



THE

HAMILTON LOYALIST

published by the Hamilton Branch of
The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada



Volume XI #1 January 2012

"They forsook every possession excepting their honour, and set their faces towards the wilderness... to begin, amid untold hardships, life anew under the flag they revered."

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012

As your returning Hamilton Branch president I wish to extend best wishes for good health and much happiness for 2012. Dr. Raymond Cummins UE our most recent president had successful heart surgery in November and has been recuperating and regaining his strength and health. We wish Ray and Eva well and thank Ray for his continued commitment to our branch.

Looking back at the fall, we enjoyed two local authors speak: Doug Green UE, who spoke about the historical facts supporting his ancestor Billy Green as a local hero. Doug has authored a book entitled, Billy Green and Balderdash that researches the facts behind his ancestor and how he participated in the Battle of Stoney Creek in June of 1813. Nathan Tidridge spoke about the fact that most Canadians do not understand their form of government. This of course was in reference to his most recent book, Canada's Constitutional Monarchy. With each speaker our learning and understanding increases many fold. We are fortunate to have local authors who are passionate about important history and heritage topics.

The year 2011 culminated at Rock Chapel United Church where we enjoyed a wonderful turkey dinner with all the trimmings followed by homemade pies for our Christmas luncheon celebration. John and Michele Lewis UE

created beautiful gift baskets for a draw. Funds from this draw go towards start up costs for our Hamilton conference in 2013.

We have an array of wonderful speakers for 2012 including Dr. Ken Cruikshank from McMaster who developed a DVD on the history of Hamilton Harbour along with Dr. Nancy Bouchier, called The People of the Bay. He will speak in February. Our award winning author, Jean Rae Baxter UE has recently completed her Loyalist trilogy: The Way Lies North, Broken Trail and Freedom Bound. Jean will speak to us in March. Les and Peggy Armstrong will speak about our first Loyalist plaquing location, The Union or Red Brick Cemetery of Burlington at our April meeting.

We celebrate members discovering their Loyalist roots through certificate ceremonies nearly every month. In October we presented certificates to 15 members. Their ancestors were: Daniel Morden, Henry Wright, Casper Springsteen, John Wilson, Frederick Baker, Samuel Wood, Peter Wood and Adam Green. In November we presented certificates to three members who proved their lineage through Nathaniel Pettit. You can understand that our branch genealogist, Michele Lewis UE has been extremely busy with proofreading, support to members and eventually submissions, since we last met in June at our annual picnic.

This year will be the big push to round out details for our upcoming Dominion Conference in 2013. It is entitled: **Meet Us at the Head of Lake Ontario**. We have

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Nathan Tidridge, Fred Hayward UE & Lieutenant Governor David Onley

been working on the concept for this conference for two years and will break out and need more and more support as we near our target date: May 30-June 2nd 2013.

Through the efforts of newsletter publisher, Jennifer Smith UE we have launched a new, up-to-date gorgeous web site. It takes the viewer into new areas and allows for so much more information including a calendar for each month. It is bold and colourful and you'll want to see it for yourself. Visit it at www.uel-hamilton.com

Our membership roster increases every year through your interest in our branch activities and your desire to know more about early life in this area. We enjoy our times of conversation and refreshment both before and after our general meetings. We often see each other at other local heritage events as we support one another in many ways and we are interested in our history and in those who research and promote it. Of course our membership chair Gloria Oakes UE is behind the scenes sending emails and reminding all of their annual dues and the wonderful events that unfold each year.

My thanks go out to our wonderful executive members who work tirelessly at their various areas of responsibility. We welcome all members who are interested in giving of their time and talent to seeing us move forward and to network with other heritage people. We are one of the most active branches in Canada; we like what we do whether it is plaquing Loyalist grave sites, giving educational presentations, speaking at other heritage groups or delving into family research for ourselves and for others. We want to get our Loyalist message out there so that more people have the opportunity to know, understand and be in awe of our early Canadian heritage.

Blessings to all this New Year.

Ruth Nicholson UE
Hamilton Branch President

WATERDOWN'S HISTORY TEACHER HONOURED

by Ruth Nicholson UE

Monday November 28 2011 was a great day for Waterdown and a great day for Waterdown High's history teacher, Nathan Tidridge and his students.

Not every Canadian author gets a vice-regal launch of a new book. The Honourable David C. Onley Lieutenant Governor of Ontario officially launched Canada's Constitutional Monarchy by Nathan Tidridge in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite, located in the Ontario Legislative Building at Queen's Park Toronto. In attendance were representatives of the Hamilton Branch UELAC, Hamilton and Toronto Branches of the Monarchist League, Dundurn Press and Mr. Tidridge's students from Waterdown District

Over one hundred people witnessed The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario as he praised Mr. Tidridge for his passion for Canadian history and his enthusiasm to educate his students and indeed all of us about the intricacies of today's Canadian government. We learned that when Canada was formed it took the best of the American experiment of Republicanism and the order of Britain's monarchy to form a new type of governing system, a constitutional monarchy. We heard that Ontario's curriculum for civics in grades 5 and 9 makes no mention of prime minister, lieutenant governor, parliament, governor general, monarch and many more basic words associated with our form of government. This is shocking information.

All is unveiled and clearly explained in Mr. Tidridge's new book, Canada's Constitutional Monarchy. The special ceremony was to honour Mr. Tidridge as he unveiled this new and much needed book.

His Honour David C. Onley stated that if he had the powers that his predecessor

Lieutenant Governor John Simcoe possessed, he would make sure that this book became mandatory reading for every student in Ontario. That is high praise indeed!

Mr. Tidridge accompanied his grade 12 class of Active History students and all the members of the student parliament. They were all very impressed by the speeches and ceremony that they witnessed. All had their photos taken on the stairs of the Lieutenant Governor's offices at Queen's Park. The student council, as governing body of Waterdown High, was given a special privilege as they were allowed to see the large meeting room that showcased many of the portraits of former Lieutenant Governors such as our own Honourable Lincoln Alexander. Special photos were taken in the upper stairwell area as it housed the portrait of former Lieutenant Governor William P Howland who was from Waterdown and served from 1868-1873.

This new book, Canada's Constitutional Monarchy is available in most book stores. It can be ordered on-line through Chapters/Indigo as well. Read more about this remarkable, large print, heavily illustrated book at:

www.canadiancrown.com



Nathan Tidridge and his class with Hon. David Onley

A MAGICAL FIELDCOTE CHRISTMAS

Hamilton Branch Takes on a New Promotional Opportunity

by Pat Blackburn UE Education Chair



Pat Blackburn UE & Ruth Nicholson UE
with our tree at Fieldcote

New, creative opportunities avail themselves in varied formats as we reach out to our communities to tell our Loyalist stories. Who would think that tree decorating would be one of these new ways?

Ruth Nicholson UE, our Hamilton Branch President, received notice from the curator of Fieldcote Museum in Ancaster that the museum's project for this Christmas was to invite heritage and community groups to decorate trees for their "Forest of Christmas Trees" display. Ruth and I decided to take on this challenge and to showcase a specially decorated tree to reflect the colours and the time period of the Loyalists. This involved decorating a real balsam fir tree inside the museum.

We decided to decorate our tree as authentically as possible round the time of the 1780s and to use predominantly red, blue and white. Any decorations would definitely have been handmade out of wood, wool, straw or bits of fabric. We know the early Loyalists/pioneers likely did not have a tree due to the risk of fire and a lack of space for just living inside their small cabins. However on the stairwell walls of the museum we did read that Rev.

Stuart visited a Loyalist family in their cabin, in the Kingston area, in December 1796 and that they had decorated their cabin with balsam boughs that smelled so very fragrant.

Our tree was beautifully topped with a cornhusk angel, surrounded by Loyalist flags. Lace angels, wool covered balls, popcorn and cranberry garlands as well as red, blue and white wool garlands graced our tree. Gingerbread people and a variety of other stuffed and wooden handmade decorations hung from the branches and a few clear mini lights glistened throughout.

Thanks to Ruth for donating her mother's work from the past. All the elements blended well to tell our message of the early pioneers, the Loyalists. Several hand-coloured flags told the story, in writing, on the reverse side, of who the Loyalists are along with a description of the parts of the flag.

A total of nineteen trees were decorated by various community groups. Our new Branch sign showed beautifully under our tree, prominently identifying The Hamilton Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

CHRISTMAS AT ROCK CHAPEL UNITED CHURCH

by Ruth Nicholson UE

Our Christmas luncheon this year was close to my home in Waterdown, at Rock Chapel in Flamborough. What a delightful setting!

As a plaquing committee we had celebrated this as the site of Loyalist Edward Ryckman a year ago. This time we learned more about the church through a heritage reading by member Jim Coons and through hands on experience growing up in this church by our membership chair Gloria Oakes. Member Ron Barrons shared beautiful family pictures of the Morden family who are also associated with this church.



Jim Coons at Christmas luncheon

I was most intrigued by the ceiling of the hall that we sat in for our lunch. It had wooden divisions that once pulled down created smaller Sunday school rooms. Gloria pointed out where the young ladies met, the boys met, the nursery was located and so on. It was certainly a unique feature of the room.

This was Gloria's home church and as such it was where she and Lloyd married over 60 years ago. Now that is something to celebrate! Congratulations to Lloyd and Gloria and thanks for sharing some of the special memories of Rock Chapel with us.



Gloria & Lloyd Oakes at Rock Chapel



OUR ANCESTORS

Ancestor Henry Wright Celebrated by Large Family Group

Ruth Nicholson, Paul Nicholson, Jon Nicholson, Sarah Nicholson, and Gwen McCloskey have proven their descent from Loyalist Ancestor Henry Wright. Owen Nicholson received an associate certificate. (Family members who were absent included Susan McCloskey Hutchins, Bryce McCloskey, Claire Nicholson and Louise Ferriss.)

Henry Wright was born in England circa 1750. In his youth he immigrated to America with a brother, locating in Rutland, Pennsylvania where he married Mary Christina Klingensmith. They became the parents of eight children who grew to adulthood. After the American Revolution, Henry Wright settled first on Grosse Ile which



Paul, Owen, Jon & Sarah Nicholson, Gwen McCloskey & Ruth Nicholson

became part of the United States after Jay's Treaty of 1794. Henry Wright and his family then relocated to the New Settlement, on the north shore of Lake Erie. The Wrights were all known as excellent farmers. They attended the Church of England and politically were Conservative. Henry died in 1813.

Glen Brough has proven his descent from Loyalist Ancestor John Wilson

John Wilson was born in Hunterdon County, New Jersey and became a Sergeant in Captain Andrew Bradt's Company of Butler's Rangers. He and his wife, Maria Bradt, and their children settled in Thorold where they raised their family and became founding members of the Anglican Church in St. Catharines. Before settling he had many adventures including being punished with four dozen lashes for attempting to desert to the rebels in July 1777 and being charged \$100.00 in bail by the Minutes of the Commissioners for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies in the State of New York.



Glen Brough UE

Ron Barrons has proven his descent from Loyalist Ancestor Daniel Morden.

At the outbreak of the American Revolution Daniel Morden was an unmarried



Ron Barrons UE

farmer in Tyron County, New York. His assets were probably few, for his name did not appear in the list of Loyalist estates seized by New York.

When word came that the rebels were on their way to attack Johnson Hall the two brothers hurried to enlist with the British cause. They followed Sir John Johnson on the three-week trek through the Adirondacks to the British forces in Quebec. When Sir John formed the First Battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York, Joseph and Daniel signed up together on the first day of enlistment.

After the war Daniel settled in Flamborough West where he was reunited with another brother, Moses Morden, who had no family of his own and became Daniel's benefactor. Daniel Morden's family received nearly all of the lands originally granted to Moses Morden, the 400 acres surrounding the community that became Rock Chapel.

The Bingle Family Prove their Descent from Ancestor Casper Springsteen

Paul Bingle UE, family researcher tells a very interesting story about his ancestor Casper Springsteen. Paul's sister, Catharine Bingle Gonnsen UE and his daughter Kelly Rieck-Chafe also received their certificates.

Casper Springsteen, a Butler's Ranger from 1778 to 1783, was a native of Albany, New York with an ancestry there going back to 1652 in Flatbush (Brooklyn, NY). This family, originally from Groningen, Holland, had a naming convention for their sons that has to be unique or very close to it. Do the names Melchior, Caspar, and Balthasar mean anything to our readers? With very few exceptions for generations, both in Holland and America, the Springsteen's gave their sons the legendary names of the Three Wisemen! A reliable source confirms that rocker Bruce Springsteen ("the Boss") is Casper's direct descendent.

Although no one has elected to claim him until now Casper Springsteen is listed in our UELAC directory as "Springston, Gaspar", OC 9 Feb, 1807. This unusual spelling is taken from the group of disbanded Butler's Rangers who settled at Niagara, as reported by Lieutenant Colonel A.S. De Peyster in 1784, and printed in the 1891 Report on Canadian Archives.

In September of 1792 a petition to JG Simcoe signed by "sundry inhabitants



Catherine Bingle Gonnsen UE, Paul Bingle UE & Kelly Rieck-Chafe UE

settled on the land on the head of the Chippawa Creek and the 20 Mile Creek" asked that survey work be completed in order that proper claims to title could be laid for their already cleared properties.

Signatures included: Griffins, Lanes, Dochstaders, Blacks, Thomas Harris, Thomas North, John Wrong, **Casper Springsteen**, Robert Comfort, and Henry Johnson.

On 2 May 1798 Casper sent a note to the Surveyor General, 'Sir, I understand my lots are vacant in the office. I hope your Honour will be so kind and enter my name down on Lot 9 & 10 south end in the 6th conc[ession, Gainsborough]. I have lived on these lots seven years and never took up another lot'. These were eventually granted to him.

Did the Dutch marry late? Not usually. One of the more interesting things about Casper Springsteen's life was that a 49 year old bachelor would marry a 15 year

old neighbour girl. Casper's wife, Elizabeth, was the youngest child of Nancy Anne Johnson Comfort, who was first married when SHE was just 13. When John Comfort, UEL, Anne's first husband, died in 1794 Elizabeth, at 15, was the only one still left at home on the Gainsborough farm. Anne, now past her childbearing years, soon after remarried a neighbour and widower 12 years her senior, Alan McDonnell or McDaniel,

as he was sometimes called. Elizabeth's marriage, then, was probably a matter of expediency.

By all accounts, though, Casper and Elizabeth were happy, raising 10 children, all of them benefitting from Casper's UEL status with land grants of their own. Perhaps Casper had been hurt by love in his earlier life back in Albany before the War. There is just the tiniest hint of a man used to disappointment in his 1807 petition for proper title to his farm on the 20 Mile Creek when (speaking about himself and the government's ineptitude when it came to filing) he uses the words, "neither his petition nor any order in his favour can be found" followed a few lines later by "and that [your petitioner's] name may be inserted on the Roll of UE Loyalists, which has been omitted thro' negligence of your petitioner's brother, Staats Springsteen".

Happily, the situation was rectified.

Lewis and Jeffreys Family Prove their Lineage to Ancestor Nathaniel Pettit UEL



Michele Lewis UE, Susan Lewis UE, Laura Lewis UE & Rowena Jeffreys UE

Nathaniel Pettit was established in New Jersey at the time the Revolution broke out. He owned two mills and was a judge in the county Court of Common Pleas, eventually being elected to the provincial legislature. His success, at a time when British-appointees were distrusted, came to work against him.

Although initially sympathetic to the colonists' complaints, by 1776 he was brought before the provincial committee of safety for not paying taxes to the revolutionary congress. This led to him being fined and losing his judgeship. Due to his age he was not able to join the active military but was active in raising troops. With several friends he fled to Canada, arriving in the Niagara area in 1787. He received a total of 2,000 acres in Saltfleet, Grimsby, Burford, Ancaster, and Aldborough.

Although he was active in civic and political affairs, a member of the land board and the first Legislature, he never regained his previous prominence and died in 1803 in Ancaster.

Barry Baker has Proven his Ancestry through Loyalist Frederick Baker



Barry Baker UE

My great uncle Alexander Earle Baker UE. self published a history of Frederick Baker U.E.L. and some of his descendants. He spent nearly twenty years gathering information through research, inquiry and correspondence.

The OGS directory of surnames lists Frederick Baker as born in Claverack N.Y. U.S.A. in 1756, d: 1835 at Ernestown Tp. Ontario. Emigrated from N.Y. He resided in Millhaven, Lennox & Addington County from 1783 to 1835. It lists his wife as Elizabeth Davy and children. Frederick Baker's name is contained on "The Executive Council List" and lists his residence as Ernestown.

Lt. Henry Simmons of Claverack N.Y. led the party of Loyal Rangers who first settled in the Township of Ernestown. His notebook states: " the sixteenth day of August 1777, I left my house in Claverack with a company of 27 men and officers to join General Burgoyne's army at the

Batten Kill and joined Col. Jessup's corps that same day." Forty men joined Col. Jessup Corps: Frederick Baker's name appears on a roll of King's Loyal Americans.

The muster rolls of all Loyalists and discharged soldiers who settled in Ernestown Township. Dated 7th of October, 1784 lists Frederick Baker, no family, drawing one ration, has two acres cleared. The above items prove that Frederick Baker came from Claverack N.Y. and served as a loyalist soldier and that he settled in Ernestown Tp. in 1874 and was indeed a United Empire Loyalist in all sense of the title.

Frederick married Elizabeth Davy, who was also from a loyalist family, between 1784 and 1788; they had a family of eight children. Frederick also received several government land grants due to his military record of fighting for and supporting the British.

The Story of Loyalist Adam Green

by Paul Bingle UE

Adam Green was a Loyalist from New Jersey who had been imprisoned by the Rebels for various acts of loyalty to Britain. He was accused of giving a brown mare, saddle & bridle to one who said his name was General Richard Prescott, for the purpose of making his escape to the British at New York in the year 1779. Adam Green was a recruiting Lieutenant in the New Jersey Volunteers and served under Colonel Nathaniel Pettit.

Adam Green was granted Lot 24, C4 Saltfleet, Ontario. It stretched from Ridge Road, above the Escarpment down to what would become King Street in the Village of Stoney Creek. This included what is today called the Devil's Punchbowl. The stream

that drops over the mountain brow at this point, flowing north into the lake is still the "Stoney Creek". This property and the three lots around it, 400 acres in total, were patented to Adam Green.

Adam and his wife Martha had ten children. The youngest, William (Billy) is known as the first loyalist child born in this area. His participation in the Battle of Stoney Creek is legendary. Martha died after one year in the new land due to the rugged conditions.

Descendant Doug Green UE has written a book, Billy Green and Balderdash to show that his ancestor Billy Green was indeed one of the participants and a local hero at the Battle of Stoney Creek. You can obtain a copy for very little cost from The Stoney Creek Historical Society, P.O. Box 66637, Stoney Creek, Ontario L8G 5E6 ISBN 978-0-9868772-1-6



Doug Green UE

Read more Loyalist Profiles on our new website at www.uel-hamilton.com/

Betty Compeer has proven her descent from Loyalist Ancestors Samuel Wood and Peter Wood

Peter Wood served as a Sergeant in the Queen's Rangers throughout the War. Peter was about 32 years old when he embarked at New York for Saint John by the *Cyrus* on 21 August 1783, and landed in Saint John in September 1783. He settled in Maccan in the River Hebert area. Peter received no land in Nova Scotia until he petitioned for it 28 years later. He was known as the best horseman in Cumberland County, founded the Baptist Church in Maccan and held many town offices.

Peter's father Samuel was a prosperous cooper in Westchester County who made kegs and barrels. As a businessman, he tried to maintain a level of neutrality while there were uprisings. He did not openly

express his Tory sympathies until the British warship "Asia" anchored nearby in the North River. Emboldened by the British presence, he finally declared his Tory sympathies and throughout June of 1775, transported nearly one hundred men to New York City to enlist in the British Army. However, he failed to realize that the guns of the "Asia" were not long enough to guard his comfortable home from the enraged Whigs who were often his neighbours, the people who needed the goods he manufactured. He eventually had to flee to Long Island, where he served in the Queen's Rangers. He returned to Westchester County in 1776, was captured by the rebels during a raid, and spent six months as a prisoner. He petitioned for pardon, which was granted, and for a time pretended sympathy with the Patriot cause, while in fact he was engaged in espionage for the British.



Betty Compeer UE

BILLY GREEN - A SONG BY TAMARACK

come all you jolly fellows, I'll spin for you a yarn
and tell you the story of the fight at Gage's Farm
from off the wall I'll take the sword that led the Yankee rout
and tell you how I won the name of Billy Green - The Scout

I'm a loyal British subject from the town of Stoney Creek
where the Yankees took a stand that led to their defeat
I'm the one who spied their forces, the one who led the way
the one who ran their sentries through so we could gain the day

on a night as black as Death itself we marched on Gage's Farm
with our bayonets ready to silence their alarm
we caught the Yankees sleeping and we gave them British play
they were running for Niagara before the break of day

Fitzgibbon held the line and rallied us again
through the cannons and the muskets and the screams of
dying men

Fraser and the 49th cut through the Yankee line
and captured all their cannon when they crept up from behind

when the morning sun rose up to light the battlefield
the enemy surrendered and unto us did yield
pell-mell down the Lake Road they beat a quick retreat
while we hastened to the tavern to toast our victory

and now I run a sawmill and dream about the past
and the stories I could tell you if you'd buy another glass
from off the wall I'll take the sword that led the Yankee rout
and tell you how I won the name of Billy Green the Scout

Permission granted by Tamarack Canadian Folk Music Group, Guelph ON

NEW PLAQUE HONOURS EARLY ANCASTER MILLS

(Excerpted from The Ancaster News - November 17 2011)

In mid November the Hamilton Historical Board erected a commemorative sign at the entrance to The Ancaster Old Mill Restaurant to honour the early residents who owned and operated the lifeblood of the community, the mills.

Our past president Lloyd Oakes UE was interviewed by the Ancaster News at the time. Lloyd is a direct descendant of James Wilson, the original owner of the mill. James Wilson's wife was Susannah Depew, Lloyd's 5th great-grandmother. She was the daughter of John Depew, a United Empire Loyalist.

As a teenager, Lloyd remembers driving the tractor and wagon to the mill from his family's Southcote Road farm to process the grain for the pigs and cattle. This trip would be taken every three weeks to keep the animals fed.

Lloyd's Oakes descendants' names are still well known area names today. Besides Wilson, names such as Horning, Epps, Gage and Newton are in his lineage. James Wilson is often stated as the founding Father of Ancaster. He and partner, Richard Beasley, built a sawmill and a gristmill in 1791. The area settlement became known as Wilson's Mills at that time. James Wilson operated a blacksmith shop in 1792 located at the corner of Wilson and Rousseau Streets.

Ron and Mary Ciancone are the current owners of the Ancaster Mill and banquet centre. The mill was a working entity until the early 1970's. The Ciancone family embrace and celebrate the history of their site and they funded the installation of this special heritage plaque.

HE SOUNDED THE ALARM: SAM SMITH - CANADA'S PAUL REVERE

Lambton's Sam Smith saved Canada from American invasion



by Dan McCaffery of *The Observer*
published Saturday December 20, 1997
Submitted by Marilyn Hardsand UE –
Fourth Great Grand Niece

Every American School child knows the story of Paul Revere. He's the guy in the three-pointed hat who made the famous 'midnight ride' during the American Revolution, warning his neighbours that the dreaded red coats were coming.

But what almost no one knows is that a Lambton County boy played a similar role on the Canadian side of the boarder during the War of 1812. In fact, if it wasn't for a teenager named Samuel Smith, Canada would probably be part of the United States today.

Smith was serving with a Canadian militia unit at Queenston Heights when the Americans launched a sneak attack across the Niagara River on the night of October 13, 1812. "He was a 17-year-old sentry on duty when he spotted the Americans massing for an attack, "according to local history buff Ralph Ferguson. "He sounded the alarm and the attack was repulsed." The Americans commenced their raid at 4 a.m. on a cold, windy night when most of the defenders were sound asleep.

Peering into a driving rain, Smith spotted a flotilla of enemy boats coming straight for him. Without wasting a moment, he ran to a guard house and summoned help. The Americans had 6,000 men against a defending force of only 1,000 British soldiers and 600 Canadians, including both First Nations warriors and militiamen. But because of Smith's early warning, the defenders were able to pour a hail of musket and cannon fire onto the invaders before they could reach shore. Indeed, eyewitnesses said the gunfire was so intense it lit up the sky for hundreds of yards.

Smith's commander, Lt. John Robinson, described a scene of terrible carnage in his diary. Fifteen Americans in one boat were killed by a single cannon blast. "Several other boats were so shattered and disabled that the men threw down their arms and came ashore, merely to deliver themselves up as prisoners of war." He wrote. "The spectacle (of so much bloodshed) struck us, who were unused to such scenes, with horror."

Before the day was over 1,400 Americans had been killed, wounded or captured. The defenders lost 96 men, including the legendary General Brock, who was killed.

Smith, who was born in Ancaster, moved to Lambton after that, becoming a well known explorer, surveyor, businessman and politician. He was responsible for laying roads, right-of-ways, lots and

concessions throughout Sombra, Euphemia, Brooke and Bosanquet Townships.

It was often dangerous, gruelling work. "This area was total wilderness back then." Ferguson said. "We have his diary and there were rattlesnakes and black snakes here at the time."

More than once natives saved Smith and his team from starvation. Working near what is now Grand Bend in August, 1828, he wrote, "the Indian was very kind and



Smith Cemetery, Bothwell Ontario

sent us some green corn and venison and appeared to be very sorry for us."

Later, he built four mills on lands bordering the Sydenham River that became known as Smith Falls.

That he was an excellent builder there can be no doubt. A home he built in Euphemia is lived in today by internationally acclaimed photographer Larry Towell.

Smith rejoined the militia in his early 40's seeing active service during the Rebellion of 1837-38.

Later, he went into politics, representing the Euphemia area on a regional body that pre-dated Lambton County council.

Today, he rests in a small Euphemia Township cemetery, where the inscription on his tombstone notes he was the man who sounded the alarm at Queenston Heights.



Grave of Samuel Smith U.E., Euphemia Township

LOYALIST RICHARD BEASLEY HONoured AT PLAQUE UNVEILING

Doug Coppins UE honours Beasley at Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton on Sunday October 2nd 2011

I would like to thank Christ's Church Cathedral for the honour to be able to place this plaque here and unveil it today.

On behalf of the Hamilton Branch of the United Empire Loyalist' Association of Canada, I would like to welcome everyone here today for the unveiling of this plaque, commemorating Loyalist' Burials at Christ's Church Cathedral. My name is Doug Coppins UE and I am the Chairperson of the Hamilton Branch Loyalist Burial Plaquing Committee.

Today we are here to honour, celebrate and remember a special group of pioneers, actually the first pioneers of Ontario and many parts of Eastern Canada, called the United Empire Loyalists. They are also Canada's first group of refugees.

I guess you may wonder, who were these United Empire Loyalists and what was so special about them and why the United Empire Loyalist' Association here at Hamilton would place a plaque here?

The story of the Loyalists began a long time ago.

The year was 1783, 228 years ago. A long and sad war had just ended in the 13 British colonies of North America. After 7 years of fighting, the most powerful country in the world, Great Britain, had lost the war. For some 75,000 + persons who had remained Loyal to their King called Loyalists, it was a disaster. Even though the peace treaty between Great Britain and the new United States allowed the Loyalists to go back to their homes in peace, the new American government did not live up to their end of the bargain. On the threat of death, it was not safe to go back to their homes, so where would they go to live? Most did not want to go to Great Britain because they would not fit in there. Some of these families had lived in the colonies for as many as 100 years or more. The only solution for their survival was



Doug & Sharon Coppins at Richard Beasley Site

this place called Canada. The British had promised, for their service to the Crown, a Land Grant of 200 acres to begin a new life.

To get to Canada it was no easy task. There were no roads or planes to take you there, and this place called Canada was a wilderness. But the Loyalists were a hardy lot. In 1783, at about this time, many ships were starting to load again at New York City, as they had done earlier that year in the spring and summer to take these Loyalist refugees to places like Shelburne, Saint John and Halifax in the colony of Nova Scotia.

If they did not travel by ship, they walked the trails over land from the colonies of New York and Pennsylvania. Many times, this journey was made in fear of attack and harassment from those who supported the Rebel cause. In many cases, all they brought with them was what they could only carry before arriving in what was to become Ontario and the southern Townships of Quebec.

The United Empire Loyalists are very important in the history of Canada. They were the first settlers in many parts of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, the southern Townships of Quebec and here in Upper Canada or as we know today, Ontario. Approximately 6 million people in Canada have Loyalist ancestors.

For most of the Loyalists that came to the Hamilton area, their entry point to Canada was from Fort Niagara, which remained in British hands until the Jay Treaty of 1793. After crossing the Niagara River over to Newark, or as we know it today, Niagara on the Lake, they traveled a road or trail to the Upper Settlement, Ancaster or the Head of the Lake.

Some of those Loyalists that settled in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, caught what was known as Niagara fever and migrated to this area, via an ocean voyage down the eastern seaboard to New York City, up the Hudson River by ship to Albany, then across New York state by stage coach, to the future site of Buffalo or Black Rock, where they crossed the Niagara River to Fort Erie, where they were happy to be back in British Territory in the freedom of Upper Canada. My own Loyalist ancestors made this trip 200 years ago in 1811 to Upper Canada, or as they called it, "The Land of Paradise".

The Loyalists played an important part in the beginnings of this area. First they surveyed the land then they petitioned for that land grant they were promised by the Crown.



Plaquing Committee – Doug & Sharon Coppins, Pat Blackburn, Colin Morley & Ruth Nicholson

They cut down the trees and broke the soil so they could farm and begin a new life.

In this new land of Canada, the Loyalists did not want to stay on their farms forever, so they began to build roads to connect their farms with the new villages and towns also founded by the Loyalists. This fine City of Hamilton was one of those places. It is hard to believe that where we stand today was once a dense forest of thousands of huge trees.

Lastly, these Loyalist' pioneers began to set up the institutions that has made



Descendant David Beasley inside Christ's Church

Canada a great country. The King's or the Queen's law made our early province today, a fair place to live. Institutions also include churches. Churches were the place where the community could meet to celebrate God's Bounty. Here they would baptize, marry and finally bury their dead. The Loyalists were members of all Christian denominations: Quakers, Baptists, Roman Catholics, The Church of Scotland, The Church of England and Methodists to name a few. These Loyalists were also black, red and white skinned and came from Africa and most every country in Europe including Great Britain.

All the Loyalists wanted, that came to Canada, was peace and stability, a place where they could raise their family and live their life as they saw fit under British law.

What is so sad, that after the hard work of rebuilding their lives, the Loyalists in Upper Canada who were still not too old, were joined by their children to fight the United States in the War of 1812. The Americans, who thought it was just a matter of marching, that would allow them to take Canada away from the British into the American fold, were surprised to be defeated by a smaller but smarter trained army and navy of British soldiers and Loyalists. After the early victories of 1812, the people of this place called Upper Canada began to sing a song that called themselves, Canadians.

The official motto of the Province of Ontario is **Loyal She Began, Loyal She Remains**. This motto refers to Ontario's Loyalist' beginnings.

After working hard to build the beginnings of this new province of Ontario, the lives of the Loyalists ended and they are buried near the farms and the communities where they lived.

The Hamilton Branch of the United Empire Loyalist' Association of Canada wants everyone to know of these Loyalists who came here, and are now buried in and around our communities of the Hamilton area. Today we unveil a plaque to draw attention to those who started the beginnings of the settlement of the Hamilton area. This cemetery is a special place. To have a Loyalist buried here at Christ's Church Cathedral makes this cemetery one of the oldest places in Ontario.

It is with great honour that I, on behalf of the Hamilton Branch of the United Empire Loyalist' Association of Canada, unveil this plaque here at Christ's Church Cathedral to honour Loyalist Richard Beasley UE who is buried here.



Ontario Grant

The Hamilton Branch UELAC preserves and promotes Loyalist heritage with the assistance of a Grant from the province of Ontario.

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



Sunday February 5 at 4 p.m.
Christ's Church Cathedral,
252 James St. N., Hamilton

Choral Evensong with guest preacher, the retired Bishop of Niagara
The Right Reverend
D. Ralph Spence

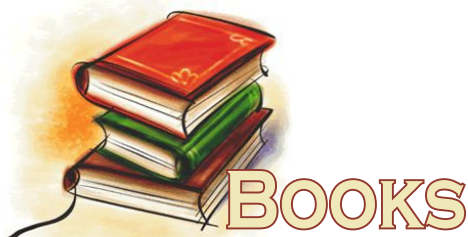
(It was on February 6, 1952 that His Majesty King George VI died and Princess Elizabeth acceded to the throne)

Sponsored by the Anglican Diocese of Niagara

Subscribe to the bi-weekly UELAC e-news through Doug Grant UE

If you are looking for past issues of Loyalist Trails, issues since October 2004 have been posted on the web at <http://www.uelac.org/Loyalist-Trails/Loyalist-Trails-index.php>

If you would like to subscribe to "Loyalist Trails", please send an email to:



Jean Rae Baxter's Latest Book: Freedom Bound to be Launched February 29th at Bryan Prince Bookseller, Hamilton

In this, the final installment of Jean Rae Baxter's best-selling young adult trilogy, eighteen-year-old Charlotte sails from Canada to Charleston in the beleaguered Thirteen Colonies to join her new husband Nick. During these final months of the American Revolution, she must muster all her wit and courage when she has to rescue Nick from being tortured as a spy in an alligator-infested South Carolina swamp. She must also find ways to bring freedom to a pair of teenage runaway slaves she has befriended.

Freedom Bound delivers a frank and realistic picture of the slave system and a powerful account of what was at stake for both white and black Loyalists as they prepared to find a new home in the country that was soon to be Canada. Like *The Way Lies North* and *Broken Trail*, the two novels that preceded it, *Freedom Bound* contains a wealth of carefully researched historical details of one of the least known chapters of our history.

Please join Jean at her book launch on Tuesday, February 28th from 7 to 9 p.m. at Bryan Prince Bookseller, King St. W. near Sterling St in Westdale.



Jean Rae Baxter UE signing book – *Broken Trail* (with Rowena Jeffreys UE)

Broken Trail - Moonbeam Awards - 2011 Gold Medal Acceptance Speech

by Jean Rae Baxter UE
November 12 2011

It's an honour to be here in Traverse City accepting this award.

More than 200 years of history both connect and separate my country and yours. Canadian children and American children both study the Revolutionary War in their classrooms, but they study it from very different books.

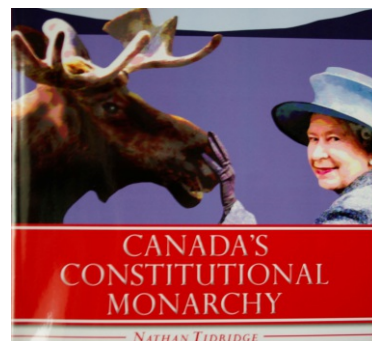


Jean at Traverse City Michigan receiving gold medal Moonbeam Award for *Broken Trail*

It is only within the past 20 years or so that either side has shown a genuine desire to understand that war from the other's point of view.

It was a real thrill for me when my first historical novel, *The Way Lies North*, the story of a Loyalist girl and her family, received an enthusiastic review in a U.S. publication. The same thing has happened with *Broken Trail*, its sequel. But the crowning event is right here, right now, at the Moonbeam Awards.

Although I am a writer, I feel challenged to find words adequate to express my appreciation. The best I can say, on behalf of my publisher Ronsdale Press and on my own behalf, is "Thank you."



Book Review: Canada's Constitutional Monarchy by Nathan Tidridge

Paul Bingle, Hamilton Branch Librarian
From *Loyalist Trails*, November 13 2011

Canada's Constitutional Monarchy by Nathan Tidridge delivers on its promise to take us past the parliamentary walls of power to the underlying principles of Canadian Government, and, more specifically, the role of our Queen and her representatives in Canada. I liked it. Admittedly, The prospect of 285 pages of government statutes and founding formulas had me worried... needlessly.

My wife is a Royalist junkie. You know the sort. Cups and saucers. Books and magazines. Newspaper clippings older than I am... She absolutely loved the quality colour illustrations and photos - dozens and dozens of them, many of them "unfindable" anywhere else.

Although the story begins all the way back there with the 1215 Magna Carta, the history lesson constitutes only a modest (but interesting) minority portion of the book. Where this publication really shines is as a resource reference. You might have guessed that Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, is the Colonel-in-Chief of Toronto's Queen's York Rangers, but did you know that the Countess of Wessex, the very photogenic wife of Prince Edward, Queen Elizabeth's youngest son, is the Colonel-in-Chief of our very own Lincoln and Welland Regiment?

John Fraser, Master of Massey College, has called this book "an invaluable guide to all things royal in Canada", a very appropriate caption description and a fitting final word for this review.

Tidridge, Nathan. *Canada's Constitutional Monarchy*. Toronto: Dundurn Press.

MEET US AT THE HEAD OF LAKE ONTARIO 2013

by Ruth Nicholson UE

We met in early July and again in September to settle on a few more plans for our upcoming Dominion Conference. We discussed a title for the conference and wanted to include "head of the lake" as that is the historical name for our location. Gloria Howard came up with the title, as shown above. We feel it is a suitable title and it has a welcoming feel to it.

As you know, we have settled on the main site as the Holiday Inn in Burlington. That is where all meetings and most events will take place. The initial reception and registration will take place in the large open area where the pool and entertainment features are located. The genealogy meeting, the annual meeting and the gala will take place in this hotel. There will be a room for our draws and silent auction items that will also be a hosting area with hot and cold beverages.

The Friday evening off-site dinner will be held at the Burlington Golf and Country Club. Friday will be our tour day. We plan on offering a local tour that will take in Dundurn Castle, the Hamilton Cemetery and Battlefield Park, Stoney Creek. A second tour will visit sites in the Niagara area. We are thinking about offering workshop sessions, back at the hotel for those not wishing to go on the tours.

On Sunday we hope to attend Christ's Church Anglican Cathedral on James St. N. in Hamilton. On route we will stop at our famous Loyalist monument. Another possibility would be to attend a church service at Battlefield Park if one is planned. We are looking into both ideas.

We still need to decide on our speakers, our bags and gifts, costing each event out, finding great silent auction and basket gifts and many other details. We have a good start and will need many people to make this a success.



Portrait of
William P. Howland
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
1868 - 1873

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD DAY CELEBRATION - 2015

Big 200th Bash Planned for John A

Adapted from the Spectator, Jan. 9, 2012

Hamilton annually celebrates Sir John A Macdonald Day on the first Sunday of January. Hamilton has a beautiful monument in Gore Park that is the image of our first prime minister.

We along with many heritage groups usually lay a wreath at the base of this special monument each January. This year we did not have a representative but that is a rare occasion.

Arthur Milne, commissioner of the Sir John A Macdonald Bicentennial Commission congratulated the organizing committee of Hamilton in the Spectator on January 9th for their annual ceremony.

2015 is the 200th anniversary of Macdonald's birth and this commission is looking for other creative ways to celebrate Sir John A.'s life from coast to coast.

Visit www.sirjohna2015.ca to learn more about the Macdonald Bicentennial's planning.

LOYAL SHE REMAINS - A SONG BY TAMARACK

Tamarack is a folk group from Guelph. We hope to have them perform at our 2013 Conference

We come overland from Albany
Yankee rebels on our heels
Stole a boat in Sacket's Harbour
And we headed for Pres Q'uelle
Settled hard by Kingston,
Safe from revolution's flames
And it's Loyal She Began boys
And Loyal She Remains.

Refrain

Loyal She began boys, Loyal She
Remains
Content to live our lives in peace
Beneath the Monarch's reigns
Let the rebels rock with all their
ill-gotten gains
And it's Loyal She began boys,
Loyal She Remains.

We saw the writing on the wall
Right after Valley Forge
When the rebels stood for
Washington
We held for old King George.
Kinfolk turned on kin,
Blood like water in the veins
And it's Loyal She began boys
(refrain)

We lost our farms
We lost our friends
We never lost our pride
No amount of traitor's gold could
lure us
To a traitor's side
A people's honour blemished once
Will never lose the stain
So it's Loyal She began boys
(refrain)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hamilton Branch of the UELAC

Meetings – 4th Thursday of Feb., March, April, Oct. and Nov.
at Olivet United Church, 40 Empress St., lower level. Program at 7:30 p.m.

- Feb. 23 Dr. Ken Cruikshank – The People of the Bay & our AGM
- March 22 Jean Rae Baxter UE – author of Broken Trail & Freedom Bound
- April 26 Lester & Peggy Armstrong – The Union or Brick Cemetery of Burlington
- May 27 Annual Picnic at Historic Shaver Homestead, home of Jack & Shirley Cranston
- June 19 Loyalist Day Ceremony at Prince's Square, Hamilton
- June 7 to 10 UELAC Dominion Conference – Conference at the Confluence 2012,**
Winnipeg Manitoba, Fort Gary Hotel www.uelacconference2012.ca
- Feb. 5 Anglican Diocese of Niagara** – 60th Anniversary of the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II - Choral evensong; Christ's Church Cathedral, 252 James St. N. Hamilton, 4 p.m.
- Feb. 19 Hamilton OGS - The United Empire Loyalists Plus 7** - Ruth Nicholson presents an introduction to the history behind the United Empire Loyalists and where they settled, plus research done by her Grade 7 class on local Loyalists. Hamilton Public Library, Main Branch, 2 p.m.

Ancaster Township Historical Society

Meet at the old township hall, 310 Wilson St. at 7:30 p.m.

- March 30 James Elliott speaker; The Bloody Assizes
- April 28 Paul Grimwood UE speaker; Wm. Eli Sanford, forgotten philanthropist
- Feb. 4 Burlington Heritage Fair** - Central Library, 2331 New St. Burlington; 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- May 5 & 6 Doors Open Hamilton**
- June 9 & 10 Doors Open Burlington**

Dundas Valley Historical Society

Meet 2nd Wednesday of the month at The Dundas Museum, 139 Park St. at 7 p.m.

- March 14 Robert Kristofferson speaker; The Craftsworker Diaries of Andrew McIlwraith

Fieldcote Museum

Meet at Ancaster Old Town Hall at 7 p.m.

- Feb 29 Wayne Kelly speaker; War of 1812 – An African Perspective; The Coloured Corps
- March 3 – Nov. 3 *The BiCentennial 1812 Exhibit*: Ancaster's Experience during the War of 1812; Divided Loyalties across the Border – at Fieldcote Museum, 64 Sulphur Springs Rd., Ancaster

Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society

Meet at Dundurn Castle Coach House at 7:30 p.m.

- Feb 10 Heritage dinner with The Cottonwood Brass at Waterfront Banquet Centre 555 Bay St. N. Hamilton. Contact David Beland 905 549 4407; tickets \$40
- March 16 David Beland speaker; Ecanada pottery & potters of Hamilton
- April 13 Mary Pettit speaker; The Home Children

Oakville Historical Society

Meet at St. John's United Church, Dunn & Randall Streets, Oakville at 7:30 p.m.

- Feb. 15 David Shaw speaker; The Avro Arrow
- May 9 Ken Weber speaker; The War of 1812

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