

HISTORIC GLOUCESTER

Quarterly Newsletter of

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

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JOHNSON'S CORNERS CEMETERY

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COVER PHOTO:

Pictured on the cover is the Johnston's Corners cemetery, just one of the old cemeteries that are still in existence throughout the original boundaries of the old Township of Gloucester. More photos and a listing of cemeteries is contained in this Newsletter.

Historic Gloucester is published by The Gloucester Historical Society and The Gloucester Muscum and Archivcs. 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 Muscum, publications available, upcoming cvents and other itcms of general interest. Comments and suggestions regarding the Newsletter are always welcome.

President's Report

The Gloucester Historical Society has lost one of its most diligent and talented members. David Mackie a long serving Board member, the builder of the Society's model buildings and an all-round volunteer, died this August. David was a well-known local farmer, who also volunteered of his time for his church, community affairs and local service clubs. Those of you who attended our presentation on the Canadian Horse in February will remember his sculptures of farm equipment and farm life on exhibit at that event. I can only express the condolences of the Gloucester Historical Society to his wife Margaret and their family, and to his many friends. May he rest in peace.

This past summer, the Society supported the Gloucester Museum in several of its activities. On the weekend of May 25-26 the Museum was part of the very successful City-wide Doors Open Ottawa. On July 28 the Museum held it's popular Klondike Days, and another on August 11 featuring our Fire Fighters. Volunteers from the Society helped Museum staff ensure these events were successful.

The Gloucester Historical Society will soon be publishing and distributing a new brochure describing the Society. We hope it will help make us better known and promote stronger support for our objectives and our activities.

We are nearing the end of another year. Already we are in the process of completing a report to the City on how we spent this year's grant money, and making a new application for 2003. We will hold another event for Heritage Day, perhaps once again something about horses. Projects, such as a booklet on local genealogy, and a more comprehensive approach to collecting oral histories are being planned. We are already lining up an interesting speaker for the Annual General Meeting. Our attendance last year was very low. Please make a point of coming out this year to support your Society. We will advise you about the AGM and the future events and activities as soon as we can firm up time/place, etc.

Guy H. Legault

PIONEER CEMETERIES OF GLOUCESTER

by Joan Scott

“Naturally the treatment of each cemetery must vary with the nature of the ground; but the architects have, in every case, done more than merely vary: they have managed to give each some touch apart and personal - so that even after one has seen between 30 and 40 in a few days, one is not conscious of a sense of duplication.”

- Rudyard Kipling

These words of Rudyard Kipling are very true of Gloucester cemeteries. There is a great diversity in these final resting places, from the fences that surround them, the trees that shade them and the tombstones that mark the graves. Some have long since been abandoned; others are neatly kept and lovingly cared for.

Last year the Gloucester Historical Society made up a display of photos taken from these cemeteries as they are today. A short description accompanied each photograph and these are reproduced here for the benefit of those who were unable to view the display. The photos are in the Gloucester Historical Society photo collection and may be viewed on request. If you have any additional information you would like to share with us regarding any of these cemeteries, we are always very happy to hear from you.

Abandoned Leitrim Methodist Cemetery -

This cemetery has only four visible stones. It is located on land once owned by the Fenton family, on the corner of Highway 31 and Analdea Drive. This small cemetery was once beside a now long demolished Methodist church. The earliest death date belongs to John Forest Fenton in 1874, this is possibly

when this cemetery was established.

Abandoned Presbyterian Cemetery -

Located near the Rideau Carleton raceway on the Albion Road, this cemetery is one of the oldest in the township. In 1840 John Johnston donated one half of his lot for a church and cemetery to be adjacent to his house. The church has long disappeared, and the land is now the property of the race track. There are a couple of tombstones still visible.

Abandoned Union Cemetery -

This cemetery can be found on route to Long Island Locks, off the River Road. It contains about 20 stones, and was once part of a Presbyterian church. The north half of the lot was occupied by Presbyterians, and the south half was occupied by Anglicans. Also part of this cemetery was washed away by a flood, and there are no records of the washed away tombs.

Beechwood Cemetery -

Located not too far from Notre-Dame cemetery on St. Laurent Boulevard, the 185 acre site was purchased from New Edinburgh founder, Thomas McKay in 1872, with it's first burial in 1873. Beechwood cemetery is the final resting place for many important names in history, like Gloucester's own William Ogilvie. Beechwood has recently been named as a National Cemetery.

Billings Family Cemetery -

This cemetery contains probably the earliest burial in Gloucester, dating back to 1820. It has 140 stones, and the last burial took place in 1961. The cemetery is located on land adjacent to the Billings House and is now the Billings Estate Museum. This cemetery was the final

resting place for many of the Billings family and their close friends.

Freeman Cemetery - Once referred to as “the dearest spot on earth” by family members, this cemetery began as the Freeman’s private cemetery and later was used as the last resting place of other Bowesville residents. The land, on Lot 15, Conc. 3 Rideau Front, was purchased by John Freeman in 1839 and occupied the southwest corner. Most of the bodies were moved to the Pinecrest cemetery in 1950-51, during expropriation for the airport. There were 65 stones.

Hope Cemetery - This is not, strictly speaking, a pioneer cemetery as it was established in 1989. It is, however, mainly an extension of Notre Dame cemetery in Vanier. It was named after the Hope family who lived on this land for the majority of the 20th century.

Hopkins (private) Cemetery - Not far from the cemetery stood the family farm house “Maple Shade”. In 1960 when William E. Hopkins died, the estate was sold and the area soon became known as “Beacon Hill.” This cemetery has now been lost in the bowels of suburbia, but the bodies were moved to the Pinecrest Cemetery around the same time the estate was sold. Only a cluster of townhouses stand in its place now.

Johnston’s Corners Community Cemetery - The cemetery at Johnston’s Corners has taken on the responsibility of two churches which are now extinct. These include the Presbyterian church by the racetrack, and the Union church which was just off the River Road, in 1925. Established in 1880, the first burial took place in 1885.

Long Island Locks Methodist Cemetery - Established in 1858, just off the River Road

on the Rideau Road lies the old Methodist Cemetery. The church has long disappeared, and the manse is now a residential home. All records of the church and this cemetery have perished. Left behind are the stones to help us remember the ones who remain.

Moodie Cemetery - This cemetery is possibly one of the last private family cemeteries left in Gloucester.

Notre Dame Cemetery - Located in Vanier at the corner of Montreal Road and St. Laurent Boulevard, it was founded in 1872 and is maintained to date. In 1989 the cemetery expanded to include a new site under the name Hope cemetery, on Bank Street. In Vanier one can see Sir Wilfred Laurier’s tomb at the entrance off Montreal Road.

Our Lady of the Visitation - Nestled behind the church of the same name on highway 31 in South Gloucester, one will find Our Lady of the Visitation Cemetery. It was established in 1848, having the first burial in 1849. The majority of the people buried there are from the Osgoode township and South Gloucester, and most are of Irish descent. This cemetery is still being maintained.

Ramsayville Cemetery - Located just off the Base Line Road (now Ramsayville Road), this cemetery was founded between 1860 and 1862 when volunteer settlers cleared about 1.5 acres to bury their loved ones. The land was eventually bought from James Johnston on June 7, 1867. This cemetery is associated with the Bethany United Church, which was erected in 1871. This cemetery has 270 stones and is still maintained.

St. George’s Anglican Cemetery - Located in Hawthorne, this cemetery was established along with the church in 1886. The land was donated by a Mr. McEwen. By 1936 the

cemetery was showing signs of neglect, and the reverend at the time began to landscape it and now it is kept in very good condition. In 1980 it had a recorded 223 tombstones.

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery - Located in Orleans, the first cemetery for this church was, in 1849, located on the corner of Notre Dame and Belcourt. The present cemetery which lies adjacent to the church was established in 1893, later expanding to include the older cemetery in the 1920's. Today it exceeds 500 stones.

St. Laurent Roman Catholic Cemetery - This cemetery can be found in Carlsbad Springs, just behind the church. It was established on land owned by the Eastman's between 1882 and 1886. There are 158 identifiable stones, and it is still maintained.

St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Cemetery - Located right beside its church in Blackburn, this relatively small cemetery has 47 stones. The land was donated by Richard Dagg in 1878 and the cemetery was established in 1879.

St. James Abandoned Anglican Cemetery - Located at the corner of Highway 31 and Leitrim Road, this cemetery was in use prior to 1880, or until the Wood's cemetery was established. The land was donated by David Cowan, whose parents later were buried there. At some time between 1880 and the late 1950s most of the bodies were transferred to Wood's cemetery. It is rumoured that people buried in unmarked graves may still remain behind the church.

St. Thomas/St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Cemetery - This cemetery is located on Albion Road near Bank Street. From around 1900 to 1963 it was associated with St. Thomas Aquinas Church at Billing's Bridge.

Since 1963 to the present it has been linked with St. Bernard's Church in Blossom Park. It has 108 stones and is still maintained.

United Jewish Community Cemetery - The origins of this cemetery are unclear since there are no written records of its history. It is believed that it began somewhere between the late 1890s and the early 1900s. It was the cemetery of both the Agudath Achim and Adath Jeshrum Synagogues in Ottawa. In 1954 these two synagogues closed and decided to join Beth Shalom. Now the cemetery is divided between three owners - Beth Shalom with 60% of the land; Machiziki Hadas with 25% and Agudath Israel with 15%. It contains 14 acres of land and about 60% of it is contracted for.

Wood's Anglican Cemetery - Located on Bank Street beside the Jewish Cemetery, it was established in 1881 on land donated by the Wood's family. This cemetery is associated with St. James Anglican Church in Leitrim. It has 76 stones and is still maintained.

As far as we know, these are the cemeteries which exist, or did exist, within the boundaries of the original Township of Gloucester. There may be others, private burial grounds, which have been abandoned or forgotten over time. These cemeteries are an important link to our heritage and a lasting reminder of those who went before us. We should ensure that these cemeteries are given the honour due them.

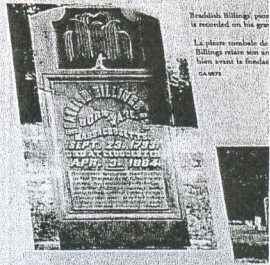


Resting in peace

The first recorded burial on this little hillside was in 1820. It was that of Mrs. Berry, mother-in-law of the well-known Bytown tavern keeper Isaac Firth. About 140 others followed, all told, with many families from the Billings Bridge community represented here. The earlier deaths, particularly, were testament to the epidemics, rugged life, and rudimentary medical care of the day.

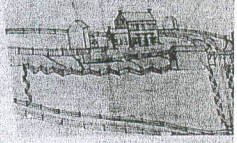
An adjoining area, which had been a sheep pen, was added to the graveyard and devoted to Billings family burials. After her mother's death in 1879, Sally Billings beautified this area after the fashion of the day with ornamental plantings and a decorative strap iron fence—still intact, as you can see—so that it became a place to stroll in quiet, respectful contemplation.

Burials no longer take place here, the last being in 1961. Though close to the clamour of the city, the graveyard nevertheless remains a leafy haven.



Strap-iron Billings fence as recorded on his grave.

La plaque commémorative de Billings relate son mariage avec sa mère, avant la fondation du cimetière.



COUNCIL OF HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS IN OTTAWA
CONSEIL DES ORGANISMES DU PATRIMOINE D'OTTAWA

by Rick Strong, Vice-President, CHOO/COPO

CHOO/COPO is a not-for-profit umbrella organization providing active and effective networking for Ottawa's heritage community. Incorporated in 1992, CHOO/COPO has been committed to preserving and celebrating diverse local community identities. The current membership of 63 organizations embraces both official languages.

Ottawa's heritage community pursues heritage objectives through their work with heritage buildings, cultural landscapes, local history, ethnic cultural activities, archaeology, genealogy, collections, museums, "Friends" organizations, archives and others.

Find out more at the CHOO/COPO web site: www.choocopo.ca or by e-mail at admin@choocopo.ca.

**CHOO/COPO Board Members and New Officers
confirmed at the April 30, 2002, Annual General Meeting.**



L-R: Francoise Malbouef *Treasurer*; Brian Beaven, *Past-President*; Paule Doucet, *President*; Rich McDonald, Kelly Harrison; Guy Legault, *Secretary*, Irene-Anne Lacroix, Richard Strong, *Vice-President*.

Ongoing Projects at the Gloucester Museum

There have been a number of improvements to the Gloucester Museum over the past five months. Various projects including building repairs, an inventory of the collection and an evaluation of registration documentation have occurred.

There were numerous physical problems with the building that houses the Gloucester Museum collection. The building has been deteriorating over a number of years. This past summer we were fortunate to receive Greg Holmes as the new Facilities Supervisor for the East District of Real Property Asset Management (RPAM)

Listed below are some of the improvements to the site outlined by Greg Holmes:

1. The first issue was to resolve the water leakage in the artifacts room. The City of Ottawa roofing official has looked at the situation and confirmed that the roof is not leaking and that it is a structural problem. The assumption is that the water is coming into the building from the front entranceway where cracking has occurred on the concrete. We are monitoring the situation and will rectify as soon as we verify the problem.
2. RPAM staff has a maintenance schedule for this facility. Regular cleaning has been dictated to the Museum areas throughout the week.
3. Garbage has been picked up regularly from the site depot box.
4. Outdoor lighting needs have been addressed ensuring safety.

5. The mechanical room has seen the HVAC unit receive new life for heat and cooling purposes within the Museum space.
6. Gallery lighting has been improved as well as the lighting in the Museum space improved with lenses and bulbs where applicable.
7. All storage areas have been cleaned up to meet Fire regulations and the Fire Alarm panel has been checked.

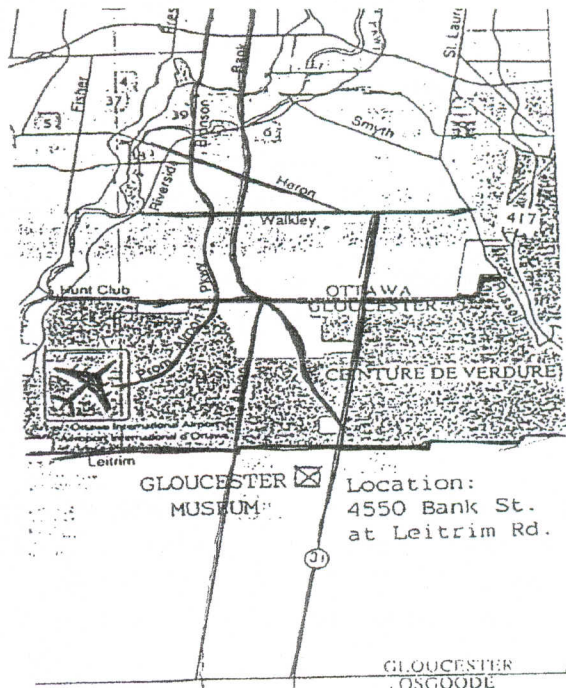
Greg Holmes and I would like to thank the following employees for their combined efforts to improve the home of the Gloucester Museum: Craig Campbell, Les Childs, Al Clement, Steve Jordan, Alan McDonald, and Matt Poirier.

The artifact collection at the Gloucester Museum is also receiving some attention from a new volunteer and a number of students. Volunteer Janet Jancar is working to improve our book collection. She is reviewing and updating documentation for the book collection and after examining the condition of the books she will be creating enclosures for those in need. We also have four students on placement from the Applied Museum Studies program at Algonquin College working on an inventory project. They are Jason Boudreau, Myriam Godin, Susanna Presutti, and Robin Sokoloski. These students are conducting an inventory of the physical collections as well as reviewing the documentation associated with each individual artifact. By accomplishing this project we will be able to create an updated location guide to the collections as well as useful statistical information about the collection.

*Olga Pluviati, Collections Officer
City of Ottawa Museums*

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

- A History of Gloucester Historical Society*
by Grace Johnson.....\$2.00
- Belden Map of Gloucester, 1879*.....\$5.00
- 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/Ramsaywille 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 can be seen in the Gloucester Museum.

Board of Directors

President	Guy Legault	Directors:	Denise Amyot
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GLOUCESTER MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Supervisor/Curator	Deborah Scott
Collections Officer	Olga Pluviati
Education Officer	Anik Despres
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!

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Membership Form -Gloucester Historical Society/Société historique de Gloucester

Membership/Adhésion 2002 - \$10.00 for one year..... \$40.00 for life membership.....

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

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