



L'ANGLO-NORMAND

Bulletin de la Société Gaspésienne des Îles Anglo-Normandes
Bulletin of the Gaspesian Channel Island Society

Vol 1, #17

April 1996

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1996

Sunday, 11 August 1996 - Paspébiac Historic Site
Programme details in the next *Anglo-Normand*.

MESSAGE from the President...

A well-attended meeting of the board was held in Chandler on February 20. In addition to the Directors, several regular members were present, including Ruth Duguay Craig, a former Gaspesian now living in Lacombe, Alberta. As is usual at this time of year, it was a cold, blustery night, and these hardy souls travelled from as far away as New Richmond and Rivière-au-Renard to attend the meeting.

At present, nearly all our membership is drawn from families of Jersey descent. We wish to make every effort to contact families who trace their origin to Guernsey, Alderney and Sark. Maybe you can help!

A decision has been taken to hold the 1996 Annual General Meeting in Paspébiac at the Historic Site and additional information will be included in this publication. A suggestion was presented that we consider and be concerned about the lack of any form of memorial in the Forillon Park to commemorate those Channel Island families who lived and worked in the area and who were obliged to leave their homes to make way for the Park. A committee headed by Cynthia Dow has been formed to contact and meet with other organizations in the Gaspé area to promote this idea, and updates will be provided in future newsletters.

Let us make this A G M a special time for renewing old friendships. Why not plan your summer holidays to coincide with the meeting?

Diane Sawyer

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 20 February 1996 at Campbell's Restaurant, Chandler. Here are some highlights of the meeting;

* Monument in Forillon Park: a committee has been formed, under the chairmanship of Cynthia Dow, to explore the possibility of erecting a monument in the Park to the memory of the families of Channel Island origin who were forced to leave their homes when the Park was created.

* Revision of the constitution: A committee will shortly be struck. Corrections and modifications will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting in August.

* Honorary Members: Congratulations to Father Charles Picot, Dr Ken Annett, Mr Gaston Langlais and Mrs Anita Verreault who have been named Honorary Members of the Society.

EXCHANGES

News of special events, social notes and accomplishments of our members. We count on you for your contributions. Call or write to: Diane Sawyer, Box 841, New Richmond, QC, G0C 2B0 (418) 392-6183 or L'Anglo-Normand, c/o Betty Le Maistre, 2028 Marlowe Ave, Montreal, QC, H4A 3L5 (514) 488-0705

* Lectures: On March 14, your Editor, Betty Le Maistre, addressed the members of the Westmount Historical Association. The speech, entitled *From Jersey to the Gaspé - an Odyssey*, and the slides which followed it, seemed very well received by the audience of some 40 people.

During the month of May, Diane Sawyer will be the guest speaker at a meeting of the New Brunswick Genealogical Society. Diane's topic will be, of course, Channel Islanders on the Gaspé.

* Gerald Brotherton will be our delegate to the Regional Forum on the Heritage of the Gaspé and the Magdalen Islands, sponsored by the Gaspé Regional Cultural Council, to be held at the Gaspé CEGEP on April 13 and 14.

* Guernsey Connection? Diane Sawyer had a call from Mr Tom Smith, Records Officer of the State of Ohio, USA. There is a Guernsey County in Ohio and Mr Smith is trying to find a link with the Island. Diane sent him the appropriate addresses and he promised to keep us up to date with his findings. Also, Diane has written to Guernsey, Saskatchewan, to inquire about early settlers in the town.

* Congratulations to Cynthia Dow on winning the Paul Dumont Frenette Award for outstanding journalism among Québec Community Newspapers, presented in June 1995. Cynthia, who is a reporter and editorialist for SPEC, won in the General Editorial category.

* Condolences: to the family of the late Elmer Anez of Hopetown, Quebec. Mr Anez was one of our founding members. Our deepest sympathy.

SOCIAL EVENING IN GASCONS, 24 November 1995 Diane Sawyer

Following a very successful social evening in New Carlisle in September, we were invited to Gascons to show the video and pictures of our visit to Jersey in May of 1995. As well, we were asked to describe our visit. And so Paul and Irene, Claudette and Diane accepted the invitation. We were pleased to be able to use the video taken by Paulette Poirier.

We expected a small group but were amazed to be met at the local town hall by the Mayor, Mr Anglehart, together with at least 50 people - the hall was completely filled, with standing room only!

The hall was decorated with a Jersey flag as well as flags of Canada and Quebec. Also, there was a lovely model of an old fishing vessel. A guitar player was on hand and we were supplied with copies of various Jersey and other songs. In between the different events on the programme, we had a really rollicking sing-song... Why is it that when people of Channel Island descent get together there is instant friendship? I have noticed this so often at gatherings.

We were welcomed by the Mayor, by Gerald Brotherton, our Board member for the area, and in English by Raymond Garrett.

Gerald gave a most interesting talk on the Island of Jersey, touching on many aspects, historical and otherwise. He then invited Diane to speak and asked that she also outline the objectives of the Society and her role in the group. During the evening Diane was presented with a very lovely hand-painted plaque which reads as follows: Our most heartfelt gratitude to Mrs Diane Sawyer, President of the Gaspesian Channel Islands Society, for her devotedness and support throughout the years. Les Anglo-Normands de la M R C de Pabok. Gascons, November 24, 1995.

The evening ended with time spent talking with those present whilst enjoying a very tasty lunch provided by the ladies present.

We were a happy group driving home to New Carlisle, Bonaventure and New Richmond, and we really felt convinced that our Society is providing a service to the people of Channel Island origin. Thanks to Paul for being our chauffeur!

PROFILES

JOAN BISSON DOW

by Cynthia Dow

Joan Bisson Dow is one Gaspesian with Jersey roots who is proud of her British connection - and has done something about it!

Mrs Bisson Dow is the force behind the Gaspesian British Heritage Centre in New Richmond, and has devoted thousands of hours of volunteer time to making this historical village a reality. The Centre now has 14 buildings which outline the history of the Loyalist, Scottish, Irish, Channel Island and other British settlers who contributed so much to the development of the Gaspé.

Mrs Dow is the great-granddaughter of Daniel Bisson of Jersey (born ca 1822) who arrived in the Port Daniel area about 1840. Daniel was the son of Charles, a shoemaker, and Mary Hamon. We know his parents visited the Gaspé at least once, since they were witnesses at the baptism of one of Daniel's children.

Daniel was a fisherman and farmer who married Mary Jane Almond on August 3, 1842. They had 11 children, of whom Daniel Junior was the third son. This Daniel married Annie Ferguson Barter of Grand Cascapedia, and they had 9 children, including Joan's father, Milton Herbert.

Milton Herbert was married to Irene Hope MacCallum from Bridgeville. Irene had Channel Island ancestors herself, many apparently from Guernsey, such as the Touzels, Lucas and Girards.

Milton and Irene had eight children, of whom Joan is the youngest daughter. She was married in 1949 to Ivan Malcolm Dow, also of Port Daniel, and they have four children.

Throughout her life, Mrs Dow has been a very willing community worker, having served on the School Board, Library Committees, special ad hoc groups, and the committee which organized the Bicentennial Celebrations of the arrival of the Loyalists in the Gaspé in 1784.

It is a priority for Mrs Dow to ensure that a room or even a house should be established at the Centre expressly to exhibit artefacts and information about the Channel Islands people who settled in the Gaspé, but at the current time funds are lacking for such an initiative.

RAYMOND GARRETT

by Gerald Brotherton

The Gaspesian Channel Islands Society takes pleasure in introducing Raymond Garrett, an influential member of our Society.

Raymond Garrett is of Jersey stock through his mother, Norma Chedore. He is an educator who has taught History and English for La Commission Scolaire du Rocher for almost 18 years. He has always been interested in his heritage and culture. He is a member of CASA (Committee for Anglophone Social Action), the Société Historique de la Gaspésie, the Gaspé Ornithological Club and the Corporation du Bourg de Pabos.

He is currently the Director of the Bourg de Pabos.

The GCIS is honoured to have Raymond among its members and we congratulate him on his involvement in our Gaspé milieu.

A VISIT TO JERSEY ISLAND in 1995

Ethelyn Vautier

Jersey: the name evokes memories of tales oft-told to the Jersey descendants on the Gaspé Coast in Canada. My husband's great-grandfather, John Vautier, from Val de la Mare, St Ouen, came to "La Côte" in the 1840's as a ship's carpenter for Charles Robin. We had long hoped to visit Jersey; however, Eddie died in January 1995. So it was with our daughter Ann, granddaughter Caterina - the fifth and sixth generations of Canadian Vautiers - and Ann's husband, Antonio, that we arrived at Rozel Harbour to spend time with Michael and Nancy Vautier.

And what a week-end it was... They took us along many roads, each with a story of bygone events. We studied the Family Tree, looked at old pictures, saw the site of the May 9th Liberation celebration, and, best of all, we spent an afternoon with Roy Vautier and his family at the Vautier homes from which John Vautier left for Canada. There are four houses in a group, a stone's throw from St Ouen's Pond. Since Jersey rarely has frost, it was quite a feat for Roy, when he was a lad of fifteen, to cross the pond over thin ice on his bicycle. We found a strong resemblance to cousins on the Gaspé Coast in gestures and stature.

The Vautier name was listed at St Ouen when William the Conqueror arrived in England at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. When the Duke of Normandy became King of England, it made little difference to the Jersiais, but in 1204, King John lost Normandie, and the inhabitants had a referendum to decide allegiance to France or England. They chose England. Thus it was that the Jersiais who came to the Gaspé spoke English. The old language is gradually disappearing but Michael sometimes uses it in his weekly radio broadcast.

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Jersey found itself in the front line in the English-French wars that followed, and construction of a fort was begun at Mont Orgueil - Jersey's Gorey Castle. It has been occupied by enemy forces twice: in 1461 French soldiers held it for over seven years, and from July 1, 1940, to May 9, 1945, Hitler's army was there. Over the centuries it has been much more than a fort; the Governor lived there, and several tableaux with life-sized figures portray the inhabitants of the Castle. A tape explains the events. Mont Orgueil was also used to detain political prisoners. William Prynn is pictured in the cell where he actually lived for two years as the "house guest" of Governor de Carteret.

Another highlight was a short tour of the Jersey Museum. Each of the twelve parishes prepared a tapestry showing the Occupation by the German Army, and a further display brought vividly to life the hardships endured by the Jersey population during those years. Towards the end, a Red Cross ship, the *Vega*, came with provisions; it was just in time. Food supplies were low; for five years the Jersials had been hungry, cold, and with dwindling medical necessities and no warm clothes. Liberation Day in May, 1945, was a time no one in Jersey will ever forget.

Sunday lunch with Michael and Nancy's family was a happy occasion. The two four-year-old cousins, Caterina and Matthew Vautier, had a great play, and we all enjoyed the delicious meal along with the welcoming hospitality. Many thanks and hopes that we meet soon again - in Jersey or on the Gaspé Coast.

TRIP TO JERSEY 1997

Jersey in 1997? Why not! Our first thoughts: a flexible itinerary; 10 days on the Island; a minimum of receptions and official functions; lots of free time for research, personal visits, shopping, etc.

If you think you might be interested, call or write to Diane Sawyer, Box 841, New Richmond, QC, G0C 2B0 (418) 392-6183. We want to hear about your preferences and suggestions while the trip is still in the planning stages. This does not in any way commit you: we simply want to know whether there is enough interest to start working on the idea.

GENEALOGY

DUMARESQ; Our very sincere thanks to Emery Dumaresq who has donated a copy of his family tree, which reaches back to the 1200s, to our archives.

Requests for help have been received from the following:

LEBRUN; M Berchmanns Scherrer, P O Box 850, Havre-Saint-Pierre, QC, G0C 1P0, is looking for information re J William Lebrun who came to St-Georges-de-Malbaie with his two brothers from St Peter, Jersey. Also Noel, Touzel, Vibert.

HUZZARD, Elizabeth: from Alderney; settled in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Contact Mrs Pamela Routier, 72 de Quetteville Court, St Saviour's Road, Jersey, Channel Islands.

DRELAUD, DRILLOT, DRILLOU (Sark), **HAMON** (Sark and Jersey), **HUTCHINGS** (Jersey and Alderney). Contact Mrs Joyce Pleven, 6621 Genoa Bay Road, R R #1, Duncan, BC, V9L 1M3.

MEMBERSHIP

We notice that there are several memberships not paid for 1993-94 and 1994-95. Please check your membership cards and bring memberships up to date as soon as possible as this could be your last newsletter should you not be a paid-up member.

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Membership Renewal Form

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....Code:.....

Single: \$5.00, Family: \$7.50 Return to Irene Dallain,
Box 696, New Carlisle, QC, G0C 1Z0 (418) 752-2996

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Vol 1, #19

December 1996

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our 1996 Annual General Meeting was, as usual, a great success and we all enjoyed the opportunity to meet old and new friends at the Paspebiac Historic Site. The weather was kind to us and the lunch delicious. On August 10, the evening prior to the AGM, we were invited to a social evening at the home of Betty Le Maistre and David Freeman in New Carlisle. Thank you, Betty and David, for your kind hospitality. About 30 members and friends spent a happy evening sharing news and friendship. Many thanks to Enid Le Grand for providing music for our singing - we even tried some old Jersey French songs!

A full slate of officers was elected and the names of members of the Council will be listed elsewhere in this publication, together with a report of the Annual General Meeting.

We have several projects in mind for this coming year and expect to overhaul our constitution in 1997 to bring it more in line with our needs. Our membership continues to grow but we should all think of adding one more member to the list. Perhaps you can share your copy of *L'Anglo-Normand* with a friend and spark their interest.

We are sad to report the death on September 13, 1996, of Alice Mazerolle Le Grand following a lengthy illness bravely born. Alice is the wife of Council member Vincent Le Grand. Her cheery smile will be sadly missed and we offer sincere sympathy to her family.

We welcome and look for participation in this publication, so why not have more "letters to the Editor"? Your suggestions will help to build a stronger Society.

Diane Sawyer

About thirty people assembled on August 11 at the Paspebiac Historic Site for the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

The "vin d'honneur", which was offered by the Municipality of Paspebiac, was followed at noon by a delicious meal in the restaurant at the Site. We enjoyed some Jersey specialities: "la soupe dé tonmates" and "la gâche dé Canelle".

Members who were present approved the Annual Reports of the President, Diane Sawyer; the Treasurer, Paul Dallain; the Membership Secretary, Irene Dallain; the Editor of l'Anglo-Normand, Betty Le Maistre; and Cynthia Dow, Chair of the Forillon Park Committee which is undertaking the task of finding a suitable way of commemorating the contribution to the area of families of Channel Island origin.

Officers and Members of Council for 96-97 are as follows:

President: Diane Sawyer
1st Vice-President: Claudette Garnier
2nd Vice-President: Gaston Langlais
Secretary: Rita Prévost Whitton
Treasurer: Paul Dallain
Membership Secretary: Irene Dallain

Council Members:

Gérald Brotherton
Denise Gagné
Wilfred Hocquard
Vincent Le Grand
Betty Le Maistre (L'Anglo-Normand)
Réjean Martel
Bernard Savage
Olive Smollett
Emery Dumaresq, Past President

After the Business Meeting, the Guest Speaker, Mr Guy Richard, Secretary of the Genealogical Society of Québec (City), gave a very animated address, *Pride in Our Roots*. Mr Richard encouraged us to continue to be proud of our Channel Island origins. He went on to explain the social and political movements which led to The Channel Islands' adherence to the British Crown, and the evolution of the Islands as we know them today.

The audience reacted enthusiastically to Mr Richard's speech. We spent a very pleasant day together.

CHANNEL ISLAND ECHOES: Channel Islanders in the Gaspé

A series of extracts from the writings of Dr Kenneth Annett, generously contributed by the author.

Extract from the article *Sale of the Schooner "Rose"* (Gaspé of Yesterday, # 193 Vol 5)

During the Napoleonic Wars the French Schooner, *Aimable Rose*, was captured as a Prize of War by the Janvrin ship of war, *Phoenix*, of the Island of Jersey. It eventually crossed the Atlantic, was bought by John Ascah and John Patterson Jr of Gaspé Bay, and sold by them in 1806.

The story of the schooner *Rose* has many interesting references to men of Jersey, including the following:

The Janvrins

Some records, more than others, serve as illuminant of the fascinating background of our Gaspesian heritage. In geographical terms this story of the *Rose* conveys the reader to Napoleonic France, the adjacent island of Jersey, England and in particular to the great seaport of Southampton, the Bay of Gaspé and the old seaport of Québec. Historically, it recalls the period of the Napoleonic Wars when France and England (including the Channel Islands) were engaged in a bitter, life-and-death struggle for control of the seas. And from a sociological point of view it serves to recall a number of the merchant-traders and the mariners of Jersey and Gaspé who were involved in the development of "Gaspee" those many long years ago.

Francis, John and Philip Janvrin of the Island of Jersey appear in this Deed. While *Gaspé of Yesterday* has in progress a study of this remarkable family, it should be noted that next to the Charles Robin Company the Janvrin Co was a leader in the Gaspé fishery in the early 19th century. From their base at Grande Grève and Gaspé Basin they extended their fishing stations along the St Lawrence coast to the westward.

The name of their private ship of war, *Phoenix*, Daniel Hamon Commander, reflected the Janvrin family crest of the mythical bird, the Phoenix, with the motto below its outstretched wings: LABOR IPSE VOLUPTAS.

It was as the young captain of another Janvrin ship of war, *Young Phoenix*, that Peter Du Val established his reputation by the capture of the French privateer, *Vulture*, prior to establishing himself on Bonaventure Island.

(To be continued in the next issue of Anglo-Normand)



Meeting of the Council, 30 September 1996, at Fraser Motel in Chandler. Here is a summary of the important points discussed:

** Everyone seemed pleased with the Annual General Meeting on August 11 at the Paspebiac Historic Site. However, the fact that there were some twenty people fewer than usual in attendance is difficult to explain.

** Forillon Park Committee: contacts with the Administration of the Park are continuing.

** The Internet: do you have any additions for our page? If so, please contact Diane Sawyer, P O Box 841, New Richmond, QC, G0C 2B0 (418) 392-6183

** The Constitution: Betty Le Maistre and David Freeman presented a revised version which will be studied by the Council during the winter. Eventually it will be printed and circulated among members, with the intention of having it adopted at the next Annual General Meeting.

EXCHANGES

** Howard and Wilma (Vibert) Biehl, who recruited two new members, Wayne and Pat Vibert (see *Genealogy*), spent a few days in Jersey last April. They had tea with the Connétable de St Ouen, Ken Vibert and his wife Beryl. They spent some time at the Société jersiaise tracing Viberts. They brought back the 1995 telephone book, if anyone is interested in names and addresses. They could be interested in a future trip with our Society members... 2765 Roseberry Avenue, West Vancouver, BC, V7V 3A3

** Le Brun: our deepest sympathy to the family of Mr Leonard Le Brun of Gascons who passed away September 25 at the age of 82.

** Le Grand: sincere condolences to the family of Alice Mazerolle Le Grand, wife of Vincent Le Grand of New Richmond, who passed away September 13, 1996. A very dear friend... we will miss her very much.

** *Channel Islanders on the Gaspé* was the title of an address given at the Royal Montreal Curling Club by your Editor, Betty Le Maistre, on 27 November. The speech was part of a noon hour series organized by the Club.

INTERNET

Jersey Web, from Jersey (<http://www.jersey.co.uk>)

Jersey Postal Service
c/o Adrian Le Corre ([http://www.itl.net/go/to/Jsy Post](http://www.itl.net/go/to/Jsy%20Post))

National Genealogical
Society (<http://genealogy.org/NGS/welcome.html>)

U.S. Based Web Site (<http://users.aol.com/john14246/ci.html>)

CASA (Committee for
Anglophone Social
Action) (CASA at Quebectel.com)

TREASURE THE PAST!*Betty Le Maistre*

We, as members of the Society, have in our possession an important bank of data which did not exist five years ago. I am referring to the files of families of Channel Island origin which are stored with the Genealogy Centre in New Richmond. They constitute a mine of information which future generations will be able to use, and which will enrich their appreciation of their roots.

During the summer my husband and I did some volunteer work at the Centre. We were assigned to the task of standardizing the files: tidying up the folders, and doing some cross-referencing, and we realized that these documents are a treasure of which we ought to be very proud.

Congratulations and thanks to all those who have already contributed their family histories. I would like to encourage all our members to do likewise, and as soon as possible! What a useful way to spend those long, cold winter nights...

A few hints to help you to preserve your precious documents in good condition.

The use of Scotch Tape and Post-It notes (those sticky little notes that come off so easily) is not recommended on original documents. With time the tape changes colour, breaks up and ruins the paper. Post-It notes leave a residue on the paper - even if you cannot see it - which ends up damaging it, too.

It goes without saying that photocopies of your family documents will do for the files at the Centre. But for them to be useful to future generations, your copies should bear certain information relating to their origin: the name of the author, the date, and the name of the magazine or newspaper (in the case of a copy of an article).

Sometimes you will notice errors in the documents; e.g. birth dates, spelling, etc. Note your corrections on a separate sheet of paper and include it in the file rather than making changes on the original.

Enjoy your research!

NEWS FROM GUERNSEY

*Extract from The Review of the Guernsey Society
(February - June 1996)*

- It is estimated that the population of Guernsey could reach 70,000 within the next 40 years increasing the need for some 7,000 more homes to be built.
- The sale of Castle Carey attracted 3,000 people to view and around 300 for the sale itself where more than 400 lots made in excess of £310,000 (about \$750,000 CAN).
- An essential part of the island's heritage was marked at the King Edward VII hospital with an "Ormering Reminiscence Week" when the patients were treated to ormer stew. The comments from the customers were very favourable!
- As in the UK the song of the skylark is rarely heard as the bird has almost vanished from the island with changes in agricultural techniques.
- *The Reader's Digest Good Beach Guide* listed five Guernsey beaches which are judged to have water of the highest quality. They are L'Erée, Pembroke, Portelet, Port Soif and Vazon Bay.
- Emeraude Lines' new high speed catamaran, *Solidor 3*, made its first visit to Guernsey in June. The estimated travel time from St Malo to Guernsey is 45 minutes.
- The Guernsey Post Museum was officially opened on 10 May. There has been a post office in the island since 1794 when an official boat service was introduced.
- Guernsey fishermen are looking for new markets in Asia since they can no longer sell their fish in France. Crustaceans remain the dominant catch.
- *McDonald's* arrived in Guernsey - but only for three days in order to take part in the Salon Culinare Good Food and Wine Festival (!) in April.

GENEALOGY

We have received the following requests:

1. Le Touzel: James Charles. Left Jersey, C I, about 1865 and came to Gaspé to join his uncle. He later left Quebec and moved to Bermuda and later to Ontario. Married Anne Catherine Packwood. If you have information about this Le Touzel family, please contact Susan Hillhouse, 6846 Ken Arbore Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45236, U S A.
2. Wayne and Pat Vibert, new members of Edmonton, Alberta, are very interested in the history of Channel Islanders in the Gaspé. Wayne writes: "My great-grandfather, Phillip James Vibert, helped to build the St James Anglican Church in Cape Cove (now a part of Cap-d'Espoir). We continue to hold title to land once owned by Phillip's brother, Peter Vibert, at the site of Cape Cove. A couple of years ago I compiled our version of the Vibert story, based on extensive research and my wife Pat's series of notes. The story runs to 58 pages and includes tracking the family's movements from Cape Cove to Buffalo, Miami, Scottsdale, Montreal, Craik (Sask) and on to Alberta and BC."

