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# *La Revue de Salem*

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"Dans l'bon vieux temps ça s'passait d'même..."



Journal of the  
*Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc.*  
Salem, Massachusetts

**Cover Photo:** A half-century ago, students at *l'Académie St-Joseph* were preparing for the annual school dance about to take place in the Spring of 1960.

## News

On 12 June 2009 the Sisters of Ste-Chrétienne closed Our Lady Preschool which they have conducted for the past 36 years. In its place, they have opened the Our Lady Thrift Shop to aid in their ministry. Visitors are always welcome at 197 Pleasant Street, Marlboro. *Venez voir!* • The Salem City Council has considered naming the police station for former police chief Robert St-Pierre. *Un honneur!* • Our condolences to the Sisters of Ste-Chrétienne on the death of Sr Estelle Desorcy (Sr Marie-Ange), formerly of Loring Villa in Salem. *Qu'elle repose en paix.* • On Christmas Eve, it was Joshua Lévesque who climbed to the top of the 35-foot flagpole atop the six-story Hawthorne Hotel to replace a rope. *Ça prend du courage!* • Peter LaChapelle has retired after a 33-year career with the National Park Service in Salem. *Bonne retraite!* • Matthew Darrisse was sworn in as a member of the Salem Fire Department in January. *Félicitations!* • The Massachusetts Historical Commission has determined that the demolition of St-Joseph's church would have an "adverse impact" on the community, and further called for the disinterment and preservation of the colossal century-old statue, according to the Salem News of 15 January. The following week, Joe Guilmette and Mark Jalbert were interviewed for a follow-up article. • The Acadian Cultural Society of Fitchburg, founded in 1985, has voted to dissolve in 2010. *Avec regret.* • The *Club Richelieu* continues to offer magnificent French language films, shown with English subtitles, on the first Thursday of each month. *Venez!* • The date on the cover of the last issue of *La Revue de Salem* should read 2009 – not 2010. *Pardonnez-nous!*

**Donations received** include: Bookcases (4) and books (12 volumes) from Michel Michaud (#1); books (12 volumes) and ephemera from Nelson Dionne (#2); File material from Marie-E. Bourgeois (#91); gifts from John Kobuszewski (#3), Collette LaVallée (#4), May Pinault (#7), Constance Servizio (#66), and Ricardo Jardin (#170). *Merci à tous!*

### *L'été en fête*

**Our annual get-together, *l'été en fête*, will take place on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. All members are welcome to attend. Save the date! Details will be in the August issue of *La Revue de Salem*.**

**Editorial**

## **La généalogie 101**

Genealogy – the study of the generations of a family – is one of the cornerstones of our organization. It helps us to know the people who have shaped our history. It explains the relationships among the families which form our community. It adds a human element to our personal and collective past. Each generation is a link which forms an unbroken chain from our most distant ancestor to the present. Genealogy is our inheritance.

Those of us who visit genealogical societies on a regular basis know of the many treasures which lie hidden in books and boxes, on file cards and in folders, on microfilm and on microfiche. We search through collections of photographs and newspaper clippings, and leaf through the numerous pages of a variety of newsletters and journals. We leave no stone unturned in the hope of finding some elusive detail to fill a gap in our personal history.

Unlike many pastimes, genealogy is one in which we always expect the unexpected. The longer it takes us to find a bit of information, the more determined we become. Weeks, months, even years may pass. And then, suddenly, the missing link is found! A mystery is solved! We tell others, and together we share in the joy of our success. Genealogists always take an interest in each others' work, and many friendships are quickly formed.

Another joy of our research is in helping a newcomer – one who has just begun to trace their family history. As bits of information are collected, their excitement becomes evident. Everything begins to fall into place. Soon, they understand how to conduct their own research, and genealogy becomes an obsession. We say that the "genealogy bug" has bitten! There is nothing quite like *la première fois*!

Of course, there are those who consider genealogy to be nothing more than a compilation of names and dates. This is where creativity comes in to play, as we begin to "trim our family tree". We collect information on each individual such as their occupation, place of residence, and number of children. We learn of their physical appearance through photographs, and of biographical details through obituaries. Census records, property deeds, and other documents all contribute to our knowledge of our ancestors as we bring these people back to life!

A simple "direct-line" genealogy (such as those published in every issue of *La Revue de Salem*) is a road map which traces the movement of our family from an ancient town in France, through picturesque villages of French-Canada, and into Salem. Who can resist reading about these intriguing places, learning about how these people lived, or seeing photographs of their beautiful surroundings?

A complete "ascending" genealogy is generally shown on what is known as a fan chart. Here, we begin with ourselves, and the fan unfolds as we add the names of our two parents, our four grandparents, our eight great-grandparents, and so forth. The number doubles with each generation. By the tenth generation, we find that we are descended from 1,022 individuals!

**(Continued on Page 8)**

## Lafayette Park (Part I)

Lafayette Park has been called “one of the most visible entrance points to downtown Salem.” Located directly in front of St-Joseph’s church, the park is a beautiful open space with trees and plantings, benches and walkways, and a prominent memorial to Salem’s Franco-American veterans.

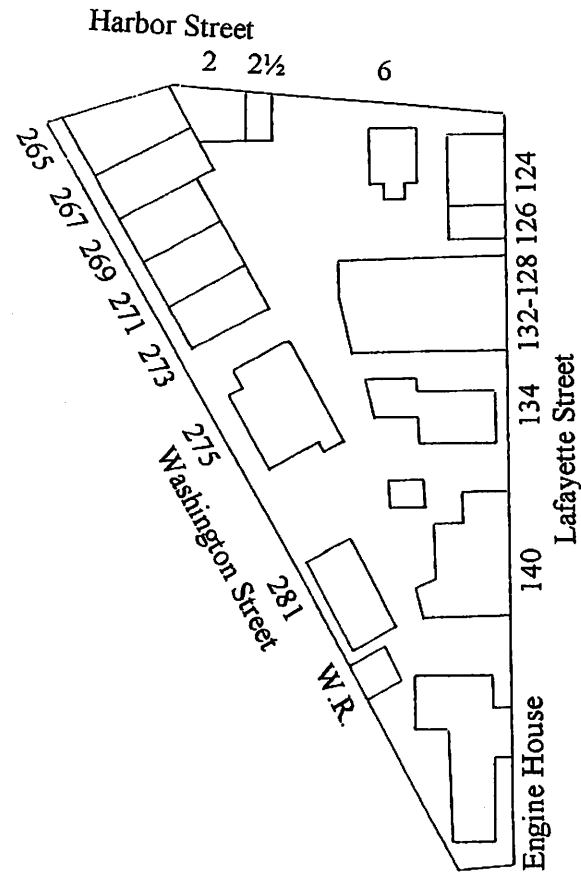
But this was not always the case. Prior to the Great Salem Fire of 1914, this triangular lot was the site of a densely populated business and residential neighborhood. A number of Franco-American families made their home here or found the location to be an ideal one from which to operate a business.

We begin our tour of the block, as it appeared a century ago, at the junction of Washington and Lafayette Streets:

**Fire House** – As early as 1866, Engine No. 3 “Relief” was located here. By 1869 this wood-framed landmark “housed that famous hose reel, Lafayette No. Five, the pride of all the kinds in Ward Five, because the sides of the reel were of plate glass.” City documents reveal that a new \$8,000 structure was dedicated on 21 December 1880: “Hose No. 5 has had a fine new brick house built on the site of the old one, and has now one of the finest public buildings in the city.” During 1883 it was altered to house Steamer No. 1.

Attached to this building at 285 Washington Street was a former schoolhouse, also of brick, which came to be known as the Ward Room. Here “was transacted the political business of the ward, such as caucuses, elections, and the like.”

The next four properties were on Lafayette Street, facing the present St-Joseph’s church and rectory, from the Fire House to Harbor Street:



**140 Lafayette** – This single family home was occupied at least as early as 1861. It was the residence of William A. Brooks, apothecary, by 1869, and was occupied by him until the fire of 1914.

**134 Lafayette** – Built for the Newell family at least as early as 1846, this appears to have been the earliest dwelling on this site. The property was sold to Georgianna (Voyer) Côté and became the home of a number of prominent Franco-American families: Jean-Baptiste & Rose (Tremblay) Voyer, parents of Georgianna Côté, 1895-1904; Joseph Galipeau, fireman, 1895; Télesphore-J. Pepin,

carpenter (later, Representative), 1897-1898; Amédée & Georgianna (Voyer) Côté, Police Officer, 1905-1914; Joseph-R. Bellerose, 1908-1910; Napoléon Lévesque, 1908; and Dr Camille Côté, physician, office and residence, 1909-1914.

**132-128 Lafayette** – This commercial and residential building appears as early as 1879. Two storefronts were located at street-level (Nos. 132 and 128), with two apartments on the second floor (No. 130). Number 132 was the hairdressing salon of Georges Labrecque, Arthur-A. and Edouard Roy, and Pierre Biron from 1895 to 1906. The offices of *Le Courrier de Salem* moved here in the summer of 1906, along with those of realtors Paul-N. Chaput and J.-Aldéric Deschamps, remaining until the 1914 fire. Another hairdresser, Eugène Fournier, occupied the storefront at No. 128 from 1912 to 1914. Upstairs at No. 130 were the residences of Arthur Beaucage, editor of *Le Courrier*, from 1913 to 1914, and of Paul Beaulieu in 1913 and Joseph Boucher in 1914.

**126-124 Lafayette** – The business block at the corner of Lafayette and Harbor Streets housed a grocery market for nearly four decades. Also in this building, in 1888 and 1889, was the apothecary shop of Pierre-L.-M. Gaudette. The building appears to have been enlarged in 1891/1892 when it became known as the Lafayette Market. The market was closed and the business “transformed” by its owner in 1913 amid much controversy, as is evident from the Salem Evening News of 5 November 1913:

**Picture house was protested** – Mayor Hurley has granted to Gustavus A. Hamlin a license to conduct a moving picture theatre at the corner of Harbor and Lafayette streets, in the Hamlin block. The place is nearly finished and will be opened shortly. In view of the fact that the build

ing is occupied on the second and third stories by tenements and also that there are several apartment houses and tenements in the immediate vicinity, some of the directors were not in favor of granting such a license. They, however, have no voice in the matter, the right to license such places being vested in the mayor. It is also understood that Fr. Rainville, pastor of the French church, did not favor the project and protested against it. Before it can be used the building will have to pass inspection and be approved by the state police.

The theatre did indeed open on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>, and by Friday of that week, *Le Courrier de Salem* ran an advertisement for French films:

**L'ALHAMBRA**  
**VUES ANIMÉES DE HAUTE CLASSE**  
Angle des Rues Lafayette et Harbor  
Programme vendredi et samedi  
"A l'Ombre de la Montagne"  
Vues de deux rouleaux  
Drame: "Son Secret"  
"La Fin de la Course"  
Grande Vue de Chemin de Fer  
"Une Question de Toilette"  
Un Drame-Comédie  
Chansons Illustrées

**6 Harbor Street** – A small boarding house occupied the site as early as 1874 when it was operated by the Hayes sisters.

**2 Harbor Street** – This building, at the rear of 265 Washington Street, was a residence at least as early as 1881. Dr Armand Mignault made his office here in 1906. It was divided or enlarged by 1912. No. 2 was leased by Clara Lavallée, a dressmaker, in 1912, and by Pierre-F. Deschênes, an insurance broker, in 1914. No. 2½ was an undertaker's establishment in 1912, and a tailor shop in 1914.

**265-273 Washington Street** – Called “the long yellow house, with many occupants”, these were actually five attached townhouses, built by 1874. Dr Armand Mignault lived at No. 265 in 1906, followed by Joseph-A. Dumas by 1914. Gustavus Hamlin, owner of the Alhambra Theatre, lived at No. 269 in 1888-1889, and Charles Boivin lived at No. 273 by 1912.

**275 Washington Street** – Built by 1879, this was the residence of Charles Boivin and Aglaé Morency in 1914.

**281 Washington Street** – Built by 1874, this was the residence of Horace Plamondon in 1912, and of Louis-P. Gaudreau, a hairdresser, from 1912 to 1914.

This brings us back to “the home of Engine One, a home it never occupied again, after it responded to that alarm the early afternoon of June 25, 1914. The old fire house was a noted spot, and even when the fire raged, South Salem people packed the place with their goods and chattels, probably under the impression that being a fire house it could not burn, but the old flames licked the place up, and found a choice morsel for its appetite, when it arrived at this spot. Time works changes, but fire works a quicker and greater change...” – Salem Evening News 15 April 1922.

*[To be continued]*

## ***Biography***

### **Antoine Gagnon (1816-1910)**

One hundred years ago this month, the French population of Salem mourned the loss of one of its oldest and most respected citizens, Antoine Gagnon.

Born at Rivière-Ouelle (Kamouraska) on 19 December 1816, he was the son of Pierre Gagnon and Marie-Victoire Pelletier. He worked on his father's farm until 1839 when, at the age of 22, he opened his own General Store which he operated for the next 55 years.

Antoine was married in the church of Rivière-Ouelle on 6 September 1842 to Julie-Adélaïde Pelletier, the daughter of Jean-Marie Pelletier and Julie Painchaud. The couple would have eight children, all born at Rivière-Ouelle. Following the death of his wife in 1867, Antoine was alone to operate his store and to raise his four surviving children. On 25 February 1868 he married Philomène Sirois, the daughter of Abraham Sirois and Victoire St-Jore, in the church of St-Roch-de-Québec. This couple would have ten children, all born at St-Pacôme and all of whom would survive.

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Antoine's first wife, Julie, was the sister of the renowned judge, Sir Charles-Alphonse-Pantaléon Pelletier (1837-1911), Lt. Governor of the Province of Québec, and the niece of l'abbé Charles-François Painchaud (1782-1835), founder of the Collège of Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière.

Antoine's son, Charles-Antoine-Ernest Gagnon (1846-1901), was Representative from Kamouraska in the Legislative Assembly, president of the Québec Board of Notaries, Provincial Secretary to Prime Minister Honoré Mercier, and Sheriff of the District of Québec. He was bestowed with the honor of *officier d'académie* by the Government of France. Two of Antoine's daughters, Marie-Alma (1874-1935) and Marie-Justine (1878-1900) entered the Franciscan Convent in Québec.

Following his retirement at the age of 77, Antoine Gagnon came to Salem, on 22 March 1894, and made his home at 24 East Gardner Street. He would live here for the remaining 16 years of his life. With him in Salem were his wife Philomène, their son Marcellin, and their daughters Odélie, Anaïs, and Victoria.

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Antoine's daughter Odélie was married in St-Joseph's, Salem, on 22 October 1894 to Jean-Baptiste Desormeaux. Their first child, Ernest, was born here in Salem on 9 December 1895. Several years later, the entire Desormeaux family settled in Embrun, Ontario.

On 19 April 1918, Ernest Desormeaux married Jeannette Gagné in the church of Ste-Anne, Ottawa. The couple would have eleven children. Ernest taught for over 25 years in the Ontario schools, eventually becoming secretary-treasurer of the school system. In 1940, he was appointed Secretary of Unemployment Insurance for the federal government.

An avid promoter of the French language, Ernest Desormeaux served as president of the *Association canadienne-française d'éducation d'Ontario* (1944-1953), of the *Conseil de la vie française en Amérique* (1947-1949), and was founding president of the *Association canadienne des éducateurs de langue française* (1947).

Eighty-one years after his birth in Salem, on 22 April 1977, the grandson of Antoine Gagnon died in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

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Antoine Gagnon died at his East Gardner Street home on 1 April 1910 at the age of ninety-four. In an article published in *Le Courrier de Salem* shortly before his death, he was described as robust, with an extraordinary memory, and with vivid recollections of the horrors of the revolution of 1837.

Three of his children remained in Salem: Anaïs (Mme Henri Bélanger), Victoria (Mme Zéphirin Tardif), and Marcellin Gagnon.

A Solemn Requiem Mass was offered for Antoine Gagnon on Monday April 4<sup>th</sup> in St-Joseph's church by M. l'abbé Hyacinthe Barrière, O.P. of Ottawa, followed by his burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Salem.

### Genealogy of Antoine Gagnon

- I Pierre Gagnon & Renée Royer of St-Aubin, Tourouvre (Perche), France  
Jean Gagnon & Marguerite Cauchon (Jehan & Marguerite Cointerel)  
Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré, 29 Jul 1640
- II Jean Gagnon & Marguerite Drouin (Robert & Marie Chapelier)  
Château-Richer, 26 Oct 1670
- III Joseph Gagnon & Madeleine Tremblay (Pierre & Marie Roussin)  
Baie-St-Paul, 10 Apr 1709
- IV Pierre Gagnon & Scholastique Girard (Louis & Marguerite Tardif)  
Les Éboulements, 22 Apr 1737
- V Jean-Baptiste Gagnon & M.-Louise Boucher (Pierre & Catherine Lizotte)  
Rivière-Ouelle, 3 Aug 1770
- VI Pierre Gagnon & Marie-Victoire Pelletier (François & Charlotte Miville-Deschênes)  
St-Roch-des-Aulnaies, 17 Feb 1806
- VII Antoine Gagnon

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### La généalogie 101 (*continued from page 3*)

In a “descending” genealogy, we choose a particular couple as a starting point – perhaps our great-grandparents who first settled in the United States. We then list all of their children. (This is not an easy task when there were perhaps as many as sixteen or more!) Then follows each of their children, and each of *their* children, and so forth. When complete, we will have catalogued all of our aunts and uncles, grand-aunts and grand-uncles, and our first and second cousins.

There is an old belief that all French-Canadians are cousins. This has been proven to be true more often than not. The inter-relationship of individuals within a community such as Salem is a fascinating study. And with enough patience and determination, a relationship can be established between any two Franco-Americans – both famous and infamous!

Genealogy has long been a tradition among French-Canadians and Franco-Americans. Our library contains hundreds of genealogies and thousands of vital records to help its members. If you have already traced your genealogy, be sure to send us a copy. If not, contact us! Don’t let your family be a “missing link” in Salem’s Franco-American history. Enjoy all the excitement that genealogy has to offer. *Bonne recherche à tous!*





## **Recollections of Louis-Ernest Bélanger (1906-1995)**

*Submitted by Albert-E. Bélanger, #68*

*[continued]*

So I get to this place where they were working. That's the Balfour Apartments today. That was in progress, so all the guys were working. I said, "Where's the boss?" Somebody pointed to a fellow by the name of Al Smith who was the contractor, and he was the boss. So I walked up and said, "You got a job for me?" That's what my Uncle Joe told me to say. Whatever he said – he must've said something like, "There's a pretty good thick one here! The real McCoy right here!" Whatever he said in English, I didn't understand. So finally he motioned me to take my coat off. I said, "Oh boy, I've got myself a job here!"

I took off my coat, and he gave me a shovel. He took a shovelful of sand from a pile and shoved it through a cellar window for the mason - for the brick mortar. So I took the shovel, and that sand went in there! One shovel after another! 'Cause I was used to working in the saw mill – one plank after another – so you don't hesitate. So I didn't hesitate with my shovel, either. The first thing I know, the whole pile was in the cellar where it belonged.

The boss came in around 10:00. The first thing, he put his hands on his face as if to say, "I can't believe he got it all in there!" I imagined that, in my own stupidity.

I said to myself, "Maybe he wanted only half the pile, and I put the whole thing!" So I picked up the shovel, and I started to go downstairs to shovel it out 'cause I thought I put too much in there. How stupid can you be?

He took the shovel [out of] my hand. He tossed it and took me by the arm and he brought me in front. Whatever he said was in Chinese to me. He took a piece of paper and [a] pencil and wrote something. He put it in my pocket and he gave me a kick in the bottom – not hard, but just so the other guys [would] get a laugh out of it. How do you think I felt? My first job in the United States and I got fired!

I hated to go to the depot where my uncle was. And I had a big blister from the money in my pocket rubbing back and forth. That mark is still there on my leg! So I said, I'm gonna go home. So then, I had to cross the track right near the Italian Church. So I went up to the house on Creek Street – up to the top floor – and I said to my aunt, "I got a job and I got fired!"

"That's nothing. You lost one job – you'll get another one," she said. "Your uncle, Ike Thériault, is looking to get you a job on the railroad, and your uncle, Emile Simard, [a job] at Eastern Mass. Bus Company. And there's a Louis Labrie in South Peabody – he could have somebody to deliver his orders." I had all kinds of prospects, she told me right there.

So I told her, "Okay, but I found some money."

"You found some money?" And she laughed. "You can't find money. You have to work for your money – I don't mean maybe! Don't get that into your head!"

I said, "No, look!" I emptied my pocket on the table. She couldn't believe it. So she counted the whole thing - \$96.60!

"Where'd you get that?" I told her. She couldn't believe me. She said, "You show me where." So she walked with me from there, near the Post Office, to Fairfield Street. There were still indications of the change, in the dirt. Now she believed me. She said she knew that they were shooting craps and something happened to scare 'em away in a hurry.

So she says, "Okay. There was \$96.60. I'll put [in] \$4, and we'll put that in the bank." She opened up my first bank account at Salem Five Cent Savings Bank. I got here on Thursday – on Monday I had \$100.00 in the bank! My Aunt Beatrice was a good-hearted woman. When I moved in there, she had about a dozen kids. By 1935 there was a picture in the Salem News with her nineteen kids!

Then I showed her the note the boss put in my pocket when he gave me the boot in the pants. It said: I'm sending the kid home. Tell him to come back tomorrow morning. Tell him he earned his \$8.00.

So, naturally, I went to work the next morning.

After that, I never was without money. Wherever I hanged my hat, I was home, as long as I had security. That was my first thing – as long as I had enough money to get back home. I never was without money in my pocket. So the minute I had something in my pocket, I would save it. I figured this way: if anything happened, I could always get home and work for the farmers – the people back home.

**Second Job: Working on the Railroad** – I worked on construction for a while – a few weeks. Then one day Ike Thériault, my uncle – he's uncle to my parents but not uncle to me – says to my aunt, "Tell Louis to come over tomorrow to the Salem Depot. I'll put him on." So I got a job there on the B&M on the fourteenth of April, 1927. I worked there 'til 1940.

I was working on the "spare crew" and there was a guy by the name of Mahoney – and Jack Collins. But the working men were all Frenchmen, and I couldn't learn English 'cause they would only talk French. They had no interest in learning English. I did, because I figured I am in this country and I should learn the language.

I put in a lot of rails in the Dover and Portsmouth yards. When they came up with the diesel engine, they weighed more than the steam engines, so they had to change the steel. They had to gauge the rail by the yard. The 85 pounds per yard they used for steam engines was too small for diesel, so they changed to 100 pounds per yard. So instead of being 40 feet for a rail, it was 60: 100 pounds and 130 pounds. The same amount of men to lift that rail – we didn't have cranes them days.

We put eight "dogs" – sixteen men – to carry those rails! I was always short. They put a tall guy with a little shrimp like me. Try to lift the thing with those guys! I'm telling you, boy, I just couldn't lift with my face! And was a little flounder-head, don't you forget it! All those were big,

husky guys. That's why, during my fourteen years with the railroad, when I got through work, I just came home, washed up, and got to bed, and got up at 6 o'clock the next morning. That's six days a week. We got 40 cents an hour for 48 hours a week.

I brought home \$19.20 a week!

**Boarding House Life** – After a while living with my Aunt Beatrice and Uncle Joe St-Pierre, I had to go off on my own, 'cause they had a dozen or so kids. 'Course the same thing was true back home in St-Aubert. So I went down the street and lived in boarding houses. I moved a lot.

[When] you pay room and board, of course, you get a lunch to take to work. When you first move there, they always put up a good lunch. Railroad guys, we got three sandwiches. We used to have ham, lettuce, and tomato – at the beginning. After we'd been there two or three weeks – a month – six months sometimes – they started to put that “dog meat” on the lunch! They used to call that minced meat or spiced ham.

When you put that [lunch] box on the track, where the sun hits it all day, and you get 80 or 90 degrees – what do you think? That meat gets green! We tossed it out! I always took care of myself. Stuff that was no good – out! I'd rather be hungry. So, when those things happened, I moved – I looked for another boarding house. So it seems to me in nine or ten years I moved an average of twice a year!

After a while they say, “P'tit Louis” – that's what they used to call me – “P'tit Louis all moved up again? What's the matter?

Sometimes I couldn't eat where I roomed. I liked to eat and sleep at the same place, but sometimes it wasn't always possible. One particular time I left my place on Perkins Street and I came up to live [with] people by the name of Morin. There were fifteen of us boarding there. She used to feed everyone with oatmeal. That takes a lot of oatmeal! And that reminded me so much of the way we used to feed the pigs in Canada. I was so young and ignorant in so many ways! So she would go around with a pot of that oatmeal and take a little [to] each plate and – plop! That sounded just like a cow flop! That turned my stomach! Everybody started laughing. I said, “I'm sick. I don't feel good this morning.” I didn't eat it, and I got up. So I went out and looked for another place.

*[to be continued]*

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### **Frère André, c.s.c.**

Pope Benedict XVI announced on 19 February 2010 that Alfred Bessette (1845-1937), better known as Brother André, will be canonized in Rome on 17 October 2010. Brother André founded *l'Oratoire St-Joseph* in Montréal, the world's largest shrine dedicated to St-Joseph. After working in the mills of New England as a teenager, Brother André returned here frequently to visit his American relatives. He will be considered our first Franco-American saint! The feast day of St-André will be observed on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Le Courrier de Salem**

**Events of a century ago in Salem's Franco-American newspaper**

**May-August 1910**

### **Societies**

- *La Garde Nationale* is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Salem's Chalifour Arena.
- *Le Club Sagesse* is founded at 61 Palmer Street on June 16<sup>th</sup> with Joseph Boudreau as president.
- Amédée Côté has been elected delegate of *les Artisans*, and will attend conventions in Lowell and Montréal.
- *La ligue du progress* of Castle Hill is holding a meeting in the basement of Ste-Anne's church.
- *Le cercle Napoléon* will hold a skating party in May.
- *L'Union St-Jean-Baptiste d'Amérique* has adopted a letterhead designed by the Sisters of Ste-Chrétienne of Salem.

### **The Press**

- Paul-N. Chaput of Salem, along with Louis-A. Biron, have purchased three newspapers: *l'Étoile* of Lowell, *Le Réveil* of Manchester, and *Le Courrier* of Lawrence.

### **Politics**

- Arsène Dubé has been named Registrar of Voters by the Mayor.
- Thomas Bois has been named assistant secretary to the Mayor.
- An address given to Lt. Governor J.-A. Pothier of Rhode Island at a banquet held in Salem on 6 September 1897 is published in *Le Courrier de Salem*.

### **People and Families**

- Mme Auguste Bois (née Léocadie Caron) of Québec is visiting her sisters, Mme Charles Julien and Mme Paul Fontaine of Salem. They have not seen each other in 30 years.
- Père Ludger Voyer is in Salem visiting his uncle, Jean-Baptiste Voyer.
- Maxime Madore of Salem was married to Clara Bélanger on June 13<sup>th</sup> in Westville, NH.
- Ubalde de Grandpré is enjoying three months in France.
- Ovide Boucher is in Canada for the religious profession of his daughter, Soeur St-Ovide.
- Mme Desaulniers of Salem has gone to Nicolet for the funeral of her brother-in-law, Père Desaulniers.
- Dr Camille Côté and Amédée Côté are celebrating the feast of St-Jean-Baptiste in Worcester.
- Michel and Alexandre Simard have returned from Oklahoma where they have been employed in the installation of rails for the railroad.

- The widow of Joseph Bouchard is returning to Rivière-du-Loup after having lived in Salem for twenty years.
- Théodore Ruest has purchased a farm at Ste-Émilie, Lotbinière, where he will live. He previously resided in Michigan for 15 years, and in Salem for 16 years.
- Mme Auguste Pariseau (née Eliza Millet), died on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the age of 72. The couple, the fourth to settle in Salem, was married at St-Charles-sur-Richelieu in 1856.
- Philias Chartier, longtime Salem barber, died on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the age of 53.

### **Business**

- Euclide Fugère has sold his grocery market, located at the corner of Congress and Palmer Streets, to Ladislav, Stanislas, and Philippe de Grandpré.
- Dr Alfred-T. Leboeuf has relocated to his new residence at the corner of Lafayette and Porter Streets.
- Maxime Labrecque has purchased the blacksmith shop of Joseph Bouchard on New Derby Street.
- Napoléon Thibault has opened a grocery store at 43 Harbor Street.
- François-Xavier Gauthier is opening a store at 260 Jefferson Avenue.
- Oliva-T. Giroux of Salem is credited with 356 inventions, and has 62 patents pending. His latest invention may be seen at Joseph Richard's store on Harbor Street.

### **Buildings**

- Jules Gourdeau has received a contract to build the Merchants Bank on Essex Street.
- Elisée Marchand is building three cottages on Jefferson Avenue.
- Wilfrid Tondreau is building a three-family house at the corner of Cabot and Roslyn Streets.
- François-Xavier Voyer is building a two-family house on Jefferson Avenue.
- Paul-N. Chaput, realtor, has sold the Fitch estate, 190 Lafayette Street, to Samuel-E. Cassino, publisher.
- Jean-Baptiste Léveillé *fiils*, of Leach Street, has purchased the property located at 16-18 Loring Avenue.
- Joseph L'Italien has sold his Horton Street home to Napoléon Demers.

### **Church**

- Children will receive their First Holy Communion at Ste-Anne's on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, and at St-Joseph's on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Père Binette and Père Lapointe have left St-Joseph's in May. The new curate, Père J.-Eméric Chenel, will arrive in June.

- Octave Ouellette has retired after 32 years as sacristin of St-Joseph's church.
- The old St-Joseph's church is being moved back from Lafayette Street to Salem Street in preparation for the new building. Meanwhile, Masses are offered in the convent chapel.
- Lightning has struck Ste-Anne's church, damaging the chimneys and causing two holes in the roof. Heavy rains prevented a fire.
- The annual novena and pilgrimage is held in Ste-Anne's parish.
- The new St-Joseph's rectory at the corner of Lafayette and Dow Streets is completed and occupied in August.
- The architect's plans for the new St-Joseph's church are illustrated in *Le Courrier de Salem*.

### School

- The annual lawn party of the Orphanage will take place on July 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The Grey Nuns are hosting a whist party and dramatic performance at the Orphanage for the benefit of a new school for Ste-Anne's parish.

### Entertainment

- A Grand Bazaar will be held in the *Cercle Veillot* from May 21<sup>st</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- A *Parti de sucre* will be held at Loring Villa on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- St-Joseph's will present two plays in June: "*La dent de lait*" and "*Les Bossus*"; also, two operettas: "*La mendiante*" and "*L'héritage de Mme Tuchon*".
- Ste-Anne's dramatic troupe will perform "*La prière des naufragés*" at Ste-Anne's on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, and in Lawrence on June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- A Grand Patriotic Celebration is held in Salem on the feast of *La St-Jean*.
- William Dubreuil, Salem's roller skating champion, has won a competition in New York.
- Fred St-Amand has been named instructor in the recreation yard at the Naumkeag Mills.

□ □ □

### *Les dictons de Pâques*

*"Le propre jour des Rameaux, sème oignons et poireaux."*

*"Pâques, si longtemps désirée, est en un jour tôt passée."*

*"Pâques pluvieux, Saint-Jean farineux."*

*"À Pâques, le temps qu'il fera, toute l'année s'en rappellera."*

## Questions & Answers



**Q-15** I thought I would send you my First Communion picture that I got from a former classmate, Lucille Dionne. The date is May, 1939. I'm in the third row, third from the left. Henrietta Morin is in the fourth row, third from the left. I would love to have the picture printed, and maybe some of those girls would recognize themselves and let me know who they are. I hope to reconnect with some of the girls I used to know so well. – Arlene Bouchard Jalbert: [nessie4@att.net](mailto:nessie4@att.net)

**A-15** Group photos, such as this one taken in front of *l'école St-Joseph*, provide a wonderful visual record of our social history! We hope that one of our members will be able to identify your entire class, and that many others will be in touch with you. Thank you for sending a copy of this photo for our files.

*Members are encouraged to send questions, or replies to questions, for this column, either by letter or by email.*

## *Traditions*

### **No. 7: “Les sauvages”**

*D.-Michel Michaud, #1*

Many traditions of the French-Canadians have their origin in the rich culture of the native peoples, often called *les sauvages* or Indians. Their foods, clothing, language, and lore have all influenced our French-Canadian traditions. From their earliest arrival, French missionaries showed concern for the spiritual well-being of these native peoples, while fur traders entered in to contracts which were profitable to them both.

*Les sauvages* taught the French settlers how to hunt for bear, beaver, moose, and caribou. They taught them how and where to fish, and how to preserve their meats and fish by smoking them. They taught the settlers how to plant corn, potatoes, squash, and beans, and instructed them in the use of berries for dyeing fabrics and for eating (carefully avoiding those which were poisonous). The settlers learned to make herbal remedies by concocting teas or infusions from leaves, flowers, and seeds. They learned how to grow tobacco for their pipes, and how to tap trees to extract maple water.

These natives created the birchbark canoe or kayak for water travel, and snowshoes and toboggans for winter travel. Their clothing, such as the parka, the moccasin, and the *pichou* (slipper) were adopted by the French, and these names have been accepted into the French-Canadian language. Beaver coats and hats, *les bottes sauvages*, and *la ceinture fleche* are all derived from native culture. Words such as *la boucane* (smoke), *le tabac* (tobacco), *la patate* (potato), and *le caribou* (deer) have also become a part of the French-Canadian vocabulary. *Le blé-d’Inde* (corn) literally means “Indian wheat”, and the name survives as a constant reminder of its native origin.

Among the intriguing legends of French Canada, none are more popular than those depicting *la chasse gallerie* or the flying canoe. And all French-Canadian children learn from a very young age that it is not the stork who brings babies, but *les sauvages*!

Many French-Canadians proudly claim to be descended from an Indian ancestor. While this is often nothing more than an old family legend, it is certainly not uncommon. Intermarriages in Québec go as far back as 1644 when Martin Prévost took Marie Manitouabewich as his wife.

In the seventeenth century, natives referred to the French missionary as “Black Robe”. One of the earliest of these was the Jesuit martyr, Jean de Brébeuf (1593-1649), who is credited with writing the first Canadian Christmas carol. “*Jesous Ahatonhia*”, also known as the Huron Carol, dates to about 1642. And who can forget the Algonquin *sauvagesse* Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680), the first native North American candidate for sainthood, who was beatified in 1980.



The French-Canadians who came to Salem were familiar with Indian place-names, having come from such places as Kamouraska, Rimouski, and Témiscouata. It would not have been surprising for them to learn that Salem was once called Naumkeag, that this name was retained by the Naumkeag Mills, or that its product line honored the Pequot tribe.

The Sisters who taught in Salem's French schools instilled a sense of respect for the native peoples and promoted ongoing charity drives for various Indian Missions. Cécile LaRue (1910-1998) of Salem entered the Sisters of Ste-Chrétienne. As Sr Marie-Joséphine, she co-founded the Little Flower Mission (Ste-Thérèse-de-l'Enfant-Jésus) at Fox Lake in Northern Alberta in 1957.

Scouting in Salem also taught youngsters to understand and recreate native folklore, and occasionally provided them the opportunity to meet with tribal members in native dress.

The museums of Québec proudly display many artifacts from various tribes. Indeed, French-Canadian tradition would not be what it is today had it not been for the cultural contributions of these native peoples – *les sauvages*.

***Our traditions: a heritage worth remembering!***



## **Membership List**

- 166. TREMBLAY, George-J., 12 Pope Street Apt. A906, Salem, MA 01970-2163
- 167. GAUDRAULT, Dr Norman-C., 20 Great Hill Drive, Topsfield, MA 01983-2411
- 168. MICHAUD, Ronald-J., 15 School Street, Lebanon, NH 03766-1627
- 169. COCKERILL, Suzanne-M., 27132 N. 83<sup>rd</sup> Glen, Peoria, AZ 85383-3874
- 170. JARDIN, Ricardo-R., One Courageous Court #304, Salem, MA 01970-6668
- 171. TURCOTTE, June-M., P. O. Box 1065, Northampton, MA 01061-1065
- 172. DUNN, Mrs Dolores, 12 Webber Avenue, Bedford, MA 01730-2213
- 173. LeBLANC, Mr & Mrs Arthur, 44 New Rochester Road, Dover, NH 03820-2132
- 174. DYKEMAN, Kirsten Michaud, 24 Ocean Avenue, Salem, MA 01970-5457
- 175. KOEN, Melissa Michaud, 23 Maple Street, Salem, MA 01970-1127

## **Change of Address**

- 76. MARTINEAU SASV, Sr Irène, 1476 Mammoth Road #U101, Dracut, MA 01826-1160
- 109. SALVAS, Paul-A., 225 Lincoln Street Unit F-6, Duxbury, MA 02332-3632
- 114. TASSINARI, Enrico & Jeanne, 15 Stevens Street #2, Peabody, MA 01960-4313

## Genealogies

### L'Italien

Angelo-Maria Stalla & Angelique Berare  
of La Trinità, Rolo (Albenga), Genoa, Italy

- I Jacques-Bonaventure L'Étoile-dit-L'Italien & Marie-Joseph Amiot (Charles & Angélique Métivier) Notre-Dame-de-Québec, 22 Apr 1748
- II Bonaventure L'Étoile-dit-L'Italien & Marie-Madeleine St-Pierre (Joseph & Marie-Madeleine Saucier) St-Roch-des-Aulnaies, 23 Feb 1789
- III Joseph L'Étoile-dit-L'Italien & Appoline Chorette (Michel & Marie-Louise Boucher) Kamouraska, 8 Jan 1821
- IV Joseph L'Étoile-dit-L'Italien & Sophie Bonenfant (Nicolas & Victoire Martin) Cacouna, 29 Sep 1846
- V Joseph L'Italien & Marie-Desneiges Thibault, Salem, MA, 15 Jan 1882

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### Talbot

Nicolas Talbot & Marie Duchesne  
of St-Gervais, Rouen, (Normandie), France

- I Jean-Jacques Talbot-dit-Gervais & Charlotte Sommereux (Noël & Jeanne Goguet) Montréal, (C. Fleuricourt), Aug 1698
- II Simon Talbot & Marie-Thérèse Dallaire (Charles & Marie Bidet) St-Valier, 27 Jul 1734
- III Pierre Talbot & Claire Bélanger (Charles & Elisabeth Fournier) Montmagny, 2 Feb 1761
- IV Joseph Talbot & Marie-Françoise Caron (Jean-Baptiste & Marthe Fortin) Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, 21 Aug 1786
- V Jean-Baptiste Talbot & Marie-Victoire Pelletier (Benoît & Marie-Rose Hamon) St-Roch-des-Aulnaies, 28 Apr 1812
- VI Jean-Baptiste Talbot & Adélaïde Morin (Pierre & Charlotte Caron) L'Isle-Verte, 17 Feb 1846
- VII Edmond Talbot & Anna Harrison (Olivier & Anna Forbes) Salem, MA, 16 Oct 1893

## Décès

*Aux familles éprouvées par le décès d'un membre cher,  
l'Institut franco-américain de Salem offre ses plus sincères condoléances.*

Bernadette-P. (Lamarre) ANKETELL, 83 ans, 28 décembre 2009 • Paula-A. (Cole) AUDET, 63 ans, 31 janvier 2010 • Bella-M. (Arsenault) BÉGIN, 97 ans, 27 novembre 2009 • Francis-G. BÉLANGER, 67 ans, 24 janvier 2010 • Paul-W. BELLEAU, 54 ans, 29 novembre 2009 • René-M. BERNARD, 42 ans, 7 décembre 2009 • Robert BOISVERT, 79 ans, 20 novembre 2009 • Léo-E. BOURGEOIS (#91), 83 ans, 16 octobre 2009 • Donald-J. COMEAU, 59 ans, 30 octobre 2009 • Mary-Agnès (Deschênes) CRAIG, 87 ans, 4 janvier 2010 • Lucille-A. (Gagnon) CYR, 82 ans, 9 décembre 2009 • Daniel-M. DEMEULE, 89 ans, 16 novembre 2009 • Norman-D. DesJARDINS, 74 ans, 20 novembre 2009 • Constance-A. DESROCHERS, 83 ans, 21 janvier 2010 • Joseph-D. DEVEAU, 80 ans, 10 novembre 2009 • George-J. DuBOIS, 63 ans, 20 décembre 2009 • Céleste-A. (Sauvageau) FULLER, 55 ans, 15 décembre 2009 • Germaine (Lavoie) HÉBERT, 75 ans, 24 novembre 2009 • Gale-A. (Fontaine) HERNANDEZ, 55 ans, 3 décembre 2009 • Jeanette-T. (Guerrette) HUSSEY-WALKER, 83 ans, 24 décembre 2009 • Jeanne (LaForge) JALBERT, 88 ans, 26 octobre 2009 • Joan-C. (Bouchard) JORDAN, 25 janvier 2010 • Paul-W. JULIEN, 65 ans, 24 octobre 2009 • L.-Raymond LABRECQUE, 75 ans, 1 novembre 2009 • Daniel-T. LaPOINTE, 46 ans, 24 décembre 2009 • Gérard LeCLERC, 75 ans, 18 novembre 2009 • Irène-A. (Krajeski) LÉVESQUE, 87 ans, 22 novembre 2009 • Lucia (Thibault) LORD, 87 ans, 5 janvier 2010 • Diane-D. MARQUIS, 69 ans, 8 novembre 2009 • Mary-Frances (Bergeron) MICHAUD, 90 ans, 6 octobre 2009 • Corinne-M. (Madore) PAPA, 70 ans, 23 décembre 2009 • Lorraine-E. (Bernard) PELLETIER, 86 ans, 1 décembre 2009 • Raymond-L. POUSSARD, 52 ans, 15 décembre 2009 • Jeannette PROVOST, 81 ans, 14 janvier 2010 • George-O. RICHARD, 77 ans, 18 décembre 2009 • David-R. ROBICHAUD, 70 ans, 3 novembre 2009 • Rita-I. (Gourdeau) ST-PIERRE, 79 ans, 31 octobre 2009 • Donald-P. TALBOT, 76 ans, 27 octobre 2009 • Robert-A. THÉRIAULT, 84 ans, 5 décembre 2009 • Cécilia-R. TREMBLAY, 97 ans, 1 janvier 2010 • Robert-J. TREMBLAY, 69 ans, 24 décembre 2009 • Philias-J. VERRETTE, 87 ans, 26 octobre 2009 • Barbara-M. (Madore) WOOD, 62 ans, 17 novembre 2009 • Pauline-E. (Tardiff) ZYWUSKO, 80 ans, 16 janvier 2010.

*Nous nous souviendrons d'eux*

# La Revue de Salem

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## Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc.

Organized on 1 May 2005 and incorporated on 16 February 2006, the Franco-American Institute of Salem is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history, genealogy, and culture of the Franco-American community of greater Salem, Massachusetts.

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Membership, which includes a subscription to *La Revue de Salem*, is available for \$12.50 per year. Address all correspondence to F.A.I.S., 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA 01902-3305. Telephone: 1-781-592-1425. Email: [francosalem@yahoo.com](mailto:francosalem@yahoo.com)

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*Il nous fera plaisir de vous servir en français.*

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### Officers 2010-2011

D.-Michel Michaud, President  
Nelson-L. Dionne, Vice-President  
John M. Kobuszewski, Treasurer  
Rosemary-H. O'Brien, Secretary

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### Meetings

Meetings of the officers of the Franco-American Institute of Salem for 2010 will be held at 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA on 9 May and 26 September at 4:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.



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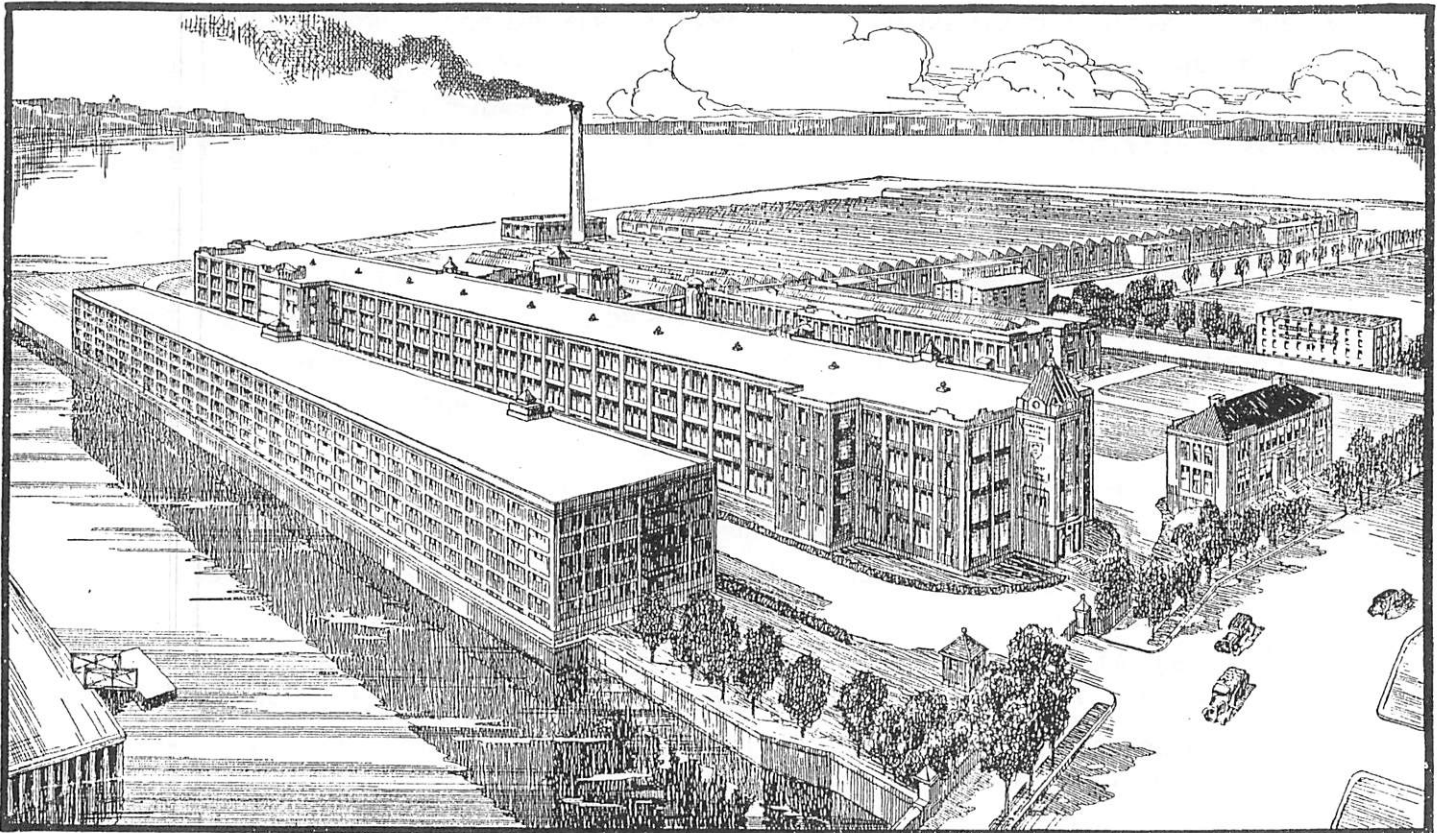
# *La Revue de Salem*

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"Dans l'bon vieux temps ça s'passait d'même..."



Journal of the  
*Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc.*  
Salem, Massachusetts

**Cover Photo:** The Naumkeag Mills, as rebuilt following the fire of 1914. [Note: Who are the three young ladies on the cover of our last issue? They are, left to right, Rowena Labonté, Janice DuPont, and Marlène Poitras.]

## News

On 12 February 2010 the Salem News published a rare photo of the enormous statue of St-Joseph. It was taken by Donald Bergeron in 1947 or 1948 just prior to its burial. *Voilà!* • We were sadden to hear of the death of Salem native Rév. Georges-Aimé Dubé, m.s., in Montréal on 20 April 2010 at the age of 89. He was ordained a LaSalette Father in 1948. *Nos sincères condoléances à sa famille.* • Among those receiving top honors at the Salem Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner on 28 April 2010 were St-Jean's Credit Union which was named New Business of the Year, and Landry & Arcari which won the Excellence in Retail Award. *Félicitations!* • Salem Detective Jim Gauthier received the Access to Justice Award during ceremonies at the State House in Boston on 29 April 2010. *Bravo!* • Students at Collins Middle School in Salem celebrated a Francophone Festival on 30 April 2010. Foods, games, folk dancing, and costumes were all enjoyed. *Un grand plaisir!* • The Salem Police Station, which opened in 1992, was re-dedicated on Tuesday, 11 May 2010, and is now the "Chief Robert-M. St-Pierre Police Headquarters". St-Pierre was police chief for 25 years until his retirement last September, the longest tenure in Salem's history. *Honneurs!* • Former Salem Mayor Jean Lévesque underwent heart surgery in late May. *Nos prières pour une bonne guérison!* • Père Georges-J. Dufour celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesthood on Sunday, 23 May 2010. *Ad Multos Annos!* • The annual French Mass is scheduled to be offered on Saturday, 24 July 2010 at Ste-Anne's in Salem. *Venez un grand nombre!* • The Club Richelieu continues to offer magnificent French-language films, shown with English sub-titles, on the first Thursday of each month at Cinema Salem. *Venez!* • Our annual "*L'été en fête*" will be held in August! Be sure to read the invitation which appears in this issue. *Bienvenue!*

**Donations received** include: Copies of the Pequot Shield (84 issues) from the George Peabody House; books (37 volumes) and recordings (8) from Michel Michaud (#1); books (11 volumes), photos and file material from Jeannine Francis (#20) and Sr-Irène Martineau (#76); Books (2 volumes) and recordings (16) from Nelson Dionne (#2); book (1 volume) from Marguerite and René Bélanger (#8); photograph from May Pinault (#7); file material from Jacqueline Silva (#57); gifts from John Kobuszewski (#3), J.-Armand Bergeron (#28) and from Ronald McCulley (#67). *Un grand merci à tous!*

## ***Editorial***

### **Une visite à « Pequotland »**

The Naumkeag Mills was Salem's largest employer for more than a century, until its closing in the 1950s. At various times the mills were said to have employed nearly 3,000 individuals, of which as many as 90% were French-Canadian. Its sprawling complex was really a city within a city, and was affectionately known as "Pequotland".

Several years ago, one of our members donated a copy of the "Pequot Shield" to our library. This monthly newsletter, published for the employees of the mills, provided a wealth of information about the workers and their families. Within its pages are accounts of births, marriages, and deaths, notices of birthdays and anniversaries, and reports of social and sporting events.

Late last year, another 30 issues were located and copied. At our board meeting in May, the importance of this journal was discussed. Our secretary, Rosemary O'Brien, indicated that a complete set could be found in the archives of the George Peabody House Museum where she is Registrar. She informed the Curator, Merritt Kirkpatrick, of our search for missing issues. Within the week, copies were made for us! We now have a complete set of the "Pequot Shield", dating from 1938 to 1948, in our library!

Although this was not a Franco-American publication, names of Franco-Americans appear on nearly every page. Among its staff reporters were Paul Bérubé, Loretta Dionne, Rosanna LeClair, Léo Marquis, Edgar Michaud, Anna Paré, and others. Its staff photographers included Raymond Blanchette, Emile DeVoe, and Roméo Michaud. The very first Editorial, in September of 1938, was penned by Emile-J. Matton.

Feature articles provided accounts of the many baseball, softball, and bowling teams, camera clubs and boat clubs, scout troops, bands, orchestras, and other organizations active within the large complex known as "Pequotland".

In the first issue are recorded the names of 155 employees who had been working continuously at the mills for 25 years or more. Many of our readers will be interested to find the name of a parent or grandparent, an aunt, uncle, or cousin, on the list which is reproduced on the page which follows.

The "Pequot Shield" provides us with a detailed description of the social life of these Franco-American mill workers of Salem during the 1930s and 1940s. We are indebted to the wonderful staff of the George Peabody House Museum for their contribution of this important publication to our library.

***Un bel été à tous!***

(155 EMPLOYEES WORKING CONTINUOUSLY AT MILL  
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OR MORE) Year Entered

| Name                    | Department                   | Naumkeag | Year Entered |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Andrews, William        | Boiler House                 | 1905     |              |
| Andruskiewicz, Antoni   | Card Room                    | 1911     |              |
| Arey, Howard A.         | Shop Overseer                | 1892     |              |
| Arpin, Emma             | North Weave                  | 1905     |              |
| Arpin, Frank            | Card Room Second Hand        | 1895     |              |
| Banville, Joseph E.     | North Weave                  | 1883     |              |
| Beaudin, Georgiana      | South Weave                  | 1912     |              |
| Benupre, Calixte        | South Weave                  | 1892     |              |
| Belanger, William       | Machine Shop                 | 1902     |              |
| Bellevue, Fred          | Dress Room                   | 1904     |              |
| Bergeron, Delphine      | North Weave                  | 1895     |              |
| Bergeron, Louis         | North Weave                  | 1879     |              |
| Berube, Lorenzo         | South Weave                  | 1898     |              |
| Betley, Sophie          | South Weave                  | 1898     |              |
| Bik, Adam               | Card Room                    | 1902     |              |
| Bik, Michael            | South Weave                  | 1901     |              |
| Bik, Victoria           | North Weave                  | 1893     |              |
| Blanchette, Mary        | Cloth Room                   | 1909     |              |
| Biskup, Joseph          | North Weave                  | 1905     |              |
| Bourgault, Anna         | North Weave                  | 1895     |              |
| Bourgault, Thomas       | Dress Room                   | 1913     |              |
| Boyd, Ernest R.         | Corp. Clerk                  | 1889     |              |
| Boyle, Patrick          | South Weave                  | 1893     |              |
| Brooks, Mary            | North Weave                  | 1898     |              |
| Brown, George F.        | Mill Office                  | 1905     |              |
| Cameron, Arthur         | Warp Spinning                | 1900     |              |
| Castonguay, Alphonsine  | North Weave                  | 1913     |              |
| Castonguay, Arthur      | Wood Shop                    | 1913     |              |
| Chatigny, Eveline       | Warp Spinning                | 1900     |              |
| Chouinard, Alice        | South Weave                  | 1909     |              |
| Chouinard, Celina       | South Weave                  | 1907     |              |
| Cloutier, Alphonse      | Filling Spinning             | 1905     |              |
| Cook, Frank P.          | Chief Engineer               | 1904     |              |
| Crawford, Annie         | South Weave                  | 1885     |              |
| Czarnosz, Anna          | South Weave                  | 1906     |              |
| Czarnosz, Stephen       | South Weave                  | 1901     |              |
| Daigle, Rose            | North Weave                  | 1912     |              |
| Decowska, Alexandra     | North Weave                  | 1900     |              |
| Desjardins, Albertine   | Warp Spinning                | 1903     |              |
| Desjardins, Tiburce     | North Weave                  | 1883     |              |
| Devoe, Elmire           | South Weave                  | 1895     |              |
| Dionne, Geraldine       | Cloth Room                   | 1908     |              |
| Dube, Alma              | Filling Spinning             | 1908     |              |
| Dube, Laura             | Warp Spinning                | 1908     |              |
| Dube, Mary              | North Weave                  | 1913     |              |
| Dube, Stanislaus        | Warp Spinning                | 1909     |              |
| Dumais, Phillippe       | Dress Room                   | 1895     |              |
| Erwin, William          | Filling Spinning             | 1907     |              |
| Fafara, Jacek           | South Weave                  | 1904     |              |
| Filip, Frank            | South Weave                  | 1899     |              |
| Fontaine, Henry         | Card Room                    | 1901     |              |
| Fournier, Josephine     | Card Room                    | 1904     |              |
| Fournier, Louis         | Warp Spinning                | 1905     |              |
| Gagne, Alfred           | Card Room                    | 1907     |              |
| Garvey, John J.         | South Weave Second Hand      | 1892     |              |
| Gastonguay, Rose        | Spool. & Warp.               | 1908     |              |
| Gates, Edward           | Dress Room                   | 1912     |              |
| Gauchier, Jennie        | Card Room                    | 1896     |              |
| Gauthier, Lorenzo       | Filling Spinning             | 1911     |              |
| Gibbs, William          | Boiler Room                  | 1913     |              |
| Grin, Mary              | Card Room                    | 1901     |              |
| Guerette, Joseph        | Wood Shop                    | 1909     |              |
| Iwaniki, Wojciech       | South Weave                  | 1894     |              |
| Jean, Urbain            | South Weave                  | 1889     |              |
| Jerzk, John             | South Weave                  | 1905     |              |
| Kieran, Joseph          | Cloth Room                   | 1890     |              |
| Klosowska, Josephine    | South Weave                  | 1909     |              |
| Kobialka, John          | Card Room                    | 1913     |              |
| Kocur, Stanley          | South Weave                  | 1905     |              |
| Kontonis, Tony          | Dress Room                   | 1910     |              |
| Kotulak, Wojciech       | North Weave                  | 1903     |              |
| Labrie, Joseph          | North Weave                  | 1898     |              |
| Laplante, Anna          | Warp Spinning                | 1902     |              |
| Laplante, George        | North Weave                  | 1909     |              |
| Laplante, Joseph        | North Weave Second Hand      | 1895     |              |
| Laplante, Thomas        | North Weave                  | 1901     |              |
| Lavoie, George H.       | South Weave                  | 1907     |              |
| Lavoie, Joseph U.       | North Weave                  | 1889     |              |
| Lavoie, Moise           | South Weave                  | 1890     |              |
| Lavoie, Malhilda        | South Weave                  | 1891     |              |
| Lavoie, Thomas          | Dress Room                   | 1906     |              |
| Lawrence, Albert C.     | Stock Room Supervisor        | 1904     |              |
| Leblanc, Almanzor       | North Weave                  | 1912     |              |
| Lebrun, Adrian          | Warp Spinning                | 1911     |              |
| Lech, Elizabeth         | Cloth Room                   | 1905     |              |
| Leclair, Alfred         | Card Room                    | 1889     |              |
| Leclair, Joseph         | Warp Spinning                | 1911     |              |
| Leclerc, George         | North Weave                  | 1885     |              |
| Leonard, Elizabeth      | Cloth Room                   | 1903     |              |
| Leonard, John           | North Weave                  | 1914     |              |
| Levasseur, Joseph       | South Weave                  | 1883     |              |
| Levesque, Remi          | Cloth Room Second Hand       | 1896     |              |
| Louf, Martha            | Dress Room                   | 1895     |              |
| Lubach, Powell          | Card Room                    | 1913     |              |
| Lubas, Agata            | North Weave                  | 1908     |              |
| Lubas, Elizabeth        | North Weave                  | 1906     |              |
| Lussier, Henry          | North Weave                  | 1899     |              |
| Lussier, Hormidas       | North Weave                  | 1908     |              |
| Markey, Bessie          | Card Room                    | 1896     |              |
| Martin, Joseph          | South Weave                  | 1887     |              |
| Mazukiewicz, Gustyna    | Card Room                    | 1902     |              |
| Morin, George           | Warp Spinning Second Hand    | 1897     |              |
| Morin, Ludger           | Filling Spinning Second Hand | 1899     |              |
| Morin, Octave           | Filling Spinning Second Hand | 1903     |              |
| Morneau, Joseph         | Dress Room                   | 1907     |              |
| Morrison, Nora          | Card Room                    | 1888     |              |
| McMahon, John J.        | Yard Dept.                   | 1892     |              |
| Nadeau, William         | Boiler Room                  | 1909     |              |
| Nichols, Albert R.      | Dress Room Overseer          | 1904     |              |
| Nocek, Bronislowa       | Card Room                    | 1909     |              |
| Normandeau, Leonia      | Spool. & Warp.               | 1904     |              |
| Oliar, Mary             | North Weave                  | 1910     |              |
| Oulette, Patrick        | Machine Shop                 | 1907     |              |
| Pariseau, Joseph        | Electrical Dept.             | 1898     |              |
| Pelletier, Annie        | North Weave                  | 1904     |              |
| Pelletier, Louis O.     | Filling Spinning             | 1906     |              |
| Pelletier, Marie        | North Weave                  | 1889     |              |
| Pelletier, Odias        | South Weave                  | 1907     |              |
| Pelletier, Thomas       | Filling Spinning             | 1911     |              |
| Perkins, Harry S.       | Purchasing Agent             | 1892     |              |
| Perkins, S. Dustin      | Mill Office                  | 1901     |              |
| Phelan, Richard         | Paint Shop                   | 1903     |              |
| Piekos, John            | South Weave                  | 1902     |              |
| Piekos, Antonio         | Card Room                    | 1908     |              |
| Pinkos, Wojciech        | South Weave                  | 1898     |              |
| Plourde, Jules          | Warp Spinning                | 1898     |              |
| Plourde, Marie          | North Weave                  | 1896     |              |
| Provost, Alexina        | Card Room                    | 1901     |              |
| Przewoznik, Mary        | North Weave                  | 1902     |              |
| Robaczewska, Victoria   | North Weave                  | 1905     |              |
| Russell, George         | Cloth Room                   | 1892     |              |
| Rybicki, William        | South Weave                  | 1901     |              |
| Rynkowska, Mary         | Card Room                    | 1896     |              |
| St. Jean, Joseph        | Warp Spinning                | 1909     |              |
| St. Pierre, Henry       | Card Room                    | 1910     |              |
| St. Pierre, Napoleon    | Card Room                    | 1911     |              |
| Serwa, Katarzyna        | North Weave                  | 1907     |              |
| Sierkowski, Andrew      | North Weave                  | 1906     |              |
| Simard, Rose            | South Weave                  | 1909     |              |
| Smith, Prescott         | North Weave Overseer         | 1897     |              |
| Staeinkiewicz, Wincenty | Card Room                    | 1907     |              |
| Szula, Mary             | North Weave                  | 1908     |              |
| Therault, Alfred        | North Weave                  | 1892     |              |
| Thibault, Adalard       | South Weave                  | 1900     |              |
| Thibault, Corrine       | North Weave                  | 1903     |              |
| Thibault, Edmond        | Yard Dept.                   | 1908     |              |
| Thibault, Emma          | South Weave                  | 1907     |              |
| Tremblay, Arthur        | Pipe Shop                    | 1908     |              |
| Trott, Annie            | Card Room                    | 1910     |              |
| Viger, Philiis          | South Weave                  | 1910     |              |
| Whitten, Clarence       | Card Room                    | 1907     |              |
| Wiggin, C. Leighton     | Mill Office                  | 1913     |              |
| Wilenska, Helena        | Card Room                    | 1910     |              |
| Wilezewska, Helen       | Card Room                    | 1904     |              |
| Wodarska, Mary          | North Weave                  | 1911     |              |



## Lafayette Park (Part II)

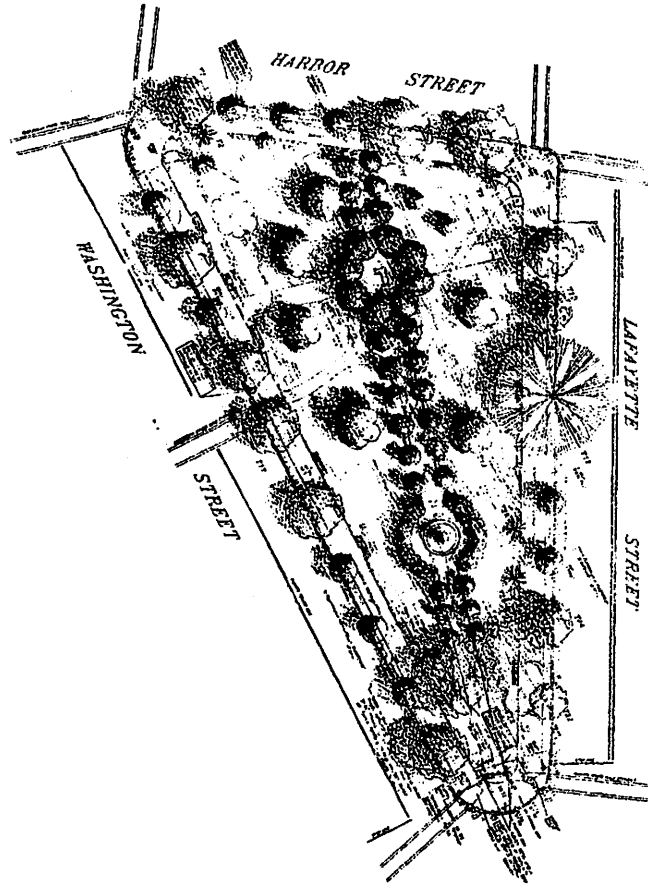
The Great Salem Fire of 25 June 1914 wiped out everything which had stood in the half-acre lot known as "The Triangle". Property owners were notified rather quickly that building permits would be delayed since the city required a portion of this land in order to widen each of the surrounding streets. But, barely two months after the fire, on 1 September 1914, the Salem News announced a new and radical plan:

"The rebuilding commission had a meeting yesterday afternoon [and] decided upon taking the triangle of land bounded by Lafayette, Washington and Harbor Streets as a park. It will be recalled that on this land there formerly stood the engine house, the office of the *Courrier de Salem*, the Alhambra theatre, and several residences."

On 14 May 1915 the News reported that: "The proposed taking of The Triangle land has caused more comment than any other single act of the Rebuilding commission, outside of the building code..." In fact, a petition had been presented that very morning which stated in part that "While, no doubt, it would add to the attractiveness of that part of the city, it does seem to us that we are in no financial condition as a city to take taxable property and convert it into a park." It soon became obvious, however, that residents of the old neighborhood would never be allowed to return to the "famous Triangle."

The Commissioner's report would later state that the citizens "have bargained with the City in an entirely fair spirit. No lawsuits have resulted...". All properties were sold to the city for the proposed park.

Speaking for the Franco-Americans was one of Salem's well-known contractors, Alfred Audet (1875-1960), a native of St-Gervais, Québec. He drafted a letter which appeared in both *Le Courrier de Salem* and the Salem



Evening News in which he proposed what was called a "unique idea". According to the News of 21 January 1916, he suggested that: "a monument with figures representing Washington and Lafayette clasping hands would be most appropriate, as streets named in honor of these two great men join at one end of the triangle." But due to the rising cost of the park and our escalating involvement in the First World War, the plans for this monument never became a reality.

The wishes of the Franco-Americans to honor one of their own were not entirely ignored. Within two months, on 18 March 1916, the News reported that: "The new park in South Salem bounded by Lafayette, Washington and Harbor Streets, has been officially named 'Lafayette park' by the

Salem Rebuilding Commission. And as Lafayette park, therefore, it will be hereafter known, not 'Triangle'. The vote determining the name of the park was taken at yesterday afternoon's meeting of the Commission at City Hall."

The Salem Rebuilding Commission, which included Dr Emile Poirier (1856-1920), issued a report in July of 1917 indicating that the city had expended \$33,200.00 for land and \$4,065.70 for grading, sidewalks, and the planting of 15 sugar maple trees within the former triangle. It called the park "an improvement that was much objected to, but which is fast being approved of by all citizens." Five years later, on 30 September 1922, the News confirmed this, stating that: "This park might well be termed a monument to the wisdom and farsightedness of the rebuilding commission following the big fire..."

Curiously, two prominent Franco-Americans would serve successive terms on Salem's Park Commission. Paul-N. Chaput (1862-1945) of *Le Courrier de Salem* was appointed to the board in May of 1926, and was named Commissioner a decade later. Upon his resignation in December of 1938, due to illness, he was succeeded by Alfred Audet who served until his death in 1960. Franco-Americans who later served on the board included Arthur LeBlanc ('60-'66), Emilio Belleau ('66-'73), Raymond-A. Vailancourt ('73-'81) and others.

The park would again become the focus of attention during the Second World War. In March of 1941, the Conseil Laurier No. 72 of *l'Union St-Jean-Baptiste* had organized a Boys' Club known as *l'Association Laurier*. Under the direction of the pastor, Père J.-Stanislas Vermette, and its first president, Attorney Joseph-F. Pelletier, membership soon reached three hundred. The Club immediately began raising funds for the build-

ing of a new church, and their goal of \$100,000.00 was eventually surpassed. However, it was later voted to set aside \$25,000.00 of this amount for a significant monument in Lafayette Park to honor the veterans of St-Joseph's Parish who had served in World Wars I and II.

The Park Commission voted on 10 July 1945 to allow the installation of the monument, subject to the approval of the State Art Commission. Their approval was granted on 27 December 1946.

The monument was designed by Worcester architect Norman-D. Nault, and was sculpted by Joseph-A. Colleti of Boston, both graduates of Harvard University. Coincidentally, Colleti is the sculptor of the monument to Ferdinand Gagnon (1849-1886), the "Founder of the Franco-American Press", which stands in another Lafayette Park in Manchester, NH.

The monument, called "La victoire du deuil" or "Mourning Victory", was designed not to glorify war, but rather to honor the nobility, dignity and self-sacrifice of those who fought. The central figure stands quietly at attention, holding a down-turned sword while mourning the dead. A laurel wreath symbolizes both victory and peace.

Inscribed on the base are the words "Dedicated to the 2105 men and women of St. Joseph Parish who served in World Wars I and II for God and Country". Also, the dates 1917-1918 and 1941-1945, and the epitaph "Time will not dim the glory of their deeds".

The thirty-ton, thirty-foot pillar stands on a base in the center of a terrace which measures 18 feet in diameter. The material is blue-gray granite from Barre, Vermont.

The dedication ceremonies were held on Sunday afternoon 19 October 1947, and were attended by seven thousand people. A

concert was held at 2:00 PM, followed by silence and the tolling of bells at 3:00 PM. Mlle Lorraine Turcotte unveiled the monument and placed forty roses at the base, representing the forty young men who gave their lives.

**In memoriam – World War I**

Bouffard, Ovila  
Bourgault, Paul  
Charette, Ulric  
David, Arthur-L.  
Joly, Fred.  
LaVallée, Arthur  
Léger, Hector  
Lévesque, Rémi  
MarcAurèle, Noël  
Morency, Omer  
Nève, Pierre-G.  
Tardif, Elias

**In memoriam – World War II**

Bolduc, Joseph-R.  
Bouchard, Georges-A.  
Bouchard, Henry-S.  
Caron, Roland-L.  
Chouinard, Roland-A.  
D'Amour, Raymond-J.  
Danjou, Wilfred  
Delisle, John  
Desjardins, Kenneth-C.  
Gagné, Arthur-F.-J.  
Gagnon, Victor-L.  
Guérrette, Léo-P.  
Lebel, Alfred-A.  
LeBlanc, Henry-D.  
LeBlanc, Pierre-A.  
Lévesque, Raymond-A.  
Michaud, Roland-I.  
Paquin, Bertrand-C.-E.  
Pelletier, Adrien-J.  
Pelletier, Joseph-E.  
Pelletier, Lucien-E.  
Pelletier, René-R.  
Poirier, Robert-J.  
Tardif, Chanel-R.  
Tremblay, Oscar-O.  
Turcotte, Peter-J.  
Vibert, Ovila-N.  
Walker, Joseph-H.

Attorney Joseph-F. Pelletier, president of *l'Association Laurier*, then introduced the

speakers which included Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, architect Nault and sculptor Colletti, Baron Louis de Cabrol, Vice-Counsel of France, and Salem Mayor Edward-A. Coffey. Other guests of honor included Rev. Georges Duplessis, the ex-Ambassador to France William Phillips, the Commander of the Massachusetts Légion Franco-Américaine Joseph-G. Chouinard, and members of the Art Commissions of Massachusetts and New York.

"One of the remarkable things about Americans of French descent is that they have always prized [their] spiritual and cultural values. Although Americans of French descent have been on this continent for more than three centuries, they have retained their language, their press, their schools, and above all their faith... The spiritual ideals which animated these young men contributed to the saving of our country in time of war; these same ideals will preserve and enhance our nation in the days of peace."

-Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.

"...there was a need to rekindle again the patriotism so as to inspire those who will follow afterwards. ...it shall not be a monument of tears but rather of prayers for the souls of the departed. It is a story to be told to the world about Americans of Franco-American origin, who have been the leaders in giving to the world men and women whose true goal has been peace."

-Salem Mayor Edward-A. Coffey

The actual blessing of the monument was delayed until the return of l'abbé Herbert-J. Léger, then a Major in the U. S. Army Chaplain Corps, who had been called to active duty in Europe. This ceremony took place on Wednesday, 30 May 1951 at 11:30 AM as part of Salem's annual Memorial Day observances. He called the monument "an imperishable symbol of undying love" and "a sermon in stone". With the placing of a wreath, the benediction ceremonies were concluded.

Forty years later, the city proposed a re-beautification of Lafayette Park. A competi-

tion was held, and plans were unveiled on 7 November 1992. Improvements included the planting of forty-four shade and ornamental trees such as flowering dogwood and pear trees, seventy-five shrubs, stone-dust walkways to replace the concrete paths, benches turned to face the park rather than the streets, new lighting, and an underground sprinkler system. A scale model of the engine house destroyed in the 1914 Fire was included in the design, but was never built.

Lafayette Park was rededicated on Sunday noon 17 October 1993 by then Mayor Neil-

J. Harrington. The Mayor noted that "At one point in history, this park was a vibrant social meeting place which played an important rôle in the cultural fabric of its surrounding community. I feel this cooperative effort will rejuvenate the surrounding area and help present a better entrance to our downtown."

Indeed, the park is the pride of Salem's citizens. But its long and colorful history, a testimonial to the Franco-Americans of our city, should never be forgotten.



## ***Traditions***

### **No. 8: "Le mariage à la gaumine"**

*D.-Michel Michaud, #1*

"Shocking", "Scandalous", "Illicit"! These were just some of the words used to describe marriages "à la gaumine" which took place in both France and Québec.

On 11 November 1563 the Council of Trent decreed that all weddings were to take place in a church, and in the presence of a priest. More than 15 years later, in May of 1579, the Ordonnance de Blois further required that witnesses be present at all wedding ceremonies.

In France, in 1640, a certain Michel-Gilbert Gaulmin was refused a wedding by his pastor. The gentleman was in his sixties, while his fiancée was barely 25. Gaulmin, outraged, called for his future bride, his witnesses, and his notary. The group entered the church at Nevers just after a Mass had begun, and there the couple discretely exchanged their vows. Gaulmin had found a "loophole": he was married in the church, and in the presence of a priest - but without the priest's knowledge! It was not until nearly sixty years later, in 1697, that the church required the priest to impart a Nuptial Blessing upon the couple, thereby affirming his consent to the marriage.

These weddings, called "à la gaumine", occurred frequently in France in the 1600's, and the practice soon spread to Québec. There, in 1703, Bishop de Saint-Vallier published his "Rituel du

diocèse de Québec” outlining the many impediments to marriage, which only caused more people to enter into these illicit unions.

On 7 January 1711, Louis de Montéleon and Marie-Anne de Lestrigant de Saint-Martin were married “à la gaumine” in the Church at Beauport, PQ. In this well-documented case, the couple actually stood and pronounced their vows aloud, greatly disrupting another wedding ceremony which was then taking place! On February 9<sup>th</sup>, the Sovereign Council declared the Montéleon marriage to be null and void, banned the couple from living together, forbade the bride to take her husband’s name, fined the couple as well as the bride’s parents, and sentenced the bride to be confined in the convent of the Hôtel-Dieu of Québec. However, one week later, on 16 February, the couple was allowed to remarry legally.

On 24 May 1717, Bishop de Saint-Vallier issued his “Mandement pour condamner les mariages à la gaumine”. He confirmed that “numerous pastors” had experienced these abuses in their parishes, and that this “evil...has already caused too much disorder in the diocese.” He further stated that “the crime, rather than diminishing, [has become] a *custom*.” The bishop imposed a sentence of excommunication on the couple, their witnesses, the notary, and all involved in each case. Yet, despite the decree, even the Governor of Trois-Rivières was married “à la gaumine”. (He had been refused marriage because his future bride was of a lesser social standing.) But this marriage was validated in Montréal in 1718.

The practice of marrying “à la gaumine” continued to spread. Among the more notorious cases were those at Montréal in 1711, at Boucherville and Longueuil in 1724, at Batiscan in 1727, at Québec in 1751, at Pointe-aux-Trembles in 1754, at l’Islet in 1765, at Ste-Croix in 1771, at St-Jean-Port-Joli in 1774, and at Ile-Perrot in 1789. (The 1774 marriage is the subject of a historical novel published in 2006 by Gaston Deschênes entitled “Les Exilés de l’anse à Mouille-Cul”.)

Both church and civil authorities imposed sanctions upon couples attempting to circumvent the laws of marriage. By the early nineteenth century, order was restored and few cases are reported.

□ □ □

In time, these “scandalous” practices came to be acknowledged as a part of our history. A comic play, “Un mariage à la gaumine” by Louis Guyon, was first performed on 25 February 1904 at the Théâtre National in Montréal. And when a person had not been invited to a wedding ceremony, he or she would jokingly ask if the couple had been married “à la gaumine”!

***Our traditions: a heritage worth remembering!***

## La Salle Veillot

Few places in Salem have had a shorter history than the *Salle Veillot* or Veillot Hall. Opened a century ago in 1910, it was destroyed in the Great Salem Fire only four years later.

The A.C.J.F.A. (*Association Catholique de la Jeunesse Franco-Américaine*) was organized in Baltimore on 4 January 1908. The Salem Chapter, the first to join the national organization, was given the name *Cercle Veillot No. 2*.

The following year, on 1 June 1909, the society was able to purchase the old Lafayette Street Methodist Church building for \$13,000.00. Located at 115-125 Lafayette Street at the corner of Harbor Street, the large wood-framed structure housed income-producing businesses on the street level, and a large meeting hall above. This hall was entirely remodeled, and its opening was described in the Salem Evening News on Wednesday 19 January 1910:

**Cercle Veillot, Y.M.C.A., Franco-American, held an informal opening of its new quarters in the former Lafayette Street Methodist church last evening, and the occasion was a decidedly enjoyable one. It had been originally intended to have a banquet and formal opening of the remodeled building Jan. 2, but, owing to the death of the brother of Rev. Rosario Richard, spiritual director of the organization, this formal affair was abandoned. Fr Richard's brother died at Victoriaville, Canada, and he was called away...**

**Last night, however, the building was opened to the general public for the first time, the Cercle having moved Monday from its old quarters at 64 Lafayette street. President Barbeau presided at the speechmaking that followed the whist party, and remarks were made by Mayor Howard, Frs. Rainville, Lapointe and Vermette.**

**Fr. Richard, the beloved spiritual director of the society, who has labored unceasingly for the welfare of the organization, and who worked hard to perfect the remarkable changes which have been made in the old church building since it was acquired by the society, told of the rapid growth of the Cercle Veillot, and enlarged upon its plans for the future.**

**One of the hits of the evening was the vocal selections of the Councilman Herman Tremblay. The representative of the council from Ward Five is nothing if not versatile, and his songs were roundly applauded. The children's choir, under the direction of Thomas Bois, and the young men's choir also rendered selections. The winners at whist were Mary H. Bercier, Miss Bertha Berube, [and] John Leveille.**

**The officers of the Cercle Veillot are: Spiritual director, Rev. Rosario Richard; Napoleon Barbeau, president; Alfred Theriault, first vice-president; Ernest Audet, second vice-president; Joseph Pelletier, treasurer; George Richard, secretary; Arthur Tardiff, corresponding secretary; [and] Joseph Plourde, administrator.**

The first major public event to be held in the hall, a week-long bazaar, was described in the news on Monday 23 May 1910:

**Cercle Veillot hall was crowded to the doors Saturday evening when the big bazaar that is to last the rest of this week was opened. About 600 were present and if the first evening's attendance is any indication of what may be expected other nights of the week the bazaar ought to be a big success, and the Franco-American Y.M.C.A. should derive enough profits to help materially in furnishing up its gymnasium, library, etc.**

**The fair was opened by Mayor Howard, who wished the society all success. Guests of the occasion present were the mayor, ex-Mayor John F. Hurley, Rev. Fr. George A. Rainville, Fr. R. Richard, and Councilman Emile Brunet. President Barbeau called to order and introduced the mayor.**

It was intended to have a parade, but, owing to the weather conditions this feature was postponed and will take place tonight instead. This parade will be headed by a drum corps with Octave Lebel for leader, followed by the National Guards, the young Zouaves, and the Garde Veillot, which is composed of the Chasseurs and the Zouaves. There will be about 125 in line and the line of march will be Lafayette to Essex, Washington, by City hall, Federal, North, Essex, Washington to Lafayette, Everett, Palmer, Congress, Harbor to the Cercle Veillot hall. Other features will be a Houdini act by Fred Gravel and Peter Vincent of Boston, who are said to be crackerjack jugglers and mystifiers, and instrumental music.

The bazaar is being held in the big hall on the top floor of the Veillot building, Lafayette and Harbor streets. From the street entrance to the hall in which the bazaar is being held red, white and blue bunting, streamers and flags embellish the halls and the same decorative scheme prevails in the hall. On either side are ranged booths, of which there are six, those on the right in order being refreshment, gift and candy booths and on the left there is a flower booth and two more gift booths, all presided over by corps of charming Mesdemoiselles and Mesdames. The booths are made of lattice work and overhanging the whole are excellent imitation grapes, leaves and vines. The effect is very pretty, indeed.

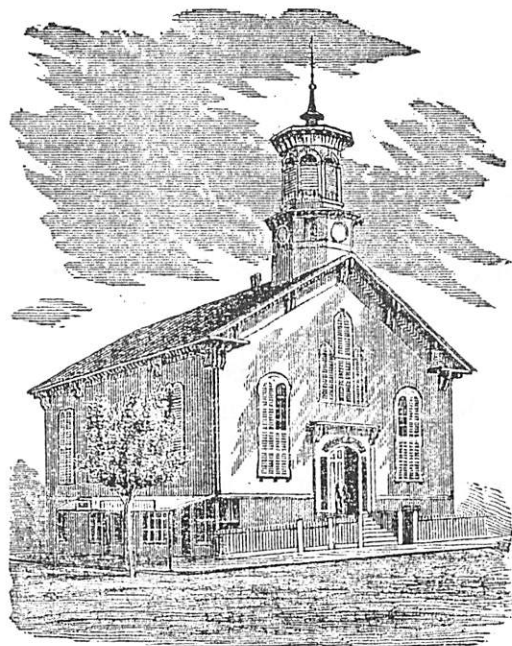
Business started off with a rush Saturday evening and the results of the first night were certainly very pleasing to the promoters of the affair. The refreshment booth in particular was a busy place, but the others were not far behind, as there are several features to attract the eyes of visitors and induce them to part with their nickels and dimes. An exhibition drill given by the National Guard was a pleasing feature of the entertainment given Saturday evening, Capt. Arthur Laporte putting the men through a drill that showed the company up to decided advantage. Music was rendered during the evening by the Cercle's orchestra of five pieces.

During the week the following officers of the A.C.J.F.-A., as the New England association of Franco-American Y.M.C.A.'s is known, are expected. President General Louis Perras of New Bedford, Vice President Antonio Laliberte of New Bedford, Theo Beland of Central Falls, R.I., Administrator Richard Tessier of Woonsocket and Adolphe Robert of the [Association] Canado-Americain, Manchester, N.H.

Veillot Hall was the site of many events sponsored by the society and the parish including French plays, Whist parties, and *soirées*. The society prospered, and the entire exterior of the building was refurbished and repainted in May of 1914.

*La Salle Veillot* was entirely destroyed in the fire of 25 June 1914. Although insured for \$16,000.00, the society chose not to rebuild. On 29 September 1914 president Arthur Godbout sold the property to Léda Lévesque. The Lévesque Chambers, called "one of the largest buildings in this section", was later built on this site. In March of 1926 it was sold to Elphège L'Heureux and his son, Donat-A. L'Heureux, when it became known as the Hotel Lincoln.

The Cercle Veillot and its hall had a brief existence. But a century ago, it was the center of activity for many social functions of Salem's Franco-American community.



## Recollections of Louis-Ernest Bélanger (1906-1995)

*Submitted by Albert-E. Bélanger, #68*

*[continued]*

The place I went [to] that time was Aunt Beatrice's sister, Lucienne [Deschênes], who married [Ernest] Beaulieu. I was all right there because I was a nephew of her sister. But not for long. Uncle Arthur closed his store and had a lot of cans of malt – stuff to make porter, not beer. So he said to me, "That's a good drink for you. It'll be healthy for you. There's not too much alcohol in that." So he gave me half a dozen cans. I was old enough, so I asked Beaulieu to make me a batch of porter with that. He had the bottles and the capper and everything. So he agreed.

So, sure enough, he made me the whole thing and put it in my room. I [had] said I wanted that in my own room. My bed was cornerwise in the room, and I had plenty of room. I think that made 48 bottles. That's supposed to be there 30-40 days before you touch it. We let it set there.

I was working on the railroad with a bunch of guys, and my mouth [had] always been open and I said, "In a couple of weeks I'll have some good malt beer. After work one day we'll have a good cold bottle."

One particular day I said to Lucy, "Do you mind if I put a couple of bottles in the ice box? I'll bring a couple of guys at a time. Warm porter wouldn't be any good." "No," she said, "that's all right."

I had three fellows coming in after work, after they washed up, one particular day. I went to get some bottles in my room when I came back from work...[and] all the bottles were empty! So I went to her and I said, "What happened to my porter? I got three guys coming in tonite: 'Moon' Goulet, a fellow by the name of Plante, and Tony Thériault. I went to [get] some in the ice box, and they're all empty!"

When Beaulieu came in from work, his wife was right there. She said, "What happened to Louis' porter?" He was tired and had a day's work under his belt and he was hungry and hot and he said, "What do you think – I'm gonna have that stuff in my home, and I wouldn't even take a drink? He didn't even offer me a drink! You think I'm gonna leave it all there? It's my house!"

"I pay rent! It's mine!" Then I took over. I said, "Look, I'm paying rent here - \$10.00 a week. This is my property, and you have no right to go in my room any more than the guy next door has the right to come in here." Then he wound up to make a swing. "If you make a swing," I said, "you're gonna fall down on your nose!" Lucy was a nice, big woman. She weighed about three hundred pounds. She came along and gave him a slap. He fell and gave her a push. She fell down because she weighed too heavy. She went down hard. The whole ceiling and the chandelier downstairs fell out in the apartment below! I had to get...out of there! I moved again.



## **Le Courrier de Salem**

**Events of a century ago in Salem's Franco-American newspaper  
September-December 1910**

### **Societies**

- Salem's *Société St-Jean-Baptiste*, founded in 1882, now has assets of \$21,128.86.
- *Le Cercle Social Canadien* elects A. St-Hilaire as president.
- The A.C.J.F.A. elects Alfred Thériault as president.
- Louis Gravel, president-general of *La Société des Artisans*, is visiting the pastors of St-Joseph's and Ste-Anne's parishes in Salem.
- *Le Cercle Napoléon* elects Hector Dion as president.

### **The Press**

- *Le Courrier de Lynn* is founded on November 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be distributed in Lynn, Swampscott, Saugus, Chelsea, and Everett.

### **Politics**

- Sir Lomer Gouin, Premier of Québec, is in Salem visiting Père Georges-A. Rainville.
- The Drum Corps of *Les Petits Zouaves* parades on 13 December to celebrate the city elections.
- Professor J.-N.-A. Beaudry is conducting the city census in the two French neighborhoods.

### **People and Families**

- Emma Caron, housekeeper at the rectory in Ipswich, is visiting Salem. She had lived here for 30 years, and had been housekeeper at St-Joseph's rectory for 17 years.
- Joseph Bérubé of Salem will be married to Anna Turgeon at St-Rosaire, Rochester, NH, on September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Henri Bélanger, age 8, son of M. et Mme Léon Bélanger, has had his ninth operation within five weeks.
- Ovide Dubé of Amqui, PQ, is visiting his brother Joseph Dubé in Salem before moving to Duck Lake, Saskatchewan.
- Mme Cyrille Lemelin visited her birthplace, Sillery, PQ, where she met with her sister whom she had not seen in 30 years.
- Ubalde deGrandpré writes from Europe where he is visiting England, France, Belgium, and Italy.
- Salem pharmacist Ozias-J. Gaudette weds Lucie Poirier, sister of Dr Horace Poirier, on 25 October in Drummondville, PQ.
- Charles Beaulieu of 20 Ocean Avenue is celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- Pierre Gagnon, the son of Antoine Gagnon (see *La Revue de Salem*, April 2010, page 6), dies at Spencer, MA.
- Mme Albert Lesieur, formerly of Salem, sister of David Deschamps, dies at St-Hyacinthe, PQ.
- Octave Ouellette, sacristan of St-Joseph's since 1877, dies on September 15<sup>th</sup> at the age of 63.
- Jean Savard of 54 Harbor Street is severely burned on October 30<sup>th</sup> while saving his child. He dies on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Business**

- Ovila-T. Giroux sells his latest invention, a tire made of elastic rather than rubber, to Westinghouse.
- Mme Beaulieu opens a new boarding house at 45 Salem Street. Elise Turgeon of Salmon Falls, NH buys the old Beaulieu boarding house on Harbor Street. Complete meals are 20¢ to 25¢.
- Mesdames Léa Chartier and Anna Dumas have opened a dress maker's shop at the corner of Washington and Dodge Streets.
- Joseph Voyer will open a lunch room at 15 Congress Street on September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Adonias-J. Letourneau is offering to rent his bakery at 38 Lawrence Street.
- Mlles Rousseau and Ouellette open a variety store in Alfred Audet's new block at 100 Lafayette Street on November 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Mme L.-C. Rousseau had a new selection of prayer books and postcards for sale in her store at 33½ Harbor Street.
- Herménégilde Tremblay and his brother-in-law, Frank Pariseau, have begun a new undertaking firm in October.
- A fire is discovered at the Laundry of Napoléon Cimon. The building at 277 Derby Street is owned by the New England Investment Company.
- A fire is discovered at the corner of Washington and Norman Streets. The building is owned by Mme Jeremiah Daigneau, and is occupied by Joseph-T. Goddu, pharmacist. The barber shop of J.-E. Paré on Norman Street is also damaged.
- Alphonse Desjardins gives a conference on the Caisse Populaire on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Properties**

- Elisée Marchand buys land on Jefferson Avenue measuring 97 feet by 228 feet.
- Régis Corriveau has sold his Lawrence Street property to Mme Napoléon Fournier.

## **Church**

- The priests of St-Joseph's move into their new rectory at the corner of Lafayette and Dow Streets on September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Forty hour devotions open at Ste-Anne's on October 14<sup>th</sup>, and at St-Joseph's on October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Sr-Ste-Foye (Simard) and Sr-St-Aimé (Richard) of the *Congrégation des Soeurs de la Ste-Famille* are visiting relatives in Salem.
- First Holy Communion is given to 360 children at St-Joseph's on December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Marie-Louise Gagnon enters the convent of *les Soeurs de Ste-Chrétienne*. [She would later be known as Sr-Ste-Honorine S.S.Ch.]
- Père Arthur Lapointe, curate at St-Joseph's since 1905, is named pastor of St-Malachie, PQ.
- Monseigneur Thomas, vicar-general of Paris and brother of Mère Marie-Elzéar, S.S.Ch. of St-Joseph's, is in Salem for one week, and is given a reception on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The International Eucharistic Congress is held in Montréal. Many from Salem attend. A Mass for Franco-Americans is offered by Mgr Guertin on Friday September 10<sup>th</sup>. Père J.-A. Peltier, pastor of Ste-Anne's in Salem, is homilist.

## **School**

- Berthe Jodoin of Salem is teaching at St-Césaire, PQ, where her two aunts are nuns.
- A portrait of the pastor, Père Rainville, is exhibited in the window of Aurélie Ouellette's store on Harbor Street. It will be raffled by *les Dames de la Ste-Famille* to benefit St-Joseph's School.

## **Entertainment**

- William Dubreuil, Salem's roller skating champion, beats Tom Nadeau of Sherbrooke, PQ in a contest at Lewiston, Maine.
- The Chalifour skating rink on North Street opens for the season in September
- Rémi Lévesque of 23 Naumkeag Street has won the first prize in the city garden contest.
- Philippe Léveillé, violinist, gives a concert in Salem where he plans to form a 50-piece orchestra.
- Ephrem Barthélemy opens the first of fourteen "*soirées d'hiver*" on Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Cercle Veullot. Over 500 attend each evening which includes music, a lecture, and a play.

## *L'été en fête*

The Franco-American Institute of Salem will celebrate its annual social, "l'été en fête", on Sunday 29 August 2010 at 40 Nahant Street, Lynn.

The day will begin at 2:00 PM and will last into the evening. All members are cordially invited! Bring a little something for the table (coffee and soft drinks will be provided); bring old photos or a school yearbook if you wish; bring a deck of cards if you like; bring an instrument if you are willing to play;... and don't forget your camera! We will have French music, a display of photographs, and much good conversation!

To "R.S.V.P.", or for directions, call 781-592-1425 or write to [francosalem@yahoo.com](mailto:francosalem@yahoo.com)

*Venez! Fêtons l'été ensemble!*

□ □ □

## Membership List

- 176. MICHAUD, Gretchen, 1 Cleveland Road, Salem, MA 01970-4414
- 177. PERRON, Gloria, 175 Highway A1A #411, Satellite Beach, FL 32937-2089
- 178. GOSSELIN, Thérèse, 729 Glenwood Road, Binghamton, NY 13905-1612
- 179. SHARP, Geraldine, 2 Kirkland Road, Peabody, MA 01960-1904
- 180. CORBEIL, Marilyn, 1423 B Oak Place, Apopka, FL 32712-2094
- 181. MICHAUD S.S.Ch., Sr Lisette, 297 Arnold Street, Wrentham, MA 02093-1798
- 182. BÉDARD, Albert, 11 Lawrence Street, Salem, MA 01970-2916
- 183. BEAUREGARD, John-B., 4 Ocean Avenue, Salem, MA 01970-5457
- 184. LUSSIER M.D., Georges-André, P. O. Box 5479, Salisbury, MA 01952-0479
- 185. DUFOUR, Mr. & Mrs. Robert, 7 Belleau Road, Salem, MA 01970-5409

## Change of Address

- 5. MICHAUD, Odile-E., 7 Loring Hills Avenue, Salem, MA 01970-4267
- 40. MICHAUD, Roland-W., 14 Riley Road, Lunenburg, MA 01462-1358
- 169. COCKERILL, Suzanne, 3145 W. Desert Cove Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85029-4202

## Genealogies

### Blanchet

Noël Blanchet & Madeleine Valet  
of St-Omer, Rosière, Amiens, (Picardie), France

- I Pierre Blanchet & Marie Fournier (Guillaume & Françoise Hébert)  
Notre-Dame-de-Québec, 17 Feb 1670
- II Pierre Blanchet & Louise Gagnier (Louis & Louise Picquart)  
Cap-St-Ignace, 18 Nov 1699
- III Joseph Blanchet & Marie-Joséphite Destroismaisons (François & Marie Daniaux)  
C. Abel Michon, 22 Nov 1722
- IV Pierre Blanchet & Marie-Marthe Cloutier (Joseph & Marie-Madeleine Lefebvre)  
St-Pierre Rivière-du-Sud, 23 Nov 1761
- V Pierre Blanchet & Marguerite Dessin-St-Pierre (Joseph & Madeleine Saucier)  
Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, 4 Feb 1788
- VI Joseph Blanchet & Marie-Emilienne Hudon-Beaulieu (Vincent & Charlotte Dubé)  
Rivière-Ouelle, 7 Feb 1820
- VII Désiré Blanchet & Adéline Castonguay (Joseph & Geneviève Godrau)  
St-Roch-des-Aulnaies, 22 Aug 1854
- VIII Napoléon Blanchet & Odile Lavoie (Michel & Démerise Lebrun)  
Salem, MA, 8 Sep 1901

□ □ □

### Denis

Pierre Denis & Marie-Thérèse Beurrier  
of St-Mathieu, Quimper, France

- I Pierre Denis & Marie-Madeleine Lisot (Noël & Catherine Meneux)  
Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, 19 Jan 1733
- II Pierre Denis & Geneviève Michaud (Alexandre & Brigitte Cordeau-Delorier)  
Kamouraska, 12 Jan 1767
- III Joseph Denis & Marie-Anastasie Lévesque (Germain & Anastasie Ouellet)  
Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, 19 Oct 1801
- IV Joseph Denis & Angélique Ouellet (Toussaint & Judith Ouellet)  
St-Pascal-de-Kamouraska, 12 Apr 1831
- V Edouard Denis & Emélie Rousseau (Magloire & Françoise Roy-Lauzon)  
Trois-Pistoles, 4 Aug 1868
- VI Joseph Denis & Rose Dionne (François & Adélina LaForest)  
Salem, MA, 12 Jan 1903

## Décès

*Aux familles éprouvées par le décès d'un membre cher,  
l'Institut franco-américain de Salem offre ses plus sincères condoléances.*

Elmer-H. ALLARD, 88 ans, avril 2010 • Mary-L. (Dumas) ARNOLD, 84 ans, 4 mars 2010 • Michael-R. BELLEAU, 52 ans, 2 mars 2010 • Elizabeth (Boucher) BISHOP, 88 ans, 1 avril 2010 • Carmel (Madore) BOSSÉ, 85 ans, 2 mars 2010 • Emily-L. (Ferullo) BOUCHER, 89 ans, 5 avril 2010 • Henry-G. BOUCHER, 86 ans, 25 février 2010 • Irène-A. (Ouellette) BREault, 98 ans, 12 avril 2010 • Rita-A. (Lamarre) CAPPuccio, 91 ans, 16 février 2010 • Pauline-M. (Thibault) CONNORS, 82 ans, 11 mai 2010 • Paul-R. CORMIER, 84 ans, 12 mars 2010 • Raymond-T. DANSREAU, 89 ans, 9 mai 2010 • Mary-Ann (Beaupré) DEMERS, 99 ans, 17 mars 2010 • Robert-R. DEMEULE, 81 ans, 25 février 2010 • Cécile (Jalbert) DONAHUE, 83 ans, 20 février 2010 • Anne-E. (Vivier) Guilmet-DOUCETTE, 102 ans, 7 février 2010 • Hélène-Mélina (Gauthier) DOUCETTE, 88 ans, 6 avril 2010 • Henry-R. DRAGON, 70 ans, 4 avril 2010 • Estelle-M. (Bouchard) DUBÉ, 79 ans, 25 mars 2010 • M. l'abbé Georges DUBÉ, 89 ans, 20 avril 2010 • Lucienne-M. (St-Pierre) DUPUIS, 99 ans, 5 mars 2010 • Priscilla-C. (Guerette) FAIA, 68 ans, 21 février 2010 • Robert-A. FRASER, 86 ans, 1 février 2010 • Julia GAUTHIER, 19 ans, 21 mars 2010 • Roland-F. GAUTHIER, 86 ans, 13 février 2010 • George-O. GIRARD, 84 ans, 20 mai 2010 • Nathalie (Léveillé) HARRINGTON, 94 ans, 19 avril 2010 • Lucille-Ethel (Morin) JENKINS, 87 ans, 4 avril 2010 • Claudette-Irène (Martineau) KAMINSKI, 50 ans, 13 mai 2010 • Irène-T. (Pelletier) KINGMAN, 15 mars 2010 • Mary-Cécile (Ouellette) KOLOZETSKI, 89 ans, 31 mars 2010 • Rita-A. (Motard) LeBLANC, 15 avril 2010 • Jeannette-C. (Houle) LeBRUN, 88 ans, 20 mai 2010 • Donald-R. LECLERC, 68 ans, 13 février 2010 • Doris-P. (Pero) MACKEY, 80 ans, 11 mai 2010 • Anita-F. (Giguère) MANOOGIAN, 63 ans, 8 mai 2010 • J.-A.-Harvey MARMEN, 94 ans, 27 mars 2010 • M. l'abbé Laurier-J.-M. MARTINEAU (#65), 77 ans, 7 avril 2010 • Jane-M. (Przybysewski) MICHAUD, 12 février 2010 • Robert-J. MOREAU, 77 ans, 12 avril 2010 • Robert-P. MORENCY, 93 ans, 26 avril 2010 • Pearl-L. (D'Amour) NORMAND, 1 mai 2010 • Georgette-S. (Cormier) OUELLETTE, 82 ans, 2 avril 2010 • Norman-A. OUELLETTE, 80 ans, 7 avril 2010 • Dorothy-E. (LeBlanc) PARADIS (#55), 89 ans, 25 mars 2010 • Robert PARENT, 82 ans, 28 avril 2010 • Robert-Joseph PELLETIER, 90 ans, 17 avril 2010 • Priscilla-L. (Michaud) POIRIER, 73 ans, 14 avril 2010 • Raymond-R. RICHARD, 64 ans, 31 mai 2010 • Denise-Amélia (Chaurette) RILEY, 65 ans, 19 avril 2010 • Marilyn-G. (Brusso) SHELDON, 70 ans, 16 mars 2010 • René-N. SOUCY, 79 ans, 10 avril 2010 • Nellie-B. (Stan-kus) THÉRIAULT, 97 ans, 21 mars 2010 • Gloria-F. (Bédard) TKACHUK, 91 ans, 11 mars 2010 • Margaret-S. (Gagné) TREMBLAY, 94 ans, 12 mai 2010 • M.-Juliette TURCOTTE, 95 ans, 29 mai 2010

*Nous nous souviendrons d'eux*

## **Abbé Laurier Martineau (1933-2010)**

L'un de nos sincères apôtres de la vie franco-américaine fut M. l'abbé Laurier Martineau, décédé à Boston le 7 avril 2010 à l'âge de 77 ans, dont 51 ans de prêtrise.

Laurier-Jean-Marie Martineau naquit à Salem, Massachusetts le 24 mars 1933, le deuxième de douze enfants de Henri-E. Martineau et de Irène-M. Marquis. Après avoir terminé ses études élémentaires à l'école St-Joseph de Salem, sous la direction des Soeurs de l'Assomption, il se rendit au Collège de l'Assomption à Montréal. Se destinant au sacerdoce, il fit ses études théologiques au Séminaire St. John à Brighton avant d'être ordonné prêtre le 2 février 1959 dans la cathédrale Holy Cross par le Cardinal Richard-J. Cushing, archevêque de Boston.

Il exerça d'abord son vicariat à la paroisse du Sacré-Coeur de Brockton (1959-1965). Là il fut aumônier des pompiers de la ville, et l'animateur pour l'émission de la "Catholic Family Hour" diffusé par le poste WBET radio. Ensuite, vicaire à St-Jean-l'Évangéliste de Newton (1965-1969) où il fut aumônier de la Garde Nationale "Yankee Division". Il fut vicaire à Ste-Marie de Marlboro (1969-1970), puis à St-Joseph de Waltham (1970-1982). Il dirigeait, en même temps, le Camp Jean-Marie à Wareham.

M. l'abbé Martineau viendra à St-Jean-Baptiste de Lynn (1982-1991) où il sera nommé cure en 1985. Le 29 avril 1984 il fête ses noces d'argent sacerdotales dans l'église de St-Joseph à Salem, puis le 19 octobre 1986 il fête le centenaire de sa paroisse à Lynn. Il fut ensuite curé à St-Jean-l'Évangéliste de Winthrop (1991-1996), et administrateur de St-Charles de Waltham (1996).

Curé à Ste-Marie de Marlboro (1996-2004), il terminera son ministère cinq mois avant la fermeture de la paroisse. Il prit sa retraite pour écouler ses dernières années au Carmel Terrace, Framingham, et depuis le mois de décembre dernier à Regina Cleri, Boston. Ses obsèques eurent lieu en l'église Ste-Anne de Salem le 10 avril 2010, et sa dépouille repose près de sa famille dans le cimetière Ste-Marie.

M. l'abbé Martineau (FAIS #65) laisse dans le deuil quatre soeurs: Jeannine Francis (#20), Sr Irène Martineau, SASV (#76), Annette O'Brien (#77), et Marie-Thérèse Brien (#78); et cinq frères: Henri, Maurice, Bernard, Jean-Guy, et Jean-Claude Martineau. Il était le frère de feu Joseph et Richard Martineau.

Un personnage très aimable, il était toujours au poste et disponible et prêt à rendre service. Il demeure l'une des plus belles figures de notre clergé franco-américain. Nous offrons aux membres de sa famille cet hommage d'estime de celui qui fut un digne et saint prêtre qui nous a fait beaucoup honneur. Adieu, cher ami.

***Tu es sacerdos in aeternum!***

# La Revue de Salem

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## Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc.

Organized on 1 May 2005 and incorporated on 16 February 2006, the Franco-American Institute of Salem is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history, genealogy, and culture of the Franco-American community of greater Salem, Massachusetts.

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Membership, which includes a subscription to *La Revue de Salem*, is available for \$12.50 per year. Address all correspondence to F.A.I.S., 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA 01902-3305. Telephone: 1-781-592-1425. Email: [francosalem@yahoo.com](mailto:francosalem@yahoo.com)

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*Il nous fera plaisir de vous servir en français.*

□ □ □

### Officers 2010-2011

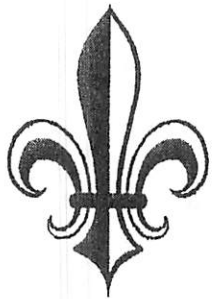
D.-Michel Michaud, President  
Nelson-L. Dionne, Vice-President  
John M. Kobuszewski, Treasurer  
Rosemary-H. O'Brien, Secretary

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### Meetings

Meetings of the officers of the Franco-American Institute of Salem for 2010 will be held at 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA on 9 May and 26 September at 4:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.





# *La Revue de Salem*

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"Dans l'bon vieux temps ça s'passait d'même ..."



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Journal of the  
*Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc.*  
Salem, Massachusetts

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**Cover Photo:** The traditional nativity scene, *la crèche*, as it appeared in Ste-Anne's, Salem, during Christmas of 2009. (Photo by Arthur Francis #20)

## News

Léon and Jean (Soucy) Massé were honored this past Summer on the occasion of their Diamond Jubilee! They were married 75 years ago, on 29 June 1935. *Félicitations!* • Congratulations to the Sisters of Ste-Chrétienne who are celebrating anniversaries this year! 50 years: Sr Thérèse Bédard, Sr Bernadette Gautreau, Sr Jeanne-Mance Lemay, and Sr Gabrielle Paquet. 60 years: Sr Jeanne Bouchard (Sr Marie-Lucienne), Sr Jeanne Girardin (Sr Marie-Victoria), Sr Emma Johnson (Sr Thérèse-Hélène), and Sr Evelyn Pomerleau. 65 years: Sr Jeannette Gonthier (Sr Ste-Marie-Denis). *Ad Multos Annos!* • Salem Police Captain John Jodoin was honored at a luncheon on the occasion of his retirement in June. *Bonne retraite!* • Our annual Messe en français in honor of Ste-Anne was celebrated on Saturday 24 July 2010 at 11:00 A.M. *Merci, M. le curé.* • The late Jeanne (Motard) Darisse was featured in a front-page article in the Salem News on 23 August 2010. She will be missed by many. *Un beau souvenir.* • Some two dozen members of the F.A.I.S. enjoyed our annual social, l'Été en Fête, on 29 August 2010! Our photo exhibit of signs on Franco-American businesses was much enjoyed. *Bienvenue à cette réunion l'année prochaine!* • St-Joseph's Food Pantry has moved to 13 Franklin Street. Its name has been changed to Harvest of Hope, "ending its long affiliation with the Catholic Church." *Meilleurs vœux.* • Richard Martineau has been painting beautiful large murals inside the buildings at Greenlawn Cemetery where he is employed. *Magnifique!* • According to the Boston Sunday Globe of 26 September 2010, St-Joseph's Church is "likely to be razed in the spring." *Regrettable!* • Another Salem artist, Tommy Gagnon, won a city competition to paint ten large concrete blocks at the Salem Willows Park. *Applaudissements!* • Philip Pelletier of Salem discovered a 2,000 year-old coin while reconstructing a wharf in Manchester. *Un trésor!* • The newly-elected provincial Premier of New Brunswick, David Alward, was born nearby – in Beverly, Massachusetts. *Félicitations!* • *Les Petits Chanteurs* of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, a 30-member boys choir, closed its 28-day American Tour with a performance at Salem's Immaculate Conception Church on 5 October 2010. *Bravo!* • Our best wishes to Donald Michaud (#6) who is recovering from a broken hip. *On a caché tes patins, monsieur!* • The *Club Richelieu* welcomes the public to attend its French Film Night at Cinema Salem on the first Thursday of each month. *Venez voir ça!* • *Nord de Boston*, a Richelieu Club exclusively for women, celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. *Une belle fête!*

**Donations received** include: Books (46 volumes) and recordings from Henri and Sheila Théberge (#11); books (33 volumes) from A.C.G.S. (#100); books (31 volumes) from Michel Michaud (#1); books (10 volumes) and file material and office supplies from Nelson Dionne (#2); books (7 volumes) and file material from Richard Lévesque (#187); photo from Armand Devoe (#35); book and gift from John Kobuszewski (#3); 14 journals from Albert Marceau; and office supplies from Daniel Champagne. *Un grand merci à tous!*

## **Editorial**

### **Fête sur fête!**

This was once the time of year when so many celebrations filled our calendars – *fête sur fête!* Those of us who attended parochial schools fifty years ago or more will recall how the Sisters kept our traditions alive in the classroom throughout the year. By the 1950s and 1960s, much would have been forgotten had it not been for the stories told to us, or the *jours de fête* which we celebrated in the classroom, all so well organized by *les bonnes soeurs*.

The feast of Ste-Cécile on November 22<sup>nd</sup> was a day when music and singing filled our schools – *en français, bien sûr!* Only three days later, it was the feast of Ste-Catherine. If *la tire* was not always available, we were at least assured of a small *bonbon* as a special treat.

After the arrival of the first Sunday of Advent, near the last day of November, every school day began with the singing of *Venez, divin Messie*. During these four weeks before Christmas, pennies were collected for the poor missions. This was our *guignolée* or *quête de l'enfant-Jésus*, which recalled the ancient custom which was formerly observed on *la veille du jour de l'an*.

It was the feast of St-Nicolas on December 6<sup>th</sup> that marked the beginning of our Christmas celebrations. This was the day to decorate the classroom, and to listen to Sister telling the story of *Papa Noël* and of why this had once been the traditional day of gift-giving. Another feast, *l'Immaculée Conception* or *Notre-Dame-des-Avents* meant morning Mass as a student body, followed by an early dismissal – *un jour de congé dans la neige!* Yet another feast, that of Ste-Chrétienne, fell on December 15<sup>th</sup>. This was the patronal feast of the Sisters who taught at Ste-Anne's and at Loring Villa. It was always observed with the telling of stories about the founding of the Order, followed by a Christmas Fair or a student play.

Then, at home, Christmas Eve and Day were filled with even more traditions: *la crèche, la messe de minuit, les cantiques de Noël, le réveillon, les tourtières, la visite de la famille...* For youngsters, it was overwhelming!

New Year's Day opened with *la benediction du père* at home, followed by the singing of *Mon Dieu bénissez* at church, the greeting "*et le paradis*" on snowy streets, and a day with *la parenté*, many of whom stayed for *une veillée du bon vieux temps*, which lasted late into the night.

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, *la fête des rois*, kings and camels were placed in *la crèche*, and a game of *le roi et la reine* was played in the classroom. A few days later, all the symbols of Christmas were packed away. One can only wonder how the Sisters managed to keep our attention during classes after the many celebrations which had just taken place. So, to the Sisters who saw to it that our traditions were celebrated, we say *Merci, mes soeurs!*

Traditions evolve and all things change. But if we really believe that this is the season of giving, we need to give the gift of our most precious memories. We need to tell younger generations these stories which are their own cultural history and their own Franco-American heritage. And if these stories are put in writing, they will be passed on from generation to generation. So...

*tirez une bûche, prenez une bière d'épinette, et commencez, mes vieux!*

This is the purpose of the Franco-American Institute of Salem! Keeping our history and our traditions alive is certainly a worthwhile undertaking, and one that will be appreciated all the more as years go by. *Souvenez! Parlez! Écrivez!*

To each of our members and their families, we offer our unchanging annual wishes:

*Un joyeux Noël,*

*une bonne année,*

*et le paradis à la fin de vos jours!*

□ □ □

### **Notable Family Ties**

When Québec's Prime Minister Honoré Mercier came to Salem in 1889, he commented that he was pleasantly surprised to find a number of his own relatives living here. There is this same element of surprise today when we trace the genealogies of Salem's Franco-American families. Many are related to prominent individuals, either in Québec or in New England. A sampling of these notable family ties is as follows:

**De Nevers** – Arsène-B. de Nevers was married in Salem on 3 January 1989 to Francisca Trent. His two brothers were among New England's greatest talents. Edmond de Nevers (1863-1906) was a historian and author of "*L'Âme Américaine*" and of "*L'Avenir du Peuple Canadien-français*"; Lorenzo de Nevers (1877-1967) was a Paris-trained artist who painted some 2,000 works, several of which hang in the Vatican Museum.

**Desmarais** – Pauline Cadorette (1918-1979), the daughter of Thomas Cadorette and of Marie Barbeau, was the wife of Salem attorney John Ward. She was the cousin of the Hon. Gaston Desmarais, Superior Court Judge of Sherbrooke, PQ.

**Desnoyers-Rouillard** – Two prominent families were united in a wedding ceremony at St-Joseph's, Salem on 25 February 1895. The groom, Louis-J.-Alfred Desnoyers (1870-1917), was the son of Mathias-Charles Desnoyers, District Judge of Montréal. (Sir Adolphe Chapleau had offered him a seat at the Superior Court, but Desnoyers declined.) Louis' sister, Elmire, was married to Attorney Charles Bruchesi, brother of the Archbishop of Montréal. The bride, Marie-Blanche-Évangéline Rouillard, was the daughter of Jean-Baptiste Rouillard. Jean-Baptiste first entered the United States in 1862 to enlist in the U. S. Army. Following the Civil War, Honoré Mercier appointed him Inspector General of Mines for the Province of Québec. He later returned to New England and founded a number of French-language newspapers in places such as Boston (1893), Salem and Lawrence, MA (1895), and Biddeford and Lewiston, ME (1896).

**Fortier** – Père Rodolphe-Alphonse Fortier (1879-1951) was pastor of Ste-Anne's Salem, from 1920 to 1933. As Chaplain of *La Fédération Catholique franco-américaine*, he was frequently called upon to intervene during the infamous *Affaire Sentinelle* (Rumilly pp. 402, 410, 415). A native of Baltic, CT, he was the brother of Dr Adélard-J. Fortier (1870-1927), a State Senator from Pawtucket, RI.

**Gagnon-Pelletier** – Antoine Gagnon (1816-1910), a native of Rivière-Ouelle, was the husband of Julie-Adèle Pelletier. He settled in Salem in 1894 and was a resident here for the last 16 years of his long life. His son, Charles-Antoine-Ernest Gagnon (1846-1901) was an author, notary, and politician, representing Kamouraska County in the Legislative Assembly from 1878 to 1890. Honoré Mercier appointed him Provincial Secretary for Québec in 1887, and Sheriff of Québec in 1890. Antoine's wife, Julie-Adèle Pelletier, was the sister of Sir Charles-Alphonse-Pantaléon Pelletier (1837-1911), Lieutenant-Governor of Québec from 1908 to 1911.

**Ouellet** – Luce Ouellet (1866-1945) was married in Salem on 13 February 1893 to Calixte Rousseau. Her sister, Marie-Anne, became known as Mère Marie-de-St-Joseph-de-l'Eucharistie, s.r.c. She was the foundress of an order of sisters at Lac-au-Saumon in the diocese of Rimouski. This order, *les Servantes de Notre-Dame, Reine du Clergé*, exists today.

**Papineau** – Louis-J. Papineau, M.D. (1848-1922), a native of St-Césaire, PQ, settled in Salem by 1870 when he established a hair salon, possibly Salem's first Franco-American business. He returned to Montréal in 1880 where he earned his medical degree, and later settled in Webster, MA. The 1916 edition of *Le Guide Franco-Américain* (p. 337) states that "*Le docteur Papineau est le petit neveu de grand patriote Louis-Joseph Papineau.*" Although this relationship is quite distant, it is evidence of the doctor's admiration for his namesake, the "*Seigneur de la Petite Nation*" and hero of the rebellions of 1837. The doctor's grandfather, François, was the second cousin of Louis-Joseph Papineau (1786-1871).

**Pelletier** – Georges-Léon Pelletier (1904-1987), the son of Joseph-Léon Pelletier and of Rose-Alma Massé, became bishop of Trois-Rivières, PQ. His mother's sister, Jeanne Massé (1883-1932), settled in Salem where she married Alfred Michaud. When Bishop Pelletier concelebrated the Centennial Mass of St-Joseph's, Salem, in 1973, he called himself an "adopted son" of Salem due to his many relatives here whom he frequently visited.

**Pothier** – Charles-L. Desaulniers (1863-1901), the son of Louis Desaulniers and of Marie-Eloïse Pothier of Nicolet, settled in Salem by 1889 where he became well known as a jeweler and singer. His son Clément Desaulniers (1891-1973) was a noted attorney and athlete in Salem. Charles-L. Desaulniers was the first cousin of Aram-J. Pothier (1854-1928), Governor of Rhode Island from 1909 to 1915 and from 1925 to 1928. He was the first Franco-American to be elected governor in the United States.

**Rouleau** – Marie-Luce Rouleau and her husband, Joseph-N. Côté, left l'Isle-Verte to settle in Salem with their family. Their son, Dr Gérard Côté (1898-1979) was a well-known physician, having practiced in Salem for 46 years. Marie-Luce was the sister of Cardinal Raymond-Marie Rouleau (1866-1931), Archbishop of Québec.

## A Stove Story

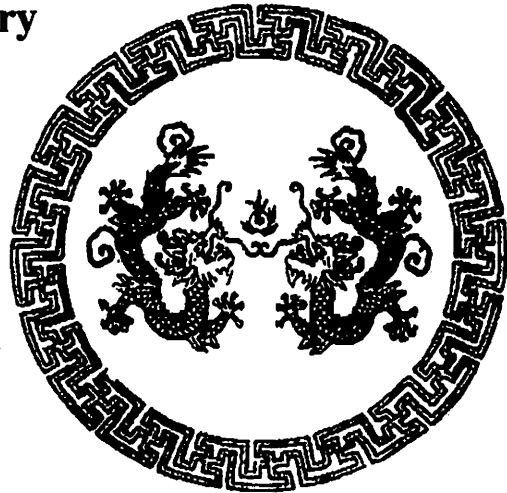
*Twass the night before Christmas – 24 December 1905 – at Low Hong's Oriental restaurant, 19 Front Street, in downtown Salem. Here, a young Franco-American by the name of William Plourde, of 34 Perkins Street, would experience a Christmas Eve he would never forget. The story, which reads like a comedic sketch, appeared on the front page of the Salem Evening News on 26 December 1905. The colorful journalism is quite unlike anything one would read today.*

A newly married man never had half the trouble trying to set up a stove that was experienced by an international party in the Chinese restaurant on Front street "the night before Christmas." In the party were three Chinamen, three Americans and a Frenchman, to say nothing of the stove.

The three Americans and the Frenchman were customers, and one, in getting up from the table, having been indulging freely in liquor before visiting the place, lurched against the hot stove, and over she went. Then the fun commenced.

The entire force of the chef at the restaurant, consisting of himself and two assistants, rushed into the serving room, and with the other four men started in to put the stove back in place. Handling a red hot stove is not in the line of most people, unless one is equipped with asbestos hands, and none of this party was.

The cranky stove, and the presence of liquor, which made some of the men wobbly on their pins, was a combination. The Chinamen talked Chinese, and the Frenchman reeled off French, but the stove was of American make, not up on foreign languages, and heeded not.



When the funnel was put in the chimney, a leg would drop off, when the leg was replaced, the funnel would bulge out on the side. When the crook in the pipe was fixed up, the top would fall off the stove, and when this was replaced, the pipe would come out of the chimney, and so the merriment continued, it being one round of pleasure.

The proprietor of the restaurant commenced to think that he and his stove were not getting the "square deal" he had read that President Roosevelt talked about, so he hied himself to the police station where the "reserves" were called out.

When the blue coats arrived on the scene they deemed it advisable to take into custody William Plourde, 21 years of age, of Perkins street, and he was accordingly locked up, charged with drunkenness and malicious mischief.

The police straightened the stove out as best they could and things resumed their accustomed look in the restaurant, except that the stove did have a look as though it had started out to have a merry, merry Christmas.

## Remembrances of Rose

*Everyone in Castle Hill knew her, either as Madame Lévesque, or simply as Tante Rose. She was the eighth of twelve children born to François Tardif and Marie Plourde. Both natives of Kamouraska County, Québec, the couple settled in Salem in 1886, four years after their marriage.*

*The Tardif home, at 10 Story Street, stood in the shadow of Ste-Anne's church where Rose served as organist for 50 years and as assistant for another twenty. A well-known piano teacher for many years, she was called upon to play during the dedication of the new church when she was 92 years of age.*

*In November of 1982 when she was 88 years of age, Rose was interviewed by Sr Ste-Claire S.S.Ch. for a program at Assumption College in Worcester. Her keen memory, and her ability to relate an interesting account, are evident in the remembrances which follow. These have been compiled from that interview, with several passages translated from the French.*

*Rose (Tardif) Lévesque lived nearly a century, never moving from the home where she was born. A widow since 1960, she died on Easter Monday, 1 April 1991, at the age of 97.*

### Parents

My father came from St-Alexandre, and my mother came from Mont-Carmel. It's not very far [between] St-Alexandre and Mont-Carmel. My mother was 26 years old when she married; my father was 25. There was six months' difference.(1)

When they got married, they lived at St-Eleuthère. The oldest of my sisters and the oldest of my brothers were born at St-Eleuthère. (2) It was a little log cabin that they had. My mother used to say, "I was so scared to go into the woods! When your father went to tie the cow at night, if I was peeling a potato, when he came back I was still holding the knife on the same peel as when he left, because I was so scared!

I remember that my mother said when they got married they were so poor, they had one lamp to give light at night. But, she said, after putting out the lamp, my father would put some wood in the stove, and he opened the little opening on top, and she said "I sat down near the stove and knitted by the light

of the wood which burned. You can't imagine how poor we were!" I wasn't born then; and see how wasteful the people are today.

I went to Canada every summer. I knew my grandmother Plourde and my grandfather Plourde at Mont-Carmel (3); and I knew my father's mother at St-Alexandre (4). I went to St-Eleuthère where my father and mother lived. Beautiful place! But at that time there was nothing there at St-Eleuthère; it was in the woods. Today, it's a beautiful parish.

### Coming to Salem

There was nothing to do in Canada. My father came here to earn money. He was a laborer. He never worked in the mills; he worked for the Boston & Maine. He worked on the trains, I guess. I don't know what he did there; I was too young.

While they built the house here, they lived on the other street there (5). And when they moved here, my mother was carrying me. She moved here in June [of 1893], and I was

born the seventh of January in 1894. There were three finished rooms when they moved here. They added on later, because my mother had 12 children. With only three rooms, you can't fit them all in! My father finished the rooms. He carried the wood on his shoulders at night when he came home from work.

### **Amusements**

We had nothing to play with, [and] we had no money to go out. We stayed at home. Sometimes I visited my chums across the street. There was a Couillard family that lived there (6). I would ask my mother and my father. We always asked permission to go out. They said to come home before it gets dark, "seven o'clock, no later than that". In those days there wasn't anything – no radio, no television, nothing. We lit the lamps, oil lamps! We went to bed early.

### **Clothing**

The first time my mother made me a dress, she made me a dress with [an old] dress Mme DeRoy gave her (7). And she made a beautiful dress with it, the inside in lace. And my little brother found an embroidered petticoat, and my mother made me an embroidered petticoat with it to go with my dress. I [had] never had one! I went to Mass on Sunday; oh boy, I was proud! I arrived at the church. The Sister was pulling out the little seats [because] the pews were all full, and we passed over the seats. I said, "I'm going to show off my pretty embroidered petticoat". I started to lift my dress. The Sister said, "Put your dress down!" I'm telling you, we had fun!

My mother had an old-fashioned washboard. Later, they came out with another kind, in wood, with a wheel on the side. We turned the wheel, and it stirred the washer. My mother always did her washing in the cellar.

We had a wood-burning stove in the cellar [but] we didn't have hot water; we didn't have electricity.

### **The Church**

I was born in 1894, so I remember very well when they built [Ste-Anne's] church; I was eight years old. And when they had First Communion here at the church, I wanted to make mine the first year [in 1903]. But I wasn't ten years old, and you had to be ten to make it. There were others who wanted to make it that first year.

They had a banquet to raise money, the first banquet held in the church (8). I don't know how many people came to put their coats here in the house! The house was full of coats! There was no place to put them there, because there was only one floor in the church that was finished. And when priests and the bishop came for Confirmation, there was no rectory, so they came here to eat. My mother cooked the dinner for the bishop and the priests who were invited. We did quite a bit for the priests.

And my mother worked quite a bit for the church. My mother never worked except for that. It was my mother who swept the church. She dusted, with other women, her friends. She did all that. Every Friday there were Stations of the Cross, and so that the pastor's cassock wouldn't get dirty, my mother swept the middle aisle and dusted the pews. One day, during the summer, there was a rainstorm, and lightning struck the chimney of the church (9). I and my mother and my little sisters went to church to wipe the water from the rain which fell into the church. There was another big bolt while we were there! Oh, my mother was scared! She did everything for nothing because there was no money to pay her.



## Horses

There was a M. Pierre Tardif on Read Street (10). He trucked sand. They sold that everywhere. They needed sand to make walls, [foundations] to build houses, and sidewalks. I don't know why else he sold that; I was little then. And on his truck was an umbrella. It was so big, immense! They all had that on their trucks. And he sat down, and in the summer he opened up the big umbrella which he had on his truck, so he would be in the shade when he drove in the sun. I remember that very well, that he had a truck like that.

And when we started to go to church at St-Joseph's, we [children] couldn't go (11). There was a trolley, a M. [Edmond] Martel's of St-Joseph's, that came to Castle Hill. He stopped right where the rectory is, and the people went there to take the trolley on Sunday mornings. He charged five cents a head, but no children because there wasn't room for them. He took the adults to Mass on Sundays for five cents; and the children, we didn't go. We couldn't go, we couldn't pay, so we stayed home! And when we started to go, we walked all the way to St-Joseph's for Mass.

## Christmas

We hung our stockings near the little table on Christmas Eve. We got one orange, a piece of candy, and two nuts. And they always put in a piece of wood and a piece of coal to fill it, because there was nothing [else] to put in it!

In the morning we came downstairs early. But we had to wait until Santa Claus went by! Sometimes we didn't sleep all night, and two hours went by and we came downstairs. My mother said, "Santa Claus hasn't gone by. Go back to bed, little girls." Of course, he had already gone by!

They bought [us a] doll. My mother fixed it from time to time. If the head broke, the next year it had a new head. They attached it to the body of the [old] doll. It was a kind of chamois. We didn't have much because we didn't have the money to buy it. My father earned nine dollars a week. So, he made us a beautiful little crib for our doll, and a sofa and a chair! So we played with that; we shared it among ourselves. And my mother made us little dresses for our doll.

We [also] got some hair ribbons, a pair of stockings, only what we needed.

They were the happy days and we didn't know it!

*[to be continued]*

## Notes:

1. François Tardif (1856-1944) and Marie Plourde (1855-1915) were married at Mont-Carmel, PQ on 30 January 1882.
2. Marie-H., born 1883, and François-J., born 1884.
3. Prudent and Priscille (Lavoie) Plourde.
4. Démerise (Pelletier) Tardif, widow of Jean-Baptiste.
5. The family lived at 9 Perkins Street before moving to 10 Story Street.
6. Joseph and Clara Couillard lived at 49 Lawrence Street.
7. Mme Onésime De Roy (1866-1928), née Vénérance Michaud, 271 Jefferson Avenue.
8. The banquet was held on 29 September 1901.
9. Lightning struck the church on Monday afternoon 25 July 1910.
10. Pierre Tardif, concrete paver, 16 Read Street.
11. This is before Ste-Anne's opened in 1902.

## **Pantaléon Pelletier and the Presidential Inaugurations**

*[from the Salem Evening News, Wednesday 30 December 1925]*

An interesting career has been that of Pantaléon Pelletier of 9 Story street, well known musician of this city, who for some 30 years has been a member of the famous Salem Cadet band and who has participated in some of the greatest musical events in the history of this country.

Although many people might be inclined to think that the life of a musician is monotonous and marked by the absence of any exciting adventures or thrills, his experiences surely would lead one to believe otherwise.

Mr. Pelletier, in his capacity as trombone player of the band, has played at the inaugurations of four presidents, at great expositions, and events held in every section of the country.

Born in St. André, Canada, a son of the late Thomas and Adèle (Sirois) Pelletier, he was educated in the schools of that city, and at the age of 16 years, moved to this country, settling in Salem.

Although he did not take any music lessons until he was 21 years of age, he gave evidence of remarkable aptitude and fondness for music. Following his marriage to Alexandrine Michaud at St. Joseph's church, he decided upon a musical career.

His decision was somewhat influenced by Joseph L'Africain, well known leader and musician of this city of many years ago, who, at that time directed the Eighth Regiment, which had been founded by him.

Mr. Pelletier laid the foundation for his musical career through lessons given him by a prominent player of the Boston Symphony orchestra. His progress, although not sensational, was rapid. After playing in the Eighth Regiment band, he attracted the attention of Jean Missud, leader of the Cadet band, joined this organization in 1897, and has taken an active part ever since.

He vividly recalls the concerts given at the inaugurations of Presidents Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley and Woodrow Wilson.

Mr. Pelletier recalls the afternoon of the assassination of President McKinley. The president, on entering the hall, marched up to the stand while the Cadet band was playing, and peculiar as it may seem, the march "The man behind the gun," was being played at the time. A short time afterwards the beloved president was shot. This caused tremendous excitement and is an event that he will never forget.

Mr. and Mrs. Pelletier have had 12 children, eight of whom are now living. They are as follows: Lucien, Henri, Armand, René, Léo, Raoul, Loretta and Cécile. Léo is also a musician and is prominent in musical circles of this city. Mr. Pelletier has played in many sections of Bermuda and Canada as well as this country.

## Saint Frère André

Who has not heard of Frère André, the "Miracle Man of Montréal"? Many of our parents and grandparents visited him, and some were cured by him. As school children, we listened attentively to the Sisters who told stories of his many miraculous deeds. His life is a part of our Franco-American religious heritage.

### Known in Salem

Eighty-five years ago, on 8 June 1926, the Salem Evening News reported that Frère André had already achieved "universal fame", having had performed "countless miracles". The article states, in part, that: *Brother Andre's fame is now spreading in all the corners of the world and he is every year visited by increasing thousands. No trip to Montreal is complete without a visit to see Frere Andre. The Oratory of St. Joseph [is] almost universally known through the hundreds of miracles that have taken place [there] during the past few years. Frere Andre's ...rise to his present position has brought him much fame, although he is still very modest and unassuming.*

### His Life

Alfred Bessette, now known as Frère André, was born at St-Grégoire-d'Iberville, Québec, only 29 miles north of the U.S. border, on 9 August 1845. As a teenager, he lived in New England for several years where he worked in the textile mills. All seven of his surviving brothers and sisters established their families in New England.

On 27 December 1870, at the age of 25, he entered the Congregation of the Holy Cross in Montréal, taking the name Frère André. Soon, miraculous cures were attributed to him through the intercession of Saint



Joseph. Crowds of pilgrims came each day, and miraculous cures became frequent.

On 19 October 1904, Frère André founded l'Oratoire St-Joseph on Mont-Royal. Today, this is the largest shrine in the world dedicated to Saint-Joseph.

Frère André visited his many friends and relatives in New England each year of his long life, until his death on 6 January 1937 at the age of 91. For seven days and nights during the cold of winter, over one million pilgrims came to pray to the holy brother as he lay in state in the Montréal oratory.

### His Sainthood

Frère André was declared Venerable by Pope Paul VI on 12 June 1978, and was declared Blessed by Pope John Paul II on 23 May 1982. On 17 October 2010, he was declared a Saint by Pope Benedict XVI.

During the canonization ceremonies in Rome, the Pope called Frère André a "shining example" of one who "knew suffering and poverty very early in life". Frère André "showed boundless charity" to those whom he encountered. He "conducted countless healings, and through his simplicity and humility, he inspired Christian life in Canada".

Jean-Claude Turcotte, Archbishop of Montréal, attended the canonization ceremonies of the first male Canadian-born saint, saying: "Now Frère André is officially recognized. He is celebrated the world over. And we are very happy!"

### Frère André Today

Frère André is considered by many to be our first New England saint, and our first Franco-American saint. His tomb in St-Joseph's Oratory in Montréal continues to be a destination for pilgrims from New England and from throughout the world. Today, the portrait of Frère André is proudly displayed throughout the city of Montréal, with the simple inscription:

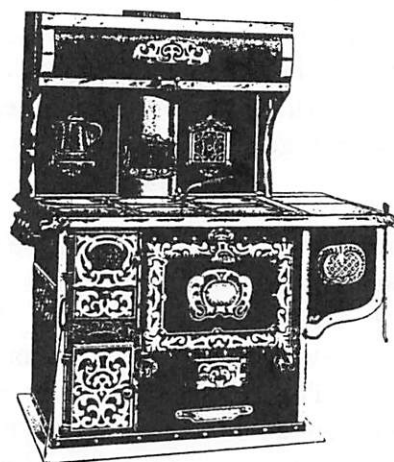
*Frère André*

*Un ami. Un frère. Un saint.*

*Brother André*

*A friend. A brother. A saint.*

## La Cuisine De Mémère



### Tarte au sucre

- 1 cup brown sugar (or maple sugar)
- 3 Tablespoons flour
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 8-inch pastry shells

Place the sugar, flour and cream in a saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Boil for two minutes, remove from heat, and stir in vanilla.

Preheat oven to 375°. Line pie plate with pastry shell and add filling. Cover with top crust. Crimp edges to seal, and cut steam vents in top. Bake for 40-45 minutes.

*"C'est vraiment bon avec de la crème glacée à la vanille!"*

-Benoît Pelletier-Shoja

(Note: This pie can be made without the top crust.)

## **Le Courrier de Salem**

Events of a century ago in Salem's Franco-American newspaper

January - April 1911

### **Societies**

- Officers of the various societies are elected for the year. Among the presidents are: Alexandre Louf, *St-Jean-Baptiste*; Joseph Chouinard, *l'Union St-Jean-Baptiste*; Eugène Fournier, *Artisans*; Joseph Ouellette, *Forestiers*; and Théophrase Dubé, *La Garde Nationale*.
- *Club Union* is founded on 8 January, with 200 voters inducted.
- Hon. Félix Gatineau, president of *l'Union St-Jean-Baptiste*, visits Salem.

### **The Press**

- Alfred Deschênes of *Le Courrier de Salem* is distributing religious calendars for the New Year 1911.
- A new recipe column, *Guide de la Cuisinière*, first appears in *Le Courrier de Salem* on 30 March.

### **Politics**

- Thomas Bois, who served as assistant secretary under Mayor Howard, is appointed private secretary under Mayor Rufus Adams on 2 January 1911.
- Ubalde de Grandpré has filed naturalization papers and will become a citizen in 90 days.
- Councilor Emile Brunet proposes to build an electric tramway line for Castle Hill, running from Jackson Street, along Jefferson and Loring Avenues, to the Swampscott line.

### **People and Families**

- Mme H.-B. Soucy is visiting her cousin, Père Rémi Brassard, in Victoriaville, PQ.
- Père François-Philibert Lamontagne, the pastor of Pontbriand, PQ, is visiting with his relatives, the family of Frank Lamontagne, on Pingree Street.
- Amable Morneau, 86, a Salem resident for 37 years, died unexpectedly on January 23<sup>rd</sup> while visiting with family at Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière.
- Toussaint Sicotte of St-Hyacinthe is visiting his former home in Salem.
- René LeBlanc and his family, of St-Pamphile, have moved to 40 Mill Street, Salem.
- Albert Bérubé has returned to Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière after having spent the winter in Salem with his family.
- A *soirée* was held on Sunday evening February 19<sup>th</sup>, celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of M. et Mme Timothée Dubé, 25 Perkins Street.
- Rose Tardiff, age 17, is scalped in a horrible accident at the Brown Shoe Factory.
- M. et Mme Charles Julien were twice chosen to be Godparents within a 24-hour period.
- Noted Salem Attorney Jean-B.-D. Jacques dies on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Business

- Isidore L'Heureux has moved his Meat Market from Derby Square to larger quarters at 22 Front Street.
- Uldéric St-Pierre has opened a Cobbler Shop at 53 Congress Street.
- Marie-A. Barbeau has opened a women's clothing store in the brick block of Dr Emile Poirier at 243 Washington Street.
- Ovide-A. Boucher has opened a new undertaking establishment on 12 January 1911. He is located at 38 Salem Street and at 29 New Derby Street. Horses and carriages are available for rental.

### Property

- Eldège Ostiguy has sold a 30' x 50' lot with buildings on Lawrence Street to Raoul Thibault.

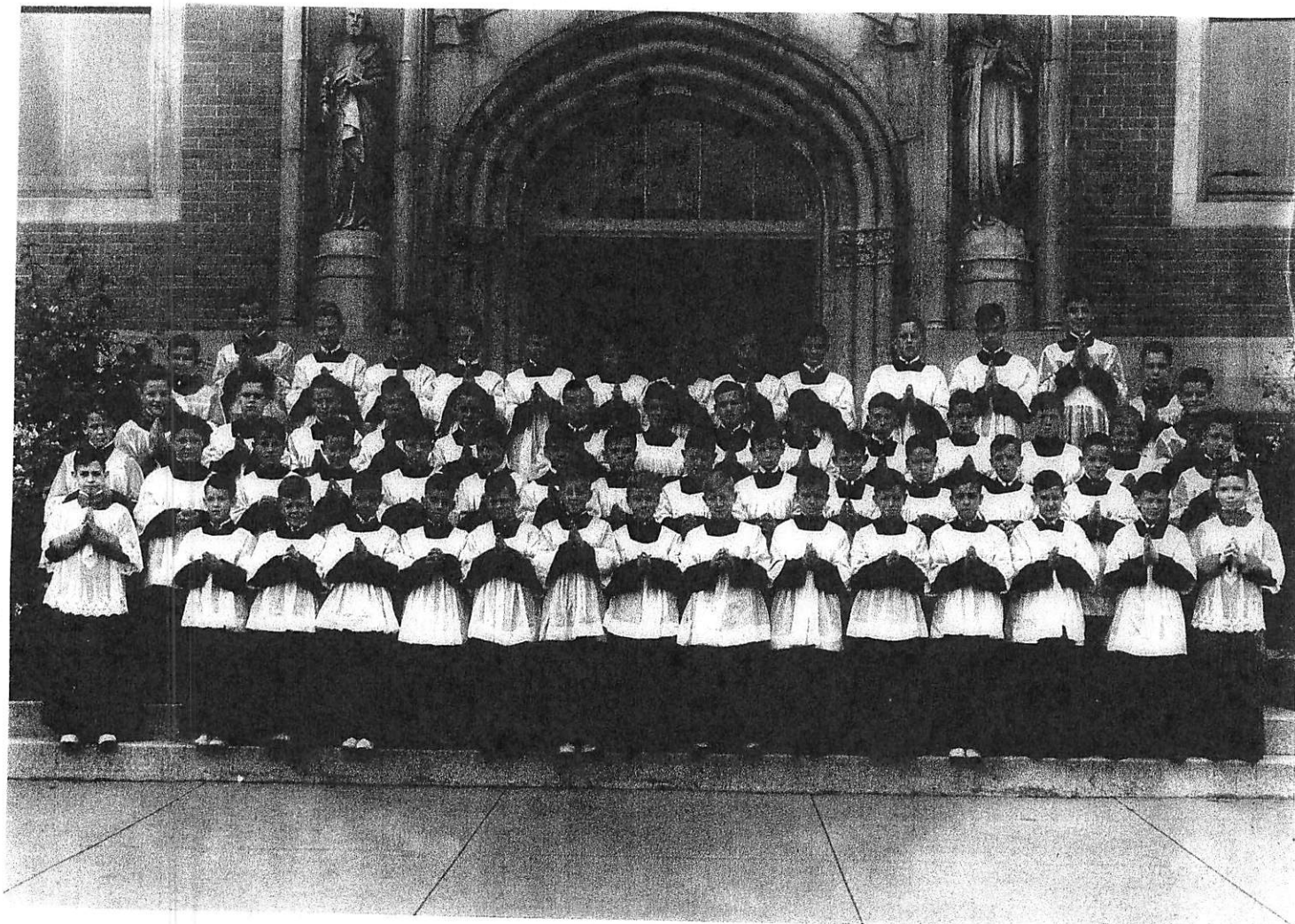
### Church

- Ste-Anne's announces on 19 January that its parish debt is entirely paid.
- The annual retreat, conducted by the Assumption Fathers of Worcester, opens at St-Joseph's on March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Bishop Bruneault of Nicolet is visiting at St-Joseph's rectory. A play is given in his honor in the school on Wednesday morning, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Entertainment

- The weekly *soirées d'hiver* continue in the Cercle Veillot Hall.
- Students of St-Joseph's present the operetta "*Aurore et Soir*" on Tuesday January 24<sup>th</sup> in honor of Père Rainville's birthday.
- A Whist Party sponsored by the *Société St-Vincent-de-Paul* is held in the Cercle Veillot Hall on February 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> annual *Kermesse of La Garde Nationale* is held in the St-Jean-Baptiste Hall from February 18<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Ste-Anne's is sponsoring a Whist Party in the Cercle Veillot Hall on *Mardi-Gras*. The grand prize is one ton of coal. On the same evening, February 28<sup>th</sup>, the *Cercle Napoléon* is sponsoring a Skating Party.
- A film on the French Revolution will be shown at the *Théâtre Comique* on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of March.
- Five hundred and twenty-two people attended the *Mi-Carême* Party in St-Joseph's parish hall on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- A *Partie de Sucre* is held in the maple grove at Danvers Highlands on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Questions and Answers



**Q-16** This photograph of the Altar Boys of St-Joseph's parish was taken in front of the elementary school on Lafayette Street in 1940. Among the boys are Philip Bouchard, Ronald Deschênes, Raymond Gagnon, and Henri Martineau. Can anyone help identify the others? – Richard Lévesque (#187) 978-922-2289

**A-16** First Communion and Graduation photos were taken each year, and many have been preserved. However, groups such as

the Altar Boys pictured here were rarely photographed. It is very likely that many of the 58 boys of 60 years ago have kept their copy of this treasured photo! We hope that one of our members will help identify the entire group. Thank you for sending a copy of the photo for our files.

*Members are encouraged to send questions, or replies to questions, for this column, either by letter or by email.*



## Décembre 1960

Fifty years ago – many of us remember it well! Let's take a look at some of the people who made the news in December of 1960: Our City Councilors were George-W. Marquis for Ward 5, Richard-W. Poitras for Ward 7, and Philip-L. Morency at-large. Henry Gagnon was City Assessor, Octave Thibault was Chairman of the Registrars of Voters, Edmund Talbot was head of the Deputy Sheriff Association, J.-Alexandre Michaud was Assistant Harbormaster, Arthur Leblanc was Park Commissioner, Henry Gagnon was on the State Forestry Board, Mme Arthur Fournier was president of the Salem Police Auxiliary, and Richard Boisvert was director of the Salem High School Band.

Charles Rainville was vice-president of the North Shore Gas Company. Emile Fontaine was a director of the Associated Grocers. Norman Auger, a Trustee of Salem Hospital, opened his new Insurance Office at Mill and Margin Streets. And Clarence LeBrun opened his newly-expanded Cameracraft Shop downtown.

Charles Lamontagne was president of the *Conseil Laurier U.S.J.B.*, Raymond Lebel of the Klondike Club, Philip Deschêne of the Lions Club, and Léonce Thibault of the Chamber of Commerce Bowling League. Robert Delande, president of the Kiwanis Club, passed the gavel to J.-Alexandre Michaud.

M. et Mme Eugène Tremblay celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and M. et Mme Victor Corbin their 65<sup>th</sup>. Père Georges Duplessis, who served at St-Joseph's from 1920 to 1927, and Père Charles Moisan, who served at St-Joseph's from 1924 to 1933, were both named *Monseigneurs* in December.

At St-Joseph's, Boy Scout Troop #110 was founded with Père René Joyal as Chaplain, Charles Thériault as Scoutmaster, and Oscar Chalifour, Albert Gagné, and Lucien Beaulieu as Assistant Scoutmasters. The Junior Varsity Squad was led by Roger Marcocelle and Ronnie Morneau as Co-captains, and Donald St-Pierre as Coach. At Ste-Anne's, Clément Fraser was president of the Holy Name Society, Mme Henri Corbin of the Youth Council, Roger Deschênes of the Athletic Club, and Paul Ouellette of the C.Y.O. Robert Morin and Paul LaChapelle were Patrol Leaders of Boy Scout Troop #83, and Père Jusseume was Chaplain of the North Shore District Boy Scouts. Roland Pinault was Master of Ceremonies for the annual C.Y.O. Snowball Dance, and Peggy Petit was in charge of the *Partie de Noël* for la *Ligue des Dames Catholiques*.

Among the well-known Franco-Americans who passed away during the year were: Alfred Audet, contractor; Alphonse-O. Boucher, funeral director; Rév. Ovila Brouillette, former pastor of the *Église Évangélique*; Joseph-H. Chouinard, optometrist; Joseph-O. Pelletier, former president of the Klondike Club; Dr Bernard-S. Roulier, dentist; and Azarie Turcotte, former City Assessor.

Christmas Masses were offered at St-Joseph's by Mgr Arthur-O. Mercier and the Révs. Philias-J. Lefebvre, Adélar-J. Gagnon, and René-J. Joyal, with Emmanuel-D. Perreault as organist. Christmas Masses were offered at Ste-Anne's by Mgr Eugène-J. Vincent and the Révs. John-E. Jusseume and Philip-C. Breton, with Rose-E. Lévesque as organist.

*Joyeux Noël 1960!*



## **Genealogies**

### **Morency**

Antoine Baucher & Marguerite Guillebert  
of Montmorency, Île-de-France

- I     Guillaume Baucher-dit-Morency & Marie Paradis (Pierre & Barbe Guyon)  
Notre-Dame-de-Québec, 16 Oct 1656
- II    Joseph Baucher-dit-Morency & Marthe Lemieux (Giullaume & Elisabeth Langlois)  
Cap-St-Ignace, 5 Nov 1698
- III   Basile Baucher-dit-Morency & M.-Josephte Guyon (Claude & Catherine Blouin)  
Ste-Famille, I.O., 26 Jan 1734
- IV    Augustin Baucher-dit-Morency & Josephte Lebel (Joseph & Madeleine Paradis)  
Kamouraska, 19 Jan 1768
- V     Basile Baucher-dit-Morency & Charlotte Lizotte (Noël & Charlotte Miville)  
Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, 1 Aug 1796
- VI    Cyriac Baucher-dit-Morency & Salomé D'Amour (Etienne & Marie Turcot)  
Trois-Pistoles, 26 Nov 1822
- VII   Basile Morency & Eulalie Michaud (Félix & Marcelline Lévesque)  
Les Escoumains, 15 Aug 1870
- VIII  Vézina-F. Morency & Augustine Thibault (Blaise & Anastasie Bélanger)  
Salem, MA, 16 Nov 1903

□ □ □

### **Poussard**

Jean Poussard & Marie Gravière  
of Rennes, Bretagne, France

- I     Jean Poussard & Marguerite Gaudreau (Jean-Baptiste & Elisabeth Sire)  
St-Thomas-de-Montmagny, 12 Feb 1761
- II    Jean-Baptiste Poussard & M.-Judith Paradis (Joseph & Marie LaBourlière-LaPlante)  
St-André-de-Kamouraska, 24 Nov 1809
- III   Rémi Poussard & Délima Levasseur (Anselme & Euphrosine LaBourlière-LaPlante)  
Kamouraska, 22 Jul 1845
- IV    Joseph Poussard & Marie Beaulieu (Théophile & Adèle Gagnon)  
Salem, MA, 15 Oct 1898

## Décès

*Aux familles éprouvées par le décès d'un membre cher,  
l'Institut franco-américain de Salem offre ses plus sincères condoléances.*

Esther-M. (Woodruff) BEAUSOLEIL, 59 ans, 16 septembre 2010 • Arline BLAIS (Sr Gertrude S.S.Ch.), 12 juin 2010 • Alyssa-Beth BLANCHETTE, 24 ans, 22 juin 2010 • Phil-Ovide BOUCHARD, 78 ans, 9 juin 2010 • Yvonne-L. (Pero) BOUDREAU, 89 ans, 11 juin 2010 • Roland-L. BROCHU, 76 ans, 23 septembre 2010 • Marie-A. (Mallard) CARON, 87 ans, 13 juin 2010 • Richard-P. CHARETTE, 75 ans, 7 août 2010 • Madeline-G. (Ayers) CHOUINARD, 85 ans, 15 août 2010 • Philip-A. CHOUINARD, 86 ans, 22 juillet 2010 • Jeannette (Motard) DARISSE, 91 ans, 13 août 2010 • M.-Blanche (St-Laurent) DEMERS, 103 ans, 4 septembre 2010 • Richard DENIS, 65 ans, 17 septembre 2010 • Gerald-J. D'ENTREMONT, 66 ans, 29 juin 2010 • Robert-René DION, 82 ans, 4 juillet 2010 • Roland-J. DUMAIS, 74 ans, 24 septembre 2010 • Yvonne-M. GAGNÉ, 91 ans, 13 juin 2010 • Jeannette-I. (Pelletier) GAGNON, 91 ans, 12 juin 2010 • Roland-J. GAGNON, 60 ans, 26 août 2010 • Virginia-M. (Cormier) GAGNON, 87 ans, 9 août 2010 • Laurelle-A. (Gagnon) HÉBERT, 80 ans, 22 juin 2010 • Roland-E. JALBERT, 77 ans, 7 septembre 2010 • Jean-Priscilla (Roy) KROITZSH, 9 août 2010 • Robert-W. LaPOINTE, 51 ans, 25 août 2010 • Wilfred-A. LaROCHE, 92 ans, 20 juillet 2010 • Charles-P. LATULIPPE, 99 ans, 7 juillet 2010 • Norman-Francis LaVALLÉE, 71 ans, 29 juillet 2010 • Irène-S. LEVASSEUR, 98 ans, 24 juillet 2010 • Denis-P. LÉVESQUE, 69 ans, 29 juillet 2010 • Jean-C. L'HEUREUX, 78 ans, 17 juin 2010 • William-C. MALLARD, 61 ans, 16 septembre 2010 • Norman-E. MARTEL, 85 ans, 7 juin 2010 • Cécile-M. (Labbée) McCARTHY, 83 ans, 27 août 2010 • Florence-V. (Mafley) MICHAUD, 71 ans, 22 juin 2010 • Alma-L. (Caron) PELLETIER, 90 ans, 12 juin 2010 • Charles-E. PELLETIER, 84 ans, 19 juillet 2010 • Frances-D. (Léger) Saindon-PELLETIER, 92 ans, 8 août 2010 • Lionel-R. PELLETIER, 81 ans, 24 juillet 2010 • Raymond-A. PELLETIER, 82 ans, 5 juillet 2010 • Loretta-C. (Michaud) PETIT, 93 ans, 26 août 2010 • Thérèse (Laplane) PRINCE, 26 août 2010 • Linda-J. (Boucher) PURDY, 62 ans, 1 juillet 2010 • Ronald-J. ST-PIERRE, 46 ans, 20 juin 2010 • Gloria-L. (Dumas) SHANNON, 79 ans, 18 février 2010 • Donald SIMARD, 67 ans, 22 juillet 2010 • Clément-V. THÉRIAULT, 89 ans, 13 septembre 2010 • Lillian (Beaulieu) Bérubé-TRAYERS, 91 ans, 29 août 2010 • Arline-J. (Chartier) TREMBLAY, 80 ans, 11 juillet 2010 • Marcel-J. TREMBLAY, 89 ans, 17 août 2010 •

*Nous nous souviendrons d'eux*

## Que j'aime ce divin Enfant.

*Grazioso.*



Que j'ai-me ce di- vin En-fant, Qui me sou-rit si tendre-



ment! Dans son berceau qu'il est char-mant! Je l'aime, je l'ai-



me, Oh! l'a- do-rable Enfant! C'est l'amour mê- me.

2

4

Il a reçu pour nom Jésus:  
Heureux seront tous ses élus,  
Et les démons seront vaincus.  
Je l'aime, je l'aime!  
C'est le Dieu des vertus,  
C'est l'amour même.

Il a choisi la pauvreté,  
Pour enseigner l'humilité:  
C'est un trésor de charité,  
Je l'aime, je l'aime!  
Quel excès de bonté!  
C'est l'amour même.

3

5

Lui qui créa le firmament,  
Il vient, et dans quel dénûment!  
Il ne s'en plaint aucunement;  
Je l'aime, je l'aime!  
Dans son abaissement,  
C'est l'amour même.

Oui, c'est le Fils du Tout-Puissant,  
Enfant d'un jour, Sauveur naissant:  
Que son aspect est ravissant!  
Je l'aime, je l'aime!  
Oh! le Dieu bienfaisant!  
C'est l'amour même.

6

Du monde il est le rédempteur,  
Je suis son frère, moi, pécheur!  
Qui pourra dire mon bonheur?  
Je l'aime, je l'aime!  
Lui seul aura mon cœur,  
C'est l'amour même.

B. G. DE MONTFORT.

# La Revue de Salem

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## Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc.

Organized on 1 May 2005 and incorporated on 16 February 2006, the Franco-American Institute of Salem is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history, genealogy, and culture of the Franco-American community of greater Salem, Massachusetts.

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Membership, which includes a subscription to *La Revue de Salem*, is available for \$12.50 per year. Address all correspondence to F.A.I.S., 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA 01902-3305. Telephone: 1-781-592-1425. Email: [francosalem@yahoo.com](mailto:francosalem@yahoo.com)

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*Il nous fera plaisir de vous servir en français.*

□ □ □

### Officers 2010-2011

D.-Michel Michaud, President  
Nelson-L. Dionne, Vice-President  
John M. Kobuszewski, Treasurer  
Rosemary-H. O'Brien, Secretary

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### Meetings

Meetings of the officers of the Franco-American Institute of Salem for 2011 will be held at 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA on 22 May and 29 September at 4:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.