

The Niagara Loyalist

Col. John Butler (Niagara) Branch

United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada



President's Pen

To every thing there is a season ... Those of you who attended our April luncheon meeting will know that I announced my intent to resign effective June 30, 2014. I have enjoyed my tenure and appreciated the support you have shown me. I could not have stayed this long without the ongoing support of my husband Jim. He has worked in tandem with me to keep things on an even keel. We plan to continue our support of the Branch but in a much less demanding way. I am confident that you will offer Paul Preece your support as he steps up to the helm.

My resignation makes the need for a volunteer to fill the Vice President's position even more necessary. Given the number of local members in our group, there must be at least one person who could willingly and capably fill the gap.



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The Town of Niagara on the Lake has given the green light to planting their display garden, located at the corner of Mississauga and Queen Streets, to honour the Centennial of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. This location is prime advertising for our organization as it is the first thing you see when you arrive at this picturesque town. The Loyalist influence is very much a part of its history. Signage is already in place and as soon as the weather cooperates, planting will begin. I cannot wait to see the finished product. On June 14 when members of the Branch have participated in our annual Flag Day event, we will be photographed in front of the bed for the records of the Parks and Recreation Department. I hope we have a sizeable turnout that day.

The Rochester, New York Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, has proposed a joint meeting with Col. John Butler (Niagara) Branch. The French Castle at Fort Niagara has been booked for September 20, 2014. Planning includes a catered meal to be served either late afternoon or early evening. As more details become available I will supply an update. Jim and I plan to attend as I hope others will.

www.coljohnbutleruel.com



April 2014

I am looking forward to our May 24th gala dinner at the Queenston Heights Restaurant. Ann Huffman has worked tirelessly to pull this event together. It promises to be a memorable occasion to mark the 100 years of UELAC.

Loyally,

Shirley Lockhart UE

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Up-Coming Meetings, Speakers & Events

Saturday, May 3 - Bob Rennie will be visiting us as General Brock himself, in costume, accompanied by Dale Smout. His talk is called "Being Brock" and he will discuss Brock's strategy for defending Upper Canada.

Saturday, May 24 - UELAC Gala at Queenston Heights Restaurant, Niagara Parkway.

Saturday, June 14 - Loyalist Flag Raising, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Other events listed on page 7



Doors open at 11 a.m.

Lunch at 11:45 a.m.

Respond at least two days prior to each meeting to:

Shirley Lockhart

co4392@sympatico.ca

905-937-8252

or

Gail Woodruff

grammag@cogeco.ca



Welcome

New Members!

Lori Bruni, with her family, Craig,
Alyssa, Vincent & Nicholas

Cathy & Wayne Redekop

Randolph Lussier

Mazelle Nohr

Wayne & Georgina Winterburn

Nancy, Durwin,
Christie & Alexander Tulloch

Donna Coleman

Toni Cummings

Dale Flagler

William Gee

Michael & Linda Ricker

Bill Smy (returning)

William & Deborah Freele

Important Notice

Periodically, Betty's increases the cost of our lunches to the Branch and unfortunately we have no choice but to raise the price from \$18 to \$20 beginning in September. Remember, this includes a main course, dessert, coffee and tea and gratuity.

Essex County Bus Trip July 25, 26

organized by Ruth Nicholson UE, Hamilton Branch

Anyone interested in this special road trip rich in history, to Chatham, Point Pelee National Park and Kingsville can view all the details on the Hamilton website. Cost is reasonable and includes transportation, all admissions and tours, one breakfast, two lunches and a supper.

<http://uel-hamilton.com/heritage-news/essex-county-bus-trip/>



Highlights of February Meeting



Paul Preece, who was unable to be at the Annual General Meeting takes the oath of office and is installed as Vice President of the Butler Branch. Accompanying him is President Shirley Lockhart and Past President Eugene Oatley



Dale Smout introduced speaker Bev Garner, an archaeologist who talked about Snake Hill, the 1812 military cemetery from the War of 1812.



In 1987, when a home was being constructed in Fort Erie, human bones were discovered at the site. Archaeological Services were invited to excavate the area. Twenty seven burial sites were unearthed, as well as a medical waste pit, from the War of 1812. Some interesting facts that Bev related were: only two of the soldiers were buried in coffins, 400 buttons were found, amputations with saws were very common when fractures occurred, soldiers were buried in rows with all facing to the west except one buried facing east and the soldiers were all Americans, mostly from New

York and Pennsylvania. Using historical documents and the bones and teeth, the following health facts were discovered: many of the soldiers suffered from malnutrition and dietary stress, bone stress due to overwork was evident, the average height was between 5'7" and 5'10", lead levels were fairly low, the average age was 21 years (although the range was 14 to early 40s) and none of the soldiers were ever identified. In 1988, the soldiers were all repatriated to the U.S. and interred at the closest military base in Bath, New York.

Highlights of March Meeting

Helen Bartens, Curator of the Eva Brook Donley Museum in Simcoe spoke on Changing Ladies Fashions over the Centuries from 1780 to 1960.

Helen gave a very interesting presentation, explaining that even though women's fashions have changed over the years, old styles are often revived and what is old becomes new again. The fashion pendulum has swung from elaborate to simple, with necklines, waistlines and hems moving up and down throughout the years.

One of her main themes was about the restriction that clothing has placed on women over the years. Dresses have evolved from the M silhouette of the 1700's with tight corsets, made from richly embroidered material, to the simpler Ionic column inspired dresses of the 1820's to the H silhouette of the 1870's with very long sleeves to the X silhouette of the Gay Nineties, when women's clothes were made for movement and riding bicycles. As the Edwardian period started, the S silhouette was popular with softer fabrics and fewer petticoats. During both wars, women's fashions became more serviceable and practical, while during the 1920's Flapper Era, hems and sleeves were very short and the silhouette was more masculine. In the 50s clothes became feminine again, with emphasis on small waists and full skirts. Don't throw anything away – you never know when it may be in style again!



Highlights of April Meeting



April speaker, Brad Melle's topic: **The Life and Times of the Six Nations, the Johnson Family and Pauline Johnson** centered around the theme of "where two cultures meet", which is the slogan for Chiefswood, the home of Pauline Johnson which is now a museum, open to the public from May to October. She was the product of two distinct cultures – First Nations and European – and was able to successfully straddle these two worlds. Pauline's mother, Emily Howells was an American Quaker. Her father, Chief George Johnson, was one of 50 Mohawk chiefs and an interpreter for the government and the Anglican Church on the Six Nations Reserve. Both families were against their marriage initially, but eventually came to accept their union. Pauline (1862 – 1913) was a sickly child who was schooled at home, an avid reader of romantic literature who also loved canoeing, camping and had a great connection with the land. Her poetry was a union of English romantic novels and Mohawk storytelling. Brad spoke of her life as a poet and sometimes controversial entertainer. She performed across Canada, the U.S. and England. To commemorate the centennial of her birth, Canada issued a stamp in her honour – the first Canadian stamp to show a woman (other than the Queen), an author and a First Nations person.

Brad's presentation was followed by a personal story by CJB member, Elaine Gill.

Pauline Johnson—A Winter Visitor by Elaine Bockus Gill UE

Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake) is famous for poems such as "The Song My Paddle Sings" and "Canadian Born". She toured the country in the late 1800s reciting her poems. She had suffered bronchitis and laryngitis since childhood. In early 1900 after being overbooked in the Maritimes, she fell ill. By the end of the year she was totally exhausted and was not able to resume her recitals until April 1901. Many biographies have been written about her but none say where she was during the first three months of 1901. Well, where was she?



My great Aunt Florence Pitts was in the first graduating class of Cornwall General Hospital in 1900. Leaving the Maritimes, Pauline detoured in Cornwall and entered hospital. Florence was her nurse. When Pauline was discharged from hospital, she was not well enough to continue touring. Florence, who had a strong Christian family, took Pauline to her sister's home in Wales for a further period of recovery. She remained there with Alice and Jake Brassard until she was well enough to travel. When Pauline resumed her travels, she left behind an autographed book of her poetry and a wicker basket containing a teapot and cup. I am not sure as to the fate of the book but the basket has survived the years along with the story of how the family came by it. Pauline would have made tea and taken the basket with her on her train and canoe journeys. Paddling a canoe was an enjoyable pastime for her, a chance to escape and enjoy the simpler side of life.

My grandmother, Florence Brassard, would have been almost nine years of age at that time. I wonder if the little girl was enraptured with the fancy evening gowns and the unusual buckskin costume in Pauline's trunk. Grandma received something else from their winter house guest- a glimpse into another way of life. My dad remembers his mom bartering with the native people. Just before the sap started to run they would stop at the farm in Woodlands for supplies. They would paddle across to an island in the St. Lawrence and tap the trees. When they returned to the mainland they paid for those supplies with freshly made maple syrup.



Certificate Presentations – April 2014

Congratulations to the following members who received UE certificates for their ancestors

Connie Bier	John Vanderburgh
Wendy Broda	William May & Nicholas Smith
Bernice McRae	John Vanderburgh
Kelly Vink	Christian Riselay, Hannah Sipes, Hendrick Windecker, Adam Young & Daniel Young
Paul Wilson	William McCready & John Ford
Shirley Wilson	William McCready, accepted by son Paul
Jacqueline Yorke	Adam Young
Nathan Warren	Richard Griffin (mailed)
Owen Warren	Richard Griffin (mailed)
Richard Warren	Richard griffin (mailed)
Thomas Warren	Richard Griffin (mailed)

In addition, certificates were presented to the following UEs

David Denyes	Martin Fralick & Henry Gordonier, accepted by mother Brenda Denyes
Geoff Denyes	Martin Fralick & Henry Gordonier, accepted by mother Brenda Denyes
Margaret Johnson	Henry Simmons & John Williams Jr.



From left: Rodney Craig, Connie Bier, Paul Wilson, Jacqueline Williamson-Yorke, Wendy Broda, Kelly Vink, Margaret Johnston and Brenda Denyes.



Niagara Properties on the Eve of War

Submitted by Rodney Craig

“Niagara Properties on the Eve of War” is an excellent website, a very interesting resource for Loyalist descendants and everyone interested in the War of 1812 in Niagara. It is hosted by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Historical Society and Museum. The site includes several databases of information and interactive maps for the 412 properties in the Old Town of Niagara.

Town Historian Joy Ormsby’s property owner research, Peter Babcock’s transcriptions of the 1812 War Loss claims and the work of dedicated researchers including Maggie Parnall and the St. Mark’s Archives Committee have been used to create a wonderful view of Niagara before and after the War of 1812.

Access the website at <http://niagaraeveofwar.ca/en/content/home/index/>.

There are several tabs on the right at the top of the web page. The “People” tab gives access to an alphabetical list of residents; click on the “View” tab and a brief biography of the person appears. There might be an additional tab to click for access to War of 1812 claims and/or other information for that person.

The “Properties” tab reveals a list of all 412 lots in the database click on the “View” tab for a lot and a picture of the home if available, a lot description, owners names and notes appear.

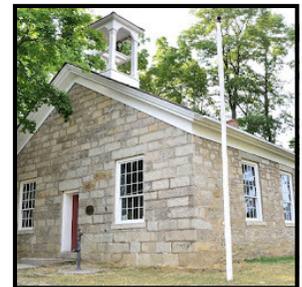
Clicking the “Claims” tab reveals a list of War Loss claimants and again clicking the “View” tab reveals the details.

The “Collections” tab is really interesting because it describes documents and artifacts from those early days available in the Museum Collection.

If you are interested in researching more about the property, individuals, 1812 War Loss Claims or the collection please contact the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum for an appointment at 905-468-3912, or by email—contact@niagarahistorical.museum

Control + click to follow the links.

Rod & Bev Craig to speak at Jordan Museum May 10th, 10 a.m.



Veronika Reiser, Local History Librarian at the Vineland Branch of the Lincoln Public Library, is hosting a Local History Talk on May 10th between 10 and noon in the old School House at the Jordan Museum, 3800 Main St., Jordan Village, LOR 1S0. There will be two sessions and the talks run for about 35-40 minutes each with time for questions afterwards. The focus this year is on groups that have settled the area and will include the Loyalists and Butler’s Rangers, presented by Rod and Bev Craig. More details will be available soon.

The Lincoln County Library website address is <http://www.lincoln.library.on.ca/> Check “News and Events” for updates about all upcoming events. There is a Birth, Death and Marriage Index available through the Local History tab on the Library site.

Check this excellent Twenty Valley website for fabulous day trips close to home:

http://www.20valley.ca/storeprofile/643/town_of_lincoln_s_jordan_historical_museum





Ontario Genealogical Society Niagara
Conference - May 1 to 4, 2014

Genealogy Without Borders

Brock University, Glendale Campus
St. Catharines Ontario

This year's theme is based on the simple idea that genealogical research can be done almost without ever having to leave your home. The Internet and social media have provided access to information from around the globe. Conference speakers will assist family researchers, through their expertise, to access that information.

The OGS website gives details of registration, accommodation, meals, and maps, in addition to an extensive speakers list with biographies. Go to www.ogs.on.ca/conference2014 and prepare to be impressed.

Tours are planned for Thursday and Friday for a modest fee. Choices are: Fort Erie Battlefield Tour; Port Dalhousie and the Welland Canal; Historic Journey through Niagara on the Lake; Fort George and McFarland House; Black History and the Underground Railway.

The Saturday night banquet is a highlight of the weekend, with keynote speaker Hank Jones' topic: How Psychic Roots became an Unsolved Mystery.

200th Anniversary of the Battle of Chippawa

A re-enactment on the battlefield will be organized by the Niagara Parks Commission, along with commemoration services on the weekend of July 5th and 6th 2014. Details will be finalized shortly and will be available on the Niagara Falls Museum website, at www.niagarafallsmuseums.ca/niagara1812.aspx

Battle of Lundy's Lane Bicentennial Commemoration

A major event is planned for the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Lundy's Lane on July 25th. Registered participants will assemble at the Gale Centre and march along the old Portage Route about 2 1/2 kilometres, to participate in events at the battlefield at dusk. Prior to that, the Lundy's Lane Historical Society will have a commemorative service at 7:30 and the Butler Branch will be included in the laying of wreaths. The battlefield event will last about 75 minutes and will conclude with a candlelit walk through the cemetery. For more details, go to the Niagara Falls Museums website and click on the Events tab. Parking nearby is limited.



Thanks to the following who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter : Rod & Bev Craig, Deb Sherk, Elaine Gill, & Shirley Lockhart. Contributions are always welcome from members. Contact Ann Huffman, Editor at 905-714-1899 or email annhuffman@bell.net.



2014 UELAC Annual Conference & Centennial Celebration

Toronto, June 5 to 8 at the Eaton Chelsea Hotel

Seminars include:

- Todd Braistead: The New Jersey Volunteers, 1776-1783; a genealogist's guide to the Military Records of the largest Provincial Regiment of the American Revolution
- Marian Press: Local History Online: Adding social context to your Family History
- Jane MacNamara: Prerogative, Probate, and Surrogate courts, as well as wills in land records.
- Archives of Ontario: Accessing & Preserving Family Heirlooms
- Ancestry.ca with Lesley Anderson; Pre-Confederation Records: explore Loyalist, British Military in Canada, the Revolutionary War and early immigration records on Ancestry.ca

For more information and a copy of the conference agenda and registration form, check out this link on the Toronto Branch website:

<http://www.ueltoronto.ca/2014%20UELA%20Annual%20Conference.htm>

[WWW.COLJOHNBUTLERUEL.COM](http://www.coljohnbutleruel.com)

[WWW.UELAC.ORG](http://www.uelac.org)



Happy
Easter

ARBITRATOR – A cook who leaves Arby's to work at McDonalds
AVOIDABLE – What a bullfighter tries to do
BERNADETTE – The act of torching a mortgage
BURGLARIZE – What a crook sees with
COUNTERFEITERS – Workers who put together kitchen cabinets
ECLIPSE – What a British barber does for a living
HEROES – What a guy in a boat does
MISTY – How golfers create divots
PARASITES – What you see from the top of the Eiffel Tower
POLARIZE – What penguins see with
RELIEF – What trees do in the spring
RUBBERNECK – What you do to relax your wife
SELFISH – What the owner of a seafood store does
SUDAFED – Brought litigation against a government official

