



# *Historic Gloucester*

Quarterly Newsletter of

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

VOLUME 5 NO. 3

FALL 2004



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*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.

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

*The Board of Directors of the Gloucester Historical Society  
wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy  
New Year.*

## President's Report

The Gloucester Historical Society has lost another of its most active members. Patricia Leduc always kept a low profile, but she was a frequent volunteer and always ready to help at a moments notice. In this edition Denise Amyot writes about her good friend. We will greatly miss her.

We had another great event on October 24<sup>th</sup> when Robert Serré made his presentation of the "Pioneer Families of the Gloucester Quarries in Eastern Ontario". An enthusiastic audience was what we wanted, and that we got. Some of them provided their own memories of the Quarries to share for the enjoyment of all. Later, refreshments organized and presented by Aline Mageau were most welcome, and gave us all further opportunities to exchange information about the Quarries and other recollections.

Our October event is now the fifth in our series about Gloucester communities. We have had two sessions dealing with Hurdmans Bridge, one concerning Billings Bridge and another which dealt with all four villages along the Rideau River from Billings Bridge to Cummings Bridge. What we have learned from this is that most of those attending are people from the subject areas who want to share their memories with others. Many in attendance are active in genealogical research, or have some family history to recount. We seem to have found a great subject area, our villages and local families. Please help us find more speakers who can tell us about their corner of Gloucester History.

Our next event will likely coincide with Heritage Day, which is always the third Monday in February. The date of our particular contribution has not yet been selected, but it will be on one of the Sundays in that month. Meanwhile, have a happy Christmas and do continue to support Gloucester History in the New Year.

Respectfully yours,

Guy H. Legault

## BLOSSOM PARK

By Joan Scott

The area known as Blossom Park was apparently first surveyed in 1911. Its first owner, according to Bower Boyd, is said to have been Nelson Graburn who owned the post office in the old town hall at Billings Bridge. The land was thought to be no good, but Nelson did manage to make a few dollars when he resold it.

At one time Blossom Park was the site of the Cullen Farm. Other families living in the area included Backs; Davidson (Davidson Road); Eccles; and Patterson. The Patterson land bordered the Hunt Club Road, east of Bank Street and east of the Severight property. The Pattersons were well known for their excellent garden produce. The Woods family lived on Woods Lane off Albion Road, and now known as Daoust after the Daoust Lumber Co. He sold 37 acres to John Goth, (Goth Avenue) in 1926. Goth farmed the property until the 1950's when he started to sell small lots off the property and concentrate on his horses. The subdivision Quail Ridge is part of that land, but his red brick home is no longer there. John Goth was the son of Robert and Mary Ann Goth, born in a stone house at HWY #31 and Rideau Road, Gloucester. After marriage in 1903, he farmed in Nepean and Leitrim and then, in 1926, bought the Blossom Park land from Hiram Wood (son of the man who gave land for the Anglican Wood's Cemetery).

Descendents of Alexander Boyd have lived in Gloucester since 1845 when he and his wife, Elizabeth Spragg settled on the River Road in a log cabin. His son, Samuel, married Catherine Ellen Spratt, and

Albion now stand. Samuel's son, Russell farmed on the Albion Road, near Bank, on the west side. Bower Boyd, another son of Samuel, had a farm where the K-Mart Plaza was later located and, because of the bush and black muck on much of his property, raised sheep. Potter Boyd lived in a red brick house that later became the headquarters for a riding academy on the Albion Road. Some of his land was sold to the National Research Council.

The Conroy property was on the west and east sides of the road now known as Conroy Road on Lot 6, Con. 7, Rideau Front. John Conroy and his wife, Anna Vera Rothwell, of Lanark County, settled on the farm. They had four children: Melville, born July 11, 1918; Clifford, born February 12, 1920; Doris Noreen, born October 27, 1921; and James Harold, born August 10, 1923. After forty years on the farm the Conroys sold the land to the National Capital Commission and moved to the city. Severight's Hill is north of the Presbyterian Church and is where the family farm was located. James Severight, son of George, became the first Reeve of Gloucester in 1850. In 1925 the Spratt Family bought the property and opened a large gravel pit on what is now Severight Road on the east side of Bank Street. James Spratt willed his property to his son, Howard. Bower Boyd's grandfather was Samuel Spratt. His other grandfather, Alexander Boyd, was married to Elizabeth Sprogg (or Spragg), and they came from Ulster, Ireland. Alexander Boyd died in 1889, aged 68, and Elizabeth Sprogg died in 1895 at age 73, and they are buried in

Manotick. Alexander Spratt is believed to have died in 1900 at 63 years of age. Some of the Spratts are buried in the cemetery near Johnston's Corners but it is not certain if this is the same cemetery that is located on the Spratt property on Albion Road. The sons of Samuel Spratt were: William, Andy, Richard and Howard. The daughters were Lizzie, who lived in Chicago, and Jane.

There are a number of cemeteries in the Blossom Park area. The Jewish Cemetery on Bank Street is still open and is the main burial grounds for the Ottawa Jewish Community. A new Roman Catholic Cemetery, Hope Cemetery, just opened in recent years. Both are located on Bank Street. The Wood's Cemetery is also on Bank Street, north of the Quail Subdivision. The property was given by Leonard Wood who owned the land in 1881. It is known as St. James Anglican Cemetery as it was connected to the church of the same name in Leitrim. The stones indicate that majority of the people buried there came from England, Scotland and Ireland. This cemetery is still open for burials. Another cemetery is St. Bernard's Roman Catholic, located on the Albion Road at the entrance to the Sawmill Creek Pool. It opened in 1890 and, although isolated from any church, it was originally connected with the St. Thomas Aquinas R. C. Church at Billings Bridge, but in the 1960s was transferred to St. Bernard's parish. Many of the early names on the stones are, therefore, of French origin.

Although Sawmill Creek was a gushing, overflowing rush of water in spring, it took many turns and twists from south of the Albion Road to the Rideau River. It was not, however, named for the sawmill on the Daoust Lumber Co.

Property, but rather for the sawmill which was operated by Bradish Billings at Billings Bridge where the creek emptied into the Rideau River.

According to Grace Johnston, the Blossom Park area was thought to have been an orchard at one time with delicate plum blossoms in May and pink apple-blossoms in June, and thus the name "Blossom Park." In 1911 approval was given by Gloucester Council for a subdivision on the north half of lot 9, concession 4, Rideau front, owned at that time by the Bytown and Suburb Land Co. Ltd. The motion, according to the minutes, was "moved by R.J.Smith and seconded by A.Spratt, that by-law No. 20 of 1911, now read approving of plans of 'Blossom Park' be passed. Carried.."

The land in the subdivision contained property bounded on the north by Rosabella, on the south by Queensdale and from the Albion Road on the west through to the Conroy Road on the east. Queensdale was formerly Lawrence Street, Kingsdale was Central Boulevard, while Rosebella retained its original name. Streets which crossed these main ones were 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>. Some of these now have new names and some of them have disappeared completely. A chronology of significant events pertaining to the area follows:

1918 - Howard Spratt opened a gravel pit exactly behind the spot where the library is situated.

1927 - Presbyterian Church was built on Highway 31.

1939 - NRC establishment on Albion Road at Queensdale appeared.

1940 - Tiny bungalows were erected for

workers in the NRC (now part of Aladdin subdivision).

- 1948 - Aladdin Drive-In Theatre opened.
- 1952-58 - Building boom in Blossom Park
- 1955 - St. Bernard's R.C. School built.
- 1956 - Blossom Park Public School built.
- 1957 - St. Bernard's R.C. Parish established.
- 1960 - St. Bernard's R.C. Church erected.
- 1965 - St. Bernadette R.C. School built.
- 1970 - K-Mart Shopping Plaza built.
- 1972 - Mini-library progressed
- 1974 - Blossom Park Public Library opened in K-Mart Shopping Plaza
- 1976 - NRC bungalows demolished and new Aladdin homes subdivision started.
- 1976 - Sawmill Creek Pool opened.
- 1978 - Bridle Path was opened to join with Hunt Club Road.
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- 1981 - Becomes part of new City of Gloucester
- 1982 - Opening of Edward D. Jones Branch of Gloucester Public Library at 2721 Bank Street on front of Howard Spratt's old farm - Jan 30, 1982.
- 1982 - Bytown Lumber opens.
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- 1986 - Alta Vista Veterinary Clinic opened south of Presbyterian Church.
- 1986 - Becker's Store opens on the east side of Bank Street near Queensdale.
- 1986 - Mary's Inn, a well-known restaurant on Bank Street at Hunt Club, closed.
- 1986 - Quickie Store opens
- 1988 - Victoria Heights area established.
- 1989 - Hunt Club Road is linked up to Bank Street.
- 1990 - Gloucester Presbyterian Church demolished.

Sources: *Gloucester Roots* by Grace Johnston and GHS Files

**February is**

**Heritage Month**

**Watch for an exciting Heritage**

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her research, at workshops, in schools and as a speaker. In short, Patricia Leduc was for the francophone community a monument of pride, knowledge, devotion and accomplishment towards those who worked in the realm of genealogy and Franco Ontarian heritage. The Provincial Government and the City of Ottawa presented her certificates of merit for her unflagging volunteerism.

It is impossible for me to pass in silence our great personal friendship over a period of thirty years. Together we shared the same zeal for the history of our country and for genealogy. Together we participated in the celebration of all the heritage events conducted in the City of Ottawa.

I will miss her greatly. I count on her spiritual presence to guide me in all of my future decisions – she was not only my friend, but also my mentor, and a spiritual guide, a sister, a confidante.

Sincerely  
Denyse Amyot

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### **Some Interesting Things You May Not Know About Carlsbad Springs**

By Mary Patterson

Kitty– An Algonquin Indian lady lived in a tepee - east of Carlsbad Springs - until 1888, when the neighbours built a little house for her in Vars.

Dan Eastman was buried at Hawthorne in 1885.

Father Magnon was the first priest of St. Laurent Parish.

Alex Hall and Jack Hueston threshed for \$3.50 to \$4.00 per day for machine, team of horses, and two men.

Thomas Tierney owned the first horse rake in 1885.

Alcide Laporte, child of Dennis Laporte, was the first burial in St. Laurent Cemetery.

Have you ever heard of the train burning at Carlsbad Springs in 1887?

Leo Paimont was the first French-speaking teacher in Carlsbad Springs.

Dennis Laporte got a new Moody threshing mill in 1890. Antoine Laporte and his uncle Baptiste were the operators.

John Orr was the first cheesemaker.

James Boyd owned the first binder. It was a “Patterson” binder, very heavy and clumsy.

Matthew Collins and Moses Charlebois bought “Moody” reapers in 1886.

Joseph Beauchamp, blacksmith and Harry Eddrige, carriage maker, had their business opposite Way Street.

Have you heard of the baseball team which played against Bearbrook and Navan in McGovern’s field?

Have you ever heard of Miss Margaret McArthy, a blind organist, who gave music lessons?

**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

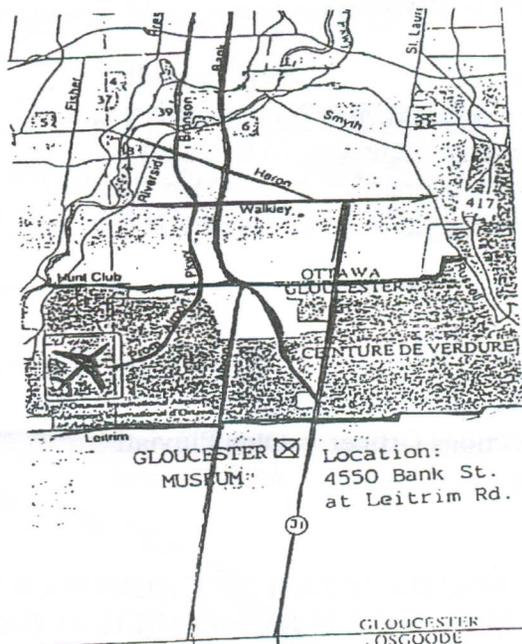
*Gloucester Roots*  
by Lois Kemp.....\$20.00

*Memories of the Lockstations*.....\$ 4.00

*Milk/Cream Produce-Distributors in  
Gloucester 1892-1975*  
by Grace Johnson.....\$10.00

*Pioneer Families of the Gloucester Quar-  
ries in Eastern Ontario*  
by Robert Serré.....\$15.00

*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 addi-  
tions 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 even 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	Directors:	Denise Amyot
Vice-President	Mary Patterson		Ed Kirk
Recording Secretary	Mary Boyd		Florence Ladds
Correspondence	Jean-Marc Jossinet		Aline Mageau
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			Joan Scott
			Robert Serré

**GLOUCESTER MUSEUM & ARCHIVES**

Collections Officer	Olga Pluviati	Chair, Advisory Board	Guy Legault
Education Officer	Anik Despres		

**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/Adhesion 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