



Historic Gloucester

Newsletter of the

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

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Cover Photo:

June 18, 2005 was a special day at St. James' Anglican Church, Leitrim because it was a day of dedication. Glenn Clark's new parish history was blessed a a document to the service and witness to God's presence at St. James since it's beginning in 1853. Also, the Frank and Elizabeth Lawlor Garden was dedicated. In the photo are, from left, Chris Collin, Bishop Peter Coffin, Frank Andrew Lawler, son Rowan and wife Ann, Rev. Pat Coulombe.

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.

Presidents Report

I hope everyone had a nice summer. Society members attended BIFHSGO's fall event and will have a table at FestivARTS on November 4th at Place d'Orleans shopping centre.

Thanks to an invitation by the St. James Parish Council a talk sponsored by the Society will be held at St. James Anglican Church on Sunday October, 29 at 2 p.m. Glenn Clark will give a talk on his book about St. James Anglican Church and the Leitrim area.

We are still working the website but things are moving along as we now have our domain name. We will be notifying our members as soon as the site is open.

Soon we should have a re-edited version of our brochure out.

The museum remains closed but Drew Oliver from the Billings Estate has been working on a project that sees him at the Gloucester Museum Collection site for at least two and often more days a week.

We continue to deal with queries received from those looking for information on their genealogy and the history of Gloucester. Which leads me to an important issue. You will note elsewhere in this newsletter that we are again making a plea to our membership for volunteers; and to anyone else interested in the continuation and growth of the Society, to consider volunteering a little of their time. There are many areas of interest, so please give it some thought and consideration. If you know of anyone you think might be interested in volunteering suggest they give us a call and leave a message at 613-822-2076.

Mary Boyd
October 2006

Rideau Canal Waterway

Celebrating 10 years of presenting the Rideau Canal to the world! Its web site www.rideau-info.com/canal/history/hist-canal.html provides wonderfully written and richly informative articles on many facets of the history of the Rideau Canal co-ordinated and often written by Ken Watson to whom emails may be sent by accessing any of the articles and clicking on his name at the end of an article. Since 1966, Watson has run a non-commercial Internet website all about the Rideau Waterway.

...reprinted from *The Historical Society of Ottawa News*, September 2006

Bishop's Visit was a Special Event at St. James' Leitrim

by Glenn Clark, People's Warden, St. James' Leitrim

Bishop Peter Coffin made his annual visit to St. James' Leitrim on Sunday, June 18th 2006. This was not to be a typical visit by the Bishop at this small parish.

As with every other parish, St. James' has lost some beloved parishioners over the last few years and also celebrated the milestone of its 150th Anniversary in 2003. This initiated a number of projects to celebrate and remember our past and those we have loved and who have kept little St. James going over the years.

The Bishop's visit this year was a perfect opportunity to bring these projects to a conclusion and to have the Bishop bless and dedicate them for the parish. Planning began in 2001 when a garden was slowly created behind the church on the site of the churchyard cemetery. All evidence of the cemetery had disappeared many years ago and the Parish Council was very conscious that some acknowledgement of its presence was needed.

With the 150th anniversary in 2003, it was decided that the church's history needed to be updated. This led to an intensive study of the early days in an attempt to clarify St. James' rather mysterious founding. In the 1956 book *Faith of Our Fathers*, it was admitted "there are no detailed records of the early history of the church in Leitrim".

June 18th proved to be a perfect day for a celebration. It was a sunny but hot day. Visitors were expected from as far away as Tampa, Florida and Seattle, Washington. Unfortunately, the recently installed air conditioning was no match for a church filled beyond capacity but it did help on a day that would have been otherwise intolerable. In the planning stages, the Parish Council was very conscious that we could not

advertise this event because of the limited seating capacity and to make sure that there would be space for those specifically coming for the dedications.

Bishop Peter Coffin led a service of Holy Eucharist assisted by our own Rev. Pat Coulombe. Archdeacon Christopher Dunn was also in attendance. At the end of the service, the new St. James History Books were presented for blessing. This was followed by a procession into the churchyard where the Bishop blessed the Frank and Elizabeth Lawler Garden by unveiling a newly installed garden sign. The garden was dedicated to the service of the late Canon Frank Lawler and his wife Elizabeth at St. James from 1987 to 1993 and who remained as parishioners after retirement.

The Bishop then unveiled and blessed a beautiful new bronze plaque in memory of those buried in the churchyard including church founder David Cowan. Ten descendants were present for the unveiling as well as descendants of 19th century Warden, John Henry Murphy also buried on site. Two trees were blessed including a crabapple tree planted to the Glory of God and in memory of Lottie Blake, former Blossom Park school teacher, dedicated member of St. George's Hawthorne and long-time supporter of the St. James' Ladies Guild and a magnolia tree planted in memory of W. Allan Gregory who was a regular parishioner at St. James in his later years and a former Warden at St. Thomas the Apostle, Ellwood. Family of Lottie Blake and Allan Gregory were present for the celebration.

This was followed by a lunch in the garden served by the Ladies Guild under colourful umbrellas and on the newly installed garden benches. This was certainly a day to be remembered by all those in attendance.

The new 373 page history books are now available from St. James or the Gloucester Historical Society for \$40.00 plus shipping. Orders may be placed by e-mail at

stjames@saintjamesleirim.com or by telephone at (613)739-9796. The book contains hundreds of colour and black and white photos, maps, and several charts. There is also considerable genealogical information relating to 19th century Gloucester Township and a detailed record of the associated Wood's Cemetery.

A very gracious lady was mailing an old family bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments," she answered.



Descendents of the Church founders, David Cowan, from left: Marvin McCaul, Eleanor Cowan, Cara Green, Eldon Green, Muriel Drew (standing), Adam Jamieson (crouching), Graham Cowan, Christine Cellucci, Pamela Jamieson, Erin Jamieson.

The Gloucester Historical Society Needs Your Help!

by Joan Scott

The Gloucester Historical Society strives to keep the memories of Gloucester Township alive. This is done in a number of ways - by promoting, and publishing, books on the early life of Gloucester; by assisting interested persons in researching their families or their connections to Gloucester; and by providing access to Gloucester's Municipal Records and Gloucester Historical Papers, which are contained in the Gloucester Branch of the City of Ottawa Archives.

The Society's office at present is not manned on a routine schedule because of lack of volunteers. Calls are being missed because sometimes people are reluctant to leave a message when no one is in the office to take the call. The Society urgently needs volunteers interested in reference work in heritage and/or genealogy to staff the Grace Johnston Room on a regular basis.

Volunteers are needed, too, to assist with special events, staffing tables at historical or genealogical conferences, locating speakers, and to add their ideas and abilities to the work of the Society. If you would like to help out, even if it is only occasionally, please call our President, Mary Boyd at 613-822-2076. If she is not there, leave your name and phone number and she will get back to you. Everyone has gifts and talents which they can use to help others. Why not use yours to help the Gloucester Historical Society!

The Gloucester Historical Society wishes to thank Bob Kemp for his untiring efforts to help the society by selling our Nevada tickets at his gas station on Bank Street and Leitrim Road. The proceeds from the sale of these tickets help to finance such things as this Newsletter, purchases of equipment for use by the society. Thank you Bob!

About the wooden bicycle -

The wooden bicycle is an integral part of the logo of the Gloucester Historical Society. This bicycle was built by James Blair, a 17-year old who lived in Gloucester on the present site of Ritchie Feed & Seed Store off Innes Road, in 1898. This enterprising young man rode his wooden bicycle all over the farm and even to the Byward Market in Ottawa. This amazing bicycle can still be seen in the Gloucester Museum.

***Gloucester Historical Society/
Societe Historique de Gloucester***

Presents

***“The Pioneer Church of St. James and the Community of
Leitrim that it Served”***

***A discussion o the history of the church, the community of Leitrim and why
the church was located there.***

by

Glenn Clark

**Place: St. James Church, 4540 Bank Steet at Leitrim Road
(additional parking available at 4550 Bank Street)**

Date and Time: 2 pm Sunday, October 29, 2006

Glenn Clark is a long-time member of St. James Church. He has just published a 373 page history of the parish in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Church. This book contains many beautiful full colour photographs as well as stories of many of the pioneer families of the Leitrim area.

Publications Available From the Gloucester Historical Society:

- Blackburn—Glen Ogilvie—Centennial History 1887-1967*** **5.00**
Compiled and Edited by Mrs. Anna Elliott
An informative story history of that area of Gloucester.
- Bowesville: A Place to Remember*** **15.00**
By Grace Johnston
Tells the story of Bowesville and area up until the time
Bowesville disappeared when expropriated to build the airport.
- Families pionieres des Carrieres de Gloucester dans l'Est de
L'Ontario*** **10.00**
A Robert Serre
- Families pionnieres de Cyrville (Canton de Gloucester)*** **8.00**
A Robert Serre
- Gloucester Memories*** **5.00**
By Mel Rowat
Some memories of Gloucester Township.
- Gloucester Roots*** **20.00**
Compiled and edited by Lois Kemp
Articles that appeared in the "Roots" column of the
Gloucester Leader.
- Memories of the Lock Stations*** **4.00**
Compiled and Edited by Grace Johnston
Stories of Long Island, Black Rapids, Hog's Back and
Hartwell's Locks, by Mel Rowat, Camilla (Balcombe)
Forbes, Aletha (Dale) Davidson and Palmer Slack.
- Milk/Cream Producers—Distributors in
Gloucester 1892-1975*** **10.00**
Compiled and edited by Grace Johnston
This book is about the dairy industry in Gloucester

Publications (continued)

Pioneer Families of Cyrville (Gloucester Township) 8.00
By Robert Serre
About the pioneer families of Cyrville.

Pioneer Families of Glen Ogilvie (Gloucester Township) 8.00
By Robert Serre
About the early families of Glen Ogilvie

Pioneer Families of the Gloucester Quarries 10.00
By Robert Serre
A history of the Gloucester Quarries and the pioneer families that settled in that area.

The Story of the First English Church of Gloucester Township 40.00
By Glenn Clark
The history of St. James Anglican Church, Leitrim, 150 years in God's hands - 1853-2003

1879 Belden Map of Gloucester Township 5.00
From 1879 Belden Atlas of Carleton County
The map shows who owned each lot in 1879 as well as the location of roads, churches, schools and interesting features of the township during that early time.

Idle Thoughts of a Retired Person

I planted some birdseed. A bird came up. Now I don't know what to feed it.

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't buy happiness.

Experience I the thing you have left when everything else is gone.

One nice thing about egotists: They don't talk about other people.

The cost of living hasn't affected its popularity.

What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?

Gloucester Historical Society - Phone/Fax 613 822-2076

Board of Directors:

President: Mary Boyd
 Vice-President: Mary Patterson
 Recording Secretary: Robert Serré
 Correspondence: Jean-Marc Jossinet

Directors: Glenn Clark
 Bob Kemp
 Ed Kirk
 Aline Mageau
 Shirley McCooeye
 Joan Scott

Gloucester Museum & Archives

Collections Officer/Curator: Olga Pluviati
 Education Officer: Anik Despres

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

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Membership Form—Gloucester Historical Society/Société historique de Gloucester

Membership/Adhésion 2006—\$10.00 for one year..... \$40.00 for life membership.....

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

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