



THE

HAMILTON LOYALIST

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



Volume XIII #1 January 2014

"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."

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT PAT BLACKBURN



President Pat Blackburn at Loyalist Day 2013

The first year of my term as President of the Hamilton Branch is nearly over. What a productive year we have completed. My thanks to all people who have donated their time on the Executive, Branch projects, special upgrading to our Branch Administration By-Laws, Policies and forms and just being very willing to participate with some of the jobs to be done at a general meeting. If you are asked and feel intimidated let me know and I will spend time with you explaining what is required. There is always a need for new members to begin helping out and we all remember our first time reading the Loyalist Prayer for example and will have patience. All efforts are appreciated. I noticed this year some new faces (members) helping with our Outreach activities. That is wonderful. Book Fairs and exhibits at local Heritage Fairs and Joseph Brant Day are all very interesting and a good place to meet people and further their interest in our Association.

I am trying to keep the members who do not attend our meetings and functions on a regular basis (for various reasons) up to date on all the activities of the Branch. Having a current email listing has shown to be a valuable asset in this endeavor.

We are always open to speaker suggestions or alternate program activities for our general meetings. Please let David Woodward know if you have ideas. Plans in some cases must be done a year in advance. David's email is: fdavidw@bell.net

Last year we had a very large project in the hosting of the UELAC Conference in Burlington. As you know all our planning and great leadership by Ruth Nicholson proved to others that this Annual Meeting may have been the best yet. For your information, Ruth is back at setting up a bus trip for all members to Essex County in July. We plan on filling a bus load first with our own people. Sign up early. This trip promises to be the highlight of this coming year. Don't miss it.

Let us work together for a happy and successful 2014.

Pat Blackburn

LOYALIST LICENCE PLATES - GET YOURS TODAY!

by Ruth Nicholson UE

My three adult children were thrilled with their Christmas gift of a special Loyalist Licence plate and a copy of Loyal She Remains, the book published by the UELAC in 1984. I had ordered four sets of plates but was lucky to win the draw held December 2012 and was given the first set of plates: 01 UE 01. Fantastic! I'm so proud to have my Loyalist license plates on our family car. My children were given

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Licence plate on Ruth's family car

numbers to correspond with their year of birth: 01 UE 81, 01 UE 84 and 01 UE 87. They definitely approved of my number selection and they are so very happy to show off their proud heritage in this manner.

You can still obtain your own special Loyalist licence plate by writing a cheque for \$110.00 for the first set and any additional sets are \$100.00. Send your cheque to the Dominion Office at: UELAC, 50 Baldwin St., Suite 202, Toronto ON M5T 1L4. Contact the chair of this project, Ben Thornton at plates@uelac.org or at 905 486 9777 if you have any questions.

You can read more information and obtain the order form through the Dominion website at www.uelac.org go to Projects - go to Dominion Projects.

Hamilton Branch was the biggest supporter of this project! We'd like to see many more Ontario cars with our Loyalist licence plates proudly displayed!



President Pat Blackburn presents Ruth with licence plate 01 UE 01

EDUCATION REPORT

by Pat Blackburn UE

In the Fall notices were sent to the Halton Board of Education Schools concerning the Hamilton Branch continuing to offer free in-school presentations for Grades 3 and 7. A slow response has been received. However, we may be judging this response on last year's 50 presentations and this would be unreasonable. To date the Education Committee has given ten presentations. The split in area is as follows: Burlington 5; Hamilton 3; and Oakville 2.

Two Grade 3 presentations at St. Dominic Separate School in Oakville have been completed in the first week of January 2014.

This Fall at our Branch potluck picnic at the Wentworth's Duck Tail Inn it was



Ruth with Micheal Danaher (Caldwell Ranger), Susan Hutchins & Linda Iler at BiCentennial Meeting



John Lewis lays a wreath at the Lost Monument Ceremony Pre-Remembrance Day

learned that all of Dan's extensive tool collection was to be sold and this visit was our last chance to view it. We were able to obtain some articles of school life many years ago. For example, school bell, tin lunch pail, box of mathematical items, broom with branch handle, washing plunger and a replacement metal washboard to replace our one-legged one. We thank Dorothy and Dan for their hospitality and these new artifacts for the Education presentations.

It is always a good feeling to receive a thank you appreciation that has been written by the teacher

at one of our school presentations. I have transcribed below one such message received recently.

From Heather Spencer, Central Public School, Burlington

"Hello Pat,

I wanted to share my sincerest thank you and appreciation for the organization of the visit from Ruth to Central Public School prior to the holidays. The students were mesmerized by her stories and the artifacts she brought to share and discuss with the students. Moreover, the opportunity to hear from one as passionate about the topic and have the ability to handle the artifacts was a wonderful learning experience.

Please pass my thank you to Ruth for her sharing of time and expertise with us."



Ruth Nicholson at Maplehurst school presentation to celebrate 100th Birthday of School



Colin Morley & Pat Blackburn at LaSalle Park for Joseph Brant Day



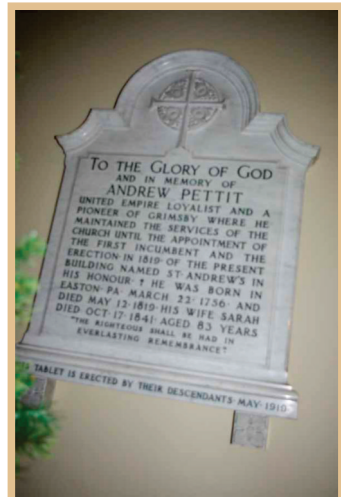
President Pat Blackburn at Joseph Brant Day Burlington



Gloria Howard at Joseph Brant Day Burlington



Treasurer Gloria Howard with winning picnic basket



Plaque to Loyalist Andrew Pettit inside St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Grimsby



David Wright leads a tour of St. Andrew's Anglican Churchyard in Grimsby - Xmas Luncheon



David Woodward with grandson Jackson at the picnic



September Picnic at Don & Dorothy Wentworth's home



Dan Wentworth sets off the cannon



OUR ANCESTORS

Loyalist Abraham Webster UEL

by John C. McArthur, UE, FCIP

My fourth great-grandfather, Abraham Webster (1743 - 1811), the son of Joseph Webster and Elizabeth Shotwell was born in Bethlehem New Jersey on the 12th of September, 1743.

On the 8th of March, 1770, at Kingwood, Hunterdon New Jersey, he married Anna Lundy.

In 1787 he and Anna immigrated to Upper Canada with their nine children. The route to Western Upper Canada, from New Jersey, went by way of Reading and then across the Susquehanna River at Northumberland. Then they travelled in a



John McArthur with his certificate through ancestor Abraham Webster

North-Westerly direction through the great Genesee Tract to Buffalo Creek and Fort Erie where a ferry boat was used to cross the Niagara River to Upper Canada at Black Rock.

It would have been a toilsome journey made on horseback or wagon - over the rocky passes of the Alleghany Mountains, through dark forests and across raging torrents while riding for whole days wet to the skin. There was often little food for man or beast and a doubtful prospect of a night's lodging or no shelter at all.

On June 10th, 1796 he applied for Lot 8 Concession 1 & 2 Bertie Township, Welland County. Prior to then he had

sworn that he was a true and loyal subject to the Sovereign Lord the King and had come to His Majesty's territory in the time of danger and scarcity rather than live under a usurping or Rebel Government. On the 2nd of May, 1797 he was approved for 700 acres.

On the 15th of May, 1797 his brother-in-law William Lundy (after whom Lundy's Lane is named) was recommended for 300 acres.

Even though the Websters and Lundy's were Quakers Abraham Webster is officially regarded as being a United Empire Loyalist. The United Empire Loyalists Centennial Committee, Toronto, issued a book, The Centennial of the Settlement of Upper Canada by the United Empire Loyalists 1784 - 1884. It lists the Celebration at Adolphustown, Toronto and Niagara with an Appendix B - A copy of the old "U.E. List", preserved in the Crown Lands Department at Toronto. Abraham Webster is listed in Appendix B - page 331.

He is also listed in A Return of the Loyalist Settlers at and in the Dependencies of Niagara by Norman Crowder, Page 136.

The Websters remained for several years in Bertie Township in Welland County which was fairly close to Lundy's Lane where Anna's brother, William Lundy and his wife, Nancy Silverthorne had settled.

At first the Quakers did not have a church in the area. In 1797 Jacob Lindlay, an associate of Joseph Moore, was sent by the Philadelphia Meeting to visit the Black Creek Community. In 1799 the Black Creek Meeting of the Society of Friends was established. Included in the membership and admission records for 1799 - 1800 were: Abraham Webster, his wife Ann and seven children.

Sometime before 1805, the Websters left Bertie Township and moved to Whitchurch Township, York County closer to a Quaker settlement that was developing on Yonge Street near the present town of Newmarket.

Prior to September 19th, 1805 Abraham and Anna Webster may already have settled on 200 acres being Lot 29, 3rd Concession, Whitchurch Township as on that day he obtained a Patent from the Crown for this farm. On the same date he obtained another 200 acres being Lot 23, 4th Concession Whitchurch Township.

In the records of the Yonge Street Monthly Meeting, on July 17th, 1806 Abraham Webster is named as one of the early overseers of the Quaker settlement and was one of those appointed to take charge of the books and to have oversight of the new school. On November 17th, 1808 he requested to be relieved from the position of overseer. Possibly his health was not the best; but, on January 12th, 1809 he agreed to continue.

Abraham Webster died on February 26th, 1811 at the age of 69 and is buried in the Friends' Cemetery on the West side of Yonge Street at the South end of Newmarket. Anna Webster lived until 1832, when she died at the age of 85, and is buried beside her husband.

Loyalist Mathias Zimmerman UEL

by Joan Gibson UE

Mathias Peter Zimmerman, son of Peter Zimmerman was born in Sussex New Jersey April 1st 1782. Mathias married Anne Cramer who was also born in the Thirteen Colonies. After the American Revolution they moved to what became Halton County Ontario. Their family was composed of eight sons and four daughters: Samuel, Mathias, Margaret, Peter, William, Philip, Lydia, Barbara, Jerusha, Annie, Nicholas and Henry.

Mathias Sr died August 7 1866 and is buried at the Salem Cemetery on Walkers Line, Burlington.



Joan Gibson descendant of Mathias Zimmerman

Loyalist Benjamin Becraft UEL

by Doug Massey UE

b. 1758 , Schoharie, New York Province
 d. 1800-01, Ancaster Twp, OC 24 Feb 1801
 m. Elizabeth Westbrook, 1790-92
 Children:
 Anne, OC 23 Nov. 1816
 James of the Grand River, OC 23 Nov., 1816
 Sara, OC 25 Feb. 1819
 Anthony of Fairchild Creek, OC 2 Oct., 1822

According to the "Old U.E. List", Benjamin Becraft was a corporal in the Indian Department, and a loyal refugee. In coming to Upper Canada via Niagara in 1786, he settled in the Home District (Ancaster Township , Concession 2 Lot 11). But his days in Ancaster were numbered. On April 19, 1799, quite ill with an intestinal complaint, he visited Dr. Oliver Tiffany and was given "worm pills No. 2". There is no way to tell if Tiffany's prescription did the trick. It is however certain that Benjamin died within the next two years at the age of 42, arguably a victim of the "skulking war", that cruel, barbarous, unknown part of the American Revolution that he had fought.

Benjamin's war had been that of the "*petit guerre*". To American "patriots" living near him in Schoharie, New York Province, he was "the tory Beacroft" or "the notorious Beacroft", a monster. To Benjamin, these same republican neighbours were "d__d rebels", equally monsters, whom he wished to see burning in hell! This was a civil war, one that pitted adversaries in a continuous round of atrocities and revenge seeking where no quarter was given. In this fight, patriot and loyalist settlers alike hated, and struggled with an enemy they could name, had gone to school with, or who were even family.

Benjamin was a member of the Brant Volunteers, a Mohawk outfit. Why? Joseph Brant, although a war chief of the Mohawks, was young and relatively inexperienced at the beginning of the war. And not having great influence or strong alliances among the Haudenosaunee, he could not attract a large number of indigenous followers. As a result, early on in the war, eighty percent of his men were white, like Benjamin, or freed black slaves.

Becraft was an 'associator': He fought as a volunteer, did not get paid by the British, and most likely had very little in the way of an official uniform. Indeed, many white loyalists fighting with Brant went into action attired as indigenous soldiers. The British government paid for food. But the rest of Benjamin's needs were paid for out of the spoils of battle, chief among them being bounty for "whig" or "rebel" prisoners taken in combat and marched the three hundred miles back from the Schoharie Valley in eastern New York, to Fort Niagara on Lake Ontario.

Becraft's father-in-law, Anthony Westbrook, and brother-in-law, Alexander Westbrook are listed as members of Brant's fighters in 1777. But the earliest definite reference to Becraft accompanying Brant isn't until April 2, 1780. Like most Brant raids, this one caught the Americans quite by surprise and left a trail of death and destruction. Crops were destroyed, houses and barns burnt and farm animals killed or carried off.



Doug & Vera Massey receive their certificates though Ancestor Benjamin Becraft

American defenders were killed and some scalped. In addition, eleven American prisoners were taken and marched back to Fort Niagara. Snow was still deep in the forest that year and the trip back was gruelling in the extreme. The party ran out of food toward the end and had to carve up and eat the remains of a half rotten horse carcass to stay alive. But they made it back to Fort Niagara where the American prisoners were all forced to run the gauntlet composed of Haudenosaunee. Brant and his men, including Benjamin, received eight dollars a head for their prisoners.

On July 9, 1780, Becraft was a central figure, along with Adam Crysler, in the attack and destruction of "Vroom's Land" near Schoharie. This was a terrible day that saw the ugly deaths of local settlers,

and the destruction of their homes and crops. American writers who are quick to point out atrocities on the British and indigenous side are not so quick to describe the devastation caused by Generals Sullivan and Clinton in 1779 as they utterly destroyed the homes and livelihood of the Haudenosaunee. (Specifically the Seneca Nation).

The hatred shown Benjamin, and indeed Joseph Brant, attests to the effectiveness of the guerrilla type war that was waged by Brant's Volunteers, the Butler Rangers and many other loyalist and native groups and nations. The Continental Congress had great difficulty in defending its settlers from such incursions, and the rebel cause had to make do without the crops and animals destroyed in raids from the north. The Schoharie Valley was particularly hard hit. "The settlement of Schoharie which alone was able to furnish, according to a letter from General Washington, 80,000 bushels of grain for public use, has been totally laid in ashes."

We get another glimpse of Benjamin in May of 1781. John Dease, an Indian Department official at Fort Niagara that spring writes to Captain Nelles at Karaghydirrha:

The Bearer has brought in a small bay mare belonging to Ben. BEACROFT my Servt.– he Borrowed her from an Indn. in Youcasito. I wish you'd Apply to the Indn. to Restore her to B. Ben who can prove his property to her.
 (See Archives of Ontario, Henry Nelles Papers, MU 3296.5.)

This brief reference indicates both Becraft's continuing war, and his close association with the indigenous soldiers who were his companions on raids that left Niagara for the New York western frontier.

But then we hear no more of Benjamin Becraft and he is gone from our view. What happened between that year and 1786? How many cold rainy days and vicious forest ambushes, skirmishes and retreats were part of Benjamin's days? There is no record. Nor is there a record of where Benjamin is buried. It could very likely be on his farm. For to this day that piece of land just west of Jerseyville is cut in two by a road called the Indian Trail. Appropriate I would suggest.

Philip Roblin UEL

by Barry Baker UE

Philip Roblin UE was born about 1750 in Smiths Clove, Orange, New York. Census returns show the Roblins declaring their ancestry as Welsh.

Philip married Elizabeth Esther Miller about 1769 in Orange, New York. On March 8 1777, they are listed as church members in a vote to move Warwick Baptist church in Orange, New York to Westmoreland PA. Philip bought 2 lots of land and built a house in Smith's Clove. He was a carpenter by trade.

In October 1777, Elizabeth, Philip and their three sons inherited the mills (in conjunction with her brother) and 15 acres of her father's property at Smith's Clove. Philip held them for some months before they were confiscated. Notes show that Philip and others signed an Oath of Allegiance to the Continental Congress but later following the Declaration of Independence, Philip (and also his brother Owen and brother-in-law Garret Miller Jr.) refused to sign a new Oath of Allegiance. Both Philip and Owen joined the British forces in nearby New York City serving in the Barrack Master's Department.

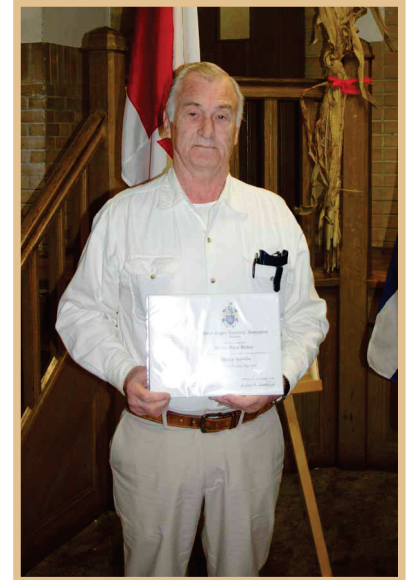
Elizabeth and Philip's property and chattel were confiscated in 1779. This included the mills which were part owned by her brother, a private in the NY militia. They were issued a Certificate of Sequestration.

Philip was held as prisoner by the Americans and Elizabeth lived under British protection in New York City for much of the remainder of the war. When the war ended with American independence in 1783 they fled to Canada along with other Loyalists.

Philip joined Peter Ruttan's Company # 6 of Associated Loyalists in New York before the evacuation. Philip and his brother Owen are listed as being on board the "HOPE" out of New York to Quebec July 4- Aug 18, 1783. They entered by way of Lake Champlain, passed up the Richelieu River, and wintered at Sorel, Quebec -living on rations allowed by the Government.

In the spring of 1784, Philip and his family sailed up the St Lawrence River in flat bottomed boats to the Bay of Quinte. A village of tents was set up at Adolphustown and during the summer lots were drawn to exchange for a deed of land. The brothers Philip and Owen drew part of lots 24-25, Con 4. Adolphustown.

Philip died in 1788 aged about 38 in Adolphustown Township, Lennox & Addington County, Ontario, Canada. He is likely buried in the "Old Adolphustown Burying Ground" on the 4th concession along the north shore of Hay Bay or in the UEL cemetery at Adolphustown. According to the Upper Canada Land Book c 1 July 1797 - 31 July 1797, Philip and Owen Roblin were recommended for 200 acres each as UE Loyalists.



Barry Baker UE with his certificate through ancestor Philip Roblin

James Crawford UEL

by Allan Crawford UE

James Crawford, born 1743 in Pound Ridge, New York was the youngest son of John and Jane (nee Henderson) Crawford. He married Rachel Benedict and settled on part of his father's farm in Pound Ridge.

When the Revolutionary War broke out, James and his brothers were divided in their loyalties -- James and John Jr. remained loyal to the King and Church while his other 2 brothers, Robert and Archibald sided with the Americans.

At first, James wanted to remain neutral but in 1777 he left his family and home to join the Guides and Pioneers, a group of soldiers that foraged for provisions to supply the British Army.

Being loyal to the King made it very difficult for James' family to remain in Pound Ridge. James returned home and the Americans forced his family to move. They left Pound Ridge and arrived at a refugee camp at Lloyd's Neck near New York City.

The family remained there until April 1783 when they set sail and arrived in

Saint John mid May. In the spring of 1784 the family moved up the Saint John River to the Long Reach in Kings County where they settled.

In 1786 he received a land grant of 1000 acres for himself and his sons. James was a member of the Vestry of Trinity Anglican Church in Kingston, New Brunswick and served with the local militia.

He was 87 when he died and is buried at the Old Loyalist Cemetery in Kingston beside his wife, Rachel.



Allan Crawford receives certificates through ancestor James Crawford

Loyalist Richard Beasley UEL

through descendant Alec Beasley UE

Pat Blackburn, Colin Morley, Bev Corsini, Marilyn Hardsand and Ruth Nicholson arrived at the private home of Alec Beasley's son, in Oakville, to celebrate Alec proving his Loyalist status to the well known and respected Loyalist Richard Beasley. Family had come from Vancouver to be at this special event for Alec. He asked us to dress in our period clothing. The family had many questions about The



Colin Morley, Pat Blackburn, Ruth Nicholson & Marilyn Hardsand with Alec Beasley

United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada and our early Canadian history. Several hope to prove their status now that their father, Alec has opened the way.

The following background story on Richard Beasley was provided by our Branch Genealogist Michele Lewis.

Alec has proven his descent from Loyalist Richard Beasley who was born in 1761 in New York, married Henrietta Springer, and eventually became a very prominent Hamiltonian. He appears to have been captured by the Rebels in 1777 after which he arrived in the province of Quebec and served for two years as the Acting Commissary at Fort Niagara. He "wore many hats" during his lifetime – office holder, fur trader, businessman, justice of the peace, politician, militia officer, and farmer. He eventually settled in Barton Township (now Hamilton) in the 1790's where he remained until his death after being instrumental in Hamilton's develop-

ment and increased prominence. Hamilton Branch has plaqued his burial place, at Christ's Church Cathedral in downtown Hamilton.



President Pat Blackburn with Alec Beasley

Loyalist John Freel UEL

by Jonathan Howell UE

John Freel (originally Friel) was born in Kilkenny, Ireland May 10th 1743. Under the patronage of Sir William Johnson, he immigrated to America in 1767, in his 24th year and married Irish born, Deborah Emily Morgan (b 1742) shortly thereafter.

He joined the KKRNY, under Sir John Johnson, at the beginning of the American Revolution and later joined Butler's Rangers. While John was away, Deborah's home was taken over by the Rebels. She and her children, including her son, James (b 1776) were hidden by friends and later rescued by Johnsons' Corps and taken to Niagara where Hugh was born in 1782. A sidebar in a family history book states that she and her family were held prisoners in Albany for three years. This has not been documented. Deborah's husband, John died in March 1784.

Colonel John Butler granted Deborah Freel 100 acres in Niagara. In 1787, Deborah voyaged to Montreal by Native canoe to petition Commissioner Pemberton for more land, naming her two sons, James and Hugh. She was granted a further 200 acres.

Deborah and her family were members of St. Marks, Niagara. She is buried at Butler's Burying Ground, Niagara.



Jonathan Howell receives his 2 certificates

Jon Shaver UEL

Ancestor of Jonathan Howell UE

John Shaver [Schaeffer] and his second wife, Mary Magdalene, with John's three children by his first wife (John, William and Margaret who were all born in New Jersey), and their younger children walked to what is now Canada. Margaret rode a small pony, her feet having been badly burned. The three and four year olds, Anna and Henry, were in wicker baskets tied together and slung over a pony's back. Mary Magdalene carried a six month old baby and Peter, who was only seven, walked as well. John received Lot 50 , Concession 2 in 1789 in what became the Township of Ancaster. Today, Tiffany Falls and the Tamahaac club are on that lot. John died in 1795 and was buried on the property. Mary Magdalene courageously struggled on and with Peter stayed on the land. In 1834 Peter died and was also buried there. Mary Magdalene died in 1835. The property was then granted, possibly to obviate assembling next of kin, by a second crown grant to Dr. Oliver Tiffany. The bodies of John, Mary Magdalene and Peter were moved years later to Bethesda Cemetery by two of John and Mary Magdalene's grandchildren. Jon has John Shaver's Bible.



Jeffrey McCammon receives his certificate through ancestor Daniel Cummins

Loyalist Daniel Cummins UEL Ancestor of Jeffrey McCammon UE By Ray Cummins UE

Daniel Cummins was born in Hunterdon County but grew up in Knowlton Township, Sussex County, New Jersey His petition for land in Upper Canada as an United Empire Loyalist was supported by affidavits from loyalist neighbours and from the well-known loyalist judge Nathaniel Pettit of Sussex County who had already come to Upper Canada. These affidavits showed that Daniel's brother had died "in service to the King" and that his family had suffered much on account of their loyalty during the revolution.

Daniel was granted 200 acres on lot 22 Concession 1 on the Governor's Road in Ancaster Township as an UE Loyalist. Sometime before 1803 he and his wife, Christina Angle, and most of their children moved to what would become Rock Chapel in Flamborough West Township where he bought land overlooking what would become the town of Dundas. There he farmed and his eldest son made chairs in a small mill.

Daniel was converted to Methodism and became a class leader and built, on a rock outcrop, a sturdy wooden chapel known as the Cummins Chapel. Under the influence of the well-known Methodist leader, Elder Henry Ryan, Daniel formed a new denomination which was known as the

Loyalists John Garner UEL & Ebenezer Jones UEL

by Marilyn Hardsand UE

John Garner received 136 acres as a Crown Grant on June 26, 1796 (Land Registry Office). John was born in 1732 and died between 1822 and 1830. He received a certificate from surveyor, Philip Frey at Fort Erie on September 25, 1786 for Lot No.1 in Fort Erie containing one hundred acres. [This is the lot where the Peace Bridge stands today and the adjacent park with the arch.]

In 1781 John was taken prisoner by the Americans and his furs, for trading, were confiscated. The little family fled to Canada and they are found on the Victualing List of 1785 in Fort Erie.

About 1800 John Garner Sr, aged 68 and his wife Hannah, moved to Stamford Township with his son George. In 1803 John was granted a license to operate a tavern, probably in Stamford. From 1809-1821 he was the collector for Stamford Township. Since he was literate, he seems to have acted as a paralegal. His name appears on many documents in the county of Welland.

John died between 1822 and 1830 and was buried in Lundy's Lane Cemetery in Niagara Falls. There is no stone standing for John Garner, but some of his family are buried there. (Information supplied by Donald Coombs UE)

According to Bill Smy's Annotated Roll of Butler's Rangers John Garner served in Ten Broeck's Company and was the son of Mathew Garner who served in Bradt's Company.

Ebenezer Jones UEL - 5th Great Grandfather of Marilyn Hardsand UE
Saltfleet Twp., Con VII
Lots 16 to 22, 600 acres - by Donald G. Jones

According to the Reverend Peter Jones, the family of Ebenezer was of Welsh extraction. He had immigrated to colonial New York and settled on the Hudson River. Just before the start of the Revolutionary War, Ebenezer was a tenant farmer at the estate of Beverly

Robinson, on the Albany Post Road, just north of the Westchester/Dutchess County line. This farm became known as the Glebe Farm, located about one mile south of Continental Village, or Robinson's Mills.

Ebenezer next moved across the Hudson and northward to the vicinity of Newburgh or New Windsor (present-day West Point), possibly to the Coldenham Estate owned by Cadwallader Colden II, son of the former governor of New York State. Augustus Jones, Ebenezer's son and well-known surveyor of Upper Canada, stated that he came to Upper Canada with a letter of reference from Colden to Major Campbell, Commanding Officer at Fort Niagara, attesting to "my father and family's loyalty."

In 1775 William Bayard, owner of an estate in Orange County, raised a regiment of 550 men, "The King's Orange Rangers." Ebenezer enrolled on March 5, 1777 in this unit, and was thereafter listed on the muster rolls as "recruiting in the field." In 1778, "The King's Orange Rangers" were sent to Nova Scotia on garrison duty and after the war they were disbanded there. Few of "The King's Orange Rangers" settled in Upper Canada.

The next reference to Ebenezer is on a map by Augustus Jones, showing that he died in 1791 in Saltfleet Township. Ebenezer's son, Stephen, also enlisted with the Rangers and was awarded 600 acres for his service as a "guide." Another son, David was one of the founders of Ancaster and, like his brother, had also enlisted with the Rangers.

Ebenezer and his immediate family were Crown Patentee holders of nearly 600 acres in Saltfleet and adjacent townships.



Dominion President Bonnie Schepers UE with Marilyn Hardsand UE as she receives her 2 certificates

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Dear fellow members of Hamilton Branch,

It has been most gratifying to note that so many of our members have already renewed their membership with Hamilton Branch for the 2014 calendar year. Your support in this manner is one of the ways we are able to continue the good works already in progress in making our presence visible in our community. Many exciting events are planned as we enter this 100th year of the formation of UELAC.

If you've been checking our website lately, you will have noticed that we now have two people looking after the membership duties for Hamilton Branch, and I am delighted to be working with Beverley Corsini UE (proven descendant of Loyalist Jacob Smith Sr.). Beverley's experience as a teacher and executive member of several other organizations is a great asset to our Branch and she brings her organizational skills to the handling of the Membership Committee.

Another change which has had to be dealt with, both at the Dominion and Branch level, is the revising of By-Laws, made necessary by the recent Canada Not-for Profit Corporation's Act. The most important change has been to identify everyone as a MEMBER, thus eliminating the two previous classifications of "Associate" and "Regular" membership. Now all who pay annual fees will have the privilege of voting on all matters.

Thus, it is important for 2014 fees to be received before our Annual General Meeting scheduled for February 27, 2014 when there will be a vote to accept the revision to the Branch By-Laws. Notice of these changes was circulated at our last general meeting in November and sent to members electronically at that time.

Another matter under consideration at the Dominion level deals with the future distribution of The Loyalist Gazette in a more economical manner. Please let us know if you would be open to the idea of receiving this journal online.

We like to keep in touch with our members and thank Sharon Coppins for volunteering to send appropriate cards to people with special needs or celebrations. Let us know if you or someone you know would appreciate contact.

Please check your records and if you have not already sent in your 2014 membership fees to Beverley Corsini (40 Oceanic Drive, Stoney Creek, ON L8E 4H5) you may use the form shown in the newsletter to do so. Individual membership is still \$55.00 and for families with all living under the same roof the fee is \$75.00. Donations are always much appreciated.

With appreciation from your Membership Co-chairs,

Gloria M. Oakes UE and
Beverley Corsini UE

LOYALIST CLOTHING ONLINE



You can now order a variety of clothing with the Loyalist flag or the King George III's cypher from your computer. The link is:

<http://ces.landsend.com/UELAC>



Jacob Smith Descendants: Harold Stewart, Donald Stewart, Elsie Ludlow, Judy Green, Jennifer Kitchhoefel, Gloria Pare, Clifford Strickland



October Speaker Dr. David Faux UE with Dominion President Bonnie Schepers UE

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



Ontario Grant

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



Gloria Oakes UE with Doris Reynolds UE as she receives her certificate through ancestor Samuel Welch UEL



November Speaker Author Dorothy Turcotte who spoke on the Nelles Family of Grimsby

ESSEX COUNTY BUS TRIP

July 25-26 2014

Ruth Nicholson UE



Past Dominion President Peter Johnson at the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of the Thames

Each Branch was asked to celebrate 2014 in a special way to mark the 100th Anniversary of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. We are displaying a mighty banner over Main St. West, the week of Loyalist Day in Ontario and we are offering this special road trip to my home county so that you can see a part of southern Ontario you may never have visited before. It is rich in history: Native, British, French, Black and of course, Loyalist. I have prepared a trip that will highlight a variety of cultures as well as a special geography that is only a few hours drive from your home. Join me, as an Essex County's native, in this fun and rich experience
Seating is limited.



The Tecumseh Battlefield

Friday July 25

The coach bus will depart from St. James United Church parking lot, 306 Parkside Dr., Waterdown at 7 a.m. We will visit the Fairfield Museum, The Tecumseh monument & Battlefield and Uncle Tom's Cabin before we have lunch in Chatham at The Chilled Cork. The afternoon will be spent at Point Pelee National Park where we'll visit The Interpretive Centre, take a trolley ride that lets us off on a 10 minute walk to The Point and finally go on the Marshland Trail. Supper will be at Ray's Rib House, Kingsville.

Sleeping accommodations are at The King's Hotel Inn & Suites and Adams Golden Acres Motel, in Kingsville.

Saturday July 26

Breakfast is at the 50's Diner at the Heritage Village followed by a tour of the village. We will stop at the John R. Park Homestead to see the area where the Battle



Point Pelee Marshland Boardwalk & Tower

of Lake Erie took place September 10 1813. On a clear day we can see the monument to this battle, across the lake, at Put-in-Bay Ohio. Next we visit the Hutchins' home farm, owned by my brother-in-law Scott Wilkins. He will give us a tour of his new vineyard and planned winery for 2015. The local Farmers' Market is a stone's throw away and with it is the building that houses the International Doll Museum. Lunch will be right on the lake at ViewPoint Estate Winery, part of the Loyalists' New Settlement. The afternoon will be spent at Fort Malden and the ten acre garden and parkland on the Detroit River called, The King's Navy Yard. This was the shipyard for the War



David Morris as Chief Tecumseh at 200th Anniversary of the Battle of the Thames

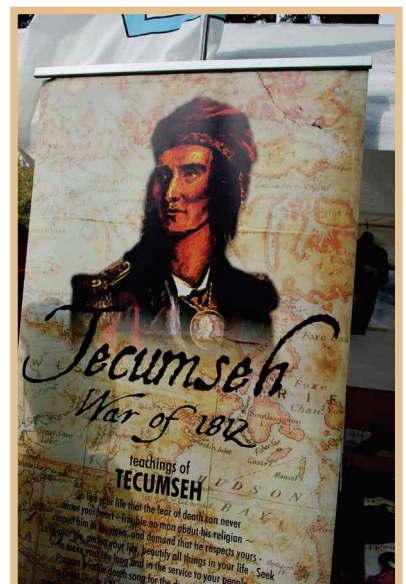
of 1812 in this area. Supper will be the Annual Fish Fry at the Amherstburg Legion and we will have an upper room to ourselves.

The coach bus is expected to return to Waterdown by 10 p.m.

Included in this trip is the transportation, all the admissions & tours, 1 breakfast, 2 lunches and the final supper. You need only pay \$20 for the meal at Ray's Rib House & Ray tells me that this includes taxes and tip.

The cost of this trip is kept as low as possible at \$220.00 double accommodation & \$265 for a single accommodation per person. A down payment of \$75.00 each is to be sent to Gloria Howard UE, 409 – 908 Mohawk Rd. E., Hamilton ON L8T 2R8.

After February 28 this trip will be opened up to other Branches and friends.



Tecumseh Poster War of 1812

JEAN RAE BAXTER & RUTH NICHOLSON EXPLORE PELEE ISLAND

by Ruth Nicholson UE



Jean Rae Baxter UE, Membership Chair Susan Hutchins UE & President Linda Iler of the BiCentennial Branch, Kingsville

Jean was invited to speak at the BiCentennial Branch meeting in Kingsville, September 21st. I always enjoy "going back home" to Essex County. Jean planned that she and I would spend two days on Pelee Island and that we would totally enjoy the island environment as we searched for the George Fox home. Jean wanted to find the log home that George Fox built. He was the son of Philip Fox UEL, her Loyalist ancestor.

The Heritage Centre was very helpful and it was directly across the road from where the ferry, The MV Jimman anchored, at the West Harbour. We picked up an historical audio tour and started exploring! I had brought steaks to grill at the Pelee Island Winery pavilion. It was a perfect day and there was a friendly family who helped us fire up the grill.



Jean & Ruth visit with teacher Richard at the Pelee Island School

As we chatted with this family and told them who we were, they were extremely interested in our early Loyalist history. They descended from old families who settled along the north shore of Lake Erie, too. Before long, emails and business cards were exchanged. I was familiar with their surname: Woodbridge. Edith Woodbridge was one of the initiators of the Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society (HEIRS) and she had helped me research my first Loyalist ancestor, Jacob Arner.

I told Don and Allan Woodbridge that I was speaking at the BiCentennial meeting



Jean Visits Home of George Fox, son of her Loyalist ancestor Philip Fox

in November and that I would keep in touch with them. Indeed, Don and Allan attended that meeting and started to learn about the Loyalists and our history. Since then, the Bi-Centennial Branch had one research workshop, held in Essex at the Essex County Historical Research Society (ECHRS) another great heritage group initiated by Linda Iler who is now the president of the Bi-Centennial Branch. Apparently no Lypps or Pigeon families have traced their Loyalist roots so the Woodbridge family will hopefully be able to connect the dots and earn their certificates through their own research.

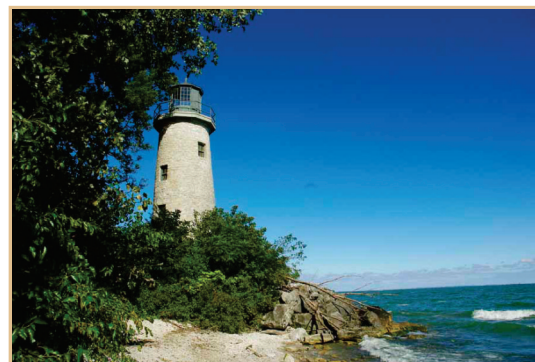
Back on Pelee Island, Jean and I did find the George Fox home, oldest wooden home on the island and so much more. The Lighthouse walk is a welcome trail. It leads to the light-



James Cummin's Monument on Pelee Island

house that was built in 1833, taken out of service in 1909 and restored in 2000. My family weaves into the McCormick family who were the first residents of the island. William McCormick gave the land for the lighthouse and he and his son, Alexander were the first lighthouse keepers. At the Heritage Centre I had taken a photo of the listing of the keepers and noticed a common surname to our Hamilton Branch: Cummins! James Cummins had the longest tenure as lighthouse keeper – from 1850-1888.

I shared this information with Past Branch President Ray Cummins and it has led to many wonderful discoveries. All the local heritage people are assisting. We've discovered that James was given a gold watch by the Canadian government for his heroics in saving captains and crew from two schooners in 1869 and 1870. Debbie Billard, owner of the B&B, "On Pelee Time", where Jean and I stayed, went out in the snow and the cold to take some photos of cemetery stones for us! It would be great if Ray could make a genealogical connection to James of Pelee Island. The sleuthing is on!



*Pelee Island Lighthouse
James Cummins was Lighthouse Keeper 1850-1888*

HISTORIC CANNONBALL FOUND BY DAVID WOODWARD AND HIS FAMILY IN 1954

by Ruth Nicholson UE

Now that David Woodward has fully retired, he is beginning to compose a book about a special find that he and his family made in 1954. The Woodward family's property was about a mile south of Bronte on a small bay off what is Burloak Park today.

Upon digging a hole for a shrub, they came upon a rusty cannon ball whose story likely goes back to the time of the Burlington Races, September 28, 1813. Author and Hamilton historian, Robert Wilkinson has discovered, through the Royal George's ship log that the British commander, James Yeo went into a little bay, close to Bronte, for ship repairs for four days. Could this be the Woodward family's bay?

More and more mysteries are being uncovered as this rusty cannon ball starts to tell its tale. We look forward to David's book to learn the whole story!



Cannon Ball



Commander Bob Williamson celebrates the 200th Anniversary of the Burlington Races – Spencer Smith Park

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE SPREADING THE LOYALIST STORY

Congratulations Jean!

Author Jean Rae Baxter UE shared this fabulous news recently:

I have just given permission for an excerpt from my novel The Way Lies North (Ronsdale Press, 2007) to be included in a workbook to be used by International Baccalaureate students, ages 11 - 12. The excerpt tells of the decision by the protagonist's family to flee their home in the Mohawk Valley following the defeat of General Burgoyne's army in the Battle of Saratoga. The excerpt is two pages long. It

will be used to develop the students' critical and research skills.

As well as being delighted to have my writing selected for this purpose, I am thrilled to know that the excerpt will be read by students worldwide. Hopefully, some of them will wish to read the whole book. Even if they don't, they will at least learn something about the Loyalists that many of them would otherwise never know.

The workbook will be published in May 2014. Thirty thousand copies will be printed.

DOMINION CONFERENCE

Celebrating 100 Years as an Association – Toronto

Go to the Dominion website
www.uelac.org
and to Events – Annual Conference
or click on the Conference logo

Thursday June 5

- Registration in the afternoon followed by membership & genealogy workshops
- Evening welcome reception

Friday June 6

- Bus tour to discover Mississauga's Loyalist Past
- Seminars given by exceptional genealogists on military records, Local history and adding social context to your stories, on-line court records, Archives of Ontario – Preserving Family Heirlooms, Ancestry.ca – Pre-confederation records and more.
- Global Genealogy will be set up for the day.
- Dinner & evening entertainment at Burwash Hall, Victoria College, U of T; music by Muddy York.

Saturday June 7

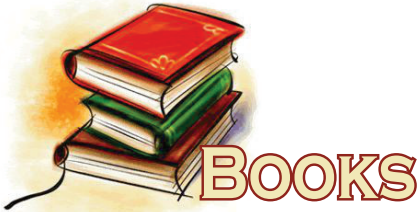
- AGM in the morning and early afternoon followed by the Council meeting
- Afternoon guided walking tour of York by Richard Fiennes-Clinton of Muddy York Walking Tours OR – On your own to discover the "Heart of Toronto"
- Dinner Gala honouring "All the Past Dominion Presidents"
- Entertainment is a concert performance "Molly of the Mohawks"

Sunday June 8

- Church service in the historic Chapel of St. Alban the Martyr, on the Royal Saint George's College Grounds, Toronto - followed by lunch at the college.

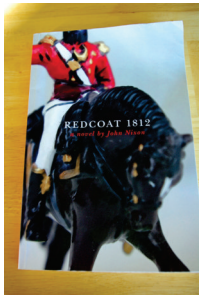
The Hamilton Branch encourages all members to take part in all or some of this amazing conference. Our own Councilor Martha Hemphill UE is the chair and she worked side by side with us while we prepared for our Dominion Conference that took place just one year ago. This conference is very close to us geographically and each conference is enriching in history, knowledge and camaraderie.

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



Redcoat 1812, by John Nixon

Review by Fred Hayward UE – From Loyalist Trails January 5th Issue



From the endless rush to master Canadian history in school, individuals remain faintly connected to events and characters. Now two years into the bicentennial of the War of 1812 commemorations, it is increasingly easier to see how wrong Thomas Jefferson was with his proclamation that the conflict would be a mere "matter of marching". There are so many anecdotes and details to discover. In an effort to recreate those tumultuous years, new authors have stepped forward to provide a fresh view of the period and the people affected by the war. In particular, John Nixon in his novel *Redcoat 1812* creates a James FitzGibbon more detailed than previously known as the officer who received the report from Laura Secord.

Readers discover James in his native Ireland shortly after he joins the 49th to fight Napoleon. From there, as if recorded in a personal journal, James shares his assignments through Holland, Lower Canada and Upper Canada well in advance of the Battle of Beaver Dams for which he is best remembered. His encounters with familiar names such as Brock, Sheaffe, Macdonell, Norton and Harvey develop a broader view of both the developing conflict and personalities known largely in history books.

In his Hamilton Spectator Book review, Jeff Mahoney was also attracted to the flow of his [Nixon's] "prose and his instincts around choices". He wrote that "Nixon's language vivifies the physical descriptions, the descriptions feed the mood, the mood feeds character and the rhythm of the action and they all coalesce

to form a cohesive, deeply convincing imitation of life, as relevant now as then." As the book jacket says, "*Redcoat 1812* is an action-filled tale of leadership, valour, duty and sacrifice that blends the best elements of *The Book of Negroes* and *The Red Badge of Courage*."

Redcoat 1812 will be added to the "Books for the Young at Heart" page in the new year. In the mean time, look for it in your local book store or library. Nixon, John *Redcoat 1812*, Victoria BC: Friesen Press Victoria BC 2012 (978-1-4602-0066-7 or as an eBook, 978-1-4602-0065-0)

The Crown and Canadian Federalism

by D. Michael Jackson

Review by Colin Morley UE, from Loyalist Trails 2013-49: December 29, 2013

As Loyalists, we have respect for our Queen and value her role in our government system. Many of us welcomed the opportunity to review the place of the Crown in our Dominion and Provincial governments provided by Nathan Tidridge in 2011 in his book *Canada's Constitutional Monarchy*. Now comes another book which explores the Crown role in Canada and other former British colonies in extensive detail in *The Crown and Canadian Federalism* authored by D. Michael Jackson. (Dundurn ISBN 978-1459709881 \$27.99 (Can.)). Mr. Jackson writes with the benefit of much personal experience, especially in his home province of Saskatchewan.

In tracing the establishment of Canada's governing system, Mr. Jackson points out that by 1759 when Britain conquered New France "Kings or Queens reigned but did not rule". He then notes that whereas "American democracy revolted against the Crown, Canadian democracy evolved with the Crown". The book goes on to revisit the Confederation history with special attention to the role of Sir John A. Macdonald. Macdonald favored a dominant federal government headed by a reigning monarch. The author includes a quotation of Macdonald speaking in the Legislative Assembly of Canada in 1865 which concludes with the following:

"By adhering to the monarchical principle, we avoid one defect inherent in the constitution of the United States.

By election of the president by a majority and for a short period, he never is the sovereign and chief of the nation. He is never looked up to by the whole people as the head and front of the nation. He is at best but the successful leader of a party." (Me thinks that kind of rings a bell today.)

Having covered the establishment of our "Canadian Federalism", the author proceeds to review how it has worked out. One subject covered in detail is the exercise of discretionary power by the Governor General. Dating back to my days studying political science in university, I have always been intrigued by the "Byng King Affair" when Governor General Byng declined to dissolve Parliament (for an election) as requested by Prime Minister Mackenzie King. It's all in the book along with the development of control over honour awards, division of authority between Dominion and Provincial Governments over subjects not considered at Confederation like airways, unemployment insurance, inflation and the role of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Throughout this review can be seen an ongoing decline in Federal authority as envisaged by Sir John A. Macdonald.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the book, at least to me, is that outlining in detail the history of the relationship between Federal Governments and the Governors General and between Provincial Governments and their Lieutenant Governors. Given that Lieutenant Governors are often appointed on the advice of a Federal Government of a political party different than the party in power in the Province, there has often resulted a difficult relationship. This can be especially awkward when the Lieutenant Governor is a former politician who was a member of a different political party than that of the current Provincial Government. Another area of interest, if not of concern to Loyalists, is the ongoing attempt to broaden the roles of the Governors General and the Lieutenant Governors at the expense of that of the Queen. There is some comfort in the fact that laterally there has been some reversal in that trend.

I commend this book to anyone who has an interest in our monarchy, our political system and our country's history.

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. 27** AGM meeting with guest speaker Anne Jarvis – Eenerals Griffin, Black Resident of Ancaster
- March 27** Guest speaker Beth Mills – Mrs. Fessenden, Originator of Empire Day
- April 5** Central West Regional Meeting at Westmount Library, Wonderland Rd. London 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. All are welcome. \$5.00 charge at door.
- April 24** Guest speaker Past Dominion President Robert McBride – The DeCou Family & the Laura Secord Story
- May 25** Annual Picnic – Chiefswood Park & the Pauline Johnson Home, Brantford
- June 19** Loyalist Day Ceremony at Prince's Square, Hamilton
- July 25-26** Essex County Bus Trip – contact Gloria Howard or Ruth Nicholson
- Oct. 23** Guest speaker & author John McDonald – Halton Sketches

UELAC Dominion Conference - A Centennial Celebration 1914-UELAC-2014-Toronto

- June 5 to 8** Eaton Chelsea Hotel, 33 Gerrard St. W, Toronto Tel: 416-595-1975
Quote "United Empire Loyalists' Conference"; reserve by May 5th
Link through the Dominion website www.uelac.org and then go to Events - Annual Conference or go to the Toronto Branch website for the conference

OTHER EVENTS:

Heritage Days 2014

- Feb. 1** Burlington Heritage Day at Burlington Central Library, 2331 New St. Burlington
We will have our display present. The theme is 1914".
- Feb. 22** Hamilton Heritage Day in the City Hall Council Chambers with Award Ceremony starting at 11 a.m.

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

- Feb. 28** Samuel Smith – The Unknown Sentry. Speaker – Melanie Blum
- March 28** Pathways to Peace – Project Update. Speaker – Linda Stanley
- April 25** Noose, Knife, Fire & Plough – Ancaster & the War of 1812. Speaker – Lois Carey

Burlington Historical Society - Burlington Central Library, 2331 New St. Burlington at 7 p.m.

- Feb. 10** The Flight of the Silver Dart by My Grandfather. Speaker – Col. Gerald Haddon
- March 10** Whiskey & Wickedness in Halton. Speaker – Larry Cotton
- April 14** The Battle of Ridgeway. Speaker – Professor Peter Vronsky

Dundas Valley Historical Society

Council Chambers of Old Town Hall, 60 Main St. at 7:30 p.m. \$3.00 admission

- Feb. 12** The Social Life of a Small Urban Cemetery, Grove Cemetery. Speaker – Stan Nowak
- March 12** An Illustrated Archaeo-Botany of Canada – an overview. Speaker – Rudy Fesceau

Flamborough Heritage Association

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

- Feb. 28** Life & Times of Senator Wm. Eli Sanford & the Jackson Families & How They Transformed Hamilton into an Industrial Centre in the Late 19th Century. Speaker – Paul Grimwood UE
- April 25** Celebrating Westfield Village's 50th Anniversary

Head-of-the-Lake Society - Coach House at Dundurn Castle at 7:30 p.m.

- April 11** Ron Brown shares his most recent research.

Oakville Historical Society

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

- Feb. 19** History of Canadian Aviation. Speaker – Hon. Col. Gerald Haddon
- April 16** Winston Churchill & Mackenzie King. Author – Terry Reardon
- May 21** Settlement – Challenges in Writing Historical Fiction. Author – Ann Birch

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The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada



**Hamilton Branch
Membership Dues for 2014**

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Send to: Membership Co-Chair, Beverley Corsini, 40 Oceanic Drive, Stoney Creek, ON, L8E 4H5

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2014:

- 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
- Dues for "other Branch" family: \$20.00

- Donation to Branch (payable to UELAC) receipt available
Enclosed \$.....

TOTAL \$ _____