



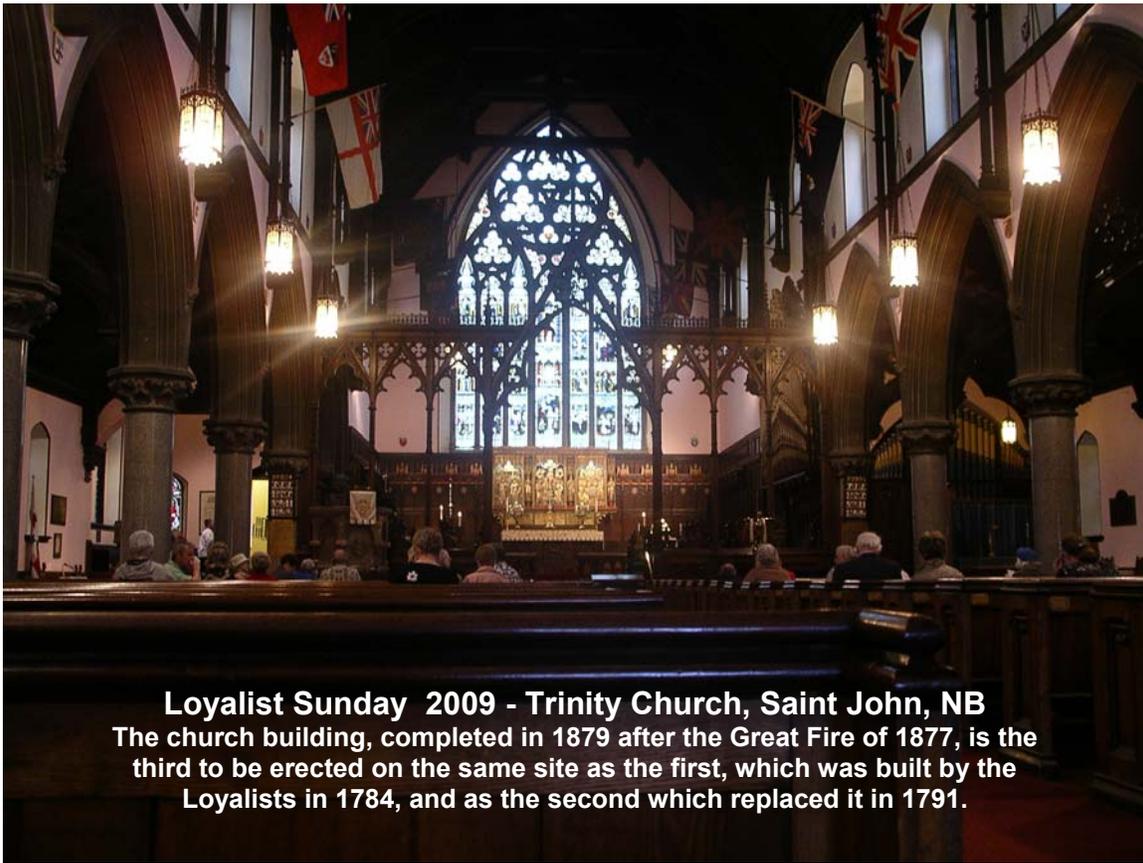
# New Brunswick Branch Newsletter

## October 2009 Edition

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### Loyalist Sunday 2009 - Trinity Church, Saint John, NB

The church building, completed in 1879 after the Great Fire of 1877, is the third to be erected on the same site as the first, which was built by the Loyalists in 1784, and as the second which replaced it in 1791.



Flag bearer, Albert Button, and a small contingent of NB Branch members arrive at Trinity Church

### Loyalist Days ~ 2009

Loyalist Days were celebrated, in the Loyalist city of Saint John, on May 17 & 18<sup>th</sup>. Members of the NB Branch; Lt Governor Chiasson; Rodney Weston, MP; Trevor Holder, MLA and the public took part in various activities including the annual Loyalist church service at Trinity, City Hall & Loyalist Rock ceremonies, the 21-Gun Salute at Fort Howe, and a reception at Loyalist House.

A luncheon for members and their guests was enjoyed in the Loyalist Room at the Saint John Hilton.

# Loyalist Days 2009



City Hall & Loyalist Rock Ceremonies



21-Gun Salute from Fort Howe



Loyalist House reception

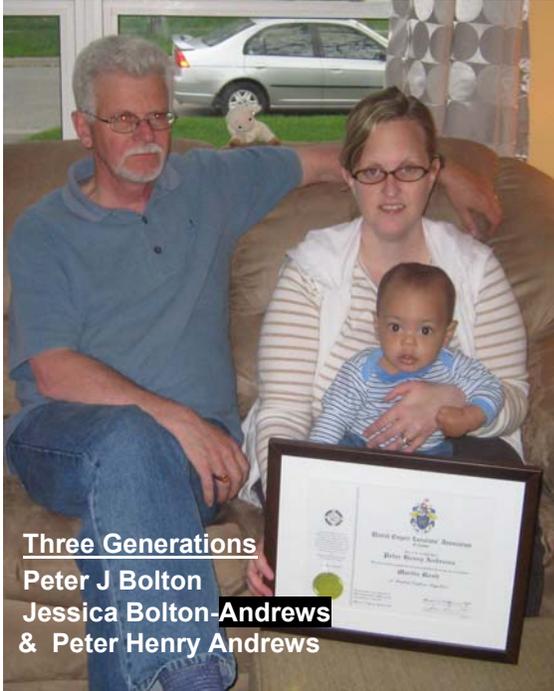


Luncheon in the Loyalist Room, Saint John Hilton



Lt Governor Herménégilde Chiasson

## Congratulations New UEs



**Three Generations**  
**Peter J Bolton**  
**Jessica Bolton-Andrews**  
**& Peter Henry Andrews**



**Betty Button's 17<sup>th</sup> UE Certificate !**

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Betty Marie G Button, UE</b>       | <u>Loyalist Ancestor</u><br>James Clark |
| <b>Peter Henry Andrews, UE</b>        | Martin Rush                             |
| <b>Malcolm Newman, UE</b>             | William H Secord                        |
| <b>Barbara Anne Palermo, UE</b>       | Simon DeLong                            |
| <b>Rosann Palermo Fleischauer, UE</b> | Simon DeLong                            |
| <b>Richard Gregory Lawton, UE</b>     | John Lawton                             |

## Genealogy Fair

The New Brunswick Genealogy Society held its annual show on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The hall at St Joachim's Church was filled with exhibitors and their displays of family history artifacts, photos, pictures, family trees, information and some reference material for sale. Janet Bishop of the N B Museum was present and set up to provide research-at-the-Museum info. NBGS offered a 'Beginner's Corner' for novice researchers and a 'Most wanted Wall' where people could leave notes about their 'brick walls'.



**Frances Morrissey takes her turn at the table**

The NB Branch/UELAC table came together thanks to the efforts of Frances Morrissey, Dave Laskey, Jim McKenzie and John MacKay. This kind of fair is always a good opportunity to highlight the Branch and its purpose in keeping Loyalist history alive in the province. Additionally, it is always our hope to attract new members.

It is also a chance to sell the books we offer including the **Loyalists of New Brunswick** by E Clark Wright, **Loyalists All** (\$25 each +shipping) shipping) & **The Teacher's Loyalist Resource Book** (\$6 + shipping)

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk  
 "Only the Ten Commandments" answered the lady

## Dear Members

It's no secret that the NB Branch has been gradually changing – and not always for the better. The average age of our membership has been creeping upward due to a failure to attract younger people to the organisation. At the same time, an increasing proportion of our membership is located well beyond comfortable driving distance to Saint John. As a result, there has been a declining attendance at our meetings, which in turn, hampers our ability to attract interesting speakers.

Under the leadership of Dr. Stephen Bolton we were making progress. Unfortunately, Steve accepted a new position near Woodstock, NB, which makes it impossible for him to perform the duties of President. His resignation left the Branch in a tough situation – as there was no easily identifiable successor to Steve. Several members of the Executive had held the presidency in earlier years and, having made their contribution, were reluctant to take on the challenge again. Some of the newer members felt they did not have the experience needed to properly handle the job.

Faced with some difficult choices, the Executive decided to function through what we called “The Office of the President”. The key components of this approach are:

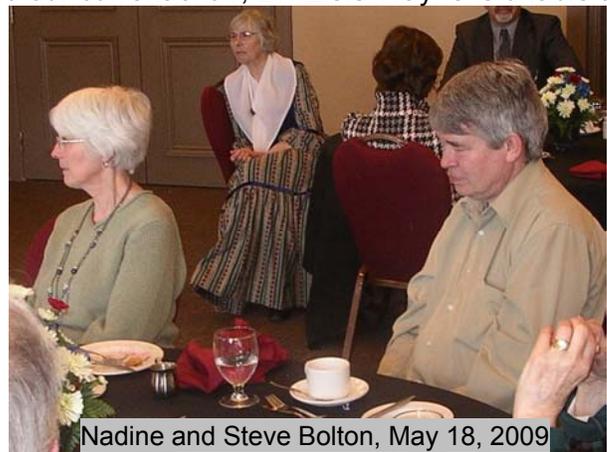
- Steve Bolton would continue to hold the title of President. This would meet the constitutional requirements of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada. However, Steve's responsibilities as President would be passed to us, the Executive.
- The Executive would undertake to provide collective leadership to NB Branch by jointly making and implementing all decisions until the next **Annual General Meeting**.
- Prior to the next **AGM** the Executive would nominate a person for the president's position at the election to be held at that meeting.
- During the period from now to the **AGM** the Executive would attempt to clearly identify the problems facing the NB Branch and possible solutions to them. This would result in a short list of projects and initiatives to be implemented within the following few years.

It quickly became apparent that the Executive would have to meet quite often in order to fulfil these commitments and we have managed to do that. Of course, informal communications occur all the time so the formal executive meetings are just the tip of the iceberg. A few projects have been quickly identified and are already underway...

One project involves *the updating of our publicity material* combined with efforts *to ensure distribution of that material* in a more consistent, logical way. The first step in this project is to recruit a Publicity Chair. *Another important area is Education*. The 'Executive' is united in its belief that the role the Loyalists played in the founding and growth of New Brunswick (and Canada) receives insufficient attention in the teaching of history in public schools. Many things could, and should, be done in Education but the job of chairing the committee would require a significant commitment of time and our current chair, Dr. Elsie Wayne is unable to devote the time that is needed. Fortunately, she has agreed to continue as a member of the committee and we're confident that her political connections and familiar name will be very helpful.

On a final note, the Executive would like to thank Dr. Stephen Bolton for his work as president of our Branch. Steve has given freely of his time and has been tireless in his efforts to promote the UELAC. His contributions to the Branch have been significant and will be greatly missed.

Dave Laskey  
Vice President & Membership Chair



Nadine and Steve Bolton, May 18, 2009

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## Obituaries

**Burnham, Evelyn “Ev” Irene** ~ The NB Branch notes, with sympathy, the passing of member Ev Burnham at Kennebec Manor on May 29, 2009. Ev was the wife of the late J Nevin Burnham, formerly of Long Reach & Rothesay. She was born in 1920 at Sibbald, Alberta to the late Otto & Beulah (Knowlton) McKenzie. Ev was an active member of the Anglican Church - St Luke’s, St Paul’s Valley, Trinity Church, Kingston and St Paul’s, Rothesay. She was a member of the ACW. Her passions were quilting, gardening & cooking.

She is survived by her children: Barbara Kelly (Burlington, Ontario); Jane Rowat (Bayfield, Ontario); and Bruce Burnham (Millidgeville, NB)... a brother, James McKenzie (Marilyn) (Hampton, NB); a sister, Muriel Burnham (Saint John, NB)... five grandchildren, six great grandchildren and several nieces & nephews. Besides her husband & parents, Ev was predeceased by a son, Gray Burnham and a sister, Joan Irwin.

**Walton, Charles** ~ Mark Walton, son of Charles Walton, NB Branch member, informs us that his father, Charles, passed away in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Mark adds that his dad “was proud to be a UEL... so much so, that he wanted the symbol and letters for his headstone.” We extend our sympathies to Mark and the Walton family.

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## News in the Minutes

### Speakers at the Meetings:

Don Flewelling spoke on the history of the Loyalist Merritt family, the architecture and furnishings of their house which is today Loyalist House on Union Street in Saint John. David Merritt began construction in 1810 and was not able to complete it until 1817 due to the difficulty in getting building materials during the War of 1812.

Deborah Coleman spoke on her ‘Quaker Loyalists’ Brown ancestors who came to Beaver Harbour and Pennfield, NB and her husband’s Quaker Coleman family who settled near Dartmouth, NS.

Gay Fanjoy, UNBSJ lecturer, is the scheduled speaker for the October 8th General Meeting.

**Executive:** President (ex locus) - Steve Bolton

Vice President – Dave Laskey

Recording Sec’y – Kathryn Bradshaw

Treasurer – Jim McKenzie

### Committees & Chairpersons:

Genealogist – Albert Button

Historian/Archivist – Dave Laskey

Newsletter – Valerie Teed

Corresponding Sec’y – Ruth Lesbirel

Photography – Steve Lesbirel

Publicity \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Program \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Library/Communications – Frances Morrissey

Membership – Dave Laskey

Education – Elsie Wayne

Sales – Nadine Bolton (in the short term)

**Volunteers Needed !**

## Bits 'n' Pieces:

- The Xmas Pot Luck Lunch & Auction in January realized \$290
- A new server will manage the Branch's website
- An inventory of the Branch's possessions is in progress
- Family Histories & UE Applications in the Genealogist's files may be scanned & kept on CDs
- In the absence of a Branch president, 'The Office of the President' was formed to administer the organization. The idea is that the Executive will collectively run the NB Branch for a year at which point they will assess their options.
- Branch membership totalled 156 paid-up members as at June 26, 2009
- An Education Committee was formed to increase public awareness, especially in schools, of our Loyalist heritage here in New Brunswick.
- Our Branch has made a \$500 donation to the NB Historical Society to be used for maintenance & upkeep of beautiful Loyalist House.

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by Malcolm Newman, UE

## Ebenezer Dibblee's Tombstone

It was several years ago now that I became aware of the existence of the UELAC. The initial contact with the Dominion office ensured that my enquiry was quickly directed to the branch – and to Stephen Bolton in particular. I guess the rest is now history.

On reading one of the earlier newsletters, I noticed Valerie Teed's advert for tracing NB ancestors. I had already assembled a lot of my family data but needed to link the UK and Canadian parts together – and in a format acceptable for subsequent UE submission.

Part of the data supplied by Valerie was an extract from the PANB website about the location of the grave of my 3G Grandfather Ebenezer Dibblee - at Lyon cemetery within the CFB Gagetown lands. Ebenezer was the son of Fyler Dibblee – the Ship's agent on the "Union" of 1783.

At that time this was a triple 'wow' for me - What was the extent of the archives and how was I to appreciate the meaning of CFB Gagetown and the existence of a grave/headstone still standing there from the 1860s. Fast forward to 2008 – the Dominion conference in Saint John is something that I must attend and I must now get my UE application submitted.

My wife and I totally enjoyed our visit to NB and our journeys before and after the conference took us to St Stephen, St Andrews, Woodstock, Grand Falls, Kings Landing, Fredericton – and of course to CFB Gagetown and the Lyon cemetery.

When I saw the grave, it was a great experience to be physically linked to my NB ancestry, but slightly overshadowed by the fact that the headstone was in a somewhat poor state. One corner of the base had deteriorated exposing the lower part of the stone to the rigour of the elements. With the memory fresh in the mind about the restoration of the Botsford memorial, I knew that this stone needed to have some remedial work undertaken.

Back in the UK, and with the pressure of work commitments, this slipped my mind for several months. When I eventually remembered, it was winter and the NB snow was all around! So, as soon as it was feasible, I contacted a few restoration companies and, with agreement of my distant cousin Audrey Fox, finally selected Greg James and his business, Able Monuments & Restoration, located in West Saint John. Audrey and I have a common ancestor in Ebenezer.

So, almost a year after I visited Lyon cemetery, the stone has now been repaired and restored – in the before and after pictures you will see the UE designation on a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Loyalist. I wonder if PANB will accept a revised picture for their website...



Before



After

I am very pleased with the work and my only regret is that I did not get it done sooner.

Since drafting this article, I have also been able to view the original ordination records of Ebenezer's grandfather (also called Ebenezer) He was ordained by the Archbishop of Canterbury at Kensington Church, London in 1748. The records are held in Lambeth Palace Library – which is situated on the south bank of the River Thames opposite to the Houses of Parliament in London. Ebenezer, Sr was then rector of St John's Episcopal Church in Stamford CT continuously until his death in 1799. He had severe reservations about the emerging independence of the American Colonies but finally stayed.

Malcolm Newman UE, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, UK  
[Malcolm.newman@breathe.com](mailto:Malcolm.newman@breathe.com)

submitted by Frances Morrisey, UE\*

### Who was Major Studholme & where is his gold ?

Near the village of Apohaqui in the beautiful Kennebecasis River Valley, in a section still familiar with tales of the long ago when the country was held by the Indians and the presence of a white man was the signal for a war party, is the spot where one of the most colourful of the country's pioneers, Major Guilford Studholme is buried.

At "Fox Hill", a quarter of a mile from Apohaqui, Major Studholme spent his declining years. Later it was the home of Col John Simcoe Saunders and then of his grandson, the late Henry Montgomery Campbell who resided for many years on the historic estate.

Major Studholme was born in Ireland in 1740 and came to Canada at the age of 21. He was placed in command at Fort Frederick in West Saint John and after active service in this province, commanded the forces which met and vanquished Allen, the American marauder and his Indian allies. He was then put in charge of the fortification of Fort Howe, Saint John, named after the commander of the forces in America. Major Studholme made Saint John an important point in the chain of military fortifications and mail communications, but its guns were never fired in war.

**Assisted in Settlement** Guilford Studholme, when advanced to the rank of major as crown agent, assisted ably in the settlement of the Loyalists in this part of the country. He was a member of Governor Carleton's first council and received a grant of 1,000 acres of land which comprises the Parish of Studholme, named in his honour. He employed a large number of workmen to clear the surrounding land for settlers and it is said he frequently wandered among the men to watch their work, and note the progress, as he was very much interested in the future of the parish.

On a rise of ground overlooking the valley, a military training camp known as “Drill Hill” was constructed and for many years cavalry and infantry troops conducted drills there. Major Studholme died on Oct 11, 1792 at the early age of 51 years. At his own request he was buried not far from his home on the summit of “Fox Hill”. He had never married and so his estate was without heirs. It was reported that the Major was very wealthy, and as the story came from reliable persons, it was told and re-told and soon believed to be true that his gold was buried where his body rested.

\* This article by Gordon Lindsay Smith is about the property where my mother was born and lived her early life. My ancestor bought it from Major Studholme. I think this article is from the Saint John Telegraph Journal, probably in the early 1930s. F J Morrisey

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## The First two-Storey House in St Andrew’s, NB



This photo, taken ca 1900, is of the first two-storey house in St Andrew’s, NB. It was then occupied by John Dunn. Materials for its construction were brought from New York in 1784.

Nova Scotia Loyalist, Stephen Thorne, was 66 years old when left his home in Long Island, New York. He had his house completely dismantled, brought all the pieces with him and had the house reassembled at Granville Ferry, NS. He also brought his coffin which, it is said, he kept under his bed until he needed it!

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Abridged from an article in the King’s County Record July 7, 2009

## The Fowler Coffin Saga

Gladys ‘Winnifred’ Fowler was a long lost Canadian daughter whose body has been awaiting the trip home to New Brunswick from London, England for the past 92 years.

Her great-great grandfather had arrived in NB as a Loyalist from Courtland, New York in the 1780s. Winnifred was born in Hammondvale, NB on June 4, 1898. As a teen, she, and her family accompanied their father George W Fowler to England in 1916 – where he would serve as a Canadian officer in the First World War. The family took up residence at the upscale Bemers Hotel in central London.

It is thought that Winnifred may have been studying piano at a London conservatory during her stay and that she may also have seen a heart specialist in the city. Her death certificate shows she had been ill for three months before she died on April 17, 1917 at the age of 18. The cemetery registry records that the coffin was received from Bemers Hotel on April 21, 1917 “for temporary deposit in Catacomb B” at the upmarket Kensal Green Cemetery. Records also show that there was no funeral ceremony at either of the Cemetery’s chapels. The Fowlers would have paid to have the coffin stored in the catacomb, awaiting the end of the War when it could more safely be shipped back to Canada. For some unknown reason, this did not happen.

It certainly appeared that the Fowlers planned to repatriate their daughter’s body, for she was laid to rest in a heavy, secure, triple-shelled coffin which included a conventional wooden coffin, entirely sealed within a shell of lead, which was enclosed within another wooden coffin with decorative handles and an identifying plaque. The triple-shelled coffin was “set within a plain shipping crate and left in a convenient location, at ground level, immediately adjacent to the central corridor of Catacomb B” all of which suggests that it was to be moved again.

In 2008 more than 90 years had passed when Barry Smith, the chair of the Friends of Kensal Green, discovered a crate in one of its vaults that held the coffin of Gladys Winnifred Fowler. The plaque on

the coffin said she was the daughter of George Wm Fowler of Hammondvale, New Brunswick. Smith put a notice in the Sussex Herald newspaper in NB which was read by Albert Scott who helps maintain the Hammondvale Community Cemetery today. The land for the cemetery, nearby the old Fowler homestead which is still standing, had originally been donated by the family. According to Scott, the GW Fowler family plot is large enough to accommodate Winnifred should her remains be shipped home.

The Kensal Green Cemetery group said there have been discussions with Winnifred's niece Jane (the daughter of Cedric, one of Winnifred's brothers) living in New York about what arrangements and permits would be required. The estimated cost would be about \$9,500 CAD, although Smith recently heard from a Canadian airline willing to fly Winnifred's remains from Heathrow to Halifax at no charge. It could be three months or more before the journey home could occur.

Should arrangements not work out for any reason, the Kensal Green Cemetery has a protocol for cases where last wishes of the family of the deceased are not executed... "The General Cemetery Company simply leaves the coffin respectfully where it was deposited, in the catacomb". Winnifred has been resting "in distinguished company at Kensal Green, where she is welcome to stay."

Xmas Pot Luck & Auction ~ Dec 10 at Stone Church 5:30 pm

Submitted by Andrew Gunter

### Loyalist Pioneers Spent Christmas Quietly

Christmas 1783 was not a season of great joy and festivities for the band of United Empire Loyalists, Dr William Macintosh of the New Brunswick Natural History Museum points out.

In the first place Christmas, generally, was not the season of festive [celebration] nor was it the time when greetings and gifts were handed among friends and members of the family. At that time New Year's Day was the truly great festive day of the year, with Christmas being observed [simply] as the anniversary of the birth of Christ. However, on either of these days of the year, it is doubtful whether the founders of this city [Saint John, NB] had much to be thankful for. They were living in mere shacks, most of them, while a large number of them made dwellings in tents. Among the latter was Major John Ward and his family, who lived on Barrack Square under canvas, and here it was that one of the children was born in that memorable first winter.

The Christmas tables of today are a great cry from the simple fare to which our forebears sat down 150 years ago. For the most part, it is likely that the members of the average family, on Christmas Day, partook of a hearty stew made up of moose meat, caribou and partridge. Topping off this course, the pioneers probably ate coarse bread made of heavy rye flour and then "got drunk on rum" of which there was always an abundance.

During this season, moose meat was plentiful and sold for a penny a pound while partridge might be obtained at 12 brace for a shilling. Indian corn was to be had at high prices from the natives, but other vegetables, including the potato, were practically unobtainable.

... taken from the Saint John Telegraph-Journal 26 December 1933



Travelling from Halifax, NS to New Brunswick" ~ ca 1815 Watercolour by EE Vidal

Next General Meeting Oct 8<sup>th</sup>  
Stone Church at 7 pm  
Speaker: [Gay Fanjoy](#)

Executive Meeting  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept at 7 pm  
Stone Church kitchen

Xmas Pot Luck & Auction ~ Dec 10 at Stone Church 5:30 pm

*Ancestors*  **New Brunswick**

Family Tree Research

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