

THE

HAMILTON LOYALIST

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"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."

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AUTUMN 2012

The summer has sped by at an unrelenting rate this year. With all the War of 1812 anniversary celebrations, there have been even more wonderful heritage events to enjoy than in other years.

We celebrated the 15th anniversary of Loyalist Day in Ontario on June 19th in front of the wonderful Loyalist monument at Prince's Square. This year we added an 1812 flavour to our theme by inviting members who had an actual story from this war to share. This meant that they knew of some actual action that took place and that their ancestor was involved in it. Happily we had 13 people share their stories with us. Wreaths with surnames were created to honour each family. These stories can be found on our Hamilton Loyalist web site at www.uel-hamilton.com

The big event for the summer was our Loyalist Dinner with Major General Sir Isaac Brock. We were asked to be a part of the local

War of 1812 events through Brock's Walk, organized by Pathways to Peace – Western Corridor - Bicentennial Alliance. Bob Rennie reenacted an eight day walk from Toronto to Port Dover. Hamilton was visited on the third day of the walk. Bob or Brock visited Dundurn Castle in the morning and then had dinner with us at the Scottish Rite. At the dinner Hamilton Historic Board's Plaquing Committee unveiled a special plaque that will be placed at the corner of the Jolly Cut and St. Joseph's Drive, at the base of the James Durand home and property, overlooking the

city. This is the location that General Brock visited 200 years ago. Robin McKee led us on an evening walk from the Scottish Rite to the Durand property and back. Bob Rennie caused much excitement with his beautiful red coat and Brock's head gear. Of course many of us were dressed in period clothing for the evening which caused quite a stir. It was great fun and a summer highlight for me as I had my extended family in attendance.

My husband, David and I are back from a two weeks tours of Italy, a very historic and

week tour of Italy, a very historic and beautiful country. We learned a lot and enjoyed every minute touring ruins, shopping at specialty locations for silk, leather and linen and of course lemoncello from Sorrento. As a Fine Art grad from McMaster, I actually saw several of Michelangelo's sculptures in his home town of Florence, as well as his paintings from the Book of Genesis at the Sistine Chapel in Rome, his Pieta sculpture in St. Peter's. The fine art high lights were seeing The Birth of Venus by Botticelli and the fifteen foot tall David by Michaelangelo. The boat cruise on Lake Como was wonderful and relaxing and we did enjoy being in the small and beautiful town of Bellagio, famous for its silk weaving since

the time of Marco Polo. The colour of the water in the Blue Grotto was gorgeous but a very short trip after a long wait. Good to do once!

We are now ready to welcome our autumn speakers at Olivet. The first is the illustrious history author and re-enactor, Gavin Watt. He will be telling us about the final two years of the American Revolution. Gavin has won many awards for his writing and we are indeed honoured to have him at our meeting on October 25 at 7 p.m.



Bob Rennie as Sir Isaac Brock

Local historian and author, Dr. Mary J. Anderson will be our guest speaker in November. She has delved into the lives of the McQuestens, a prominent family who gave their home, Whitehern to the city upon the death of the last surviving child. Ruby and Thomas B. McQuesten are the main focus of Mary's wonderful book, entitled <u>Tragedy and Triumph</u>. Come and learn more about this prominent Hamilton family on November 22.

Our Christmas luncheon will be held at the historic Troy United Church this year. Please save the date: Saturday December 1st at 12 noon for our final gathering of 2012.

LOYALISTS' BURIAL PLAQUING

by Doug Coppins UE

This past spring and summer we have unveiled our 9th and 10th plaques.

On June 16th, we unveiled a plaque at Camp Skinner Cemetery, Concession 2W, Orkney, Ontario, commemorating Hartman Freeland UEL.

Our unveiling ceremony was held at the Camp Skinner Cemetery on a hill north of Concession Road 2 between 2 lots of Gordon Forth's farm. To tell the story of Hartman Freeland UE, Bruce McCann UE, a proven descendant from Port Dover told his Loyalist ancestor's story. Gordon Forth told the story about the history of this cemetery after he bought the farm and cleaned up the cemetery. (attached article)

It was a warm beautiful day, as 15 people enjoyed refreshments and had a good time. A reporter from the Flamborough Review was in attendance and listened to our unveiling ceremony. She then wrote a very nice article.

On August 25th, after 2 years of hard work, we unveiled a plaque at First Place, 300 King Street East, Hamilton, honouring Richard Springer UEL. Our unveiling was held at 2:00 p.m. in the lobby where the headstone of Richard Springer UEL is located. Marilyn Hardsand UE told the story of Richard Springer UEL.

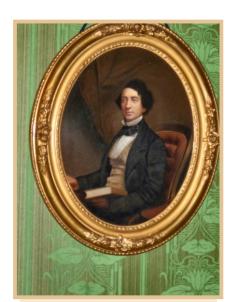
(read Marilyn's story about Richard Springer UEL on page 7)

CONFERENCE AT THE CONFLUENCE

by Ruth Nicholson UE

The Manitoba Branch UELAC did a splendid job of making everyone feel welcome to the City of Winnipeg at the Dominion conference this year.

The grand hotel, the Fort Garry Hotel, was located within walking distance to the forks of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers and to some interesting shopping areas, particularly the Farmer's Market. My Cousin Louise Ferriss UE and I always meet at the Dominion conference, wherever it is held and we enjoy discovering new areas of Canada while we renew friendships with the Loyalist attendees from near and far. Louise and I had some free time before the conference got under way and so we enjoyed a boat cruise at The Forks. We were shown the high level of water, by painted marks on the bridge supports. Last year there was too much flooding from the Red River to even offer a boat cruises!



Painting of Sir John A. Macdonald at Dalnavert

On Thursday, we enjoyed a tour of the Dalnavert Museum, a home that is one of the finest examples of Queen Anne Revival architecture. It is the restored 1895 home of Sir Hugh John Macdonald, lawyer, Premier of Manitoba in 1900, later Police Magistrate for Winnipeg, and son of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald. It has beautiful stained glass windows at the entrance and up at the turn of the



Stained glass window - Dalnavert Museum Winnipeg

staircase. The home was extremely interesting. That evening we dined at Government House with Lieutenant Governor Philip S. Lee. A grand reception was held where various individuals were thanked for their contributions to the planning of the conference. Then we entered the dining area to a lavish spread of wraps, sandwiches and desserts. It was topped off with our choice of an after dinner liqueur from a silver tray. It was a grand start to this year's conference.



Lieutenant Gov of Manitoba Philip Lee



The Canadian Museum of Human Rights, Winnipeg

Friday morning began with three presentations at the hotel. The first one was about researching loyalist ancestors and was given by the branch genealogists, Bruce and Alice Walchuk UE. The second was about period clothing and it was given by Barry and Judy McPherson. A third visual presentation was given by a staff member of the Canadian Museum of Human Rights. This is a National museum that is still under construction. The shape is very interesting and contemporary in design. The people of Winnipeg are very proud to have a National museum located in their city and the focus of the museum is global and of high interest.

Our lunch was provided by donors to the branch and it was next door at the grand Manitoba Club. We were given a talk with visuals about "The Upper Fort and the Fort Garry Gate". We gained much knowledge

about the original fort's grounds and how the people of the city and the local schools worked together to purchase the historic site.

After lunch we toured Lower Fort Garry. Not far from the fort was the Church of Little Britain and that is where we enjoyed a heart-warming bowl of stew with rolls. A local fiddle group played before and after dinner. Gloria Howard UE and I gave our presentation for the 2013 conference. Gloria created a wonderful Power Point and I ended up

inviting all to our Conference at the Head of Lake Ontario next May 30 – June 2nd. Those who commented said we were well organized for a year yet to go and several people said they wanted to visit our wonderful Loyalist monument.

Saturday, Dominion President Bob McBride UE led the assembled delegates through the business of the annual meeting. All was accomplished by midafternoon. At lunch the raffle items were drawn so that added to the excitement of the day. The gala dinner was held in the concert hall of the hotel. Entertainment was given by the Village Green English Country Dancers. They danced several reel types of pattern dances and then invited others to be their partners. Lieutenant Governor Philip Lee was one of the volunteers. He danced very well and everyone appreciated his generosity of spirit and camaraderie with us.

On Sunday we attended a large downtown church, Westminster United. The service recognized we Loyalists, most of whom dressed in period clothing. It was also a service that celebrated Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee.

The Conference by the Confluence was a great success. All those who attended certainly gained a better understanding of historic Winnipeg. It was pointed out at the talk on Friday, at the Manitoba Club, that Winnipeg is the centre of North America. On Saturday evening, when I was handed the Dominion's Union flag to keep until next year, I made mention that those from Winnipeg need only fly 2.5 hours. South-East from "the centre of the universe" to the conference in Hamilton/Burlington next year!"



Michele Lewis UE & Gloria Howard UE at Little Britain Church – Winnipeg

Ontario Grant

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

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If you would like to subscribe to "Loyalist Trails", please send an email to: loyalist.trails@uelac.org



Ontario Loyalist License Plates

If you are interested in purchasing plates, or giving them as gifts, please send an email to plates@uelac.org with:

- 1. "ON plates" in the subject line
- 2. your name
- 3. number of sets of plates (ON requires a plate front and rear; a set has 2 plates)
- 4. if you are a member, which branch
- 5. postal address

No money is required at this point

OUR 15TH ANNUAL LOYALIST DAY IN HAMILTON - JUNE 19 2012

by Ruth Nicholson UE

We celebrated Loyalist Day in grand style once again this year. Mayor Bob Bratina brought greetings from Hamilton City Hall and delivered the keynote speech, focusing on Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and this year's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Mayor Bratina had delivered a similar speech in February to those attending the annual dinner for the Head of Lake Historical Association. I had attended with my husband, David as well as the Bingle and Gonnsen families and was very impressed with the personal content of his message. Mayor Bratina graciously accepted our invitation to speak to the crowd of 80 gathered for this year's Loyalist Day ceremony.

June 18 marked the beginning of the War of 1812, two hundred years ago. We honour all veterans of the War of 1812-14 every year with our red geranium garden, planted directly in front of our famous Loyalist monument. This year we invited those members who had actual stories of actions that had taken place by their ancestors to share those stories with us. Most stories go back to a Loyalist descendant. We were very pleased with the wonderful support given from our membership.



Loyalist day June 19th 2012

The following members shared their stories with us:

- John Aikman laid a wreath for John Aikman UEL & his sons Alexander, John & Michael
- David Nicholson laid a wreath for Isaac Ferriss, son of Joseph Ferriss UEL
- Doug Green laid a wreath for William (Billy) Green, son of Adam Green UEL
- David Ricketts laid a wreath for George & Alexander Hamilton, sons of Catharine (Askin) Hamilton UE and Robert Hamilton



David Ricketts UE and his 3 young Loyalist grandchildren: Olivia, Nichole & Owen. Photo by Beth Mills

- Murray Aikman laid a wreath for John & William Lottridge UE
- Paul Bingle laid a wreath for Townsend Lounsbury, grandson of Isaac Lounsbury UEL
- Judith Nuttall laid a wreath for Jonathon, Peirce, William, Charles and Ashman Moore, sons of John Moore UEL
- Catharine Bingle Gonnsen laid a wreath for William Nixon, son of Allan Nixon UEL.
- Martha Hemphill laid a wreath for Titus Geer Simons UEL
- Bev Corsini laid a wreath for Lewis Smith UEL and his son Matthias Smith
- Marilyn Hardsand laid a wreath for Samuel Smith UE
- James Clements laid a wreath for John Westbrook, son of Anthony Westbrook UFI
- Gordon Thede laid a wreath for Ludwick Wideman

You can access the Loyalist stories through our branch web site at www.uel-hamilton.com

Our young Loyalists this year were the grandchildren of Susan & David Ricketts UE – Olivia Lee UE, Nicole Vince UE & Owen Vince UE. Children are the future of our history, our stories. It is a very important part of our annual ceremony and we wish to thank these families for their support.

I'd also like to recognize the fact that wreaths were laid by many heritage societies including our own Hamilton Branch of the UELAC, the Monarchists' League of Canada, St. George's Benevolent Society, the Sir John A Macdonald Society and the Western Corridor War of 1812 Bicentennial Alliance.

The ceremony ended with a quote from the Toronto Star, in reference to the War of 1812:

"Few in 1812, if any, could imagine they were defending what would grow to become the second-biggest country in the world, spanning an entire continent. And surely none could foresee that the roots they planted—and protected—would one day blossom into the diverse, free and prosperous Canada that exists today. Yet what we have and, to a great degree, who we are, we owe to them. 'That is why this war mustn't be ignored, or discounted, or dismissed as irrelevant. In remembering these events we better understand ourselves. Moreover, we pay a simple debt of gratitude to a brave generation that fought for Canada — and thus for us two centuries ago."

My thanks goes out to Lloyd Oakes who once again supported us with his incomparable playing of the Royal and National anthems.



The Colour Party. Photo by Beth Mills

GENERAL BROCK'S DINNER WITH THE LOYALISTS - AUG 7, 2012

by Ruth Nicholson UE



Robin & Brock Show New Plaque

As part of Pathways to Peace – Western Corridor War of 1812 Bicentennial Alliance, the Hamilton Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association was asked to host a dinner for Sir Isaac Brock when he visited the city during Brock's Walk. It was a great honour to be a part of the War of 1812 commemorations locally.

The Scottish Rite was chosen as a perfect venue with its elaborate dining rooms and general charm and elegance. Eighty-five people attended this event. They came from nearly every local heritage group and association. Those who had period clothing dressed the part and so added to the historical period we were reliving.

As president of the Hamilton Branch, I chaired this event and it all began with introductions at each table. This was followed by "Huzzah" from each table, each one trying to outdo the last.

Prior to serving the meal, four toasts were given: The Royal Toast to Queen Elizabeth II was given by Jean Rae Baxter UE. The Royal Toast to King George III was given by John Rickards. The Toast to the Loyalists and their Native First Nations Allies was given by our Honorary Vice President Zig Misiak and the toast to Major General Sir Isaac Brock was given by past president of the Grand River branch, Doris Lemon UE.

Our chaplain, Rev. Charlotte Moore UE offered grace. During dinner attendees were asked to take note of the center-

pieces that were created especially for the dinner. The red geraniums symbolized the veterans of the War of 1812-14: this flower was first planted by Ruth Redmond, at Lundy's Lane. The white pine sprig and cone represented our First Nations allies and the first Union flag was for the Loyalists. General Brock's birthdate was October 6 1769 and the person at the table closest to that month and day could take the centerpiece home.

After dinner Branch Genealogist Michele Lewis UE assisted with the presentation of two Loyalist certificates to James Clements UE. His ancestry was proven back to Loyalists Anthony Westbrook and Peter Horning. This event added a very meaningful element to the evening.

Bob Rennie gave a moving speech as General Isaac Brock. He rallied the troops, as many would be needed for the upcoming battle at Fort Detroit. Here is an excerpt from his speech:

"Are you prepared, inhabitants of Upper Canada, to become a territory of the United States of America? If not, arise in a body, exert your energies, co-operate cordially with the King's regular Forces to repel the invader and do not give cause to your children when groaning under oppression of a foreign Master to reproach you with having too easily parted with the richest inheritance on Earth – a participation in the name, character and freedom of Britons!"



The Nicholson family at Brock's dinner



General Brock gives a Rousing Address

Hamilton Historic Board co-chair for plaquing, Robin McKee, unveiled a significant plaque that commemorates the visit of Sir Isaac Brock to Hamilton 200 years ago. It is to be placed at the intersection of the Jolly Cut and St. Joseph's Drive, very near to the location of the James Durand home, on the high ground of the escarpment. His home was called Belleview and it was the place that Isaac Brock visited 200 years ago when he came to Hamilton.

After the dinner, Robin led a group through the streets of Hamilton to this Durand location. It was a mild and perfect

evening for a stroll though we had to do "the fast step" to get back to the Scottish Rite just as darkness fell.

Doug and Sharon Coppins UE acted as flag bearers for the evening.

We received many complements afterward from those who attended this special dinner.



Captain Thomas Perrin – Captain Barefoot: The Hero of Mount Pleasant by Doug Coppins UE

My 4th Great grandfather Captain Thomas Perrin was born in Hebron, Tolland County, Connecticut in 1756. Thomas was the 7th generation of 9 generations to be named Thomas Perrin. In 1770 The Perrin family moved to Granville, New York. It is not known what side the Perrin's aligned during the American Revolution. Captain Thomas Perrin married Elizabeth Spencer, who was born about 1762. They had children born to them in the United States up to 1801 but it seems that Thomas arrived in Niagara, Upper Canada in 1796.

In 1800 Chief Joseph Brant surveyed a 5,000 acre tract which was divided into farm lots. Thomas was quick to answer Brant's call for settlers at today's Mount Pleasant with Thomas receiving land leases in 1801. Soon Thomas had as much as 1,000 acres of land which by 1813 included a grist mill.

With the onset of the War of 1812 the true character of Thomas Perrin became apparent.

There was great fear at the beginning of the War of 1812 that the Americans who had settled in Upper Canada would support the American cause. Thomas Perrin an American by birth must have really had to think on what to do. Which side to fight on? Should he flee to the United States? Just think about it: the British had basically given him 100's of acres of land. Thomas had done well through all his business activities. If the Americans win he could lose everything. And, this was his home.

On the west side of the Grand River Thomas Perrin sought out men, young and old, many from the Mount Pleasant community's homes including his son Thomas Perrin to form the Independent Grand River Company. They soon became Captain Perrin's Company of the 5th Lincoln Militia.

Captain Thomas Perrin was known as "Captain Barefoot" for drilling his men in



Mount Pleasant Cemetery

his bare feet. He probably had boots that fit both left and right equally. When one side of the boots wore down you just switched the boots to the other side. Thomas had sore feet.

We don't hear much about Perrin Company as 1812 passed into 1813 and 1814.

At the Battle of Lundy's Lane on July 25, 1814, Captain Perrin's company of the 5th Lincoln Militia fought with distinction by acting as an advance guard for the main British force moving from St. Davids,

clearing the road and removing the 5 foot high fences for the British regulars or operating wagons, bringing supplies to the battlefield. When the battle was over, it has been said that Perrin's Company were used to gather the wounded and take them to the aid stations. They also likely cleared the dead from the battlefield the following

Several muster rolls exist of the activities of Perrin's Company of the 5th Lincoln Militia during 1814. Due to the fact that they were a flank company, which means they were not front line troops, their duties included from May 5 to 10, 1814, the task of repairing the highway through the Grand River swamp. Also, there are 2 muster rolls for 25 days from October 15 to November 10, 1814, during which was the time of the American attack on Mount Pleasant with burning of Perrin's Mill and the Battle of Malcolm's Mill.

On November 5, 1814, American General Duncan McArthur came from just north of Detroit with 700 mounted cavalry to the Mount Pleasant area to bring the fear of war and death on the local citizens, burn their mills, impair and destroy their food supply and hope to weaken the British Army, Canadian Militia and civilian population. Perrin's Mill was burned to the ground. General McArthur knew of Thomas Perrin's leadership in the Militia. The attack was hard on the people of Mount Pleasant as the Americans burned some of their homes and plundered their horses, cattle and the coming winter's food supplies. The Battle of Malcolm's Mill was fought and lost the same day. After the Battle of Malcolm's Mill, the Americans then returned to Detroit, burning every local mill as they went.

Where Thomas Perrin was during all of this I do not know, but rounding up the family, taking them to safety and hiding some personal possessions from the Americans while trying to protect his mill seems to be the best bet. It is known that guards were posted at Perrin's Mill from Perrin's Company but armed militia were no match to mounted cavalry.

Militia veterans in later years said of the overwhelming local enthusiasm for Perrin's volunteer call to arms and made it clear that Canadians defended Canada.

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

At the end of the War of 1812, there were prisoners to exchange and traitors to his Majesty's government to be tried and judged. On December 24, 1817, Thomas Perrin served as a witness to the Commission to inquire of lands forfeited on an outlawry for High Treason.

After a long life of 66 years of travelling through the new frontiers of the United States and Upper Canada to Mount Pleasant, rising to the call of defence of Country, King and Empire and building a very successful merchant, farming and milling businesses, the life of Captain Thomas Perrin came to an end on December 1, 1822 at Mount Pleasant, Upper Canada. Elizabeth Perrin, wife of Thomas Perrin, died at Mount Pleasant after 72 years and 7 months of life on March 27, 1835. Both Captain Thomas Perrin and his wife are buried here at Mount Pleasant Pioneer Cemetery.

On Sunday June 17, 2012, an official Ontario Heritage Act designation plaque was unveiled for the Mount Pleasant Pioneer Cemetery in Mount Pleasant, Ontario. The plaque recognized the leadership of Captain Thomas Perrin of the 5th Lincoln Militia.

This article was part of a talk that Doug Coppins UE gave as part of the unveiling.

James Clements UE Receives Certificates through Two Loyalist Ancestors by Rev. Charlotte Moore

Peter Horning

The Horning family had a plantation in Pennsylvania across the road from Valley Forge. The Revolution caused a split in the family as Peter and his two grown sons, as well as a brother fought with Butler's Rangers while two of Peter's brothers fought on the American side, with the fifth brother remaining neutral. Peter received land in Upper Canada and then returned to Pennsylvania for his wife and nine children. Peter and his family established themselves in Hamilton and Peter had extensive land holdings throughout this area.



James Clements UE receives 2 certificates

Anthony Westbrook

Anthony Westbrook was born in Orange County New York. He was a fourth generation farmer in the Americas and served as a volunteer under Captain Joseph Brant in the Indian Department. In his Land Petition he claimed that he was captured during a raid and shackled and tortured. He was given land in Ancaster east of the present day Wal-Mart. His descendants would work hard to restore the family's earlier status. His son John served as a captain in the War of 1812 with the Fifth Lincoln regiment, later becoming a major and marrying Elizabeth Gage, daughter of John Gage and his wife Mary Jones, of Battlefield House in Stoney Creek.

RICHARD SPRINGER UEL TALK

by Marilyn Hardsand UE

Richard Springer was a Private in Butler's Rangers, and was my 5th Great Grandfather!

He was born in September 1757, in Albany, New York, to a Methodist minister. After his father David was shot by revolutionary troops at Poughkeepsie NY (on his way to join Loyalist forces), his mother walked with her younger children to Niagara-on-the-Lake. Eldest son Richard served with Butler's Rangers and married Sarah Boyce on November 20, 1786, also the child of a Loyalist. Richard and Sarah had two sons and seven daughters.

Richard first settled in Niagara as a disbanded Ranger at Four Mile Creek on the Niagara River and moved to the Head of the Lake, now known as Hamilton, after hearing that superior land was available and built a log cabin at the corner of

Hunter and Spring Streets. His farm consisted of 100 acres bordered by Wellington, Catharine and King Streets and the base of the mountain.

He was a very religious man who built an altar in his home. In 1798, he began inviting neighbours to weekly Methodist



Doug & Sharon Coppins UE, Rev. Charlotte Moore UE & Colin Morley UE at First Place Plaguing

prayer meetings in his kitchen – his home thus becoming the first regular place of worship in Barton Township, and attracting other denominations as well.

As more people started to attend, the services moved to the barn. Sermons were preached by Richard himself or by visiting circuit ministers.

In 1810, the congregation moved to a schoolhouse on the site of First United Church. The official church building was completed in 1824, built at a cost of \$1,700.00, plus 5 pounds for the purchase of the land from Robert Land.

When Richard died in 1829 he was buried in the churchyard adjoining his beloved church.

When this church was enlarged the tombstone was put in the church wall, where it stands today.



2012 - Battle of Queenston Heights

REMEMBERING THE PIVOTAL BATTLE OF QUEENSTON HEIGHTS AND ITS HERO SIR ISAAC BROCK

by Ken Bird

The weekend of October 13th was a busy and exciting time for my wife, Maryanne and I. We had decided that retirement would allow us the freedom to inhale the thrill of reliving the event that 200 years ago proved to be pivotal in what is now the "true north strong and free", our Canada. It also must be understood that I grew up in Oueenston and attended Laura Secord Public School and was immersed in the local history. I can still see the huge Romantic prints of the death of Wolfe and Brock hanging above the front blackboards. I daydreamed and immersed myself into those pictures on more than one occasion. Many a time my friends and I passed the approximate site where Brock fell and climbed the escarpment to the heights and, of course, climbed the 235 steps of the monument to look north at the stunning and beautiful panoramic view of the Niagara River.

We left our home in Burlington on the afternoon of October 12th and headed for Stamford Centre (now Niagara Falls) where we had reserved a room in a pre-1812 B & B (1805) across from the historic Stamford Green, the Only "Green" in Canada, if not North America.

We then proceeded to Queenston Heights Park where Educational Day Events were being held. It was late in the day but some students were still in the park, involved in a demonstration displaying the workings of cannons. As a history buff and former teacher, I was caught up in the activity and enjoyed the demonstration myself as well as seeing the students hold their ears and yell and scream with delight. The period merchants stated that the kids were well behaved and amused and amazed by the differences in daily life. All the re-enactors were very gracious allowing me to take their pictures and in explaining their uniform/costume. Lewiston New York also held an educational day and had a cannon bombardment and fireworks that evening. We later saw the re-enactors and others perched in appropriate places along the Canadian side of the river for the show.

On Friday afternoon there was a Twinning Ceremony at St. Saviour, Major General Brock Memorial Anglican Church "in Queenston celebrating the historical, social, and cultural relationship between St. Peter Port, Guernsey, the birthplace of Major General Sir Isaac Brock, and

These Drummer Boys were in the Heat of the Battle

Queenston where Brock was mortally wounded." Representatives of the Isle of Guernsey, Sir Geoffrey Rowland & John O'Hara, participated in this ceremony. (Queenston Residents Association)

The Canadian Mint unveiled the Brock quarter at Fort George as part of the weekend celebrations.

Maryanne and I were up bright and early on the "glorious 13th". We drove to 20 Oueenston Street, Oueenston to the Brock Dead House, the temporary and improvised storage edifice or mortuary where the bodies of Brock and Macdonnell were placed to prevent their theft or desecration. The dead house, torn down in the late 1920's, was originally owned by Patrick McCabe. Here a dedication ceremony was held and a plaque unveiled marking the site. In attendance, as at many of the other events, were representatives of St. Peter Port, Guernsey and a New Zealand descendent of Brock's brother, Sally Greenaway. (Queenston Residents Association – The Association need donations in order to purchase John Norton's home at which time will be

moved to the sight of the Secord homestead)

Our second stop was Queenston Heights Park. Here we attended the bicentennial plaque dedication at Brock's Monument. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board designated Brock as a person of National Significance. Sadly, it was noted, that Brock's name was not added to the Canadian Government's Person of National Historic Significance until 2010.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persons of National Historic Significance

Lunch was at the beautiful Queenston Heights Restaurant. Maryanne and I were lucky enough to get a table by the window looking north along the Niagara River with the Canadian and American embankments on both sides. It is a view of which I will never tire. While dining, we saw on the pathway below, reenactors, who had marched from Niagara-on-the-Lake, ascending the escarpment towards The Heights. I can't imagine making that trek myself and I'm sure there were many a sore and maybe cold foot today as well as 200 years ago. Leaving the restaurant we bumped into Brock astride his legendary horse Alfred, accompanied by his aide de camp Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonnell. This, needless to say, was another 1812 photographic moment, not to be missed!

The reenactment of the Battle of Queenston Heights proved to be all I had hoped for. With cannons roaring and muskets blasting I became entranced by the excitement, cheered on the British, and felt pride at the final victory knowing that Sir Isaac Brock and all those who had sacrificed that day on The Heights did not sacrifice in vain.

I then attended the Commemorative ceremony at Brock's Monument. Its purpose was to recognize the importance of the Battle of Queenston Heights; recognize the importance of Brock's influence on the war and Canada's future; and to honour those who served on our Major General Roger Hale behalf. Sheaffe's descendant, Stephen Sheaffe, visiting here from Australia, spoke. Of note, his family presented the Canadian government with several items of memorabilia that had once belonged to his ancestor. Following the ceremony, with British and American troops lining the pathway, rifles reversed and flags draped,

Brock's body, led by the Drum Crown Force 1812 (Toronto), left Queenston Heights by horse drawn wagon.

While eating a hot dog for supper, waiting for the fireworks, and dodging the rain, Maryanne and I listened to Gin Lane and their Celtic music.

If the rain had not let up we may have left for the evening but standing under a tree seemed to protect us as the rain dissipated.

Not many remained behind but those who did heard and saw a spectacular sight. To the strains of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, the fireworks display highlighted Brock's column and lit up the sky with loud booms and light that once again proclaimed the greatness that was Brock and the victory at the Battle of Queenston Heights. The lady next to us said to her husband, "Aren't you glad you stayed?" and he replied, "I sure am!" Although not overly long, the fireworks were the best presentation I have seen in a very long time. It was an appropriate way to commemorate the life of my hero Major General Sir Isaac

Brock. Weary and tired after a very long day, Maryanne and I returned to our homey and comfortable B & B.

Up early again Sunday morning we headed north to Niagara-on-the-Lake. Once parked, we headed over to the court house for the funeral commemoration and procession. Reenactors marched from Fort George to the town's court house where period garbed dignitaries awaited the horse drawn wagons to pick up the coffins of Major General Sir Isaac Brock and Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonnell. Affixed on Brock's coffin was the statement:

Here lie the Earthly Remains of a Brave and Virtuous Hero MAJOR-GENERAL BROCK, Commanding the British Forces and President Administering the Civil Government, who fell when gloriously engaging the Enemies of his Country at the head of the Flank Companies of the 49th Regiment, in the town of Queenston, on the Morning of the 13th October, 1812. Aged 42 years.

Appropriate words of praise for the fallen hero were spoken and prayers

were invoked before the coffins were lifted onto the wagon and the Pallbearers moved into position. The slow march funeral procession led by the mournful strains of the 41st Regiment of Foot Fife and Drum Corps (Fort George) moved to St. Mark's Anglican Church, where Brock had been a parishioner. Here the Brock Bell tolled; the choir sang a funeral Hymn; and the carillons rang out a newly commissioned piece for the occasion.



Dignitaries wait at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Court House for the funeral procession. Photo: Ken Bird

From the church, the procession marched along the brightly coloured tree lined road to Fort George where a drumhead service was held. A drumhead service is a nondenominational service conducted 'in the field' during armed conflict, often near the battlefield. To create an alter, two drums were stacked with the Union Jack (flag adopted in 1801 and still used today) draped over them. Once again the appropriate words and prayers were given. Finally, it was fitting that the 200 year friendship between the USA and Canada was recognized. As in 1812, the ceremony ended with musket and cannon salutes from Fort George and Fort Niagara. The service was a moving end to three successful days that appropriately recognized and honoured a true 'Canadian' hero.

Remember the 13th! There are many who point to the "glorious 13th" of October 1812, the Battle of Queenston Heights, as a pivotal battle and one of Canada's first steps toward nationhood. I wish the following were my ideas but come from readings done over my life time and recently for the 200th anniversary publications by men like Riley, Turner, Porteous and even Wikipedia. We know Brock was charismatic, well-liked and



Brock's horse with reversed boots, symbolic of the fallen hero. Photo: Ken Bird



Fireworks over the Brock Monument. Photo: Ken Bird

befriended many including Tecumseh. This worked well for him. We also know Brock wanted to strike first, but even when he was forced to take a defensive stand, when the time came, struck hard. And we know, as best possible, Brock prepared his forces and militia for the inevitable. He was instrumental in the capture of Fort Michilimackinac/Mackinac and struck a decisive blow against the enemy with the capture of Fort Detroit and the Michigan Territory. This latter victory reverberated throughout London and earned him a knighthood and membership in the Order of the Bath unbeknownst to Brock. Finally, to maintain his honour; because he appeared to be somewhat impulsive and a doer; and because he felt he needed to respond immediately to the enemy forces on British territory, he led the charge on the 13th. It was soon over for this gallant leader but not for his name. Immediately seen as "The Hero of Upper Canada", endless praise was put forth in his honour both here and in England. The rally call in future battles was to remember Brock and the Upper Canada legislature unanimously voted to set aside a large sum of money to build a monument by which to remember him. It is interesting to note that the monument was built higher than that of Nelson's. (Brock's 56m – Nelson's 51.6m) For the first time, due to the offensive actions of Brock and his death at Queenston, followed by the British victory that day, diverse groups like the Loyalists, old world settlers, American settlers who had newly arrived seeking free land, and the aboriginals began to see that they just might be able to defend themselves after

all and that there now was a chance to actually win the conflict. All was solidified by the mythology that grew up around Brock's death giving Upper Canada a new found sense of identity. Now it was impossible for the British to even think of withdrawing to Montreal or Quebec City for here in this vast new wilderness lay the body of one of their respected and well decorated heroes. There is little doubt that Brock, Upper Canada's first hero, the Battle of Queenston Heights, and the mythology that surrounded his name united Upper Canada and eventually brought the British North American colonies a step closer to nationhood.

Returning to my car I stopped to talk with a serviceman who had served two stints in Afghanistan. When I realized the sacrifice

he had made for me, I thanked him. He interjected that most people did not realize how important the War of 1812 was to the development of what is now Canada's army. Certainly I hadn't really thought that out but see the logic of it in light of the fear the Colonies had of a second war with their neighbour to the south. It didn't take much for the British North American Colonies to realize that united, they would be a stronger force against this perceived enemy.

Cogeco has been seen at many of the events videoing. Presently some of them are on their "On Demand" section for free viewing. Queenston Heights is not yet available but Cogeco trucks were seen at Fort George.

THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



HAMILTON BRANCH **MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2013**

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2013:

- Dues for a single member: \$55.00
- Dues for a family: \$75.00
 - (spouses and dependent children living in the same household)
- Dues for "other Branch" member: \$ 15.00
- Donation to Branch (payable to UELAC) receipt available enclosed \$.....

TOTAL \$

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF QUEENSTON HEIGHTS

by Ruth Nicholson UE

As the cannons fired at 3 p.m. for the reenactment of the Battle of Queenston Heights, I drove along the Parkway, through miles of parked cars, seeking a parking space. Upon entering the lower village, an end spot on a street near the steps that go up The Heights was available. I was lucky! With bag chair over my shoulder, camera in front and backpack purse in back, I trudged up the stairs, across the highway, up more and more stairs and pathways until I came out at the base of the great Brock's monument, quite out of breath. There were thousands of attendees. It was impressive!

I wiggled my way through the thick crowd of on-lookers, raising my camera high above their heads to take photos in the direction of the smoke, musket fire and cannon blasts. In taking 95 pictures, I ended with 22 good ones so that was fine.

It was a splendid time, one that made all present, proud to be Canadian! It was emotional! Doug Coppins told me later, that he found himself cheering for the British and very much against the Americans. He and Sharon had arrived at 9:30 a.m. to save bleacher seats which



Lt.-Gov David C. Onley & Rob Nicholson MP Niagara

were later completely surrounded by onlookers and not that advantageous. Anyone would have a better visual field than I, but after I took my photos home and looked at them on the big screen, I appreciated the sheer numbers of reenactors who came to honour this special battle. These folk walked seven miles from Fort George to Queenston Heights and then they participated in a major battle scene for at least an hour. It was very significant.



The Claus Wampum with Rick Hill & Keith Jamieson

After the battle I had a better view of the dignitaries who spoke to the crowd from the cover of a tented area at the base of the monument. The rest of us became damp and cold in the drizzle but it was well worth staying to listen to their words and to sing "God Save the Queen" and "O Canada". Lieutenant General David C Onley addressed those assembled. Rob Nicholson MP gave much praise to all the

organizers. He also mentioned that the special Brock quarter was launched on Friday. Stephen Sheaffe, ancestor of Sir Roger Sheaffe, who completed the battle for Britain, after Isaac Brock's death, spoke to the crowd. He was overwhelmed with the welcome he and his family had received and he was very impressed and felt privileged to witness all that was taking place that weekend to remember and honour The Battle of Oueenston Heights. He brought many artifacts from his family, who live in Australia, to

give to the local Niagara museum.

I was especially pleased to see all the dignitaries stand when Rick Hill, of Six Nations, came up to the microphone to speak. He was taken aback as well. He and Keith Jamieson had brought two very special wampum belts to show. Each had

been made by the British and given to the then Five Nations as an agreement or treaty type of communication. The first was called "The Silver Line" and the second was called "The Claus Wampum". The latter had returned just last year from the United States and had been presented to the Six Nations people as part of the

heritage that needed to be returned to its rightful owners. Rick was very good humoured in his presentation and he said that his Native ancestors were fortunate that the Americans were so fearful of their war whoops. The Native allies had been mentioned many times by many speakers.

The wagon that supposedly had Brock's remains on it, made its way slowly down The Heights as all the re-enactors bowed their heads and lowered their flags.

I did not stay for the fireworks but I am told that they were spectacular, flashing around the monument.

Apparently there were 15 000 people in attendance just from tour busses. With all the cars and people walking in, it is estimated that there were approximately 25 000 people in attendance at this major heritage event. It is great to see so many proud of their history. It makes me wonder how many will attend Stoney Creek's big re-enactment next year, during our conference!



Rick Hill shows the Silver Line Wampum

REPRESENTATIVES FROM GUERNSEY VISIT QUEENSTON HEIGHTS

Welcoming Sir Geoffrey Rowland – Retired Bailiff of Guernsey & Mike O'Hara – Minister of Culture & Leisure for the State of Guernsey by Ruth Nicholson UE

As part of the commemoration of the bicentenary of the death of General Sir Isaac Brock, Sir Geoffrey Rowland and Mike O'Hara traveled from Guernsey Island to Queenston Heights and then to Amherstburg, to the site of historic Christ Church. This was the garrison church of the 41st Regiment of Foot. Sir Geoffrey talked about the Island of Guernsey at the time that Isaac Brock lived there with his family. Mike O'Hara talked about the island of Guernsey today. It was very informative and interesting. I took notes and will attempt to give you some of the information that I gleaned.

Guernsey is one of the Channel Islands, nine miles in length and only 20 miles from the coast of Normandy France. It is 80 miles SE of England and it is Crown dependent but separate from England. They elect their own parliament that has a prime minister, cabinet and 35 independent members – no political parties. Elections occur every four years. Until 1920 the legal language of Guernsey was French.

Isaac Brock was fluent in French and spent a lot of time in Ouebec City and Montreal. The people of Lower Canada did not want a French Revolution with the resulting emperor that they had witnessed in France.

Guernsey built three ships for cod fishing off the Grand Banks in the 1590's. Lots of people from Guernsey settled in P.E.I., the Gaspe, Newfoundland and Labrador. Lots of surnames from these areas are familiar to the people of Guernsey today.

Many French and Guernsey citizens were privateers. They seized American ships that were trying to break the British blockade in the 1810's. John Brock, Isaac's father, was a privateer and a very wealthy man. He had 14 children. The family grew up in extravagant times of elegant balls and high social activities. John Brock died quite young and his son William took over facilitating trade with England and investing in privateering. William's brother, Isaac was sent a letter that he had an enormous amount of money due to pay off his creditors. Isaac became an ensign at the age of 15 and sometime after 1805 he was asked to go to Canada. This would have helped to pay his debts.

Isaac Brock had all the qualities that made for a great leader. He was conciliatory and charismatic. The victory at Detroit made him a true hero. He was recognized as such both in Canada, in England and in

Guernsey. King George III gave him the peerage or title on October 10th due to the fine result at Detroit. Brock never received word of this honour as he died on October 13th.

During WWII Germany occupied

Guernsey. Many of the children were placed in English homes for safety.

Before the war, Guernsey's population was 46 000; afterward it fell to 23 000. The other nearby islands are: Herm, Sark and Alderney. Their populations range from 50 to 2 400. The weather is mild due to the Gulf Stream.

It is interesting to note that the Ontario government placed a plaque, in the main Guernsey church that the Brock family attended, commemorating the life of Sir Isaac Brock.

Guernsey and the other Channel Islands certainly sound like inviting places to visit

The following are other places where you can see or send for commemorations to General Sir Isaac Brock: St. Paul's cathedral in London has a larger than life statue of the death of Brock, with an English soldier supporting him from behind and Native warriors beside him. St.

Peter Port, Guernsey is

Brock's home area and he is recognized on street names and in the main church with plaques and signage. A commemorative coin has been designed by Oliver Brock, who is a seventh generation

ancestor of Sir Isaac Brock. See it at www.isaacbrock.com The Canadian Mint launched a special edition quarter of General Brock on October 13 2012. See it at www.mint.ca/1812brock A portrait of General Brock, painted from life, has been loaned from Guernsey to Riverbrink Gallery, in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



Mike O'Hara and Sir Geoffrey Rowland of Guernsey Island

FRIENDS OF THE TECUMSEH MONUMENT - BUY A BRICK PROGRAM

The Tecumseh Monument Re-development Project

Individuals and organizations are encouraged to support this important heritage initiative. The goal is to build a new, enhanced monument to the great First Nations war-chief Tecumseh, one more in keeping with his stature as an international hero and also to establish an open air museum which will interpret the story of the Battle of the Thames, fought at this site, and its aftermath from the perspective of the all its participants and witnesses.

The grounds of the open air museum will have paths that wind through the vegetation and connect to various sections of the site. Each brick can be inscribed with a name or a short message. The cost of each brick is \$30.00. It can be inscribed with up to 25 characters and spaces.

Visit www.TecumsehMonument.ca. Credit card or cheque accepted.

Friends of the Tecumseh Monument

11768 Bates Drive, R.R. #1, Morpeth, ON NOP 1X0 Phone: 519-674-2322 for more information.

HEAD OF LAKE ONTARIO CONFERENCE 2013: MAY 30th - June 2nd

by Ruth Nicholson UE



Our conference 2013 committee met on October 18 at my home, in Waterdown, to continue the fine tuning of our plans for next year.

We have received some start-up funding from both the Dominion and from the recent Winnipeg conference. After attending the Conference by the Confluence we decided that their simplified menu was a good way to proceed. Therefore we are choosing one main dinner selection for both the Burlington Country Club dinner and the Gala at the Holiday Inn. We will also offer a vegetarian dinner and will note any food allergies through the registration process.

The conference bag has been printed through a Windsor company. They were

the only company that could print all our colour requirements for our logo. We are deciding on items for the bags and so far have a mug, a small bottle of maple syrup, a pen, a notepad, a map of the War of 1812 Battlefield areas and some newspapers on the War of 1812 and the local heroes. We are still working on which brochures to include and we will need a summary of our local sites. Author and member Jean Rae Baxter UE has kindly offered to write these descriptions for us. These passages will also go into the Internet Loyalist news, Loyalist Trails, regularly over the next few months.

The tours have been created and all stops confirmed. The local tour, designed by Pat Blackburn UE, will include Dundurn Castle, a tour of the Hamilton Cemetery by Robin McKee and then lunch at The Scottish Rite before proceeding to Battlefield Park for the afternoon. The Niagara tour, designed by Colin Morley UE, begins at Fort George and then proceeds to the Laura Secord House and Ravine Winery with its Loyalist home in St. David's for lunch. Queenston Heights is the last stop before returning to the hotel by a scenic route. We also have two speakers for those who would like to stay

at the hotel for the morning. Jim Taggart will speak about Medical Remedies and Instruments of long ago and Doug Adams will bring furs from Temagami and will speak about the fur trade of the past and of the present. Lunch will be provided at the hotel and then the afternoon will be spent at Battlefield Park.

Air Transit is linked to our web site and they offer discounted rates to pick people up at either Pearson or Hamilton airports.

Musical entertainment on Friday will be Tamarack and on Saturday will be The Cottonwood Brass. Young local history teacher, author and recipient of both the Gold and Diamond Jubilee medals, Nathan Tidridge, will be the keynote speaker at our gala on Saturday.

Marilyn Hardsand UE, our branch secretary, will be sending out "save the date" announcements and invitations to area heritage and political people, in January.

Gloria Howard UE, our treasurer, has become our computer expert. Gloria created the Power Point presentation for the Winnipeg conference in June. She created the summary page and photos for the next issue of the Gazette and she designed the nametag for the conference. Gloria, along with the rest of the committee, developed the pricing for the registration page. Lots of practice with Excel spreadsheets!

Fred Hayward UE is designing the gala banquet card and looking into a special gift idea for banquet attendees.

Michele Lewis UE, our branch genealogist, is gathering baskets and items for our raffle table. This is an on-going collection process and we need everyone to pitch in and offer something for this fundraising aspect of our conference. John Lewis takes all these items and arranges them artistically and tastefully for all our dinner events. We know that the baskets will look gorgeous and inviting for our conference, through all this experience.

We've been told that a few people have already phoned in their reservations for our conference at the Holiday Inn Burlington!

This is an exciting time for us and the countdown is on!

JEAN RAE BAXTER UE - EXCITING PUBLISHING NEWS

by Ruth Nicholson UE

Jean's latest book, <u>In the Wings</u>, is an anthology of short stories, published this month by Seraphim Editions. It's about women who played secondary roles in the lives of famous men.

Jean's story in this collection is entitled <u>Konwatsi'tsiaiénni and the Governor's Lady</u>. It's about Molly Brant, who was actually well known in her own right, but she was also the wife of Sir William Johnson and the sister of Joseph Brant.

A new novel, entitled <u>Flute and Tomahawk</u>, will be published by Ronsdale Press. It deals with the aspirations of the Native people duing the period after the end of the American Revolution. Historical figures in this novel include Joseph Brant and Tecumseh.

Another bit of exciting news is that 13 of Jean's short stories are being translated into Hebrew and will be published by Marenga Publishers of Tel Aviv in June 2013. Jean will be attending their launch in Israel!

We applaud Jean Rae Baxter on her great writing success and on the body of work that she has going to the publishers. Congratulations Jean. We look forward to hearing you speak to us in April 2013.

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.

Nov. 22 Meeting: Guest speaker Dr. Mary Anderson – The McQuestens of Whitehern

Dec. 1 Christmas luncheon at Troy United Church

Feb. 28 AGM meeting with guest speaker Dominion President Robert McBride

March 28 Meeting: guest speaker Doug Massey, Beaver Dams Project

April 25 Meeting: guest speaker Jean Rae Baxter UE – The Black Loyalists' Story

May 30 - Hamilton Branch hosts the Dominion Conference:

June 2 Meet us at the Head of Lake Ontario

OTHER EVENTS:

Ancaster Historical Society

Old Town Hall, 310 Wilson St. E. Ancaster – 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 30 Lake Ontario Naval History & the War of 1812 – Bob Williamson

Jan. 25 Restoration of Old Mills; speaker – Dave Ciancone

Coffee & Culture at the Old Town Hall

Ancaster Old Town Hall, 310 Wilson St., Ancaster - 7-9 p.m.

Feb. 20 Seeking Freedom: The War of 1812 & its links to the Underground Railroad-speaker - Deborah Brown-Simon

Dundas Valley Historical Society

New location: Council Chambers of the Old Town Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 9 Local Architectural History & Heritage; speaker – Shannon Kyles

Feb. 12 Up and Down King Street; speaker – Russ Powers

March 13 Richard Hatt: His Involvement in the War of 1812; speaker – Rick Hatt

Fieldcote Museum

63 Sulphur Springs Rd, Ancaster

The Bloody Assize Display continues for 2 more years

Jan. 4 – April 5 Quilt Workshops every Friday from 7 – 9 p.m. Create a quilt.

Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society

Olivet United Church, 40 Empress St. at 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 25 The Untold Story of the War of 1812; speaker – Bob Williamson

Waterdown - East Flamborough Heritage Society

St. James United Church, 306 Parkside Dr. Waterdown at 8 p.m.

Jan. 25 Historical Perception especially related to Cemeteries; speaker – Robin McKee

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Visit our new website at www.uel-hamilton.com!