



HISTORIC GLOUCESTER

Quarterly Newsletter of
The **GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
and The **GLOUCESTER MUSEUM and**
ARCHIVES

VOLUME 5 NO. 2

SPRING 2004



Gloucester Historical Society New Logo

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	Guy Legault	1
Antoine Robillard and the Gloucester Quarries.....	Robert Serre	2
Memories of Carlsbad Springs.....	Mary Patterson	3
Books Available From the Society.....		7
Membership Form.....		8

COVER PHOTO:

For many years the Gloucester Historical Society has used the wooden bicycle (see page 7 for explanation of its significance) as its logo. It was felt that it was now time to have an official logo designed which would incorporate the bicycle with other important aspects of the old Township of Gloucester. R. N. Strong, Graphic Designer, was commissioned to come up with a design and the logo shown on the cover is the result. This design was approved at our Annual General Meeting.

The colours of the logo are yellow and green, the colours of the Gloucester Historical Society. The green is the part below the word 'Gloucester' and represents a ploughed field, complete with furrows.

Historic Gloucester is published 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.

Gloucester Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa.

President's Report

Our recent Annual General Meeting was a roaring success. We ran out of chairs, meaning that at least 60 people were in the South Gloucester Seniors' room of our building on Sunday April 18, 2004. The attraction was Donald Whillans, who presented the results of his research to date on his family's history, centered on the family farm which stretched from St. Laurent Boulevard to the River Rideau where the current Queensway is now situated. He came complete with his own fan-club, many of them former residents of areas along the Tremblay Road. And to this stew, add Flo Ladd's people from nearby Overbrook and Ben Stafford's crew from Hurdman's Bridge. The talk proceeded somewhat wildly, as Donald called on people from the audience to fill in blanks, and challenged them to write their family histories, or he would do it himself. Thus, over the course of a perfectly ordinary Sunday in April, Donald's long due text for a book on his family history went flying out the window. He received so much new information that he is starting it again. Good luck Donald, and many thanks from us all...

At the AGM we also talked a lot about money. It's not that our Society needs so much to operate, but the situation at the City was looking bad until mid-March. I am pleased to report that we have since received all of our annual grant of \$2,500.00 from the City. But, the situation of the Museum is also worrying, and even though it too has been spared the axe for now, we continue to be concerned about understaffing and the lack of programs to promote it. We discussed this issue at the AGM, and although we all agreed that something needs to be done, we concluded that this action had to come from the City. Your Board of Directors will keep abreast of this issue, and hopefully will be able to encourage the museum managers to make improvements soon.

Another point that needs further debate is our own mandate. Our most successful speakers lately have all dealt with family histories, covering only a small section along the Rideau River from Billings Bridge to Vanier. And now a new member, Robert Serré is about to publish a book on The Quarries area of the Montreal Road. Perhaps, as was tentatively mentioned at our last board meeting, we should consider a more formal approach to family history by writing it into our Constitution. For instance, we could become the Gloucester Historical and Genealogical Society. After all, we were once the Gloucester Historical Society and Museum. Having divested ourselves of the responsibilities of maintaining a museum, we should be able to encompass genealogy as part of our mandate of "Preserving and Promoting the History of the former Township of Gloucester". What do you think?

Finally, don't miss our new event on October 24, 2004 at 2 p.m. at the Gloucester Historical Society, 4550 Bank Street, (Seniors' Centre). Robert Serré will be presenting his research on The Quarries, and we will be selling his new book..

Respectfully yours,
Guy H. Legault

ANTOINE ROBILLARD AND THE GLOUCESTER QUARRIES

by Robert Serré

Antoine **Robillard** was born in 1797 at St. Eustache, northeast of Montreal. He was the son of Joseph Robillard and of Josephte Vézina, who had been married in 1789 in Terrebonne, north of Montreal. Joseph belonged to the fourth generation of Robillard families in America. His great-grandfather, Claude Robillard, whose origin remains unknown, had married Marie Grandin around 1672 in Champlain, east of Trois-Rivières on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River.

Antoine Robillard married Émilie Lauriot in Terrebonne on October 4, 1819. Émilie was the daughter of Augustin Lauriot, a native of Normandy, and of Hyppolyte Beauchamp, born in Lower Canada. Antoine was a stonecutter, and he was hired to work on the Rideau Canal. Construction of the canal had begun in 1826, and after it was opened in 1832, Antoine decided to settle in Bytown. He brought Émilie and their first children from Montreal, and eventually he became a prominent contractor and property owner in Lowertown.

Antoine Robillard's name first appeared in the assessment rolls of Gloucester Township in 1839 (lot 23), and when the 1861 Census was taken, he was living at the Quarries, in a stone house, with Émilie and three of their children.

Antoine retired from active business soon after that. He and Émilie had had at least eleven children, including a daughter Virginie, who married Herménégilde Lafleur in 1860.

Herménégilde was the father of my maternal great-grandmother.

Antoine Robillard died in Ottawa in January 1884, and Émilie died in December of 1893, but their sons Honoré and Alexander had taken over the family's operations at the Quarries. Later on, Honoré's son Bruno took over the business, and three of Bruno's sons (Matthew, John and Henry) maintained the family tradition at the Quarries well into the twentieth century.

(I am preparing a small book on the Gloucester Quarries, with special emphasis on about eighty families that were associated with them in the nineteenth century. My e-mail address is belser@magma.ca)

MEMORIES OF CARLSBAD SPRINGS

by Mary Patterson

I want to tell of the beginning and development of Carlsbad Springs as I have read in various books and manuscripts. I don't want to present this story as being "gospel." It has not been fully researched and I will be happy to be corrected by anyone who knows the truth. It is just a beginning, a teaser, to stir interest and memories.

Settlers arrived in this area about 1840 and it wasn't long before it became obvious that "Village of Cathartic" was an appropriate name for the settlement. The native indians certainly knew of the healing waters and the surveyors had likely felt its effect. Lot 3, Concession 7, was deeded to the Canada Co. from the Crown in October 1846. Charles Billings, a son of the well known Gloucester family, bought this property from the Canada Company in 1847. He held the land for 17 years, an early entrepreneur, but didn't develop it in any way. He likely made a good dollar on his investment when he sold it to Dan Eastman in 1864. The next month an official plan for the Village of Cathartic was registered. There were 25 lots - main street was Russell Road. Minion Street ran parallel north of Russell. Way Street and North Streets ran north and south. Fred Way built a cottage on the bank of the brook near the spring and Dan Eastman built an hotel or stopping place with stables to accommodate travellers on the stage from Montreal to Ottawa. These were the only inhabitants of the village at that time. Later it became known as Eastmans Corners or Eastmans Springs.

By 1867 Ottawa was the capital of Canada and things were booming. Dan Eastman recognized the potential for profit

from these travelers. He built a relaxing spa, offering hot mineral baths in a wooden shed directly over the mineral springs. The water was pumped into a wooden tank, heated, and guests were happy to relax in the health bath and shake off the dust of their travels. This stopping place was near the site of the later Boyds Hotel. It was the first of many hotels at Eastmans Corners.

In 1902 a group of medical doctors who knew of the likeness of the waters to that of the hot mineral springs in Carlsbad, Czechoslovakia, suggested the name be changed to Carlsbad Springs. It then became the Village of Carlsbad Springs.

In 1895 there were 200 inhabitants in the village. There were 2 stores; a tanning factory; a baker; blacksmith shop; sawmill; post office; health spa; 2 hotels; 2 cheese factories; a carriage shop; telegraph office; 2 schools; a dance hall - largest in the area; a harness making establishment; a railway; and several businesses involving game for sale, firewood, timber, railway ties, animal pelts, and ships knees. Some village!

But settlers were also moving into the surrounding countryside. James Forsythe had come from Scotland and settled near North Gower. He bought land from the Canada Company in 1849 and moved his family to the bend of the Russell Road where Orville Shaw later lived. Peter Childs came about the same time and built a shanty near his friend. James Tierney had come from Ireland to Nepean and some time before 1855 he cleared a lot and built a home just west of Forsythe. William Hall had come from Northern Ireland to Gatineau and in 1855 he cleared a lot and built a home just west of

Forsythe. William Hall had come from Northern Ireland to Gatineau and in 1855 moved to Gloucester and built a log shanty on the bank of the creek.

These shantys were roughly built with axes and broadaxes and in really dense stands of tamarack and pine., There is a story of Michael Tierney busy skidding logs to a central place when he accidentally hitched to the rough end of a log which was actually part of the foundation of Hall's shanty. The horse gave a mighty pull and furniture and utensils inside the house began to fly. The place was well shaken, but fortunately old "Duke" was trained to "whoa" and Hall's home stood firm that night. Henry Hull lived just across from Halls. James Tierney found the land unproductive and he moved about a mile east of the springs and build a cottage on the north side of the road. This home was built to resemble the cottages in Ireland with the roof extending over the verandah. It is thought the first Roman Catholic mass was held in this house in 1858.

Before there was any church building the Roman Catholics were part of the parish of the Basilica in Bytown. This great church was built by the lumbermen. It is not likely they were able to attend often in person because of the difficulty of travel but they made valiant effort to be there for Easter Communion. A priest from Cyrville came about once a month to houses of the settlers. The Roman Catholic settlers put a high priority on a consecrated building for worship and they soon built a log chapel at the corner of Church Road and Townline on land given by Moses Charlebois. But the Bishop didn't like it. It was not in the centre of the parish and there was not enough land for a cemetery. It served the Catholic community for 15 years but they say it was

never consecrated. The people started over and built another pine chapel on land given by Mr. Jean Baptiste Manard. This building is described as being utterly beautiful. It had no paint and the smell of natural pine and cedar gave an air of sanctity which remained until 1895 when the present church of St. Laurent was built.

The Protestants belonged to congregations at Taylorville or Hawthorne but when the Forsythe School was built in 1867, they held services there. The Presbyterians met in the morning and the Methodists in the afternoon. St. Davids Presbyterian Church was built in 1883 at Farmers Corners. It was served by the same minister and trustees as the sister church at Ramsayville. Another Presbyterian church was built on Way Street in 1888. It changed to Methodist and then to the Union Church. The congregation of St. Davids joined with Ramsayville in 1960 and the building was demolished. The Union church was closed about the same time and the building "bit the dust" about 1966.

About 1855 French speaking families arrived in the area. Philippe Zavier Brousseau, Dennis Laporte and the Larmond brothers bought farms side by side on the north side of Russell Road. Woodcutters came from Gatineau and there are fabulous tales of their strength and endurance. Joe Latour, Joe Lavictoire, Daniel Stewart and many more. They said Joe Latour could cut with an axe three cords of wood every day all winter. Their diet was bread and beans. No need for salad or quiche!

They were working for James Boyd, Matthew Collins, William Hueston and Charles Parham who had vigorous flourishing businesses in wood to the Ottawa market. The Bearbrook was then a river

capable of floating logs to Mosgrove Mill - to be sawn into lumber for the building of Bytown. James Boyd also had a smaller sawmill in Carlsbad Springs. A lot of hardwood was hauled on sleighs for the furnaces of Bytown. They also sold hardwood for the wood-burning steam engines of the Canada Atlantic Railway. The long, tough, gum-filled roots of red and white pine were roughly fashioned to "ships-knees." These were shipped to Nova Scotia and used to form the "ribs" in building fishing boats.

The Canada Atlantic Railway steamed into Eastman Springs in 1883 and prosperity was rampant. Men were working - building track and cutting ties - lumber sawed at Boyd's mill was being shipped for sale - tourists were arriving and the mile long siding was a busy and exciting place. The Springs attracted the world of society and sport, including Sir John A. Macdonald and many prominent citizens of Ottawa.

There was a race track and traveling medicine shows, camp meetings and Chataqua gatherings. Boyds had lawn bowling, archery and croquet and a magnificent New Years Eve party. Two hundred guests came in formal dress, by train, cutter and two sleighs of Cunningham livery from Ottawa. Each sleigh carried fifteen couples.

Tourists came to take advantage of the three week health programme at the spa. The society was well balanced, work, religion, culture and pleasure.

There is some mention of a settlement south of Eastmans Springs called "The Ring" which had been known in early days as "The Greenwoods." We believe this may be close to the area south of

Carlsbad Springs and east of Piperville where the Prestons and Browns and Patterson and Harrisons bought land and settled. There is a story of a stand of beech trees in the primeaval forest which stood out among the pine and tamarac and spruce and may have contributed to the name "Greenwoods."

James Preston was one of the first farmers on the ninth line. He had come from Ireland to Quebec to Gloucester and in 1887 his friend Colin Patterson - my husband's ancestor - bought a farm from D.J.Graham. This was already an operating farm and is where we live now, on Hall's Road. Colin Patterson was born in Ireland and emigrated to the Eastern Townships of Quebec where he learned the blacksmith trade. He had a flourishing business at Franklin Centre, Quebec, when his doctor advised him to look for a healthier lifestyle. He and his wife Mary Jane and three young sons moved to the clean air and long hours of farming on Hall's Road. We presume he may have seen starvation looming and it wasn't long before he hung out his shingle and was again in the blacksmithing business. His enterprising wife opened a general store attached to the old log house. The combined business must have been lucrative because we have many old documents of loans and mortgages to neighbours. We have no records of the farming operation being successful or profitable. The sons, David, Archie and Charles were all self-employed. They also cut and sold wood but Colin seemed to buy standing timber and he never did clear his own land. About 100 acres had never been cleared when it was sold to Ontario Housing in 1972. The Pattersons got their mail at Piperville P.O. from 1892 to 1914 when that post office was closed. The boys went to Piperville School which had been built at the corner of Farmers Way and Ninth Line in 1875.

Railroads had an enormous influence on communities and when the New York Central Railway built the line from Ottawa to Cornwall in 1899 the Patterson enterprise was moved to Edwards. The competition must have been heavy because it didn't seem to "take off" there. David Patterson continued some blacksmith work until about 1940.

Some people today may still have a clear memory of "Phillips" Bakery. The bread wagon in summer or sleigh in winter was a familiar and welcome sight on the roads from Sarsfield to Morewood. From eight to ten 100 lb bags of flour were used each week and the baker delivered as many as 20 loaves to one family in one week, at five cents a loaf.

The ruins of the old bakery are on the ninth line on the farm most recently owned by Jim Monahan. The first baker was John Phillips and the bakery was on Leitrim Road at the corner of Russell Road where Mike Phillips' house was later. We don't know the exact date but we do know Rene Phillips was born there in 1901. The business was taken over by John Phillips II, but the building burned down in 1912. A replica of the old bakery was built on the ninth line and bread and buns were produced there until 1942 when John Phillips died.

The bakery was a large room built of 3" plank with vertical siding and cedar shingles. There was a long trough along one side 8 ft to 10 ft long where the dough was mixed by hand. It was left to rest, kneaded and left to rise again before it was formed into loaves and put into the greased pans. The pans were left on a table 16 ft by 18 ft to rise one more time before they were put into the oven. Another batch would be mixed immediately to be ready for the oven when

the first loaves came out and this happened every Sunday and Wednesday.

The oven took up one entire wall of the bakery. The baking chamber was 16 ft by 18 ft, entirely brick lined and encompassed with a poured concrete wall and insulated with 18" of sand. The steel oven door was chest high to make it easy for a man to put the loaves in and take them out again, with a long-handled paddle. There was a swinging peephole in the door to check for "doneness." It required an experienced eye and there was no thermometer. A great cupboard was along one wall where the bread was put to cool when it came from the oven. They made bread and raisin buns and at Christmas every customer got a pan of raisin buns as a gift with the regular order. The church had a great community picnic on July 1st and families brought their pots of beans to be baked in the oven at Phillips Bakery.

The rise and fall of Carlsbad Springs is an exciting and interesting story. Help us get it together and written for our children.

DON'T FORGET!

October 24, 2004, 2 p.m. at the Gloucester Historical Society, 4550 Bank Street, Ottawa (Seniors' Centre). At this event Robert Serré will be presenting his research on The Quarries, and his new book will be on sale.

**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

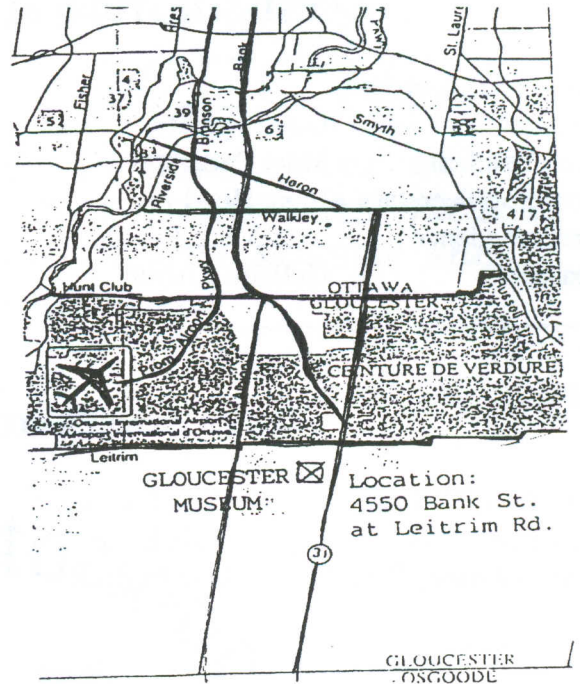
*Carlsbad Springs/Ramsayville Branch East
Carleton Women's Institute 1934-1994..*\$ 4.00

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 can be seen in the Gloucester Museum.

GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Phone/Fax 822-2076

Board of Directors

President Guy Legault
Vice-President Mary Patterson
Recording Secretary Mary Boyd
Correspondence Jean-Marc Jossinet
Treasurer Graham Ritchie

Directors: Denise Amyot
 Ed Kirk
 Florence Ladds
 Aline Mageau
 Jacqueline Rawes
 Joan Scott
 Robert Serré

GLOUCESTER MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

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!

-----cut-----

Membership Form - Gloucester Historical Society/Société historique de Gloucester

Membership/Adhésion 2004 - \$10.00 for one year..... \$40.00 for life membership.....

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

Mailing Address: Gloucester Historical Society
4550B Bank Street,
Gloucester, Ontario
K1T 3W6 Tel: 822-2076