



PRAIRIE LOYALIST

FROM THE LAND OF LIVING SKIES.....

**UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH**

February 2026

Vol 19 No 1



saskuelac.ca



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS *WHERE THE TEA IS SERVED IN CUPS*

2026

Regular meeting: TBA
National AGM (this is a virtual meeting only)
Saskatchewan UEL Day: Regina
Canada Day Party: Government House, Regina
Branch picnic: TBA
Regular meeting: TBA
Regular meeting: TBA
Christmas Lunch: TBA

Saturday April 18
TBA
Friday June 19
Wednesday July 1
TBA
Saturday September 19
Saturday November 21
TBA



2027

New Year Levée: Government House, Regina
Annual General Meeting: TBA
National Conference, Kingston

Friday January 1
Saturday February 20
June 17 - 20

*** Regina meetings will be at Western Pizza, 3847 Albert Street South unless otherwise noted*

FROM THE EDITORS PEN...

As spring snow tests our enthusiasm for the season's arrival, we pause to reflect and look forward to another year of celebrating our shared heritage.

As this year marks 250 years since the birth of a republic forged in revolution, the Loyalist story stands as a reminder that it did not end with migration. It continued wherever families settled, worked the land, and built communities.

In our branch, that continuity is seen in simple things – gathering and honouring our history, showing up year after year. Heritage is not preserved in grand gestures alone; it is preserved in community. And under these wide Saskatchewan skies, that inheritance continues – steady and sure.



If you would like to share anything in an upcoming newsletter, contact the newsletter editor at scott.hazelwood@gmail.com. The deadline for the next newsletter will be April 19, 2026.

Scott Hazelwood

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Kathleen Sharman
Saskatoon, SK

Holly Pitka
Saskatoon, SK



PATRON

Her Honour the Honourable
Bernadette McIntyre, S.O.M.
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH UELAC EXECUTIVE 2026

President	<i>Jennifer Schafer UE</i>
Vice President	<i>Scott Hazelwood</i>
Past Co-President	<i>Ken Mackenzie UE</i>
Past Co-President	<i>Harvey Smith UE</i>
Secretary	(vacant)
Treasurer	<i>Gerald Adair UE</i>
Genealogist	<i>Gerald Adair UE</i>
Assistant Genealogist	<i>Margaret Adams UE</i>
Membership Chair	<i>Kathy Webster UE</i>
Publications Chair	<i>Scott Hazelwood</i>
Archivist	<i>Harvey Smith UE</i>
Care Comm. Chair	<i>Beverley Risser UE</i>
Director	<i>Judy Sanders UE</i>
Director	<i>Margaret Adams UE</i>



THE CARE COMMITTEE

If you or a loved one is ill, in hospital or have suffered a loss, we encourage you or your loved ones to let the Care Committee know, to ensure that compassionate thoughts and prayers are directed your way during a challenging time. And if there is a celebration to mention, let's share the good news as well.

We are connected through our ancestors, our heritage and a familial sense of sharing and caring.



Contact
Bev Risser UE
306-586-3211
bevrisser@sasktel.net



BRANCH NEWS & EVENTS

NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVEE

A few members gathered with the crowds at Government House on New Year's Day when Their Honours hosted the annual New Year's Day Levee.

Meeting the Lieutenant Governor on New Year's Day is a Canadian tradition going back to 1646 in New France, now Quebec. This ceremonial custom is 340 years old, 221 years before confederation, 130 years before the American Revolution. It would be fair to say that this is one of the oldest, if not the oldest tradition in post-settler Canada.

The levee is not simply a reception – it is a visible reminder that Canada's constitutional monarchy is not symbolic. It is embodied, accessible, and ongoing.



Left to Right: Scott Hazelwood, Harvey Smith UE, His Honour Rich McIntyre, Her Honour the Honourable Bernadette McIntyre, Barb Schmuland UE, Glenn Schmuland



BRANCH NEWS & EVENTS ...cont'd



Barb Schmuland UE with members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at the New Year's Levee, Government House.



Harvey Smith UE at Government House on January 1st with members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at the New Year's Levee.



BRANCH NEWS & EVENTS ...cont'd

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday February 20th in Regina. With little changes to the Executive, we thank Barb Schmuland UE for serving as our secretary as she steps down from that role. The position is currently vacant, and we are looking for someone to fill that seat.

Volunteerism runs deep in Saskatchewan, and our branch is fortunate to have a remarkable depth of volunteers that keep stepping up to the plate in various capacities.

Following the AGM, we had a regular meeting with some good discussion as we move into 2026.

We apologize to those on Zoom, as we were having some technical difficulties. We appreciate your patience and thank you for hanging in there with us.

LOYALTY AT THE CROSSROADS

A Reflection on 250 Years (1776-2026)

As others commemorate revolution, we remember displacement.

As others celebrate independence, we remember allegiance.

As others recall rebellion, we recall loyalty.

As others mark the birth of a republic, we remember the enduring continuity of the Crown.

Two hundred and fifty years ago, families stood at a crossroads.

Neighbours were divided by more than fences and property lines.

Market and tavern goers were at odds by principle.

Even congregations found themselves divided.

Some chose revolution.

Some chose loyalty.

Each side made a choice. Each side made a stand. And history remembers.





LOYALIST NOTES

A DANDY YANKEE DOODLE STORY

Yes, we've all sang it. We've sang it to children; we've sang it with children; we've sang it without children! Many know "Yankee Doodle" today as a lighthearted children's tune, but its origins tell a more ironic story.

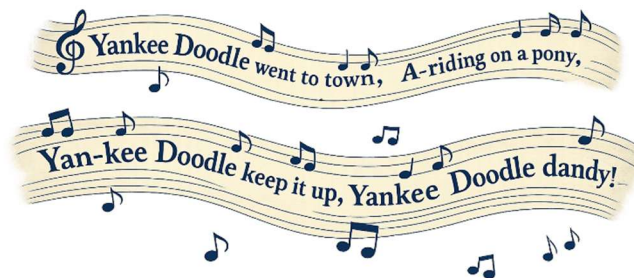
The melody was once used by British officers in the mid-1700s to poke fun at colonial militias. They were seen as sloppy, with uneven uniforms, loud and self-importance manners and more enthusiastic than military drilled; rough and unpolished compared to the disciplined ranks of the Crown.

"Yankee" was a term the British applied—sometimes teasingly—to American colonists, and "doodle" meant a simpleton or fool.

The most famous line — "*Stuck a feather in his cap and called it macaroni*"— makes sense only in 18th-century slang. A "macaroni" was a fashionable, flamboyant young man in London society who dressed in elaborate European styles. Calling someone a macaroni implied they were trying too hard to look sophisticated. So, the joke was that simply adding a feather did not make a colonial soldier refined or elite.

"Yankee Doodle" began as satire. The melody itself did not originate in America but likely came from European folk music—possibly English, Irish, or Dutch—sometime in the 1600s or early 1700s. Like many folk tunes, it traveled by word of mouth rather than printed music, so no single composer is known. By the mid-1700s, British soldiers were already familiar with the tune and used it as a light marching or camp melody.

What makes the song remarkable is what happened next. The very soldiers of the colonies who were meant to be the butt of the joke adopted the tune themselves. Instead of taking offense, they sang it proudly, turning a playful insult into a cheerful declaration of independence. To Loyalists of the era, this shift symbolized more than humor—it reflected a growing willingness among the rebels to cast aside British customs and authority while celebrating their own emerging identity. A melody intended to mock disorder became a rallying cry that embraced it.





COMMON GROUND

*He did not come to be noticed,
nor to stand apart from others,
but to take his place in line;
a citizen honouring the Crown.*

*She stands in place of her Sovereign,
In a room vibrant of majesty
echoing history as though the walls themselves
remember their duty.*

*Two commoners meet upon the same stage,
of different rank, yet equal in trust—
one received by the Crown,
one who carries it for a time.*

*Then hands extend in greeting:
neither distant nor grand,
but offered plainly,
as service always is.*

*He departs unchanged in title,
unchanged in station,
yet steadied by the knowledge
that honour still endures.*

*She turns to one upon the threshold,
once more extending greetings from the King that unites them.
Fulfilling her duty;
fulfilling her role.*

*The audience was to honour.
To honour history, to honour the Crown.
And in that brief exchange,
the promise was kept.*



*Photo: Her Honour the Honourable Bernadette McIntyre, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan greets Harvey Smith UE
Government House, Regina, Saskatchewan
January 1, 2026*



CEMETERY COMMITTEE PLAQUES

There are many Saskatchewan cemeteries where descendants of Loyalists are buried, and the Cemetery Committee is looking for submissions for Cemetery Plaques.

Provide the name of the cemetery, where it is located and any known Loyalist ancestors that are buried there to any committee member; you do not have to be a Branch member. Remember that any of your family members that are also descended from your Loyalist should also be on your list and they do not have to be proven!

Committee members are:

- Gerry Adair UE
- Judy Sanders UE
- Harvey Smith UE
- Barb Schmuland UE

Plaques are now at the following Saskatchewan cemeteries.

- Dilke Cemetery, Dilke, Saskatchewan
- Fairlight Cemetery, Fairlight, Saskatchewan
- Inglesfield Cemetery, Maryfield, Saskatchewan
- Maryfield Cemetery, Maryfield, Saskatchewan
- South Cemetery, Moosomin, Saskatchewan



MAPLE CREEK - 2026

In May of 2026, there are plans for a cemetery dedication ceremony in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. It is hoped that there would be a number of people interested in attending, and that there would be some carpooling. We are currently planning for **Monday May 4th** - more details will follow.





Are you looking for Loyalist Merchandise and Memorabilia?

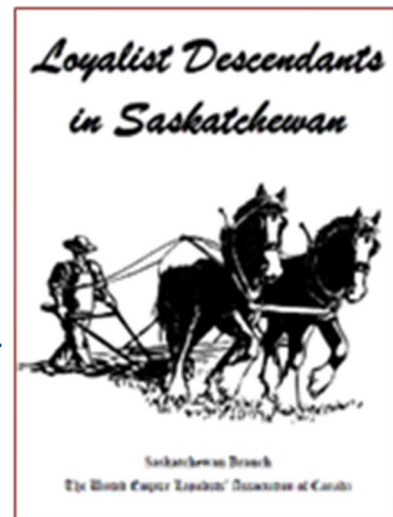
Everything from Christmas ornaments, cuff links and luggage tags to shirts, hats, flags, family name ribbons, books and souvenir licence plates. A **NEW ITEM** now available is the UELAC Challenge Coin and the Revolutionary War Coin of Remembrance.

Select items are available at each meeting in the care of Gerry Adair.

There are also items available online at uelbridgeannex.com/shop/

Do you have your copy of *Loyalist Descendants in Saskatchewan*? If you have, let your friends and family know if you enjoyed it. If you haven't got a copy, or would like to purchase one as a gift, you can get one at any branch event or by contacting Gerry Adair at gerry.pat@sasktel.net.

This Saskatchewan Branch book is \$30.00 if picked up in person or \$50.00 including shipping to anywhere in Canada.





“The Last Round in Boston”

A Fictional Account from the View of a Loyalist Tavern Keeper

My name’s Isaac Harper. I ran the **King’s Barrel Tavern** on Milk Street in Boston—oak floors, brass lanterns, and a fire that never went out. My place was where sailors sang, farmers traded gossip, and the town council took their ale after meetings.

It was never supposed to be political. A pint was a pint, whether you were redcoat or rebel. But war doesn’t care for peacekeepers.

When the talk of revolution came, I tried to keep my head down. “I sell ale, not arguments,” I told my wife. But that wasn’t enough.

The Sons of Liberty began to meet in other taverns—planning, plotting, raising glasses to rebellion. Mine still flew the Union Flag. I still poured drinks for British officers. That made me a Loyalist in their eyes.

Some Patriots stopped coming. Others stayed but glared at my regulars. The tension thickened like the steam from our stew pot.

Then came the Boston Tea Party. That night, a few of them stormed into my tavern, dumped a barrel of beer onto the floor, and carved the word “TRAITOR” into my front door.

I sent my wife and children to her cousin’s farm outside the city. And I stayed. Stubborn fool that I was.

But one night, it all ended. A mob came while I was closing up. They didn’t speak. Just threw a torch through the window. The flames rose fast. I saved what I could: my father’s tankard, our tavern ledger, and the Union Flag from the wall.





By morning, the King's Barrel was a pile of ash.

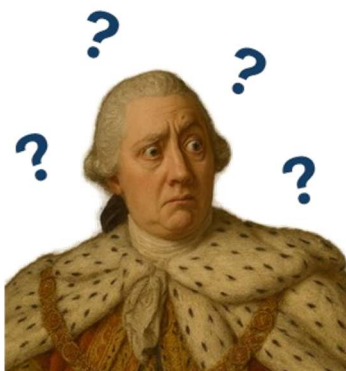
I left Boston the next day, walking north with other Loyalists. We crossed into Canada, cold and quiet, leaving behind everything we knew.

In Quebec, I built a new tavern—smaller, humbler, but safe. I called it “The Barrel’s End.” And on the wall, I hung that scorched Union Flag—not as a boast, but as a memory.

Some drink to forget. I drink to remember.



* Watch for another *Trail of Tales* in the next issue of *Prairie Loyalist*.



By George!!
Find Seven Things That
Don't Belong in the Colonies.





February 24, 2026

