



THE

HAMILTON LOYALIST

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



Volume XVII #2 June 2018

"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."

IN THIS ISSUE...

2. Hamilton-Wentworth Heritage Award
Dermot P. Nolan
3. Monthly Speakers
Our Ancestors
4. The Haldimand Tract
5. Homer Cemetery
45th Anniversary, London Western Ontario Branch
6. Books
Colonial Outfit For Sale
7. Upcoming Events
8. Membership Form

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE PAT BLACKBURN UE

It may seem that we, as loyalists, spend our time in the past as far back as 1776-1783. In March we moved up to listening to what was happening on the seas during the War of 1812. Whichever the time period, we are dealing with the same main groups of people, namely, the Indigenous, the Black Loyalists and those people of European descent. By the time of the War of 1812 we are involved with the new United States of America and we are related to many of its citizens.

Through all of the turmoil, our local Indigenous people continued to fight on the side of the King. As we know, many promises were stated by the Government to the Indigenous that have not been kept. The word is getting out and the Truth and Reconciliation Agreement, through discussions should be getting information to the people of Canada and the world. The results of these talks cannot be foretold.

At our April meeting we invited Phil Montour of the Territory of the Six Nations to provide our branch members and the invited public with insight into the outstanding matters affecting the growth of the Indigenous people. There were more visitors than members, some with good questions. We were fortunate to have Neil Switzer contact Jeff Mahoney, reporter for The Spectator, and have an article in the Monday paper of the week of our meeting. We experienced good fellowship at this meeting.

To be good citizens in 2018 there is a need for people to be trained on the latest equipment that may be available in an emergency to provide assistance to others. At the church where we meet, there are two defibrillators but our branch members questioned at the meeting, responded with "no one knew how

to operate a defibrillator". In May ten members became St. John Ambulance trained.

Our work with the community will continue on into June and the summer through Loyalists' Day at The Hamilton Art Gallery and with special festivals over the summer where we participate together with the community talking to visitors to see our exhibit board.

It is important to give praise to members who are assets to the community. One such Hamilton member is Colin Brown who is a decorated WWII veteran. On June 19 Colin will be presented with a Quilt of Valour for his service to our country. Come to the Art Gallery for this short presentation during Loyalists' Day.

Please volunteer and come out, giving your time and knowledge to further community interest in loyalist history. I appreciate your input.

Have a fun, safe summer.

Pat Blackburn



2018 HAMILTON-WENTWORTH HERITAGE AWARD

Congratulations to Hamilton Branch Genealogist Michele Lewis for many years of service to our branch, helping members research their roots back to the first Loyalist in Upper Canada. This is a challenging position as nearly everyone has difficulty finding proofs for the third generation in Canada. Also the forms have been updated and Michele was one of the advisors during this process.



Michele Lewis

2018 Ontario Volunteer Awards

Congratulations to Gloria Howard on being recognized for 15 years of continuous service to our branch. Gloria loves dealing with numbers and is always cheerful and good spirited in educating the rest of us in the accounting and budgeting processes. We are very grateful for Gloria's expertise in these matters.



Gloria Howard, Fred Hayward & Pat Blackburn

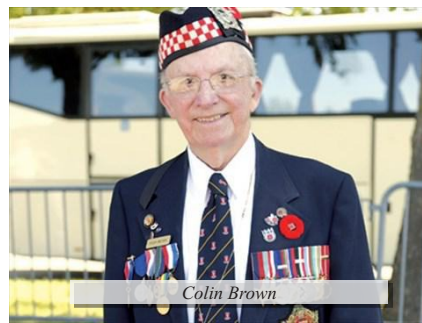


Spencer & Robin McKee with Ruth Nicholson – Robin receives the Melville Bailey Award for Lifetime Achievement in History & Heritage

Quilt of Valour

Colin Brown, WWII veteran will be receiving a Quilt of Valour to mark his service in World War II.

In 2015, Colin Brown was awarded the Knight of the French National Order of the Legion of Honour, the highest national order of France to illustrate the government's gratitude for his involvement in the liberation of their country.



Colin Brown

Colin was born in 1924 in Ancaster. He joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at age 17 and was named a lieutenant in the Canadian Army in July 1943. In January 1944, with the British army having too few, he volunteered for service as a Canadian Officer on Loan (CANLOAN) and went overseas April 1944 to report to the Argyll's 15 Scottish Division.

Quilts of Valour – Canada was founded in 2006 in Edmonton Alberta to acknowledge the significant contributions made by injured Canadian Armed Forces members and veterans.

The quilts are handmade by volunteers, using donated materials. Each quilt features the name, rank, years of service and branch of service the veteran served in.

We are thrilled that Colin Brown will be receiving this special honour during our Loyalist Day ceremonies on June 19th.

DERMOT P. NOLAN - KEYNOTE SPEAKER LOYALIST DAY

*As taken from website:
www.nolanlaw.ca/team/dermot-p-nolan/*

Dermot P. Nolan was called to the bar in 1975. He is a graduate of McMaster University and the University of Ottawa. He has served as president of the Ontario Trial Lawyers' Association, the Hamilton Law Association and the Hamilton Medical Legal Society.



Dermot P Nolan

He has been certified by the Law Society as a Specialist in Civil Litigation since 1990 and practises with emphasis on Personal Injury, Disability & LTD Claims, Employment Law, and Commercial & Estate Litigation.

Dermot Nolan has been selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in Canada in the fields of Personal Injury Litigation and Commercial litigation..

In 2000, he received the Emilius Irving award, the highest honour of the Hamilton Law Association and he was inducted into McMaster University's Gallery of distinguished graduates in 2002. He was named Hamilton's Irish Person of the Year in 2015.

He has served as Chair of the Boards of St. Peter's Hospital and the Hamilton Public Library, as a trustee of the Hamilton Board of Education and as a director of numerous other community, arts and charitable organizations. He spearheaded the initiative which led to the consolidation of

Hamilton's courts in the John Sopinka Courthouse and was instrumental in the establishment of the Lawyers' Legacy for Children, an endowment fund of the Hamilton Community Foundation.

In 2014 he was appointed a deputy judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Small Claims Division).

Before entering law school, he was a professional actor with the Stratford Shakespearean Festival and his passion for theatre has infused his participation in Hamilton's celebrated Lawyers' Shows.

Come out to Loyalist Day on June 19th at 11 a.m. to the Art Gallery of Hamilton to hear Dermot speak about one of the founding Fathers of Confederation, Thomas Darcy McGee and the greatest murder mystery in Canadian political history. You won't want to miss this engaging presentation.



MONTHLY SPEAKERS



Cheryl Cooper spoke on 1812 Age of Sail topic

Erika Alexander spoke about her grandparents Lincoln & Yvonne Alexander



Titus Simons by Susan Preston UE

Mark Preston UE certificate recipient

Titus Simons was the third generation of the Simons family in America. He had two children, Titus Gear and Sarah. Titus and his family emigrated to Montreal in 1779.

Better known to us is son, Titus Gear, who while in Niagara was editor and proprietor of the Upper Canada Gazette. While in Niagara he petitioned and received land in West Flamborough.

In 1816 the District of Gore was established and Titus Gear was appointed as Sheriff. He helped form the Burlington Agricultural Society. As an active mason, in 1824 he laid the corner stone of the Ancaster Free Church.

During the War of 1812, Titus Geer Simons held a commission in the 2nd York Regiment. His scabbard and coat are on display at the Military Museum, next to Dundurn Castle.

Jacob Bessey UEL

Submission by Art Quinn UE

Original submission by Andrew Humeniuk posted February 29, 2012

In Wm Smy's Annotated Nominal Roll of Butler's Rangers 1777-1784, Jacob appears as a Private in Butler's Rangers, in Fry's Company. His brother Robert Jr. was also a Private in Fry's Company. Jacob was twenty-seven years old in Nov 1783 and is recorded as drawing rations. From the structure of the list it appears that he was

single. He is described as "settled between the Four Mile Creek and the Head of Lake Ontario" in 1785, although his Christian name is given as "James", in this account. However, there is no doubt that this is Jacob, as the name appears immediately behind that of Robert Bessey, his brother.

Jacob Bessey's land entitlement, in the District of Nassau, in 1792 totalled 400 acres. By Aug 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 in 1797. They settled at Homer, in Grantham Township. Their children who petitioned and received land as sons and daughters of a United Empire Loyalist were Mary Catherine, David, John, George and Charlotte.

(Please accept my apologies for misplacing the file of pictures from this meeting. Ruth Nicholson)



Mark Preston receives certificate through Loyalist Titus Simons UEL

PHIL MONTOUR SPEAKS ON ISSUES CONCERNING THE HALDIMAND TRACT

Ruth Nicholson UE

I will summarize some of the information that Philip Montour spoke to, during his presentation at our April meeting. He started by saying that we were all “innocents” who were given land to live on by the British after the American Revolution. He stated that our history and circumstances are very similar.

Phil stated that we all live on Turtle Island. This is of course, North America. Read the story of Turtle Island here: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turtle_Island_\(North_America\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turtle_Island_(North_America)).

Phil was very cordial in dealing with a very tough subject. He said that the earliest history with treaties with Europeans was in 1613, the first treaty with the Dutch. It is the familiar, two row wampum. It represents two vessels going along two paths, one with the Haudenosaunee people and the other with the Dutch people. The paths are parallel, or side by side, both people respecting one another's ways.

The first relationship with the British was in 1664. It was the Treaty of Tawagonshi. This treaty was between Britain and the New York Mohawks and Senecas. The articles included that no wrong, injury or violence was to be committed against any of the Indigenous tribes named or their subjects and that they were to have all commodities from the English as they had from the Dutch. They were to have free trade as formerly.

The Nanfan Treaty of 1701 pertained to the Michigan and Ohio territories and allowed the British to put their forts on these lands.

The Treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, between Great Britain, France and Spain showed the surrender of Acadia to the British and the agreement that the Catholic crowns of France and Spain could not unite. It was agreed between Britain and France that the Five Nations specifically would not be molested between the areas of Lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron and that the natives would be free to promote trade with the British and the French without hindrance.

The Royal Proclamation of 1763 was to protect all Indigenous lands against further invasion by the European settlers. This was the first piece of legislature.

Next came the American Revolution (1776-1783) and the making of the Silver Covenant Chain. Here it is understood that the Five Nations hold one end of the chain and that the King holds the other end. With a pull of the belt or chain, one side would help the other.



The Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783. It was to be understood that the Indigenous people were allies of the King and not subjects. The King did not have the right to give away our lands after the American Revolution.

The Confederacy split. Some parts of the Five Nations stayed in the Colony of New York and others came up to the Haldimand Tract.

Through the Trail of Tears the Indigenous people were pushed out west to Oklahoma. Their homes and crops were burned.

Today we have the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with calls for 94 actions to take place.

In looking at an acknowledgement at the beginning of meetings, Phil pointed out that the original Indigenous people in this area of southern Ontario were the Erie, the Neutral and the Tobacco.

Phil has helped us create an acknowledgement statement that can be read at our meetings. It is as follows:

“I would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is situated upon traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wyandot, the Haudenosaunee, and the Mississauga of the New Credit First Nations. The territory is mutually covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibway and other allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, this is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.

Phil explained that many parcels of the Haldimand Tract had a complicated history of being rented and the Haudenosaunee people never receiving the rent. One holding company in London England actually helped track down old documents related to this property. However, any monies received were never sent to the Keepers of the Land.

Phil was asked how he saw reconciliation coming about and he stated that education was a key component. He said that it is thought that all on the Six Nations are granted free education but that is not the case. He is also worried about the farming people who have no pension when they age and that is the case with all independent business people and farmers in Canada. It is always a concern. Phil did say that they are not after a lump sum of money.

I hope I have been able to give you a small sampling of what was presented by Phil Montour to us and how complex the topic is for all.

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

LOYALISTS BURIED AT HOMER CEMETERY, ST. CATHARINES

Article shared by William ATKINSON Kawartha U.E. - a descendant of David Bessey.

Excerpted from a short biography by James Wheeland, husband of Jacob Bessey's great-granddaughter Margaret Permelia Bessey.

Permelia Bessey's great-grandfather was an officer of the Indian Commissary Department during the war of 1812.

There are few burial plots in the old historic County of Lincoln, whose gravestones mark the last resting place of so many of the old pioneers of the Niagara District more interesting, than the Homer cemetery. It is located on the Hamilton and Grimsby Stone Road, about half a mile east of Victoria Lawn Cemetery, in St. Catharines.

Here side by side in this quiet little spot sleep many members of Colonel John Butler's Rangers, the Lincoln Militia of 1812 fame, the Loyalists of the Mackenzie Rebellion and the Lincoln Militia of the Fenian Raid. A row of tall Elms on the west side of the little burial ground stand out as silent sentinels over the remains of some of Canada's best and bravest. Listen to the little Ten Mile Creek, along whose bank the old soldiers camped and kept their watch fires, in the martial days, of long ago. It sings its unceasing song on the south side of the little green plot, in noble memory of the sacred dead.

Here the eye greets such familiar names of the present and of the past century as: Ball, Secord, Schram, Havens, Bessey, Goring, Parnell, Stull, Read and Grass. There are many others whose heroism and devotion to the British flag will never fade or pass away over time. In the dust lay such men as these, the founders of the British Empire. They fought in brilliant battles and won: they performed glorious deeds.

45TH ANNIVERSARY - BRANCH CHARTER, LONDON AND WESTERN ONTARIO BRANCH

Ruth Nicholson UE

A good showing of Loyalists attended this special anniversary celebration that took place on Saturday, May 26th. President Carol Childs stated that she felt nervous speaking to more than the usual crowd of fifteen. Carol is so humble!

Carol's husband, Greg Childs gave a short visual presentation on the history of the branch. Greg has a way of adding flair and decorum to whatever he does. I enjoyed working with Greg and Carol in the lead up to the 2017 Dominion conference that was held in London. That's part of the fun of being Dominion Conference chair!

The London branch had never had a lot of money to give honours that were due to their past presidents. A bit of money was



London Past Presidents – Bernice Flett, Arnold Nethercott, Jennifer Childs, Ken Fitchett, June Klassen & Bob Tordiff

made from last year's conference and this was their primary initiative: past president pins for their past presidents! Those present who received their awards were: Arnold Nethercott, Bob Tordiff, Bernice Flett, Ken Fitchett, June Klassen and Jennifer Childs. Jean Norry was very ill and in hospital so her pin was given to her last week and she wrote a wonderful thank-you note that was read to all present. She penned it the day before she died. How significant that she did receive her pin! Past president Jane Hughes was absent but otherwise all were in attendance and I must admit my surprise at knowing five out of the eight honourees. A beautiful cake had been crafted for this occasion.

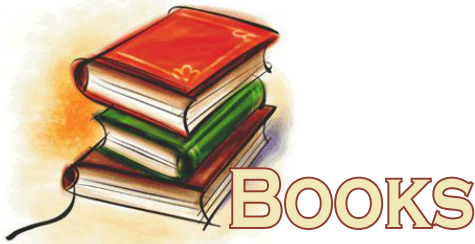


All enjoyed a plentiful lunch together and then eleven certificates were handed out by the branch genealogist, Mary Lucas. I was told that Mary is great at finding those elusive proofs! Dominion Senior Vice President, Sue Hines gave a brief presentation on Membership and how we, the people are the most important element of each Branch.

The keynote speaker was Karen Richardson, curator of the Haldimand County Museum and Archives, in Cayuga. <http://www.haldimandcounty.on.ca/residents.aspx?id=150> Karen had many of her own researched stories to tell. The central focus was on the Heritage Minutes that were filmed and produced by Lock3 Media in Brantford, for the Canada 150. They tell the history of the area and are polished and just as good as any seen on television. The topics are: Haldimand Battalion, RCAF #6, Robertson Screwdriver, John Brant, William Lyon Mackenzie, Helen Kinnear and the United Empire Loyalists. The link to see them is:

<http://www.haldimandcounty.on.ca/OurCounty.aspx?id=28584>

Congratulations to the London and Western Ontario Branch UELAC on hosting a full and wonderful day to recognize forty-five years of commitment,



Shadows in the Tree

by Jennifer DeBruin UE

Ruth Nicholson UE



I had the opportunity to hear Jennifer DeBruin speak about her stories and her books, while visiting my sister, Susan Hutchins UE at one of the Bicentennial meetings. The cover of this book was very intriguing as it focuses

on our Loyalist monument, in Hamilton, but from the back. It shows the mother and two children fleeing, on their own. Father is missing.

This concept perfectly introduces Jennifer's book. In this case, the husband and father, Peter Eamer fled his impending arrest, leaving his wife, Maria Catrina and their young children, behind in the Mohawk Valley. She, along with other local families eventually set out for the North, in a group, with a guide and not much else. The journey takes the reader into the heart of the characters, particularly Maria. As a woman and a mother, I became absorbed by the treacherous adventure and awestruck by the protagonist's strength and character in securing her children as such a dangerous time in their lives.

Contact for this book:
www.jenniferdebruin.com

Jennifer DeBruin is the Dominion chair of Public Relations and also of the Genealogical Processes Committee



Lost British Forts of Long Island

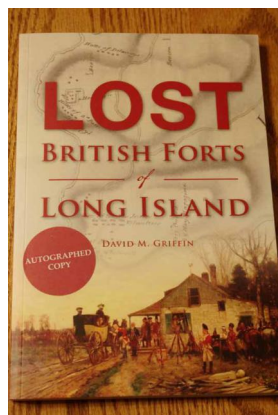
by David M. Griffin

David Griffin is the brother of Dan WJTT Griffin UE – Co-President of the Bicentennial Branch UELAC. David is a professionally trained architect, educated in Ottawa who now lives on the north shore of Long Island, New York. He is an architectural historian and researcher who is passionate about the early forts and homes of Long Island.

The summary on the back of the book states: "When the Revolutionary War broke out and New York City had fallen in 1776, the forces of the king of Great Britain developed a network of forts along the length of Long Island to defend the New York area and create a front to Patriot forces across the Sound in Connecticut. Fort Franklin on Lloyd's Neck became a refugee camp for Loyalists and saw frequent rebel attacks. In Huntington, a sacred burial ground was desecrated and Fort Golgotha was erected in its place, using tombstones as baking hearths. In Setauket along the northern shore, the Presbyterian Church was commandeered and made the central fortified structure of the town. Author David M. Griffin uncovers the lost history and harrowing stories of Long Island's British forts."

David goes to each site and takes photos of the area, as it looks today. These photos are compared to historical maps and diagrams from area archives. The book is a real treat to read and browse through. I highly recommend it.

Contact Dan WJTT Griffin UE at danwjttgriffin.ue@cogeco.ca Visit www.historypress.net The title is also available as an e-book. It is listed on Amazon and Indigo Books as well.



COLONIAL OUTFIT FOR SALE

Medium to medium-large sized clothing includes white collarless shirt with separate white neck scarf, white linen pants, green buttoned vest, green outer cape with fringe, brown cloth satchel, leather moccasins, and bordered tri-born hat with metal side décor, handwoven sash and pant ties for legs in Loyalist regimental colours. This set includes the mannequin and stand. Price \$100.00.

Contact Ruth Nicholson at 905 689 7554 if interested.



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.

- Today** 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
- 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. at 11 a.m. Guest speaker is Dermot P Nolan presenting – A Different Kind of Loyalist, D'Arcy McGee and the Canadian Dream
- August 18** Union Cemetery plaquing, 6 Margaret St. Waterdown, at 2 p.m. to honour Loyalist Jacob Bastedo
- October 25** Bob Williamson - The Nelson 'Touch' in Ontario's Heritage
- November 22** Elaine Cougler - The Relationship Between History and our Modern World

HAMILTON BRANCH UELAC

PRESIDENT & EDUCATION CHAIR:

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

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Edward (ED) Early UE
40 Uplands Ave.
Hamilton, ON L8S 3X7
905-525-9378
hedgehogearlyje@cogeco.ca

NEWSLETTER EDITOR & PAST PRESIDENT:

Ruth Nicholson UE
21 Chudleigh Street
Waterdown, ON L8B 0C3
905-689-7554
ruth.nicholson@sympatico.ca

SECRETARY:

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

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

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

lindasearlyfashions@yahoo.com

lindasearlyfashions.com/womens-fashion/