

Summary of the Young Family Reunion

Blackheath, Ontario

July 11, 2009

1. **Sixty-three** descendants (and guests) of Adam Young and Catherine Schremling attended this year's potluck lunch and reunion. Family members attended from:

- **Ontario:** Ancaster, Burlington, Caledonia, Campbellville, Cayuga, Dundas, Dunnville, Etobicoke, Grimsby, Hagersville, Indian River, Jarvis, London, Missisauga, Niagara Falls, North York, Peterborough, St. Catherines, St. Marys, Simcoe, Stouffville, Toronto, Wiarton, York
- **Massachusetts:** Newton
- **New Mexico:** Albuquerque
- **New York:** Brooklyn

Approximately **twelve** attendees came for the first time this year!

Descendants (& family) of John: **22**

Descendants (& family) of Daniel: **25**

Descendants (& family) of Henry: **9**

(Note that some attendees are descendants of two of Adam and Catherine's sons.)

Guests: **11**

2. The donation of \$10 per family covered the costs for the day. **Eleanor Bell and Yvonne Young** welcomed attendees at the desk.
3. Family genealogy and pictures were displayed on one side of the hall.
4. **Ken Young**, as Master of Ceremonies, welcomed everyone to the 11th Annual Young Reunion. **Dan Young** led us in Grace.
5. Everyone helped himself or herself to the delicious potluck meal.
6. Prizes were awarded to the attendees who came the longest distance (**Paul Fawcett** from Albuquerque, New Mexico). The youngest attendee this year was **Nolan Young**, (Young Road, Caledonia). The oldest attendee was **Mary Nelles**, Caledonia (although there was some question about this!). The person who has attended the most Young Reunions was **Peggy Young** (Jarvis).
7. Ken asked everyone who was attending for the first time to come up to the front and introduce themselves. Welcome to all of you!
8. Prior to and during lunch, **Janet Woods** (Peterborough) asked everyone to meet other family members by playing 'Meet the Youngs'. Winner was **James Young, Young Rd., Caledonia**. Janet also led us in a word scramble game, using the words from the Young Family Commemorative Plaque. Winner: **Bryan Young**, Brooklyn, NY.

9. **Bob and Grietje McBride** presented a drama outlining the life of our ancestors, Adam and Catherine Young, dressed in period costume. Thank you for this wonderful history lesson about our ancestors.

10. Presentation by **David Faux** and **Tom Nelson**: New Research about **Catharine** - the Native First Wife of **Lt. John Young**:

David Faux and Tom Nelson gave an overview of the complicated bit of sleuthing and eclectic research that went into trying to verify the identity of Catharine - Lt. John Young's first wife - who was believed to be a Six Nations woman (Mohawk). A 36-page thesis about Catharine is available on David Faux's website at:

www.davidkfaux.org/YoungCathMohawkAncestry.pdf.

Because few Six Nations records survive from the mid 1700's to the early 1800's, we may never know with 100% certainty who Lt. John Young's first wife was, but a review of the available evidence points to Lt. John Young's first wife as indeed being CATHARINE BRANT (as stated on the Young Monument), who was baptized along the Mohawk River in 1747. However, she was NOT a biological relation of the Mohawk leader Joseph Brant, but rather was one of his step-nieces (Joseph having adopted the name Brant after his widowed mother became the third wife of the Mohawk chief Brant Canagaradunckwa). Catharine's father was Nickus Brant Canadiorha (Joseph Brant's step-brother) who was said to be "of the Beavers". In addition, she did have a Hill family connection as Catharine's mother was Margaret Hill.

Thank you Tom and David for this update! A word document from Tom is attached with more information for those who are interested in reading more about Catherine Brant.

11. Young Tract Burying Ground Update: **Ken Young, Tom Nelson, David Faux** and **Bob McBride** (the members of the ad hoc YTBG Committee) gave an update on the Young Tract Burying Ground.

- at long last, the cemetery lands were transferred into the ownership of the County of Haldimand in March 2009, and the County will provide perpetual care and maintenance of the site, thereby preserving the remains of our YOUNG family ancestors, as well as those of the NELLES and other local families whose relatives are known to have been, or believed to have been, buried in the YTBG;
- the County will fence the site and will install a traditional County of Haldimand cemetery sign. However, the transfer of the site in March did not give enough time for the fencing and sign to be included in this year's Cemetery budget, so will likely be carried out next year, though if there are "extra" funds left at the end of the summer the fencing might occur this Fall;
- assuming that the fencing and sign are installed by July 2010, we could arrange a dedication (actually re-dedication) ceremony either in conjunction with next year's YOUNG Family Reunion, or other date depending on availability;
- as part of the agreement for the transfer of the YTBG site to the County, the property owner (Mr. Timmerman) granted a general easement for access to the location on the knoll in the middle of the field along the Grand River.

Therefore there is no set path or road out to the YTBG. However, the transfer agreement includes a stipulation that those accessing the site should do so on foot, so as to minimize any crop damage during the Spring, Summer and Fall when the fields are sown until the crops are harvested. PLEASE RESPECT THAT CONDITION. While the precise wording of the easement to the YTBG would require only walk-in access all year round, its main aim is to minimize crop disturbance. Therefore, access by vehicle from mid to late Fall/October or November (when the crops are harvested) to early Spring/April (before the crops are sown) would be reasonable.

- two "Thank You" cards to Duncan Newport at the Ministry and to Rick Lane and the Cemetery staff at the County of Haldimand were signed by those in attendance at this year's Young Reunion and sent to them in order to thank them for their valuable assistance in arranging for the YTBG site to be transferred to the County of Haldimand.

Thank you to this committee for all of their hard work and dedication!

12. The jellybean count winner was **Tom Nelson**, North York (winning guess was exactly 202).

13. It was decided to postpone the Annual General Meeting of the Young Family Memorial Society until winter/spring 2010. Notice will be provided via email.

14. Thank you to everyone who helped out on the day, setting up and cleaning up, and for attending the 11th Annual Young Reunion! Thank you to everyone who has helped to preserve the Young family heritage!

15. If you would like to volunteer or have suggestions for next year's reunion, please contact Ken at youngsvally@hotmail.com, Dan at yyoung@mountaincable.net, Betty at pyundt@nas.net, Shawn at sricharz@richarzlaw.ca, or Bob at bob.cindyyoung@hotmail.com.

16. The hall was booked for **July 10, 2010**, for next year's reunion.

Recorded by **Betty Yundt**, January 10, 2010
Member of Reunion Committee
(Descendant of John Young)

Other committee members:

Ken Young (descendant of Daniel Young)

Dan and Yvonne Young (descendant of Henry Young)

Bob Young (descendant of John Young)

Shawn Richarz (descendant of John Young)

With support from **Mary-Lou Harrison** and **Janet Woods** (descendants of Henry Young)