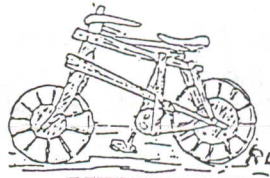

NEWSLETTER

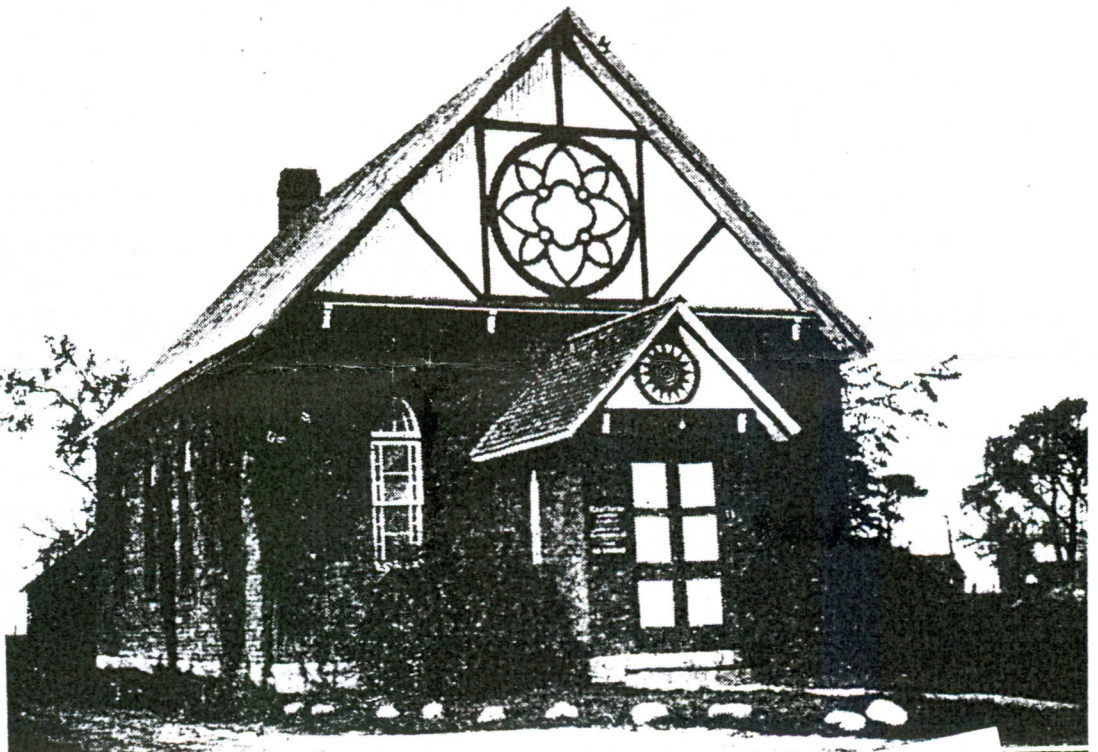
September to November 1995

Gloucester Historical



Society and Museum

4550B Bank Street, Gloucester, Ontario, K1T 3W6



November 15, 1995

Dear Members and Friends

Let me tell you first that our Society is in good health. During this long, hot summer your Board of Directors worked hard to produce new structures and activities, which you are now beginning to enjoy.

Our Museum Committee received its grant from the Arts Board in June, and proceeding with great skill and dedication set into motion the process of hiring a curator. The result was the arrival of our new curator, Deborah Scott. Those who attended the book launch and opening of the Hawthorne Village Exhibit on September 17 will have met her. Those who have yet to see this display, do come to the Museum, as it is well worth the trip.

During the same period your Board of Directors has also been active. We have formed three new committees, History, Education and Editorial. The History Committee, directed by Lillian Kitchen, conducted the launching on September 17 of Grace Johnston's posthumous, "A History of the Gloucester Historical Society". The Education Committee, under Jacqueline Rawes, working with the Museum, has organised our participation in the Arts Council's FESTIVARTS activity, held at Gloucester Centre on November 18 in the shopping mall. The Editorial Committee, run by Florence Ladds, a new board member, has produced this edition of the Newsletter. The existing Museum Committee, under your vice-president Mary Patterson, continues its activities, stronger and better than ever.

Our next goal is to get the Society back into the business of collecting Gloucester history. We have not done very well in this area since the passing of Grace Johnston. But, the desire is there, the will is strong, and soon you will see this vital service restored. Those who have stories to tell please call me, or Lillian.

I urge you all to attend our general meeting of December 3, 1995 at 2 P.M. at the Museum. This will be a pleasant activity. We will begin with a guest speaker, followed by an auction, then refreshments. The guest speaker will be Audrey Renton from Rideau Township, who's recent articles concerning veterans and the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII have received much praise.

For the auction, we ask that members bring something, anything to sell. Bring your baking, plants, books, paintings, carvings, old chairs, whatever... And let's take the time to meet and chat about our history, our organisation and what you want us to do in the months to come. Until then...



Guy H. Legault
President

A FEATURE ARTICLE

A Bird's Eyeview of the Village of Hawthorne

by Florence (Bird) Ladds

Condensed from various stories and research material found in the files of the Gloucester Historical Society.

Hawthorne, first known as Green's Corners, was a small, nineteenth century village located in the area of Russell Road, Walkely Road, and old Hawthorne Road. Early settlement took place in 1832 or 33.

Prior to settlement, a parcel of land was patented on June 15, 1811, to Thomas Darcy and sold in 1820 by Darcy's widow to Alexander Kirk. Another Crown Patent was issued in 1844 to Alexander Anderson and, in 1873, this parcel passed to Archibald Graham. The change of name, from Green's Corners to Hawthorne, was made when Graham opened a post office.

In the very early years children of settlers on scattered farms were taught by a teacher who would "live-in" for two or three weeks, then move on to the next farm. Three neighbouring communities; the Ridge, Hawthorne, and Taylorville (later Ramsey's Corners, Ramsayville) decided to make one big school section to be built in Taylorville. However, the distance for the Ridge and Hawthorne pupils to walk was considered too great so Hawthorne was chosen as the central point. Mr. George Green gave land at the intersection of Walkely and Russell Roads in 1839, and the first log school was built for S.S. #16. Later the Ridge built a school for S.S. #27 Gloucester, and Ramsayville built one for S.S. #13 Gloucester.

On March 26, 1839, John Vent received a patent from the Crown for his parcel of land and in 1847, Samuel Norton acquired the property. In 1892, Robert and Isabelle Norton donated part of the Norton farm to the Methodist Church. In the summer of 1892, the church, "a red brick faced wooden structure on a three foot stone base without a basement", was built. It was opened and dedicated on Sunday October 29, 1892, with nine or ten families (*see picture on cover*). Prior to this, services were held in the old "Orange Hall".

In the 1950's, this church building and land was sold to the Federal District Commission (now NCC). However, the bricks had been removed and the Hawthorne United (Methodist) Church was moved and rebricked on its current site on the Russell Road in 1952. The front of the cornerstone reads, "Methodist Church cornerstone, laid June 24, 1892, by Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, M.P. The side face of the cornerstone reads, "Hawthorne United Church rebuilt on this site 1952". The interior and furnishings are originals – a tall wooden cross from the now closed Farmers Corners church hangs above the pulpit. A Hallman organ, a memorial, replaced the piano.

*From the Curator's Corner:
Happenings at Musée Gloucester Museum*

As some of you already know, I became the museum's new Curator on September 4, 1995. Since graduating from the Museum Technology Program at Algonquin College in 1983, I have worked in a variety of museums including the National Museum of Science and Technology, Alberta's Historic Sites and Archives Service, and Lang Pioneer Village near Peterborough. Most recently, I completed my Bachelor of Education at the University of Ottawa, and am looking forward to developing programs for students in Gloucester.

With the opening of the exhibit "Hawthorne: Vignettes of a Village" on September 17, I had plenty to keep me occupied during my first two weeks with the museum, and learned to find my way around in short order! An interesting aspect of the exhibit involved observing model railroader Gord Clark in action.

As I become more familiar with the museum and its constituency, I am sensing the need to expand our services to all the residents of Gloucester through travelling exhibits, events and outreach programs. To that end, I am working with members of the Historical Society on our contribution to Gloucester's upcoming FestivArts event on November 18. Our theme will be "Preparing for Winter", with 'hands on' activities ranging from a mini quilting bee, to preparing wool batting with carders, and drying apples for winter storage and consumption.

Other events for which planning is currently underway include "A Winter Celebration" workshop for children, to be held from 1-4 p.m. on Dec. 2. In addition to making old-fashioned decorations, participants will do some cookie baking using "vintage" recipes, decorate the tree in our exhibit gallery, and enjoy stories from winters and Christmases past while sharing hot cider and cookies. If you have special memories or stories about this time of year in Gloucester, I would really appreciate hearing from you (by phone, by letter, FAX, or in person - if you aren't able to come to the museum, I would be happy to visit you!).

Overall, I am very impressed with the progress Musée Gloucester Museum has made to date, and am excited about developing its potential even further. In particular, I encourage members of the Historical Society to forward ideas and suggestions for exhibits and/or programs which interest you, and to get involved whether it's through donating objects or photographs, providing an oral history interview, or assisting with an event. I can be found at the museum Mondays through Wednesdays, telephone 822-2076.

Looking forward to meeting and working with you!

Sincerely,

Deborah Scott

Musee Gloucester Museum presents

A Winter Celebration Workshop

for Children ages 8 to 10

Saturday, December 2, 1995, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

- * make old-fashioned ornaments
- * bake cookies using 'vintage' recipes
- * decorate the tree in our exhibit gallery
- * hear stories from winters and celebrations past
- * share hot cider and cookies

Registration: Participants must pre-register for the workshop by calling the Museum at 822-2076. Cost, including materials and snack, is \$5.00 per child. A family discount is available. Since space is limited to 25 children, be sure to register early!

Location: Main Floor, 4550 Bank Street (at Leitrim Rd.), Gloucester

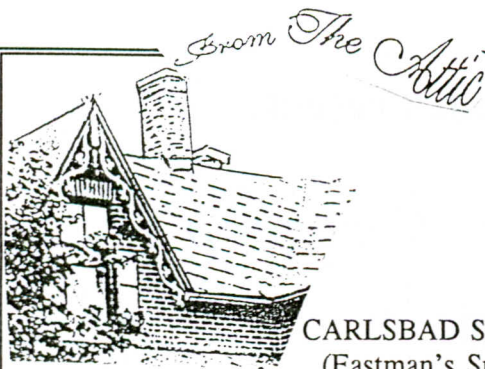
"ENHANCING OUR PRESENT THROUGH UNDERSTANDING OUR PAST"

RE: New Column "From the Attic"

The Gloucester Historical Society is gathering short stories and/or pictures relating to Gloucester's past and present times.

The new column entitled "From the Attic" will need you to search the corners of the "Attic" of your memory -- who knows what treasures are waiting to be dusted off! We would appreciate hearing from you.

Please send correspondence to the GHS , (see address back page). or Tel: 822 - 2076



CARLSBAD SPRINGS
(Eastman's Springs)

The first dance was a New Year's Eve Ball, held on Dec. 31 1896. This event would become something of a tradition in the community. The dances were attended by large numbers of people from all over the area, some arriving from Ottawa in rented sleighs that held 20 - 30 people.

The hall was built in 1896 and owned by my great grandfather James Boyd. It stood on the west side of the mineral grounds, facing north onto the Russell Road. Across the road was Daniel Eastman's former stopping place. Next to Eastman's stood the Boyd guest house and home.

The 38 ft. x 70 ft. clapboard hall, had three windows on each side, could accommodate 70 couples on its dance floor. The pillarless floor had a sub-floor of pine, overlaid with finished maple, which produced a superior type of surface for dancing. The walls and ceiling were of white ash. The building was heated by a large cast iron stove.

Another unique feature was the single lane bowling alley (one of the first in the Ottawa area), situated on the west side of the building with an orchestra stand built over it.

Those early dances would have presented a vibrant scene; with the sound of laughter and sleigh bells on the frosty air. Plumes of steam rising in the air above the horses' heads, as they stamped their hooves and shook their harnesses, waiting patiently for their passengers to throw off their rugs and blankets, and alight.

Though there were stables across the road at Boyd's and Eastman's, it was necessary to stable many of the teams at nearby farms, such as McGovern's and Tierney's. Cooling bricks and stones that were used

as foot-warmers, were collected and reheated for the passengers journey home.

The sound of the musicians tuning their instruments reminded those arriving of fun to come.

Soon the floor manager signalled the musicians and they struck up the first dance, most likely a waltz, quadrille, or cotillion, those being popular dances of the day. The lilt of the bagpipes was often heard during the evening, playing a highland fling or a reel.

The dancers whirled around the floor, the ladies skirts billowing out, till the early hours of the morning. Those too tired to dance rested on long benches placed against the walls of the building.

For many years the hall was the centre of various types of community activity. Some of the events held were box socials, war bond rallies, wedding receptions, concerts and in it's latter years, games of badminton. Nevertheless it was for it's well organized dances that the hall was best known.

For three generations the hall remained under the ownership and management of the Boyd's. After the 1930's there was a sharp decline in it's popularity, due in great part to the increased use of the automobile. People began to travel further afield for a variety of entertainments.

The building was demolished in the 1940's. Eventually the site was expropriated in order to straightened the Russell Road, which now runs over some of the original mineral grounds and site of the hall. With the closing of the hall came the end of an era.

But if imagination allows, who knows what sounds might still be heard on a quiet, crisp, winter's night? Could that be the distant jingle of sleigh bells? Or perhaps a faint echo of laughter, mixed with the sound of feet sliding across the surface of a dance floor long ago?

Mary Boyd/Oct. 1995

September 8th - 10th Ottawa City Hall was the site of the first conference held by the British Isles Family Society of Greater Ottawa, (BIFHSGO). There were many fascinating speakers on Genealogy and Historical Research. The Gloucester Historical Society had a table in the Information Marketplace along with eight other organizations. It was an exciting and informative time. We made new friends and saw old ones. All the GHS members who took part in the Marketplace enjoyed themselves and would recommend that anyone researching ancestors who came from the British Isles, learn more about BIFHSGO.

RIDEAU - CARLETON RACEWAY

The Gloucester Historical Society had a table at "Gloucester Night at the Races" on August the 30th. It was good P.R. for the Society and we were kept busy answering questions and handing out information

Book Launch and Opening of Museum

Guests of honour for this event were Mr. Kennedy Johnston and Claudette Cain, our mayor. The event took place at 2 p.m. on Sunday September 17, 1995 at the Gloucester Historical Society. This book, based on Grace Johnston's original notes, was edited by Ruth Lafortune.

Lillian Kitchen spoke about Grace and her devotion to the society, and about her other publications concerning Gloucester History. Mayor Cain said many good things about the Society. Lillian then presented our two honoured guests with complimentary copies of the book.

The museum exhibit on Hawthorne Village was then launched, following an introduction by our new curator, Deborah Scott. Light refreshments were served. All enjoyed the museum and talking with old friends. About a dozen new memberships were sold or renewed.

NAVAN FAIR'S FIFTY HORSE HITCH

The morning was bright with an elegant flair,
A wonderful day for the great Navan Fair.
The fiftieth fair, and the largest one yet,
We'll sure have to hurry, our seat for to get.
For the streets will be crowded, the grounds will be full
Fifty clydes will be hitched, a huge wagon to pull.
That's the main big attraction - been in planning for years
They sent to New York for the huge wagon gears,
And they built up the frame with lengthy oak beams
So McWilliams could fulfil all the Fair Board's great dreams.

Now we get a good seat with a "starting point" view,
We wanted to see what those helpers would do.
For there were helpers galore all dressed to a "tee"
In black pants and white shirts, just as neat as could be.
These workers would bring out four clydes at one time
Each washed and beribboned and all in their prime.
They are all bright bays with faces of white,
To every spectator a magnificent sight,
With snowy white feet and black harness a-gleam,
Each pranced to a place in the fifty horse team.

When everything's ready and the hitching complete
Willard uses a ladder to get up on the seat;
With a wave to the crowd as he gathers his gear,
The team leaves as one horse, amidst cheer after cheer.
As the wagon rolled on down each crowded street
The clydes seem in tune with the clap of their feet.
Folks stared in awe as they lively stepped by,
The horses' proud heads seemed to reach for the sky.
People are lined up from the road through the ditch
To get just one glimpse of this fifty horse hitch.

Down through the main street and up past the bank
That wagon rolled on like a World War II tank.
Children and adults all jostle for space
There are folks from afar and of most every race,
There are cameras a-flashing and 'mikes' everywhere,
As the media is filming this fiftieth fair.
In the next book of "Guinness" this team will appear
As the largest team ever, up to this year.
T'was for this occasion the Board had this dream -
For the fiftieth fair, a fifty horse team.

Such a really great boost for a small valley town
It's the biggest event ever seen here around.
"Such a grand sight to see" I heard many folks state,
"The most horses I've seen was a six or an eight".
A hitch of this number all driven by one
Is really unique - the first time it's been done!
And McWilliams is really a capable chap;
Navan's his hometown and now on the map.
He has worked on this project since he first got the itch,
And has done a great job on this "fifty- horse hitch!"

Gloucester Historical Society
Board of Directors
1995-1996

Officers

Guy Legault	President
Mary Patterson	Vice-President
Ruth Lafortune	Secretary
Graham Ritchie	Treasurer

Board Members

Lillian Kitchen	Historical Committee
Jaqueline Rawes	Education Committee
Albert Lafortune	Property and Building
David Mackie	
Florence Ladds	Editorial Committee
Carole Lapointe	

You can leave a message for any board member with
Mary Boyd, Grace Johnston History Room Coordinator
at 822-2076

"LOOK WHAT'S COMING!"

The faces and places of Overbrook
past. Stories and photos that will
rediscover the Village of Overbrook
in future articles "From the Attic".

Upcoming Events

*** "FestivArts '95" ***

The FestivArts '95 will host a display at the
Gloucester Center Food Court on November 18
from 10:00am to 5:00pm. The Museum will
present a display on "Preparing for Winter"

*** "A Winter Celebration" ***

December 2nd

- Help make Victorian decorations,
greeting cards, and vintage cookies.
- Participate in decorating the Christmas
tree.
- Share special memories and stories of
Gloucester Christmases past.

*** "General Meeting" ***

A General Meeting for all members of the
Gloucester Historical Society will be held on
Sunday December 3, 1995 at 2:00pm on the main
floor of 4550B Bank Street. Fun auction.
Refreshments.

Please join us!

Gloucester Historical Society
Société historique de Gloucester
Membership/Adhesion Application
1995

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

Yearly: \$ 10:00

Life Membership: \$ 40.00

Mail to: *Gloucester Historical Society*
Société historique de Gloucester
4550B Bank Street
Gloucester, Ontario
KIT 3W6

Telephone: (613) 822-2076 Wednesday to Friday (10:00 am to 5:00 pm)