



# *Historic Gloucester*

Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

[www.gloucesterhistory.com](http://www.gloucesterhistory.com)

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Spring 2010



*St. George's Cemetery, Hawthorne*

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THE GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
IS HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE  
THAT ITS HISTORY ROOM IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
EACH THURSDAY FROM 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
BETWEEN MAY 6 AND OCTOBER 28, 2010

LOCATION: 4550B BANK STREET (AT LEITRIM ROAD)

FOR MORE INFORMATON  
Contact Robert Serré at 613-749-0607 // bob.rosealine@gmail.com

**Cover Photo:**

*The photo on the cover is St. George’s Cemetery on the Russell Road as it appears today.*

**Historic Gloucester** is published by The Gloucester Historical Society. 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.*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The Gloucester Historical Society is looking forward to a busy year. On the first Thursday of May, the **Grace Johnston History Room** will again be opened to the public, at the corner of Bank Street and Leirim Road. Each Thursday from May 6th until October 28th, researchers will be welcomed in the History Room from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with one or more Board members on hand to help them find information on the history of Gloucester Township, its communities and its families.

Our Society is currently preparing a special finding aid. It will be called **Gloucester Place Names and Community Profiles**. This book will include every place name used in the township since the arrival of its first pioneer, Braddish Billings. Every settlement, hamlet, village, subdivision and residential complex will be described under its name. At present, there are 181 names in the database, starting with Alta Vista and ending with Windsor Park Village. Some descriptions, such as that for Clandeboye, occupy five lines, while others, for example the profile for Billings Bridge, fill 85 lines. If everything goes well, a precious reference tool will be published in 2011 for the present and future generations of researchers, genealogists and historians.

There is a feeling of renewal within our Society these days, and we are welcoming new faces. Guests are attending Board meetings to make a presentation, or to get a glimpse of what we are trying to accomplish. It is a pleasant time for me to be the chief elected officer of a group of people interested in their ancestors and the history of their community.

Robert Serré

## The Gloucester Historical Society

presents a lecture on

### “Looking Back at the Pioneer Days of St. Joseph (Orleans)”

In Celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Orleans

by Robert Serré

Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 2:00 pm

The Gloucester Senior Adults' Centre,  
Earl Armstrong Arena  
2020 Ogilvie Road, Gloucester

Free Admission



The Annual General Meeting will be held this day and light refreshments will be served.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF HAWTHORNE IN GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP

by Robert Serré

Hawthorne was located in the northeast corner of the Rideau Front in Gloucester Township, but it also included some families at the western edge of the Ottawa Front. It was a rural community, situated nine miles southeast of Ottawa, along Green's Creek and the Russell road. The first settler, C. Law, arrived in 1832 [Carter 1984]. Another pioneer was Gordon Green, who settled at the intersection of the old Heron (later Walkley) and Russell roads [Johnston 1991 p. 68]. The great fire which occurred in 1865 was talked about for as long as residents who had witnessed it were still around. It destroyed the rest of the standing timber in the settlement, and very few buildings survived [Lillico 1958]. On 5 November 1870, A.F. Graham, son of Archibald Graham and Mary Ferguson, purchased lot A in the sixth concession of the Rideau Front. On this property the Graham family established a residence, a store and a hotel [NCC].

Originally, the Russell road may have followed an Indian trail [Ashley 1979]. It ran south from the Montreal road, along the Rideau river, turned southeast a short distance past Hurdman's Bridge, continued across Gloucester Township to the settlement that became Carlsbad Springs [Collins 2003], and stretched through Russell Township and all the way to the St. Lawrence River [IHACC].

Before the first school was built, a Mr. Pushman went around the homes of the settlers, for a week or two at a time, and taught groups of children. In 1859, a small log school house was built, on land owned by George Green, just east of the Russell road and south of the old Heron road. At that time, the community was known as **Green's Corners**. A new, more modern school building was erected below the hill around 1870. In 1899, a third school was built, by John Alexander, on higher ground purchased from James Borthwick. It was a one-room brick structure, located on the south side of the old Heron road just west of the Hawthorne road. Miss Heron was the first teacher, having been the last teacher in the former school. The school in Hawthorne came under public school section #16 [Miller 1955, Lillico 1958, Friesen 1975, Johnston 1991 p. 48].

The first Orange hall was a small log building which stood on a sandy knoll a short distance behind the house of T. Dempsey [Lillico 1958]. A second hall was erected in 1865 by the Orangemen. It was destroyed by fire on 11 December 1903. A third Orange hall was built in 1905 by John Alexander. It was a one-room brick structure, located on the south side of the old Heron road just west of the third public school [Miller 1955, Friesen 1975, Ladds].

The first St. George's Anglican church in Hawthorne was a log structure, built in 1864 [Jefferson 1957]. In 1886, Wilson Brothers started building a new church on the Russell road north of the previous church. It was a brick structure, and was consecrated in 1888, as was the adjoining cemetery [Lillico 1958, Baird 1980, Johnston 1991 p. 86].

A post office was opened in Graham's store, under the name Hawthorne, on 1 December 1873, and the community's name changed from Green's Corners to Hawthorne. The first postmaster, H.F. Graham, served until 1902 [NCC, Carter 1984, ArchiviaNet].

The Methodists held church services in the old school house at first, and then, in the 1880s, in the Orange hall. The nearest Methodist church was at Billings Bridge, and the Methodist circuit there had outside appointments at Bowesville and Leitrim. People in Hawthorne arranged for the minister to conduct Sunday services in their community, after his other regular services. The first minister to do so was Rev. Samuel Shibley. In the summer of 1892, a Methodist church was built by John Alexander, on property bought from Robert Norton, south of the old Heron road and west of the Russell road. It was a wooden structure, with a red-brick veneer and an outside porch, resting on a three-foot stone foundation with no basement. The church was dedicated on Sunday, 29 October 1892 [Miller 1955, Lillico 1958, Friesen 1975].

In 1877, the Ottawa, Montreal and Russell Consolidated Road Company bought a five-mile section of road from the city of Ottawa, at the corporation limits beyond Cummings Bridge, on the Russell road, and macadamized it. The company then started charging toll, at Cummings bridge and at the intersection of the Russell road and present-day St. Laurent Boulevard [Miller 1955].

The driving force behind the growth of Hawthorne was the railroad. The community was located on the main line of two railways: the New York and Ottawa, and the Canada Atlantic [Carter 1984, Wackley 2000]. A railway station, named Hawthorne Station, was built in 1900 [Lillico 1958]. The converging rail lines were switched at Hawthorne to allow for the use of a single track into Ottawa through Hurdman's Bridge. The Canada Atlantic, which ran between Ottawa and Montreal, did not stop in Hawthorne. This line later became the Grand Trunk, and later still Canadian National Railways. As for the New York and Ottawa, its train did stop in Hawthorne to pick up and drop off passengers and goods [Wackley 2000]. The track switching centre was located east of the Russell road, and was called the diamond [Johnston 1991 p. 95].

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*A golfer teed up his ball on the first tee, took a mighty swing and hit his ball into a clump of trees. He found his ball and saw an opening between two trees he thought he could hit through. Taking out his 3-wood, he took a mighty swing. The ball hit a tree, bounced back, hit him in the forehead and killed him.*

*As he approached the gates of heaven, St. Peter asked, "Are you a good golfer?"*

*The man replied, "Got here in two, didn't I?"*

*The police are called to an apartment and find a woman holding a bloody 5-iron standing over a lifeless man. The detective asks, "Ma'am, is that your husband?"*

*"Yes," says the woman.*

*"Did you hit him with that golf club?"*

*"Yes, yes, I did..." The woman begins to sob, drops the club, and puts her hands on her face.*

*"How many times did you hit him?"*

*"I don't know—five, six, maybe seven times—just put me down for a five."*

## The Fair of 1829

Now, reader, you and I must start  
 Together with both hand and heart,  
 Off to the far-famed level of green,  
 Which once in verdure lay between  
 The old Scotch Kirk, and where now Hall  
 Confectionery sells to all;  
 And we shall pass as something new,  
 Old scenes before us in review,  
 And I shall fire up these rhymes  
 With battles of the good old times;  
 And out of what I shall relate  
 No single case for magistrate,  
 Of stern judge to adjudicate  
 Arose, for then, a bloody nose,  
 Or broken head, between fair foes,  
 Was counted neither loss nor gain,  
 Nor thought of 'till they met again,  
 'Twas in glorious olden time  
 When smashing craniums was no crime –  
 When people got no invitation  
 At half-past nine for presentation  
 Of damaged eye and broken skin,  
 To answer for nocturnal sin  
 Before that tribunal where bail  
 Can't always keep one out of jail  
 'Twas in July in '29  
 If true this memory of mine,  
 At early morn upon that green  
 Were many tents of canvas seen  
 Within which might be found good cheer  
 In whiskey kegs and kegs of beer;  
 And on a little table, too  
 Tin measures were exposed to view,  
 For thirsty souls their clay to slake,  
 And draughts of inspiration take –  
 For then the numbers were but few,  
 Who shun'd the sparkling mountain dew,  
 And people under no pretence  
 Could dream of total abstinence;  
 Even John B. Gough's most magic sway  
 Had failed in Bytown's early day  
 Vast was the throng assembled there  
 At Bytown's first and greatest fair.  
 And merry were the antics seen  
 Upon that famous green.

Upon that famous green.  
 'Twas not to buy or sell they came  
 From far and near, the blind and lame,  
 The grave, the merry, sad and gay,  
 Upon that old eventful day;  
 They all assembled, wild and free,  
 To have a ranting roaring spree!  
 And, by the shadows of the past;  
 Frolic flew furious and fast,  
 And many a head was pillowed on  
 Old mother earth ere set of sun.  
 A fiddler here the catgut drew,  
 And there a Highland piper, too.  
 Shrieked forth with loud and stirring bag,  
 The bolding battle-notes of war  
 And lavishly the whisky flew  
 Among that mirth devoted crew,  
 As oft into the tents they ran  
 To renovate the inner man.  
 'Twas twelve o'clock, and all was well  
 "And merry as a marriage bell."  
 Though one might see just here and there  
 Legs seeming some what worse of wear,  
 And in the air perhaps might hear  
 The prescient sound of conflict near  
 For Irish accents there were many,  
 Cork, Tipperary, and Kilkenny.  
 'Twas afternoon, and frolic's pacing  
 Was then diversified by racing.  
 Then soon was cleared of busy feet  
 The race course, old Wellington street,  
 Bets there were made, and up the money.  
 Pat Ryan's horse, and Davy's pony.  
 Together entered for the match –  
 Perhaps it would be call a "cratch"  
 Race in the turf's expensive phrase  
 Unknown in Bytown's early days.  
 Fair, free and gallantly they started,  
 And headlong up the street they darted,  
 While loudly sounded cheer on cheer  
 As swift the winning post they near  
 They ran together without check,  
 And passed it almost neck and neck,  
 So close, the judges, though they tried.  
 The winning horse could not decide  
 The race was o'er and down the brakes,  
 Each party shouted for the stakes;

The winning horse could not decide  
 The race was o'er and down the brakes,  
 Each party shouted for the stakes;  
 And loud and fierce the clamor rose,  
 And words soon lost themselves in blows;  
 The very stones began to speak.  
 And skulls, of course, began to break,  
 And blackthorns and maple sticks  
 Played such fantastic ugly tricks,  
 That soon the well thronged battle plain  
 Was strewn with bodies of the slain –  
 The "Kilt", who fell to rise again  
 Without the doctor's mystic aid.  
 And plunge once more into the raid.  
 Stones flew in showers, the windows shook  
 Around that famous Donnybrook.  
 While Tipperary's battle yell,  
 Did loudly o'er the conflict swell!  
 And many a Celt with accent racy  
 Roared for a Sleavin or a Casey!  
 And fierce the struggle raged around  
 Where the seven Sleavins stood their ground –  
 Seven brothers, back to back they stood  
 Like heroes, though their streaming blood  
 Told how they bravely turned at bay  
 'Gainst hundreds in that savage fray!  
 O'erpowered at last they did retreat  
 Face to the foe, still in defeat,  
 Defiant as they moved along

Pursued by the relentless throng!  
 They reached their home, shut fast the door,  
 And stood within upon the floor,  
 Ready to meet the coming foe,  
 Who in their vengeance were not slow.  
 Stones showered from the assailing crew,  
 In pieces every window flew,  
 Then, with a loud and savage yell  
 They rushed to storm the citadel!  
 A gun-barrel through a broken pane  
 Made the invaders pause again,  
 A sharp axe sticking through another,  
 Their thirst for slaughter seemed to smother;  
 A battle council then took place,  
 And very soon there was no trace  
 Of conflict or of bloody fray  
 Round where the Sleavins stood at bay!  
 Thus ended Bytown's first old Fair,  
 A Donnybrook most rich and rare;  
 This annal of the olden time  
 Was not premeditated crime,  
 It sprung from what forms quite a part  
 Of every genuine Irish heart,  
 A sort of Faug a-Bailagh way  
 That sticks to Irishmen today.

Published in 1874 in "Poems of Bytown" by William Pitman Lett

## LOOKING BACK...

by Robert Serré

It would appear that our Society, formed under its present name in 1978, began publishing a newsletter in October of 1993 under the title Gloucester Historical Society and Gloucester Museum. In the spring of 1997, the newsletter was issued under the title Gloucester Historical Society and Museum, with Flo Ladds as editor. By December 2000, our newsletter was called *Historic Gloucester*, and the issue published in that month was identified as Volume 1, No. 3, but the editor's name was not indicated. It was subtitled Quarterly newsletter of the Gloucester Historical Society and the Gloucester Museum and Archives. The issue published in the spring of 2001 was identified as Volume 2, No. 1, with Joan Scott as editor. Joan has edited our newsletter ever since, and ten years certainly deserve to be highlighted as a special anniversary! Our Society is keenly aware of the importance of reaching out to the community, and our newsletter is an important means of doing that. The newsletter goes to our members, of course, but also to some branches of the Ottawa Public Library and a number of other agencies and organizations.

**Publications Available From the Gloucester Historical Society:**For further details regarding publications visit our website: [www.gloucesterhistory.com](http://www.gloucesterhistory.com)

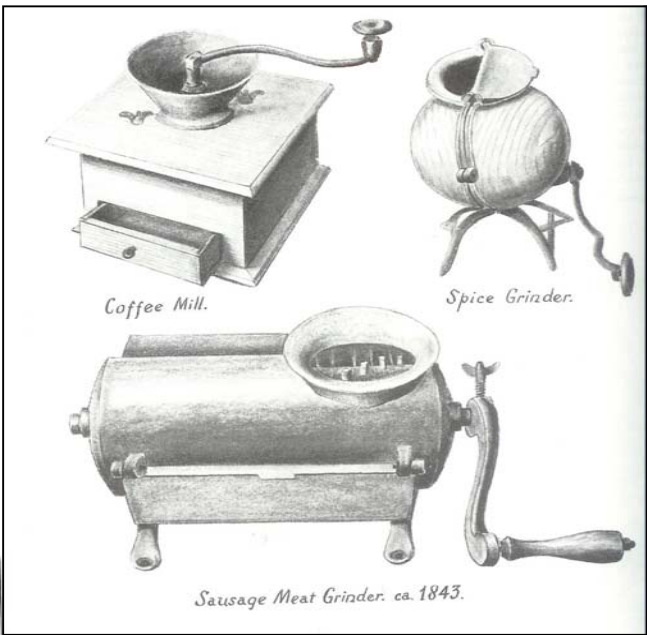
(Postage, if mailed, in brackets)

<i>Blackburn - Glen Ogilvie - Centennial History 1887-1967</i>	<b>5.00</b>	(3.00)
Compiled and Edited by Mrs. Anna Elliott		
<i>Bowesville: A Place to Remember</i>		<b>20.00</b>
(12.00)		
By Grace Johnston		
<i>Famillies pionnieres des Carrieres de Gloucester dans l'Est de l'Ontario</i>	<b>10.00</b>	(3.00)
By Robert Serré		
<i>Famillies pionnieres de Cyrville (Canton de Gloucester)</i>	<b>10.00</b>	(3.00)
By Robert Serré		
<i>Gloucester Memories</i>		<b>5.00</b>
(3.00)		
By Mel Rowat		
<i>Gloucester Roots</i>	<b>20.00</b>	(5.00)
Compiled and edited by Lois Kemp		
<i>Gloucester Township Ratepayers Listed by Family Name and</i>	<b>10.00</b>	
(3.00) <i>Concession/Lot Number for the Years 1855, 1864 and 1872</i>		
Compiled by Robert Sérre		
<i>Memories of the Lock Stations</i>		<b>5.00</b>
(3.00)		
Compiled and Edited by Grace Johnston		
<i>Milk/Cream Producers—Distributors in</i>		<b>15.00</b>
(5.00)		
<i>Gloucester 1892-1975</i>		
Compiled and edited by Grace Johnston		
<i>Pioneer Families of Cyrville (Gloucester Township)</i>	<b>10.00</b>	(3.00)
By Robert Serré		
<i>Pioneer Families of Glen Ogilvie (Gloucester Township)</i>	<b>10.00</b>	(3.00)
By Robert Serré		
<i>Pioneer Families of the Gloucester Quarries</i>		<b>10.00</b>



**Publications (continued):**

<b><i>Pioneer Families of Janeville (Gloucester Township)</i></b> By Robert Serré	<b>10.00</b> (3.00)
<b><i>Pioneer Families of New Edinburgh, Volume One: 1830-1870</i></b> (3.00) By Robert Serré	<b>10.00</b>
<b><i>Pioneer Families of Rockcliffe Annex and Manor Park in Gloucester Township</i></b> By Robert Serré	<b>10.00</b>
<b><i>Remembering Carlsbad Springs (Gloucester Township)</i></b> (3.00) By Mary Boyd and Robert Sérre	<b>10.00</b>
<b><i>The Story of the First English Church of Gloucester Township</i></b>  The history of St. James Anglican Church, Leitrim, 1853-2003 By Glenn Clark	<b>50.00</b> (20.00)
<b><i>1879 Belden Map of Gloucester Township</i></b> (5.00) The map shows who owned each lot in 1879 as well as the location of roads, churches, schools	<b>10.00</b>



**Early Labouring-Saving Devices**

A shortage of ready cash in pioneer days resulted in the necessity to use every scrap of anything edible. The meat grinder shown here was used to chew up meat, fat, gristle and probably stale bread, to make it suitable for sausage filling. The outer casing of the grinder was of cast iron with vertical knives on one side of its inner surface. A small metal cylinder set spirally with squared metal pegs, each of which passed between two of the stationary knives just clearing the interior surface of the casing, was turned by a hand crank. A plunger was used to force this ground meat through a tube into the sausage skins.

From Herbert Milnes, *Settlers' Traditions*, 1980, The Boston Mills Press, Cheltenham, Ont.

**Members Wanted:**

The Gloucester Historical Society is always looking for new members. Regardless of age, anyone who is interested in the history of Gloucester, as a Township, City, or part of the City of Ottawa, can benefit from membership in the Society. There is a well-stocked history room at our Leitrim Road office. Every Thursday, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm from early May to the end of October, there are knowledgeable people there to help you in all aspects of research about your family, friends or neighbours in Gloucester.

Your membership entitles you to receive the *Historic Gloucester* newsletter four times a year so that you can keep up with what is going on with the GHS and read interesting articles of times and places of long ago. For more information on the Gloucester Historical Society be sure to check out our wonderful website at **www.gloucester history.com**.

**Family Histories Wanted:**

If you have information on any family who resided in Gloucester, we would be happy to add this to our records. There may be others who would like to share this information but have been unable to find it. And, you may find that the family of someone you know was once a neighbour of your ancestors!

**Volunteers Wanted:**

The GHS is always looking for volunteers to assist others with research, to assist at society functions or to help the Board of Directors in many other ways.

**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.**

**Membership Form—Gloucester Historical Society/Société historique de Gloucester**

Membership/Adhésion 2010 - \$15.00 for one year..... \$100.00 for life membership.....

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ PROV \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

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