

The Niagara Loyalist

COL. JOHN BUTLER (NIAGARA) BRANCH

UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



August, 2013

President's Pen



I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer. Many of us have attended celebrations during June and July to promote the Loyalist cause.

The June event in Niagara on the Lake to raise the Loyalist flag of George III was held on a beautiful sunny day that drew a fairly large crowd of curious onlookers. Lord Mayor David Eke joined us along with two members of the Fort George Fife and Drum Corps. I am pleased that there was good representation from our members, many of whom wore period clothing. Our Loyalist history is so very important. Bev Craig UE placed our wreath at the cenotaph. Lord Mayor Eke asked us to assemble afterward for a group photo slated for the next town newsletter. A group lunch at the Olde Angel Inn and a tour of McFarland House on the Niagara Parkway rounded out the day. My thanks are extended to Eugene Oatley UE for arranging a successful event.

Our Loyalist flag also flew at City Hall in St. Catharines throughout Loyalist week and flies year round at the city's Memorial Park as well.

I was pleased when asked to lay our wreath at the commemoration of the Battle of Beaverdams in Thorold. Madelene Battis UE did the honours at the Battle of Chippawa. The following day, Rod and Bev Craig UE and I were at the Dunnville Airport Heritage Fair to promote the Branch. We enjoyed a delicious barbecue chicken dinner afterward. Pat, Jamie and Tim Logan, all UE's and CJB members, are hard-working volunteers at this day-long event. Our grandson, CJB

member Iain Lockhart UE, laid our wreath at the Battle of Lundy's Lane in memory of all who fought in this horrific battle nearly 200 years ago. Iain is also a member of the 22nd St. Columba Scout Troop and wore his uniform proudly. There was good representation from Branch members at this event.

It was my intention to step back from the President's position in December; however that plan has been put on the back burner. Past President Eugene Oatley UE is resigning, as is Treasurer Elaine Gill UE. Both have served our Branch loyally and capably and will be missed. Ted Huffman UE has put his name forward to take on the Treasurer's position. Should one of you want to add your name to the slate for this position, please contact any of the Executive members and an election will follow in December at the AGM. The remaining Executive members have declared their intention to continue with their respective jobs. Paul Preece UE will need a Vice President to support him in another year.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming fall session beginning on September 7th.

Loyally,
Shirley Lockhart UE

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Fall Meetings & Speakers

Saturday, September 7 - Speaker will be John Nixon, with his book titled "Redcoat 1812".

Saturday, October 5 - Branch member Gayle Ann Livechia will speak about "The Warrensbush Raid"

Saturday, November 2 - Bryan Kerman will discuss his book about Joseph Willcocks.

Saturday, December 7 - The Branch will have its Annual General Meeting, Elections and a social to follow.

All meetings are held at Betty's Restaurant, Chippawa. Doors open at 11 a.m., the meeting begins promptly at 11:45.



As the volunteers and staff require some time to set up, we would ask you to observe the doors open time of 11 a.m.

Respond to: Ann Huffman

annhuffman@bell.net

905-714-1899

or

Gail Woodruff

grammag@cogeco.ca

May Meeting



Proudly displaying their certificates are Brenda Denyes for herself and sons Geoffrey and David, Peter Opdam, Sue Lawrence, Walt Wintermute, Corinne Fleming for her son William, and Rick Smith.

A tiny bit of humour ...

A train station is where the train stops. A bus station is where the bus stops. On my desk I have a work station...

You can't be late until you show up.

You can go anywhere you want if you look serious and carry a clipboard.

Never interrupt your opponent while he's making a mistake.

and good questions...

Why is it that dentists are incapable of asking a question that requires a simple yes or no answer?

If practice makes perfect and nobody's perfect, why practice?

Have you ever noticed that the people who are late are much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?

And finally, from a Church Bulletin ...

The Low Self-Esteem Group will meet Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please use the back door.

Welcome to our Newest Members

Cynthia, Christopher, Sarah and Natalie Klinowski

Paul Moore, Chris & Nancy Moore

Marcie Jacklin

John Hilts

Sharon Swayze

Scott, Lisa, Samantha & Sydney VanEvery

Carl & Margery Carriere

John McFarlane

Betty Jane Patterson

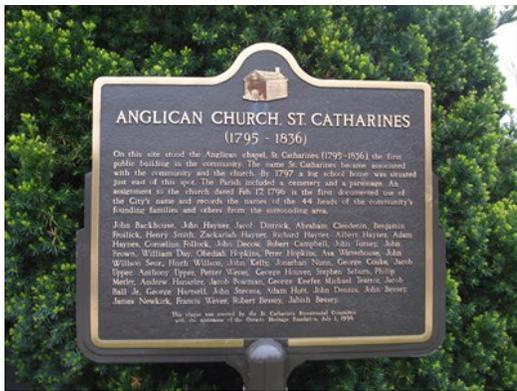
Alan, Colette & Leah Woolley, Hugh Woolley

Ken & Mary Martindale

as well as Additional Branch Members Don Faichney and Cynthia Skinner

Are your ancestors' names on this plaque?

This plaque was erected by the St. Catharines Bicentennial Committee with the assistance of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, July 1, 1996 and is located at the corner of McGuire Street and St. Paul Street W. in St. Catharines.



ANGLICAN CHURCH, ST. CATHARINES (1795 - 1836)

On this site stood the Anglican chapel, St. Catharines (1795 - 1836), the first public building in the community. The name St. Catharines became associated with the community and the church. By 1797 a log school house was situated just east of this spot. The Parish included a cemetery and a parsonage. An assignment to the church dated Feb. 17, 1796 is the first documented use of the City's name and records the names of the 44 heads of the community's founding families and others from the surrounding area.

John Backhouse, John Hayner, Jacob Dittrick, Abraham Clendenin, Benjamin Froilick, Henry Smith, Zackariah Hayner, Richard Hayner, Albert Hayner, Adam Haynes, Cornelius Follock, John Decow, Robert Campbell, John Turney, John Brown, William Day, Obediah Hopkins, Peter Hopkins, Asa Waterhouse, John Willson Senr., Hugh Willson, John Kelly, Jonathan Nunn, George Couke, Jacob Upper, Anthony Upper, Petter Wever, George Hover, Stephen Seburn, Philip Metler, Andrew Hanseler, Jacob Bowman, George Keefer, Michael Teattor, Jacob Ball Jr., George Hartsell, John Stevens, Adam Hunt, John Dennis, John Bessey, James Newkirk, Francis Wever, Robert Bessey, Jabish Bessey

Submitted by Rick Smith UE, Sault Ste. Marie, descendant of Cornelius Follock (Vollick)

Summer Photos 2013

Flag Raising, Niagara-on-the-Lake, June 15



It was a perfect day for the annual flag raising at the clock tower in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Branch members, many in period dress, enjoyed lunch at the Olde Angel Inn and a tour of McFarland House later.



Wreath-Laying, 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Beaverdams - June 24



The weekend of June 22 to June 24 commemorated the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Beaverdams with events at DeCew House, Morningstar Mill, Trinity United Church and the Laura Secord walk. Along with many other organizations, Shirley Lockhart laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch at the closing ceremony.

Beaverdams photos courtesy of Brandy Fulton

Spotlight on: Sandra DeYoung UE, Camp Lady - Following the Soldiers

Readers of history, battles, campaigns, troop movements and military encampments, have probably read of the "Camp Follower". Their story has been told by others and it is truly a fascinating read. I never, ever thought that I would one day become one of them. For me, it was one of the most exciting decisions I have ever made. The original role of the Camp Followers was to assist with nursing and laundry and they earned that placement by means of a lottery. There were not large numbers of them and they and their children were the responsibility of the army for rations. However, the women also foraged for food to add to their diet. The soldiers did their own cooking but the wives prepared the meals for their own soldier husbands and children. Today, we are still referred to as Camp Followers or, Camp Ladies. We all have a militia or regiment that we have joined and we support all of the re-enacting events.

We have the privilege of camping at many of the beautiful historic sites here and in the United States. It is a privilege we never take for granted. We are capable of setting up and taking down our tents, digging pits for fires and cooking and we enjoy doing these things. There are a lot of women who portray and value these experiences and the friendship of all of the other Camp Ladies whom they often see only during the re-enacting season. One of the original rules that the Camp Followers had to abide by was, if their husbands were killed in a battle, they had 48 hours to find another soldier to marry them or they would be asked to leave. One can only imagine those poor women facing such a dilemma. Fortunately today, we Camp Ladies do not have to be concerned about such a fate. I am sure that we will never fully be able to thank them for their contribution in such difficult times.



Wrapped in a warm cloak, surrounded by the roar of cannons and the smell of black powder, it is easy to feel as though I have stepped back 200 years in time. That was a fearful time of bloody battles and a population that had already endured a heavy price for the land that they were fighting to keep.

The battlefield that lay before me is the same land that saw the battles that are being re-enacted today. For that brief time of re-enacting, we have the opportunity to visualize what we know today was a terrible time for our people. This is a large part of being a re-enactor, to learn of the history, and in a very minute way, experience that history with tremendous respect for the men who fought those battles.

The pursuit of a re-enacting hobby can be life changing. One has to truly love a rough life or hobby to participate in the events year after year. When I first entered into that "past" life as a camp follower, I was joining my daughter and her family who had already been involved for a few years. I started out with one dress which at first I was too shy to wear and then to the hats or bonnets which are important due to constant sun exposure. Then I purchased comfortable period correct shoes because we are on our feet on rough ground for many hours every day. Of course my tent is my prized possession and for the first year I slept on the ground. Gradually I acquired the equipment I needed and even now I am always on the hunt for that "authentic" iron pot or kettle that I cannot do without. I learned early on that these items are very heavy. My other prized camp item is my brazier, a metal box for camp fires. It is especially valuable for areas that do not permit a fire pit. When I finally had assembled my "kit", I was ready to travel.



The camaraderie enjoyed by re-enacting groups is a great benefit of this hobby. I have experienced some fantastic pot luck suppers shared with members of our own militia group and anyone who happened to drop in for a visit. Meals are very important since the activity for all of us, especially the soldiers, is very strenuous. Often a site will have meals provided but we always give serious thought to preparing proper meals. If a visitor walked through an encampment they would see an amazing menu being prepared. It would not be unusual to see chickens being roasted as well as beef, pork, the always popular stew and corn and potatoes roasted on the coals of a fire pit. Camp ladies can produce bread, biscuits and cookies baked in Dutch ovens or reflector ovens and even an apple or cherry cobbler.

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Unveiling Plaque in Memory of Jerry Douglas Fisher, UE.

On June 4, 2013, family and friends gathered together to celebrate Jerry Fisher's achievements at Doan Cemetery.



As a result of his extensive research, Jerry not only proved that Aaron Doan was a Loyalist but was also instrumental in having the old Steele Cemetery property designated as a Loyalist cemetery in 2008. In 2009 the site was designated as a Heritage Site by the City of Port Colborne and was renamed the Doan Cemetery in 2010. A Loyalist plaque was placed at the cemetery and at Aaron Doan's burial site.

It was Jerry's wish to be buried at the Doan Cemetery; however, no further burials are permitted there. The Fisher family applied to the City of Port Colborne to place a plaque at the cemetery in recognition of Jerry's outstanding work at the property which was part of the original Land Grant of Aaron Doan in 1802.

Eleanor Fisher UE, Shirley Charbonneau UE, Larry Fisher, and Jerry's two daughters, Wendy and Shelley took part in the service along with a few members from the Col. Butler Branch. The family expressed its appreciation for support received from the Branch over the past few years.

Submitted by Shirley Charbonneau UE, photographs by Ron Chapman

www.coljohnbutleruel.com

Speaker for May Meeting: Rev. David Pritchard has been the Minister at the Grace United Church in Niagara-on-the Lake for 7 years. Rev. Pritchard portrays Ninian Holmes, who was a Methodist circuit preacher, also known as a saddle bag preacher, in the Niagara area during the War of 1812-1814.

Rev. Pritchard, in character as Rev. Holmes told the guests his story. He was born in Brockville in 1786 and was ordained as an exhorter in 1806 and as a minister to the Niagara circuit in 1808. His ministry took in the area from Little York to Long Point and he was often away from home, which was in Chatham, for 3 months at a time. A saddle bag preacher fulfilled many roles in those early days – he was a preacher, a lending library, a news source and a comfort during the dislocation and hardships of war. They also were behind enemy lines, attending to the sick and displaced. The Canadian Methodist Church, with its strong ties to American Methodist Church, was somewhat mistrusted during the war. But by 1867, it was the largest Protestant denomination in Canada and became a truly Canadian church, with either British or Canadian ministers. Rev. Holmes died in 1838. Prior to his death, he was deemed “no longer of service”, which meant he was no longer able to ride up to 10 hours a day. Rev. Holmes was dressed in period costume – a large black brimmed hat, with brown vest, white shirt, black breeches, white stockings and scuffed brown shoes – which greatly added to the interest of his presentation.

Submitted by Deb Sherk UE, Secretary

Following the Soldiers—Continued

This hobby leads to a lot of research of the clothing for the period which, of course, creates a large collection of books on every subject of the time period we are portraying. The knowledge that is shared by the men representing the troops of the past, be they American, British or Native, is outstanding. They have all invested so much of themselves into understanding the events of that time as well as the required equipment and clothing. Countless hours are spent drilling, training and learning how to safely use muskets and cannons. The results are evident and I never tire of watching them as they form up and march out. I have a tremendous respect for their efforts.

Our camps are managed in the military style. Some sites have an actual reveilly call in the morning and I do like to hear that. Officers have morning meetings. Soldiers practice their drill, have musket inspections and in the background, the ladies of the camp are already making sure their camps are free of any modern items and washing up the breakfast dishes. The events of the day progress steadily on and regardless of the heat, and unless it rains too heavily, the soldiers carry on.

The evenings are such a special time to me. After the last battle is over and the washing up from supper is complete, the lanterns are lit and the campfires are fed with fresh wood. People gather around the fires and the musical instruments come out. There are fiddles, banjos, guitars, occasionally bag pipes and harmonicas and often singing. Children sit with their families that often include grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles. We talk, we sing, and we laugh a lot.

At the end of the day, I think back over time that has been well spent, and once again we have paid tribute to the men who gave so much of themselves that made all of these moments so unforgettable for us as re-enactors. I like to think too, that perhaps a few of them are standing just outside the circle of light and watching with understanding what we represent.

Sandra DeYoung, Camp Lady

Canadian Volunteers



Re-enactment at Fort George - May 2013

Photos courtesy of Roy Johnson UE

More Summer Photos 2013



Many Branch members attended the Lundy's Lane Service on a beautiful day at the end of July.



Battle of Chippawa

July 5, 2013



Shirley Lockhart UE
co4392@sympatico.ca

President

Paul Preece UE
ppreece@cogeco.ca

Vice-President

Eugene Oatley UE
Ero.uel@cogeco.ca

Past President

Deb Sherk UE
dsherk3@cogeco.ca

Secretary

Elaine Gill UE
egill@jaw.on.ca

Treasurer

Rodney Craig
rcraig@becon.org

Genealogist

Karen Richardson UE
karenerichardson@hotmail.com

Assistant
Genealogist &
Program Chair

Ann Huffman
annhuffman@bell.net

Membership
& Newsletter