



PRAIRIE LOYALIST

FROM THE LAND OF LIVING SKIES.....

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

October 2025

Vol 18 No 4



saskuelac.ca



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

2025

Saturday November 15
Saturday December 13

Regular meeting: Regina
Christmas Lunch: Regina



2026

Thursday January 1
Saturday February 21
Saturday April 18
TBA
Friday June 19
Wednesday July 1
TBA
Saturday September 19

New Year Levée: Government House, Regina
Annual General Meeting: TBA
Regular meeting: TBA
Dominion AGM (this is a virtual meeting only)
Saskatchewan UEL Day: Regina
Canada Day Party: Government House, Regina
Branch picnic: TBA
Regular meeting: TBA

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

FROM THE EDITORS PEN...

As fall has arrived and the harvest is near complete, it feels like a fitting time to reflect on our summer.

A few of our members attended Canada Day at Government House, celebrating our country's 158th birthday. August brought us a beautiful summer day in Moosomin, where our picnic was filled with fun and fellowship, then we marked another step in our efforts to preserve Loyalist history with the dedication of a new cemetery plaque.

Most recently, we gathered in Saskatoon for our September meeting with discussion, camaraderie, and a shared passion for our Loyalist heritage.

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 November 20, 2025.



*Scott Hazelwood
Prairie Loyalist Editor*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marty Anderson
Regina, SK



PATRON

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

SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH UELAC EXECUTIVE 2025

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	<i>Barb Schmuland UE</i>
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.

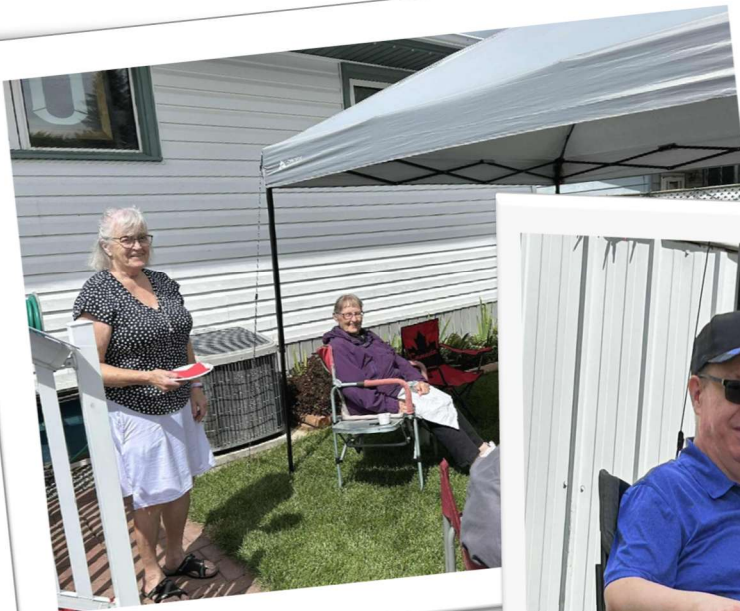
We are connected through our ancestors, our heritage and a familial sense of sharing and caring.

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





BRANCH NEWS & EVENTS



BRANCH PICNIC

On August 9th the Saskatchewan branch held their annual picnic in Moosomin, at the home of Gerry Adair. A good turnout from as far north as Creighton, west to Moose Jaw and east to Brandon; and a good turnout for the weather too!

Following the picnic, there was a cemetery plaque dedication at the Moosomin South Cemetery.





BRANCH NEWS & EVENTS ...cont'd

Branch members and friends gathered on August 9th in Moosomin for the annual picnic.

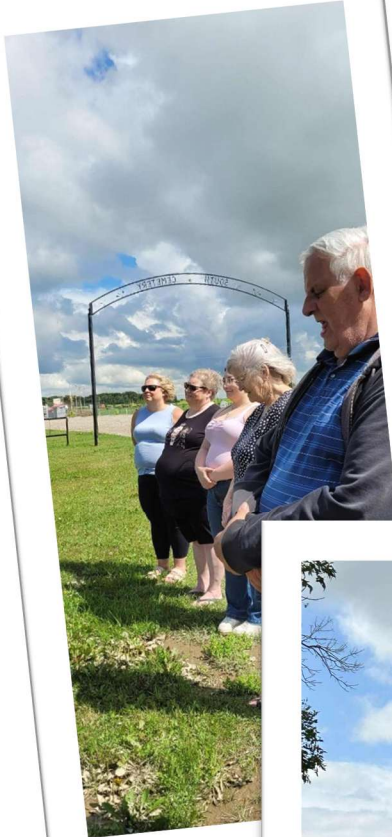




BRANCH NEWS & EVENTS ...cont'd

CEMETERY DEDICATION

A cemetery plaque dedication took place at the Moosomin South Cemetery on August 9, 2025.





SEPTEMBER BRANCH MEETING

Members gathered in Saskatoon in person and via Zoom on Saturday September 20th. Those on site enjoyed lunch and some good visits before our members on Zoom joined in on the meeting.

Remember, everyone is welcome to gather in either format at any of our general meetings. The dates are always listed on page 1 of the newsletter.



QR CODE



Did you notice that funny little square on page 1 and wonder what it was? This is a QR code, a link to our branch website where you can learn about our members' ancestral stories and stay up to date on upcoming meetings and events.

Here's how it works. Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone or tablet:

1. Open your camera app (most phones recognize QR codes automatically).
2. Point it at the QR code – no need to take a picture.
3. Tap the link that appears on your screen to visit our website instantly.

It's that easy!



MEMBERS CORNER

The French-Robertson House Story

In 1743, Jeremiah French was born in Stratford, Connecticut Colony. He grew up in a time when New England farm families were building their futures in the shadow of both opportunity and unrest. In 1762 he had married Elizabeth Wheeler, and together they began a family whose destiny would be shaped by loyalty to Crown and country.

When the American Revolution erupted, Jeremiah chose the Loyalist cause. That decision would have cost him dearly in Connecticut, but it set him on the path northward to what would become Upper Canada. Like so many Loyalists, Jeremiah's family exchanged the familiar for the uncertain. They settled along the St. Lawrence River in a place called Maple Grove where Jeremiah built a fine frame home that stood as a testament to perseverance and renewal.

One of Jeremiah and Elizabeth's daughters later married George Robertson, a man of Scottish descent who had established himself in the district. In 1812, Jeremiah sold his beloved home to Robertson, blending the French and Robertson families and passing the house into a new chapter. George refined and expanded the structure, adding neo-classical symmetry and ornamentation, making it one of the most admired houses in the region.

Cont'd on page 8

*Robertson House at
Upper Canada Village*





MEMBERS CORNER ...cont'd

By the 1860s, the home was occupied by George Robertson Sr., living as a widower among Georgian furnishings, imported wallpaper, and a lifestyle that reflected both ambition and memory. The house was continuously occupied by the Robertson family until 1957.

When the St. Lawrence Seaway project in the 1950s forced the relocation of many villages, Maple Grove was lost to the flooding, but the Robertson House was saved. Carefully dismantled and rebuilt, it found a new life 25 kilometers west at Upper Canada Village, where it continues to preserve the story of two Loyalist families – the Frenchs and the Robertsons.

For visitors to Upper Canada Village today, Robertson House, the yellow home at the corner of Church Street and Queen Street, is a beautifully furnished glimpse into the genteel life of mid-19th-century Ontario. But for family of Jeremiah French, like Saskatchewan branch member Scott Hazelwood – a 7th great-nephew of Jeremiah French – it is much more. It is a family home, where ancestors lived and family gathered, where choices of loyalty and survival reshaped generations, and where a piece of personal heritage still stands against the flow of time.



Siblings Scott, Brent and Wendy Hazelwood stand in the kitchen of Robertson House. The kitchen is the original home built by their 7th great uncle, Jeremiah French. His sister Glorianna (French) Bryan is their maternal 6th great-grandmother.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

On November 11th, we honour those who served and sacrificed in Canada's post-Confederation conflicts. Yet our remembrance need not begin there. Long before Canada was a nation, Loyalist men and women risked everything for the ideals that would one day shape this country.

Though the day recalls battles fought in more modern times, we also remember those early Loyalists who gave their lives in devotion to Crown and country. Their courage and conviction laid the foundation upon which later generations would stand when called to serve in the same way. From the Loyalists of the Revolution to the soldiers of Vimy, Dieppe, Korea, and beyond – we will remember them.

Regina's Nightingales Quartet is excited to bring their popular Wartime Tribute to historic Darke Hall on November 11 at 2:00 pm.

This heart-warming production features the well-known songs of the First and Second World Wars, from *The White Cliffs of Dover* to *We'll Meet Again*, showcasing the hits of the Andrews Sisters, Vera Lynn and many more.

The production is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Howard Leyton-Brown, wartime pilot and flight instructor, violinist and conductor.

Dianne Burrows, Marlene Hinz, Carolyn Speirs and Suzanne Williams are joined by Barbara Flaten-Orr on piano, Quinn Bell on bass and Terry Schiessler on percussion. Join the Nightingales to step back in time with this fun and touching show presented in honour of the men and women who served on the frontlines and the home front.

Tickets are on sale now at <https://darkehall.ca/events/the-nightingales-wartime-tribute>

The NIGHTINGALES Wartime Tribute at Darke Hall

N O V E M B E R 1 1 , 2 0 2 5

**Dianne Burrows, Marlene Hinz,
Carolyn Speirs, Suzanne Williams**

Barbara Flaten-Orr, piano Quinn Bell, bass
Terry Schiessler, percussion

**November 11, 2025
2:00pm**

Darke Hall, 2255 College Ave, Regina

Tickets
Darke Hall, 2255 College Avenue
or online at www.darkehall.ca

Box Office 306-523-2751



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



“REVOLUTIONARY WAR” OR “WAR OF INDEPENDENCE”?

The conflict of 1775-1783 is known by different names, and the one we choose often reflects where our loyalties lie.

From the **American perspective**, it was the *War of Independence* – a struggle for self-government and separation from Britain.

From the **Loyalist and British point of view**, it was the *American Revolutionary War* – a civil conflict between neighbours, families, and former comrades divided by duty, conviction, and a revolt against allegiance to the Crown.



Are you looking for Loyalist Merchandise and Memorabilia?

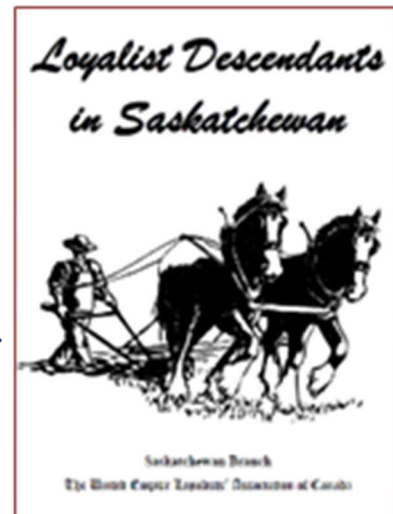
Everything from Christmas ornaments, cuff links and luggage tags to shirts, hats, flags, family name ribbons, books and souvenir licence plates.

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.





“His Boots Are Still by the Door”

A Fictional Account from the View of a Mother Who Lost Her Son

My name is Anne Ridley. I came to this country with hope in my heart and a child in my arms.

My husband and I were Loyalists—faithful to the Crown, grateful for land and peace after leaving the old world behind. We built a farm near Albany, raised animals, grew wheat, and thanked God for our son, Thomas, born one spring as the lilacs bloomed.

He was a bright boy, curious and kind. He’d chase butterflies and ask questions about the world. As he grew, he worked beside his father in the fields and learned his letters by candlelight.

Then came the war.

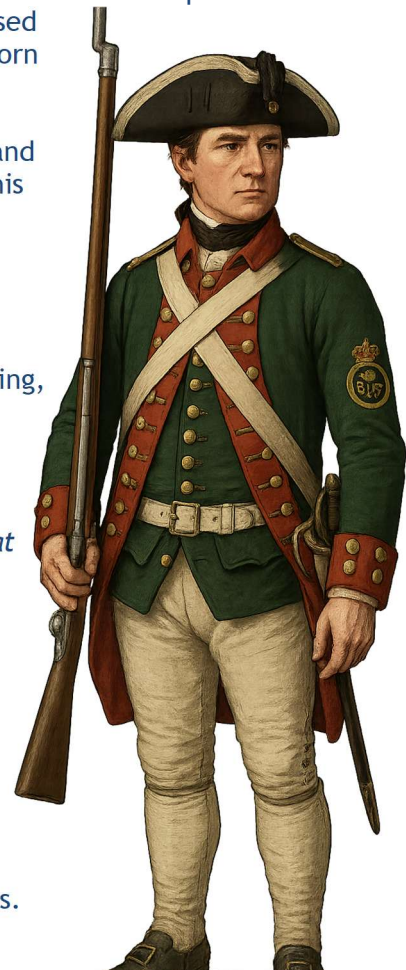
At first, it was shouting in the town square. Then it was neighbours turning on each other. Then it was fire—barns burning, windows smashed, and the word “Loyalist” whispered like poison.

Thomas was just seventeen when he joined the King’s Royal Regiment of New York. He said, “*Mother, I must stand for what is right.*” He wore the green coat with pride and left with a musket on his shoulder, promising he’d be home by harvest.

But the harvest came, and no letter came with it.

For months I waited. I walked to the edge of the road every morning, praying to see his figure return. My husband stopped talking. We fled north after they seized our land—fleeing with the Loyalist convoys into Upper Canada.

We started again in the wilderness. A cabin, a field, cold nights.





Still no Thomas.

The officer's letter came in spring. **Battle. Ambush. Brave. Buried with honour.**

Those words felt like ash in my mouth.

I placed his boots by the door of our new home. I could not bear to throw them away. Sometimes I brush the dust off them. Sometimes I swear I still hear them creak.

People speak of loyalty. Of building a new nation. Of courage.

But mothers speak of silence. Of empty chairs. Of boots that do not move.

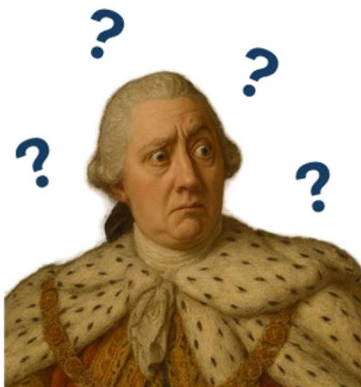
I am still Loyal. I did not turn my back on the Crown.

But the cost was my son.

So when I hear others speak of the brave new land, I nod quietly. And I say a prayer—not for the future—but for the boy who gave his for it.



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



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





October 17, 2025

Home of the Cairn

on the shores of Wascana Lake,

Regina, Saskatchewan