

BRANCHES

Grand River UELAC Newsletter

Dates to Remember

Hybrid Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 21 @ 2:00 at
Grace United Church,
Caledonia

1:30 doors open for
refreshments and conversation

1:30 zoom will open

2:00 Guest speaker:

Dr Allan Marble: The leading
role played by Dr John Jeffries
inoculating against the
smallpox epidemic in Halifax
which lasted from 1775 to
1778.

Update and Reminder

All 2026 meetings will
generally be held on the third
Saturday of the month.

Grace United Church in
Caledonia will be our new
venue for hybrid meetings

*You will find the full list of
meeting dates and speakers
included in this newsletter



Editor's Message

Welcome to a brand new year. 2026 marks the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution and our Loyalist forebearer's resolve to champion the ideals of peace, order and good government. As we all know our ancestors paid a heavy price for their beliefs. Considered traitors in one nation they are seen as founding fathers in Canada. I hope you are watching and reading the many TV programmes and articles available. Doug Grant who publishes Loyalist Trails weekly includes the chronological happenings as the war unfolded as well as many interesting articles that bring the time to life. If you do not receive Loyalist Trails on Sunday mornings you can contact Doug at loyalist.trails@uelac.org. It is part of your membership.

Loyally

Bev Balch UE

We are moving to a new venue!

For many years now we have held our in person/ hybrid meetings at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Centre in Brantford. Sadly we found we could no longer afford to meet there as the number of members attending in person had dropped significantly. As you will recall if we had a certain number attending the cost of the room was waved.

We thank Best Western for their hospitality and willingness to accommodate the Branch over the years.



Grace United Church Caledonia

Starting in March, our meetings will be held at Grace United Church, in Caledonia. For some this will mean a longer drive but this location brings many advantages.

-a rental we can afford

-A large parking lot

-A fully accessible building

-Up to date technology to support hybrid meetings with on site tech support

-A spacious meeting area

-The ability to bring our own coffee or for refreshments to be provided prior to the meeting.

-Deb Blair did the original searching out for a possible new location. Judy de Korte is now our liaison with the church.

- I think members will be very satisfied with our new venue. The church also hosts the Young family reunion in October as well as their being very much involved in the restoration of the grave stones found in the Old Wesleyan Methodist Church cemetery on Winniet Street, Caledonia.

March Guest Speaker

Dr Allan Marble

Topic: The Leading Role played by John Jeffries inoculating against Smallpox in Halifax during the Epidemic which lasted from 1775 to 1778

Allan Everett Marble was born in 1939 in Turo Nova Scotia.



Dr Allan Marble

He taught in Nova Scotian universities for over 40 years, beginning in 1967. He taught physics, mathematics, surgery, and biomedical engineering. As an associate professor at Dalhousie University's Department of Surgery, Marble's medical rDuring his time at Dalhousie university's Department of surgery, he helped to establish their School of Biomedical Engineering. He was name Professor Emeritus of Dalhousie University in 2000, and retired from teaching in 2010.

Dr. Marble is a certified genealogist. He was a founding member of the Genealogical Institute of the Maritimes in 1982, and was president of the Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia twice. He has served on the executive boards of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society and the Dalhousie Society for the History of Medicine; from 2016 to 2017, he was chair of the Medical History Society of Nova Scotia.

In 2024, Marble was appointed to the Order of Nova Scotia in recognition of his contributions to Nova Scotian heritage and biomedical engineering

Congratulations

to everyone who received their certificates in the last 5 months

Sean Michael White	Peter Lampman	Ginger Anne (Bouk) Law	Jacob Bowman
Melissa Ann Loucks	Jacob Loucks	Barbara Marian (Bouk) Whitby	Jacob Bowman
Liam Aakaash Kumar	Jacob Loucks	Winston Troy Bouk	Jacob Bowman
Ethan Kavi Kumar	Jacob Loucks	Tracey Lynn Whitby	Jacob Bowman
Max Ishir Kumar	Jacob Loucks	Bradley Douglas Adams	John (Johannes) Young
Michael Tony Bouk	Jacob Bowman	Maximilian Altvater	Gideon Adams

Saturday, March 21, 2026 Annual Meeting

Following our Guest speaker, we will be holding our Annual Meeting. Please plan to attend either in person or on zoom.

The Annual reports will be out to you, the last week of February. We have vacancies and changes in names of those who are on the Grand River UELAC Board and the new executive will be sworn in at that time. You may wish to either stand for or nominate a member to take on those valuable positions..

Grand River Branch UELAC 2026 Speakers

Saturday March 21 Allan Marble : *The Leading Role played by John Jeffries inoculating against Smallpox in Halifax during the Epidemic which lasted from 1775 to 1778*

Hybrid meeting, Grace United Church, Caledonia

Saturday April 18 Tom Nelson: *The Emigration Saga of the Young (originally Jung), Nelles and Related German Loyalist Ancestors from the Palatinate to the Mohawk Valley of Central New York 1709-1713.*

Hybrid meeting, Grace United Church, Caledonia

Saturday May 23 Brian McConnell: *The Hessians as Auxiliaries for Britain during the American Revolution*

Hybrid meeting, Grace United Church, Caledonia

Saturday June 20 Loyalist Day Celebration at Walsingham Hall

Family History Sharing Day, Pot Luck

2070 Main Street, Walsingham, Ontario

Saturday July 18 Field Trip: Joseph Brant Museum - details coming closer to the date

1240 North Shore Blvd. E, Burlington

Saturday August 15 Field Trip details TBA

Saturday September 19 Rochelle Bush: *Exploring Niagara's Freedom Trail*

Hybrid meeting, Grace United Church, Caledonia

Saturday October 17 Bonnie Huskins: *Loyalist Women in New Brunswick*

Hybrid meeting, Grace United Church, Caledonia

Saturday November 21 Dr. Carl Benn: *Mohawks on the Nile*

Hybrid meeting, Grace United Church, Caledonia

Bill Terry thought this article might be of interest.

When the Loyalists said no to joining the American Revolution

By: Allan Levine Posted: 2:00 AM CST Monday, Jan. 12, 2026

This year will mark two 250th anniversaries. The first is the signing of the American Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, an independence officially and begrudgingly recognized by the British in the Treaty of Paris signed in September of 1783 after numerous bloody battles.

This semiquincentennial will be celebrated in the U.S. with the requisite parades, pageants, fairs and the Patriot Games, a high-school-level athletic competition.

The second probably will be lower key: a commemoration of the Loyalists — Europeans and Indigenous Peoples who opposed violent revolution. They chose to support the British Crown and contributed to the establishment of modern Canada.

It could be argued that the European Loyalists were the original anti-51st state proponents, who rejected casting aside British-style government and law and order in favour of American republicanism. Indigenous Loyalists believed that the British would protect their ancestral lands and stop American expansionism — which proved impossible.

It has been estimated that in 1776 about 20 per cent or 500,000 of the Thirteen Colonies' population of approximately 2.5 million identified as Loyalists. They were a diverse mixture of Brits, Scots, Germans, Dutch and free Blacks. Of those, about 50,000 eventually settled in British North America. Another 25,000 or so departed for Great Britain, the British West Indies (Jamaica and the Bahamas) And about 6,000 Black Loyalists relocated to Sierra Leone on the coast of West Africa.

The Loyalists were castigated as “Tories” or wealthy British-loving conservatives. Yet, many, in fact, shared American ideals about life, liberty and property — the tenets of the 17th century English philosopher John Locke's theory on natural rights possessed by all humans from birth regardless of government decrees.

But they mightily rejected rebelling against the British Crown. It should be noted, too, that many White Loyalists owned Black slaves and brought them to Canada. These individuals remained slaves for the duration of their lives and their children were only freed once they turned 25-years old.

Slavery was abolished in the British Empire by an act of the British Parliament passed in 1833.

The British indeed taxed the Americans unfairly (though the taxes were never that high) and expected them to be subservient colonists, heeding the dictates of the Mother Country — no questions asked. It took a decade, from the detested Stamp Act of 1765 to the Battle of Lexington in April 1775 and the Declaration of Independence 14 months later for an all-out war to erupt.

Continued on next page

How could a ragtag group of colonists defeat the most powerful empire in the world? Yet with military help from France, which wanted to avenge its loss to the British in the Seven Years War, Spain and the Netherlands, along with George Washington's astute leadership, the use of guerilla tactics by the colonists, and poor British military strategy, the Americans remarkably prevailed.

There was a steep and dangerous price for being a Loyalist. Mob rule during the revolution was vicious and violent.

"You must try to walk in our shoes in order to understand the effect persecution had on our lives," wrote Loyalist John Melchoir File decades after he had left New York. Loyalists were beaten and driven from their homes, placed in stocks, imprisoned and perhaps worst of all, tarred and feathered.

In the case of the latter, the poor victim was partially stripped and doused in warm pitch or pine tar (which was not as scalding hot as the tar or asphalt used today in road construction), and plunged into a vat of goose or chicken feathers. The humiliated individual was then paraded through the streets often with a rope around his neck and threatened with hanging. Tar and feathering was not usually fatal, but the brutality was not easily forgotten. As File added, "oil did gradually take off the tar and feathers from the skin of victims, but the psychological effect of this cruel treatment lasted a lifetime."

Despite the harsh treatment during and after the revolution, many Loyalists remained in the newly designated United States. Others sought free land and economic opportunities in present day Canada. All that was required to obtain the land was an oath of allegiance to the Crown.

Three decades later, when the War of 1812 between the Americans and the British and Canadians ended in a stalemate, Loyalists and their families took even greater pride in their defiant stand during the revolution. They became "United Empire Loyalists," an honourable distinction still used to the present time by their descendants.

"Without the War of Independence," wrote the late journalist and author Peter C. Newman, "Canada would likely not have existed. It was the massive Loyalist influx from south of the border that saved the northern territory from being annexed by the Yanks. The newcomers, having formed a hard core of settlers loyal to their adopted grubstakes, became the mothers and fathers — nurturers and role models — of the new nation."

And, 250 years later we especially remain grateful they did.

Now & Then is a column in which historian Allan Levine puts the events of today in a historical context. His most recent book is The Dollar-A-Year Men: How the Best Business Brains in Canada Helped to Win the Second World War

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Kirkin of the Tartans

Each year, the congregation of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Simcoe celebrate the Kirkin of the Tartans. Here you can see two young potential Loyalists (though not documented as yet) carrying the UEL and the Indigenous flags at St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Simcoe, Sunday, November 16th 2025. We believe these young men descend from 2 loyalist families; Harmanus House and Donald/Daniel McCrimmon.



Kirkin of the Tartan
November 2025



Contact Information 2025

Note that the contact information will change after the Annual Meeting.

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