



Historic Gloucester

Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

www.gloucesterhistory.com

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Quarries Public School (School Section No. 9)

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THE GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
IS HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE
THAT ITS HISTORY ROOM WILL AGAIN BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
EACH THURSDAY FROM 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
BETWEEN MAY 5 AND OCTOBER 27, 2011,
OR BY APPOINTMENT

LOCATION: 4550B BANK STREET (AT LEITRIM ROAD)

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

Cover Photo:

The cover photo is of the Quarries public school (school section No. 9). The photo was taken sometime in the 1880s and comes from the City of Ottawa Archives/Gloucester Branch/80.102.1.

The Quarries school was on the Montreal Road in what was then known as Rockville, subsequently called Rock Village, Robillard and the Quarries.

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 EDITOR'S DESK

For those of you who would like to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Gloucester Historical Society, it will be held in the Lions Hall at the Fred Barrett Arena on April 17th at 2:00 pm. The speaker this year will be Joy Forbes and there will be refreshments served after her talk. If you have not attended an AGM before, this is your opportunity to come out and see the GHS in action and meet some of the other members. Non-members are always welcome as well.

The Society is always adding to its library of books about Gloucester as well as the list of books which are for sale. A new book has recently been written regarding the history of the Gloucester Lions Club over the past 42 years. The cost is \$25.00 (\$8.00 postage if mailed) and it is available now. The stories and photos are a great history of some of the people and doings in Gloucester over the past half century. Be sure to get your copy.

We are always looking to enhance our family records of Gloucester families. If you have any information you would like to share with us, or if you would like to discuss anything concerning Gloucester and its people, please phone the GHS office at 613-822-2076 and leave a message and someone will get back to you.

The Board of Directors meets the third Saturday of every month at 9:30 am in the Research Room. Anyone is welcome to come to these meetings so please feel free to join us some time.

*Joan Scott,
Newsletter Editor*

Board of Directors 2010-2011

President:	Robert Serré	Directors:	Bob Kemp
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Vice-President and Webmaster:	Glenn Clark		Aline Mageau
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Newsletter Editor:	Joan Scott		

THE EARLY HISTORY OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP

by Robert Serré

One of the early directories of the City of Ottawa contains detailed information about Gloucester Township. Under the heading **Educational**, it mentions “the privileges and benefits conferred by the excellent School Act for Upper Canada” of 1850. The same directory then provides, under the heading **Township of Gloucester**, an “Abstract of the Local Superintendent’s Report to the Municipal Council of the County of Carleton, respecting Schools in the Township of Gloucester, for the year 1863” [Mitchell 1864]. There were 18 active school sections in the township in 1863, and they are outlined below, with additional information gathered through further research.

School Section No. 1: John White was the teacher in 1855. In 1863, the school was a log building, with 22 pupils in attendance, and the teacher was P. O’Meara. This was St. Mary’s Public School in South Gloucester.

School Section No. 2: Catharine Motherwell was the teacher in 1855. In 1863, the school was a log building, with 14 pupils in attendance, and the teacher was William Cowan. This was the Leitrim Public School.

School Section No. 3: Henry J. Castles was the teacher in 1855. In 1863, the school was a log building, with 34 pupils in attendance, and the teacher was Alexander Duncan. This was later known as the Ellwood Public School. The collector’s roll for 1864 indicates that the ratepayers assessed for this school section were linked to lots 18 to 23 in

the Junction Gore, lots A and 1 to 8 in the third concession of the Rideau Front, lots A and 1 to 9 in the fourth concession of the RF, or to lots 6 to 8 in the fifth concession of the RF.

School Section No. 4: Patrick [McMorran?] was the teacher in 1855. In 1863, the school was a log building, with 8 pupils in attendance, and the teacher was Jane Ferguson. Built in 1838, the first school was replaced in 1864 by a second log structure, which was itself replaced in 1880 by a brick structure that was later stuccoed. This public school was located at Johnston’s Corners.

School Section No. 5: James Shanly was the teacher in 1855. In 1863, the school was a log building, with 29 pupils in attendance, and the teacher was John Kealy. This was the Bowesville Public School.

School Section No. 6: This school section was not active in 1863, but the collector’s roll for 1872 indicates that the ratepayers assessed for this school section were linked to lots 16 to 20 in the Junction Gore. Furthermore, Charles Billings, assessed for Island A in the Rideau River near Billings Bridge, was also assessed for this school section. This was in fact the Billings Bridge Public School, and while it was inactive, the Billings Bridge area was served by School Section No. 3, Ellwood [Clark 2010].

School Section No. 7: James Quin was the teacher in 1855. In 1863, the school was a log building, with an average attendance of 10 pupils, and the teacher was Ann Tierney. This was Otterson’s Public School, later known as Bayview Public School.

School Section No. 8: Duncan Robertson was the teacher in 1855. In 1863,

the school was a frame building, with an average attendance of 60 pupils, and the teacher was John McArthur. The collector's roll for 1864 indicates that the ratepayers assessed for this school section were linked to lots A and 1 to 5 in the Junction Gore. This was the New Edinburgh Public School.

School Section No. 9: Benjamin Sheriff was the teacher in 1855. In 1863, the school was a stone building, located in Rockville, later renamed Rock Village, Robillard and the Quarries, on the Montreal Road, and the teacher was Ellen Mary Evans. Born on a farm in Nepean Township on 30 July 1833, Ellen Mary Evans was the eldest of nine children born to Thomas and Mary Ann Evans, natives of Ireland.

School Section No. 10: The teacher was George Bell in 1855. In 1863, the school was a frame building, with an average attendance of 33 pupils. The teacher was Robert Whillans. This was the Hurdman's Bridge Public School.

School Section No. 11: The teacher was George Rickey in 1855. In 1863, the school was a log building, with an average attendance of 37 pupils, and the teacher was Robert Johnston. This was the Rideau View Public School.

School Section No. 12: The teacher was Peter [McGinn?] in 1855. In 1863, the school was a log building, with an average attendance of 16 pupils, and the teacher was Philip Copeland. This was the Limebank Public School.

School Section No. 13: The teacher was Edmund Bradburn in 1855. In 1863, the school was a log building, with an average attendance of 18 pupils, and the teacher was A. Bailey. This was the Ramsayville Public School

School Section No. 14: The teacher was James Doyle in 1855. In 1863, the school was a log building, with an average attendance of 14 pupils, and the teacher was Priscilla Singleton. This was one of the two public schools in Glen Ogilvie.

School Section No. 15: The teacher was James O'Brien in 1855. In 1863, the school was a log building, with an average attendance of 16 pupils, and the teacher was John Tompkins. The collector's roll for 1864 indicates that the ratepayers assessed for this school section were linked to lots 1 to 15 in the first and second concessions of the Ottawa Front. This public school was in the village of St. Joseph (Orleans).

School Section No. 16: In 1863, the school was a log building, with an average attendance of 23 pupils. The teacher was Eleanor Olmstead. This was the Hawthorne Public School.

School Section No. 17: In 1863, the school was a log building, with an average attendance of 10 pupils. The teacher was Timothy Delany. This was the Blackburn Public School.

School Section No. 18: In 1863, the school was a log building, with an average attendance of 10 pupils. The teacher was John Hill. This was the Forsythe Public School, located in a settlement that was called Eastman's Springs and later Carlsbad Springs.

School Section No. 19: In 1863, the school was a log building, with an average attendance of 12 pupils. The teacher was Richard Ekens. This was one of the two public schools in Glen Ogilvie.

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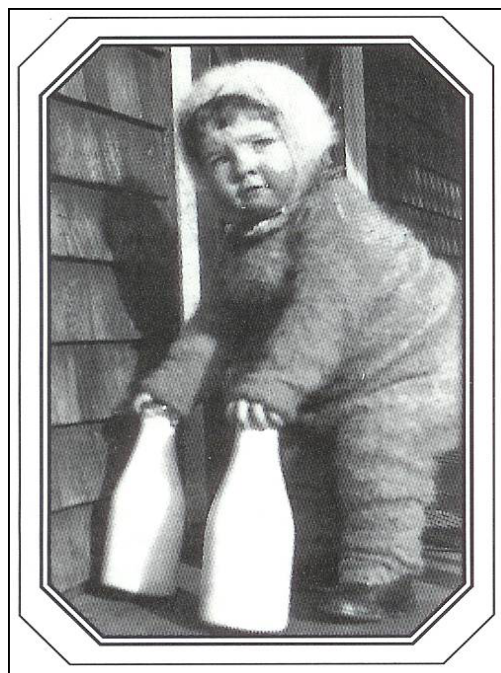
The Leader, City of Gloucester News, January 1983.

Why Is 'X' Used to Denote a Kiss?

The custom of putting X's at the end of letters and notes to symbolize kisses originated with medieval legal practices. In those days, the sign of St. Andrew, a cross, was placed at the end of a signature on all important documents to indicate good faith and honesty.

Contracts and agreements were not considered truly binding unless each signer added a St. Andrew's cross after his name. He was also required to kiss the document to further guarantee faithful performance of his obligations. Because the cross was usually hastily drawn, it was frequently slanted and appeared much like the letter 'X'.

In time the origin of this ceremony was forgotten but the 'X' continued to be associated with a kiss instead of the pledge of good faith. This custom continues to this day.



Remember This?



Explosives Research Laboratory, Uplands,
1953

Gloucester's Explosives Research Laboratory

by Joan Scott

On April 1, 1959, the Explosives Laboratory, which formally existed as a laboratory in isolation under the National Research Council umbrella, was formally transferred to the jurisdiction of the Mines Branch of the (then) Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. This followed a long association working with the Canadian Explosives Act by the Mines Branch as the Explosives Division had been a component of the Bureau of Mines from the formation of the Department of Mines and Resources in 1936, becoming a headquarters unit in 1950 when the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys was formed.

In 1952, a research facility was constructed at Riverside Drive adjacent to the Uplands Airport property to house the Explosives Laboratory. This inconspicuous building was the site of many tests and much research on substances which fell under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Explosives Act. These included authorization tests for explosives, blasting caps, fireworks, etc., as well as investigations of manufacturing, transportation, storage, and use problems with blasting explosives and accessories. In excess of 200

samples were submitted of a large variety of ammunition, fireworks and similar products were submitted annually.

Clients served by the Explosives Laboratory included Departments of National Defence, Transport and the Post Office, the police and individual manufacturers. Staff also acted as "chemical advisors" providing advice and opinions based on their expertise, on all explosive products.

The explosives group moved from the Riverside Drive property to a self-contained area in the Bells Corners complex where it remains to this day, still carrying on the same type of work although the nature of the research and testing has changed greatly over the years

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Limericks

*Thee once was a man named Blair,
Who went running for bear.
He wanted a fur coat,
But went down the bear's throat,
So he got his fur coat then and there.
- Damon Sedgwick*

*There once was a man named Perkins,
Who took a strong liking to gherkins.
Last evening at 9,
He drank a gallon of brine,
And pickled his internal workin's.
- Bette Katus*

Publications Available From the Gloucester Historical Society:For further details regarding publications visit our website: www.gloucesterhistory.com

(Postage, if mailed, in brackets)

<i>Blackburn - Glen Ogilvie - Centennial History 1887-1967</i> Compiled and Edited by Mrs. Anna Elliott	5.00	(3.00)
<i>Bowesville: A Place to Remember</i> By Grace Johnston	20.00	(12.00)
<i>Famillies pionnieres des Carrieres de Gloucester dans l'Est de l'Ontario</i> By Robert Serré	10.00	(3.00)
<i>Famillies pionnieres de Cyrville (Canton de Gloucester)</i> By Robert Serré	10.00	(3.00)
<i>Gloucester Lions Club Inc., History of the first 42 years, 1968 to 2010</i> By the History Committee of the Gloucester Lions Club and Robert Serré	25.00	(8.00)
<i>Gloucester Memories</i> By Mel Rowat	5.00	(3.00)
<i>Gloucester Roots</i> Compiled and edited by Lois Kemp	20.00	(5.00)
<i>Gloucester Township Ratepayers Listed by Family Name and Concession/Lot Number for the Years 1855, 1864 and 1872</i> Compiled by Robert Sérre	10.00	(3.00)
<i>Memories of the Lock Stations</i> Compiled and Edited by Grace Johnston	5.00	(3.00)
<i>Milk/Cream Producers—Distributors in Gloucester 1892-1975</i> Compiled and edited by Grace Johnston	15.00	(5.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of Cyrville (Gloucester Township)</i> By Robert Serré	10.00	(3.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of Glen Ogilvie (Gloucester Township)</i> By Robert Serré	10.00	(3.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of the Gloucester Quarries</i> By Robert Serré	10.00	(3.00)

Publications (continued):

- Pioneer Families of Hurdman's Bridge (Gloucester Township)*** **10.00** (3.00)
By Robert Serré
- Pioneer Families of Janeville (Gloucester Township)*** **10.00** (3.00)
By Robert Serré
- Pioneer Families of New Edinburgh, Volume One: 1830-1870*** **10.00** (3.00)
By Robert Serré
- Pioneer Families of St. Joseph (Orleans) in Eastern Ontario*** **10.00** (3.00)
By Robert Serré
- Pioneer Families of Rockcliffe Annex and Manor Park in Gloucester Township*** **10.00** (3.00)
By Robert Serré
- Remembering Carlsbad Springs (Gloucester Township)*** **10.00** (3.00)
By Mary Boyd and Robert Serré
- The Story of the First English Church of Gloucester Township:*** **50.00** (20.00)
The history of St. James Anglican Church, Leitrim, 1853-2003
By Glenn Clark
- 1879 Belden Map of Gloucester Township*** **10.00** (5.00)
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.

Note: Copies of publications may be ordered through: Robert Serré, President of the GHS, 1057 Riviera Drive, Ottawa K1K 0N7, e-mail: bob.rosealine@gmail.com. A shipping charge as shown for each publication will be added to mail orders.

These two old homes have recently disappeared from the Gloucester scene. The one on top was at 3497-99 Innes Road. It was built circa 1860 by the Gauthier family and occupied by their descendents until being torn down earlier this summer. The lower one was situated at 1300 St. Joseph Boulevard. It was constructed in the 1930' and 1940s. It was always considered as a fairytale castle. After having several owners and renters, sadly it burned last year.

- Photos from Lois Kemp's *Gloucester Roots*



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.gloucesterhistory.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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