Loyalist families who came ashore in Adolphustown, but also as a tribute to Loyalists across Ontario and elsewhere in Canada.

Many men and women whose tablets grace the church walls played important roles in the settling and development of the area, in military and church leadership, and in local, provincial, and national governance. However, it is the tiles themselves that have even more significant historical value. Custom-ordered and manufactured in England, these encaustic tiles are rare examples of an ancient art form that had a brief revival in the mid-19th century. The only other known examples in North America reside in Craigdarroch Castle in Victoria, BC and the Capitol Building in Washington DC. In these installations the tiles bear no inscriptions and are simply used as elaborately decorative floor tiles.

Initially fitted with clear and coloured glass, the windows of St. Alban's Church also presented another opportunity to raise funds for the building of the church. The circa 1883 Prospectus of the U. E. Loyalist Memorial Church states:

"It is also hoped that gifts of memorial windows, and indeed of all the articles required as furniture of the church, may be presented by descendants of U.E. Loyalists and friends."

By the time of the inaugural service in 1890, a mere five memorial windows had been commissioned with only one sponsored by a descendant of a Loyalist. It took well over a century for all of St. Alban's windows to be filled with memorial stained glass. Most of these windows, including all five of the originally installed memorial windows, were manufactured by the Robert McCausland company of Toronto, the oldest stained glass company in North America and one of the most prolific. It is exceedingly uncommon to find such an extensive

collection of elaborate stained glass in a small rural church.

For more than a hundred and thirty years, parishioners of St. Alban's served as stewards of the church. When the congregation disbanded in 2018, the mantle of stewardship was assumed by Friends of St. Alban's, a community group dedicated to preserving the building and commemorating its heritage.

St. Alban's Centre is open to the public Thursday through Sunday, June to September. Self-guided tour brochures introduce visitors to the many historic and artistic features of the church; guided tours are available on Saturday mornings. The Centre operates the outdoor Hallowed Grounds Cafe and the Rectory Book Room housing hundreds of used books for sale. Events take place throughout the summer, with the annual commemoration of the landing of the Loyalists in Adolphustown a major celebration in mid-June. Hours of operation and details of upcoming events can be found on the St. Alban's Centre website (stalbanscentre.ca).

The Loyalist Tiles of St. Alban's and The Windows of St.

Alban's tell the story of the church and its rare encaustic tiles and memorial stained glass windows. In chronicling the lives of the Loyalists of Adolphustown and elsewhere, these two books not only celebrate Loyalist heritage, but also provide a means of funding the preservation of this remarkable church and the diverse ways in which it pays tribute to Loyalist families. These books can be purchased at St. Alban's Centre or from the Centre's website.

Thus has begun a new era for St. Alban's, a church built in commemoration of the Loyalists who settled in Adolphustown 240 years ago. This new beginning faces very different challenges from those overcome so long ago by Loyalist refugees, but St. Alban's is poised to meet those challenges in promoting and preserving such a rich past, and ensuring a promising future. It is our hope that the national and local branches of the UELAC will support and perhaps partner with Friends of St. Alban's in this endeavour.





RUTH HUTCHINS
NICHOLSON UE

Ruth and David have been married for 48 years. They have 3 children & 2 grandchildren. She graduated with a B.A. in Fine Art from McMaster University and a B.ED. from Queens.

She taught elementary school for 44 years with the Halton District School Board. She has been recognized both provincially and at the Board level with awards for innovation & creativity in education.

She has been past president of the Hamilton Branch UELAC for 10 years and is currently co-president with Catherine Bingle-Gonnsen UE. She has been asked to speak across the province of Ontario from Kingsville to Kingston & has given numerous educational presentations.

She has agricultural roots: born & raised in Essex County. All four of her proven Loyalist ancestors are from The New Settlement, NW side of Lake Erie. They are Jacob Amer, John Cornwall, Joseph Ferriss & Henry Wright.

She enjoys her vegetable garden & turning the harvest into pickles & preserves. She loves baking & painting with her 12 year old granddaughter & golfing with her husband.

ROBERT LAND

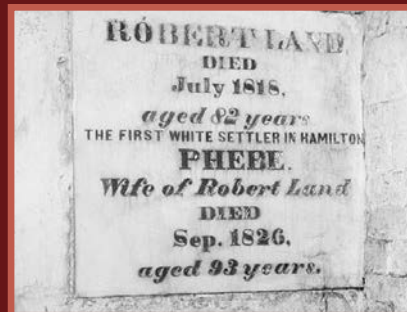
HEAD OF THE LAKE SETTLEMENT

1738 - 1818

Robert Land, one of the first Loyalists to settle at Head of the Lake, went through many difficulties before reaching first Niagara and secondly, Hamilton, Ontario. His is a story of bravery, perseverance, honour, loss, reunion, and rebuilding. It is a story of fortitude. Anyone experiencing this story must admire the strength of character encapsulated in the person of Robert Land.

After settling in Calkins Creek, in the Delaware Valley of Pennsylvania, he built a log cabin. Robert was short, stout and fair and in 1757 he married a girl who was quite the opposite: tall and dark haired, named Phoebe Scott. He would have been 19 and Phoebe would have been 21 at the time of their marriage.

In 1776 when the American Revolution broke out, Robert Land was 37 years old. He was a Justice of the Peace or Magistrate with a family of seven children aged 19 to an infant. Due to his loyalty to King George III, he joined the British forces. With a vast knowledge of the country, Robert Land was selected to carry dispatches from General Henry Clinton in New York to points north and west. According to James Elliott's book, *If Ponies Rode Men – The Journeys of Robert Land 1777 – 1791*. Land was also a recruiter for the Crown; another difficult role.



➤ Grave marker for Robert Land Sr. (1738-1818) and his wife Phebe. It reads: Robert Land / died / July 1818 / aged 82 years / The first white settler in Hamilton / Phebe / Wife of Robert Land / died / Sep. 1826 / aged 93 years.

While Robert Land was away, his son, Abel was abducted by the local Indigenous people. His oldest son, John went to rescue Abel and after running the gauntlet, the younger brother was released. Not long after that episode, John himself was taken prisoner by the Rebel authorities and he was held for the entire war. This left Phoebe, the mother, and the younger children to carry on and survive by themselves.

After their neighbours, the Kanes had been murdered and their home burnt down, Phoebe and the children first hid in the woods and then traveled stealthily to New York, the safe haven for the British. They stayed here until the evacuation of the Loyalists in 1783. Phoebe eventually received a grant of land

along the St. John River in what was to become the new province of New Brunswick. Here the family stayed for seven years.

During this time period, Robert Land was performing dangerous undercover work, carrying orders from British General Sir Henry Clinton, from New York to Fort Niagara and Montreal. In March of 1779 he was captured by Rebel militia and brought before a military court in Minisink, N.Y., charged with spying for the British. He was found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging but his conviction was overturned by none other than General George Washington on the "grounds that as an inhabitant of one of the states" Land was not subject to the jurisdiction of a military court. Land was released on bail on 30 September 1779 to await a new trial but he jumped bail and joined a small party of Tories heading to Niagara.

Robert was in the vicinity of his family home sometime after the property was burned and the family had left. Seeing the ashes and hearing about the Kane family, he surmised that his family had been killed. In great sorrow, Robert Land asked advice of a trusted Quaker neighbour, Ralph Morden, as to the route to Niagara. Ralph showed

him an Indian ladder and pointed out the way. It turned out that they were followed by an angry mob of Rebels. Morden, who was a Pacifist, believed he would be safe, but the angry mob captured and hung both he and his son-in-law.

Robert got away, but not before a musket ball hit his knapsack with such intensity that it caused him to fall to the ground and cut his hand on a sharp rock. The Rebels followed the trail of blood until darkness and then gave up, believing that Robert Land had gone off and died somewhere. Land actually kept moving and he reached Fort Niagara where he found safety with the British. The year was now 1779 and Robert Land, now 41, had completed two years of dangerous courier work.

In 1780 Robert Land resumed his courier work, again traveling between New York, Niagara and Montreal. In August of 1782, he arrived in Niagara and was not able to leave before the war ended.

As a Loyalist, Robert Land received a grant of 200 acres in the Lundy Lane area of Niagara Falls, Ontario. This is where he lived and brooded over the fate of his family for three years. The noise of the great falls was so disturbing to him that he moved 50 miles away, to the quiet of Burlington Bay, in what is now Hamilton, Ontario. He lived here, well back from the water in a dugout spot before he built a small log cabin. He cleared a bit of land



➤ Land vault at the Hamilton Cemetery on York Blvd.

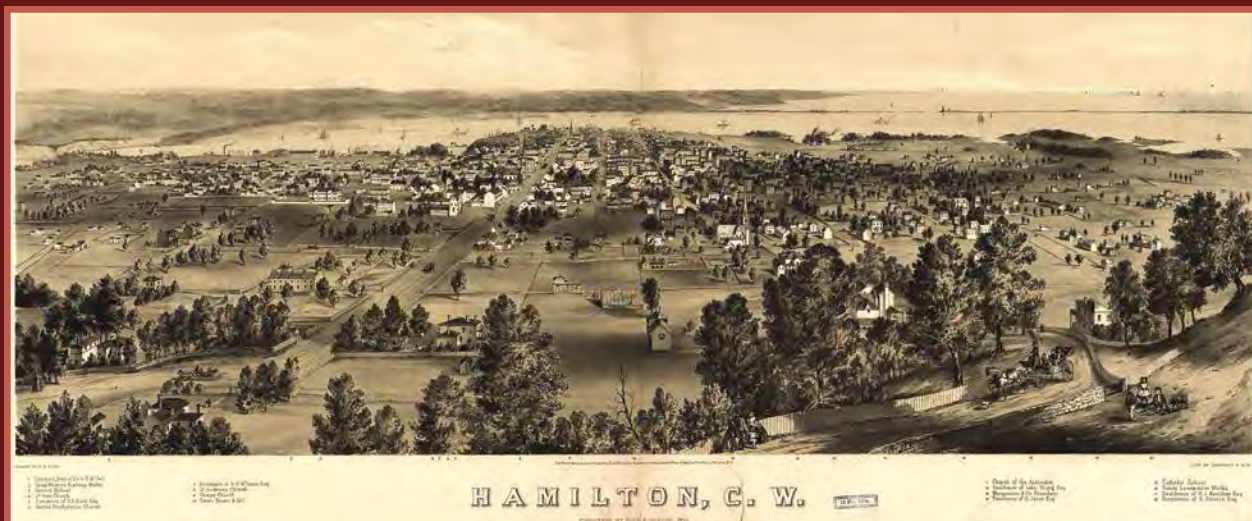
and supported himself by hunting, fishing and trapping in solitude. As a Loyalist he petitioned for land in this area on May 03, 1791 and he was assigned Lot 11 on the 3rd concession of the township of Barton, containing 100 acres.

Meanwhile, the eldest son, John was released from confinement after the Revolutionary War. Since he had not taken up arms, he was allowed to own and occupy the family property in the Delaware Valley. John built a new red home, married and raised a family of eleven.

Back in New Brunswick, the youngest son, Robert II had grown dissatisfied with the harsh conditions and the poor farm land. At the age of 17, he persuaded his mother to migrate with some others to Upper Canada, where life and farming should improve. It was now 1791. They took a ship to New York and visited John at his farm, on the way. Here they learned about the death of the Morden men and the reputed



➤ Land sign installed by the Hamilton Historical Board at Woodland Park, corner of Barton & Sanford Streets.



death of their father and husband, Robert Sr. John was satisfied with his life in the Delaware Valley and thus the rest of the family continued onto Niagara.

After one year in this area it happened that through an itinerant trader, they heard that a man named Land was living alone at the Head-of-the-Lake. Young Robert decided to go the 50 miles N.W. to see who this man was and if there was a relationship. Not to be left behind, Phoebe and another of her sons, Ephraim, made the journey to that area and they found Robert sitting outside the cabin, smoking. After eleven years of separation, this was an euphoric moment!

Later, two other sons and three daughters joined the other four family members. They worked hard to clear more land and they became successful farmers. After more settlers arrived, Robert went back to his woodworking skills and crafted spinning jennies for weaving.

Robert Sr. applied for a grant of land in 1794 and in 1802 he was allowed 312 acres that stretched from the mountain to the bay and from Wentworth to Emerald Street. Each of his four sons, Abel, William, Ephraim and Robert acquired 200 acres on adjoining lots. Through

land grants and purchases, the Land family came to own a solid block of over 1000 acres in what is now the central part of Hamilton. Robert Land built a new home at the base of the escarpment, at 341 James Street South. It was named 'Landholm'. Only the two original pillars to the property remain.

Robert Land did help Ann Morden, Ralph's widow, settle in the Dundas Valley area with her family.

He died in 1818 at the age of 80. Phoebe, his wife, died in 1826 at the age of 90.

Both Robert and Phoebe Land represent individuals who made many personal sacrifices, who took risks and rose above the strife of war and exile to make a substantial new beginning in a new land.

Our Hamilton Branch Plaquing committee plaqued the main Hamilton Cemetery, across from Dundurn Castle, where Robert Land and his family lay, in the family vault, in April 2010.

Brian Land, Professor Emeritus from the University of Toronto, a direct descendant of Robert Land, spoke at this ceremony. Other family members had the key to the vault and allowed the public to visit the interior of the crypt. This event brought forward the epic story of

Robert Land to the local people once again.

Her Honour Sophia Aggelonitis MPP Minister of Consumer Affairs stated: "There is surely no more remarkable story in Hamilton's history than that of Robert Land, the English lad who became a settler, magistrate, farmer, soldier and spy, a Loyalist who lost everything, both family and home and regained his family in this place overlooking the waters of Burlington Bay."

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Facebook Group

Pioneer Families of Hamilton



STEVEN TORS

Steven Tors has degrees in microbiology, history, astronomy, and education and spent almost thirty years as a high school science teacher in Toronto. Though fascinated by the natural world, his first and greatest passion has always been history, sparked by visits to battlefields in both Canada and the United States as a child. Retired now to the Niagara Region, his goal is to help preserve the memory of those who lived through the trauma of the War of 1812. His wonderful wife Lisa is his enthusiastic travelling companion and editor.

THE INCORPORATED MILITIA OF UPPER CANADA AT THE BATTLE OF LUNDY'S LANE



> Lundy's Lane Memorial at the Drummond Hill Cemetery in Niagara Falls.

As the sun slipped slowly away in the late afternoon of 25 July 1814, Major Thomas Jesup of the U.S. Army gazed from the edge of a chestnut forest, knew he had a chance to strike a crushing blow against the British forces opposing him. Hit them hard enough and he might rout them entirely, leaving the Niagara peninsula, possibly all of Upper Canada, easy pickings for the United States.

Virtually all that stood in his way was the Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada, some 350 Canadian farmers, merchants, and labourers

in faded red tunics who had never fought together as a unit. Most had never even faced hostile fire. Surely they would flee when struck and abandon this corner of the Empire to the American invaders.

Quietly, Major Jesup gave the order for his men to move forward to the edge of the treeline.

CREATING THE INCORPORATED MILITIA

The first year of the War of 1812 had shown the inadequacy of the

provincial system of militia in providing well-trained Canadian soldiers for the defence of Upper Canada. Accordingly, in March 1813, Major General Sir Roger Sheaffe, recognizing “the importance of forming without delay an efficient force from the militia,”¹ spearheaded the creation of a unit of fulltime volunteers to serve for the duration of the war. Because it would be commissioned by the provincial legislature, rather than under the direct auspices of the British army, it was to be known officially as the Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada.

Companies were raised in the largest population centres; Prescott, Kingston, York, and the Niagara region. Recruitment proved slow. The extensive British military presence in the province and the need for workers to rebuild the damage wrought by more than

a year of war, meant there was plenty of economic opportunity for civilians that seemed far more enticing to most than the meagre inducements offered by the Incorporated Militia.

THE INCORPORATED MILITIA FORMS

For those men who did volunteer, their initial experience proved disappointing and demoralizing. Rather than confronting the invaders who threatened their homes, they found themselves undergoing monotonous drill, supplemented by a heavy load of support duties. These included garrisoning forts, serving as picquets, transporting supplies by wagon, sleigh, canoe, and batteau, and constructing fortifications.

The eastern companies saw no combat at all in 1813 as American forces deliberately avoided the well-fortified area around Kingston. The two small companies formed at York, a total of 45 men, saw heavy action only on 27 April 1813 when an American army captured the town.

Only the three companies raised in the Niagara region, some 82 men, experienced extensive combat in 1813. They participated in the battle of Fort George (27 May), the defence of Burlington Heights (29 July), the capture of Fort Niagara (19 December), and the raid on Buffalo (29 December). In between, they engaged in repeated skirmishing, rearguard actions, maneuvering with the army, scouting, building entrenchments, and transporting supplies and prisoners.





➤ A sketch of the battlefield of Lundy's Lane and Village of Drummondville from the Canadian Illustrated News, July 15, 1876. Two observation towers can be seen at the back towards the left.

AMALGAMATION OF THE INCORPORATED MILITIA

In February 1814, General Gordon Drummond, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, ordered an amalgamation of the dispersed companies of the Incorporated Militia into a single battalion. Members of the Niagara, Prescott, and Kingston divisions spent up to two weeks travelling across the wintry landscape, occasionally by sleigh, mostly on foot, with all their baggage, equipment, and families, to Fort York. There they underwent intense training with their new commander, Lieutenant Colonel William Robinson. A veteran of the regular army, Robinson instituted weapons exercises and twice-a-day drills at both the company and battalion level. Training was often disrupted as the men continued to be required for other assignments, including garrison, picquet, and transport duties. So disruptive were these that on 8 April Robinson lamented, "I have made but small

progress in the training of the militia... hardly men enough remain to allow of the instructions of the officers in Battalion exercise."²

Nevertheless, by 5 July 1814, General Drummond could describe the ten companies of Incorporated Militia, consisting of 33 officers, 27 sergeants, 10 drummers, and 309 rank and file,³ as "now in an admirable state of discipline and efficiency."⁴ This achievement came not a moment too soon. Two days earlier, American forces had moved across the Niagara River to invade Upper Canada and the unified Incorporated Militia would be desperately needed as it faced its baptism of fire.

THE INCORPORATED MILITIA AT THE BATTLE OF LUNDY'S LANE

On the evening of 25 July 1814, the troops found themselves the main body holding the left end of a British line occupying the high ground along which ran a country

road called Lundy's Lane, less than two kilometers from the great falls of Niagara. Their area was quiet for the moment, fighting being a short ways to the west at the centre of the line. There, three American regiments under Brigadier General Winfield Scott were being held back by a battery of seven British guns positioned amongst the tombstones of the local cemetery.

Unbeknownst to the British, Scott had sent his fourth regiment, the 25th Infantry under Major Thomas Jesup, in a flanking move through heavy woods between the American line of advance and the Niagara River. At around 8:00 p.m., the 25th found itself to the west of the position occupied by the Incorporated Militia. With the redcoats facing south towards the main American force, Jesup saw an opportunity to strike a surprise blow into their flank that could crush the British left. This would likely set off a chain reaction of chaos, allowing him to rush on, rolling up the enemy line, seizing the British guns atop the hill, and winning the battle. Accordingly, the major ordered his men to let loose with volleys of musketry. Then, screaming with all their might, they charged forward with the bayonet.

So surprising and violent was the attack that the two leftmost companies of the Incorporated Militia were shattered. Lieutenant Colonel Robinson was hit by a musket ball in the eye, a wound that would incapacitate him for the rest of his life. The Americans came on, yelling and firing, and it seemed the Canadian boys would flee or surrender, leaving the British flank unprotected.

But their dedication to the King's cause and their months of intensive training now paid off. Individual officers rallied their men and the battalion managed to execute an extremely difficult maneuver. Under fire and in the rapidly fading light, they pulled backwards, pivoting on the right of their line so that their formation swung back like a door. Now facing west towards their attackers, they took position along a fence surrounding a tavern north of Lundy's Lane and opened their own fire.

For about an hour, bullets flew across Portage Road and men fought, fell, and died. Finally, running low on ammunition and burdened by about a hundred prisoners they had captured, the Americans withdrew. The Incorporated Militia had saved the British left.

AFTERMATH

The engagement at Lundy's Lane proved a strategic victory for the

British and ended any American hopes for the conquest of Upper Canada. Following the battle, General Drummond praised "the very creditable and excellent defence made by the Incorporated Militia battalion."⁵ But the defence had come at considerable cost; one of every six members fell on the field, with 17 killed and 44 wounded. With another 29 taken prisoner, the Canadian volunteers had sacrificed more than a quarter of their number atop Lundy's Lane hill.

The Incorporated Militia continued to serve on the front lines until the end of the war, primarily during the siege of Fort Erie, where General Drummond praised them for their "uniform exemplary good conduct."⁶ On 4 February 1815, Drummond announced before the provincial assembly that the members of the battalion "will be enabled to retire to their domestic avocations, animated with a consciousness of having in the day of trial, proved that they deserved the gratitude and applause of their country."⁷ The unit was officially mustered out at Fort York on 24 March 1815. Twenty-two years later, during the Rebellion of 1837, the provincial legislature resurrected the Incorporated Militia. Many of the members who had served in its ranks in 1814 joined once more in defence of the crown.

Today, the legacy of the Incorporated Militia is perpetuated

by four Ontario regiments in the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves: the Lincoln & Welland, the Queen's York Rangers, the Brockville Rifles, and the Princess of Wales Own Regiment. Each carries the battle honour "NIAGARA" upon its banner, earned in part at great cost and with great courage, by a few hundred Canadian volunteers more than two centuries ago who answered their King's call.

For a complete account of the Incorporated Militia, please see: *Redcoated Ploughboys* by Richard Feltoe (Dundurn Press, 2012).

ENDNOTES

1 Ernest Cruickshank, ed., *The Documentary History of the Campaign Upon the Niagara Frontier in the Year 1813: Part I. (Welland: Lundy's Lane Historical Society, 1902), p. 124.*

2 R. Feltoe, *Redcoated Ploughboys*, (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2012), p. 187.

3 Ernest Cruickshank, ed., *The Documentary History of the Campaign on the Niagara Frontier in 1814: Part I, (Welland: Lundy's Lane Historical Society, 1896), p.51.*

4 *Ibid.*, 25

5 *Ibid.*, 91

6 *Ibid.*, 133

7 Feltoe, p. 344.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Royal Commission on the Losses and Services of American Loyalists which granted cash compensation to loyal citizens following the American Revolution only ever convened in two locations in Upper Canada:

Carleton Island (May 1788) and Niagara (May 1788).

It met in three Maritime locations and at two in Lower Canada.



The French-Robertson House 1784

*Jeremiah French Jr. was a Loyalist and a Captain in the Queens Loyal Rangers,
then later a Lt. in the Royal Regiment of New York.*



*Upper Canada Village,
Morrisburg, ON*