

CATARAQUI LOYALIST TOWN CRIER



The Kingston and District Branch was granted its charter November 4, 1978.

Volume 42, No. 2 – April 2023

www.uelac.org/Kingston-Branch

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KingstonUELAC>

Upcoming Branch Meeting: Your Choice: In-Person OR By ZOOM.

Saturday, April 22, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.

ZOOM & In-person, St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall, Queen @ Montreal St.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87282085984?pwd=R3RacHIxRldycWp3QmVhRTJuRmJRQT09>

(no need to pre-register; just use the link on April 22 shortly before 1:00 p.m.)

**Our Speaker will be JEAN RAE BAXTER with a talk called:
“Fort Frontenac: The Rise and Fall of New France's Key to
the West”**

- This will be a Hybrid presentation with many of us in person at St. Paul's Hall. (Doors open at 12:30 p.m.) Others will join us by Zoom about 1:00.
- This presentation follows the fortunes of Fort Frontenac over the centuries — how it was knocked down, rebuilt, abandoned, rebuilt, blown up, rebuilt again, destroyed by the British in the last days of New France and, finally, became the site for the Loyalist settlement at Cataraqui following the American Revolution. And it all began with the beaver.

Future Events:

Monday, June 12, 2023, 2:00 p.m.: We and re-enactors from the King's Royal Regiment of New York will participate in a ceremony at the Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui, 965 Sydenham Road, unveiling signage about Loyalists interred there. This is also Loyalist Day in Kingston. Please attend in Loyalist garb if possible.

PLEASE CONTACT kingston.uelac@gmail.com for information or to offer support.

HERCHMER'S SECRET: The Loyalist Family, the Land and the Kingston Fall Fair since 1830 – presentation by Anne Redish UE

summary by Nancy Cutway UE

Anne Redish UE is our branch vice-president as well as branch genealogist. She has also been serving as acting secretary for the past four years since no other member will undertake that position. Despite all these duties, she also found time to prepare the following presentation for September 2022 at the request of the Kingston Fall Fair Board.

The Herchmer UE family had influences across Canada especially between 1775 and 1900. Their surname had many spellings since it was German and heard by 'British' ears and written down in various ways. Variations included: Herkimer, as used in the area of Herkimer County, New York State, Ergheimer, Engheimer, Ercheimer, Horchemer, Hergheimer and many more. Even their first names had translations that were written in various ways. Jurg/Jorge/Gurg/Gurge/George could all be the same person, adding to potential confusion.

CHART OF PATENTEES BETWEEN 1709- 1723.

44 HISTORY OF HERKIMER COUNTY.

LIST OF PATENTEES.

Names of patentees arranged.	No. of lot.	No. of acres in each.	On which side of river located.	Remarks.
B.				
1. Beerman, Mary,	11	100	North	At the Little Falls.
2. Beerman, Johannes,*.....	26	"	"	
3. Same,.....	26	"	"	
4. Bowman, Jacob,	27	"	South	
5. Bowman, Johan Adam,.....	14	30	North	All the 30 acre lots were set on what were called the Great Flats, in and near the present village of Herkimer. The 70 acre lots are described in the patent as wood land.
Same,	14	70	"	
D.				
6. Dacksteder, Anna, wife of Jurgh Dacksteder,.....	28	100	South	
7. Dacksteder, Jurgh,.....	18	30	North	
Same,	18	70	"	
E.				
8. Edich, Elizabeth,	5	100	"	
9. Edigh, Johan Michael,.....	33	"	South	
10. Edich, Jacob,	21	"	"	
11. Editch, Michael,.....	20	"	"	Mohawk Village.
12. Erghemar, Jurgh,.....	44	"	"	
13. Erghemar, Johan Jost,.....	36	"	"	
14. Eighemar, Madalana,.....	24	70	"	And large island in river.
15. Erghemar, Catharina,.....	5	100	"	
F.				
16. Feller, Nicholas,.....	7	30	North	
Same,	7	70	"	
17. Feller, Mary, wife of Nicholas Feller,.....	16	100	South	
18. Felmore, Coenradt,.....	19	"	"	Mohawk Village.
19. Felmore, Christiana,.....	18	"	"	
20. Fols, Jacob,	3	"	"	
21. Fols, Melgert,	2	30	North	
Same,	2	70	"	
22. Fox, Christopher,.....	26	100	South	
H.				
23. Heger, Henry,.....	8	"	North	
24. Helmer, Elizabeth, wife of Lendert Helmer,.....	14	"	"	
25. Helmer, Philip,	25	"	"	East side of West Canada Creek.
26. Helmer, Johan Adam,.....	6	30	"	
Same,	6	70	"	
27. Helmer, Lendert,.....	21	30	"	
Same,	21	70	"	
28. Helmer, Fredrick,	1	100	"	
29. Helmer, Anna Margaret, wife of John Adam Helmer,.....	12	"	South	
30. Herter, Apolone,.....	7	"	"	

* Two lots of same number to Johannes Beerman.

Johann Jurg and Madeline (possibly Paffenzeller) Engheimer were born around 1680 and 1699 in Alsace, married about 1722 in Leimen, Germany, not long before their emigration.

In 1721, after many other Palatine sailings starting about 1709, they came to the Province of New York, in the company of many others who left Germanic territories for the new world. Many found the landscape there very similar to the Rhineland areas they had left.

At the time of the 'hostilities' many immigrants from the Palatine felt they owed allegiance to the British Crown since Queen Anne had given them refuge in England and then provided transportation to America and supports while they got established in the Hudson River and Mohawk River Valleys. By the era of the American Revolution, the next generation was well established in the Mohawk Valley.

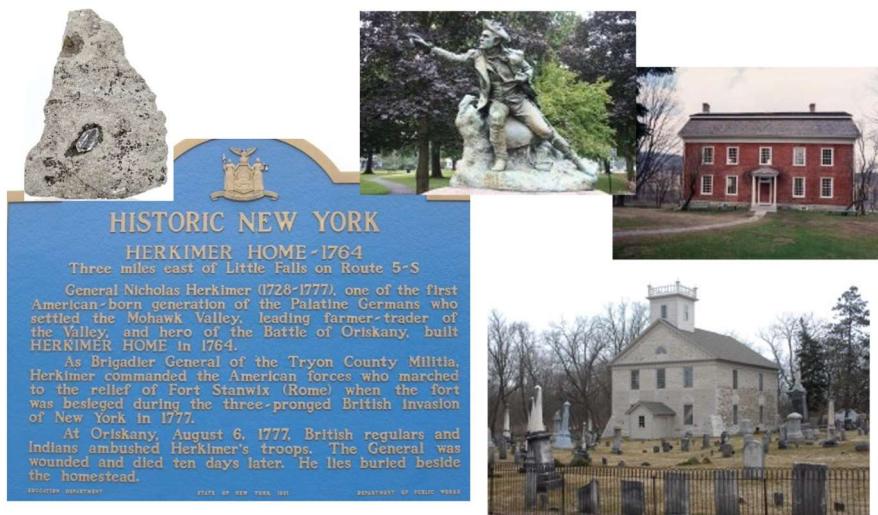
Their son, Johan Jost Herkimer Sr. was an outstanding member and leader of his community. When a fort was erected at Little Falls, it was called Fort Herkimer. He was a trader, supplying key areas such as Fort Oswego, then under construction.

He was a wealthy farmer and land speculator. In 1740, he built a large stone home, which was included inside the 1756 British Fort Herkimer plans. He had a family of at least 12 children born between 1722 and 1744.

The next 'namesake', and third son of the above, known later as **Captain Johann Jost/Jose Herchmer (Jr.) UE**, (c1732- 1795) married Mary Van Allan (1736 – 1805) That couple had 8 known children and was settled at Little Falls, in the then-named Province of New York, one of the British colonies.

Johann Jose/Jost Herkimer Sr's eldest son Nicholas (b 1728) was a key member of the family who took the Patriot side during the American Revolution. He became quite an important soldier and rose to the rank of Brigadier General of the local Militia. After the Battle of Oriskany in

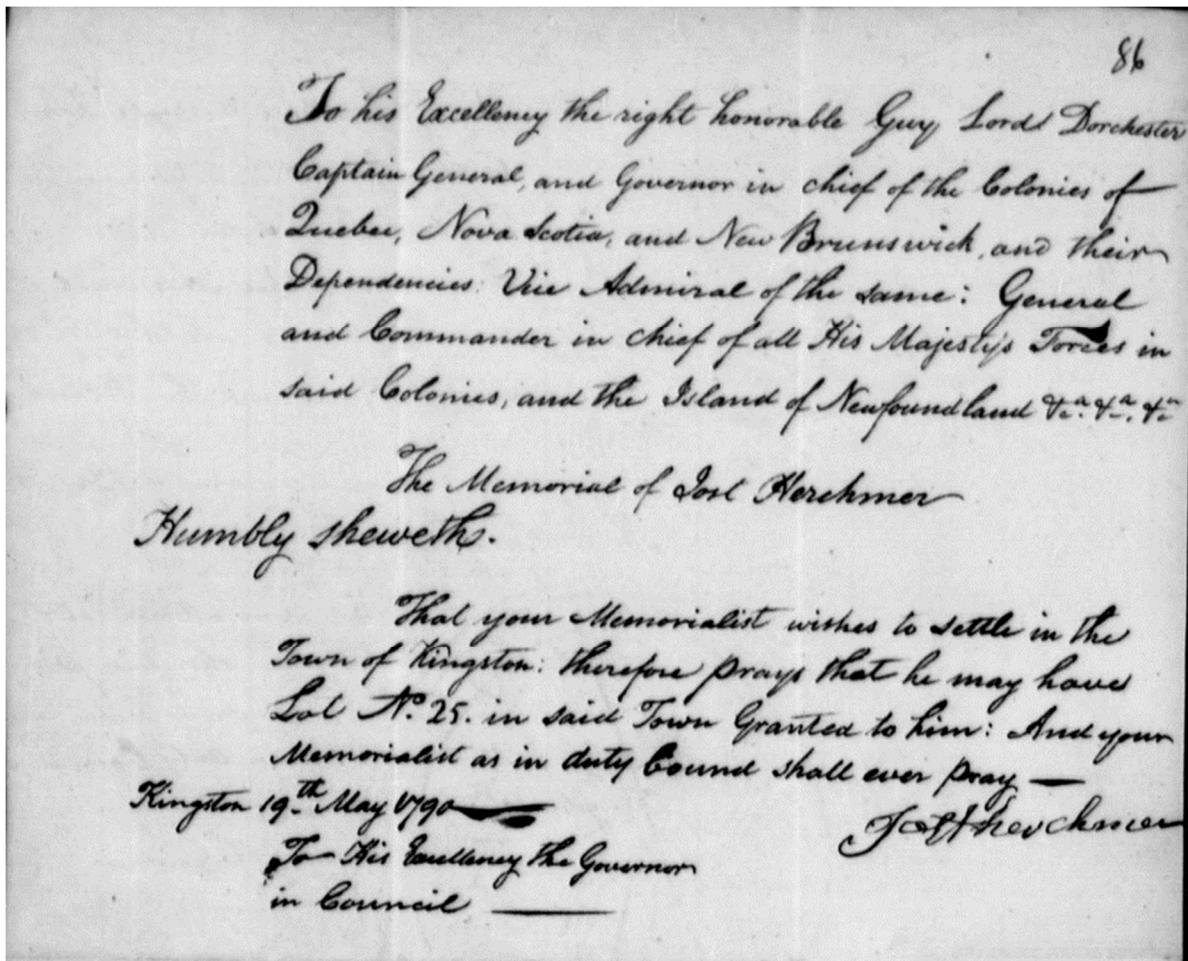
1777 he died of his injuries. He is celebrated in the Herkimer New York area as a hero, with signs at historic locations. This battle is referred to as one of the bloodiest during the entire Revolutionary War: There were 451 Patriot casualties and only 150 Loyalist casualties. It was also known as a 'tie' since an attack was made very shortly thereafter at Fort Stanwix against the Loyalists who suffered more at that battle.



One of Nicholas' sisters, Annetje (Anne) Herkimer was married to Peter Ten Broeck, of a well established New Amsterdam family, who initially also fought with the 'Patriots/ Rebels/Americans'. He was captured by the men of Loyalist leader Col. Butler and taken as a prisoner to the Niagara area. He did not try to escape, nor would he go with a 'Patriot' rescue party sent for him. He and his Herchmer wife settled in Grantham, Niagara. He continued his military career in the Militia on the Loyalist side and rose quickly to the rank of Captain and was well respected.

The rest of the family stayed in New York, and as far as we can tell, the only other to leave in that era was a grandson.

The focus for this talk, **Captain Johann Jost Herchmer Jr. UE** was captured and spent time between 1775 – 1777 as a prisoner, eventually escaping to Niagara before returning to New York. He participated on the Loyalist side as a manager of boats, then was made the captain of a batteau company, The Herkimer's Batteau Company of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. He had become a good friend of Sir John Johnson, and during the Revolution, the Batteau Company eventually moved the injured from battlegrounds to safe areas, and later moved many of the Loyalists up the St. Lawrence River from Quebec to the newly surveyed townships along the river and on Lake Ontario. The Loyalists were able to submit petitions to the government for their preferred place to settle. This was not always granted, but in Jost's case it was, possibly due to his prominence in the Revolutionary War.



Excerpt from Petition of Jost Herchmer, Canada Land Petitions, "H" Bundle Miscellaneous, 1788-1795 (R.G. 1, L3, Vol. 251, #86, accessed on microfilm C-2107, collectionscanada.gc.ca Library and Archives Canada).

The Batteaux were the 'pick-up truck' of the revolution. They were flat bottomed, therefore could easily navigate shallow water in the small channels getting to safety, and rough waters which was essentially what was encountered in the St. Lawrence River.

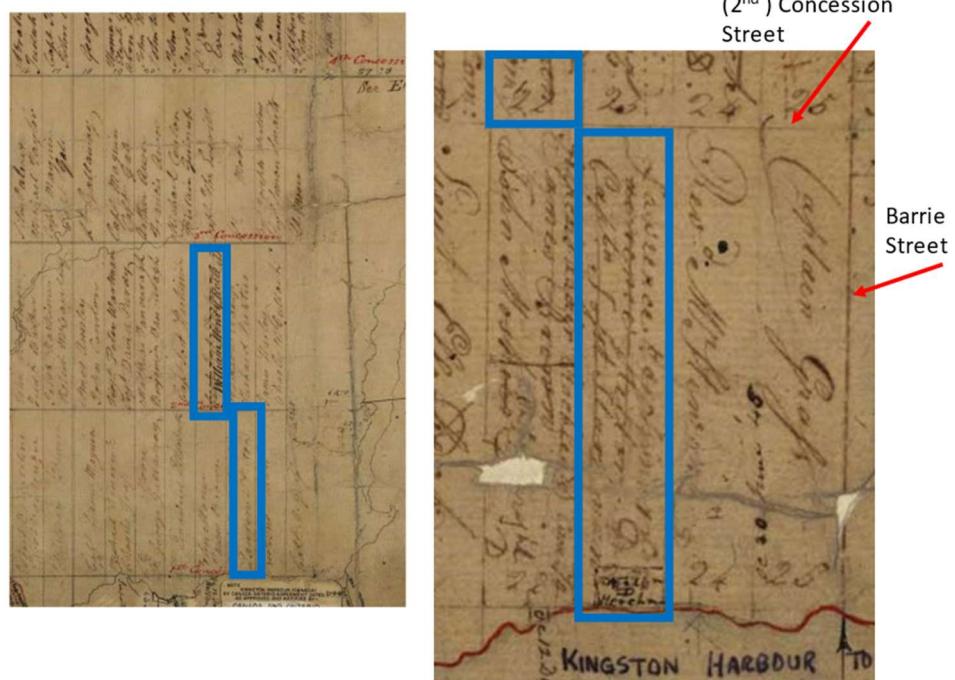
Captain Johann Jost Herchmer Jr. UE (1732 – 1795) initially selected Farm Lot 25, Concession 1 in what was then Kingston Township. The town, initially formed around the old remains of Fort Frontenac, by about 1810 ended at West Street. Later it ended at Barrie Street, then Division Street and so on. Lot 25 was initially a full rectangular with 200 acres, but making accommodations for a town on a point of land meant that some compromises were needed. Thus, lot 25 was made into a triangle. Michael Grass UE also turned down Lot 25 Concession 1. It later became a Military Parade Ground, and the Regional Court house. It is a well-known recreation location, and the court house remains, though the public court business is elsewhere. Captain Johann's son Nicholas (not to be confused with his uncle, the late general) settled on the land now known as Lemoine Point, well beyond the town limits. That land was known as Herchmer's Nose; the nose or point of land around which the vessel *Royal George* sailed under chase from the Americans in the War of 1812. That term 'nose' was also used in the Mohawk Valley. Nicholas died on 15 October 1809 and is buried in the Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui.



Nicholas Herchmer stone photograph courtesy of Find-a-Grave.com

The 200-acre lot awarded to Jost Herchmer ended up being Farm Lot 23, to the west of the town limit. It ran from the waterfront south of what is now Queen's University campus north to the first concession road – present-day Concession Street. East to west it covered the area between Nelson and Alfred streets.

During the 1970s and 1980s my husband and I owned a house on Johnson Street within those confines, and our deed indicated that we owned a 40-foot width of the "Herchmer Farm Lot". Many Kingstonians have shared a part of the Herchmer lot over the last two centuries or at least driven over, attended events on or played in a park on the former Lot 23 Herchmer land.

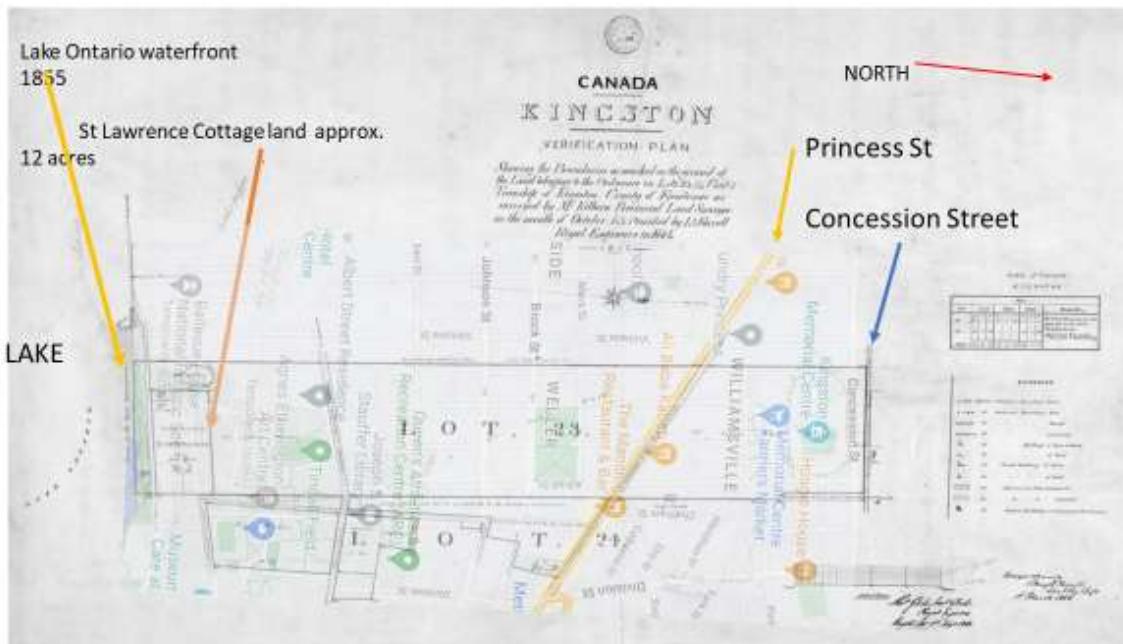


One major portion of the former Herchmer Farm Lot 23 is now occupied by the Kingston Memorial Centre and the fairgrounds. Anne told us that Lt.-Gov. John Graves Simcoe founded the Agricultural Society of Upper Canada in 1792 with the aim of encouraging farmers to improve their practices and aim for excellence. Kingston's Agricultural Society held its first fair in 1825. In 1856 they constructed a Crystal Palace, a smaller version of the one erected by Prince Albert in London, England, on land beyond the city limits, probably between what are now Sir John A. Macdonald Boulevard and Palace Road. Indeed Palace Road was named due to it being the 'road to the palace'. Glass Crystal Palaces were being built in many places such as Paris, London and New York. These developed at a time when the glass making processes were changing to be more effective.



The annual fair was held there until 1888 when it was moved to the present Memorial Centre site. Part of the Crystal Palace structure was moved to York Street and re-erected there, on part of the Herchmer Farm.

That building was demolished in 1946 when the Memorial Centre was built to commemorate those Kingstonians who died in the Second World War.



Anne mentioned other properties around Kingston which were owned by members of the Herchmer family. Captain Johann Jost Herchmer UE and his wife Mary Van Allen had 8 known children; the petitions of several sons can be found at Library and Archives Canada.

The Prince George Hotel on Ontario Street is on a Herchmer lot known as Lot J; they also had town Lot 25 and adjacent Lot 42 near the waterfront and ships used to come closer to the building and goods brought in by ship could be unloaded at a wharf directly in front of the original store building.

The downtown LCBO and a parking lot, soon to be built on by Homestead Homes, is also on a block that used to belong to the Herchmers; Lot 92 and Lot 101. Anne also found reference to the Herchmers being involved with the turning over of land in the mid 1800s to the Government for Ordnance Lands. This resulted in some litigation about stone from a quarry on Lot 23 before it was paid for. That quarry was about where the Leonard Hall and Chernoff Hall, Queen's University, are now.

Anne displayed a Herchmer family tree and explained that some Herchmers went further west to settle. Lawrence Herchmer and Jacob Herchmer went to Port Hope and Rice Lake respectively. Lawrence was one of the builders of the *Frontenac*, the first steamboat on Lake Ontario. He also had land in Belleville. William Macaulay Herchmer and Lawrence William Herchmer, sons of the Reverend William Macaulay Herchmer and Frances Turner, spent time as children with their half-indigenous second-cousins. Each of them later became prominent as Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner of the North West Mounted Police. They both have biographies online

at the [Dictionary of Canadian Biography](#). Lawrence in particular created new training standards for Mounties and is considered a major contributor to the development of the RCMP.

It is possible that the two NWMP officers had their attitudes towards the indigenous that they dealt with regularly modified by their knowledge and interactions as young men with their partly indigenous family members. That idea was stated in an article in *The Beaver*, Spring 1980 page 52 by Donald B. Smith, a University of Calgary professor.

Over decades, members of the Herchmer family moved across the country and have played important roles in their communities.

- The Mary Helen (Sherwood) Herchmer Seniors Residence is Senior Housing Unit complex, consists of 146 units in 10-storey high-rise building in Regina, Sask., named for Commissioner Lawrence William Herchmer's first wife.
- The City of Hamilton, Ontario, has a Herchmer street named by a stepson of Mary Herchmer Hamilton for his step-mother.
- Belleville has a Herchmer Ave
- The RCMP married quarters building in Dawson City, Yukon is called Fort Herchmer. And these are just a few places influenced by the descendants of this family.

Anne displayed many interesting old maps during her presentation. She also shared a handout containing links for further information about the Herchmers. The digital handout is available on Kingston and District Branch's Facebook page and on our website.

* * *

In Memoriam Alex Ross UE

We are saddened that our branch member Alex Ross passed away on March 23, 2023 at Kingston General Hospital. His family have written a loving obituary that can be found at <https://stkingston.simplertimes.com/book-of-memories/5164020/Ross-Alexander/index.php>. Alex, we'll all miss that friendly smile.

It will definitely require two people to replace Alex in his positions on the executive: he was serving as both Librarian and as Merchandise Coordinator. We may not need to fill the latter position immediately, as people can now order Loyalist merch directly on the UELAC website, but we surely will need a Librarian.

Alex also was the person who looked after the laying of a wreath in memory of the Loyalist soldiers of the American Revolution during the annual service on Remembrance Day, for the past few years. Perhaps some area member will be willing to take on that responsibility for the future.

Did you know that UELAC has several funds to which people may choose to make memorial donations? You can find details on the Memorial Fund, the Scholarship Fund and the UELAC Charitable Trust Fund at <https://uelac.ca/donations/>.

Kingston and District Branch, UELAC

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Branch Website: www.uelac.org/Kingston-Branch/

Branch Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/KingstonUELAC>

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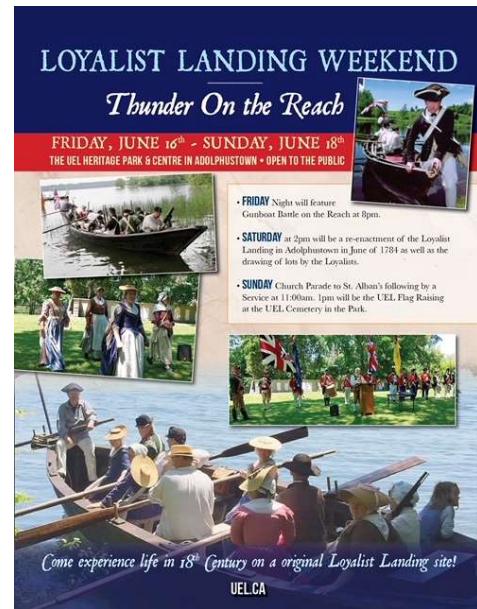
EVENTS OF INTEREST

Kingston Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society welcome visitors to all their meetings, which are held on Zoom.

- Saturday, April 15, 10:00 a.m. Johanne Gervais – “Self-Publishing on Amazon.” Pre-register at
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtduGtrTgtHN2mxVOSGUc8G2Rz91_6qTjX
- Saturday, May 20, 10:00 a.m. “Show and Tell” – Several members will show a family artifact and tell a story from their family history research. Pre-register at
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZElduutrT8iHteo5Y_4ZkQUuNgIpn6eH4oD

You'll receive a Confirmation email after pre-registering; keep that and use the link in the email to join the meeting on the correct day shortly before 10:00 a.m. Eastern time.

LOYALIST ACTIVITIES FROM BAY OF QUINTE BRANCH



LOYALIST DAY IN KINGSTON

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND
LOYALIST DAY AT THE
HERITAGE CEMETERY AT CATARAQUI
AT 2:00 PM ON MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023
FOR THE UNVEILING OF A SIGN
DESIGNATING THE CEMETERY AS A
LOYALIST BURIAL PLACE.

In particular, if you are descended from
ROBERT GRAHAM
MICHAEL GRASS
ANTHONY MCGUIN
JACOB POWLEY

who are the known UELs buried there, we would be pleased to welcome you there. If you are descended from any of those four, even if you will not be able to attend, please contact Branch Historian Richard Parry ahead of the date, at rparry30@gmail.com.

Members of the next generation of other Loyalist families are also in that cemetery, such as Nicholas Herchmer and the Purdy, VanAlstine and Wartman families.

The Cemetery is at 965 Sydenham Road, Kingston.