

# Loyalist Northern Lights .. September 2021 Edition

Edmonton Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada



*Across the rolling prairies, with their quiet lakes and rushing rivers, to the foothills of Northern Alberta; in the shadow of Canada's majestic mountains and beneath the dancing Northern Lights; this is the newsletter of the most northern branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, the descendants of those hardy and brave souls that gave up all they had to remain steadfast in their beliefs and loyal to the British Crown in a time of great political upheaval in what would later become the United States. These Loyalists settled in the eastern part of what would become Canada then moved west in succeeding generations.*

## Vision of the Edmonton Branch:

*To enrich the lives of Albertans through fostering public awareness of our national history, and, in particular, of the United Empire Loyalists and their contributions to Canada.*

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*"N.B. Those Loyalists who have adhered to the Unity of the Empire, and joined the Royal Standard [IN AMERICA] before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783, and all their Children, and their Descendants, by either sex, are to be distinguished by the following Capitals affixed to their names*

*U.E.*

*Alluding to their great principle The Unity of the Empire."*

## *From The President*

Members of the Edmonton Branch

27 August 2021

Well, here we are at the end of August 2021, and we have not had a regular meeting since February 2020, a very long 18 months ago. If anyone had predicted this would be the case as a result of a virus, I would have said they were delusional, however such unfortunately has been the case. I do hope you are all keeping safe and finding some way to relieve the boredom caused by the pandemic.

While our Premier declared in July that the Province of Alberta was open, free of all restrictions, the number of cases is now climbing again. The Executive considers it still may not be safe to meet and your safety is our primary concern. The calendar of events for 2021/2022, attached to this newsletter, is therefore still in a state of flux. We do not want to plan an event that will cause any of our members concern over the virus. Please note that everything is subject to change until this pandemic is fully under control. The Executive had planned our first meeting for 18 September but that has now been delayed until at least 16 October, at which time we will try to present some of our backlog of Certificates.

There is a great deal of Loyalist related material on the internet including Loyalist Trails, a regular (weekly) newsletter from the Association that is filled with information. To subscribe, send a note to Doug Grant at ([loyalist.trails@uelac.org](mailto:loyalist.trails@uelac.org)). The Loyalist Directory has been revised and shifted to the new webpage ([www.uelac.ca/loyalist-directory](http://www.uelac.ca/loyalist-directory)). Members are requested to review the information on their ancestors for any errors or omissions. We have added a new member to the Executive and welcome Marcia McLean who will be the Assistant Genealogist as well as take on the task of Costume Design using all the patterns and material from the late Vera Chisholm. We will be scheduling workshops to facilitate costume crafting for those interested. Would it not be effective to have most of the Branch in costume at events?

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Shona Wards. She was an effective member of the Branch for many years and more information is noted elsewhere in this newsletter. We are most appreciative of the donations made to the Branch from the rebate issued in February. Your executive and I wish all of you a secure and happy fall. Be assured we will gather again as soon as it is safe to do so with what I hope will be a full and interesting program.



President  
[president@UELEdmonton.ca](mailto:president@UELEdmonton.ca)  
(780) 278-4989



*Calendar of Events 2021 ~ 2022*

Date	Event	Location
15 Aug 2021	Formation of the Queen's Rangers ~ 1776	Anniversary
15 Sep 2021	Formation of Butler's Rangers ~ 1777	Anniversary
18 Sep 2021	➤ Branch Fall General Meeting (Certificates)	Postponed to 16 Oct
20 Sep 2021	Cessation of Hostilities in North America ~ 1783	Anniversary
16 Oct 2021	➤ Branch Fall General Meeting (Certificates)	Church at 6919-83 Street
16 Oct 2021	Burgoyne Capitulation ~ 1777	Anniversary
17 Oct 2021	Arrival of the Fall Fleet at St. John ~ 1783	Anniversary
9 Nov 2021	Lord Dorchester's Order in Council ~ 1789	Anniversary
11 Nov 2021	➤ Remembrance Day Parade ~ Wreath Laying	TBD
20 Nov 2021	➤ Branch Workshop (Costume & Genealogy)	Church at 6919-83 Street
11 Dec 2021	➤ Branch Christmas Function	Church at 6919-83 Street
1 Jan 2022	➤ New Year's Levee	Government House
19 Feb 2022	➤ Branch Annual General Meeting	Church at 6919-83 Street
19 Mar 2022	➤ Branch Workshop (Costume & Genealogy)	Church at 6919-83 Street
16 Apr 2022	➤ Branch Spring General Meeting	Church at 6919-83 Street
1 May 2022	Formation of the King's Rangers ~ 1779	Anniversary
4 May 2022	Loyalist Landing 1783 ~ Shelburne, Nova Scotia	Anniversary
18 May 2022	Arrival of the Spring Fleet at St. John ~ 1783	Anniversary
MAY	➤ UELAC National Conference	Winnipeg, Manitoba
16 Jun 2022	Adolphustown Landings ~ 1784	Anniversary
19 Jun 2022	Formation of King's Royal Regiment of New York ~ 1776	Anniversary
26 Jun 2022	➤ Loyalist Day Luncheon and Tree Visit	Picnic in the Park
23 Jul 2022	➤ Branch Summer BBQ	Home of President
15 Aug 2022	Formation of the Queen's Rangers ~ 1776	Anniversary
15 Sep 2022	Formation of Butler's Rangers ~ 1777	Anniversary
1-4 Jun 2023	➤ UELAC National Conference	Vancouver, BC

*Last Post: WARDS UE, Shona Barbara (nee Cameron)*



It is with great sadness that the family of Shona Barbara Wards announces her sudden passing from an abdominal aortic aneurysm on Tuesday, August 10, 2021. Shona is happy to be reunited with her predeceased husband, Jack Wards. She will be greatly missed by her daughters, Jennifer (Bill) Shalapay, Allyson (Dwayne) Mandrusiak, Linda Cochran.

Shona was a dedicated and tireless worker for the Edmonton Eskimos (38 years) and the Eskimo Alumni; the Rebels (you know who you are); and too many community organizations to name.

For the UELAC, Shona contributed much, as an active member of the executive holding the positions of Edmonton Branch President, Membership Director and Secretary. She organized and participated in formal Branch dinners, the School Visitation Program, parades, annual Conferences, and promoted the UELAC at every opportunity. Shona appeared in costume at all special functions, helping, and encouraging others to make period costumes.

Shona's Loyalist ancestor was Sgt. Daniel Keith of the Queen's Ranger, who settled in New Brunswick. The certificate was awarded in 2004.

In 2005, Shona Wards was instrumental in the planting a Bur Oak tree on the Alberta legislative grounds as a special educational project for the Edmonton Branch of the UELAC. In 2007, a small plaque was added in recognition of a visit by Queen Elizabeth II to commemorate Alberta's 100th birthday. A larger plaque and base were added in 2010.



**The plaque reads:**

***United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada***

***This bur oak tree commemorates the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in celebration of Alberta's Centennial 1905-2005.***

***Placed by the descendants of the United Empire Loyalists who are members of the Edmonton and Calgary Branches.***

***The roots of this tree symbolize the ancestral roots of Loyalists who fled the Thirteen American Colonies during the American Revolution (1775-1783) and remained faithful to the British Crown. Oak leaves have long been held as a symbol of loyalty to the Monarchy since the time of Charles II. Just as the branches of this tree grow and spread, similarly many Albertans are descendants of the original Loyalists.***



Shona Wards UE dedicating the Memorial Plaque - June 19, 2010

*From the desk of the Genealogist*

*Assistant Genealogist*

Marcia Mclean UE has agreed to join the branch executive as Assistant Genealogist. Marcia has recently completed two certificate applications, has an interest in period costumes, and has kindly included a short biography in this newsletter.

*Congratulations to Recent Certificate Applicants*

There have been 21 certificates awarded to members over the past 18 months, unfortunately due to the pandemic lockdowns non have been presented. It is hoped that over the course of the upcoming meetings many of these will be formally presented with a few words about the Loyalist.

Members that are still have unproven Loyalist Ancestors, don't give up now. The branch genealogist and assistant genealogist are ready to answer your questions and help with brick walls let me know. Ask for the booklet "How to Prepare a Certificate Application."

Dave Rolls UE  
Edmonton Branch Genealogist  
[Genealogist@ueledmonton.ca](mailto:Genealogist@ueledmonton.ca)

*Marcia McLean – Assistant Genealogist*

My name is Marcia McLean, and I have recently joined the Executive as Assistant Genealogist. My interest genealogy developed soon after I discovered my biological family – as an adoptee I had so much to discover! With one family in Ontario, one in Nova Scotia and one in New Brunswick, I am well versed in finding records in each of those provinces. I am also interested in using DNA to broaden research avenues and locate family, as DNA played a key role in my own family discovery journey.

I have also taken on the role of keeper of the patterns for period clothing. I have always been interested in history and in “old stuff”, which led to my early career in community museums. As a lifelong knitter and sewer, I gravitated toward the textile-based artifacts, which is how I landed at the University of Alberta for my Master of Arts in Textiles and Clothing. If anyone is looking for advice or assistance with developing their own Loyalist outfit, I am happy to help out!

I have two Loyalist ancestors, Joseph Denton Sr. and Cornelius Nice. Here is a little bit about each of them:

Joseph Denton was born in 1752 in Huntington, Suffolk, New York. On August 3, 1775, he and five others were accused of dissent against the rebellion and providing supplies to British ships. He arrived as a Loyalist in Nova Scotia in 1784, having sailed from Long Island on the ship Atlanta. In 1801 he was granted 210 acres in Digby Township. With his first wife, Martha Waters, Joseph Denton had seven children; he had another nine with his second wife Mary Odell. Joseph Denton died in June 1835 at Little River, Digby, Nova Scotia.

Cornelius Nice was born in 1754 in Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The youngest of 10 children, he was born a few months after the death of his father and named for him. He served as a Private in Major Philip Van Cortland’s Company of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of New Jersey Volunteers. In May 1783, Cornelius Nice arrived at the mouth of the Saint John River with the Spring Fleet, which carried over 2000 Loyalists to the Saint John area. He settled in Belleisle, New Brunswick and died in December 1816.

## UELAC Annual Conference

Each year one of the UELAC Branches organizes a conference. This event is normally four days but may be longer or shorter. The UELAC Annual General Meeting will be schedule along with the conference.

**Conference 2022** will be hosted by Manitoba Branch. It will be an all-virtual conference (as decided in May 2021). Dates will be announced when finalized.

**Conference 2023** “*Where the Sea Meets the Sky*” (June 1-4, 2023, Richmond, BC)

Hosted by the four Pacific Region Branches of the UELAC. Meetings have started, and plans are well underway for the conference in 2023. The hotel will be: Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel 7551 Westminster Hwy., Richmond, BC. Mark these dates on your calendar!

## Show Your UELAC Pride



**NEW UELAC PROMOTION ITEMS!**

The 1812 Family Name Ribbon is perfect for honouring your 1812 Veteran. \$20.00 and includes 1 blank bar (holds up to 5 bars). Extra bars are \$2.00. Engraving can be done at your local engraver or done through promotions at 60¢ per letter.

Finally available again is the updated computer bag. With the new UELAC logo, and a padded section for your laptop, as well as another section for papers or booklets, this bag, at \$30.00, is perfect for the UELAC member on the go.

Stickers are now available!  
3x7 \$2.50 and  
1.5x2 \$1.00

**TO ORDER CONTACT  
PATRICIA GROOM UE:  
PROMOTIONS@UELAC.ORG**



Visit the promotions page at <http://www.uelac.org/promotion/catalogue.php#Books> and place your order with Patricia Groom UE at [promotions@uelac.org](mailto:promotions@uelac.org)

**Description:** Face mask adorned with the UELAC logo.

The masks are made in Markham, Ontario. Both the mask and the elastic are soft and comfortable to wear. The mask has a pocket to insert a filter. Filters are available at drug stores or online, for example at Amazon.



One More Thing

What did it take for your Loyalist ancestor to be a well-dressed member of Colonial Society? Have a look in the September issue of the National Geographic Magazine.

Pick up a copy and look at pages 26 & 27





**UEL Edmonton  
Executive 2019**

President: Robert Rogers UE  
Vice President: Chris Rogers UE  
Branch Secretary : Dorothy Rogers  
Newsletter Editor: Dave Rolls UE  
Treasurer: Earle Fladager  
Genealogist: Dave Rolls UE  
Assistant Genealogist: Marcia McLean UE  
Membership Chair: Roberth Rogers UE  
Webmaster: Chris Rogers UE  
Social Organizers: Dorothy Rogers &  
Gillian Rolls

How to reach us . .

UEL Edmonton e-mail  [info@ueledmonton.ca](mailto:info@ueledmonton.ca)  
UEL Edmonton Website  <http://www.UELEdmonton.ca>  
LinkedIn  <https://www.linkedin.com/company/18192100/>  
UELAC Website  <http://www.uelac.org>  
UELAC e-mail  [dominion.office.admin@uelac.org](mailto:dominion.office.admin@uelac.org)

**Edmonton Branch Honourary Patron:**

The Honourable Salma Lakhani AOE, B.Sc.  
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta

**UELAC Region Representation**

Prairie Region VP: Barb Andrews UE  
Prairie Region Councillor: Elizabeth Adair UE

