

The Niagara Loyalist

COL. JOHN BUTLER (NIAGARA) BRANCH

UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



April, 2013

President's Pen

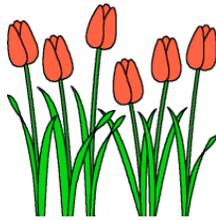
The advent of warmer weather is a treat for all of us, and with it, the events that members of our Branch make a habit of attending. By dressing in period clothing on these occasions, we draw attention to our Loyalist heritage. A schedule of the summer events is included within this newsletter.

There are also many events planned to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812-1814. Those of us with a special interest in local history will have no reason to be bored this year. Further details are available on the following sites -1812 Legacy, Fort George and Laura Se-cord.

Starting on May 25th there will be a major re-enactment of the Battle of Fort George to be held on the Town Commons. The following day, another re-enactment will be held within the walls of the Fort. A memorial service for the fallen will be held on May 27th.

The commemorations of Laura Se-cord's historic walk from Queenston to DeCew House will be held June 21-22. The actual walk will be on the 22nd.

Canada Day in Niagara on the Lake will highlight the American occupation of the old town and the American Flag will be flown from then until October.



A Fife and Drum Muster and soldier's field day will be sure to delight onlookers

on August 17-18.

The commemoration of the Burning of Niagara on December 6-7 will be a memorable occasion. Queen Street will be lit up as if on fire.

On December 10th there will be a special service at St. Mark's Church; the graveyard will be lit with torches and a large bonfire.

Speaking of history, there appears to be a rather large gap in our own Branch history. We are unaware, at present, of any records spanning the years 1921-1947. We were then known at St. Catharines Branch. If any of you have or know of documents pertaining to those years, please contact me. Maybe some of it will turn up in the course of your research.

Maintaining and growing our membership is an ongoing challenge. It is so important to keep our Loyalist his-

tory alive. When we encourage friends and family who have Loyalist ancestors to do the research in order to get a certificate, we are doing just that. Following the attainment of the certificate, we must encourage members to stay with our Branch and enjoy the fellowship at our luncheon meetings featuring interesting speakers. Our educational institutions fall woefully short when it comes to making students aware of the United Empire Loyalists. Therefore, it is up to all of us to address these challenges.

Loyally,

Shirley Lockhart U.E.

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Branch Activities—Summer 2013

Saturday June 15 – 10:30am United Empire Loyalist Flag Raising Ceremony, Niagara on the Lake Please meet at the clock tower in advance of the start time. We will be joined by Lord Mayor David Eke and members of the Fort George Fife and Drum Corps. After the ceremony we will convene for lunch at the Olde Angel Inn. Cost of lunch is your individual responsibility. A tour of McFarland House on the Niagara Parkway will follow. Cost is \$4.50 per person.

Friday July 5 – 7pm Battle of Chippawa Commemorative Service Gail Woodruff's granddaughter Madelene Battis will lay CJB's wreath at the cenotaph. Please bring a lawn chair. An informal reception will follow.

Saturday July 6 – 10-3pm Dunnville Airport Museum Heritage Fair & Open House, Hangar #1, 536 Reg. Rd. 11/Port Maitland Rd., Dunnville, ON

Sunday July 28 – 12:30pm Battle of Lundy's Lane Commemorative Service, Drummond Hill Cemetery, Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls, *entrance and parking are off Drummond Road at Buchner Place. CJB will place their wreath. Please bring your lawn chair. An informal reception follows at the Battle Ground Hotel Museum just across from the cemetery on Lundy's Lane.

Note – next year this event will be held on Friday July 25, the actual date of the Battle of



**Speaker for May 4, 2013 is
Rev. David Pritchard who
portrays saddle bag Preacher
Rider David Holes**

Respond to: Ann Huffman
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or
Gail Woodruff
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Last Post

HUGHES, James Craig UE, son of Donald and Patricia Hughes and long time member of the Col. Butler Branch.

WILSON, William, husband of member Geri Wilson UE, life-long educator and historian.

HOWARD, Richard, husband of member Estelle Pringle, UE

The Butler Branch extends its heartfelt condolences to the families in their recent losses.

Update on 2014 CJB Gala

Get out your 2014 calendars and mark May 24th on it - that's the date we've chosen to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

After checking out a number of venues, we have decided to go all out and have our gala dinner at Queenston Heights, a most suitable location for this special occasion. The view from the dining room is spectacular, the food will be outstanding and the room size is perfect for 100 guests.

As a result of fund-raising within the Branch over the past few years, we are able to subsidize the cost of the tickets and will offer them at a little less than half of our costs, at \$50 per person.

Naturally tickets must be prepaid in order to guarantee your place. Sorry, no refunds.

We are excited to be able to report on having secured Queenston Heights as the venue for our gala and will keep you informed of details as plans progress.



Ann & Eugene

A hearty welcome to our newest members :

Ron & Janice Hudd, William Fleming, Joshua Hockridge, Steve Beniac, Gerald Dell

and to our returning members Susan Harley Kidd UE and John (Jack) Harley UE

Spotlight on: Marguerite Harratty UE

In January this year, well-known CJB member Marguerite Harratty received a plaque, honouring the memory of her son Ben Miller who passed away last October.

When Ben was born with Down syndrome in 1945 there were no services for children with special needs, but Marguerite, along with a group of parent advocates fought hard to change that and through their dedication and hard work, Community Living Fort Erie was founded.

Ben spent the next 68 years of his life with Community Living and participated in many community activities. He was known by the children as the "gentle giant", always willing to give a helping hand. He enjoyed track and field, darts and bocce, woodworking, sketching and volunteer work. He was one of the first Olympians in the Niagara region to attend the first Special Olympics Adult Games.

Marguerite recalled that Ben had his challenges but put his all into everything he ever did. She is thrilled and feels blessed to see what has become of the organization she helped create. Her first class in 1958 had just four students, but the next week there were ten. Today the organization has grown to support over 200 individuals.

Marguerite has been a member of the Butler Branch since 2001 and has attended almost every meeting and event the Branch has participated in since she joined.

Based on the article 'Remembering a Gentle Giant' from the Fort Erie Times Saturday, January 26, 2013



February Speaker, Robin McKee is a graduate of McMaster University and Mohawk College in the history area. He currently works for CHCH TV and also conducts cemetery tours in the Hamilton area.

His topic was The Battle of Beavertams. This battle took place during the War of 1812 on June 24, 1813. The site of this battle has changed radically since that time due to construction, the building of the canal and human habitation. During his interesting presentation, Robin told the members about a young girl, named Sarah Ryan Winer, who he called the "Laura Secord of the Battle of Beavertams". General FitzGibbon needed someone to carry messages to the other British headquarters after the battle. He asked Sarah's father and he agreed to let her carry messages. So, the 12 year old girl set out on horseback and became a spy or courier for the British army. Robin also told of the importance of this particular battle and how FitzGibbon used several ruses to win the battle against a much larger and well armed American army. He summed up the battle by saying that the Caughnawaga natives did the fighting, FitzGibbon got the glory and the Mohawks secured the plunder.

Submitted by Deb Sherk, Branch Secretary

March Speaker: Zig Misiak is an author, re-enactor and historical speaker. He is President of Real People's History and Honourary Vice-President of the UE-LAC. Zig spoke about his latest book "*Highlighting Native Nations and the War of 1812*".

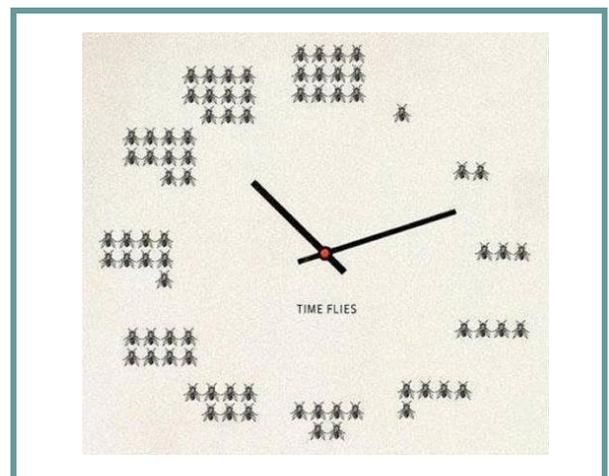
Zig began his presentation by stating clearly that he was speaking "about" the First Nations, not "for" the First Nations. He feels that native involvement in the War of 1812 has been poorly understood or simply misunderstood. During the period 1790-1815, there were many conflicts going on in the world, including the Napoleonic War between France and England. The Six Nations struggled about the decision to be involved in the War of 1812. They had not been treated well after the Revolutionary War in the U.S. and were cautious about entering another conflict. The Six Nations occupied parts of modern day Oxford, Norfolk, Lincoln and Halton counties, along the Grand River to Lake Erie.

Zig explained how the physical world dictated a great deal about how the battles were waged and ultimately won or lost – weather, transportation and roads, communication, resources for food and shelter and time of year. A monument will be erected at Brock's Monument later this year to commemorate the First Nations involvement in the War of 1812. Zig's books were available for sale and author signing.

Deb Sherk, Branch Secretary

**Experience the Canadian War Museum
Touring Exhibit about the War of 1812 at the
St. Catharines Museum at Lock 3 (1932
Welland Canals Parkway, St. Catharines)
between 6th April and 25th August, 2013.**

Tempus fugit



General Meetings February & March 2013



Robin McKee, February speaker



Zig Miziak, March Speaker



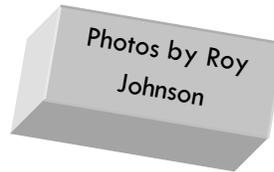
Deb Sherk



Rosalyn MacTavish



Mary Roberts, Sylvia Bagley, Shirley Lockhart



Walt Wintermute, Ed Burke



Rod Craig, Shirley Lockhart with Ruth Williams who received her certificate for her ancestor John Simmons



Wilda & Ron Chapman, Lillian Santesso

The Lincoln Archives is located in the old Lodge building on the campus of the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre. You can find it by following the signs for Twenty Valley Tourism, Flowers Canada or the Wine Council of Ontario which share the same building. The Archives are located in the lower level, accessible by stairs or elevator, inside the doors on the south side of the building. There is ample parking in front of the building, south side.

The following information was prepared by Pat High who writes the Archives newsletter. CJB members Myrna Perry and Mary Lou Garr are also volunteers at the Friends of Lincoln's History Archives.



THE LINCOLN ARCHIVES

Don't Toss It Out - Donate It!

The area comprising Lincoln, (much of old Louth and Clinton Townships), is rich in history, and over the years has witnessed a fascinating array of people arriving within its boundaries. Among them: United Empire Loyalists; Pennsylvania German pioneers; young Allied pilots training at the Beamsville aerodrome; waves of refugees fleeing war-torn Europe; and many, many more.

The volunteers at the *Lincoln Archives* are committed to preserving the history of this area and its people, past and present. Old documents, diaries, deeds, scrapbooks, photographs, family histories, maps, local histories, school records, letters, etc., can provide a wealth of information for those researching their roots or community history, so please don't throw them away. - Call us! (Originals are wonderful but copies are also **very** welcome!)

During this early "set-up" period, the Archive is greatly in need of financial assistance to acquire much-needed supplies and equipment. i.e.- legal-size filing cabinets, photocopiers, acid-free sheet protectors, archival quality storage boxes, telephone service, etc. The Lincoln Archives, (under the umbrella of the *Friends of Lincoln's History* group – formerly the *Lincoln History Club*), has charitable status, and is able to issue tax receipts. To date, our dedicated volunteers have been very generously contributing their own time, research materials and often equipment and supplies as well, but the more people become involved, the better job we can do of preserving, presenting and making information available to those wishing to investigate the history of the area, or the stories of their ancestors.

If you would like to research your roots, donate materials, volunteer or perhaps offer some sort of financial or material assistance to help preserve the history of this area and its people, please get in touch!

Contact the **Lincoln Archives** at: **Phone:** 905-945-4165 or 905-562-7473, **Email:** lincolnarchives@gmail.com

Or write us at: Friends of Lincoln's History – Archives, Box 444, Jordan Station, ON L0R 1S0

Drop in and see us Wednesday mornings 8:30 AM – 12:00 Noon at the lower level of the old Lodge Building



Around 1945 the Lodge was built to accommodate single research staff and student assistants . It provided double rooms for 20 persons in addition to service staff. The dining room could accommodate 30 people and there was a large living room and a basement area used for recreational purposes. It is this same basement area that now houses the Lincoln Archives.

By the early 70s, on-site living was phased out but perhaps some residual traces of that youthful camaraderie remain, for the volunteers now working there often comment on the sense of excitement and fun that seems to linger about the place...



Finding the Grandchild of the Loyalist

Following are suggested sources to search when attempting to connect the Grandchild of the Loyalist to his or her parents (the Daughter of the UE or the Son of the UE).

- A. **CENSUS** - If the DUE or SUE died after 1851 look at all censuses prior to the death to see if the child and DUE/SUE are living together. The Canadian Census Records are available online at <http://www.ancestry.ca> and most public libraries offer computer access to the site.
- B. **WILLS** - Did the DUE/SUE leave a will naming children? Archives Ontario has created a very good guide available on the Archives of Ontario website: <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/index.aspx>. Click on "The Records" on the list at the left. Scroll down to "Estate Files" and click on the PDF "How to Find a Will". Begin your search in the year the person died and then move forward in time. Often a will was probated or an estate administered years after the death. Many branches of the Ontario Genealogical Society have indexed Early Wills in their area, so check the Branch Publications List in the area where the DUE/SUE lived.
- C. **FAMILY BIBLES** - If you are fortunate enough to find the child of an SUE/DUE listed in a family bible, look at the publication date. If that date is after the entries took place and/or if the entries are all in the same handwriting they were probably entered by one person at a later date and therefore might be inaccurate.
- D. **OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS** - If you know the name of a brother or sister of the person that you are researching you might find a record that connects that sister or brother to their parents. Then find a different record that connects the brother or sister to the grandchild that you are researching to complete the proof.
- E. **LAND REGISTRY RECORDS AND ABSTRACTS** - In order to search the Land Registry records you must know the county, township, concession and lot number of the land that the DUE/SUE lived on and/or was granted. Archives Ontario has created two guides available on their website: <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/index.aspx>. Click on "The Records" on the list at the left. Scroll down to "Land Records". The guides are "How to Use the Ontario Land Record Index ca.1780 - ca. 1920, and "From Grant to Patent: A Guide to Early Land Settlement Records ca. 1970 to ca. 1850. Both documents are in Word and PDF format.

Congratulations Pat!



Pat Logan UE, seen with Toby Barrett, MPP for Haldimand/Norfolk accepting the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for her significant contributions as a long-time volunteer with the Dunnville Airport Museum, the Agricultural Society, Haldimand's Genealogy Society, the Dunnville Heritage Society, her church and the Inman Road Women's Institute.

*Photo courtesy of the
Sachem & Glanbrook Gazette.*

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Recipients



Kevin Flynn, MPP for Oakville presents Dominion Past President Fred Hayward with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal for his outstanding volunteerism to his church community, the education community, the Heritage community, and for his tireless work with the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

Congratulations Fred!

Long-time member and Branch Photographer Roy Johnson recently celebrated his 80th birthday at the Lions Hall in Fenwick. Many friends, family members and colleagues joined him, including several Butler Branch members.

Roy Johnson's 80th Birthday



Butler Branch Members & Friends



Sandy Stokes, Sandy DeYoung, Ron Chapman, Diane Potter, Sherry Bell, Ted & Ann Huffman, Roy J., Wilda Chapman, Rod & Bev Craig



Johnson Family, Frances, Diane, Roy & Jill



Roy with Mayor Dave Augustyn



Maurice & Marilyn Gomme with Roy



Photos courtesy of Diane Potter



Roy with Myrna Perry



Women of CJB - Sandy DeYoung, Sherry Bell, Ann Huffman & Bev Craig

Fireplace Cooking by Gail Woodruff U.E.



For my Christmas present this year, my daughter Erin Walker U.E. sent me a large cast iron baker. It is a 12 quart, 17 inch covered baker. As I am also a re-enactor who needs to cook over the coals, I was ecstatic. It is, however, very heavy. With plans to prepare for camp, this week I cooked over the coals in my fireplace a roasted chicken, a butternut squash, leeks, baked potatoes and Portobello mushrooms. Absolutely delicious!

Thanks to the following contributors to this newsletter:

Shirley Lockhart UE, Deb Sherk UE, Rod Craig, Bev Craig UE, Gail Woodruff UE, Pat High, Diane Potter, and Roy Johnson UE.

Submissions of articles of interest to our members are always welcome and will be included as space and suitability permit.

Ann Huffman, Editor

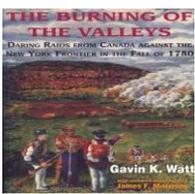


The Col. John Butler (Niagara) Branch Library

Our Branch has a lending library that is housed at the home of Gail Woodruff U.E. in Chippawa. We have a number of books associated with Loyalists connections, the War of 1812, Pioneers, Religions, local histories, Masonry, and a number of communities in Ontario. A few of the books are for research only, as they are one of a kind. You are welcome to visit the library, by appointment, or order a book from Gail. To contact her by phone, call 905-295-6378 or email her at grammag@cogeco.ca.

The Loyalist Library Book Review by Gail Woodruff U.E.

The Burning of the Valleys – Daring Raids From Canada Against the New York Frontier in the Fall of 1780 by



Gavin K. Watt with research assistance by **James F. Morrison**. Dundurn Press, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. 1997

Gavin Watt has a special interest in this topic as he is best known as the founder of the recreated King's Royal Yorkers. In his book he has incorporated a phenomenal amount of research of the time, incorporating extensive use of personal diaries and war chronicles. He documents, in a familiar way, the accounts of the sieges during the fifth year of the War of Independence when the Canadian Department waged a decisive campaign against the northern frontier of New York. He describes the Loyalist raids that wreaked havoc on the American frontier that included the various Loyalist Regiments, Butler's Rangers, the British Troops and the Native Allies. He includes a few company rosters, casualty reports and mentions many of those men who served under these auspices. Even my gggg grandfather Joseph Clement of the Indian Department is mentioned!

Most interesting and informative is the comparative chronological itemization of some of the primary events and people of the American Revolution. This book contains an extensive Bibliography. It is an exciting read for those with a Loyalist background.

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