



The Ottawa Loyalist
Newsletter of the Sir Guy Carleton Branch,
UELAC
Volume 38 Issue Number 2
Spring 2022

Message from the President

By Rosemarie Pleasant

Hello everyone,

Things are improving, COVID-wise, we hope this is the last year of Zoom meetings. The turnout at the Annual General Meeting was disappointing. We had a great speaker, Stephen Davidson, with an excellent presentation. Read Nat's report for details. Janet has been looking at options for a hybrid Zoom/in person for the Fall Social. Holly has created Instagram and Facebook accounts for the Branch, please join and check them out. Both Holly and Nat are looking for content for social media and the newsletter. Nat has been looking at local Loyalist sites for upcoming newsletters, send him suggestions if you have any. We are making additions and changes to our web site, comments and suggestions are appreciated. Sign up for the Dominion Conference if you haven't already. As always, we need volunteers for the Executive. We are trying new things, and your input is needed.

The Fall Social will be in October or November, date to be determined.

Minutes from the Sir Guy Carleton Annual General Meeting: Saturday, April 23, 2022 2:00 to 4:23

Welcome to members and guests from our President, Rosemarie Pleasant.

Opening prayer: Marg Hall

Rosemarie Pleasant (President): Preliminary statement: Questions and answers at end of presentation.

Holly Haimerl: Introduction to speaker (Stephen Davidson).

Holly gave information on his background, his Loyalist ancestry and the many articles written for Loyalist trails and other publications. He has served as a consultant to Peter C Newman, and written books for both children and adults. Stephen's presentation was excellent, covering Sir Guy's actions and problems in moving the Loyalists out of New York at the end of the Revolutionary War. The full report on his presentation is written by Nathaniel Stone and is in the May issue of 'The Ottawa Loyalist' (see page 14). Holly thanked Stephen. Rose asked the guests to leave so the Annual General Meeting could start.

Rose did a count of members present, and there was a quorum. The minutes for the 2021 Annual General were not available but would be sent to members when found.

Newsletter Report

There was a change in order of presentation, Nathaniel Stone had to leave early for another commitment.

There are 12 people still receiving print copies, and Nat wants to get it out the first week of May. The main items will be the Annual General Meeting, Stephen's presentation, and a talk he attended by Jean Grey. Nat will be visiting Loyalist sites in the Ottawa area for future articles. Nat would also like to have items from members about their Loyalist ancestors. The next newsletter will be in September and will feature the Dominion Conference.

Rose asked about posting copies of the newsletter on the Facebook page. Holly said she will link Facebook to our website for the newsletter.

Sylvia Powers asked about finding articles on the John Ruch Scholarship, and the indexing project the Branch did with the National Archives about Carleton's Book of Negroes (The King's Name Project).

Bill Russell: there is a re-enactment coming up June 19, at the Loyalist Heritage Centre. There is an event on June 18 at Warkworth, with reenactors and a church service. Nat expressed interest in attending and reporting on it. Bill will send him directions.

Janet Kennedy (Librarian/Archivist): There is also a major event in Cornwall, May 21-23 (Victoria Day Weekend), hosted by the St Lawrence Branch. There will be reenactors, and the Dominion Office is involved since they are moving there.

Janet noted that the Cornwall event is a conflict with the next scheduled executive meeting. The executive meeting was moved up a week (May 14.)

Financial Report

Rosemarie Pleasant (Acting Treasurer): Holly shared the screen with the 2021 expenses. The branch in decent shape financially, despite the expenses we have \$14,141.16K in the bank, plus the \$2086.92 in the Certificate of Deposit. Some of the 2020 expenses carried over to 2021. The 2022 budget was shared, not much change. The branch budget has not changed for years, and there are additional one-time expenses. The library is looking at purchasing a book repair kit. Nat needs additional money for extra mailings to members who do not have e-mail addresses. The website needs to be revitalized.

Do we want to resume donating to the Dominion Scholarship Fund? Sir Guy Carleton Branch used to make contributions. A donation of \$200 was voted on and approved.

Sylvia Powers: Could we have students who receive the John Ruch Bursary come and speak at our meetings?

Rose: Resume contact with the Council of Heritage Organizations of Ottawa (CHOO), they do not appear to be active; their web page is being run by a different organization.

Sir Guy donated \$100 to the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band to help with their planned Silver Jubilee celebration on Sparks Street. We will be cross promoting with them. We need more community involvement with other local organizations. Holly has been doing a lot with her fellow genealogists, this should be a regular Branch thing.

There was a \$10.00 donation for newsletter costs, \$270 for the 2021 life member rebate and the HODG grant \$574.00- that is our income.

Genealogy Report

Holly Haimerl (Genealogist): Holly had a lot of enquiries, but little follow through. A certificate application should be finalized and sent in on the weekend (April 23/24). A certificate was issued last November. She had a Zoom call with an applicant who was surprised at the level of documentation needed to get a certificate. Holly is using the drop box more to send and receive documents, it saves on mailing costs. Holly is updating the Power Presentation she did last year and present it at the Ontario Ancestors Open Hall. She will ask Stephen Davidson about incorporating some of his presentation in it.

Social Media

Our Facebook page is private, Sir Guy Carleton members only. The Instagram account is linked to our website, and anyone can join. The Sir Guy Carleton email will continue to be the point of contact for people asking for certificate applications; it also serves for general inquiries and information.

UEL Applications

Holly is working her way through the applications. Angela has been helpful.

Rose (Acting membership): there are 42 members. 4-additional branch; 4-family; 24-individual; 10-life. There are 2 new members. The 2021 membership fees have been paid to the Dominion Office.

Librarian's Report

Janet Kennedy (Library/Archives): Janet thanked the volunteers at the City Archives who have been keeping the collection in order. Of the 17 missing books, 16 have been located and need to be retagged and relabeled. They had mistakenly been assigned to another collection (Ontario Genealogical Society). Mrs. Ruch donated 7 books, 13 new books were purchased and all are being prepared for the collection. The map drawer has been located, there are more maps and posters to be added. Duplicate books are donated to another partner library; this sharing has been done for years. One book was sent for conservation and will be back soon. Rose and Janet are doing an inventory of the books and periodicals.

Janet is looking for volunteers to review the lists of donations recently received to see if it fits into our mandate. This can be done at home. There is print, microfiche, CDs and other e-media. Another project will be creating an e-list of the tables of contents for periodicals that are not online. Rose suggested looking online for tables of content first.

Janet is creating a redesign of the library page for the website. She is looking into a grant from Dominion to help with some of the library projects.

Web Master Report

Rose (Web master). The additions and changes for the Spring AGM were done, she will be making changes for the Fall Social. She will ask Corcoran about 'snipping' Stephen Davidson's presentation for Facebook and the website. Comments and suggestions for improvements are appreciated.

Interim Vice President

Kevin Wisener volunteered to be interim Vice President. The first project: updating the bylaws. There is more online interaction and that needs to show in the duties. Janet has concerns that it is not in the regular bylaw format.

Rosemarie (State of the Branch): not good, as shown by the turnout to the meeting.

In-Person Meetings

A return to in-person meeting would help. Janet has been looking into venues for hybrid meetings. Unfortunately, they are usually at educational institutions, and there may be conflicts with their students' needs.

Sylvia Powers: we used to have a social convenor who handled that, but nobody has stepped up to take over. She also suggested moving it up, to October. We need to avoid the Thanksgiving weekend (October 10.)

The date will be discussed at the next Executive Meeting.

Janet asked about guests. Guests were welcome. There was a social time, the (prepaid) meal, the speaker, then the meeting. Parking and accessibility are must haves.

The book (Birchtown and the Black Loyalist Experience—Stephen Davidson) draw that was to start the AGM was done late. Nat won, and Holly arranged for the shipping.

Holly created a poll and asked everyone to fill it out.

Announcements

Bill Russell: The Dominion Office is moving to the Cornwall Museum. There is a lack of space in the Toronto office, and there will be a display area so some artifacts will be available to the public. There is twice the space at the same rent, and a dedicated employee for the collections, 2 days a week.

The Dominion Conference is at the end of May, encourage members to sign up, it is only \$50.00. Some branches are offering reimbursements to members who sign up.

Remember there is a \$1000.00 rebate for equipment needed for hybrid meetings, October 31 is the deadline to submit receipts. Bill mentioned the 'Owl,' a camera that sits in the middle of the table and broadcasts the meeting. It is the size of a water bottle.

Bill is running for Regional Vice President.

Miles O'Reilly is not running for Regional Councillor, Richard Perry, a military historian from Kingston, is.

Rose (announcements). Consider donating to the John Ruch Bursary. The Branch used to donate; do we want to resume? We will discuss at next exec meeting (May 14)

No other business

Motion to adjourn by Marg. Seconded by Holly

Next meeting: Fall Social, date to be determined.

The meeting was recorded (the Zoom recording is in the SGC mail box under "Zoom".)

Spring/Summer 2022 Events

The Main Event! UELAC Annual Conference
“From Heartbreak to Hope in the Heart of the Continent”
May 25 to 29, in Winnipeg, Manitoba
<https://www.uelmanitoba.ca/conference2022>

UELAC Annual General Meeting (separate from conference)

- All current members are invitee to participate in the AGM
- No fee to attend, but a registration is required in advance
- Details, reports and registration are in the Members' Section; log in to <https://uelac.ca/> - **register today.**

Cornwall 1784: A Celebration of Friendship
Lamoureux Park, Cornwall, Stormont-Dundas, Ontario
May 20-21
<https://cornwalltourism.com/event/cornwall-1784-a-celebration-of-friendship-2/>

War of 1812 UEL Gravemarking Ceremony
Warkworth, Trent Hills, Northumberland, Ontario, June 18
<https://allevents.in/events/1812-uel-gravemarking-ceremony/200022218105839>

UEL Flag Raising,
UEL Memorial Cemetery, Adolphustown, Ontario, June 20
<https://naturallyla.ca/events/uel-flag-raising/>

Crysler’s Farm Re-enactment
Looking for volunteers for the event, July 16-17
Contact: Darlene Montgomery-Fawcett [dmfawcett@ripnet.com]
For information on the re-enactment:
<https://www.fortyfirst.org/events-games-1812.html>

Observances of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada, 2022
<https://uelac.ca/calendar/>

Library Report: Sample of New Additions to Our Library

Davidson, Stephen

Black Loyalists in New Brunswick: The lives of eight African Americans in colonial New Brunswick 1783-1834

Whitehead, Ruth Holmes

Black Loyalists: Southern Settlers of Nova Scotia's First Free Black Communities
Hardcover – Illustrated, May 8 2013

New Members

We welcome:

Stephen William Marc

Jeffrey Ebner

Remembering Dorothy Meyerhof

<https://ottawacitizen.remembering.ca/obituary/dorothy-meyerhof-1083910583>

Membership

Please ensure the branch has your current email address to receive notices of meetings, presentations, etc.

Membership benefits

Membership in the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada is managed by its branches and is open to descendants of Loyalists or just those who are interested in the history of Canada. By joining the Sir Guy Carleton Branch you would receive the Loyalist Gazette, the official publication of the UELAC (published twice per year) as well as the Ottawa Loyalist, the Branch newsletter which is published 3 times per year. Both publications are available either electronically or paper copy.

Branch members receive the latest news on Branch activities (including the spring and fall socials), special events, meetings and projects. Those whose primary

branch is Sir Guy Carleton can also be associate members of other branches for a fee.

UELAC Membership System

Your new UELAC Membership System: First Time for Member Login to Set Up Account (from Doug Grant UE)

#1) Go to uelac.ca note the different web address!

#2) "Click here to set up your account."

#3) Enter your email address (must be same one as is stored in your membership record)

#4) Click on "Get new password"

#5) If an error message appears just below the green box "Error: The email address isn't correct...", make sure you entered your email address correctly. If you did it correctly, send me an email as most likely your email is not correct in the member system, or is missing. Sent me a note with your branch and your correct email address to loyalist.trails@uelac.org I will check it and get back to you.)

#6) You will receive an email message from Word press, with a link in it

#7) Click on the link

#8) A page will show in your browser. In the "New password" box a password will show.

#9) Delete that password (unless you like it) and enter the one you wish to use. Record the password somewhere.

#10) Click on "Reset Password" (in blue box)

#11) A smaller box will appear; in the green box, click on "log in"

#12) On this screen, enter your email address and the new password, and "click log-in"

#13) This should then show "My Account" page (in future it will probably show a different first page with a link to "My Account")

Certificate application

Descendants of United Empire Loyalists can apply for a certificate after proving their lineage back to the original Loyalist. Applicants are encouraged to work with their branch genealogist who will provide guidance in collecting the proofs required and will provide the certificate application form. On completion of the

application and with satisfactory proofs and the fee, the application will be submitted to the Dominion office by the branch genealogist. If accepted, the applicant will receive a certificate which can be presented to them at a branch meeting, or if they prefer, they can receive it by mail. For further information on the application process, see www.UELAC.org

Education

**Sir Guy Carleton Branch
John Ruch Memorial Bursary
Carleton University, Ottawa, ON**

(<http://www.uelac.org/SirGuyCarleton/education.php>)

UELAC Scholarship

The UELAC Loyalist Scholarship is available to Masters and PhD students who are undertaking a program in relevant research. This topic should further Canada's understanding of the Loyalists and our appreciation of their, or their immediate descendants, influence on Canada.

Two scholarships of \$2500.00 are available each year.

Learn how to donate to the UELAC Scholarship: www.UELAC.org

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Branch email: carletonuel@hotmail.com

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1783: A Year of “great and complicated crisis”

Presentation by Stephen Davidson to the Sir Guy Carleton Chapter

By Nat Stone

The year 1783 was a pivotal time for tens of thousands of Loyalists across North America. They were making their way to New York City for embarkation along with 27,000 soldiers for points elsewhere in the British Empire. Tasked with guiding them to their new destinations was [Sir Guy Carleton](#), Commander in Chief of British forces in North America, who reluctantly agreed to continue in this very difficult job for the duration of this “great and complicated crisis.”

This was the topic of the presentation by Stephen Davidson, retired teacher, to the Chapter’s annual meeting on April 23. Mr. Davidson, author of [Black Loyalists in New Brunswick](#) and [Birchtown and the Black Loyalist Experience](#), is well qualified to speak on this topic and others of interest to our Association. Mr. Davidson’s own ancestors came to New Brunswick aboard the ship **Union**, as part of the great evacuation of 1783.

With a beautifully prepared Powerpoint presentation, Mr. Davidson tells us that, in addition to the soldiers, Sir Guy Carleton supervised the evacuation of 30,000 to 40,000 Loyalists from New York City to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick plus 1,328 more to what is now Quebec. This represents the greatest single movement of political refugees in the history of our continent. Sir Guy was following his orders for “care, support and assistance to be afforded to the Loyalists.”

Mr. Davidson embellished his talk with numerous examples of individuals and their families who braved harassment from unrepentant Patriots, a two-week ocean voyage and making new lives in a wild and unfamiliar land. Examples of these unwilling travellers were:

- A Dr. Latham, who settled in Kingston, Ontario and campaigned for smallpox vaccination
- A Mr. Peter Ruttan, who petitioned Sir Guy for land for himself and 30 families on the shores of the Bay of Quinte
- A Mrs. Penuel Grant, who asked for room on a ship not only for her and eight children, but also for servants, a horse and carriage, furniture and cattle (politely denied.)

Sir Guy included in this exodus approximately 4,000 Black Loyalists, who were mostly former slaves and who supported the King’s cause. Half of these are

recorded in the [Book of Negroes](#), which documents their names and circumstances. Many received “Birch Certificates” (named after Brigadier General Samuel Birch), which guaranteed their freedom.

Most of the evacuees travelled as families, which often included four or more children. They were exposed to measles and smallpox, which accounted for more deaths in that war from the fighting itself. Many died at sea or from shipwrecks, such as that of the **Martha**, where only 68 passengers out of 181 survived.

Sir Guy’s memory is enshrined in the names of numerous towns and villages across Canada, our own Chapter and our own Carleton County (from which our city’s university gets its name.)

Mr. Davidson closed his talk by saying, “he is worthy of posterity and admiration.” Thank you, Stephen Davidson, for this most interesting afternoon.

Burritts Rapids: Ottawa’s Loyalist Settlement

By Nat Stone, Editor

[Burritts Rapids](#), an attractive destination in its own right, is a 45-minute drive directly south from the centre of Ottawa. Home to approximately 400 people and a Rideau Canal lock station, it is as far south as you can get in the City of Ottawa.

Loyalist Colonel Daniel Burrirt and his family, originally of Arlington, Vermont, settled on the shores of the St Lawrence River at Maitland, Leeds-Grenville in 1791. His sons, Stephen and Adoniram, who fought and were taken prisoner at the disastrous 1777 Battle of Bennington but subsequently escaped, accompanied the family on their flight northward. But Upper Canada was a big place and good farmland and opportunity in the Rideau Valley to the north beckoned. Only two short years later, Stephen and bride Martha found a site that suited them on one of the rapids of the Rideau River. In their new log cabin at what is now Burrirt’s Rapids, they brought their son, Edmund, into the world. Two other Burrirt brothers joined them as well.

Stephen Burrirt, intrepid pioneer, was not one to rest on his laurels. He later served as member for Grenville in Upper Canada’s House of Assembly and later as a Lieutenant-Colonel and the commanding officer at Fort Wellington in Prescott during the War of 1812.

Other Loyalist settlers in the area provided more drama. [Roger Stevens](#), former spy in service of the King's cause and father of Martha Burritt, founded a mill at what is now [Merrickville](#). He later died on a canoe trip in the company of his business partner, [William Merrick](#), another Loyalist from Massachusetts. According to Merrick, Stevens stood up in their canoe, fired a gun and promptly toppled over into the water and drowned. Mr. Stevens' mill and the surrounded land were subsequently transferred to Merrick to settle a debt claim. Nothing to see here, folks.

Continued settlement along the Rideau River system and the opening of the Rideau Canal in 1831 further spurred growth of the community. Burritt's Rapids was the site of the first bridge across the Rideau River. At the height of its prosperity in the 19th century, the community had two general stores, a bakery, a millinery shop, two shoe shops, a tin and stove store, a grist mill, a woolen mill, a tannery, three blacksmith shops, three wagon shops, a cabinet shop, two churches, two schools, two hotels, a bank and an Orange Lodge.

The 21st Century visitor will want to stop and take [a walking tour](#) of the village. Of notable interest is the [Burritts Rapids Community Hall](#), built in 1855 and designated by the Ontario Heritage Act as being of architectural and historical value (see following page.) Not be missed as well is the historic town of Merrickville, 10 minutes to the southwest on Route 2.

For further information see:

Walker, Harry and Olive

Carleton Saga

Carleton County Council

1968

pp. 409- 417

Burritts Rapids Community Hall



Book Review: The Knotted Rope

By Nat Stone

Author: Jean Rae Baxter

Publisher: Ronsdale Press

191 pages

2021

In a tale of early Abolitionists working to end slavery in Upper Canada and slaves to escape the institution, Jean Rae Baxter weaves important historical events and personalities to make an enjoyable and enlightening story.

The author tells the story of Broken Trail, an adopted Oneida and Loyalist, who meets Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe, who expresses his intentions to end the scourge of slavery in Upper Canada in the long-term through a 1793 proclamation by the British Government. Broken Trail adopts the more immediate objective of helping two slaves he meets in Newark (now Niagara-on-the-Lake), Joseph and Rosa, along with wife Sukie and 12 others, using a loophole in the 1793 proclamation. Unfortunately, this proclamation did not end slavery for people older than 25, nor did it prevent owners in Upper Canada from selling their slaves in the United States. This is the story of how Broken Trail and his allies intended to take advantage of the loopholes to assist slaves get their freedom.

The story is spectacularly set along the Niagara River, where Upper Canada abuts against the United States (part of the story takes place under Niagara Falls.)

The Knotted Rope is first and foremost an historical fiction story that cleverly intertwines events of the time, such as the proclamation of July 9, 1793 to gradually eliminate slavery in Upper Canada and the decision to relocate the capital city to what is now Toronto. Similarly, the reader is introduced to important personalities of the time, such as John Simcoe and Thayendanegea (also known as Joseph Brant).

This story is primarily written for a young audience, and does a masterful job of introducing this audience to the early history of Upper Canada, along with the

related social and economic issues while giving the reader an engaging and suspenseful account of this period in Canadian history.

