



# *Historic Gloucester*

Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

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

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Spring 2009



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THE GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
IS HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE  
THE OPENING OF ITS HISTORY ROOM TO THE PUBLIC  
EACH THURSDAY FROM 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
BETWEEN MAY 7 AND OCTOBER 29, 2009

LOCATION: 4550B BANK STREET (AT LEITRIM ROAD)

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

**Cover Photo:**

*The photo on the cover is the former John Street School opened in New Edinburgh in 1838. The photo was taken in 2007 and is part of the author's collection.*

**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.*

The Gloucester  
Historical Society  
presents a lecture on

**“The RCMP Musical Ride and Its History”**



**by Sargeant Major Bill Stewart  
Riding Master of the RCMP Musical Ride**

**Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 2:00 pm**

**The Gloucester Lions Hall, Fred Barrett Arena  
3280 Leitrim Road (just east of Bank Street), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Gloucester**

Free Admission

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

For further information, please check out our website at [www.gloucesterhistory.com](http://www.gloucesterhistory.com), which includes an extensive timeline history of the township. You may also leave a message at 613-822-2076. Your call will be returned.

## The Early History of New Edinburgh in Gloucester Township

by Robert Serré

When the Rideau Canal was opened in 1832, Thomas McKay encouraged the canal workmen to settle on part of the 1,000-acre estate which he had purchased in the northwest corner of Gloucester Township, just east of the Rideau falls [Anon.1975; IHACC 1971]. McKay had started planning his village as early as 1830 [Edwards 1975]. The new settlement was laid out into lots around 1834, and named New Edinburgh [Bush 1985]. McKay's first home was built at the corner of Charles and Rideau streets [Askwith 1944]. A second, larger residence was completed in 1838; it became known as Rideau Hall [Bush 1985]. New Edinburgh was incorporated as a Village in 1866 [Carter 1984], and the first municipal meeting was held on 21 January 1867. The first reeve was Robert Blackburn [IHACC 1971].

### Mills and Factories

By 1832, Thomas McKay had constructed a saw mill near the Rideau falls. A water-powered flour mill was built in 1833, and a bakery was erected a year later. McKay added a distillery in 1837, as well as a cloth factory, which stood where the Embassy of France was later built. Further from the river McKay had his grist mill [Bush 1985; Walker 1968]. In the early 1850s, McKay started selling off his milling interests. Following his death in 1855, a family holding company, MacKay and Company, administered the will and oversaw the leasing and selling of properties [Edmond 2005].

### Brewery and Distillery

A brewery was established in New Edinburgh. It was the property of banker James Stevenson. A distillery was also set up. It became the property of Isaac McTaggart, James Stevenson's son-in-law [Wilson 1876].

### Ferry Service

At the foot of John street, there was a wharf from which a ferry ran between New Edinburgh and Gatineau Point. Initially, a barge equipped with oars

handled one or two carriages and a couple of horses. Then, a ferryboat was introduced by James Hagan (O'Hagan), Gatineau Point's first mayor. It was a horse-driven paddlewheeler. Around 1868, Pierre Charette was authorized to use a steamboat to provide ferry service from his private wharf. The rates were set in consultation with New Edinburgh's municipal council [Brault 1948].

### Schools

The first school was located in what was then known as the Barn field, south of the boundary fence, on Chrichton street. It had one large room with no partitions. The first school-master was David Wardrope [Askwith 1944]. The second school in the village was opened on John street in 1838. It occupied one part of a stone structure that had been erected for McKay's workers, and the teacher occupied the other part of the building [Mika 1983; Sproule 1958]. The third school house was situated on Alexander street [Walker 1968]. It was later used as a church, a Sunday school and a concert hall [Askwith 1944]. The fourth school was located at the corner of Charles and Chrichton streets [Askwith 1944].

### Post Office

A post office was established in the village under the name New Edinburgh on 2 October 1865. The first postmaster was James Blackburn [Carter 1984].

### Churches

The Presbyterians living in the village attended church in Ottawa [Edwards 1975]. Anglican services were held in the third school house on Charles street. In 1867, Viscount Monck, Governor General of the Dominion of Canada, gave a benefit concert for the building fund of St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church, and in 1868 an attractive Gothic chapel was erected at the corner of Victoria and MacKay streets [Walker 1968; Woods 1980].

### Rideau Hall

Thomas McKay's eleven-room limestone residence was completed in 1838 [Bush 1985]. This

new home was dubbed McKay's Castle by the local inhabitants, but the family simply referred to it as Rideau Hall, a name suggested by McKay's daughter Elizabeth [Edmond 2005]. In 1865, the Canadian government leased Rideau Hall from Thomas McKay's estate as a residence for the Governor General. Three years later, the government purchased the residence as well as 88 acres of land surrounding it [Woods 1980].

### Earnscliffe

A beautiful home was built in 1855 for John McKinnon and his wife Anne, daughter of Thomas McKay, by Donald Dow, a stone mason, and Peter Fraser, a carpenter [Walker 1968]. This large Gothic villa [Newton 1981] was built on land that McKinnon had bought from McKay, during the previous year, on the cliffs above the Ottawa river. Thomas Reynolds, a British railway financier, bought the home in 1868, and Sir John A. Macdonald purchased it in 1882, naming it Earnscliffe. The building later became the residence of the British High Commissioner [Bond 1965; Bush 1985; Walker 1968].

### Bibliography

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- Bond, Courtney C.J., "Tracks into Ottawa: the construction of railways into Canada's capital" in *Ontario History* 57:3, 1965, pages 122-134.
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- Sproule, Gladys, "School of 1837 lives on as home" in *The Ottawa Journal*, 1 March 1958, p. 33.
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- Wilson, Andrew. *A history of old Bytown and vicinity, now the city of Ottawa*. Ottawa, "News" Office, 1876, 89 pages.
- Woods, Shirley E., Jr. *Ottawa. The capital of Canada*. Toronto, Doubleday Canada, 1980, 350 pages.

### NEW PUBLICATION

In January of 2009, the Gloucester Historical Society (GHS) published its latest book, entitled *Remembering Carlsbad Springs (Gloucester Township)*. This new book was co-authored by Mary Boyd and Robert Serré. Mary used her own research findings as well as personal memories to write *Recollections of Carlsbad Springs*. Robert gathered background information and wrote *Geographical Setting and General History*. The result is a book that focuses on the rich history of a community which became famous beyond the borders of Gloucester Township. Also included are a bibliography, an index of names, dates of interest and four photos.

Mary Boyd is President of the Gloucester Historical Society. It was her grandfather, Thomas Levi Boyd, who took over the spa business owned by his father James. Robert Serré is Vice-President of the Society, and has published several books on the pioneer families of Gloucester Township.

The price of this new publication is \$10.00 (mail orders \$13.00; outside Canada in US \$). Contact: Robert Serré, GHS Publications, 1057 Riviera Drive, Ottawa, ON K1K 0N7; e-mail bob.rosealine@gmail.com (tel. 613-749-0607).

**Early Carleton County Settlers**  
**The Lillico Family**  
**Chain Migrants to**  
**Gloucester Township, Ontario**  
 By Eleanor Lillico

The label "Chain Migrants" is applicable to James Lillico and his brother Robert (my great-grandfather) as they were part of a "chain migration in which early arrivals were followed by relatives.... .. from their place of origin". Both men were pioneer farmers in Gloucester Township, Carleton County, Ontario, emigrating from Scotland in 1845. Prior to emigrating to Canada, in 1841 James and Robert, who were sons of William Lillico and Margaret Nic(h)ol, were farm labourers on Riddletonhill Farm near Maxton, Roxburghshire, Scotland. Their sister Jane and her husband John Whillans from Southdean, Roxburghshire had emigrated between 1834-1837 with the Robert Whillans' families who settled in Gloucester Township, Junction Gore (now the Queensway at Hurdman). James and Robert travelled to Canada with their sister Janet, James' wife Jane Bell, their mother Margaret and her two grandchildren Isabella Brodie and Robert Bunyan. Like many immigrants both in the past and present day, the brothers came to Canada with the hope of owning their own land.

James Lillico, 1816-1899



By 1849 James, yeoman, and Robert, mason, were able to purchase 100 acres in Gloucester, Rideau Front, Concession 6, west half of Lot 7. A patent for this Crown Land was given to Patrick Macguire on February 13, 1837 and James & Robert bought the land for £90. It was immediately mortgaged for £70 from Patrick and according to the Deed of Sale, James and Robert's address was Nepean. This Century Farm on the present day Hawthorne road was sold in 1956 to the National Capital Commission as part of the Green Belt.

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A family story maintained that James came to Canada earlier, possibly scouting the area for potential land to purchase. A diary found in the attic of James' homestead, recounts a voyage from Glasgow. The entry for June 25<sup>th</sup> reads "June 25-- A fine breeze to-day going at a rate of 6 knots an hour and very busy preparing for to-morrow as it is Sunday". With the assistance of the perpetual calendar we determined the year to be 1842. He writes mostly about the weather "June 21--A fine morning but rather calm. Making little way. Nearly all the passengers on deck enjoying themselves in the morning sun, the sea quite calm with nothing in sight but a duck now and then. Dancing on deck. Saw a homeward bound vessel about 9 miles off when all eyes were turned to the welcome sight." And then "July 1-- Blue a gale all day a tremendous sea at night." The diary ends on July 28 "100 miles from Quebec...Neither wind or tide to-day and we have lain at anchor since 10 o'clock in the river" He returned to Scotland to marry Jane and bring out members of the family in 1845.

James married Jane Bell in 1844 in Crailing parish, Roxburghshire and they had eight children:

1. Margaret, (1845-1887) was born on the voyage to Canada. She married John Brown in 1873 at La Cathedrale d'Ottawa.
2. William, (1847-1911) inherited the farm. He married Isabella McGregor in 1875 and they had 9 children.
3. Andrew, (1849-1928) married Elise Gosselin, (Metis ancestry) 1878 in Letellier, Manitoba, and moved to North Dakota to farm in 1881. They had 11 children.
4. Elizabeth, ( 1852- ) Elizabeth was baptized on 14 July 1852 at Knox Presbyterian church, Bytown, ON.
5. James, (1854-1891) a stone mason. He married Janet McGregor, sister of Isabella on March 3 1881, and they had 5 children.
6. Robert, (1855- 1876) accidentally drowned at age 20 while swimming with friends at Billings Bridge. An inquest was held.
7. Isabella Duncan, (1859-1931) married Charles Morgan Garrow on November 25 1880 and they had 7 children.
8. Sarah Jane, (1863-1904) married John George Brouse Dec 15, 1897. They had 2 children but she died in childbirth 3 days after her second baby died.

Both James & Robert were members of Knox Presbyterian church in Bytown, and just after they arrived in Canada, they signed in to have Rev. Thomas Wardrope as the first minister of the Free church in 1845. They were both instrumental in the beginnings of East Gloucester Presbyterian church in Taylorville (now Ramsayville). James was the Sunday School superintendent for most of his life and when he died in 1899 the Church session called him the "oldest and most esteemed member". Robert was "a much respected elder" when he died in August 1876.

Robert married Christina Kinmond, on December 23, 1856 in Knox Presbyterian Church. Christina was born in Perthshire, Scotland. By that time James had a large family, so Robert, yeoman/stone mason, bought land in Rideau front, Concession 5, Lot 3 on Hawthorne road which was close to James. This farm remained in the Lillico name until 1956. Now it is the Ottawa Industrial Park on Stevenage Drive, Ottawa.

According to the 1861 Agricultural census Robert had cleared 45 acres while 55 remained wooded, cash value of the farm was \$2000, implements \$70. They had grown peas, oats, potatoes, turnips and harvested hay and clover. The livestock were 3 milch cows, 4 steers or heifers, 2 horses, 5 sheep (3 lbs of wool) and 2 pigs. In the last year they had produced 280 lbs of butter, 50 lbs cheese, 300 lbs beef and 400 lbs pork.

Robert and Christina had 9 children:

1. Jane, (1857-1935) married November 17, 1887 (1) John Barron, Baker (1855-1892). Jane & John had 3 children. She married July 1, 1925 (2) William Gerard, Superintendent of Sawmill in New Edinburgh.
2. Margaret (1859-1929) married Peter Stewart, Yeoman, on September 16, 1879. They farmed in Ramsayville and had 6 children.
3. Isabella (1860-1941) married September 20, 1881 Breary Slinn, Baker, in New Edinburgh. He was an Ottawa Alderman between 1898 & 1919. They had 11 children.
4. Elizabeth (1863-1940) married April 24, 1883 Sidney Sherwood, Yeoman, lived in New Edinburgh. They had 11 children.

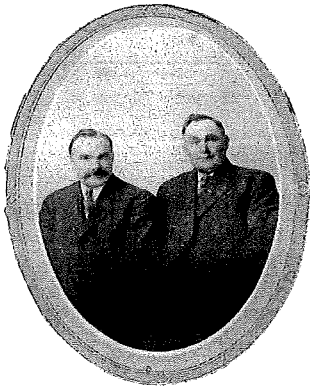


Christina Kinmond  
1827-1904

5. William (1865-1943) Farmer, married June 12, 1895 Christina Hood, inherited the farm. They had 7 children.
6. John (1867-1942) Teamster, never married, died in Lake Worth, Palm Beach, Florida.
7. Jessie (1869-1920) married November 15, 1912 William Chalmers Elmitt, Florist in Janeville. They did not have children.
8. Robert (1872-1945) married July 23, 1902 Ida Giles in Rural Grafton ND, farmed in Nekoma, North Dakota. They had 5 children.
9. Christina (1873-1939) married July 31, 1894 Robert Wimperis, Civil Servant/Musician, lived in New Edinburgh. They had 9 children.

Robert, as well as farming, worked at a mason away from home. In May 1872 he was absent from a Session meeting "being employed at a distance from home" and in September 1873 he was absent in the city. June 9 1876 was the last time Robert was in church ( Communion Roll) of East Gloucester Presbyterian church. He died suddenly, August 12, 1876 at age 57. This left his wife Christina a widow with nine children, ages 3 to 20, to raise on the farm. According to Robert's will of 1878 his eldest son, William, took over the farm in 1900. Christina Kinmond Lillico died in 1904.





The Three Brothers  
John, William and Robert



The Six Sisters  
Back - Jessie, Elizabeth, Christina  
Front - Jane, Isabella and Margaret

Margaret Lillico, age 81, the mother of Janet, Jane, James and Robert was living with Robert Lillico on the Hawthorne farm in the 1861 Ontario census. She died before 1871. Her husband William died about 1832 in Bedrule, Scotland where they were living at Bedrule Mill.

Janet, was born May 25, 1800 in Newcastleton, Scotland and died April 10, 1880 in Osgoode township, at the home of Alexander Dow. It was Janet Lillico's name as a "stray" age 70, on the 1871 Osgoode census that helped put all the pieces of the Lillico puzzle together. In 1841 Janet was working as a female labourer on Blinkbonny farm in the parish of Eckford, Roxburghshire which was next to Maxton where James and Robert lived.

In 1852 Janet was the housekeeper for the Rev. Alexander Spence, the minister of St. Andrews Presbyterian church, Bytown. When a group of ladies led by Elizabeth Spence initiated the idea of an Orphan's home in Ottawa, Janet was appointed the first matron in 1865. They rented Walkley House, the first brick house in Bytown built about 1833 by Enoch Walkley. This 2 story house was on the west side of Bank St between Maria (Laurier) and Slater. "The first Matron, Miss Lillicoe, who had served faithfully since the opening of the Home, was therefore retired [1867] with kindly appreciation from the Board and a present in money."



Isabella Brodie, Janet's daughter, married Alexander Dow, widower with three children, January 10, 1853 in Knox Presbyterian church, Bytown. They farmed in Osgoode township with their seven children.



Isabella and Alex at home

Robert Bunyan, Janet's son, eventually bought an 80 acre farm in Gloucester, Ottawa Front 6, near Eastman's Springs (Carlsbad Springs). He married; 1<sup>st</sup> Mary Ann Sims in 1870. They had six children. 2<sup>nd</sup> Emily Cheney and had two children.

The earlier immigration of Jane (Lillico) and her husband John Whillans began this chain migration of the members of the Lillico family. They farmed in Junction Gore, Lot 10 at Hurdman's Bridge. Six of their seven children were born in Canada. John died with consumption in 1847, two months before their last child was born, which left



Jane to raise their family. Jane died in 1901 at 515 Rideau St, Ottawa, at the home of her son.

I am a great-granddaughter of the pioneer Robert Lillico and am forever grateful that my ancestors chose Canada, especially Gloucester township to settle.

Note: The brother, Adam, moved to Fife, married and finally settled in Croydon, Surrey, England. His only son, William, Grain Merchant, became owner of a Corn Merchant firm. His descendants still operate this business in Maidstone, Kent, England.

#### Sources:

1. Bruce S. Elliott, *The City Beyond: A History of Nepean, Birthplace of Canada's Capital* © 1991, p. 20.
2. FHC film #0101927: 1841 Scotland Census for Maxton Parish, Roxburghshire, Scotland, #9, p.6.
3. Jane & John Whillans' first son was born in 1834 in Scotland, their second son was born in 1837 in Canada.
4. Deed: 13 November 1849, James and brother Robert bought 100 acres, Gloucester Township, Rideau Front, Concession 6, Lot 7.
5. FHC film #0102285: Crailing Parish OPR, Roxburghshire, Scotland, Dec 8, 1844, Proclamation of James Lillico and Jane Bell.
6. Marriage records of La Cathedrale d'Ottawa (1827-1980) at Ottawa Archives.
7. Mariage du Manitoba, Vol 1 at National Archives of Canada, pg. 526, Gosselin, Elise, parents Joseph Gosselin and Rosalie Petit married on February 27, 1878 to Andrew Sellicott (sp. must be Lillico) in Letellier.
8. Ottawa City Archives, Knox Presbyterian Church - Reel 26.
9. Ontario Civil Registrations, James Lillico-Janet McGregor, Ontario marriage registration 001823 (1881); microfilm at Family History Centre, Ottawa.
10. The Daily Citizen, Monday July 3, 1876, "Sad Drowning Accident, Coroner's Inquest"
11. Charles M Garrow-Isabella Lillico, Ontario marriage registration 002166 (1880); microfilm at Family History Centre, Ottawa.
12. John George Brouse-Sarah Jane Lillico, Ontario marriage registration 003394 (1897); microfilm at Family History Centre, Ottawa.



13. Ottawa City Archives, Knox Presbyterian Church--Reel 26
14. 1857) Deed of Bargain and Sale between Robertson and Lillico - Dated 28 Dec. 1857 in Book C, No 2, page 111, Memorial 11716. – made 3 Dec. 1857 John & Amelia Robertson to Robert Lillico of township of Gloucester, yeoman for 450 pounds, rear half of Lot #3 in the fifth concession from the Rideau in the said township of Gloucester, 100 acres excepting the portion already granted to James Walker.
15. Marriages of the six Lillico girls and brother William; Ontario marriage registrations; microfilms at Family History Centre, Ottawa.
16. O.P.R, Bedrule Parish, From 1829 to 1832 the parish gave shillings to William Lillico family at Bedrulemill, then in 1832 it was given to widow Lillico.
17. 1800– On April 5 1800 'William Lillico and Margt Nicol were this day rebuked for antenuptial fornication' (Castleton Kirk Session minutes in the Scottish Record Office (ref. CH2/64/4) [correspondence with Professor J. H. Burns, London, England] {"It looks as though your 'stray' Janet Lillico, B. Castleton, 1800, may have been the result}
18. Maria J. I. Thorburn, *The Orphan's Home of the City of Ottawa*, 1904, p30.

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*When it hurts to look back, and you're scared to look ahead, you can look beside you and your best friend will be there.*

**Gloucester Historical Society - Phone/Fax 613 822-2076**

**Board of Directors:**

President:	Mary Boyd	Directors:	Glenn Clark
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			Shirley McCooley

**La Société historique de Gloucester**

**présente une conférence**  
**sur le Carrousel de la GRC et son histoire**  
**qui sera donnée en anglais par le sergent-major Bill Stewart**  
**maître-cavalier du Carrousel de la GRC**  
**le dimanche 19 avril 2009 à 14 h**

**dans le salon des Gloucester Lions, au 2e étage de la patinoire Fred Barrett, 3280, chemin Leitrim**  
**(juste à l'est de la rue Bank) Gloucester**  
**(entrée gratuite)**

**Il s'agit de l'assemblée générale annuelle, et un goûter sera servi.**

**Pour en savoir plus, visiter notre site Internet [www.gloucesterhistory.com](http://www.gloucesterhistory.com), qui comprend une chronologie détaillée de l'histoire du canton, ou laisser un message au 613-749-0607 (Robert retournera votre appel).**

**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. THE COST IS ONLY \$15.00 PER YEAR OR \$100.00 FOR A LIFE MEMBERSHIP!**

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

Membership/Adhésion 2008—\$15.00 for one year..... \$100.00 for life membership.....

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

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

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

Mailing Address: Gloucester Historical Society  
4550B Bank Street,  
Gloucester, Ontario  
K1T 3W6  
Tel: 613-822-2076

**Reminder: Membership dues are payable in April of each year. Thank you!**