

Loyalist Studies and Publications based at UNB

By BRUCE BARTLETT

The Programme for Loyalist Studies and Publications, sponsored by the American Antiquarian Society, City University of New York, University of New Brunswick and University of London has had its Canadian committee on campus since 1969.

The Programme was designed to coordinate research in Canada, the United States and Britain on the loyalists - the forgotten group in the American revolution. Since

1969 the Canadian Committee has had over \$73,000 in grants from the Canada Council and has accomplished its first goal of publishing a bibliography of loyalist source material in Canada.

Jo-Ann Fellows, Loyalist Studies Director at UNB is presently engaged in micro-filming all the primary source material in Canada. She hopes to finish New Brunswick this year, PEI and N.B. next year and Ontario by 1975. The same type of work is happening in

project is complete each center will receive a set of the primary sources on microfilm. That means that UNB will become one of the four main centres for Loyalist studies.

The basic organizational structure of the project was chartered at an international conference of interested scholars held in New York in 1968. An international advisory board and an executive committee were set up. Dr. Thomas Condon is the chairman of the present International Executive

Committee and Professor W.S. MacNutt is chairman of the Canadian Committee.

The programme was begun, to fill a blank in our knowledge of the past. The little work done in the nineteenth century tended to obscure the role of the loyalists in Canada. A romanticised view appeared as an attempt to justify the actions of the loyalists during and after the revolution. Recent research has shown that any resemblance between the actual loyalist and the ones that flowed

from the pens of nineteenth century historians is fairly slim.

Hopefully, soon after 1975 material will be available to facilitate research in this area. It is apparent that the loyalists were an important influence in the histories of Canada, America and Britain. When the Programme for Loyalist Studies and Publications has completed its assignment, scholars will be able to begin an evaluation of this heretofore ignored aspect of our past.

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