



THE

HAMILTON LOYALIST

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



Volume XIV #3 November 2015

"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."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE PAT BLACKBURN UE

I am reviewing below the Summer Outreach activities in which a number of our Hamilton Branch members participated. Thank you to all who volunteered and willingly said 'Yes' when called to duty.



President Pat Blackburn at Joseph Brant Day, Burlington

We try to involve many new members in these activities. We feel outreach is a good start for new members to take part in the Branch, as they meet others, become familiar with Loyalist history as well as sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm with the public.



Gloria Howard & Anne Young at Joseph Brant Day, Burlington

Another way for new members to jump into the Branch activities is to assist with regular duties at the general meetings. It could be handing out agendas, welcoming those entering the room, setting up chairs or helping in the kitchen. As each one participates a feeling of belonging takes place and a small community is formed.



Ann Redish & Pat Blackburn at Battlefield Park, Stoney Creek

Outreach Activities Beginning June 2015:

The branch participated in the day set aside for Grades 7 and 8 public schools to attend the Re-enactment of the War of 1812, Battle of Stoney Creek. Our new exhibit board was on display that depicts UEL history and branch activities. Two tables of artifacts, from our in-school presentations, were set up for viewing and interaction. Schools and their teachers visited Battlefield Park from as far away as Niagara and Mississauga. There were approximately 1,400 students. Bev Corsini, Frank Rupert, Marty and Jeannette Fitzpatrick and Ann Redish from the Kingston Branch helped me with the display.

For three weeks in June, our Branch UEL street banner (40 ft. vinyl) was displayed over the main street in Dundas, Ontario: all who drove under could view it. It is a good advertisement for our Loyalist Day ceremony. The main purpose is to have this banner flying on June 19th, Loyalists' Day in Ontario.

IN THIS ISSUE...

2. Loyalist Burial Plaquing
3. Stephen Secord & Hannah DeForest
Our Ancestors
4. Crawford Lake
5. Isaac Corman Plaquing Ceremony
6. Magna Carta 2015
The Story of Us
Davis Home
7. Bois Blanc Island Blockhouse
8. Trip to Pelee Island
Honouring Queen Elizabeth II's Reign
9. Books
10. Dominion Conference 2016
11. Events

June 19th. The Branch held its Loyalists' Day ceremony at the Hamilton Art Gallery with local politicians, historical society executive and City of Hamilton officials being present. The Gallery holds the maquette of the Loyalist Monument and we were privileged to have this small statue on view for our ceremony. Our event was advertised in the local newspapers and anyone could attend. There were approximately 50 attendees to hear Robin McKee, local historian, give his well-researched and interesting address for the day.

July 26th was the date for our Branch picnic. The place selected this year was Crawford Lake Conservation Area where Iroquoian (Haudenosaunee) longhouses were reconstructed on their original locations. It was a beautiful day, ending with a pot luck supper in the Interpretation Centre. I offer a special thank you to everyone who attended.

August 3rd. Each year our Hamilton Branch has an outreach activity for Joseph Brant Day, held at LaSalle Park, in Burlington. The exhibit was set up on the stage area of the Pavilion and visited by numerous people. The children enjoyed playing with wooden toys resembling those from years ago.

August 3rd is also George Hamilton Day, namesake of Hamilton Ontario and ancestor of one of the Hamilton Branch members, David Ricketts UE. Each year the Committee selects a well-known Hamiltonian. This year it was Rapid Ray Lewis who has a PanAm connection for Hamilton. The ceremony was held at the Canadian Football Hall of Fame.

The summer ended with a plaquing ceremony in Milton, Ontario. I will let Doug Coppins outline the day.



Pat Blackburn at Battlefield Park with visiting students

Our Fall session is just beginning and I would like to extend a welcome to our regular members and hope that this newsletter reaches any others who would like to be involved with UELAC. The speakers are very informative. There is not a meeting that someone does not tell me they really enjoyed listening to the speaker.

Come out and socialize at the Christmas Luncheon on December 5th. A full turkey dinner is on the menu and "pies".

LOYALIST BURIAL PLAQUING COMMITTEE REPORT

Doug Coppins UE & Sharon Coppins UE



On a sunny Saturday August 29, 2015 at 2pm, the Loyalist Burial Plaquing Committee of the Hamilton Branch of the UELAC unveiled their eleventh plaque at the DeForest Pioneer Cemetery to commemorate Loyalist Abraham DeForest, who is buried there. The cemetery is located at the corner of Walkers Line & Derry Road, Milton, Ontario. The cemetery has been restored by the Town of Milton, and the headstone of Abraham DeForest was placed back in the cemetery.

The unveiling was received by the 65 plus guests who signed the guestbook. Among these guests were members of the Hamilton Branch, MP Lisa Raitt, Town of Milton

Mayor Gordon Krantz, Town of Milton representative Mike Dunstall & his wife, various descendants of Abraham DeForest, members of Milton Historical Society and other historical societies. The MPP for Halton, Indira Naidoo-Harris sent greetings, as she could not attend. There had to be at least 30 members of the DeForest family in attendance.

Ruth Nicholson UE, opened our ceremony with the Royal Anthem. The plaque was unveiled by Doug Coppins UE. Colin Morley UE read the Loyalist Prayer.

Sandra DeForest, who is the wife of a DeForest descendant, told the DeForest story. Pat Blackburn UE, President of Hamilton Branch, noted various DeForest descendants in the crowd. In closing, Rev. Shawn Croll, Milton, gave us a prayer. Ruth Nicholson UE, closed our ceremony with O Canada.



DeForest Cemetery Doug Coppins leads the ceremony

Refreshments were served by Sharon Coppins UE and Marilyn Hardsand UE. Pictures were taken.



DeForest Cemetery Descendants



Plaquing committee: Ruth Nicholson, Pat Blackburn, Marilyn Hardsand, Colin Morley, Sharon & Doug Coppins

THE STEPHEN SECORD AND HANNAH DEFOREST FAMILY

By Mitchell Leitch UE

Stephen SECORD (1757-1808) was born in New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York, USA, son of James Secord and Madelaine BADEAU. The Secord family was living in the Susquehanna Valley of Pennsylvania when the American Revolution broke out in 1775. Stephen was serving in the Indian Department and was only 20 years old when he joined the volunteer group known as Butler's Rangers, led by Colonel John Butler. By the time the war ended, Stephen had become a Sergeant.

His mother, Madelaine, traveled the 350 miles from Northern Pennsylvania to Montreal, Quebec with a group of other Loyalist women and children to save her own life as well as that of her younger children who were not fighting in the war. One of those children was Stephen's younger brother, James, who would marry an INGERSOLL girl named Laura who became known as Laura Secord. Stephen eventually reunited with his family in Montreal when his regiment was disbanded. It was here that he met his wife, Hannah DEFOREST (1767-1841), whose father had also fought, and died, in the Revolutionary War. As families were reunited, settlement began in the new country – the Secords pioneered in the Niagara District, later to become Ontario. Stephen drew Lots 41, 48 and 49 in No. 1 Township. In 1797, he was granted an additional 100 acres to complete his military allotment of land.

In peacetime, Stephen Secord was a miller. His job of grinding the locally grown wheat would help to feed the men at the British fort in the area, Fort George, as well as feed the rapidly growing settlement. In 1783, he was elected to be an Overseer of Highway and Fence Viewers for Newark Township.

Both Stephen and his wife are buried in the Warner Burying Ground, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (two miles from St. David's). If you know where to look, you can see this cemetery on the north side of the QEW as you speed by.

Stephen Secord and Hannah Deforest had 10 children—Mary (1785), James (1787), David (1790), Elizabeth (1793), Magdalen (1795), William (1797), Richard (1799), Stephen (1801), Ann (1803) and Samuel (1805)—all of who lived and died in the Southern Ontario area.



Donald Stewart with certificates for grandchildren Bradley, Katie, Amanda & Christine Stewart

Loyalist James Stewart UEL by Descendant Donald Stewart UE

James Milton Vernon Stewart was born in Alva Clackmannanshire, Scotland in 1726. He came to New Jersey as a young boy before the Battle of Culloden in 1746. His wife was born and raised along the Susquehanna River area of New York. The couple settled on a small farm in Westfield, New Jersey about seven miles west of Elizabethtown in Essex County, New York.

In 1772, due to the early hostilities with the British, the family moved to a small farm in Minisink, Orange County, New York. James and his son Joseph signed the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Rebels in Goshen. Joseph had three tours of duty in the Rebel army in southern New York. James remained at the farm in Minisink until Governor James Graves Simcoe offered Crown Land Grants to the Simcoe Loyalists.

In 1774 James brought his family to Upper Canada and resided at St. Davids, close to Niagara Falls. His son Joseph remained on the farm in Minisink. His family remained on this family farm until the 1960's when his grandson Edward Adelbert Stewart died in 1961. This branch of the Stewart family remains in this town and the surrounding area. The rest of the family is in Ontario.

Simcoe granted the family 1,900 acres between 1797 and 1809. In 1793 James had petitioned for land as a Loyalist. He received 400 acres and 200 for each child and 200 acres for a William Stewart who may have been James' grandson. Later, William Stewart forfeited his land for fighting on the American side during the War of 1812.

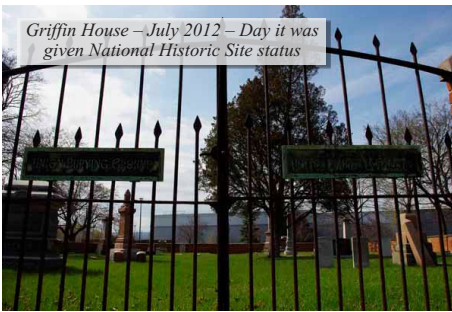
When the War of 1812 broke out James son, Enoch served with the Royal Artillery on the British side. He died in 1813 of disease. At the end of the war, James' son Benjamin took up residence on his land grant. The 1828, the census of Rainham, Haldimand County, showed Enoch's son,

Thomas Davis - UEL by Sharon Clement UE, Castlegar, B.C.

The Davis family was originally from Wales. It is believed that Thomas Davis Sr, born circa 1708 had two daughters and five sons. Their one son, Robert was my ancestor and fourth great grandfather. He was born about 1735 in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1757 Robert married Jane Latta in New Castle, Delaware.

During the American Revolution Robert and his brothers John and William fought with the British Legion which was also known as the 5th American Regiment. The October to December 1781 Muster Roll of Captain Jacob James's Troop of Hussars of the British Legion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton, showed that William and Robert were taken prisoner at the Battle of Cowpens in South Carolina on January 17th 1781. Although John was with a different troop, it appears he was also taken prisoner that day

General Cornwallis made the William Davis plantation his headquarters during the British invasion of North Carolina. When Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington, the Patriots overran the Davis plantation and all that remained of the



beautiful home was a mass of unsightly ruins. William and his wife, the former Hannah Phillips, then retreated to her parents' home in Yorktown, Virginia. It is believed the Phillips' home served as the headquarters of British Lieutenant John Graves Simcoe who later became the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada.

Robert and his wife Jane had a large plantation there in Orange County, North Carolina but much of it was confiscated during the war. They had four sons, John, Robert, Thomas, and James, and a daughter with the unusual name of Edywick. One of those sons, Thomas Davis, was my direct Loyalist ancestor.

Thomas Davis, the third son of Robert and Jane was born on May 4, 1764 at Forrester's Creek, Orange County, North Carolina. In 1786, at the age of 21, Thomas married Deborah Hall and the first three of their twelve children were born in North Carolina. Then in the spring of 1790 they left Orange County and made the 800 mile trek to Upper Canada, arriving in Niagara on July 25, 1790. Thomas applied to Colonel Butler for a grant of land and received 100 acres in Barton Township, Wentworth County which is now on the southern edge of the present city of Hamilton. Thomas had been the first to arrive in Upper Canada and his uncle, William Alexander Davis, followed with his family two years later in 1792. Then the rest of the Davis families arrived in 1794. At this time Thomas again petitioned the government for a further grant of land and he received another 200 acres in Saltfleet Township near Stoney Creek, east of Hamilton. His mother Jane was allowed 200 acres and the same amount for each of her children. Thomas was given 533 acres by the government and then he accumulated more by purchase.*

John Davis, with assistance from his brothers Robert and Thomas, built and ran a grist mill, a sawmill, and also operated two stills in Norfolk County. All three

brothers served as Grand Jurors of the London District Court at Charlotteville.

Thomas Davis was living at Simcoe at the outbreak of the War of 1812. He had a contract to supply flour from his mills to the Canadian troops. On Feb. 21, 1812 he received the commission of Lieutenant of the 2nd Regiment of the Lincoln Militia. His three eldest sons served with the Canadian forces and two of them, Robert and James, served with Brock at the fall of Detroit in August of 1812. Besides payroll lists, a quote from *"The History of Elkhorn Valley"* indicated that Thomas "loaned money to the Canadian Government to carry on the War of 1812". During the War of 1812, General McArthur marched on the town of Simcoe, taking prisoners and burning valuable mills along the way. The Davis grist mill was amongst those reduced to ruins.

Between 1791 and 1807, nine more children were born to Thomas and Deborah. Sometime shortly after the birth of their 12th child in 1807, Deborah passed away. Then around 1812 Thomas married a second time and had four more children. However, his second marriage was not a happy one. Thomas died in Barton Township in 1822.

Thomas had fathered a total of 16 children who in turn provided Thomas with 118

grandchildren. Of his 16 children, the last to die was Pamela in 1913, nearly 123 years after her father's 1790 arrival in Upper Canada from North Carolina.

Thomas' fourth son was my great, great grandfather, Captain John Davis who was born in 1803 in Wentworth County and died in Toronto in 1901 shortly before his 98th birthday. In keeping with family military tradition, John served in 1837 and 1866 with the home guard. John and his wife Hannah Burkholder had 6 children, his eldest daughter Mary Ann Davis (born in Hamilton in 1837) being my great grandmother.

With the Davis estate of "Harmony Hall" Mount Albion, now being the site of the Glendale Golf and Country Club at Hamilton, and the Davis name inscribed on one of two bronze panels on the United Empire Loyalist Statue outside the courthouse, my third great grandfather Thomas and his entire family bear a familiar Loyalist name in Hamilton.

Sources:

Much information contained here has been taken with thanks from *"The Davis Family of Norfolk County"* by James Stengel

* Also reference to land grants was found in *"The Long Point Settlers Journal"* Vol.3 No.1 - *The North Carolina Loyalists"* by R. Robert Mutrie

CRAWFORD LAKE



PLAQUING CEREMONY

War of 1812 Plaque for Private Isaac Corman

Saturday August 22, 2015 at 11:00 am.



Isaac Corman burial marker

A plaquing ceremony was organized, by Brenda Denyes UE, 3rd great granddaughter of Isaac Corman for Private Isaac Corman (War of 1812) whose burial site is in the Stoney Creek Memorial Cemetery. Some attendees came in period dress, in support and recognition of a hero in the War of 1812. There was also social time at Battlefield Museum after the ceremony.

Isaac Corman is known for giving the password to his brother-in-law William Green during the Battle of Stoney Creek, who in turn gave it to General Harvey.

Isaac CORMAN was born in 1777 and married in 1763 in Frederick, Maryland. The Cormans lived in Maryland on a 700 acre tract until the Revolution. They moved to British Kentucky until the hostilities reached there. Then they moved onto Pennsylvania and eventually to Canada in 1792.

During the Battle of Stoney Creek, the attack left the battlefield strewn with American dead and wounded. Isaac CORMAN, his brother-in-laws, Billy GREEN, and John YEAGER were among the settlers who cleared the battlefield and buried the dead.

Abraham CORMAN (1823-1912) scribed his father Isaac's story of his actions during the Battle of Stoney Creek on the 5th and 6th of June, 1813. That story is in the Hamilton Library and is extracted below:

"Isaac CORMAN was working on setting fence posts on his farm, near the road from Burlington Heights to Niagara, when he was arrested by Yankee soldiers on the 5th of June, 1813. "When we heard them [Yankees] going through the Creek we all went out on the hill to see them. Some of them spied us and fired, one ball struck the bars where Teenie (writer's note - Levi GREEN's wife Christina COOK) was sitting holding Hannah [GREEN] on her arm. We all went back on the mountain to one of Jim STONY's old trapping huts. Teenie went to the house. After a little while two officers came up and asked her if she had seen some Indians around there. She said there was a band back on the mountain. They left and Teenie came out where we were hid and whistled, I [Billy GREEN] answered. I told her I would go down to Isaac's. When I got there I whistled and out came Kezi (Billy's sister and Isaac CORMAN's wife). I asked where Isaac was and she said they had taken him prisoner and taken the trail to the Beach (writer's note - where 2 regiments of Yankees were stationed). I wanted to know



Corman family at Veteran 1812 plaquing

how she knew. She said Alph (writer's note - Isaac's son) had followed them to the swamp. Where is Alph? In the cellar with Becca and Kezi. I went down and he told me where to go. I started and ran, every now and then I would whistle until I got across the Creek when I heard Isaac hoot like an owl. I thought they had him there but he was coming back. I was going to raise an Indian war whoop and scare them when I saw Isaac coming. I asked how he got away. He said their major and he got a talking and said he was a second cousin to HARRISON (writer's note - General William Henry HARRISON). I said I was a first cousin. After talking a little longer a message came for him. He said I must go, you may go home. Isaac said "But I can't get through the lines. I will give you the countersign" and he did. That countersign was Wil-Hen-Har, which Isaac passed on to Billy GREEN who rode to Albion Mills



and then descended the escarpment to Burlington Heights to give it to General VINCENT. The Yankees, having realized their terrible indiscretion in releasing the countersign, sent five soldiers to the CORMAN farm and held Isaac and his family hostage through the night of the 5th and into the 6th of June. At the coming of the British night attack on the American camp, on the 6th, and the routing of the Yankees, the soldiers fled the CORMAN house leaving behind a number of personal articles."

Isaac is commemorated on a monument that was placed in the Stoney Creek Municipal Cemetery in 1938. He died 1863 in Stoney Creek at age 86 years.

Some of our local Loyalists in attendance were Pat Blackburn, Marilyn Hardsand, Doug & Judy Green and Rod & Bev Craig.

Men's Outfit for Sale



Previously worn by Ken Bennett UE
Size 42 jacket Pant waist - 42"

Tricorn hat - size 7 1/2
Asking price is \$80.00 as a donation to our branch from Dorothy Bennett.

To view please contact - Ruth Nicholson at 905 689 7554

To purchase make cheque out to: Hamilton Branch UELAC & in the memo section state "donation from Dorothy Bennett"

Mailing address (our treasurer):
Gloria Howard, 409 - 908 Mohawk Rd. E., Hamilton, ON L8T 2R8

MAGNA CARTA 1215 - OTTAWA SEPT 26 2015 CELEBRATION OF THE 800TH ANNIVERSARY

Marilyn Hardsand UE

13th cousin 21 X removed through John Plantagenet, King of England

During the week of September 24 – 26th I went on a trip, with a few good friends to see Ottawa. We toured the Parliament Buildings, tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Mill Street Brewery, Museum of War, the Canadian Mint (twice) and lastly over to Hull, to see the Museum of History. We saved the best for last, the Magna Carta! This year the Magna Carta is having its 800th Birthday and is going on tour, across Canada.

It all began with, John PLANTAGENET, King of England, who was born at Beaumont Palace, Oxford, England. He was the youngest son, of King Henry II of England, and his wife, Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine. He was known as the evil Prince John, in the tales of Robin Hood, and became King John I of England. War needed finance, and John became increasingly ruthless in levying taxes, and exploiting rights, which in turn led to civil discontent, and rebellion by the English barons. After the barons seized London, John was forced to sign the Magna Carta in 1215, but it failed to stop civil war.

The Magna Carta is also called "the Great Charter of Liberties". It was first drafted in June 15, 1215 by the Archbishop of Canterbury to make peace between the unpopular King John of England and the land barons of the time. It promised the protection of church rights, protection for the barons from illegal imprisonment, access to swift justice, and limitations on payments to the Crown, to be implemented through a council of 25 barons.

This charter became part of English political life, and was typically renewed by each monarch. At the end of the 16th century there was an upsurge in interest in the Magna Carta. Lawyers and historians at the time believed that there was an ancient English constitution, going back to the days that protected individual English freedoms.

It influenced the early American colonists, in the Thirteen Colonies, and the formation of the American Constitution in 1787, which became the supreme law of the land,



in the new republic of the United States.

The Magna Carta still forms an important symbol of liberty today, often cited by politicians and campaigners, and is held in great respect by the British and American legal communities, often being described as "the greatest constitutional document of all times".

Today in the 21st century, four copies of the original

1215 charter remain in existence, being held by the British Library and the cathedrals of Lincoln and Salisbury. There are also a handful of the subsequent charters in public and private ownership, including copies of the 1297 charter in both the United States and Australia. The original charters were written on parchment, using quill pens, in heavy Medieval Latin, which was the convention for legal documents at that time. Each was sealed with the royal seal, made of beeswax and sealing wax.

The four original 1215 charters were displayed together at the British Library for one day, 3 February 2015, to mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta.

No one is above the law!

FUTURE CBC PROGRAM: THE STORY OF US - CANADA

The Orser Family will be featured in one episode thanks to member, David Woodward UE. A CBC researcher, Nora Pratt contacted David Woodward to find out more about the Orser Loyalist family. She was intrigued as to why a non-British person/family would want to be loyal to the English king. The Orser family were originally Dutch, going back to the first immigration to the U.S.A. when New York was named New Amsterdam. David sent lots of material to Nora and her reply is below:

David,

It was a very helpful interaction for me. The Orser story will feature in Episode 2 of the 10 Episode series, "The Story of Us - Canada". Shooting for the series begins this summer. But it will be carried out over quite a long period of time, in order to get winter scenes shot as well. We have no idea of an air date at this point, but it will be on the CBC, and will doubtless be well publicized in advance.

We hope you enjoy it.

*Best regards,
Nora*

A DAVIS HOME IN BURLINGTON

Ruth Nicholson UE

Ashahel Davis, William Davis' son, had a large home built on Plains Road, Burlington that still stands today. He had eight children with his first wife, Nancy Morden. After her death he married the widow, Hannah Bates. They had more children so this large home was filled with life.



These family members are buried at the Union Cemetery, Plains Road, Burlington. This was the first cemetery that our Hamilton Branch plaqued, recognizing it as the burial location of William Davis UEL and Thomas Ghent UEL.

BOIS BLANC (BOB-LO) ISLAND BLOCKHOUSE

Ruth Nicholson UE



Blockhouse & Ruth Nicholson

If you were with me for our Loyalist bus trip in July of 2014 you were immersed in the rich history of Essex and Kent Counties. I'm so pleased to hear that several members have returned to explore these places at their leisure and they know where to stay!

Of course, I couldn't show you everything there is to see in just two days. I hope to entice you to return to this most southern part of Canada, on your own. My sister, Susan Hutchins UE and I visited a very significant heritage feature this summer. It is the restored block house on Bois Blanc Island. The ferry leaves from Amherstburg and takes about 15 minutes to cross the Detroit River. This island was an amusement park for decades. Now it is a gated community of mainly wealthy Americans. If you want to visit the blockhouse you just get a day pass and it's no problem. The ferry rate for a car is \$20.00.

Retired, local elementary school teacher, Bill Brundage worked for four years to reconstruct the old blockhouse. It was all done through private money and a lot of love, skill and patience.

Susan and I went over to the island during an "Open Doors Amherstburg" weekend. The ferry ride was free that day and Bill was the hosting curator. The building was in



Blockhouse in 1903



Lighthouse nearby

complete collapse four years ago and much research as well as archeological digging went into the re-assembling of this interesting building.

Originally there were three blockhouses on the island, all built during the time of the Rebellion of 1837. One was incorporated into a private home and one was set on fire July 1st 1867 to celebrate the beginning of Canada. There were no



Blockhouse view of Amherstburg from Bois Blanc Island

fireworks readily available at that time so people set fires during celebrations!

The blockhouse was originally built of white oak, square-cut logs. Similar logs were brought in from Northern Ontario. Gun slits were cut into the walls on all four sides. A second floor was the sleeping quarters and it had murder slits cut into the floor that allowed occupants to shoot down at intruders.

There are displays of broken pottery, cutlery pipes, arrow heads, rifle flints, buttons, bone needles and much more. All these items were found during the excavation.

The blockhouse is open to visitors every Sunday from May to November. Bill



Blockhouse curator Bill Brundage & his wife Brenda

Brundage will be there to welcome you between 1 and 5 p.m. It is free but donations are always accepted.

This island was an amusement park from 1898-1993. You can still wander freely in the old abandoned amusement park and see the decaying buildings, the platforms where people would come to visit by the hoards from Detroit and Canada. If you Google this topic you can see several videos of the ghostly remains of this area today. My parents remembered attending dances in the large building, the dance hall in the '30's. The Amherstburg high school kids were employed every summer, running the games, rides and concessions. I took my children to the park when they were young and we circled the island on the little train ride, as I had done many times with my parents, going past the blockhouse and the lighthouse, always inquisitive about how and why they were there. Big amusement parks drew the big crowds eventually and that was the end of Bob-lo Island so we are working at returning the island's original name, Bois Blanc Island-much more respectful I think.

Are you intrigued? I hope so. There is so much to discover.



Blockhouse interior with Susan Hutchins

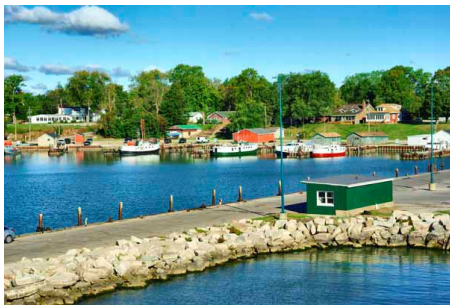
TRIP TO PEELEE ISLAND

Colin Morley UE

With Ruth Nicholson's photo book in hand, from her visit, in company with Jean Rae Baxter to Pelee Island, Marilyn and I arrived early at the Kingsville dock. This was our second return visit to the area, our interest having started with the Hamilton Branch tour, arranged by Ruth last year.

Unfortunately the ferry to Pelee Island was delayed due to a damaged propeller. No one knew the reason for the hold up and so we waited for two hours for it to arrive. Once on board, everything did improve: a warm drink from the cafeteria, a walk around the ship and a comfortable chair on the open deck to enjoy the glorious sunshine. The cruise took an hour and a half and then we were back in our car.

Since it was the fall season, there was little traffic on Pelee Island during our visit. We



leisurely traveled the coastal road, taking in the land and lake scenery, with occasional stops for a photo op. It is truly a treasure of an island.

We shopped at the art and souvenir shop and bought some wine at the Pelee Island Winery. There is a vast area at the back of the winery, with numerous picnic tables and gas barbeques for anyone to use.



The Jimaan Ferry to Pelee Island

We did go past the Hunt Club and the pheasant farm, near the centre of the island. The pheasants were released from their cages at this time of year and we saw them crossing the road in groups. The annual pheasant hunt is one of the tourism attractions the island offers.

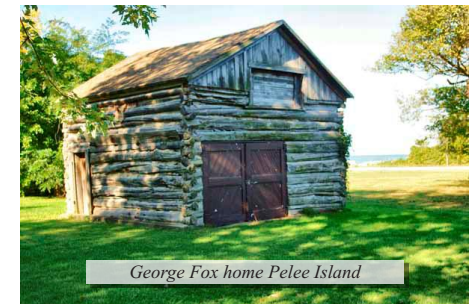
We did make a special stop to see the George Fox home, Loyalist ancestor of Jean Rae Baxter. It is the oldest wooden home on the island. His first house looks like a two story garage. It housed the family upstairs while the animals stayed downstairs and the



heat from their bodies assisted in warming the living space above.

The day went quickly with our late start from Kingsville. The voyage back was pure pleasure. We enjoyed the warm sun on the deck and the calm waters surrounding us.

Back in Kingsville we enjoyed the local Legion's Friday fish dinner. Then we slipped back to the Adam's Golden Acres Motel for our second sound night of sleep. We knew this location, once again, due to last year's bus trip. All in all a very pleasant and leisurely visit to south-western Ontario.



George Fox home Pelee Island

HAMILTON BRANCH HONOURS QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S HISTORIC REIGN

Ruth Nicholson UE



Nathan Tidridge at podium, Rick Hill of Six Nations, Sergeant-at-Arms, Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell & Sophie Tidridge

On Wednesday, September 9th, 2016 Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, advanced her reign beyond that of her great grandmother Queen Victoria (1837-1901) of 63 years 7 months. It is the longest reign of a British monarch in the modern era.

Nathan Tidridge, Waterdown High School history teacher, historian and author led Waterdown in a unique and wonderful tribute. He had a beautiful, black granite bench created for the centre of town, at Memorial Park. The front is inscribed, listing significant contributions Queen Elizabeth has made to Canada and the back has the donor's names. Hamilton Branch UELAC were proud to be one of the listed donors.

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell unveiled the bench after giving a wonderful speech about Queen Elizabeth and how she is a very humble person, just scheduling a regular day today. She was very pleased to see this wonderful recognition to our Queen Elizabeth II.

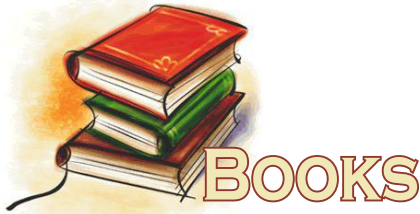


Queen's Bench - back view

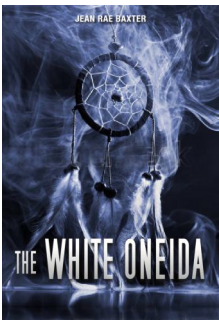
Rick Hill of the Six Nations also gave a speech and was very happy to be part of this occasion.

Nathan Tidridge's daughter, Sophie presented the Governor General with flowers.

Approximately one hundred attended this event including several members of our branch.



Loyalist Novel a Finalist for Hamilton Arts Council 2015 Literary Award.



Hamilton Branch member Jean Rae Baxter's *The White Oneida* is one of the three finalists for the Hamilton Arts Council's 2015 Fiction Award. This young adult novel is the fourth in the loosely linked "Forging a Nation"

series set during and after the American War of Independence. In all of these novels, great care is taken with the accurate representation of historical figures and events. Jean's historical novels have earned a reputation for careful research.

Set in 1785, *The White Oneida* focuses on the dawning recognition by native leaders like Joseph Brant of the need for the tribes and nations to form a confederacy to fight to retain their lands in the face of aggressive white settlement. This was a struggle that occupied the final two decades of Brant's life. The young Tecumseh, whose life was dedicated to the same goal, is introduced as a young warrior, along with his visionary younger brother, who later became known as The Prophet. Both Joseph Brant and Tecumseh have a role to play in the story of the White Oneida, the novel's title character, who was white by birth and Oneida by adoption.

Jean's fifth novel in the series, *Hope's Journey*, was released in the fall of 2015. It will be eligible for the 2016 literary awards.



Jean Rae Baxter speaking at Colonel John Butler meeting in November

Jean's historical novels have won awards in both Canada and the United States. The first in the series, *The Way Lies North*, won the award for Young Adult Fiction (now discontinued) in 2008.

The 2015 awards ceremony will be held at Theatre Aquarius, 190 King William Street, on Tuesday December 8. The doors open at 7:00, the ceremony starting at 7:30 p.m. This will be the 22nd year of the annual Hamilton Literacy Awards.

THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS CHARITABLE TRUST

The United Empire Loyalists Charitable Trust is a registered charity under Canada Revenue Agency regulations.

(BN: 108102690RR0002)

There are many ways that you as an individual can support the UELAC. It is remarkable how a simple donation can help the Association achieve its vision, across Canada. You can make a difference by donating today. A donation of any amount will help our vital work and be directed where it is needed most.

You can give a donation to support our work or you can request that your contribution be used specifically to support Dominion or Branch projects, activities or Funds. A charitable donation receipt will be provided for taxation purposes.

For further information about donations, please contact donation@uelac.org.

Hamilton Branch Charitable Donations

Donations can also be made to our Hamilton Branch to support our outreach activities such as our many school visits and to purchase signage for our Loyalist Burial Sites.

Please send Branch donations to our treasurer, Gloria Howard at Unit 409, 905 Mohawk Rd. E., Hamilton, ON L8T 2R8

McMaster University Scholarship Fund

We also support our history through a McMaster Scholarship that goes directly to post graduate studies. Our October speaker, Tim Compeau was one such recipient. Send donations to McMaster University, L.R. Wilson Institute for Canadian History, UELAC Scholarship Fund, 1280 Main St. W. Hamilton, ON. L8S 4L8

CHRISTMAS TURKEY LUNCHEON AT ST. JAMES

**Saturday December 5th at 12 noon
306 Parkside Drive, Waterdown**

The ladies of St. James are cooking up a marvelous meal for us this year. We'll have turkey, dressing and all the trimmings and of course the "piece de resistance" is the dessert. There will be many, many homemade pies to choose from this year.

We also have a special guest pianist and soloist, from Appleby United Church in Burlington. Eran Rozen is a composer, soloist and pianist. He will play some traditional Christmas music and some of his own compositions. This will certainly get us in the mood for Christmas.

Tickets are \$25 each. Cutoff date is November 30th.

Send a cheque to our treasurer and make it out to:

Hamilton Branch UELAC
Gloria Howard
409-908 Mohawk Rd. E.,
Hamilton, ON L8T 2R8



DOMINION CONFERENCE – JULY 7-10 2016

What you can expect::

- **Thursday** Arriving today you will be in time for the Membership Chair and Genealogist meetings, and enjoy a welcome reception later in the evening.
- **Friday** we are offering a bus tour of the Island to visit our Loyalist Museum, Anne of Green Gables home, and the birthplace of Confederation in Charlottetown.
- **Lunch included.** A “down east”-style Lobster Dinner at the Loyalist Country Inn will follow.
- All events except the Tour and Church Service are within the [Loyalist Country Inn](#).
- Saturday will include the AGM and Council Business meetings, followed by three (3) simultaneous afternoon Genealogy sessions to help with your Maritime research.
- In the evening, there is a traditional Gala Dinner to enjoy with some musical entertainment by a String Quartet. The Guest Speaker will be **Dr. Terrence Punch**, renowned Educator, Author and Genealogist.
- Sunday morning church service will be at St Peter's Cathedral in Charlotte-town. This historic church was consecrated on 29 June 1879.
- A light lunch and goodbye after the service, and then for those who require transportation, drop off at the airport.

A-beg-weit is the Mi'kmaq/Micmac word for “cradled in the waves”

The Conference Hotel

The Conference will be held within the beautiful and historic Loyalist Country Inn:

195 Heather Moysse Drive
Summerside, PEI C1N 5R1
Phone: 902-436-3333
Toll free: 877-355-3500
Fax: 902-436-4304



www.lakeviewhotels.com/hotels/summerside/

Getting to the Island

Not sure about getting to the Island? Any questions about strategic trip planning that may need a local answer, the Abegweit President and the Planning Committee will be available to help.

Don't hesitate to make plans because you are unsure of how to find us. It is a little early for details yet, but we are planning for airport pick up and drop off for those who may need it.

For more information, contact: Abegweit Branch President
Peter Van Iderstine UE
902-892-4403
pvaniderstine@bellaliant.net

UELAC Promotions



Browse the promotions catalogue online at www.uelac.org/promotion/catalogue.php.

Shop UEL and celebrate our heritage!

Great family gifts.

PERIOD CLOTHING Linda's Early Fashions 2 Waddington Cr. Barrie

For those of you who ask about having a dress or a man's outfit made to measure, here is a source that was sent to me recently.

Address: 2 Waddington Crescent
Barrie, Ontario L4N 8C8

Phone: 1 (705) 737-5906

Email

: lindasearlyfashions@yahoo.com

Web: indasearlyfashions.com/women-s-fashion/



Ontario Grant

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

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 26** Guest speaker – Robert Adlam, Industrialization of Brantford
- Dec 5** Christmas luncheon at St. James United Church, 306 Parkside Dr., Waterdown at 12 noon
- Feb 25** **AGM** and guest speaker - Adrienne Shadd, Blacks in Hamilton in the 19th Century
- March 24** Guest speaker – Dominion President Barb Andrew UE
- April 28** Guest speaker – David Moore, That Question of Loyalty
- June 17** Loyalist Day Ceremony in Hamilton at the Hamilton Art Gallery

**HAMILTON BRANCH
PAST PRESIDENTS**

2015	Pat Blackburn	1991	Lillian Lomas	1965-66 ..	Dr J. G. Dillane
2014	Pat Blackburn	1990	Lillian Lomas	1964-65 ..	Dr J. G. Dillane
2013	Pat Blackburn	1988-89 ..	Donald Jones	1963-64 ..	Colin Mills
2012	Ruth Nicholson	1987-88 ..	Ken Bennett	1962	Earl Buckley
2011	Ray Cummins/R Nicholson	1986-87 ..	Ken Bennett	1958	Capt Langsford Robinson
2010	Ruth Nicholson	1985-86 ..	Dr Hugh MacCrimmon	1948-50 ..	Howard William
2009	Ruth Nicholson	1984-85 ..	Dr Hugh MacCrimmon	1946-47 ..	Lorne Johnstone
2008	Ruth Nicholson	1983-84 ..	John Aikman	1945	Robert S Johnston
2007	Lori Mifsud	1982-83 ..	John Aikman	1944	R Freeman
2006	Lori Mifsud	1981-82 ..	Elizabeth Aikman	1942-43 ..	George Howse
2005	Lloyd Oakes	1980-81 ..	Elizabeth Aikman	1938-41 ..	Judge Henry Carpenter
2004	Lloyd Oakes	1979-80 ..	Elizabeth Aikman	1937-38 ..	Judge Henry Carpenter
2003	Fred Hayward	1978-79 ..		1936-37 ..	
2002	Fred Hayward	1977-78 ..	Harold Lampman	1935-36 ..	Leeland Merrill
2001	John A. Hammill	1976-77 ..	Harold Lampman	1934-35 ..	Stanley Mills
2000	John A. Hammill	1975-76 ..	Rev Rolph Morden	1933-34 ..	Stanley Mills
1999	Catherine Tanser	1974-75 ..	Rev Rolph Morden	1932	Stanley Mills
1998	Catherine Tanser	1973-74 ..	Dr G. Dillane	1931	Stanley Mills
1997	Gloria Oakes	1972-73 ..	Dr G. Dillane	1903	Judge Colin G Snider
1996	Gloria Oakes	1971-72 ..	Dr J. G. Dillane	1901	Judge Colin G Snider
1995	Gloria Oakes	1970-71 ..	Miss Norma Preslar		
1994	Lillian Lomas	1969-70 ..			
1993	Lillian Lomas	1968-69 ..	Hugh Monaghan		
1992	Lillian Lomas	1967-68 ..	Colin Mills/Earl Buckley		
		1966-67 ..	Dr J. G. Dillane		

1901 - Formation of the "Head of the Lake Branch" of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Ontario

1931 - On September 30, 1931 Loyalists of Hamilton and District met to form the "Hamilton Branch" of the Dominion Association

Past Presidents living in 1963 - Leeland Merrill, Earl Buckley, Howard Williams

Past Presidents living in 1975 - Leeland Merrill, Colin Mills, Dr G. Dillane, Norma Preslar, Earl Buckley, Robert Thompson (Johnson ?)

JAH585 C-K; L-S; T-AB

HAMILTON BRANCH UELAC

**PRESIDENT &
EDUCATION CHAIR:**

Pat Blackburn UE
5188 Lakeshore Rd. Unit 510
Burlington, ON L7L 6P4
(289) 337-1315
uepat624@cogeco.ca

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR &
PAST PRESIDENT:**

Ruth Nicholson UE
21 Chudleigh Street
Waterdown, ON L0R 2H6
905-689-7554
ruth.nicholson@sympatico.ca

SECRETARY:

Marilyn Hardsand UE
P.O. Box 188
Waterdown, ON L0R 2H0
905-689-2790

GENEALOGIST:

Michele Lewis UE
535 Kastelic Place
Burlington ON L7N 3S9
905-639-2931
the_lewis@hotmail.com

TREASURER:

Gloria Howard UE
Unit 409, 908 Mohawk Rd. E.
Hamilton ON L8T 2R8
905-575-9878
glohoward@rogers.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

Gloria M. Oakes UE
#62-175 Fiddler's Green Road
Ancaster ON L9G 4X7
905-648-6519
g.oakes@sympatico.ca

**PUBLISHING EDITOR &
WEBMASTER:**

Jennifer Smith UE
jsmith25@cogeco.ca





The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Hamilton Branch



Membership Dues for 2016

Please Print

Name(s).....

Address

.....

Postal Code

Telephone

Home: () Business: ().....

E-Mail:

NOTE: If you wish to receive *The Loyalist Gazette* by electronic means, you must notify Mette Griffin, Dominion Office Administrator, every year. (uelac@uelac.org)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2016:

- 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

TOTAL \$

ENCLOSED \$

Please make your cheque payable to Hamilton Branch UELAC

Send to: Gloria Howard UE, Treasurer, 409-908 Mohawk Rd. E., Hamilton, Ontario L8T 2R8

Non-Canadian residents, please pay in American funds to cover the extra postage costs.

The Hamilton Branch UELAC has a Privacy Policy and Procedure On Protection of Personal Information for review at www.uel-hamilton.com.