



PRAIRIE LOYALIST

FROM THE LAND OF LIVING SKIES.....

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

March 2024

Vol 17 No 1

uelac.org/Saskatchewan



Saskatchewan Branch UELAC Executive

President	Jennifer Schafer UE
Vice President:	Scott Hazelwood
Past Co-President:	Ken Mackenzie UE
Past Co-President:	Harvey Smith UE
Secretary:	Barb Schmuland UE
Treasurer:	Gerald Adair UE
Genealogist:	Gerald Adair UE
Membership Chair:	Kathy Webster
Publications Chair:	Scott Hazelwood
Archivist:	Harvey Smith UE
Care Comm. Chair:	Beverley Risser
Director:	Linda Smith UE
Director:	Margaret Adams

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

*Our meeting place in Regina will be at Western Pizza at
3847 Albert Street South unless otherwise noted!*

2024

Sat Apr 20

Regular meeting in Regina

Sat May 11

UELAC Dominion AGM - Virtual

Jun 6 – 9

Dominion Conference in Cornwall, ON

Wed Jun 19

Saskatchewan UEL Day - Regina

Mon Jul 1

Canada Day Party - Gov't House Regina

TBA

Branch picnic

Sat Sep 21

Regular meeting in Saskatoon

Sat Nov16

Regular meeting in Regina

TBA

Christmas dinner in Regina

2025

Wed Jan 1

New Year Levée - Gov't House Regina

TBA

Annual General Meeting in Regina

FROM THE EDITORS PEN...

Spring is just around the corner and warmer days are on the horizon.

We finished off 2023 with our branch Christmas party, enjoying a great turkey dinner and all the trimmings and some festive socializing then on January 1st a few members gathered at Government House for the New Year's Day Levée.

Our AGM and regular meeting was held in February at Western Pizza after lunch, where some new members were elected to the board; welcome Kathy Webster and Margaret Adams.

All members are welcome to join our branch meetings, either physically or virtually, whichever format is practical and accessible at the time.

Scott Hazelwood, Prairie Loyalist Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2024 should be an exciting year for our branch as we prepare to celebrate our 40th Anniversary! Plans are well underway for the event planned for a luncheon event on June 19th, so please be sure to book your calendars to join us that day. As your new president, I'm honored to have the opportunity to lead our branch as we head into our 40th year and I'm excited to see what goals and projects our branch will work on next to continue to promote our branch and Loyalist history in Saskatchewan. Please be sure to share any ideas you have with myself or any other member of our executive.

This past year, I've really enjoyed learning more about our Loyalist heritage with the introduction of some educational materials being presented at each meeting, and I hope to see that continue and grow. I've also enjoyed seeing so many new certificates presented to members by our branch this past year, and I know that several other applications are currently being worked on. I hear that there are already some certificates ready to be presented to members at our June 19th event - exciting!

Our executive this year has several new faces, and many returning faces, which I am happy to see. It is always nice to have some continuity on boards from returning executive in addition to some new blood. I am looking forward to hearing the ideas and plans from our executive group to help keep our branch vibrant and strong so that we can survive another 40 years. Here's to a busy and rewarding 2024!

*Jennifer Schafer, UE
Saskatchewan Branch President*

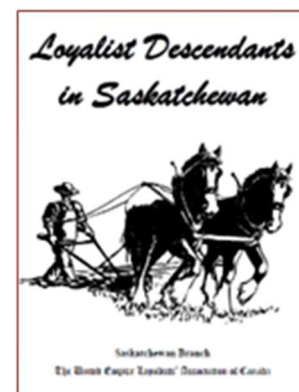
FOR SALE – SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH BOOK

Have you got your copy of *Loyalist Descendants in Saskatchewan*?

If you have and you enjoyed it, please pass information on to your family and friends or anyone you think may be interested.

Price is only \$30 if picked up. Contact Gerry Adair in Moosomin or Linda Smith in Regina for more information.

To have a book mailed will cost \$20 for shipping to anywhere in Canada (\$50 total). Contact Gerry Adair at gerry.pat@sasktel.net



BRANCH EVENTS AGM & February Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting and regular branch meeting was held on Saturday February 17th at Western Pizza in Regina.

Following lunch, we had our AGM with election of officers and then our regular meeting with some good discussion for the new year. Following this there was an educational component by Jennifer Schafer recognizing February as Black History month, sharing a YouTube video about the Black Loyalists.

UELAC SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH EXECUTIVE



The Saskatchewan Branch Executive elected at the AGM on February 17, 2024 in Regina.

Left to Right Back Row:
Harvey Smith UE, Ken Mackenzie UE, Gerry Adair UE, Margaret Adams, Kathy Webster, Linda Smith UE

Left to Right Seated: Bev Risser, Jennifer Schafer UE, Scott Hazelwood, Judy Sanders UE

Missing: Barb Schmuland

Photo courtesy of Ken Mackenzie



The Annual General Meeting of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada will be held on Saturday May 11, 2024.

This meeting is only being held virtually and is separate from the Dominion Conference.

Members planning to participate must register in advance prior to May 4, 2024. There is no fee for the AGM.

Members unable to participate in the meeting may vote by proxy.

All details, registration forms and proxy forms are available in the members' section at uelac.ca or by contacting dominion.secretary@uelac.org.



**Are you on Facebook? We are!
Join the Saskatchewan UELAC
group. Watch for new and exciting
posts, contribute and share.**

UELAC CEMETERY PLAQUES

Do you know a Saskatchewan cemetery where descendants of Loyalists are buried?

The Cemetery Committee is looking for submissions for Cemetery Plaques. We need the name of the cemetery, where it is located and any known Loyalist ancestors that are buried there.

Please send submissions to any committee member. You do not have to be a Branch member to submit a cemetery.

Please remember that any of your family members that are also descended from your Loyalist should also be on your list. They do not have to be proven!

Committee members are:

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

LOYALIST NOTES

The First Loyalist Day in Saskatchewan

In early April, I had a call from Colleen Slater-Smith of Regina. She had recently discovered a Loyalist ancestor and had been given my name as a contact. Something was said about the national UEL Day. Colleen suggested I ask for a provincial day, as many interest groups get a day declared by the Provincial Government. I wrote to Joanne Crawford, Minister of Culture and Youth. I also included a package of material relating to the Loyalists. I sent a similar letter and information to Brenda Bakken, MLA for my area, as well as the appropriate UELAC officers. My letter was passed on to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Housing and Heritage, Ron Osika, and was acknowledged. Later, my request was granted, and a certificate of proclamation was forwarded. Our June meeting was slated for the 16th, and we broached the idea of changing it to the 19th and having a celebration. Each time we ran into a problem, I phoned Colleen Slater-Smith and she knew how to solve it. We are really indebted to her for helping make the day such a success. Bernice Flett UE and Margaret Carter UE listened patiently to my many phone calls, offered encouragement and suggestions, and Bernice sent material on Ontario's UEL Day.



She also sent a Loyalist flag in time for flying at the legislative building. The 19th came quickly. My wife Shirley and I went in costume, as did Lloyd Redick and Margaret Carter. Lloyd wore my KRRNY uniform, while I wore a Butler's uniform. We had a 10:30 meeting and drove to Regina for 1:00. We have become used to the startled looks of people and were not bothered by the reaction at the restaurant where we met. One sight will stay with me forever. To see our flag, the First Union flag fluttering from the Premier's balcony above the main entry caused many excited and pleased comments. Ron Osika declared June 19th as United Empire Loyalists' Day in Saskatchewan. Our group was recognized. We were asked to rise. One could sense the pleasure and interest shown by the MLAs. We then left for Government House. There we assembled at the flagpole for the raising of the flag and the National Anthem. Prior to that, Janice MacKinnon, MLA, historian and author, spoke about the Loyalists and their contributions to the founding of Canada. Her

Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan joined us for the raising of the flag and tea in the ballroom. Following the Vice-Regal salute, the master of ceremonies, Colleen Slater-Smith welcomed

everyone and asked Dr. Haverstock to speak. Margaret Carter brought greetings and congratulations from the Manitoba Branch and the Western Region. Other dignitaries were welcomed, among them being the Monarchist League and the Order of St. George. A letter of congratulations was read from Dominion President Bill Terry. I also gave an address. Lucky Peggy Quillim from Strasbourg, Sask. was presented with her UE certificate (Daniel Green UE), at this time by Lorna Mackenzie, Branch Genealogist. Nelle Balkwill proposed the toast, and tea and cake were served; the cake having been decorated by Mary (Bjarnason) Mass and cut by Ruth Whitmore. The following day Regina's Leader Post published an attention grabbing and thought-provoking article on the day.

By Logan W. Bjarnason UE, Fall 2001

NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVÉE

January 1, 2024 – Government House

Each year the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan hosts a levée at Government House in Regina on New Year's Day.

A tradition dating from the 17th century with King Louis XIV, the association of the levée and New Year's Day began in Canada with the fur traders coming to pay their respects to their government representatives. The first formal levée recorded in Canada was on January 1, 1646 with the Governor of New France greeting residents and sharing the state of affairs on behalf of the King. The New Year's Levée has become almost solely a Canadian event.

The first levée held in Saskatchewan was on January 1, 1884, with only gentlemen of Saskatchewan's upper class being invited. In 1902 the levée was opened to the public; the public still being men only. When Government House closed in 1945, the event was held at the Hotel Saskatchewan until declining numbers in the early 1970s caused the office to cancel the function entirely.



Photo courtesy of Wayne Risser

In 1985 the levée was reintroduced in the newly restored Government House, and for the first time, it was open to men and women.

A number of branch members attended the levée this past New Year's Day hosted by Their Honours on behalf of the King and, in this over 350-year-old tradition, exchanged greetings with His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan and Her Honour Mrs. Donna Mirasty, and enjoyed refreshments, entertainment, tours and socializing.



Photos courtesy of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

UE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

At our Christmas Party on December 9, 2023, a UE Certificate was presented to Janice (Janie) Fries by Gerry Adair. Janie's proven Loyalist ancestors are Conrad Dafoe and Joseph Loucks. Congratulations Janice on your Loyalist history research and on receiving your UE designation!

Pictured to the right, Janie Fries (centre) with her grandson receiving her UE Certificates.



BRANCH EVENTS ***Christmas Party***

The annual Saskatchewan Branch Christmas Dinner was held on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at the Western Pizza Restaurant on Albert Street (South) in Regina. Members and guests arrived around 11:30 AM and spent time socializing over coffee and hors d'oeuvres.

A turkey dinner was served at 12:00 PM which was delicious with a salad, meat, potatoes, vegetables, stuffing, gravy and dessert. Jennifer Schafer introduced a game format for the gift exchange which brought a lot of laughs!

Dainties were passed around and conversation and coffee continued for quite a while after the gift exchange. Everyone seemed more than happy to settle in to "after-dinner" fellowship.

Excerpts from notes by Barb Schmuland



UEL Day
Saskatchewan
Celebrating 40 Years of our Branch
June 19, 2024

Luncheon Event
Atlas Hotel
4177 Albert Street
1-306-586-3443
(Block of rooms will be available)

2024 SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH 40TH

The Anniversary Committee is planning a special event to be held on UEL Day **June 19, 2024** to celebrate our branch's 40th Anniversary of receiving our charter.

In June 1932, the original branch received its charter, but became inactive after a number of years. In 1984, the Regina Branch of the UELAC received its charter. Twenty-six years later in 2010, the branch changed its name to the Saskatchewan Branch. While recognizing the original branch, we are celebrating 40 years of receiving our charter.



THE LAST POST

Logan Wesley Bjarnason UE

28 August 1940 - 6 February 2024



Logan Wesley Bjarnason, late of Weyburn, Saskatchewan, born August 28, 1940, passed away, February 6, 2024 at the age of 83 years.

Logan was predeceased by his parents, Kris and Clara Royal Bjarnason; brothers, Ernie, Agust, Irwin, Rae & Gerald; sisters, Ruby Taylor and Lina Ivan and Shirley's son, Robert Doyon.

Logan will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 39 years, Shirley Bjarnason of Weyburn, SK; her children, René Doyon of Regina, SK and Michael Doyon of Jasper, AB; sisters, Mary Maas, Anne Huber and Inga Hill as well as numerous nieces, nephews, relatives & friends.

At the request of Logan and his family cremation will take place and interment will follow in the summer of 2024.

Logan was a long-time member of the Saskatchewan Branch UELAC where he served as President and other roles. He received Loyalist Certificates based on his descent from John Barnhart UEL and from Stephen Middaugh UEL in 1988.

Logan published many branch reports in various issues of the *Loyalist Gazette* between 2001 and 2008 and was the main inspiration and leader of a project to build the Regina Branch Loyalist Cairn situated on the grounds of the Legislative Buildings in Regina. "Our gracious patron, the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Lynda Haverstock, unveiled the cairn on June 2, 2005, during the annual UELAC conference held in Regina."

Courtesy of Doug Grant UE, Loyalist Trails





Please feel free to send any articles about your Loyalist ancestors or anything you think our membership will be interested in. Pictures of Branch events and members activities, or special events of Loyalist members should be sent to Scott, newsletter editor, at scott.hazelwood@sasktel.net