

THE OTTAWA LOYALIST

Volume 1, No. 1

Spring 1983

With this rather small hand made edition a new project takes flight. In years to come this edition will no doubt be a collector's item, so be sure you put it away "in a safe place", probably never to be seen again. I know that, without a doubt, there is a "black hole" somewhere in my basement, where all my choice keepsakes are being steadily compacted into one great mass -- for no matter how hard I look, I can never find anything I have put away "in a safe place".

Enough of this. I am informed by our trusty treasurer, Frank Cooper, that we are still solvent, and will be even more so when we collect our now outstanding 1983 dues. We will be forwarding our "pound of flesh" to Headquarters shortly -- which will keep them happy for another year. We will be having our Branch Annual Meeting shortly, where a new slate of officers will be presented for 1983. And we have some fine spreads planned for the rest of the year.

But of course, the big event of 1983 is the Annual Convention in Saint John, New Brunswick, with an entire week devoted to the celebration of the arrival of The Loyalists in the Maritimes 200 years ago in 1783. The complete itinerary is outlined in the new "Loyalist Gazette" -- suffice it to say that we all should save our pennies and go East -- from 24 June to 3 July. I know a number of Branch members are planning on going - hope to see you there. Of course, this is just a warm-up for us, because 1984 is the big year for Ontario, and we will be assisting the Kingston Branch in hosting the Association in any way we can.

In conjunction with our 2 year celebration, as many as possible are urged to get themselves into period dress - it's quite an education to actually see and feel the type of clothing worn 200 years ago, and it's a marvellous sensation to be able to look in a mirror and say - "so thats what my Loyalist ancestors wore - I wonder what he (or she) really looked like!" We can really identify with the past in this way, and understand a little more fully what they had to put up with. Now, if we had to wear those clothes and walk to Kingston, how would we make out?

So, see Frank Cooper or Kay Webster or myself and make arrangements to get started on your very own 200-year-old wardrobe.

Look for some new innovations to start this spring or summer with respect to our continuing search for new members. In a nutshell, we hope to sponsor about once every 4 to 6 weeks, a meeting where we will be concentrating on the name of one Loyalist ancestor, and we'll have on hand as much of this individual's genealogy as possible. Then we will invite as many people bearing that surname as possible to this "social evening", and attempt to determine whether or not they are descended from this Loyalist settler of 200 years ago. If they are, we will help them submit their claim for Loyalist ties, and if they are

not, we'll ask them to join as associate members - anyway, we'll have some enjoyable evenings, and hopefully, meet a lot of new people. We'll report more fully on this activity in our next edition.

Work is progressing on the book on Ontario's Loyalists. We were asked to submit names of interested companies and business men from the Ottawa area for the book committee, who will then contact these individuals with respect to becoming involved in the production of the book.

A Loyalist Essay contest is being sponsored across Canada by the Dominion Education Committee. We have forwarded to most of the area high schools, the posters announcing the competition. The results are supposed to be back in our hands by end of April and forwarded to Dominion Headquarters for judging.

Enough for now - I had better save something for next time - it wouldn't do to be burned out on the 1st edition.

Ivan K. Mitchell
Chapter President.

We are attaching a copy of our 1983 meeting schedule which we would ask you to keep for future reference.

A short note follows from Dominion Headquarters:

"A Bicentennial project is in progress to publish genealogical information from each regular membership application with its documents on file since 1970 at the Dominion Headquarters. This information on family records will appear in book form for general sale.

Members who do not wish their family records to be printed for general distribution are asked to write immediately to the Dominion Headquarters, 23 Prince Arthur Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5R 1B2 and express their preferences for not having part or all of their family records included in the book.

The Toronto Branch has undertaken this major Bicentennial Project which will provide extensive Loyalist resources for an impetus to future memberships."