



Fidelity

*United Empire Loyalist Association of
Canada
Toronto Branch*



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Upper Canada Preserved: The York Militia at the Battle of Queenston Heights

Ron Dale, Superintendent of Parks Canada – Niagara National Historic Sites of Canada, addressed Toronto branch members at our September 17th meeting. As a War of 1812 author and expert, Ron was extremely qualified to address this aspect of the battle of Queenston Heights. Our programme director Linda Young UE provides this synopsis of Ron's remarks.

Leading up to the declaration of the War of 1812, Britain was at war with Napoleon in Europe so there were very few soldiers that could be spared for Canada. To make matters worse, when ships sailed into British ports the British would take the sailors who spoke English and appeared to be British into their navy. In this manner 6,000 sailors were appropriated. Of these about 2,000 sailors were able to prove they were American. The remainder remained in the British Navy much against their will, antagonizing the U.S. government. At the same time the U.S. was moving into the Ohio valley either signing questionable treaties with the natives or by simply taking over their land. The fact that these natives were being aided by the British appeared to the U.S. as a threat to American sovereignty.

Sir Isaac Brock was the civil and military head of Ontario (Upper Canada) when war broke out in June 1812. At that time the U.S. population was ten times that of Canada. Brock had 2,000 soldiers who were among the best soldiers in the world. This was the backbone of the British/Canadian army. Tecumseh had 100 – 200 native warriors even though many natives were hesitant to help the British after the native experience during the Revolution. In addition there was the militia, consisting of all able-bodied men ages 16 – 60. In the Home (York/Toronto) district there were three battalions while Lincoln had five battalions. Each battalion included a 'Flank Company' whose members were given much more training than the normal

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Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 Branch Meetings



After a rousing start in September, our speaker series continues on **Sunday, October 15th**. We are pleased to welcome **Gavin Watt** to regale us with "**Fascinating Stories About Royal Yorker Soldiers**". Refreshments will be served at 1:30 p.m. and the formal meeting will begin at 2:00.

William Lamb, well-known historian, author and minister, will be speaking to us on **Wednesday November 15th**. His topic will be "**Charles Wesley's unpublished poems and his support of the Loyalist cause.**" 2007 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley (1707-

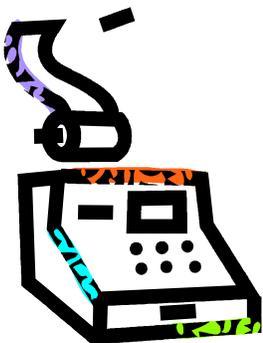
1788), an early supporter/leader of the Methodist movement. Wesley published hundreds of poems and hymns including some that are remain favourites today, such as "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing". Many of his poems support the loyalist movement. William Lamb will talk to us about these poems and what they tell us about Charles Wesley and English society at the time.

As always, there is no monthly meeting in December, although we will be having a Christmas luncheon (see page 8 for details). The branch's annual general meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 17th**. Our speaker series resumes in February, which is **Black History Month**. Who better to speak to us than **Rosemary Sadlier**, President of the Black History Society? Rosemary joins us on **Wednesday, February 21st** for Rosemary's remarks.

In March, Toronto branch member **Randy Saylor** will speak about the **Quakers of West Lake** (near Adolphustown) and their opposition to the granting of land for military service. This should generate some interesting discussion!

The monthly meetings are held at the branch office at **40 Scollard Street, Suite 300**. Scollard Street is three short blocks north of Yonge Street from Bloor. The **#6 Bay Street bus** stops at Bay and Yorkville, which is only one short block from Scollard Street. Members are welcome to come early for refreshments and to peruse the library and to meet fellow members before the formal meeting starts. There is metered parking on the street and several parking lots in the neighbourhood. Once in the lobby, **buzz #1500** for access.

Fundraising Update



Just a quick reminder that the Dominion/A & P Save-A-Tape Program is coming to an end, effective December 31st, 2006.

Thank you to all the members who have helped us raise money over the years by submitting your grocery tapes from Dominion and A&P.

The program is still in effect for a few more months, so if you have been saving up tapes, please bring them to a monthly meeting or mail them to the branch office. Let's make our last effort our most successful!

Upper Canada Preserved *(cont. from page one)*

militia and were more like regular soldiers.

In October 1812 Sir Isaac Brock had about 1250 soldiers, 810 militia and 300 warriors led by John Norton and John Brant, on the Niagara frontier. These troops were mainly at Fort George and Fort Erie with 200 regulars and 200 militia posted at Queenston. Brock thought that the U.S. would feign an attack at Queenston, draw in the army and then attack either of the forts. On October 11th, the Americans floated boats to Lewiston where they had 4,000 troops. On October 13th the Americans were in the boats and rowing across the river. Sir Isaac Brock was at Fort George. With this attack Brock decided it was not a feint but the real thing so set off to Queenston (five miles away) ahead of the troops.

When Brock arrived at Queenston his troops were being pushed back and in the charge, he was shot. Many warriors stayed at Queenston and proved very effective with their sniping abilities. At the same time Runchey's Company of Coloured Men from York and Niagara played an important role in keeping the Americans disorganized. Sheaffe lead the 263 regulars and 403 militia from Fort George. As they approached Queenston they formed into two lines and marched towards the Americans who panicked and left. After 12 hours of combat Sir Isaac Brock, 14 regular/militia and five natives had been killed. At the same time about 500 American soldiers had been killed, many in the boats.



Ron Dale inspects his weapon

The Battle of Queenston Heights proved to the British that the Canadians were willing to defend themselves and thus the British should support this effort. The militia worked very effectively in the subsequent invasions of 1813 and 1814.

An interesting side note – The bloodiest battle of all time for Niagara troops was on May 27, 1813 when the Americans captured Fort George. More Niagara citizens died in that battle than died in any subsequent battle including those waged in the two world wars.

For those interested in reading further on this subject, Ron recommended two books in particular:

[Soldiers of the King – the Upper Canada Militia 1812 – 1815](#) by William Gray.

[A Very Brilliant Affair](#) by Robert Malcomson.

Our thanks to Ron for sharing his knowledge with the Toronto branch members.

Certificates Presented

Two Toronto branch members were presented with their UE certificates in person at the September meeting. Past President **John Warburton** presented **Del Jackson** with a certificate for having proven descent from his Loyalist ancestor **Hendrick Jackson**. Del's wife **Eleanor Jackson** was presented with a certificate for her proven descent from Loyalist **Martin Snider Senior**.



John also presented Del and Eleanor with certificates for other members of their family who were not able to attend the meeting.

Daughter **Margaret Jackson** and granddaughter **Jacqueline Bedard** received certificates for having proven their descent from **Hendrick Jackson** and **Martin Snider Senior**.

Del's brother **Robert Jackson** and sisters **Arlene McCarthy** and **Patricia Maulson** received certificates for their descent from **Hendrick Jackson**.

Congratulations to the entire Jackson family!

Membership Survey

Most members living within the greater Toronto area will have received a survey in August, sent out by the branch executive. The survey asks questions about our monthly meetings, our speakers, any obstacles to attending the monthly meetings and solicits suggestions.

As of mid-September, we had received seventeen responses to our survey. We would love to hear from more members to get a sense of how we can better meet member needs. The survey is anonymous—we don't need to know your name! So please do fill it out and mail it or fax it to the branch office.

If you did not receive a survey or have misplaced your copy and would like another, please contact the editor at susan.ellsworth@omd.com or at 416.681.5615 to request another copy.

Your opinion is important to us and we would appreciate hearing from you.



Cooking Up History

By Susan Ellsworth

We already know that our branch members are interested in history. Are you also interested in cooking? (or at least, eating?) What about something that combines those two interests, history and food? There is a local organization that does just that:

Culinary Historians of Ontario

This organization was founded in 1994 by Fiona Lucas, Christine Ritsma, and Bridget Wranich. To quote the CHO website, "It is an organization for anyone interested in Ontario's historic food and beverages, from those of the First Nations to recent immigrants. We research, interpret, preserve and celebrate Ontario's culinary heritage."

The CHO publishes regular quarterly newsletters and organizes a variety of events around southern Ontario. Some of the past events include a butchering workshop in Waterloo, a symposium on the archaeology of culinary history, visits to various food-related venues and historical sites, as well as lectures by numerous cookbook authors.

Upcoming events include a cooking workshop in Dundern Castle, the annual sale of old and new cookbooks, Christmas Food in Historic Riverdale and a lecture on "Thirty Years of Cooking with *Canadian Living* magazine".

Membership is very reasonably priced and entitles one to copies of the quarterly CHO newsletter *Culinary Chronicles*. Members also receive discounted admission to CHO events and up-to-date information on Ontario food history happenings.

When my fellow executive member Martha Hemphill told me about the CHO, I simply intended to visit the website long enough to get some information for this article. But the organization looked so *appetizing* that I ended up filling out a membership form!

For more information on the CHO, visit their website at www.culinaryhistorians.ca, email them at culinaryhistorians@uoguelph.ca or write to:

Culinary Historians of Ontario

260 Adelaide Street East, Box 149

Toronto, Ontario M5A 1N1

The Queen's Royal Regiment on Parade

The Queen's Royal Regiment will be on parade at St. James Cathedral on **Sunday, November 12th**. In addition to the marching band, there is a parade of cadets and various other branches of the military.

The parade culminates with a shooting of cannon in the intersection of King and Church. It is a very impressive display.

Local Historical Events—Fall 2006

Fall is a busy time in Toronto with lots of historical events going on. A detailed listing of events can be found at www.toronto.ca/culture/events. From that website, here are three that we thought sounded particularly interesting and appropriate for our members:

From Fort York to the Fields of France : A Toronto Soldier's Experience in the Great War. An Illustrated Talk with Author Bruce Cane

Saturday, November 4 - 2 p.m.

It's been almost 90 years since the end of the First World War, however, the lessons learned and the sacrifices made resonate as deeply today as they did then. Join Bruce Cane, author of "**It Made You Think of Home: The Haunting Journal of Deward Barnes,**" as he presents an illustrated talk that delves deeply into one Toronto soldier's remarkable experience. Cane offers a specialist's look into Barnes' war from his training at Fort York in 1915 to his unenviable duty as a rifleman in a firing party that ended the life of a comrade deserter. Cane chronicles Barnes' experience by connecting journal entries to well-known events of the war and by interpreting some of the subtle nuances hidden in his text. A must for anyone interested in the First World War and the Canadian experience. Included with regular admission to Fort York.

Remembrance Day Ceremony—Saturday, November 11th - 10:45 am

Historic Fort York and the Toronto Chapter of the Imperial Order, Daughters of the Empire (IODE) are proud to present the annual Remembrance Day Service at the Strachan Avenue Military Cemetery, just west of Historic Fort York. The service will feature military costumed staff from Historic Fort York and standard bearers from the IODE. A processional parade, led by fife and drum, will gather at Fort York's parking lot at 10:45 am and make its way to the cemetery a short distance away. This unique and solemn service honours soldiers from the Toronto Garrison who fell in the War of 1812, the Rebellion Crises, the Crimean War, the Northwest Rebellion, the South African War, the two World Wars, the Korean War and recent conflicts.

Fort York, Toronto Culture and Edifice Old Home Magazine present:

AN OLD HOUSE SEMINAR & FORUM Sunday, November 12 - 10 am - 4 pm

Join Christopher Cooper, Editor-in-Chief, Edifice Old Home Magazine as he leads a full day seminar and forum for old house owners, contractors and conservators. Participants will discover ways to maintain, restore and rehabilitate an old home, as well as learn about historically-accurate products for maintenance and restoration. The seminar covers topics such as: repair and maintenance of heritage roofing; damp problems and solutions; repair and maintenance of masonry & siding; wood window problems and solutions; paint problems and solutions; caulking; removing wood trim for refinishing; repairing failed plaster walls and ceilings; insulating an old house; the century home kitchen and bath and much more. This event it is a *must* for older home owners.

Cooper has lectured widely about the conservation of older homes and has worked extensively on television including the soon to be released, Edifice Magazine's "Old Home T.V.," which he hosts. Cost: \$80 per person for the full-day seminar which includes a workbook. Please note this event is also a fundraiser for Fort York with \$15 from each ticket going toward exhibits. Registration: 519-757-1299 or email wagner@edificemagazine.com.

UELAC Conference 2007: "At the End of the Trail"

Although it seems that the 2006 conference in Toronto just ended, planning is well underway for the 2007 conference in Windsor, Ontario, to be hosted by the Bicentennial Branch. The dates to mark on your calendar are **Thursday, May 31st through Sunday, June 3rd**. The conference hotel, Hotel Holiday Inn Select, is just down Huron Church Road from the Ambassador Bridge, Essex County's gateway to the United States. Among the events planned for the conference are:

- On Thursday evening a "**Reception Along The River**" at **The Art Gallery of Windsor**, with great entertainment, good times and old friends.
- Friday's tours of **Amherstburg** and **Olde Sandwich Towne**, the oldest continuous European settlement in Ontario, will bring history alive right before your eyes.
- An evening of dinner-theatre at **Mackenzie Hall** will top off the day. "You be the Judge" and jury in this historic mock trial in the Western District's Grand Old Court-house
- Saturday brings the **AGM, Costume Parade and Banquet** with very special guests and an entertaining speaker.
- Sunday's Church Service in **Olde Sandwich Towne** at the area's oldest Anglican Church will be followed by an old-fashioned luncheon

Those with time for a longer visit can shop at Devonshire Mall and Windsor Crossings Outlet Mall, or try their luck at Casino Windsor.

The conference organizers tell us they will be posting details on the branch website soon (www.uelbicentennial.org/) and more information will be appear in Fidelity in the new year.

2007 Branch Membership Dues

We would like to remind members that payment of 2007 membership dues must be made to the branch by **January 1st**. If you need another copy of the membership form, please contact the branch office and leave a message to that effect.

Single memberships are \$55 and family memberships (spouses and/or dependent children living in the same household) are \$80. Among other things, your dues :

- support our branch library
- entitle you to two issues of our national newsletter The Loyalist Gazette and six issues of Fidelity
- include the per capita fees we send to support our national association

Please support your branch by sending in your renewal **today**.



Toronto Branch UELAC

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Branch Christmas Luncheon

Just a reminder about the Toronto branch Christmas luncheon on **Saturday, December 2nd** at Black Creek Pioneer Village.

Members who live in the greater Toronto area should already have received a mailing about this event.

The luncheon begins at 1 pm. but you may arrive as early as 12:30. Stroll through the village that will be decked out for the Christmas season, before enjoying a delicious traditional Christmas dinner.

The cost is \$30 per person. We ask that you return the order form along with your cheque to the branch office by **November 3rd**, so that we can confirm the numbers and other arrangements.

If you need another information form, please contact the branch office and leave a message to that effect.



The Next Issue



Fidelity is published bimonthly. Submissions are most welcome; articles may be edited for length or content.

The next issue of Fidelity will be the December/January issue. The deadline for submissions is **Sunday, December 3rd**.

Submissions can be emailed to susan.ellsworth@omd.com or mailed to her attention at the branch office.

Thanks for technical assistance go to **Kathie Orr UE**.