

MARK OF HONOUR

Based on material from *Loyalist Lineages*, Toronto Branch – UELAC

After the United Empire Loyalists settled on their new lands, Lord Dorchester, Governor-In-Chief of British North America decided to honour those who had lost virtually everything they owned.

On November 9, 1789, in Council at Quebec City, he gave particular recognition to the "First Loyalists" by differentiating them from other Loyalist and settlers as defined below:

U.E.

Late Loyalists – Those who came later, attracted by cheap land rather than for reasons of loyalty.

Treasury Loyalist – Those sponsored by the British Treasury Board in the 1790s after they left the colonies.

Simcoe Loyalists – Those who came to Upper Canada when Lt. Gov. Simcoe opened lands for development.

Associated Loyalist/Incorporated Loyalists – Mostly civilian Loyalists who formed themselves into groups to journey to Canada and settle there after the American Revolution.

Regular British and German soldiers who were considered to be "Military Claimants."

The Dorchester Resolution approved by Council:

1. Defined the U.E. Loyalists as those "who had adhered to the Unity of Empire and joined the Royal Standard in America (publicly showed support for the British) before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783.
2. "put a Mark of Honour upon the Families" of the U.E. Loyalists.
3. Approved the granting by the Land Boards of 200 acres of land to the sons and daughters of the U.E. Loyalists.

Accompanying the resolution to be laid before King George III in London was the following:

"N.B. Those Loyalists who have adhered to the Unity of the Empire, and joined the Royal Standard (in America) 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 the names:

U.E.

Alluding to their great principal "The Unity of the Empire."

In the covering letter, Lord Dorchester explained: "Care has been taken to reward the spirit of loyalty and industry, to extend and transmit it to future generations." Today, if one can prove that he or she is a descendant of one of those First Loyalists," he or she can use those initials after their name. This is Canada's only hereditary title.