



Historic Gloucester

Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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Original Home of Pioneer William Ogilvie

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Cover Photo:

William Ogilvie, one of the founders of the settlement of Glen Ogilvie, built this clapboarded old log house for his family. It was demolished to permit construction of a four-lane thoroughway and overpass at Cyrville (now known as Highway 417 or "The Queensway"). The St. Laurent Shopping Centre now covers most of the site of the old homestead.

William Ogilvie was also an explorer, surveyor and administrator in the Yukon during the famous gold rush days.

Photo from the "Carleton Saga"

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.

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

Editor's Comments

The Gloucester Historical Society would like to know what you, as members of this organization, would like to see the Society do for you. We would like to become a more active and vibrant body working to keep the history of the former Township of Gloucester alive. To do this we need the help of all of you who are interested in the stories and memories of life in Gloucester. There are many ways in which this can be done.

If you have a story to share you can write it out—don't worry if you are not a writer, we will edit it for you - or we will be happy to do an interview with you and record what you have to say. As you are probably aware, several times a year we have a speaker come to talk on some particular area of Gloucester, or some family or business. If you would like to do this, please get in touch with us to discuss it.

You may wonder what exactly the Gloucester Historical Society does. Well, as well as having meetings, having guest speakers, putting out this newsletter which, incidently, is beginning its 8th year of publication, we also publish books on various topics of interest to the people of Gloucester. In addition, members of the Society attend various historical or genealogical trade shows and events such as Heritage Day. At these functions we have publications for sale and we share information with many people who have an interest in Gloucester or its pioneer families.

A new website—www.gloucesterhistory.com—is now fully operational and offers a great deal of information about Gloucester, about the Society, and some interesting facts from years ago. Glenn Clark has done an excellent job of setting up this website and displaying a lot of very interesting information and you can read about it in this issue. Please be sure to check out this great website!

Volunteers are always needed. If you would like to spend some time helping out in the Grace Johnston Room assisting researchers, helping with recruiting new members, attending historical society functions on behalf of the society, providing stories or topics of interest for our Newsletter, or in any number of other ways, please let us know. Our president, Mary Boyd, is always happy to hear from members. As well, if you have any comments, suggestions or submissions for the Newsletter, please feel free to contact us. There is a contact email address directly on the website, or you may phone the Gloucester Historical Society Office at 613-822-2076 and we will return your call.

If you would like to make a donation to the Gloucester Historical Society, we would be happy to provide you with a charitable tax receipt. We hope you enjoy this Newsletter and we would love to hear from you!

Joan Scott

Gloucester Historical Society Launches Website

by Glenn Clark

Remember this address:

www.gloucesterhistory.com

This website provides a new more accessible public face for the Gloucester Historical Society. It is a work in progress but already contains considerable information about the Society and the history of the former Gloucester Township including those parts that had been annexed by the City of Ottawa over the years.

With municipal amalgamation taking place in 2001, it is more important than ever to record the history of the old townships that surrounded Ottawa. Gloucester's history, although certainly related to Ottawa's history, is not identical and we must be certain that not only Ottawa's "city" history is preserved but also that of the rural and suburban areas immediately adjacent. There are many stories to be told about those little rural villages, that once dotted the township and the farming districts that they served. The stories of the suburbs that gradually replaced the rural villages also need to be written down. If we don't record it, it will be lost forever.

The website includes the usual sorts of information, such as contact information for the Society, upcoming events, membership and links to other local websites, which may be of interest to local historians and genealogists. In addition, we have listed the publications that are currently available for sale through the Society, and the resources, which are accessible in the Society's reading room.

Most importantly, we are gradually adding information on the history of the township and we plan to add more historic photographs as time permits. Already appearing on the website is a complete listing of the township reeves and mayors since 1850. We have also listed many

Gloucester place names, with a link to a historic map that shows where those place names are located. Many of those names have now been largely forgotten. We are also developing a Gloucester history time line, which includes information on political, transportation and other changes in the township over the years and other events that might be of historic interest.

We invite you to look over the information that is currently on-line, but please come back. More information will be added. We also invite your feedback about the content of the website.

The Gloucester Historical Society encourages everybody to share the history that you know about Gloucester. We always welcome stories, copies of photographs and artifacts. If you know of an event that might be added to our time line history on the website, we welcome your e-mail, telephone call or letter. Our new e-mail address is english@gloucesterhistory.com or for French inquiries; français@gloucesterhistory.com.

Did You Know That Years Ago...

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all were the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

The wealthy had the slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway, hence the saying a "thresh hold."

The poor had dirt floors, hence the saying "dirt poor."

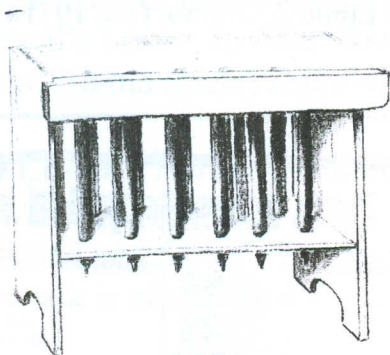
Candle Making of Long Ago

By Joan Scott

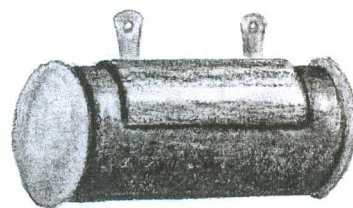
Today many people like to have a number of candles on display throughout their home. Some are scented, some are colourful, and many are highly decorated. Candles on the table at dinner time are said to provide "ambience." But for our ancestors, candles were not for ambience, they were a basic necessity once the sun went down.

Early settlers obtained the fat from pigs which were slaughtered in the fall. This was rendered down to make lard, but beef or mutton fats were used to make tallow for candles. It was not an easy job, stirring the large iron pot over an open fire, usually well away from the house because of the unpleasant smell which permeated the air for some distance. Lumps of fat were thrown into a pot of water and as they melted and rose to the surface, the tallow was skimmed off and strained through a piece of cloth in a colander. In this way the fat was separated from any solid or fibrous matter and was then ready for making candles.

There were two method of making the candles. The earlier method was to use twisted cotton cords, short lengths of which were tied at intervals along straight sticks or metal rods. The cords were then dipped into the tallow, then raised and suspended, sometimes between the backs of two chairs, until the tallow began to solidify. Then they were lowered again and raised as to get



Candle molds with wooden frame
S. Norwich Top. Collection - Oronoko.



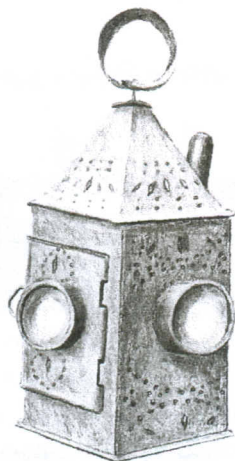
Candle box. Oronoko Museum.

hot or too cold it would not adhere to the cord properly, the candles might crack, or the various layers might not bond together and thus the candle would not burn as it should. When properly done this method produced good, durable candles.

Later, moulds were used to make candles. This required a blacksmith who also worked as a tinsmith, to make a mould, which was a tube of thin sheet metal tapered slightly from top to bottom with a sharp tapering at the top to form a cone. Six to twelve of these tubes were fastened together and secured top and bottom with metal frames, or occasionally wooden frames. Wicks were threaded through the holes at the base, securing them there with knots. The carefully centered wicks were fastened to sticks at the top to hold them in place and the melted tallow was poured into the moulds and allowed to cool. The moulds were dipped in cold water and then the candles were removed by means of the sticks to which they were still fastened.

Candles were stored in metal Candle Safes or Boxes with lids to keep them away from mice, rats, weasels and other animals who considered them edible. Tallow candles gave off an unpleasant smell and they tended to droop in a warm room, causing dripping and a guttering flame. Sometimes beeswax or alum was added to the tallow to strengthen it, but these were rare among settlers and difficult for most to obtain.

Spermaceti wax from whales became popular until it was replaced by Stearine wax



Barn lantern (candle)
1862.

There was a variety of candle holders such as a metal tube fastened to a saucer-like base to ones with polished reflectors to our modern candle sticks of brass or silver, many of which are now very expensive. For outdoor use, such as working in the barn or going from one building to another, candle lanterns were used. Some lanterns were designed so that the heat from the burning candle would draw air from around them upwards to an outlet or chimney at the top, thus drawing the flame higher and giving a brighter light. Sometimes the bottoms of round bottles were used as lenses, and this would spreading the light beam similar to using a magnifying lens. Lanterns came in all shapes and sizes - round, square, three-sided, tall, short, etc.

When log cabins began to be replaced by larger homes, chandeliers were constructed to hold many candles. Some had reflectors and glass prisms which increased the amount of light. Candelabras also become popular because by that time the smelly tallow candles were no longer being used.

So, the next time you use a candle for "ambiance" remember how the humble candles of the early settlers lit up their lives - and sometimes smelt it up too!

Source: Milnes, Herbert, *Settler's Traditions*, The Boston Mills Press, Cheltenham, ON, 1980

Victoria Sulphur Springs Hotel

Back in the 1880's and 1890's there was a very popular hotel on the Montreal Road known as the Victoria Sulphur Springs Hotel. The proprietors were H. F. Brading and E. W. Hillman, and it was operated in conjunction with the race track which was called the "Dominion Trotting Park." The location of this race track can be seen on the Belden Atlas Map of 1879. The Victoria Sulphur Springs Hotel also took advantage of the nearby sulphur springs, adjacent to Green's Creek.

According to the "mast head" on one of the register pages, the hotel consisted of a three storey building with a wide verandah all around the ground floor. Its rates were \$1.00 per day for ten days or more, and sulphur baths could be had at 50 cents each or a dozen tickets could be purchased for \$5.00.

The hotel was very popular during the summer months and people came from all over the continent to enjoy its facilities. On Sunday, August 7, 1887, for example, there were 59 guests registered. On the registration lists for 1889 there was one John Christie from California, a Miss Alma Prudhomme from Boston, Maine, W.W. McDoval from Nebraska, Bill Muldoon from Belfast, and Miss Hickey from Kentucky.

By the early 1990's, however, patronage began to fall off. Perhaps the new Russell Hotel in Ottawa was the reason.

Source: Walker, Harry and Olive, *Carleton Saga*, The Runge Press Limited, Ottawa, ON, 1971

BRADING & HILLMAN,

Victoria Sulphur Springs Hotel

TERMS:
10 DAYS OR OVER,
\$1.00 PER DAY.

SULPHUR BATH, 50 C
TICKETS:
\$5.00 PER DOZEN.

H. F. BRADING,
141 Wellington Street, Ottawa.

C. W. HILLMAN,
14 Riverside Ave.

MONTREAL ROAD, OTTAWA, ONT.

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 Serré
About the pioneer families of Cyrville.
- Pioneer Families of Glen Ogilvie (Gloucester Township)*** **8.00**
By Robert Serré
About the early families of Glen Ogilvie
- Pioneer Families of the Gloucester Quarries*** **10.00**
By Robert Serré
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.

I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

The irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humour, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign—"Energy efficient vehicle: runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

Aspire to inspire before you expire!

Gloucester Historical Society - Phone/Fax 613 822-2076

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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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