



Fidelity

*United Empire Loyalists' Association of
Canada
Toronto Branch*



Volume 29 Issue 3

June/July 2007

Fall 2007 Branch Meetings 2

Antiquarian Maps and the Loyalist Period

Christmas Luncheon 2

Antiquarian map and book dealer Megan Webster addressed members at the April 18th branch meeting, on the subject of maps and the Loyalist era. What follows is a selection of her remarks.

New Office Administrator 3

Mapping Toronto's Past 3

To understand the post-revolutionary landscape of North America, it is necessary to look back to the year in which one of the most significant maps in American history was published. In 1775 botanist John Mitchell published "A Map of the British and French Dominions in North America with the Roads, Distances, Limits and Extent of the Settlements". This highly influential document outlined in precise detail the French and British regions in eastern North America. The British

Loyalist Day Observation 4

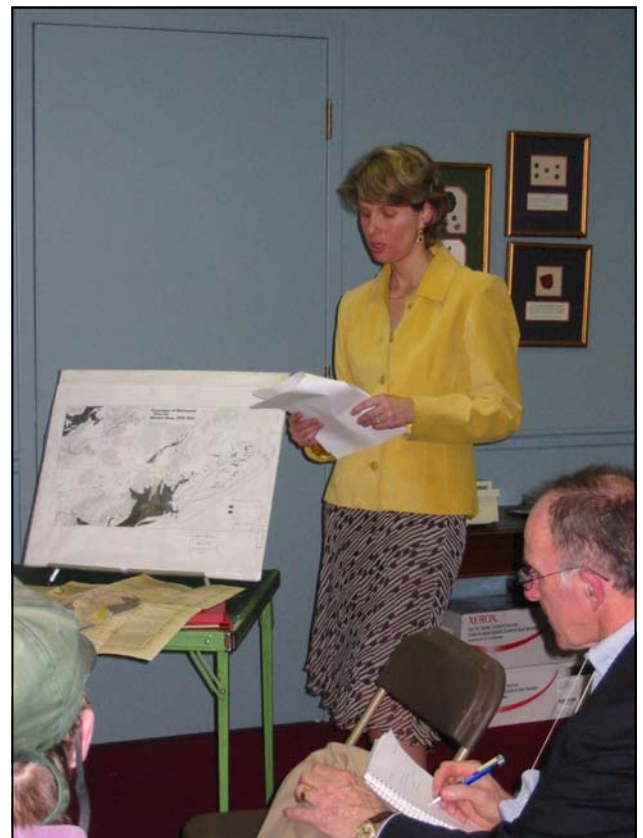
New Pictures Gallery 4

Certificate Presented 5

Ancestor Watch 5

Loyalist Lineages II 8

holdings that Mitchell depicted derived from contemporary sources held in the Public Records Office, extended westward to the Mississippi, south to the mouth of the Alabama River, and northward from New England to the shores of the St. Lawrence River. This great map saw some 21 editions published and it surfaced as a point of reference during the Treaty of Paris, ending the American Revolution, and several times thereafter during border disputes, even as recently as 1980

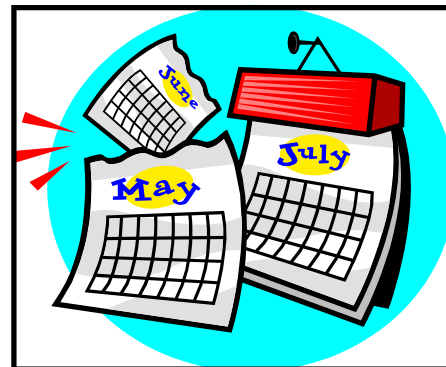


Megan Webster

(continued on page 6)

Fall 2007 Branch Meetings

After the summer hiatus, our speaker programme resumes on **Wednesday, September 19th** with **Rosemary Sadlier**, President, Ontario Black History Society. Rosemary has graciously agreed to give the talk originally scheduled for February (Black History Month) but which was postponed owing to the office flood. Rosemary's topic will be "**The Legacy of the Black Loyalists: Arrival, Experience and Hope**". What is the story of the Black Loyalists? What contribution did they make? How were the lives of their descendants improved through their courage and sacrifice? Join us on September 19th to find out.



On **Wednesday, October 17th**, Toronto branch member **Randy Saylor, UE**, 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! Randy has done a lot of work on old records of the Bay of Quinte region. He has a team of transcribers who are working on these records and they recently completed some West Lake Quaker minute books that are on Randy's website:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~saylormowbray/>

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.

We are always looking for suggestions for speakers or topics. If you have any ideas for upcoming meetings, please email them to our programme chair, **Linda Young** at (linda_fawcett_young@hotmail.com) or leave a message at the branch office.

Christmas Luncheon

Our second annual Christmas luncheon has been confirmed for **Saturday, December 8th** at Black Creek Pioneer Village. Last year's event at this venue was enjoyed by all who attended and the light dusting of snow made the village an enchanting sight.

The fee will be the same as it was last year—\$30— and it includes free parking and complimentary admission. This time of year is always a delight but especially when it is shared by our fellow UEL members and friends. Who knows, perhaps Santa will pay a return visit!

Please mark your calendar for this special event and look for more information in the next issue of Fidelity.



New Office Administrator

Toronto Branch, UELAC is pleased to announce that **Richard Atkinson UE** has agreed to act as our Office Administrator. Along with his organizational and management skills, Richard brings his knowledge of the United Empire Loyalists and the genealogical skills that will assist our members when they visit the office

The office will be open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. effective immediately. As always, we ask that you call ahead to make arrangements to research in our library

If you are planning to visit the office but cannot make it on a Thursday, please contact us either by phone or e-mail as other appointments **may** be available.



Richard Atkinson UE

Mapping Toronto's Past



Paul McGrath

At the May 16th branch meeting, **Paul McGrath** addressed members on the subject of "Toronto Towards the End of the 19th Century (1845-1900)."

Paul gave us a virtual tour of the city in the 1850s and in the 1870s, using maps and photographs, including 24 images taken in 1856, considered to be the first known photographs of Toronto.

We thank Paul for sharing his time and expertise with our members.

Loyalist Day Observation

Please join us on **Tuesday, June 19th** at 11:30 a.m. at Queen's Park for the raising of the Loyalist Flag in celebration of Loyalist Day.

After the ceremony, you can take a free tour of the Legislative Buildings (half-hour tour, every hour, on the hour) or visit the Veteran's Memorial on the grounds.

- *Karen Windover*

New Pictures Gallery at ueltoronto.ca

Our branch website has expanded again and now includes a new section called "Portrait Gallery". Here we will feature the images that breathe life into the stories of our ancestors. The gallery currently includes **Simon Fraser** and **Anna Margaret House Smith**.

The newest member of the gallery is **Titus Geer Simons, 1765-1829**

Titus Geer Simons b.30 Jan. 1765, Enfield Connecticut and died 20 Aug 1829 in Flamboro Township, ON; was the son of Titus Simons UE and Sarah Simons. Titus Geer married Elizabeth Green in 1798 at Newark; and Hannah Coon VanEvery circa 1807. Hannah was the daughter of John Coon UE and widow of Samuel VanEvery.

Some highlights of Titus' life:

- 1799—managed the "Upper Canada Gazette and American Oracle" for several years
- 1804—held a commission in the 2nd Lincoln Militia
- 1806—helped found the Burlington Board of Agriculture
- 1812—held a commission in the 2nd York Militia
- 1814—injured at Lundy's Lane
- 1825—was a faithful "Haltonite"

Titus Geer Simons is an ancestor of Toronto branch members **Martha Hemphill UE** and her brother **Michael Lomas UE**.

You can visit the gallery at www.ueltoronto.ca. We invite you to submit scanned images of your Loyalist ancestor and/or their children to: torontouel@bellnet.ca attn: Martha.



Titus Geer Simons 1765-1829

Certificate Presented

Congratulations to Toronto branch member **Bill Ferguson**, shown here receiving his certificate from branch president **Karen Windover** at the May 16th meeting.

Bill successfully documented his descent from Loyalist **James Demorest**.

Congratulations, Bill!



Toronto Branch Ancestor Spotlight



This is a photograph of my great-great-grandfather **Philip Walker** (born Oct. 25, 1785 in North Carolina, died April 9, 1865 near Milton) who came with his family -- his father was Loyalist William Walker-- around 1792 to Grimsby.

Philip's wife was **Susannah Cline**. The Clines arrived in Upper Canada in 1799. Philip and Susannah were married in 1812. She was born July 3, 1792 and died March 26, 1873. Both are buried in the Milton Pioneer Cemetery.

- Mary F. Williamson, UE

Photo courtesy Halton Historical Society

Antiquarian Maps... (continued from page one)

during the Canada-Maine fishing rights dispute.

...my favourite map of all time, the "Porcupine Map". In 1750 Moses Harris published his "Map of Harbour of Chebucto and the Town of Halifax" after Thomas Jeffery's Map. It is a delightful map showing the local fauna of the area including the "musk Beetle", a moth called the "orange Underwing Tyger" and the "White Admirable" butterfly. In the lower right corner there is a huge vicious-looking porcupine, which leads us to ask whether Mr. Harris had actually encountered one before. If he had, he clearly thought that "borrowing" the image from Ellis' Voyage to Hudson's Bay published two years earlier, seemed to be the better rendering!



Megan holding a book illustrating the famed "Porcupine Map"

Fundamental to the cartography of the Maritimes in the post-revolutionary era was the work of Joseph Frederick Wallet DesBarres. He trained with the military and saw action in Quebec during the Seven Years War. After being stationed in Halifax, he found himself in a skirmish to take back Newfoundland from the French. It was at this time he began working with the famed Captain James Cook to chart the coast of Newfoundland. DesBarres was then commissioned to chart the coasts of Nova Scotia. Beginning his work of coastal surveying in 1774 and working with other surveyors such as Samuel Holland, he finally completed his magnum opus in 1780. Issued in parts, the "Atlantic Neptune" was a tour de force consisting of over 112 charts (many double page) adorned with aquatints of the whole eastern seaboard extending from South Carolina to Newfoundland. Exacting in nature, the maps are a combination of precise hydrographic and topographic detail with skilled artistic renderings... Although DesBarres' sale of his Neptune never amounted to much in his lifetime and he continued to lobby the government for compensation, his works command very high prices today. During the Second World War when the demand for precious metals soared, there was talk to melt down the remaining 64 copper engraving plates housed in the Hydrographic

(concludes on next page)

Antiquarian Maps... (continued from previous page)

Department of the Admiralty in the U.K. Luckily the importance of their historical value prevailed and it was decided for safety's sake that the plates would be divided between the American and Canadian governments for preservation. Canada received 32 plates in 1946 which are now housed in the National Archives. The plate of the St. John River however was somehow misplaced and remains unaccounted for today.

When we look at the cartography of Upper Canada during the Loyalist period, William Chewett stands out. An Englishman who came to Canada in 1771, he first served as an engineer during the defence of Quebec in 1775-76. When Upper Canada was officially created, he was appointed deputy surveyor-general of Upper Canada. Many finely rendered surveys were carried out by Chewett. He charted areas around the Grand River, Lake Erie, the Rideau River, Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake) and even parts of York, plotting out residential lots for John Graves Simcoe. He collaborated with surveyor general David William Smyth (although Chewett's name doesn't appear on the map) to produce a large scale map of Upper Canada in 1800 which was to be the first printed map of the area. His influence in the cartography of Upper Canada was monumental in shaping the boundaries and townships of the province we know today.

Patrick McNiff, on the other hand, did not achieve such glory or prominence. Irish by birth, McNiff came to Canada after the Revolution in search of more stable conditions. He worked with Samuel Holland for a short stint before relocating to the Kingston area in 1786. He executed large-scale surveys of the Ottawa River before moving to Detroit to survey the area... Much of the land McNiff surveyed was swampy district and not recommended for settlement... McNiff's reputation as a complainer and as belligerent did nothing to boost his status as a competent mapmaker and Simcoe eventually refused to employ him. While his maps of Upper Canada did show levels of competence his "very impractical disposition", as Simcoe termed it, hindered him from ever achieving any measurable success.

In conclusion, by looking at the examples of both the manuscript maps and printed maps of the late 18th century we can see how the Loyalists advanced the need for accurate town and community planning throughout the British possessions in North America. These maps tell a captivating story of the emerging provincial territories during a period of great transformation and development in North American history. Further, they give a pictorial view of a new and promising land full of hardships and triumphs along the way.

Megan Webster is an antiquarian map and book dealer based Toronto. She has worked in the field for over 10 years and prior to her own business, worked at a leading Canadian auction house. She has performed "Roadshow" appraisal clinics as well as catalogued both private and institutional collections. She exhibits at international shows such as the annual Miami International Map Fair and has a website at www.webstermaps.com.

Megan is a fully accredited member of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of Canada and two years ago, recognizing a local interest in antiquarian maps, founded the Upper Canada Map Society. She sits as acting President for the 2007 year.

We thank Megan for sharing her time and expertise with us.

Toronto Branch UELAC

Phone: 416.489.1783
Fax: 416.489.3664
E-mail: TorontoUEL@bellnet.ca
Web: www.ueltoronto.ca
Mail: 40 Scollard Street, Suite 300
 Toronto, Ontario
 M5R 3S1

President: Karen Windover UE
Past President: John Warburton UE
Programme: Linda Young UE
Library: Martha Hemphill UE
Genealogy: Martha Hemphill UE
PR/Education: John Warburton UE
Secretary: Susan Ellsworth UE
Publications: Ed Cass UE
Social: Diane Reid UE
Treasurer: Karen Windover UE
Archives: Anne Rahamut UE
Office Administrator: Richard Atkinson UE

Special Sale – Loyalist Lineages II

Toronto Branch offers you the opportunity to obtain this high quality, hard cover bound two-volume set at an exceptional price.

One Set \$ 62.50 per set
3 or more sets \$ 31.25 per set

Terms: set orders only

Taxes as applicable and postage / shipping charges are extra and not included.

These make a great gift. Don't delay! Contact the branch office today for more details. Thank you to everyone who has supported this venture with sales.



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 August/September issue. The deadline for submissions is **Sunday, August 12th**.

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**.