

HISTORIC GLOUCESTER

Quarterly Newsletter of

***The GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
and The GLOUCESTER MUSEUM and ARCHIVES***

VOLUME 1 NO. 3

Dec 2000



**Mayor Claudette Cain Turns Over the Gloucester Chain of
Office to Gloucester Historical Society President, Guy Legault**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	Guy Legault	1
Historical Street Names of Gloucester.....	Joan Scott	2
Museum Curator's Corner	Jennifer Busato	5
Heritage Month Event 2001.....	Guy Legault	6
Books Available from the Gloucester Historical Society.....		7
Membership Form.....		8

COVER PHOTO:

The City of Gloucester held its final council meeting in December. The very last resolution passed by the council was that certain artifacts of historical significance and value be turned over to the Gloucester Historical Society. At that time Mayor Claudette Cain removed her chain of office and handed it to our President, Guy Legault. The articles will be at the Gloucester Museum and a complete list of the items received will be available.

Cover photo is courtesy of the Weekly Journal East and was taken by Ian L. Browns.

Historic Gloucester is published quarterly by The Gloucester Historical Society and The Gloucester Museum and Archives. It is intended as a Newsletter to members of the Society to provide interesting articles on Gloucester's past and to keep them informed of new acquisitions by the Museum, publications available, upcoming events and other items of general interest. Comments and suggestions regarding the Newsletter are always welcome.

December 12, 2000

Speech on Accepting Gloucester Artifacts at Last Meeting of Council

Mayor Cain, members of Council, ladies and gentlemen...

The Gloucester Historical Society has been granted the stewardship of the Artifacts of the City of Gloucester. This is a big responsibility, as these and all such items belong to the people of a municipality that has existed for 150 years, and a community that goes back even further.

We accept this challenge, as over the past 40 years we have served as the repository of family, community and corporate artefacts from throughout Gloucester. We have conserved these historical artifacts, and exhibited them for the education and enjoyment of all.

Now that the City must cease to exist, the need for a vital and reliable organization to protect the identity and history of Gloucester is essential. The Gloucester Historical Society will continue, and will ensure that these artifacts are preserved for the benefit of future generations. In this way do we link our past to the challenges of the present, and the needs of the future.

In closing I would like to thank in particular Mr. Peter Brown, Director of Recreation and Culture and Ms. Jennifer Busato, the Director/Curator of the Gloucester Museum and Archives for their help and dedication to the Gloucester Historical Society. Mayor Cain thank you. And to you, members of Council and the members of the Staff of the City of Gloucester, best wishes in your future endeavours.

Through history, Gloucester lives...

Thank you.

Guy H. Legault
President
Gloucester Historical Society

HISTORICAL STREET NAMES OF GLOUCESTER

by Joan Scott

One of the major headaches facing the new City of Ottawa will be the elimination of duplication of street names. When safety concerns - like directing fire, police or ambulance services to addresses within the new City - depend on the clarity of directions, the names and locations of streets must be well defined. Calls for 911 assistance cannot be speedily responded to if the address given is duplicated in all the former satellite cities. Common street names such as Main, Queen, King or First, may currently exist in each of the cities of Cumberland, Gloucester, Ottawa, Nepean, Kanata as well as in some smaller towns. These street names will have to be changed, and the new city has identified some 110 streets which will be renamed.

The new city has decreed that in some cases this can be done by adding a descriptive prefix to identify its location, such as "Stittsville Main Street." For many streets this will be a good solution, but what about streets or roads that have been named for a pioneer? Will this be a viable solution or will we lose some of our history through name changes? Will adding additional names not make our addresses long and unwieldy?

Just as a reminder of how some of our pioneers and famous citizens have been honoured by having thoroughfares named after them, a random sample of such roads, streets and avenues are shown as well as the person or family for whom they were named. This list includes streets now within the City of Ottawa as well as some which soon will be. The list is by no means complete, but covers some of the more familiar Gloucester names.

In 1854, Nicol Anderson, a farmer, arrived from Scotland and settled on Lot 14, Conc. 6 OF in the area known as Cathartic, later Eastman Springs, and now Carlsbad Springs, near Leitrim Road. **Anderson Road** now reminds us of this pioneer. Braddish Billings, Gloucester's first settler, settled on Lot 17, Junction Gore in 1812. He was involved in logging and farming. Not only is the Billings Estate Museum named for his family, but so is **Billings Avenue**. The Braddish Billings property became part of the City of Ottawa following the 1950 expropriation. The Blair family resided on Innes Road, about where Ritchies Feed and Seed now stands. Its most famous son, James, was known for his inventions such as dental equipment, but perhaps for the Gloucester Historical Society he is better known for his wooden bicycle. His brother had a farm on what is now Blair Road, from whence the thoroughfare was named. Thomas Borthwick, the first settler on the ridge from the Russell Road, had a once famous Borthwick Mineral Spring just below the ridge from which he delivered water to the Capital. **Borthwick Ridge Road** commemorates this early pioneer and businessman. **Bowesville Road** was a forced road and was named after the community of Bowesville which disappeared in the 1950s when the Ottawa (formerly Uplands and now MacDonal Cartier) airport was expanded. The community was originally named for two Bowes families who were early settlers in the area.

The Carson family came from County Tyrone in Ireland sometime in the 1820's and took up land along the Montreal Road. **Carson's Road** (and Carson Grove) bears their name.

Near the Rockcliffe Airport is **Codd Road** which takes its name from Henry Codd, the owner of Lot 23, Con I, in 1863. The homes of workers in the nearby quarry were located on this lot and it was known as Rock Village. **Cummings Avenue** was named for the family of Robert Cummings, one of the founders of Janeville (later part of Eastview and now Vanier). He was also Reeve of Gloucester for ten years. Cummings Bridge also bears his name. Louis Cyr owned 300 acres of Lot 25, Conc. 3 in 1857 after he came from France. (?) **Cyr Street** in Vanier is named after him. Another Cyr family, consisting of Joseph and Michael, settled in what is now known as Cyrville. **Joseph Street** and **Michael Street** took their names from this Cyr family. **Dolman Ridge Road** derived its name from the family of John Dolman who lived there about 1880-90 and was a Justice of the Peace and Health Inspector. M. Dupuis, a soldier in the British Army during the American War, lent his name to **Dupuis Street**. The Halls were among the first arrivals, which included two Huston brothers on separate lots in the 1860s. Sidney Hall, who was born in 1890 to Alexander and Jane Hall of Eastman Springs (Carlsbad Springs), settled on 50 acres on Russell Road about a half mile from his father's farm. The side road which runs the length of the original property is now called **Hall Road**.

Gilbert Heron arrived from Cruden, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, with his wife, Janet Sheppard, and eight children, in 1834. He purchased 100 acres of land from Braddish Billings and cut a horse trail eastward from the Metcalfe Road (Bank Street), which eventually became known as **Heron Road** and, since the 1950s expropriation, is also within the City of Ottawa. In 1890 Alexander Innes settled on what is today known as **Innes Road**. He kept a tollgate at

Hurdman's Bridge and later at Russell and Smyth. John Innes of this family was reeve of Gloucester from 1931 to 1939. Among early Billings Bridge pioneers were the Kilburn family who were related to the Herons. **Kilborn Avenue** which is in the Alta Vista Area is named after this family but, according to a descendent of both pioneer families, Kilburn Heron, the name has been misspelled by using an 'o', instead of an 'u'. **McArthur Road** was named for Donald McArthur who settled there in 1833 and joined with Robert Cummings in establishing Janeville, which was named after his wife. Joseph Laporte purchased property on Lot 20, Conc 1, OF, on the Montreal Road. **Laporte Street** is named after him. **Lester Road** takes its title from the Lester family who had 57 ½ acres on Lot 11, N ½ of W ½, Conc 4, RF. This property is now owned by the National Capital Commission.

Major Street in Orleans was so called after Arthur, S.J., and T. Major, wagon makers and blacksmiths. A former mayor of Gloucester from 1984-85 lent his name to Regional Road 8 and it then became **Mitch Owens Road**. William Ogilvie came from near Belfast, Northern Ireland in 1844, purchased land east of Blair Road on what today is known as **Ogilvie Road**. This land was adjacent to that owned by the Cyr family. His grandson, William, is best remembered for his work in the Yukon as a Dominion Land Surveyor. **Olmstead Street**, currently in Vanier, takes its name from pioneer Gideon Olmstead, one of the first settlers of that area. James Sieveright arrived from Aberdeenshire in 1834 and took up residence on Lot 6, Con 4, RF. He was town clerk for many years and became the first Reeve of Gloucester. **Sieveright Street** is his namesake.

Robert Skead, a lumberman, purchased part of Lot 20 from T.H.Graham and built a residence and buildings on it. It was later sold to Robert Cummings who divided the part north of Montreal Road into 25 acre lots. The section of Blair Road north of Montreal Road was previously known as **Skead Road**. Colonel William Smyth, a Loyalist from the Mohawk Valley, arrived in 1821 to take up homesteading on Lot 15, Junction Gore, north of the present **Smyth Road**. Part of his original land is now occupied by the National Defence Medical Centre. P. Tompkins (Tomkins) was Reeve of Gloucester from 1852-1858 and again in 1867. **Tompkins Avenue** in Cumberland, was named for him. Joseph Viseneau was one of the earliest settlers of St. Joseph's (now Orleans). He was a soldier in the provincial contingent of the British Army during the American War, and is honoured by **Viseneau Street**.

These are a few of the many streets in our area which have been named after prominent Gloucester citizens or pioneers. There are others and there are also many public buildings, bridges, and districts which honour our pioneers and noteworthy citizens. Perhaps a future article could explore this a little further. If you have any information on this subject that you would like to share, please give us a call.

Source: Information has been taken from Walker, Harry and Olive "Carleton Saga" and Gloucester Historical Society family records. Data has not been verified other than to agree with records available in these sources.

Notice:

An upcoming project for the Gloucester Historical Society is the identifying and researching of material for a booklet showing the family trees of some of Gloucester Township's pioneer families.

Work will begin with information taken from family files now in the hands of the Gloucester Historical Society. At some point each family to be included in the booklet will be contacted by the Society. Any help received such as information on family genealogies, verification of dates and/or the loan of family photos will be greatly appreciated.

Additional family histories are always welcome and could be included in this, or a future book. If you are not sure whether your family's history is on file with us, just give us a call and we will let you know!

Happy New Year
by Jennifer Busato
Director/Curator
Gloucester Museum and Archives

January 3rd, 2001

Today as I was driving to work, I was struck by the realization that I no longer work for the City of Gloucester. I work for the City of Ottawa.

Last year we celebrated our 150th anniversary and prepared to say goodbye to Gloucester as a City. By sharing this experience we learned how everyone in the community today is contributing to our heritage by leaving a legacy for our future generations. We need to begin the New Year with the realization that municipal amalgamation is our opportunity to strengthen our commitment to collecting and preserving our community's identity.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mayor Claudette Cain and the members of Council, on behalf of the Gloucester Historical Society, Museum and Archives, for their support throughout the years. Through our work we will ensure that their dedication to the community will be remembered and treasured as an important part of our history.

To all of our members: We are looking forward to the new opportunities this change will bring, and as witnesses to this landmark year, I encourage you all to become involved. Volunteer your time or your memories, and join us in our work to teach others about our heritage.

Have a wonderful year,

Jennifer Busato

Robert Skead, a lumberman, purchased part of Lot 20 from T.H.Graham and built a residence and buildings on it. It was later sold to Robert Cummings who divided the part north of Montreal Road into 25 acre lots. The section of Blair Road north of Montreal Road was previously known as **Skead Road**. Colonel William Smyth, a Loyalist from the Mohawk Valley, arrived in 1821 to take up homesteading on Lot 15, Junction Gore, north of the present **Smyth Road**. Part of his original land is now occupied by the National Defence Medical Centre. P. Tompkins (Tomkins) was Reeve of Gloucester from 1852-1858 and again in 1867. **Tompkins Avenue** in Cumberland, was named for him. Joseph Viseneau was one of the earliest settlers of St. Joseph's (now Orleans). He was a soldier in the provincial contingent of the British Army during the American War, and is honoured by **Viseneau Street**.

These are a few of the many streets in our area which have been named after prominent Gloucester citizens or pioneers. There are others and there are also many public buildings, bridges, and districts which honour our pioneers and noteworthy citizens. Perhaps a future article could explore this a little further. If you have any information on this subject that you would like to share, please give us a call.

Source: Information has been taken from Walker, Harry and Olive "Carleton Saga" and Gloucester Historical Society family records. Data has not been verified other than to agree with records available in these sources.

Notice:

An upcoming project for the Gloucester Historical Society is the identifying and researching of material for a booklet showing the family trees of some of Gloucester Township's pioneer families.

Work will begin with information taken from family files now in the hands of the Gloucester Historical Society. At some point each family to be included in the booklet will be contacted by the Society. Any help received such as information on family genealogies, verification of dates and/or the loan of family photos will be greatly appreciated.

Additional family histories are always welcome and could be included in this, or a future book. If you are not sure whether your family's history is on file with us, just give us a call and we will let you know!

Heritage Month Event 2001

Title: Cemeteries of Gloucester.

Time: Sunday, February 11 from 1 to 4 P.M.

Place: Gloucester Museum, 4550 Highway 31 (Leitrim).

All welcome. Free admission.

The Gloucester Historical Society is beginning a new project to fill in the blanks in our knowledge of Gloucester cemeteries. Our large cemeteries are known, as they have been recorded and the results published by the Ottawa Genealogical Society. We still know little about our small family cemeteries, some of which have disappeared.

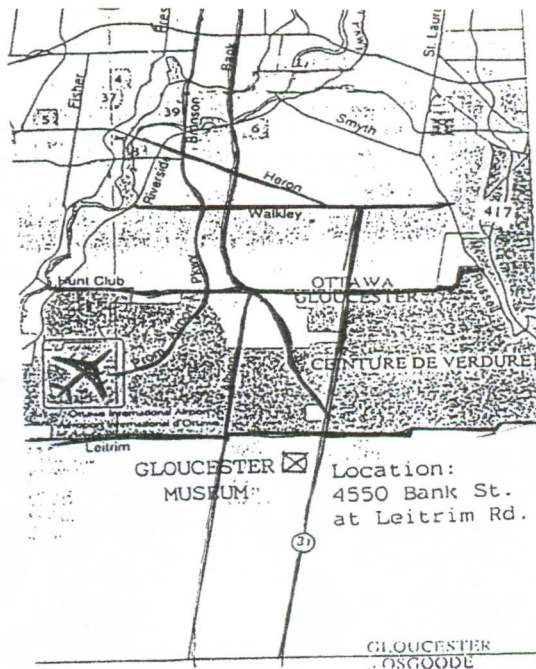
The exhibit will cover known cemeteries, large and small. At other tables will be members of the Society working on the main project. There, members of the public will be able to provide information and ask their own questions. The Gloucester Museum and Archives will also be open for public viewing.

The following Sunday, February 18, from 1 to 4 P.M., our exhibit will move to an event conducted by the Ottawa Genealogical Society in the Sussex Pavillion of the old Ottawa City Hall, 111 Sussex Drive.

Information on this project can be obtained from Mr. Neal Johnstone at the Gloucester Museum and Archives, telephone 822-2076, or from Guy Legault, 837-7334, guyhlegault@sprint.ca

**BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE
GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY:**

- A History of Gloucester Historical Society*
by Grace Johnson.....\$10.00
- Belden Map of Gloucester, 1879*.....\$ 3.00
- Billings Bridge: My Village, My Life*
by Gerard and Bernard Pelot.....\$20.00
- Blackburn-Glen Ogilvie: Centennial History*
by Anna Elliott.....\$ 2.00
- Bowesville: A Place to Remember*
by Grace Johnston.....\$15.00
- Carlsbad Springs/Ramsayville Branch East
Carleton Women's Institute 1934-1994*..\$ 4.00
- Gloucester Roots*
by Lois Kemp.....\$20.00
- Memories of the Lockstations*.....\$ 4.00
- Milk/Cream Produce-Distributors in
Gloucester 1892-1975*
by Grace Johnson.....\$10.00
- Valley Views*.....\$10.00



If you have memories of life in Gloucester or stories of schools or families from early days, and would like to share them, please give us a call. Artifacts and photographs of yesteryear are always welcome additions to the Museum. Call us at 822-2076 to talk about it!

About the wooden bicycle (see front cover) -

In 1898 James Blair, a 17-year old who lived in Gloucester on the present site of Ritchie Feed & Seed store off Innes Road, built himself a wooden bicycle which he rode all over the farm and to the Byward Market in Ottawa. This amazing bicycle is in the Gloucester Museum.

GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Phone/Fax 822-2076

Board of Directors

President	Guy Legault Ritchie	Members:	Bill King
Vice-President	Mary Patterson		Mary Boyd
Recording Secretary	Aline Majeau		Lillian Kitchen
Correspondence	Jean-Marc Jossinet		David Mackie
Treasurer	Graham Ritchie :		Jacqueline Rawes
			Joan Scott

GLOUCESTER MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Museum Administrator	Peter Brown
Director/Curator	Jennifer Busato
Chair, Advisory Board	Guy Legault

**IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP, OR IF YOU WISH TO
BECOME A NEW MEMBER, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT
IN WITH YOUR CHEQUE. STILL ONLY \$10.00 PER YEAR OR \$40.00 FOR A LIFE
MEMBERSHIP!**

-----cut-----

-----Gloucester Historical Society
societe historique de Gloucester
Membership/Adhesion 2000

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Year \$10.00
Life - \$40.00

Mailing Address: Gloucester Historical Society
4550B Bank Street,
Gloucester, Ontario
~~K1G 3N4~~ Tel: 822-2076