



Ottawa Loyalist

Newsletter of the Sir Guy Carleton Branch,
UELAC

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Message from the President

Hi everyone,

Summer is over, I hope you all had a good time no matter what you did (or didn't do).

We are finalizing the preparations for the Fall Social. It will be on October 21st, and the venue is 98% confirmed. It will be a hybrid meeting. Once more, we want to catch up on what you have been doing and get you caught up on Branch business. One of the things we want to get feedback on is returning to having luncheons.

NOTICE: Does anyone know where the Branch posters are? We used them at our last in person meeting (2019!!) at the Best Western. They are not in our space at the City Archives or in the vault. They roll up and fit in a container about 3' tall.

That's all, I hope to see you soon

Rose

Rosemarie Pleasant, President
Sir Guy Carleton Branch, UEL

Sir Guy Carleton's October Social

Saturday, October 21, 2:00-4:00. In person social starting at 1:30. Light snacks will be served

Location: 91A Fourth Avenue (in the Glebe), Ottawa

<https://ottawa.quaker.ca/find-us/>

Raising the Loyalist Flag over Ottawa: Monday, June 19

The Branch honoured Loyalist Day on a brisk but beautiful Monday morning at Ottawa City Hall. With an official welcome by Laura Dudas, Deputy Mayor, a speech by Branch President Rosemary Pleasant and the presence of a number of Branch members, the flag of King George was raised over the city for a day.



Branch President Rosemary Pleasant officiating at the flag raising.



The United Empire Loyalist flag, under which thousands of soldiers fought between 1775 and 1783 and carried to Canada in the years following, is hoisted over the City of Ottawa.

The Loyalists at the Battles of Saratoga 1777

The Battles of Saratoga (September-October 1777) took place at a site ([Saratoga Battlefield](#)) about 50 kilometres north of Albany, New York (400 kilometres SE of Ottawa).

They represented the farthest extent of the British invasion of New York. Under the command of General John Burgoyne, 8,500 British, German, Loyalist and Indigenous soldiers left Montreal in early Summer 1777, travelled the length of Lake Champlain and seized Fort Ticonderoga at the south end of the lake. Their ultimate objective was to link up with British forces marching north from New York City at Albany, New York. The British armies never linked up and in a series of battles in September and October 1777, the army of General Burgoyne was surrounded by the Patriots and was forced to surrender.

The Battle of Saratoga is considered by many historians to be the turning point of the American War of Independence, after which France, Spain and the Netherlands decided to join the side of the newly formed United States of America and divert British forces elsewhere. The fate of the American Loyalists was thus sealed in this battle.



The author at the site overlooking Freeman's Farm, where Loyalist units during the Battle of Saratoga

Over the course of the summer of 1777, over 1,000 Loyalists flocked to Burgoyne's army, seeking refuge from persecution or, in many cases, to take up arms against the Patriots. There were not enough guns to arm those willing to fight, but there were many other opportunities for Loyalists to serve, including service as boat workers, bridge builders, laborers, or as scouts and spies.

The most important of the Loyalist units, the King's Loyal Americans, was formed in 1776 in Canada under the leadership of Lt. Colonel Ebenezer Jessup. This would eventually comprise 337 officers and men.

Loyalist American units at the Battles of Saratoga:

- King's Loyal Americans (Jessup's Rangers)
- Queen's Loyal Rangers (Peters's Corps)
- Loyal Volunteers
- Volunteers under the Command of Daniel McAlpin
- Captain Samuel Adams's Company of Rangers
- A small detachment from the King's Royal Regiment of New York
- A small detachment from the 1st Battalion, Royal Highland Emigrants
- Captain Hazzard Wilcox's Company of Pioneers
- Captain Hugh Monro's Bateaux Compan
- Captain Peter Van Alstine's Bateaux Company

The Loyalist soldiers fought under the command of Brigadier General Simon Fraser, who commanded the right hand of the British Army, which occupied the height of land at a battle in the fields of Freeman's Farm (Mr. Freeman was a Loyalist himself) and again at a second battle at Bemis Heights. Unfortunately their contribution was not enough to turn the tide.

After the surrender by General Burgoyne on October 17, 1777, many of the Loyalist soldiers fled north under cover of darkness to avoid capture by what they feared to be vengeful Patriot forces. Other Loyalist soldiers surrendered with the rest of General Burgoyne's army but were released a year later and returned to Canada. Many of the survivors of these units were later organized into Jessup's Rangers, who performed intelligence operations towards the end of the war. The veterans of Jessup's Rangers later settled in what would become the United Counties of Leeds-Grenville.

Social Media

The Sir Guy Carleton Facebook page remains private but any UELAC member can now ask to join. 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.

Upcoming webinars by the Quebec Genealogical Society

<https://mailchi.mp/3631e51e198f/qubec-genealogical-esociety-bi-weekly-newsletter-15523605?e=43d0a8fec4>

Funding Opportunity through Digital Museums Canada

Funding is provided for organizations seeking to develop an online project from the ground up, in collaboration with a web development agency of their choice.

Online projects should be centred around telling a story, exploring a collection, or sharing the history, culture and/or traditions of a community. As such, initiatives such as institutional websites, databases, photobooks, etc. are not eligible. Each online project must be conceived with a specific target audience in mind, and the user experience must be developed around that audience.

Sample projects include virtual exhibitions, virtual tours, online games, web apps, educational resources, and more.

To learn more about whether your project is eligible and to access the application, please visit the grant website at: <https://www.digitalmuseums.ca/funding/digital-projects/>.

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 <https://uelac.ca>

Book Review *The Loyalist Conscience: Principled Opposition to the American Revolution*

By the Reverend Dr. Becket Soule

Chaim M. Rosenberg, *The Loyalist Conscience: Principled Opposition to the American Revolution*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland Press, 2018. 232 pp.; 56 photos, notes, bibliography, index. ISBN: 978-1-4766-7245-8 (pb), \$49.95; ISBN: 978-1-4766-3248-3 (e-book), \$29.99. Available from the publisher (<https://mcfarlandbooks.com/>), from Amazon.com, and other online retailers.

Revolutions and uprisings have long interested scholars. The American War for Independence is no exception. Contemporary historians on both sides of the Revolution wrote about their experiences and the causes of the uprising. Patriot physician, Princeton graduate, and prisoner of war Dr. David Ramsay argued that the cause of the war was Britain’s iron-handed trade restrictions on its colonies in order to “crush their native talents and keep them in a constant state of inferiority” (p. 10). Massachusetts chief justice Peter Oliver, “insulted and hung in effigy” for his Loyalist sentiments and objections to salary garnishments, claimed Patriots believed “they did God good service in persecuting and destroying all those who dared to be of a different opinion from them” (p. 9). Chaim Rosenberg, a Chicago psychiatrist, contributes to the study of the Revolutionary War by exploring the complexities of freedom of speech in wartime and the tactics used to target people who remained loyal to the Crown. These tactics included, among other things, being forbidden to pray for the king from the pulpit and being forced to swear allegiance to the rebel cause or risk loss of property. Rosenberg boldly claims, “the American Loyalists were the victims of the Revolution, made scapegoats for the excesses of the British

government” (p. 201). It is perhaps an exaggeration to call Loyalists scapegoats: it is common for sympathizers to be treated as enemies during times of war. In actuality, the real victims of the war were those who remained neutral on religious grounds, such as the Quakers. These dissenters often shared the Loyalist fate despite being peace-loving neighbours.

Rosenberg agrees with the argument that the War for Independence was a civil war. He believes it is similar to the US War between the States in that both conflicts “shaped the history of the nation, pitting brother against brother and turning friends and neighbors into enemies” (p. 200). To strengthen this argument, Rosenberg digs deep into family genealogies to show how leading families shared common roots dating back to the *Mayflower*. While Patriots foresaw slavery under British rule, Loyalist colonists believed Britain had only their best interest at heart, and saw only slavery to their neighbours resulting from a Patriot victory. Rosenberg includes many painful accounts of families and friendships destroyed due to irreconcilable political divisions. These divisions affected all walks of life. For example, Reverend Jonathan Boucher, tutor to George Washington’s stepson, believed “that kings had the divine right to govern and that people were not born equal” (p. 31). Boucher severed connections with Washington and became an exile due to his outspoken support and prayers for the king. Several Adams cousins lost property and went into exile and John Adams lamented how the conflict “seduced from my bosom, three of the most intimate friends I ever had in my life, Jonathan Sewall, Samuel Quincy and Daniel Leonard” (p. 37). The most prominent division occurred between Benjamin Franklin and his son William Franklin. Despite holding opposing views, they remained affectionate during the conflict until William, the Loyalist governor of New Jersey, was arrested and imprisoned for three years. During his incarceration, Benjamin did not visit his son or allow his grandson to visit. While in exile, William wrote to his father hoping for a renewal of relationship while justifying his loyalism stating, “I have uniformly acted from a strong sense of what I conceived my duty to my king and regard for my country required” (p. 60).

The above examples, a sample of the numerous accounts included in this volume, attest to Rosenberg’s attention to detail. He does an excellent job allowing the voices of the Loyalist population to be heard. However, eliminating some of the many examples would have made the book less fragmented and more cohesive. Many of the vignettes are repetitive, and the book bears the hallmark of having been written piecemeal, and only assembled together at the very end; the prose can best be described as “clunky.” Furthermore, the personal accounts and letters of Loyalists could have been compared with rebel accounts of loss and hardship. Both Patriots and Loyalists had much at stake during the Revolution. Both lost lives, properties, and fortunes. Both received brutal treatment at the hands of their enemies. Rosenberg’s research illuminates the reality of life for a substantial minority during the conflict, a side rarely heard. He extends his discussion of suppression of speech into other conflicts in US history. Fear often became the main culprit for violating rights and many people sought to balance fear and action. This is a valid point because free speech can easily be portrayed as sedition if not popular with the majority or the victors.

To the disappointment of the British, most Loyalists neither fought nor aided the British in the conflict. Rosenberg attributes the lack of support and militia—only fifty militia bands were Loyalist in total—to the ousting and exile of leading pamphleteers in the years prior to the conflict. However, this is a weak conclusion. Both sides had strong pamphleteers before Loyalist

leaders were hounded into exile. Heavily influenced by John Locke and the rights of the individual, as opposed to divine right of kings, Patriots were prepared to die for their freedom. Most Loyalists, on the other hand, chose to remain as neutral as possible, riding out the storm as best they could. While Rosenberg, and Loyalists themselves, argue they loved America too much to fight against it, others might contend that they did not believe in their cause enough to fight.

Though estimates vary throughout the book, both the Patriots and the Loyalists were always in the minority. Rosenberg estimates between sixty thousand to eighty thousand fled the country (p. 4). Many died in exile and those who could return had to fight to regain lands seized during the war. While in exile, representatives from all thirteen colonies appealed for charity from fellow exiles and compensation from the English Parliament to help defray the costs of living in exile. Britons did not seem to sympathize with their colonial counterparts and in fact considered them second-class citizens. Perhaps this supports Rosenberg's supposition that Loyalists were more American than British. However, it is also evident that the average Briton saw colonists as beneath them and not equals, just as Patriots had claimed from the beginning.

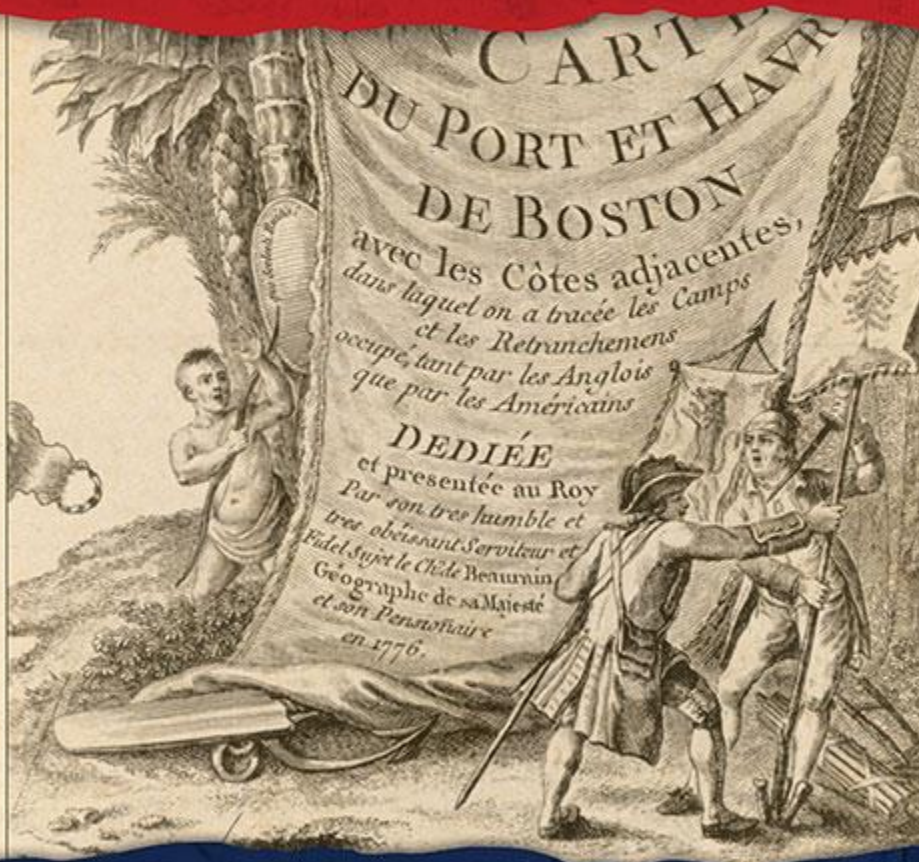
Exiles in Canada faced similar trials having to carve a new life, although they did so in the Canadian wilderness and not on the streets of London. Rosenberg illuminates how Canadian and US history overlap. The diligent, hardworking Edward Winslow Jr. and other Loyalists were "determined to build a second America peopled by those 'firmly attached to the crown and the laws of empire'" (p. 174). New Brunswick and Ontario testify to their efforts. They created what had been proposed in the states: a local representative parliament that could tax and govern its own people under the distant eye of the Crown. While fellow exiles were building lives in England and Canada, those who wished to return to the colonies met varying degrees of hostility depending on which state they entered. Alexander Hamilton, along with other Patriot leaders, helped returning exiles retrieve lands and property, claiming they would stabilize and boost the economy. John Adams, on the other hand, saw returning Tories as a continued threat. Rosenberg ends with the passing of the first and fifth amendments to the Constitution helping guarantee that what had happened to the Tories would not happen again.

The Loyalist Conscience sheds light on the motivations of those who remained faithful to the King during the American War for Independence. Their side of the story is often lost in the retelling, but it is an important part of Canadian and US history. Rosenberg brings some balance to our understanding of the struggle and drives home the true cost on both sides. He also contributes to the understanding how people define freedom of speech in times of war, a freedom as vital, beleaguered, and controversial in our own times as it was in the eighteenth century.

W. BECKET SOULE

The Loyalist Conscience

Principled Opposition to the
American Revolution



Chaim M. Rosenberg