



THE

HAMILTON LOYALIST

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



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE PAT BLACKBURN UE



CANADA 150
1867-2017

CANADA 150 CELEBRATIONS....

are still taking place in the community. What a year it has been. It seems such a long time ago since June 19th when our Hamilton Branch celebrated at Michelangelo's Banquet Centre. I know you would like to hear the final numbers to sit down for dinner. It was 97. A wonderful evening and thank you to all who made it possible. WEDIDIT!!

Yes, we have moved. Our first meeting at St. Matthew on-the-Plains, 126 Plains Rd. E., Burlington took place in October with a large crowd of members and prospective new members who had come out to hear John Vickers talk on Tecumseh and John's foundry work upon the Tecumseh statue. Very interesting and not at all, just for men.

Our outreach people were very busy during the summer and please read all about it further on in the newsletter.

At the moment we are working with the church on some items to make our meeting room and our meetings a bit more enjoyable such as: noisy freezer and light on the lectern, etc. The branch program is set until April next year.

As always we have some openings within the Branch and Executive and it is my hope that some of our new members and our faithful members can step up and volunteer some of your time. Ruth Nicholson is the Nomination person within the branch and you can get in touch with her or the executive to see where you can help.

Enjoy the remainder of the newsletter and give Ruth the accolades she deserves for looking after this important communication with such expertise.

Pat Blackburn



President Pat Blackburn at Hamilton City Hall

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OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Pat Blackburn UE

HISTORY IN ACTION

BATTLEFIELD PARK – June 1

Branch tent exhibit is part of educating the bus loads of Grade 7/8 students who come for Action Day in the Park as part of remembering the Battle of Stoney Creek. We had around 1,500 students. Volunteers were Pat Blackburn and David Woodward.

TIME CAPSULE AT BRONTE VETERANS PARK - June 16

John MacPhail, teacher at St. Domenics in Oakville asked me if we would like to be involved in a project his Grade 7/8 students were doing. It involved coming to the Park and speaking with other dignitaries honouring veterans and including something of importance to the Loyalists' Association. Volunteers were Pat Blackburn and Fred Hayward. Fred Hayward gave the talk and the articles for the capsule were a current brochure, flags and a copy of some historical families of the Bronte area.

TIME CAPSULE AT WATERDOWN PARK, July 1st

Multicultural Loop 150 Day was organized by Nathan Tidridge. At first we were asked to have a table but in the end Ruth Nicholson placed articles in a time capsule on behalf of the Branch Loyalist heritage. Volunteer – Ruth Nicholson – articles for the capsule were brochures, loyalist pin and business card.

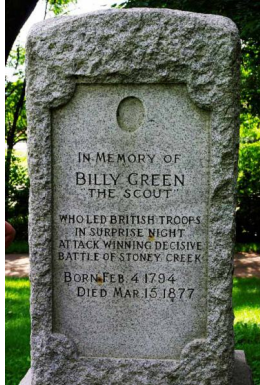
PEACE BY PIECE: STITCHING TOGETHER CANADIAN STORIES - June 25

The nationally viewed Quilt prepared over



Ruth & Pat with displays at Quilt of Belonging, Hamilton

the past 20 years was on display. It contained blocks representing groups of people and their country from where they came to Canada. Diversity was a theme. The large wall hanging exhibit end pieces were blocks of First Nations, Inuit, and others that according to the lady who had completed the exhibit, were holding up the interior blocks. Our Branch gave an example in-school presentation to people who were on hand at the time of the presentation. Elizabeth Dowdswell, Lt. Gov. of Ontario, came in during to see the exhibit in the afternoon we presented. Volunteers were Ruth Nicholson and Pat Blackburn

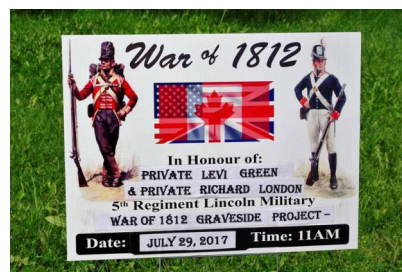


GRAVESIDE PLAQUING AT STONEY CREEK MUNICIPAL CEMETERY - July 29

Considerable research was conducted by Brenda Denyes on Private Levi Green and Private Richard London of the 5th Regiment Lincoln Militia of War of 1812 to be able to place an 1812 plaque at their grave sites. Branch members attended the ceremony and reception in support of the project. Volunteers were Marilyn Hardsand, Ruth Nicholson and Pat Blackburn. Also in attendance was Doug Green.



Pat Blackburn, Marilyn Hardsand, Ruth Nicholson & Doug Green at Stoney Creek Cemetery



JOSEPH BRANT DAY – LA SALLE PARK, BURLINGTON - August 7

Unfortunately, our Branch was not represented at Joseph Brant Day this year. Our exhibit board is professionally done and of heavy paper. The weather was rainy and the board could not be used.

PLAQUING OF COOLEY-HATT CEMETERY, ANCASTER - August 12

After 12 years of considerable negotiation by Richard Hatt and ward councillors and the Developer of new housing project, the area of the Heritage Cooley-Hatt Cemetery was saved from destruction. Our Branch plaquing committee held a ceremony and erected a plaque indicating this cemetery as a "Loyalist Burial Ground". The 1st generation loyalists buried at the site are Preserved Cooley and Peter Gordon. Volunteers were Doug and Sharon Coppins, Richard Hatt, Marilyn Hardsand, Ruth Nicholson, Gloria Oakes, Brian Curry and Pat Blackburn.

BLESSING CEREMONY AT THE SHAVER HERITAGE CEMETERY - September 17

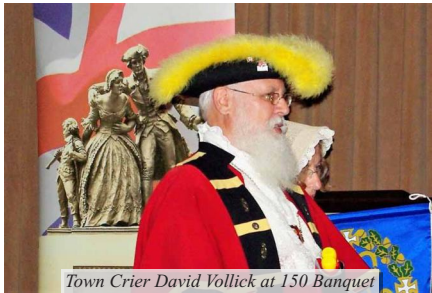
Repairs on the old stone wall around the Shaver Cemetery on Garner Road, Ancaster were to begin on the Monday. It was thought appropriate by the Shaver family to have a Blessing on the Cemetery prior to start of repairs. Numerous family members, friends and politicians gathered. Pat Blackburn of the Hamilton Branch Loyalist Association gave a ten minute tribute to the coming of the loyalists to the area, one family being that of John Shaver, and how the changes in the community have made preserving this cemetery important. Attending from our Branch was Gloria Oakes and Pat Blackburn.

DOORS OPEN, UNION BURYING GROUND, PLAINS ROAD, BURLINGTON - September 30

The two families that make this cemetery a Loyalist Burial Ground are the Davis and Ghent ancestors. People of the community had the privilege on September 30 to go through the cemetery and talk with Stephen Davis, a descendant of William Alexander Davis. The Branch set up a tent and table and helped with handing out the story and taking people around to see the graves. We had 107 people visit. Volunteers were Pat Blackburn, Brian Curry, Gail Frey, Martha Hemphill, Colin Morley and Steve Davis. Two students and a Doors Open volunteer were also on hand to help with the visitors.

THESAURUS CLUB - October 23

This past Monday night, Pat Blackburn gave a talk at the Ancaster Thesaurus Club on the coming of the United Empire Loyalists to Upper and Lower Canada with some emphasis on the loyalist connection with the founding of the Town of Ancaster. The talk was well received with numerous favourable comments.



Town Crier David Vollick at 150 Banquet

REMEMBRANCE DAY WREATH LAYING

Ed Early laid the wreath for our association at Hamilton Cemetery on Saturday November 9th. His son carried the Loyalist flag. Ruth Nicholson laid a similar wreath at the cenotaph in Waterdown on Nov. 11th.



Jean Rae Baxter Smith, Gloria Howard & Ruth Nicholson at 150 Banquet



Pat Blackburn speaks at 150 Banquet



Ruth waiting to lay Loyalist wreath at Waterdown Legion



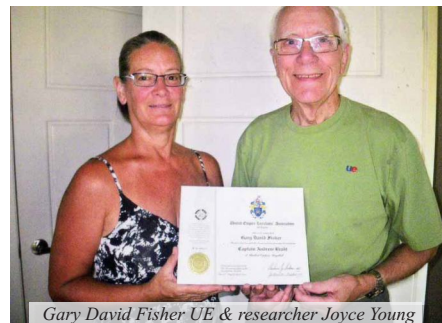
Dominion Council in London - Jim McKenzie, Gerry Adair, Trish Groom, David Hill Morrison, Anne Redish, Jo Ann Tuskin, Sue Hines & Barb Andrew



Jacob Bessey UEL

as submitted by descendant Art Quinn UE
Citing from Andrew Humeniuk's research, February 2012

Jacob Bessey was born in New York. During the Revolutionary War he served with Butler's Rangers in Private Captain Bernard Frey's Company. His brother Robert Jr. was also a Private in Frey's Company. Jacob was twenty-seven years old in Nov 1783 and drawing rations. From the structure of the list it would appear he was single. He is described as settled "between the Four Mile Creek and



Gary David Fisher UE & researcher Joyce Young - Capt. Andrew Brandt UEL

the Head of Lake Ontario" in 1785 and in this document his Christian name is given as James. There is no doubt that this is Jacob, since the name appears immediately behind that of Robert Bessey. The land entitlement in the District of Nassau in 1792 totalled 400 acres. By August 1795 he had received 200 acres of his entitlement and was granted an additional 100 acres to complete his military lands. Jacob married Elizabeth Slough, who was born in Pennsylvania. Jacob Bessey is listed on the UE List in 1797 as being settled at Homer in Grantham Township, now known as St. Catharines. His children who petitioned and received land as sons and daughters of a U.E. were Mary Catherine, David, John, George and Charlotte. Jacob Bessey dies in 1810.

Christian Price UEL

Descendants Della Granberg, Kelsey Granberg & Jacqueline Watson-Reid
An Annotated Nominal Roll of Butler's Rangers 1777 - 1784, Bill Smy

Private. A Christian Price is mentioned as being a Virginian, held captive, but allowed to work at Niagara in 1781. In Geneway's Company at Niagara in 1783. Wife in 1786. Land entitlement in the District of Nassau in 1792 totalled 400 acres. In July 1796 he petitioned for land in right of his wife, but the Land Board stated he had to produce the certificate attesting to the fact that his wife was a UE Loyalist. On the UE List, 1797, In March 1797 he and a William Price petitioned for family lands but their petition was rejected. Settled in Louth Township. Served as a Private soldier in



Art Quinn & Susan Miller Oct 2017



Jacqueline Watson-Reid & Della Granberg

Jacob Ball's Company, 1st Lincoln Militia, in the war of 1812. In 1812 he is listed as 47 years old. Elizabeth, Peter, John, Catherine, George, Nancy, Betsey, Mary, David, Jacob, Christian Jr and Abraham granted land as children of a UE Loyalist. The Census 1783 lists him as Christean Price.

Daniel Young UEL

Descendant Christine Cooper UE

Daniel was born in Albany, New York and fought with the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Yorkers. He married Dorcas Conger and settled in Prince Edward County where he died in 1850.



Christine Cooper, descendant of Daniel Young & her husband Mark

Martin Hawley UEL

Descendant Susan Miller

Martin Hawley was born in New Milford, Litchfield, Connecticut, and later joined the Loyalists' Rangers commanded by John Nairne Major. He settled in Ernestown and died in 1844.

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

If you are looking for past issues of Loyalist Trails, issues since October 2004 have been posted on the web at

<http://www.uelac.org/Loyalist-Trails/Loyalist-Trails-index.php>

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

loyalist.trails@uelac.org

UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS KEEP HISTORY ALIVE AT ANCASTER'S COOLEY-HATT PIONEER CEMETERY

Ruth Nicholson UE

The above heading is especially important as it has taken eleven years since the Cooley-Hatt cemetery was discovered during an archeological dig in 2004, to be able to plaque it. This cemetery was rediscovered by Ancaster's historian, the late Jim Green, and is believed to be the town's first burial ground. Many of the earliest settlers of the area were interred at the site from 1794 until the early 1820s when a cemetery was created at St. John's Anglican Church on Wilson Street.

On August 12th the Hamilton Branch Plaquing Committee headed up by Doug and Sharon Coppins achieved its goal of recognizing and honouring loyalist ancestors, Preserved Cooley and Peter Gordon who are buried in the Cooley-Hatt cemetery, through erecting a Loyalist Burial Site sign.

Another very important early settler buried in this cemetery is Richard Hatt who built a mill in Dundas and is credited with establishing the town of Dundas. Last year the family led by Richard Hatt, the great-great-grandson of the original Richard Hatt held a rededication ceremony for the Cooley and Hatt families. Hatt's wife, Mary Cooley, is buried in the pioneer cemetery, along with several of their nine children. The current Richard Hatt is a member of the Hamilton Branch.



Doug Coppins unveils the plaque

The casings of 99 burial sites have been found and they indicate that over one-third of the burials were children.

Descendants came from Springboro, Ohio, Belleville and Fonthill, Ontario along with local parliamentarians and our members to hear the full story of the cemetery. It has now been 11 years since the city of Hamilton, historians and family descendants have worked together to save this important piece of land from development.

A subdivision was planned for the area. The cemetery was discovered in the middle of the planned development. A dispute ensued that delayed the development for nearly 11 years. The cemetery was in the path of the



Loyalist members present at the Cooley-Hatt Cemetery from Hamilton Branch

road and two residential lots. Richard Hatt became involved to preserve and maintain the cemetery. "No graves were to be removed," he stated. Cemetery markers are to be installed by the city.

Ancaster Ward Councillor, Lloyd Ferguson, along with Flamborough Councillor, Judy Partridge and Hamilton Liberal MPP, Ted McMeekin, all attended the ceremony, and they said saving the cemetery at the location was a matter of taking a strong stand against the developer while also seeking a compromise solution to the issue. "At the end of the day, it is a good example of the developer helping out," stated Councillor Ferguson.

In 2010, the city and developer reached a deal days before an Ontario Municipal Board hearing was set to begin after the developer appealed to the principal agency arguing the city had waited six years before

making a decision. Under the agreement between the city and the developer, the cemetery would be preserved and deeded to the municipality. A 1.5-metre sidewalk constructed from Highvalley Road would provide pedestrian access.

In 2015 Hamilton politicians agreed to a draft condominium plan to construct 23 single-detached dwellings on 2.33 hectares of land at One Legacy Lane, a private condominium road that connects to Limekiln Road.

Doug Coppins said preserving such historical places such as the cemetery is needed to remind people of their past and to educate future generations.

“People don’t seem to realize the history they have”, said Doug. Plaquing pioneer cemeteries is important to preserve history and help neighbouring people to have insight to the history of the area in which they are living.

The Cooley-Hatt cemetery is on Highvalley Rd. in Ancaster. It can be reached to the right off Mohawk Rd. W. and again right off Limekiln Rd.

COLONIAL DRESS FOR SALE

A lady in Waterdown has donated this colonial dress to our branch. It fits size 12 and the donor is about 5’3”. The dress, scarf and hat are clean and washed and ready for a new owner. This will be a donation to our branch. A suggested price is \$40.00 and the dress will go to the highest bidder if more people are interested.

Please send inquiries to our treasurer: Gloria Howard UE at 905 575 9878. A cheque will need to state: UEL – Hamilton Branch as the recipient.



2018 MOOSE JAW SASKATCHEWAN

DOMINION CONFERENCE

June 7-10, 2018

Loyalist Ties Under Living Skies

Hosted by the

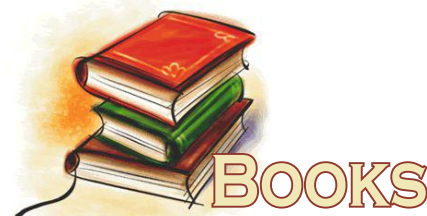
Saskatchewan Branch

Conference Chair: Pat Adair

The main venue will be the Temple Gardens Spa and Conference Centre. Booking is now available. Special room rates \$165/night, single and double occupancy. A variety of rooms are available under this rate. Phone 1 800 718 7727, Quote UELAC – Sask Branch, 124551 for your reservations. The committee encourages those interested to book early to avoid disappointment.

Plans are in the works with both major Airlines and for ground transportation from Regina to Moose Jaw. These will be announced as they are confirmed.

Thursday will be set up for main arrival with our opening Meet & Greet in the evening. It will also allow time for the Membership and Genealogist meetings. Friday will be a day for education and participants will have a choice of two tours (one with wine, one with ice cream). Friday’s banquet will “Showcase Saskatchewan”. Saturday morning is the UELAC Annual AGM and in the afternoon, attendees can choose to “Spa” or “Explore”. The Gala Banquet will top off the day. For Sunday’s service we will be welcomed by the Zion United Church congregation. Continue to watch the UELAC website and Loyalist Trails as updates will be posted as events unfold.



READING KIDNAPPED IN 2017

Many of us read Robert Louis Stevenson's great adventure novel when we were young. It was an exciting story then, and it still is. What I would not have noticed then, but did notice while reading it in this summer of 2017, was the subtext. Stevenson, who lived from 1850 to 1894, was not writing just to entertain the reader. In this novel he showed in heartbreaking detail how the social structure and culture of the Highlands of Scotland had been systematically destroyed following the suppression of the Jacobite Rebellion, which ended, as we know, with the defeat of the Jacobite forces at the Battle of Culloden in 1745 and Bonnie Prince Charlie’s subsequent flight into exile in France.

The two main characters in Kidnapped are Alan Breck Stewart and David Balfour. The former is an historical figure; the latter is fictional. Alan Breck was a fugitive accused of the murder of Colin Campbell, a Lowland Scot who had made himself hated as a tax collector for the English. These are facts upon which the plot depends.

But for us reading the book in 2017, it is not the plot that matters. It’s the subtext, the description of the suffering of the “Hielands,” that brings to mind troubling aspects of our own history. What the English did to the Highland Scots in the second half of the 18th Century bears uncomfortable similarities to what we have done to our own First Nations, including the Metis.

It is a striking coincidence that Louis Riel was hanged in the very same year that Stevenson was writing Kidnapped. That year was 1885.

Balfour, the narrator in Kidnapped, tells us:

I met plenty of people, grubbing in little miserable fields that would not keep a cat,

or herding little kine about the bigness of asses. The Highland dress being forbidden by law since the rebellion, and the people confined to the Lowland habit, which they much disliked, it was strange to see the variety of their array. Some went bare, only for a hanging cloak or a great coat, and carried their trousers on their backs like a useless burden; some had made an imitation of the tartan with little parti-coloured stripes patched together like an old wife's quilt; others, again, still wore the philabeg [kilt], but by putting a few stitches between the legs, transformed it into a pair of trousers like a Dutchman's. All those makeshifts were condemned and punished, for the law was harshly applied, in hopes to break up the clan spirit.

No Highland Scot was allowed to carry arms, not even a knife. To carry a pistol was punishable by a fine of fifteen pounds for a first offence, and by transportation to the colonies for a second.

The story in Kidnapped is set in 1751. That is to say, Stevenson was writing about

something that happened 134 years in the past but still had consequences for his own time. As the movement for Scotland's independence shows, those consequences linger still.

The Highland Scots had Bonnie Prince Charlie. Canada has Louis Riel. How long will it take for us to undo the harm that our predecessors did?

Jean Rae Baxter



UPCOMING EVENTS

Hamilton Branch of the UELAC

Meetings: 4th Thursday of February, March, April, October & November at St. Matthew on-the-Plains, 126 Plains Rd. E. Burlington. Program at 7:30 p.m.

- January 01** Time to renew memberships if you haven't done so already! Please make all cheques out to UELAC – Hamilton Branch & mail to:
Gloria Howard, Unit 409, 908 Mohawk Rd. E., Hamilton, L8T 2R8
- February 22** Annual General Meeting along with speaker Erika Alexander, granddaughter of Lincoln & Yvonne Alexander, Grandparents is her topic for Black History month
- March 22** General meeting with speaker Cheryl Cooper on The War of 1812 – Age of Sail
- April 26** General meeting with speaker Philip Monture on Land Claims & the Grand River Tract
- June 7-10** Dominion Conference in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan; Loyalist Ties Under the Living Skies held at The Temple Garden Spa & Conference Centre
- June 19** Loyalist Day at the Hamilton Art Gallery, 123 King St. W., Hamilton. A new pairing of local branches at this event t.b.a.

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