

## **Sir Guy Carleton Branch Library United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada**

### History

The foundation of the library of the Sir Guy Carleton Branch, United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (UELAC) is the book collection of Velma Rust, Branch Genealogist from 1980 until 1993. Almost half of the present collection is from her private library that was left to the Branch on her death in October 2000. In 2001 an agreement was reached between the Sir Guy Carleton Branch, the City of Ottawa Archives and the Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogy Society (OGS) to collocate the Sir Guy Carleton Branch Library with the Ottawa Branch, OGS Library at the City Archives. The book collection was moved to the Archives in 2002. The libraries of the Ottawa Branch, OGS and Sir Guy Carleton Branch are housed as separate collections.

### Management of the Collection

Donors are the mainstay of the collection which has grown to over 900 books and 27 periodical titles. The library has been fortunate to receive books from more than 25 donors. Duplicate books and those that do not fit with the goals of the collection are shared with other organizations or sold to raise funds for the Branch. A budget of \$200 a year allows for the purchase of new books.

The Library acquires books that relate to the Loyalists and their experience in Canada. This includes biographies; family histories; census, cemetery and vital records; Loyalist regiments in the American Revolution; Loyalist settlement following the revolution; Loyalist claims for losses; Loyalist descendant migrations; publications by branches of the UELAC; histories of the American revolution, of the provinces where the Loyalists settled and of the original 13 American colonies. Books of interest also include those about specific ethnic groups who supported the British cause; First Nations and Black Loyalists, Palatine immigrants and Hessians to name a few.

The collection is catalogued according to the Dewey Decimal System. The catalogue is available in searchable form on the Branch website. A Finding Aid is available in the Archives Reference Room with the books listed by title and author.

### Accessing the Library

The City Archives are located in the James Bartleman Centre at 100 Tallwood Drive. Parking is free and the Centre is served by several transit routes. Archives hours are 9:00 to 4:00 Tuesday to Friday and 10:00 to 5:00 on Saturdays from September to May. The Archives are closed to the public Sundays, Mondays, statutory holidays, and Saturdays on long weekends and during June, July and August.

### Other Resources Available at the James Bartleman Centre

The City of Ottawa Archives houses its own library of books on the history of Ottawa as well as its archival collection of documents and fonds. The Ottawa Archives books and libraries of Sir Guy Carleton Branch, UELAC; Ottawa Branch, OGS; British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO); C. Robert Craig Memorial Library on rail transportation in

Charlotte and I visited with my Tate relatives in Vancouver – Uncle Everett and Aunt Mollie, Dorothy and Muriel, Aunt Greta, Eleanor and Bruce – my first visit with them. Bruce and I did visit together in Toronto when he was in the army and passing through. At completion of the Internship, I spent two weeks leave in Kenora. John joined Mother, Dad and me for a week at our camp in Corkscrew. Dad and John went on a 3-day canoe trip to Shoal Lake at the western end of the Lake of the Woods.

I graduated from the University of Toronto in Medicine on February 16, 1945 and John and I interned at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto. We married on December 22, 1945 finishing interning in February 1946. Mother and dad travelled by train to Toronto for our wedding, staying at the Royal York Hotel. We were married in the Chapel of Wycliffe College (Anglican) at the University of Toronto followed by luncheon at the Royal York, and drove to Buffalo in Dr. E. C. Wilford's car for a few days honeymoon. Mother and dad stayed with John's parents after the wedding and we all celebrated Christmas together in their home. Mother and dad returned to Kenora, John and I returned to St. Michael's Hospital – John in his room with the male interns and I with the women, as before. Such were the rules of the hospital.

After interning, and officers training at Camp Borden, we were posted to the Army Base in Regina as 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenants. The war was over and we were doing physical exams on the soldiers who chose to be discharged. We visited in Kenora in that summer of 1946. John's parents – Ted and Claudia Wilford joined the Tates and us for a short holiday at Corkscrew Island. It was good to have our parents visiting together again, and to know that they liked and enjoyed each other's company.

We took our discharge in Vancouver, retiring as Captains. We planned to settle in Chilliwack and did start practising medicine there on 16 September 1946. In the summer of 1947 we drove to Kenora in our first car, a blue Pontiac Coupe bought from Brett's through Wid French. The Tates had sold our family home and camp by then and were living in an apartment.

Harry and Gertrude's first grandchild, Susan Elizabeth, was born 19 March 1949 in Chilliwack and their second, David John, 22 July 1950. Harry and Gertrude Tate, and Ted and Claudia Wilford visited with us in late fall of 1950 – a real celebration to have the four grandparents together with us and our young family. The Tates stayed with us for Christmas and helped us move into our new home – 415 Princess Avenue on New Year's Eve Day of 1950. It was good to have their care and help when David had his abdominal surgery for repair of a Meckel's Diverticulum at Sick Children's Hospital – corner of Bute and Haro – Vancouver in January 1951. Betty Klassen was living with us then.

In the fall of 1952, we, with Susan and David, flew to Winnipeg, train to Kenora for a good visit with the Tates, and on to Chattanooga and Toronto.

Harry retired from the Board of Trade in 1953. Their third grandchild was born on 2 July 1954, Edward Harry. The Tates were feeling the cold of the winters in Kenora more. Kenora was too far from Chilliwack for visiting together, so they decided to move to Vancouver. Uncle Everett and Aunt Mollie were living on West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There was a new apartment building across the street and Harry and Gertrude reserved an apartment in it coming West in 1955. Now we could visit them often and they us. John's father, Ted Wilford, died on 5 June 1955 in Toronto. The Tates were visiting with us while waiting to move into their apartment. John and dad set out to drive to the Vancouver Airport but John suddenly became ill just on the outskirts of Chilliwack and the returned home. He had mumps. David had contracted mumps – a mild case – from kindergarten. John had had immunity shot against mumps but still developed mumps – mostly with intestinal symptoms. I was quite ill with mumps shortly after.

It was a great treat for Susan, David and Teddy to visit Grandpa and Grandma Tate – separately for a few days in Vancouver. Uncle Everett and Aunt Mollie Tate sold their home and moved a few blocks away. Again, my parents and we were not seeing enough of each other. We now had three children, John was busy with his solo practice, and so Harry and Gertrude decided to move to Chilliwack. A new apartment, Brentwood Apartment on Princess Avenue E had just been built and the Tates moved into Apartment #1.

Their fourth grandchild was born 22 May 1957, Robert Charles.

Now we could visit together anytime. They made friends with others in their apartment building – Mrs. Skeet, Mrs. Smithwyck, Mrs. Meilicke, the Bill Towlers. Harry had been manager in the Royal Bank in Hanley, Sask. when the Meilickes had farmed in that area and had dealings in the bank. Mr. & Mrs. Mel Conboy (then in Chilliwack – Zella Conboy was a lawyer in Chilliwack) had had farmland in the Hanley area and Harry had been acquainted with Mr. Conboy. He played bridge with the new friends in the apartment and others. They attended St. Thomas Anglican Church regularly – often going to the 8 a.m. service. They became good friends with Dr. George and Mary Roberts and were often at each other's homes – and ours – for dinner. The Matron of Chilliwack General Hospital was Anne Henderson who had been Matron at Kenora General Hospital when Harry was on the Hospital Board. Mr. and Mrs. Kris Magnusson had retired in Chilliwack – Kris had been with the accounting department of Camp Chilliwack and Lu had been the teller in the Royal Bank in Lumsden, Sask. when Harry was manager.

So even in Chilliwack, Harry and Gertrude had connection with the past – happy ones! Friends visited them from Kenora – days, who had retired to the West Coast. Mr. and Mrs. Lawson and daughter, Oryl, drove in for a visit. Oryl had married and lived in England – she had been my grade 6 teacher. I thought she was about a hundred years old then, always wearing dark tailored clothes and Oxford shoes – now she was wearing an attractive yellow suit and looking quite youthful. I was amazed!

Canada; and the Historical Society of Ottawa are accessible in the Reference Room. In addition, United Church Archives of the Ottawa and Seaway Valley Presbyteries are located there. Volunteers are available at all times to assist visitors with genealogical research in the library collections, as well as microfilmed records held by the Archives. The City of Ottawa Archives and Partners do not provide lending libraries. All books and records must be consulted on site.

Dorothy Meyerhof  
March 2016

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Dorothy Meyerhof, 2007 - 2020

#### Library Volunteers

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