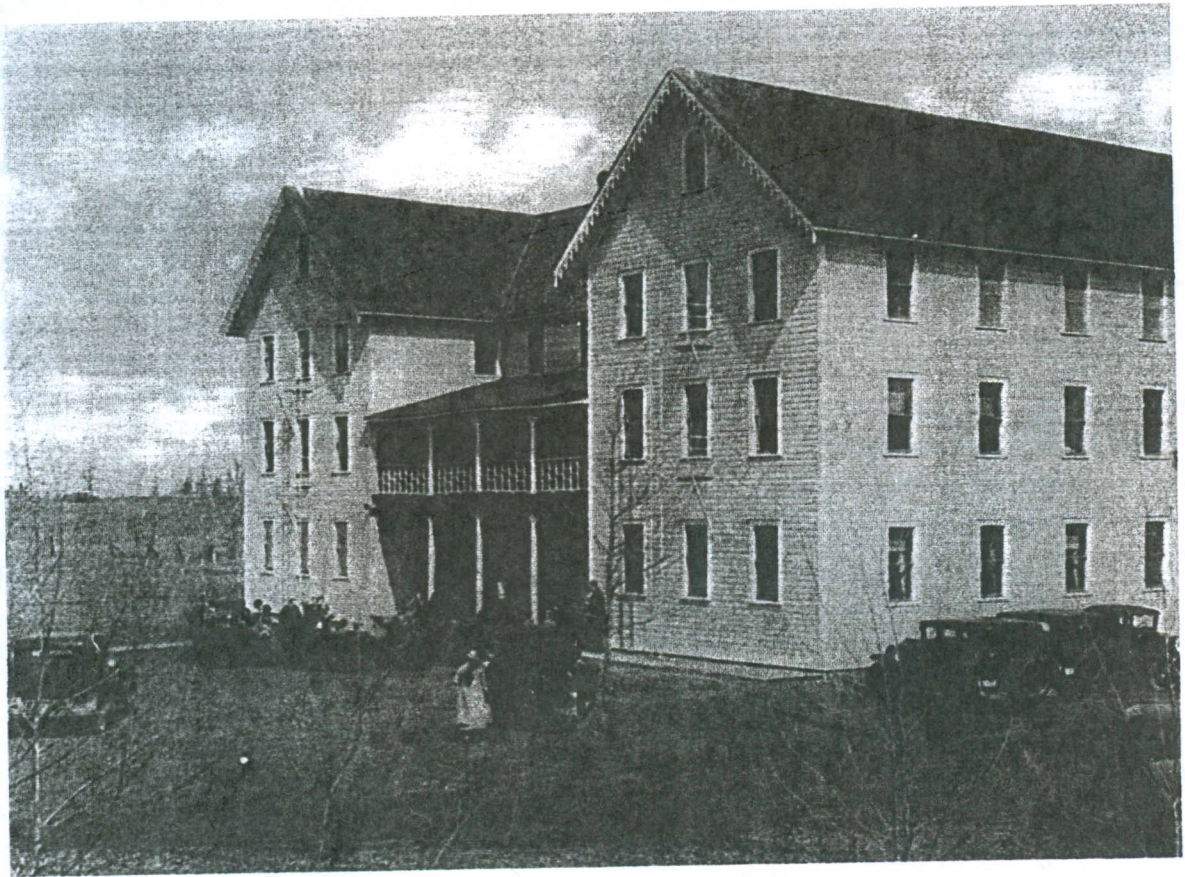


# *Gloucester Historical Society and Museum*

SPRING 1997

VOLUME 1 No

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Carlsbad Springs: Boyd Health Resort  
Circa 1919

# President's Message

by Clive Broomfield

Vol. 1, No.  
1997 June

The remainder of this year is full of promise and excitement for the sustained growth of the Gloucester Historical Society and Museum; there are however many challenges to be met and overcome.

As the newly appointed president I would like to thank our outgoing president Lillian Kitchen who has guided the GHS for many years.

We must say goodbye and wish a safe journey to Deborah Scott our Curator, who has accepted a new, full-time position and is off to Nova Scotia. Welcome to the museum's new Director/Curator Janice Beath.

The Board of Directors recognizes that there must be a continuing move towards greater financial self-sufficiency for the Society. We need input from the membership on ways of raising money to supplement the reduction in grants. Your ideas are welcome.

Help keep heritage alive and well in Gloucester, share your knowledge of Gloucester's history by donating your artifacts and documents to the Society's Museum or Archives.

Thank you all for your continuing support. Have a relaxing and creative summer!

Note: A membership application form is available elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Newsletter of the Gloucester Historical Society and Museum is the official publication of the Board of the Gloucester Historical Society. It is published four times a year.

**Editor**  
**Flo Ladds**

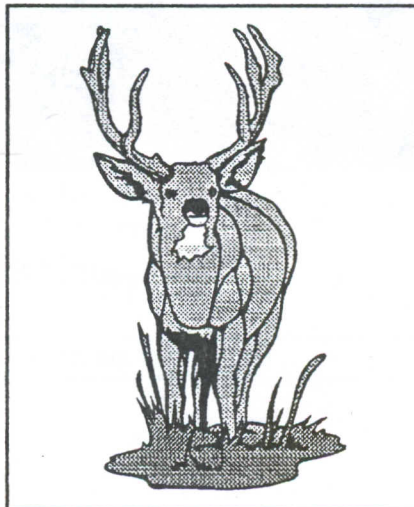
Please address all submissions and correspondence to

**Gloucester Historical Society**  
4550b Bank Street, Gloucester ON K1T 3W6  
Telephone (613) 822 - 2076

## **Gloucester Historical Society Board of Directors**

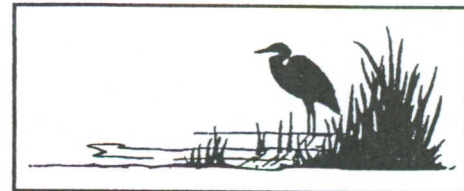
Clive Broomfield (President, Lillian Kitchen (past President), Mary Patterson (Vice - President), Graham Ritchie (Treasurer), Ruth Lafortune (Secretary), Guy Legault, Jean-Marc Jossinet, Jacqueline Rawes, Dave Mackie, Mary Boyd, Flo Ladds

**The Gloucester Historical Society is a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to the encouragement and support of Gloucester heritage and culture**



# Gloucester Vignette William Ogilvie and the Klondike Gold Rush

By Ian Hammond



Ogilvie Road, one of Gloucester's busiest streets, runs eastward from the St. Laurent Shopping Centre, passing commercial and residential sites before turning north and finally coming to rest a stone's throw from the Ottawa River in peaceful Beacon Hill.

The Belden Atlas of 1879 shows us that several of the farm properties of Gloucester Township on the eastern edge of Cyrville bore the family name Ogilvie. In fact, for many years the general region which extends from Cyrville to what is now Tauvette Street in Blackburn Hamlet was called Glen Ogilvie, which evokes thoughts of misty valleys in the Scottish Highlands.

The first of the Ogilvie clan to settle here was pioneer William Ogilvie, a Scotsman who emigrated from the Belfast area of Northern Ireland over 150 years ago. Ogilvie bought the land where the large Zeller's store on Cyrville Road now stands, and it was here in the family's log farm house that the man who has been called one of the noblest figures in modern Canadian history was born in 1849.

William Ogilvie, a grandson of the Gloucester pioneer, was evidently not cut out for a life on the farm. He attended the Oliver Cromwell school of surveyors in Perth, Ontario, and at the age of 23 began conducting surveys in Gloucester Township, preparing himself for the eventual rigors of the uncharted British Northwest Territories.

By 1887, Ogilvie had been given the task of surveying the Yukon-Alaska, border, which now defines our northern interface with our American neighbours. Although a small northwestern community was named after him during this period, Ogilvie's finest hour was yet to come.

In 1895 - 96, he spent fifteen months on an isolated northern trek which led to the siting of Dawson City at the mouth of the Klondike River. It was on nearby Bonanza Creek in the summer of 1896 that gold was discovered, marking the beginning of the world's greatest gold rush.

The publicity - shy William Ogilvie, Canadian Government land surveyor, incorruptible servant of the people, was to become one of the central players in the Klondike Gold Rush. To Ogilvie fell the task of surveying the ragged land claims of the frenzied prospectors who had poured into the Klondike seeking their fortunes. The shifting of stakes by only a few feet might mean thousands of dollars lost or gained. Had he been of a different nature, William Ogilvie could have manipulated survey lines for personal gain, but he was absolutely incorruptible and no one dared to bribe him.

The Canadian Encyclopedia notes that Ogilvie "enjoyed a reputation as the most honest and able civil servant in the territory." Inscrutable in public he was a practical joker in private, an infectious raconteur and an accomplished pianist who favoured Scottish reels. Ogilvie served as commissioner of the Yukon Territory, from 1898 to 1901, by which time 'gold fever' had ended.

He died in Winnipeg in 1912 at the age of 63 and on year later his book "Early Days in the Yukon and Story of its Gold Finds" was published. In 1966 a mountain range north of Dawson was named in his honour. As North America celebrates the centenary of the last gold rush, what better time to pay official tribute to one of our finest Canadian figures. Surely we need an historical plaque at William Ogilvie's birthplace.

*Based on information from: The Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Carleton by H. Beldon and Co. (1879), Klondike by Pierre Berton, (1958), The Carleton Saga by Harry and Olive Walker (1968), The Canadian Encyclopedia and Gloucester Roots by Lois Kemp (1991). Ian Hammond is responsible for communications for the Gloucester LACAC.*

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

Since I last wrote, the Museum has received some wonderful news! As recommended by City Manager Pierre Tessier, and approved by members of Council, the Museum's annual funding from the City of Gloucester has been significantly increased for the next two years!! As well, the City has promised to assist in finding a larger and more central 'home' for Museum programs and exhibits. These measures, intended to help the Museum become more firmly established, will enable us to raise our level of activity and profile in the community. Sincere thanks is owed to many individuals including Pierre Tessier for his willingness to listen and strong commitment to heritage; Christine Tremblay of the Gloucester Arts Council, Peter Brown of the City of Gloucester, and representatives of various arts and culture groups in Gloucester for their long-standing support and, last but not least, members of the GHS who have worked so hard to build and maintain heritage services in Gloucester over the years.

This news certainly gave a boost to our efforts over the past winter, which included working on several projects related to the placement of an Ontario Heritage Association plaque at Carlsbad Springs this coming summer. A team of energetic third-year Museum Technology students from Algonquin College is, as I write, building a travelling exhibit on the history of the spa industry at Carlsbad. Complete with artifacts and historic photographs associated with Carlsbad's "glory days", the exhibit promises to be both fascinating and informative. A "spin off" project will be the publication of a booklet on Carlsbad, based on the research undertaken by the students for the exhibit. Finally, the Museum will be actively involved in the event being held to celebrate the unveiling of the OHF plaque and completion of the spring house restoration. Watch for details in your local press.

In November, the Museum participated in the FestivArts event sponsored by the Gloucester Arts Council, providing a small display and crafts based on the theme of a "1950s Christmas". The display was later installed in the foyer of our 'headquarters' here at Leitrim.

From November through January, Algonquin student intern Kathleen Conibear assisted the Museum by developing outlines for possible outreach school programs. A favourite topic, one which we hope to pursue further, concerns the adventures of Gloucesterian William Ogilvie in the Yukon!

February saw us participating in a variety of Heritage Day events, including the Heritage Art Show held at the Orleans Visual Arts Centre, and a special talk and Open House at the Museum.

Which just about brings us up to the present! It is with mixed feelings that I recently informed the Board of my resignation effective the end of May, due to my family's move to Nova Scotia in June. The good news is that the Museum, *with your support*, is in a great position to move forward. Needless to say, I wish the Museum and all the wonderful people who have made working here such a pleasure, every best wish for the future.

## Welcome to the Gloucester Historical Society Archives !

By Jennifer Vollmar

You'll be happy to hear that the Gloucester Historical Society has recently launched a wonderful project that will rejuvenate and enhance our Archives! During the past months we have been creating an index that will enable everyone who uses the Archives to identify and find the material much more quickly and easily. We hope that this will be the first building block in the development of an established professional Archives that will contribute to the Gloucester community by collecting and preserving a valuable record of its unique and fascinating history.

Although our index is a significant beginning there is still much work left to be done. We need your help and support so that the Archives can remain an active program of the Historical Society. The many ways in which you can help include:

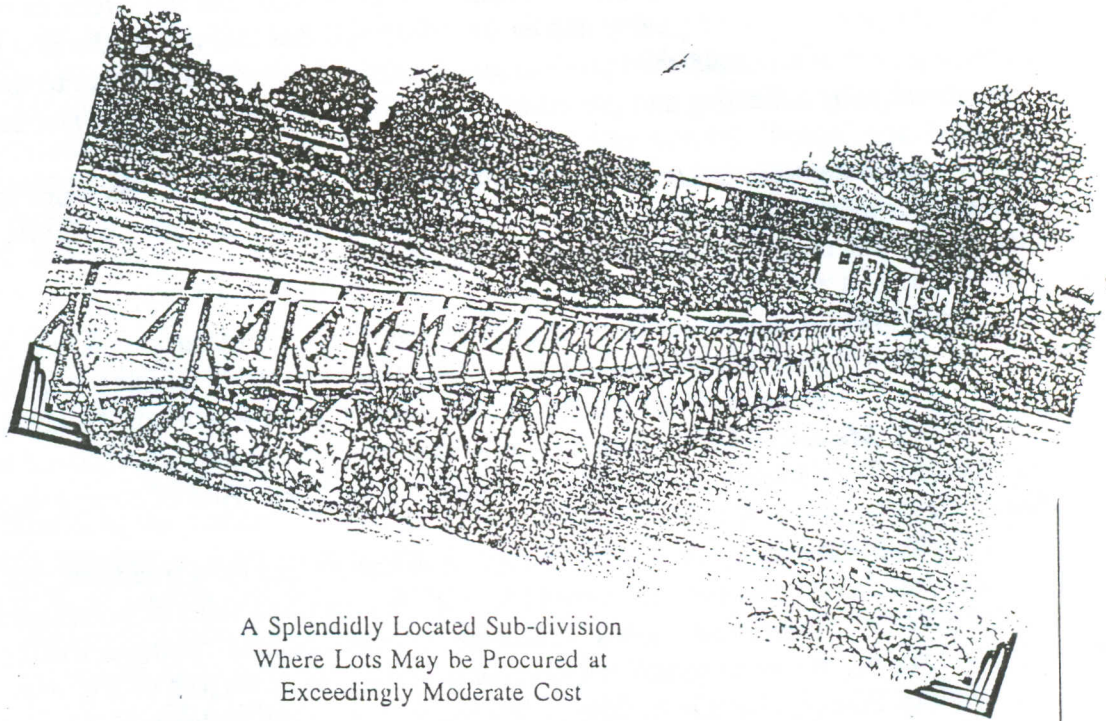
- 1) **Donations** of any family papers or other archival material you find in your attic pertaining to Gloucester. Many thanks to those families who have already donated their papers and documents from which our Archives has been created.
- 2) **Monetary Gifts** - financial donations would be greatly appreciated to fund future projects and to purchase necessary supplies. And of course we offer charitable tax receipts!
- 3) **Volunteering** if you are interested in history and have free time. As a not-for-profit organization we depend on the creativity and skills of volunteers for our survival. The Society needs volunteers to organize fund-raising activities to support our Archives program and other activities, so come join us and explore the past!
- 4) Finally, **Use** our Archives - We have a wonderful collection of historical documents that trace the history of Gloucester back to 1802! So please remember that we are here to help you with your genealogical and other research needs. We also have the Grace Johnston Reading Room which works hand in hand with the Archives to provide you with reference material and access to our extensive Family File. We are also hoping to expand our genealogical resources in the near future, so come and discover your roots!

Please do not hesitate to call us if you are interested in volunteering, have specific research requests or would like to ask us any other questions. You can reach us at 822-2076, or if you would like to come visit us, our Grace Johnston Reference room is open Thursdays 10:00 to 4:00. Questions relating to the Archives can be directed to Mary Boyd, Jennifer Vollmar, Jean-Marc Jossinet or our new Museum Curator Janice Beath. Hope to see you soon!

### In the Archives . . . Gloucester People

Here at the GHS Archives you can learn about Gloucester's earliest and most influential settlers. Get to know **William Olgivie**, one of the region's most prominent founders! Uncover the surveyor's notes from his days as Commissioner of the Yukon Territory; correspondence; photographs; diaries; books and artifacts all found in the Archives and Museum collections. You can also learn about other renowned families including the Billings and the Blair families. The GHS Archives - Explore our heritage!

From The Attic



A Splendidly Located Sub-division  
Where Lots May be Procured at  
Exceedingly Moderate Cost

The attention of the investing public, as well as those in search of a home, is directed to the possibilities offered by "Overbrook Annex," the well and favourably known property where lots are now being offered for sale by Mr. F. X. Laderoute.

This admirably located property which is situated near the Rideau River, across from Strathcona Park, had had erected upon it within the past year over twenty new houses, and many others will be completed during the present year. Sidewalks are already laid through the property, and every resident of Overbrook already enjoys the regular conveniences, such as city water, electric light, telephone service etc., and as further evidence of its possibilities as an investment proposition the Ottawa Tennis club has leased property in Overbrook for a term of 40 years, and the owners have reserved a public school site, right on the property, where a school will be erected as soon as the residents want it.

Overbrook Annex is easily reached from the end of Laurier Avenue by means of a foot bridge across the river. Thus, it will be readily seen, is in easy access of the business sections of the city.

Lots are now selling as \$6 per foot frontage and many wise investors who bought similar lots at this figure a year ago have resold their purchases at \$10 and \$12 a foot. The terms of payment are exceedingly easy - only \$10 down and \$1 per week until paid.

Anyone wishing to see the property should communicate with the office of the selling agent, Mr. Laderoute, Queen 2376 or 2389, when arrangements will be made to convey such parties to the property by auto or Mr. Laderoute's salesmen will arrange to meet those interested on the property.

Plans and full information regarding the lots supplied by F. X. Laderoute, Bank Street corner Queen.

^^^^^^^^^UPCOMING EVENTS^^^^^^^^^^

**\*\* Strawberry Social Time!!**

A Strawberry Social is being held by the Gloucester Horticultural Society on June 23, time 7:00 pm at the Fred Barrett Arena at near the corner of Leitrim Road. The Gloucester Historical Society has been invited to attend and will set up an information table.

**COME ONE, COME ALL!!**

***RE: Cover picture : Carlsbad Springs***

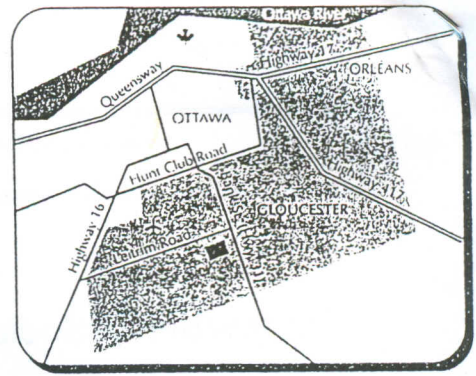
Today if you are driving though the village of Carlsbad Springs you will be passing over an important part of its history. On the west side of the bridge there is a new section where the Russell Road has been moved in order to straighten the road. Sitting under the roadbed are most of the mineral springs that made Carlsbad Springs a well known spa resort for many years. The springs were unique in both number, and quality. From their first official use in the early 1850's, the springs and grounds were gradually developed. The height of their use and popularity was reached when Thomas Boyd built a large resort hotel to replace one that had burned down.

The picture on the front page shows the building not long after it was erected in 1908. It's imposing exterior was matched by an attractive interior which could house one hundred guests and in its day attracted thousands of visitors. The hotel was situated across from the spring grounds.

**On July 27, 1997, at 2 pm,** the springs will be officially recognized with the ceremony to unveil a provincial heritage plaque and the opening of the Carlsbad Mineral Springs Historic Site. The plaque and park will stand as a reminder of a time and a resource unique in Carlsbad's history. Members are encouraged to attend.

M. Boyd/1997

<u>Cost</u>	<u>Book Title</u>
3.00	Belden Atlas Maps
4.00	Blackburn - Glen Ogilvie
15.00	Bowesville - A Place to Remember
4.00	Gloucester Memories
10.00	History of Gloucester His. Soc.
4.00	Memories of the Lockstations
10.00	Milk/Cream Distributors
4.00	60th Anniversary Carlsbad/Ramsayville W.I.



4550 Bank Street (at Leithrim Road)  
 Accessible by OC Transpo

**FREE ADMISSION!**

For information on hours and  
 other inquiries,  
 call (613) 822-2076

Gloucester Historical Society and Museum  
 Gloucester Museum, Grace Johnston History Room  
 City of Gloucester Archives, G.H.S. Office  
 4550 Bank Street at Leithrim Road  
 Information: (613) 822-2076

Museum:

Mon. to Wed. 10 am - 4 pm  
 History Room & Archives:  
 Thurs. 1 - 4 pm  
 Educational programs are available for schools, youth  
 organizations, service clubs, & groups.

Société historique et Musée de Gloucester  
 Musée, La Salle historique Grace Johnston et les Archives  
 municipales, bureau de S.H.G.  
 4550 rue Bank intersection chemin Leithrim  
 Information: (613) 822-2076

Musée:

Lundi à mercredi 13 h à 16 h

La Salle historique & Archives:  
 les jeudis, de 13 h 00 à 16 h 00  
 Des sessions éducatives sont disponibles pour les enfants  
 d'âge scolaire, les groupes et clubs sociaux.

**Gloucester Historical Society**  
**Société historique de Gloucester**  
**Membership/Adhesion/ Donations**  
 1996

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Memberships: \$10.00 (Yearly)**

**\$40.00 (Life Membership)**

**Donations: Tax receipts issued for \$10.00 and over.**

**Mail to: Gloucester Historical Society**  
**Société historique de Gloucester**  
**4550b Bank street**  
**Gloucester, ON**

**K1T 3W6**

Telephone: (613) 822-2076

Hours: Mondays to Thursdays (10:00 am to 5:00 pm)