



Historic Gloucester

Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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

Cover Photo:

The photo on the cover is St. Margaret's Anglican Church on Montreal Road in Vanier (formerly Eastview, Janeville). 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 Rowats of Long Island

by Ed Kirk

William Rowat came to Canada in May 1826 at the age of seven with his father John and mother the former Agnes Scott. Also two older brothers John and David, and a baby brother James who died shortly after their arrival in Canada. The journey from Greenock, Scotland to Quebec took six weeks by boat and three weeks from Quebec up the St. Lawrence by bateau, drawn by oxen past the rapids to Brockville, and then to Perth, Ontario. They settled on a fifty acre farm on the ninth line of Burgess, in Lanark County, where Mrs. Rowat died in October of the same year. In January 1828, John Rowat senior married again to Margaret Drysdale. He rented his fifty acre farm and moved to his father-in law's farm where he remained till October 1833. He then moved to Floss Township in Simcoe County, seventy-five miles north of Toronto. He traveled to Brockville with two teams of oxen, which he took with him, and by boat to Toronto, and by oxen again from Toronto to Floss Township. His second marriage produced twelve more children, eight boys and four girls. He remained at Floss till his death on February 25, 1864 of pneumonia. He is buried in Hillsdale, Ontario cemetery.

William returned to Perth in 1834 and worked at tailoring for seven months and then farming and lumbering until November 1838. During the rebellion he enlisted as a volunteer in the Queen's Royal Borderers under Col. Ogle Gowan, proceeding to Brockville where they were stationed and disbanded the following April. He went to work on a farm at Roebuck in the employ of a Mr. Findlay for three years and then returned to Perth and worked with Frank and John Allan farming and lumbering. He married Eliza McLean on August 27, 1847, rented Frank Allan's farm for three years and another farm known as the Condie Farm for three years. In March 1853 he came to Long Island Locks and opened a grocery and dry goods store. He remained in that business until the fall of 1859 and in 1860 bought a forty acre farm on the north end of Long Island at a price of \$1,200.00.

Sometime later he bought a one hundred acre farm in the first concession of Gloucester, on what is now known as the Rideau Road. This land was about a mile east of his land on the Island. During the summer when he had milking cows pasturing on this land, he drove them to the river, milked them by hand in a fenced enclosure. After having returned the cows to pasture, took the milk by boat to the home farm on the Island.

William and Eliza's family consisted of ten sons and one daughter, but one son and their daughter died as infants. Their eldest son John was born in 1849, and later married Ida Ferguson. They settled on a farm near Ottawa at first and later bought a hardware business at Winchester, Ontario where he died in 1903. He and his wife raised nine of a family, Effie, William, Frank, Herbert, Mary, Christina, Jean, Lillian and Allan.

Their second son Thomas was born in 1853 and died a young man in 1876. Also, David, their third son born in 1856, died in 1877.

William McLean Rowat, their fourth son, born in 1859, and trained to be a medical doctor, settled in Athelstan, Quebec as a general practitioner. He married Mary Louise Miles in 1891 and they had seven sons and one daughter. William Edward Allan, Richard Miles, Raymond Willard, Harland Cameron, Archibald McKenzie, Letitia Grace, Lawrence Parker, who passed away in his second year of life, and Morley McLean Rowat. William McLean Rowat passed away in 1931 and is interred in the Athelstan cemetery.

Their fifth son Allan Ritchie Rowat born in 1861 graduated as a veterinarian and married the former Nellie Alexander of Winchester, Ontario. He and his wife immigrated to Hawaii and they had three daughters and one son. Evangline, Allan who died as a young man, and Zella and Marguerite.

James Scott Rowat was sixth in line and was born in 1864. He married Christina Moodie in 1892 and remained in the Long Island Locks area where they farmed approximately eighty acres directly east



The Rowat House on Long Island

of the Locks. Their family consisted of one girl and two boys. Lila McLean Rowat, William Scott Rowat and Melville Moodie Rowat. James died in 1951 and his wife in 1964 and they are interred in Johnston's Corners cemetery.

The seventh son was Archibald B. Rowat born in 1866. He married Minnabelle Gilchrist and they had four children. Muriel McLean Rowat, Zelne Archibald Rowat, Willa Maude Rowat and Margaret Harriet Jean Rowat. Archibald B. worked at the Long Island Locks for many years as lockman and later as lockmaster about forty years in all. He passed away in 1960 and he and his wife are buried in the Johnston's Corners cemetery.

Andrew McKenzie Rowat was their next son born in 1870. He married Eliza Chaplin and they lived and farmed on the original forty acres on the north end of Long Island. Their eldest son William Russell Rowat born in 1894 was drowned in 1899. They had four more children. John Cecil Rowat, Effie Jean Rowat and twins Ruby Clark Rowat and Ruth Matilda Rowat. Andrew McKenzie Rowat

passed away in 1955 and his wife in 1936. They were interred in Elmview cemetery at Kars, Ontario.

Francis Rowat was their ninth boy. He was born in 1874 and passed away in 1877.

William Rowat senior later sold his farm on the Rideau Road and in 188_ bought about one hundred and sixty acres directly east of the Locks. This land was later divided between Andrew, who lived on the original 40 acres on the Island, and James who built a house on part of it in 1891 most of the land on the Island has been sold except the house and about two acres, but Andrew's son Cecil and his wife and his sister Ruby MacFarlane with her husband and son George occupy the house. The one hundred and sixty acres has been all sold but about 20 acres and the house that James built. Melville and his wife still lived in the house as of January 1993 when this history was compiled.

See the next page for more history of the John Rowat family.

SOME FAMILY HISTORY

The late John Rowat was born February 10, 1792, on a farm at the foot of the Camsie Hills, Scotland. About 1814 he married Agnes Scott and they lived at Waterside, Scotland, a small village on the Luggis, where three sons and one daughter were born.

In May, 1820, he sailed from Greenock to Canada, located on the ninth concession of Burgess Township, Lanark County, near Perth, where he bought a fifty acre farm. He remained in Canada four years, returning to Scotland in the fall of 1824, working his passage back. He returned to Canada in May, 1826, bringing his wife and family. The journey across the ocean to Quebec took six weeks. From Quebec they went by bateau, drawn by oxen past the rapids to Brockville; thence to Perth, a journey which took three weeks. Jane, their nine-month-old baby, died two weeks after reaching Perth. They then moved to his farm, where Mrs. Rowat died in October, 1826.

In February, 1828, he married Margaret Drysdale. He rented his fifty acre farm to a man named Condir, and moved to his father-in-law's place, where he remained till October, 1833, when he moved to Flos Township in Simcoe County. The journey to Flos was by oxen (two yoke, which he took with him from Lanark) from Perth to Brockville, by boat to Toronto, thence by oxen to Flos. Here he lived till his death in 1864.

He took up land on the second concession of Flos County. He was instrumental in starting Church Services in Hillsdale, and helped build the first Presbyterian Church, which was erected on the site of the present Presbyterian cemetery. He was also interested in the education of the children and the first school on the second of Flos was conducted in his stable.

His family all endured the hardships of the pioneers when clearing land and building their own homes. His eldest son, David, who was born in 1815, and died 1888, had a leather and harness business at Arnprior; John, 1817-1903, located at Barrie; William, 1819-1911, returned to Perth in June,

By his second marriage, Mr. Rowat had eight sons and four daughters: James, 1828-1904, farmed on the second of Floss where R. Palmer now lives; Alexander 1830-1911, farmed on the 4th concession of Floss, now owned by W.L. Richardsons; Christina, 1832-1910, married Alexander Cumming and settled in Floss; Robert, 1834-1925, farmed on the 5th concession on the farm now owned and occupied by his son Isaac; Alfred, 1836-1922, located in Tiny Township; Andrew, 1838-1918, studied for the ministry and had charge of the Presbyterian Church, first at Winchester, Ontario, and later at Athelstan, Quebec; Agnes, 1842-1898, married Thomas Jory and located at Dalston; Thomas, 1844-1914, farmed in Tiny; Frank, 1846-1918, farmed on St. Joseph's Island; Margaret, 1848-1929, married Archibald MacDonald and lived at Hillsdale; Isaac, 1851-1908, was a school teacher and taught at Simcoe, Norfolk County.

John Rowat had sixteen children, all now deceased; one hundred and twenty-five grandchildren, fifty-six of whom are deceased. There are approximately two hundred and eighty-five great grandchildren, two hundred and thirty great-great grandchildren and twenty-seven great-great-great grandchildren, who are scattered over the whole of the Dominion of Canada, a number in the United States and some in Honolulu.

From the Barrie "Examiner", August 1938.

ANNUAL PICNIC AT SPRINGWATER PARK

A large number of the descendants of John Rowat enjoyed themselves at the Annual Picnic on Friday, August 12th at Springwater Park, Midhurst.

Members of the family were present from Hillsdale, Elmvale, Wyevale, Midland, Barrie, Minesing, Dalston, Clo_ es, Detroit, Richard's Landing and Echo Bay.

The picnic next year is to be held at the same place, Springwater Park, on Friday, August 11, 1939.

The Early History of Janeville in Gloucester Township

by Robert Serré

Janeville was a village located on the Rideau river in the township of Gloucester, Carleton County [Anon.1884]. It was centred on part of lots 6 and 7 in the Junction Gore [IHACC 1879], but lot 5 just north of lot 6, as well as lot 8 just south of lot 7, also became associated with the village. At first, its limits were the Montreal road on the north, McArthur avenue on the south, the Rideau river on the west and the railway tracks on the east [Shea 1964], but eventually the eastern limit was the Base Line road, later known as St. Laurent boulevard.

Early Settlers

The earliest assessment roll which mentions residents in the area of Janeville is dated 1828. It lists George Sparks on lot 8, Clements Bradley on lot 6, and Z. Olmstead on lot 5 of the Junction Gore. John Sharp was first listed on lot 6 in 1833, and Daniel Patterson was first listed on lot 6 in 1834. As late as 1841 there was no one listed on lot 7 of the Junction Gore in the assessment rolls of Gloucester Township [LAC].

The growth of the settlement that became Janeville was quite slow. When the 1851 Census was taken, only three households included early Janeville settlers, namely the Sparks, Sharp and Olmstead families. In the 1861 Census returns, five households were linked to the Janeville area: Olmstead, Bradley, McArthur, Cummings and Sparks. The Olmstead, McArthur and Cummings households lived in frame houses, the Sparks family had a stone house, and no description was given of the Bradley home. At the time of the 1871 Census, there were 24 households in the Janeville area, enough to form the nucleus of a coherent settlement [LAC].

In 1873, Donald McArthur and Robert Cummings got together and established a small community which extended from the Montreal road to McArthur avenue, and from the Russell road to the railway tracks. McArthur's wife was named Jane, and the planned village was called Janeville. In its

early days, the community was developed as a place where well-to-do public servants and Ottawa merchants could establish a peaceful residence, away from the bustle and noise of the city. As a rural suburb, Janeville offered lower taxes and fewer building restrictions than did the city of Ottawa [Shea 1964].

Post Office

The residents of Janeville requested a post office in 1875, and waited four years to have their request granted. On 1 March 1879, a post office was opened on Cummings island, and the first postmistress was Mrs. Agnes Cummings, who named the post office Cummings Bridge. Mrs. Cummings held the position for nearly 42 years, resigning on 7 January 1921 [Laporte 1983, ArchiviaNet].

Schools

In 1883, Public School Board Section 25 was founded in Gloucester Township, and in 1884 a one-room school was built. Located on Victoria street, it was a frame structure, with plastered walls, and a Miss Pooler was the first teacher. Five years later, a second classroom was added [Shea 1964, Wilson 1937, Laporte 1983].

In December of 1888, a Catholic Separate School Board was established to serve the Janeville area. A school was built on the south side of the Montreal road, at the corner of Third avenue. It was opened in September of 1889, and the first teacher was a Miss Proulx, who earned \$100 annually. In 1891, a religious congregation, the Daughters of Wisdom, was put in charge of the Janeville separate school. This congregation, which assisted the Montfortain Fathers in their ministry, established a novitiate and a boarding school near the church of Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes [Shea 1964, Bourassa 1975].

Churches

Early settlers who adhered to the Church of England could attend services at St. Alban's in Ottawa or at St. Bartholomew's in New Edinburgh. Beginning in 1866, Canon Edward A.W. Hanington, rector of St. Bartholomew's, took services in private homes in Janeville and in the old public school on

Victoria street. The construction of St. Margaret's Episcopal (Anglican) Church on the Montreal road began in 1887. The site was given by the Misses Olmstead, and the stone was donated by Honoré (Henry) Robillard, owner of the Gloucester Quarries. The architect was F. Thomas, and the contractor was William Taylor. Lady Macdonald, wife of the prime minister, placed the cornerstone on 13 October 1887, and the church was completed in the spring of the following year, the dedicatory service taking place on 29 April [McNeill 1958].

A Roman Catholic parish was founded in Janeville on 4 August 1887. It was named Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, which was also the name of the parish founded in Cyrville in the early 1870s. Since 1873, Janeville had been a mission of the Cyrville parish. The bishop's decision to transfer the parish to Janeville, and build a church on the Montreal road near Notre Dame cemetery, was based on the premise that Cyrville was too far from the centre of the area's growing population. The design for the new church, drawn by Canon Georges Bouillon, was inspired by the basilica in Lourdes, France. Mgr. Duamel, who consecrated the new church on 29 July 1888, put the Montfortain Fathers, a congregation founded in France in 1705, in charge of both the Cyrville and the Janeville parishes [Serré 2006, Bourassa 1975].

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Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Gloucester Historical Society was held on 19 April, 2009, at the Gloucester Lions' Room of the Fred Barrett Arena. The guest speaker was Major Bill Stewart, Riding Master of the RCMP Musical Ride. He gave a very interesting and enlightening talk on the history of the Musical Ride, and a brief history of the RCMP as well. The meeting was well attended and enjoyed by all. It was followed by light refreshments. The new Board of Directors is as follows:

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

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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 Memories</i> By Mel Rowat	5.00 (3.00)
<i>Gloucester Roots</i> Compiled and edited by Lois Kemp	20.00 (5.00)
<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)
<i>Pioneer Families of Hurdman's Bridge (Gloucester Township)</i> By Robert Serré	10.00 (3.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of Janeville (Gloucester Township)</i> By Robert Serré	10.00 (3.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of New Edinburgh, Volume One: 1830-1870</i> By Robert Serré	10.00 (3.00)

Publications (continued)

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 Sérre

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, Secretary 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.

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 2008 - \$15.00 for one year..... \$100.00 for life membership.....

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