



Remember the Corman House

Stoney Creek Historical Society

PO Box 66637, Stoney Creek, ON. L8G 5E6

NEWSLETTER

October 2014

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United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada



What is a Loyalist ?

Over two hundred years ago the American Revolution shattered the British Empire in North America. The conflict was rooted in British attempts to assert economic control in her American colonies after her costly victory over the French during the Seven Years War. When protests and riots met the British attempts to impose taxes on the colonists, the British responded with political and military force. Out of the struggle between the Thirteen Colonies and their mother country emerged two nations: the United States and what would later become Canada.

Not all of the inhabitants of the Thirteen Colonies opposed Britain. The United Empire Loyalists were those colonists who remained faithful to the Crown and wished to continue living in the New World. Therefore, they left their homes to settle eventually in what remained of British North America.

Who were the Loyalists?

The Loyalists came from every class and walk of life. Some depended on the Crown for

their livelihood and status and had considerable wealth and property. Many were farmers and craftsmen. There were clerks and clergymen, lawyers and labourers, soldiers and slaves, Native Americans, college graduates, and people who could not write their own names. Recent immigrants from Europe also tended to support the Crown.

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Loyalist Day in Hamilton June 19th 2014

Various members of local UEL Associations led in by a piper for the opening ceremonies. These ceremonies are held each year on June 19th at the Loyalist Statue in front of McMaster University 50 Main Street East.



Mayor Bob Bratina and former mayor Bob Morrow gave short speeches re: the United Empire Loyalists.

Pictured here with Gloria Oakes UE from Hamilton branch.

Doug Green UE laying a wreath on behalf of the *Stoney Creek Historical Society*

For more information on the UEL in Hamilton and Canada go to the following web sites, you may be a descendant.

The Canada web site has a listing of many loyalists in their directory



<http://uel-hamilton.com/>

<http://www.uelac.org/>

Thanks to R.S. Barrons UE for pictures

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The Stoney Creek Historical Society (SCHS) has now entered the 2014-2015 season.

We have succeeded in scheduling a number of outstanding speakers for each of our monthly meetings. The Stoney Creek NEWS, and the Hamilton Spectator have been of great assistance to SCHS in publicizing our meetings, relaying details of the topic, guest speaker, and location. Our thanks to the NEWS and the Spec.

SCHS meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, at the Municipal Centre, 777 #8 Highway, Stoney Creek (former City of Stoney Creek Council Chambers), starting at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments and an opportunity to socialize, follow our meetings.

Members of SCHS are encouraged to submit their thoughts and comments. The Board is most interested in suggested activities, possible, trips to places of interest, encouraging others to join us, as well as possible ways to raise funds. Your input can be presented to any of our Board members, and will be carefully considered.

SCHS members were invited to a Fish Fry, 11th July, 2014 at the Stoney Creek Legion. Those in attendance enjoyed a very good meal. We're already anticipating our next Fish Fry, with some creative thoughts for activities, greater interaction, and even more fun. Our special thanks to Joyce Brown for her paramount role in the success of the evening.

As previously mentioned, each individual and family in the area has their own history. Our Reference Library and Archive is most interested in capturing and preserving the history of Stoney Creek and area for current and future generations. We are not capable of acquiring artifacts. However, if you possess pictures, photos, diaries, ledgers, documents, or personal research materials that may potentially assist SCHS towards our objective, please contact our volunteers at the Reference Library and Archive. We will provide a respectful opinion on each item, and ensure that if accepted, each donation will be given appropriate care. If you wish to keep the original, we will arrange for copying.

To our SCHS Board members, I extend my ongoing appreciation for their willingness to meet, discuss, resolve and implement supported resolutions. With your contributions, we're going to have a great 2014-2015 season.

To everyone, I'm looking forward to seeing you at the next SCHS meeting.

Greg Armstrong
President - SCHS

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They had little in common but their opposition to the revolution. Their reasons for becoming Loyalists were as varied as their backgrounds. Some had strong ties with Britain: others had simply supported what turned out to be the losing side. Local incidents, fear of change, self-interest, political principles, emotional bonds – one or any combination of these influenced their decision to remain loyal to the Crown. The common thread that linked these diverse groups was a distrust of too much democracy which they believed resulted in mob rule and an accompanying breakdown of law and order. The Reverend Mather Byles mused, “Which is better – to be ruled by one tyrant three thousand miles away or by three thousand tyrants one mile away?” Loyalists believed that the British connection guaranteed them a more secure and prosperous life than republicanism would.

Historians estimate that ten to fifteen per cent of the population of the Thirteen Colonies – some 250,000 people opposed the revolution; some passively, others by speaking out, spying, or fighting against the rebels. Approximately 70,000 Loyalists fled the Thirteen Colonies. Of these, roughly 50,000 went to the British North American Colonies of Quebec and Nova Scotia.

The Loyalist Heritage

Of less practical value than land and supplies, but of more lasting significance to the Loyalists and their descendants, was the government’s recognition of the stand that they had taken. Realizing the importance of some type of consideration, on November 9, 1789, Lord Dorchester, the governor of Quebec, declared “that it was his Wish to put the mark of Honour upon the Families who had adhered to the Unity of the Empire...” As a result of Dorchester’s statement, the printed militia rolls carried the notation:

N.B. Those Loyalists who have adhered to the Unity of the Empire, and joined the Royal Standard before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783, and all their Children and their Descendants by either sex, are to be distinguished by the following Capitals, affixed to their names: U.E. Alluding to their great principle The Unity of the Empire.

The initials “U.E.” are rarely seen today, but the influence of the Loyalists on the evolution of Canada remains. Their ties with Britain and their antipathy to the United States provided the strength needed to keep Canada independent and distinct in North America.

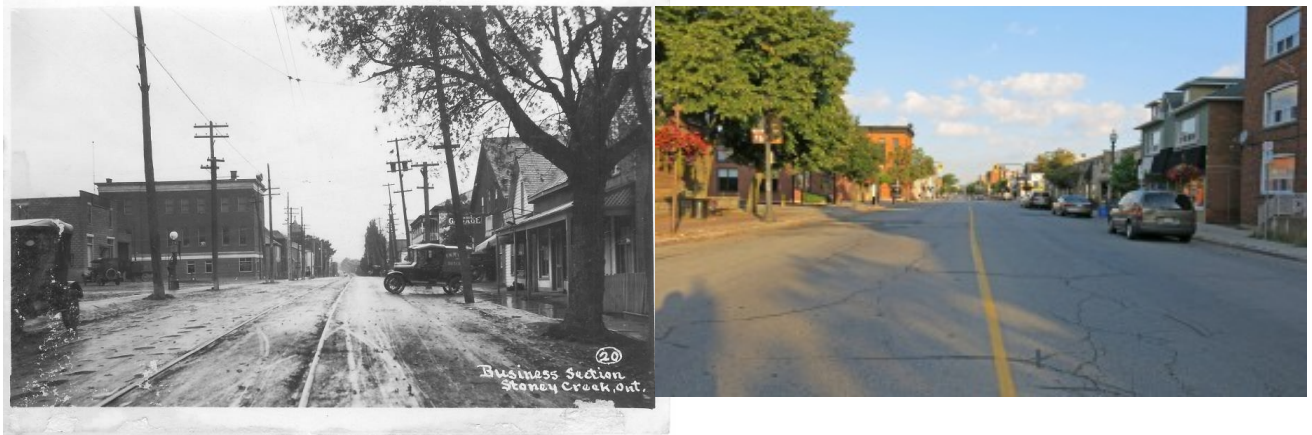
The Loyalists’ basic distrust of republicanism and “mob rule” influenced Canada’s gradual “paper-strewn” path to nationhood, in contrast to the abrupt and violent upheavals in other countries.

In the two centuries since the Loyalists’ arrival, the myths and realities of their heritage have intertwined to have a powerful influence on how we, as Canadians, see ourselves. Truly, the arrival of the United Empire Loyalists not only changed the course of Canadian history by prompting the British government to establish the provinces of New Brunswick and Ontario, but it also gave them special characteristics which can be seen today. Perhaps the most striking of these is the motto on the Ontario coat of arms: Ut incepit Fidelis sic permanet that is, “Loyal she began, Loyal she remains.”



By Ann Mackenzie M.A.

THEN AND NOW PICS STONEY CREEK



King street looking west from Elm ave (circa 1920) and 2013



3 pictures taken near King st and 1st looking north

Top left Methodist Church in 1800's. After new church built at corner of Lake and King, this church was converted to a house. (circa 1905)

Top right picture from 1940's, this was a house with at least 2 families using right and left hand sides.

Bottom left old house torn down (circa 1960) and replaced by this current apartment building.

STONEY CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

We have been very busy over the summer months and into September. We have completed a large portion of our work i.e. recording of donations, scanning, recording and numbering all of the photographs and are now prepared to move forward on several other projects. We welcome your visits and definitely are ready to accept your donations of photographs, personal letters and notes to and from family members. We can preserve them for our records or scan to keep and return all originals to you. We hope to have the encapsulation completed very soon. We preserve maps and oversized photographs and documents in clear, sealed packages. The City of Hamilton had stored the records of By-laws and Assessment Roll paperwork since amalgamation. We look forward to receiving all of these files and record boxes from the City in the very near future to store in our offices at 605 Highway 8, Stoney Creek. We would like to mention our newest volunteer. Terry Smith has been with us since our Book Sale in May and has quickly become a member of our team. We look forward to having him work with us for quite some time. Hours of operation on Tuesdays and Thursdays 1 – 4 p.m.

Up Coming Speakers at Stoney Creek Historical meetings

October 1st speaker Mr. Erno Rossi : “Crystal Beach of the Past”

November 5th Jane Ellerington, she is the curator of Cottonwood Mansion in Selkirk. She will speak on the history of the Mansion and the amazing efforts of the community restoration project. Perhaps even a few small artifacts will accompany Jane.

Meetings at the Municipal Centre, 777 #8 Highway, Stoney Creek (former City of Stoney Creek Council Chambers), starting at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments and an opportunity to socialize, follow our meetings.

The Sir John A Macdonald Society of Hamilton invites you to join them for Sir John A's 200th birthday Saturday January 10th 2015 / 6 to 9 pm at The Scottish Rite, 4 Queen St. South Hamilton for a dinner in Sir John's honour.

Guest Speaker H.V. Nelles, Professor of Canadian History, McMaster University on “Sir John's nose”

Cash Bar: for more information contact

Robin McKee robinmckee3@gmail.com 905-544-9559 or Susanne susanne_490@hotmail.com

Battlefield House Museum & Park National Historic Site
Fall 2014 Special Events

Please join us for the **Friends of Battlefield House monthly meeting** on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Nash-Jackson House.

"Austen-Tacious" - A Regency Romp

Experience the elegance and grace of the regency period as we celebrate the writings of author Jane Austen. Costumes, music, dancing, readings and refreshments bring the charm of the early 19th century to life. The event will be held at the Cellar at Grandview - the Nash Jackson House.

Saturday, November 22

7:00 – 10:00 pm

\$20 per person

Christmas in the Pioneer Spirit

Gather your family together, take a break from holiday shopping and step back in time to experience the warmth, welcome and simplicity of an early 19th century Christmas. The Gage family home comes alive with evergreen boughs on the mantles and enticing aromas in the air

Saturday, November 22 to Sunday, January 4, 2015

Tuesday to Sunday, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Regular Admission Rates Apply

A Tale of Two Weddings

For the Gage family, the year 1796 was the best of times (two weddings) and the worst of times (strong willed Mothers and nervous grooms). Be entertained by a play featuring wedding customs and superstitions of the era and learn about the courtship and weddings of both Gage siblings: James and Elizabeth. The event will be held at the Cellar at Grandview – the Nash-Jackson House.

Saturday, November 29

7:00 pm

Free event

Eat, Drink and Be 'Mary'

Create family holiday memories to take with you into the future at a site steeped in the past. Explore the home of Mary and James Gage to experience the warmth and enchantment of an early 19th century Christmas. Join us for music, caroling, children's activities, hearth-baked treats and mulled cider. Visit with St. Nicholas (bring your camera for a unique photo opportunity) and shop for nostalgic holiday gifts

Saturday, December 13

12:00 – 4:00 pm & 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Regular Admission Rates Apply

What's in a name?

by Jean Baine

I have always been interested in a person's name. It designates who you are and who have shared that name through the ages.

I have chosen to investigate the name "MILLEN" since it was my mother's maiden name – Gladys Evelyn Millen. She married James Russell Twaddle. I possess a lengthy history of that family, traced by my cousin Helen Brown. (It begins in Hamilton Scotland in 1781) Now I hope to do the same for the Millen family.

Some of you remember "Millen's Store" at the corner of King St E and Jones St. It was purchased in 1903 by A.R. Millen and it remained in the family until the 1970's. My Grandpa, George W. Millen, worked with his brother, Dick, until he worked with his son-in-law, my father, in another grocery store nearby.

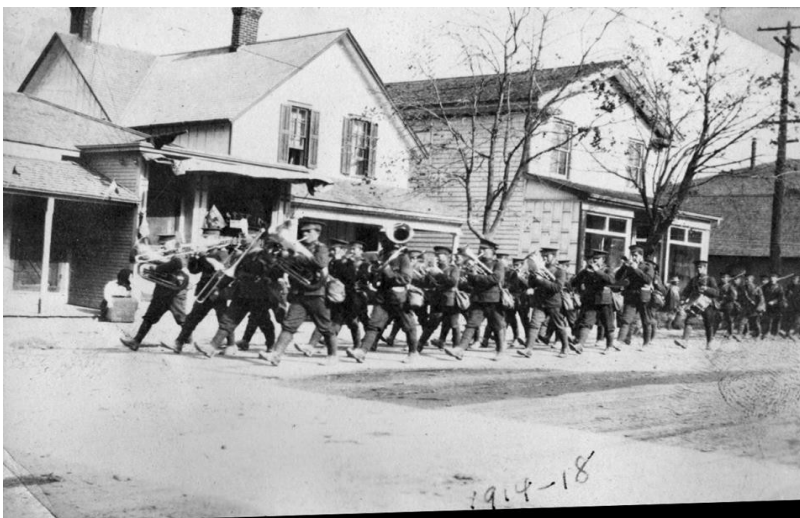
The history of the Millen family as they lived in Canada, begins with John Millen, wife Jane and their 12 children arrived in Hamilton, Ontario on June 4, 1849. Some of them settled near the village of Stoney Creek, in the township of Saltfleet.

My grandfather, George Watson Millen was born in 1867. He married Jeanetta McNeilly. They lived with my parents and I have fond memories of this dear couple. Although my time with Grandpa was short, only 7 years, I recall how I received \$1.00 on each birthday. Grandpa had made sure I got this, even on the day before he died in 1936.

Photos of men who served in political service include my grandfather as reeve of Saltfleet council and as deputy reeve.

Many descendants continue to live in this area. Because some of them do not bear the name "Millen" you may not realize that nevertheless, they are descendants. For example, my cousins Arthur and Dennis Parker had as their grandparents, Matilda Ann Millen and Arthur Parker. Uncle Dick (A.R.) Millen's family were born in the family home, next to the store, and many served time in working in the store. You may remember Richard, Evelyn Fevez and Thelma Felker, and more.

It is so fascinating to explore through the years and follow the story of each one. I have dipped into the Millen family tree but I realize I have just skimmed the surface. Thankfully, there is so much more to explore. For example, I know that some of the Millen family settled in Western Ontario. Space does not include them in this article. Perhaps I'll follow their stories at another time. I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Stoney Creek Historical Society Archives staff and Judy & Doug Green.



Picture of Millen's store approx 100 years ago taken during a military march through the village during the 1st world war

Stoney Creek Historical Society Board of Directors

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|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
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Committee Chairs / Co-ordinators

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Sue Heatherley archives@stoneycreekhistorical.ca

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Membership: Dan Lee

Newsletter: Jean Baine, Kevin Lee, Doug Green

Programming: Kathy Wakeman

Social: Bev Gray, Carolyn Briggs

Member Business Directory

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Britannia Cleaners | Ed Strecker | 17 King Street East | (905) 662-4971 |
| Bertram & Barry Insurance Ltd. | | 6 Lake Ave. S | (905) 662-8645 |
| Cerello and Associates | Karen Cerello | 42 King St. E. Unit 4 | (905) 662-2848 |
| Chamber of Commerce | Dave Cage | 21 Mountain Ave. S | (905) 664-4000 |
| Dr. Keith Millar | | 304 – 15 Mountain Ave S | (905) 662-2312 |
| Simpson & Watson Law Firm | | 950 King St W Hamilton | (905) 527-1174 |
| Flowers by Dianne | Dianne Black | 9 King St. West | (905) 664-6621 |
| Queenston Stationary | Mario Figueroa | 38 King St. East | (905) 664-3360 |
| Royal Canadian Legion Br. 622 | | 12 King St. East | (905) 662-4171 |
| Smith's Funeral Home (Stoney Creek) Limited | | 454 Highway # 8 | (905) 664-4222 |
| Ontario Ancestry Research | Kimberly Muldoon – Staley | 126 Edgewater Dr. | (905) 643-7064 |

Please contact *Doug Green* by telephone at (905) (662-4065) or by email at newsletter@stoneycreekhistorical.ca or dgreen136@cogeco.ca If you have questions or answers regarding our newsletter content or if you wish to receive your copy of the newsletter via e-mail. Help us reduce mailing & printing costs.

Membership Application / Renewal / Donations

Yes: I would like to acquire / renew membership in the Stoney Creek Historical Society. _____

Name (s) _____ Receive newsletter by e-mail? Yes ___ No ___

Address _____ Please send to: Stoney Creek Historical Society

P.O. Box 66637

Phone Number _____

Stoney Creek, ON

L8G 5E6

E-mail _____ Please check one: New membership Renewal

Please indicate your preferred membership option: Individual: \$10.00 Family: \$18.00
Business \$25.00

** Please accept my additional tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ to assist the work of the Society

Historical Society Research Queries

Please contact via email:

archives@stoneycreekhistorical.ca

Please Help Us Manage Newsletter Printing Costs

A \$30.00 donation helps with the expense of printing and mailing our newsletter. If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact our Treasurer, Karen Cerello at (905) 525-0655. Receipts are issued for donations.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Bob Marentette

This newsletter issue is sponsored by courtesy of Doug & Judy Green