



# *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 cornerstone of the new Ste-Anne's School and parish hall is blessed by Archbishop Richard-J. Cushing fifty-five years ago, on Sunday 30 December 1956. Behind him is Rev. Eugène-J. Vincent, pastor.

## News

Gérard LeBlanc, 93, and Marie-Laure Ouellette, 96, celebrated their 71<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary in December. They were married in St-Joseph's church, Salem, on 2 December 1939. Sadly, Gérard died on 8 January 2011. *Nos condoléances.* • The Soucy Insurance Agency, founded in 1907, moved from its former location on Washington Street to 85 Lafayette Street in December. The agency is owned and operated by Paul-K. Soucy (#161), the great-grandson of the founder, François-Xavier Voyer. *Félicitations!* • An Art Auction was held at the Café Jefferson on 11 December 2010, featuring the works of Salem artist, Roger-E. Lavoie. *Magnifique!* • We were saddened to hear of the death of Père Marc-A. Piché, pastor of Immaculate Conception church in Newburyport, on 13 December 2010 at the age of 68. Père Piché was assistant pastor at St-Joseph's, Salem, from 1974 to 1981. *Nos plus sincères condoléances à sa famille.* • The late Salem organ builder, Hector-B. Morneau, was featured in a front-page article in The Salem News on Monday 31 January 2011. He was a master craftsman who always took pride in his French-Canadian heritage. *Un beau souvenir!* • Conrad Desjardins and Marguerite L'Heureux of North Woodstock, NH celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in January. Both are natives of Salem, and graduates of *l'École St-Joseph*. *Félicitations!* •

**Donations received** include: books (3 volumes) and file material from Nelson-L. Dionne (#2); books (2 volumes) and file material from Jeannette Beaulieu (#115); books (31 volumes) and recordings (2) from D-Michel Michaud (#1); tape recorder from John-M. Kobuszewski (#3); journals (8 volumes) from Albert Marceau; gifts from Mae-C. Pinault (#7), Rosemary O'Brien (#9), Armand Bergeron (#28), Constance Servizio (#66), Paul Auger (#106), and Paul Salvas (#109). *Un grand merci à tous!*

### **Corrections to our December 2010 issue:**

\*page 44—Notable Family Ties—paragraph 2 should read: Arsène-B. de Nevers was married in Salem on 3 January 1898.

\*page 47—Remembrances of Rose—paragraph 1 should read: She was the **ninth** of twelve children.

\*page 60—The correct dates of our meetings in 2011 are 22 May and 25 September.

*Nous regrettons les erreurs!*

**L'été en fête:** Our annual get-together, *l'été en fête*, will be held on Sunday, August 28<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***

### **Le coffre-souvenir**

One feature article in the local press that is sure to attract the reader's attention is the discovery of a time-capsule! This is not a rare occurrence in large cities or in communities where a number of towns are grouped together. But each time, there is a renewed sense of interest. The discovery is announced, there is speculation as to what the mysterious box may contain, and an invitation to the formal opening is extended to the general public. Then, after much fanfare, the day arrives when the box will be ceremoniously opened before a curious public. Everyone seems to hold one's breath, and there is a solemn silence as a local official reaches inside. All want to see the items which people placed in this box so long ago, and which have been frozen in time for perhaps a century or more.

The contents rarely vary: a newspaper from that important date when the box was sealed, a few coins minted in that year, a document listing prominent persons of the day, a photograph or two, and several unique artifacts. These are then deposited in the local museum or historical society where they are placed on public display for a period of time before being stored in the archives. They then become a treasured part of local history.

Our journal, *La Revue de Salem*, is exactly such a time-capsule! In it, people are brought back to life, events are relived, and our own history is brought to light. These journals are collected in homes and libraries where our written history is preserved.

It was a century ago, in 1911, that items were sealed in the cornerstone of a new St-Joseph's Church here in Salem. The text of one of the documents included among the items is reproduced on page 19 of this issue of *La Revue de Salem*. Our ancestors who witnessed these dedication ceremonies were thinking only of us, that "future generation" of Franco-Americans, who can now read the account of that important day!

We are indeed fortunate to be able to open the pages of *La Revue de Salem* and to view the many treasures of our past. But what are we placing in our own "time-capsule" to be opened by future generations in ten, twenty-five, or a hundred years from today? Family photographs, scrapbooks, journals, genealogies, program booklets, and countless other items are always being sought for our library. We need to collect and preserve these materials. One day, a new generation will be grateful to us for having thought of them, and they will remember us.

At last, Summer is approaching! Plans are already underway for our annual social, *l'été en fête*, where members gather for an afternoon of food and conversation, music and memories. Come see what new treasures have been added to our library during the past year, and enjoy viewing the contents of yet another time-capsule! All of our members are invited to this annual event.

***Un bel été à tous!***

## **Alphonse Audet and the Canadian National**

Many of Salem's Franco-Americans attained success far from home, and their achievements are virtually unknown to residents of their native city.

Alphonse-A. Audet was born in Salem, Massachusetts on 8 July 1899, the first of three children born to Edouard Audet and Augustine-Élise Thibault. Shortly before Alphonse reached his third birthday, on 31 March 1902, his father died at the age of twenty-four. The following year, on 16 November 1903, his mother married Vézina Morency, and the family continued to grow.

While receiving his education in Salem, Alphonse developed an interest in trains while observing his step-father, a brakeman with the Boston & Maine Railroad. Then, on 26 June 1914, the Morency home at 3 Dodge Street was swept away in the Great Salem Fire. Shortly after, the 15 year-old Alphonse found his way to Québec City. He continued his education in San Antonio, Texas, and at the Québec Business College. In 1919, he found employment with the Canadian National Railways in Québec City, working as a telegraph operator.

The Canadian National was a new company, incorporated on 6 June 1919, but was an amalgamation of a number of older railways including the Canadian Northern, the Intercolonial, the Transcontinental, the Grand Trunk, and the Grand Trunk Pacific.

On 18 April 1922, Alphonse Audet was married to Irène Parent in the church of St-Zéphirin at LaTuque (Champlain County), Québec. The couple would have four sons and two daughters.

The Canadian National began to expand its operations in the 1920s, developing a number of radio stations. In 1937 it created the Trans-Canada Airlines, which became Air Canada in 1965. The famed Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montréal, which opened its doors in 1958, was built by the Canadian National.

Audet advanced in his career with this company, taking positions such as Stationmaster, Head Conductor, and Freight Agent. In 1948 he was named Deputy Superintendent in the city of Lévis. On 1 June 1961 he became Director of Operations for the region of Québec, and on 1 September 1963 was promoted to Eastern Regional Director of the Canadian National Railways, a position he held until his death.

Alphonse-A. Audet, Regent of the North American Railroad Associates, died at his home, 951 rue Cazot, Québec City, on 27 October 1964 at the age of 65. His funeral Mass was held in the church of Notre-Dame-du-Chemin, followed by his burial in the Cimetière Belmont.

Alphonse Audet was the nephew of the prominent Salem contractor, Alfred Audet (1875-1960), and the brother of Salem City Councilor Philip-L. Morency (1907-1979). His obituary in the Salem Evening News called him "A native Salemite who moved to Canada...and rose to an important position with the Canadian National Railway."

## A Salem Scrapbook

*Keeping a scrapbook was once a very popular pastime. The following excerpts create a small mosaic of Franco-American life in Salem over a period spanning much of the last century. These news items, once the topic of conversation at the dinner table, are preserved here in our own Salem Scrapbook.*

### *Ninety Years Ago*

**Berubes are observing their golden wedding** – The golden anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Berube is being observed today at their home, 22 Wheatland Street. Mr. and Mrs. Berube came to Salem 32 years ago, and they are highly esteemed and respected by all who know them. Mr. Berube was born in Canada at Riviere-du-Loup, P.Q., on January 17, 1846. Mrs. Claire Berube was born in Canada at St. Denis of Kamouraska, P.Q., in 1854. They were married at St. Arsene, P.Q., on January 17, 1871. Seventeen children were born of the union, of whom 10 are living: Mrs. Joseph Caron (Claire), Alfred, Lorenzo, Mrs. Frank Caron (Rose-Anna), Mrs. Honorius Marchand (Ludivine), Mrs. Ulderich P. Marchand (Ernestine), Mrs. Ernest Belleau (Lydia), Mrs. Hippolyte Deschenes (Marie-Anna), all of Salem; Joseph of Edmundston, N.B., and Mrs. Albert McDuff (Marie-Louise) of Peabody. They have 57 grandchildren. Mrs. Berube's mother, Mrs. Claire Pelletier, is still living in Trois-Pistoles, P.Q., and is 87 years of age.

-The Salem Evening News, Monday, 17 January 1921

### *Eighty-five Years Ago*

**Silver anniversary of St. Anne's Church** – Twenty-five years ago, the bells of St. Anne's Church in Castle Hill announced in gladsome tones that a new edifice of worship had been completed. Also 25 years ago, their metal tongues carried through the air the news that a new parochial school had been founded. This year in June the church and parish will celebrate in a fitting manner the silver anniversary of these events. Many who participated in the dedication of this edifice will also take part in the celebration this year. It will be recalled that 25 years ago, St. Anne's parish became canonically independent from St. Joseph's parish, being the fourth Catholic parish to be established in this city. Monsignor Joseph A. Peltier was the first priest to celebrate mass in this church and also the first to assume the pastorate.

-The Salem Evening News, Thursday, 21 January 1926

### *Eighty Years Ago*

**Ex-Representative Chauncey Pepin died today** – Ex-Representative Chauncey Pepin, for many years prominent in local political circles, died suddenly about 9 o'clock this morning at 176 Lafayette street. [He] held the record for continuous service in the legislature, in recent years at least, serving for 14 years or from 1913 to 1926 inclusive...and upon his retirement was one of the five oldest men in point of service in that body. Mr. Pepin was a member of all the leading French-American societies, and was a leader among his people.

-The Salem Evening News, Saturday, 7 March 1931

*Seventy-five Years Ago*

**First Solemn High Mass by Rev. A. Julien** – A ceremony unique in the history of St. Joseph's parish was recorded yesterday morning when Rev. Alfred Julien celebrated his first solemn high mass before a congregation that filled nearly every seat in the spacious edifice. Father Julien recently returned from Rome where he made special studies for the past four years for which he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Canon Law. The young priest had as altar boys at the impressive ceremony, his two brothers, Rene and Robert, both of whom are studying for the priesthood at the St. Joseph seminary at [Trois-Rivieres] in Canada. Following the mass a reception and dinner was held at the home of the proud parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Julien of Lussier street. Next Sunday, Fr. Julien will be given a reception by members of his graduating class at St. Joseph's school in this city. The program will take place at the Ste. Chretienne academy where he will celebrate mass.

-The Salem Evening News, Monday, 23 November 1936

*Seventy Years Ago*

**"Enchanted Isle" given in French** – The music of Chopin was well presented in French in "Enchanted Isle" by the Chorale Ste. Cecile last night at the Saltonstall school auditorium. This operetta, directed by Edward Bleau, baritone, was enjoyed by the large gathering. The beautiful costumes and panoramic scenes added much to the affair. Leopold Lavoie portrayed the famous composer and pianist, "Chopin", and Miss Jeannette Tache took the leading feminine role of "Elena", the singing star of the evening. Members of the cast were: Frederic Chopin, Leopold Lavoie; Elena, Jeannette Tache; Maman Gomez, Mme Marguerite Lavoie; Papa Gomez, Ralph Cimon; Ramon, Albert Cimon; Rosita, Irene Delisle; Conchita, Doris Morneau; Maria, Annette Tondreau; Miguel, Henri St. Gelais; Benito, George Tache; Juan, Norman Tache; Quatre Pirates, George Tache, Gerard Moreau, Delphis Plourde, [and] Paul Tache.

-The Salem Evening News, Monday, 28 April 1941

*Sixty-five Years Ago*

**Deschenes ends 43-year-service at Le Courrier** – Alfred Deschenes, for 43 years advertising agent of Le Courrier de Salem, is leaving the local weekly to engage in the real estate and insurance business. He is planning a three weeks' vacation in Canada and on his return early in September will be ready for business at 106 Lafayette street. Mr. Deschenes has been a resident of Salem for 58 years, always in Ward Five. He was married here and 15 of his 18 children are living.

-The Salem Evening News, Tuesday, 13 August 1946

*Sixty Years Ago*

**St. Joseph's parishioners tour Quebec's Gaspé area** – Refreshed after an evening's lodging at Houlton, Me., last evening, the [38-member] group from St. Joseph's church are on their way

today, via the Michaud Bus Lines of Salem, for Carleton, Quebec, going past picturesque Presque Isle, Me., Caribou, Van Buren, New Brunswick and Matapedia. They will stop overnight this evening at Carleton, Quebec. Tomorrow morning the group will proceed to Perce, a town of unforgettable beauty, and remain there through Wednesday. On Friday, they will leave for Gaspé where Canada's famous Jacques Cartier claimed possession of Canada in the name of the King of France on July 24, 1534. Following through the Gulf of St. Lawrence, St. Majorique, Cap-aux-Os, l'Anse-a-Fugere, Petit-Cap, St. Yvon, Pointe-a-la-Fregate to Madeleine [where] the group will remain overnight. The remainder of their trip will take them through the remainder of the "French Riviera." The ninth day will be spent sightseeing and shopping in Montreal while the 10<sup>th</sup> will be given over to their return.

-The Salem Evening News, Monday, 2 July 1951

### *Fifty-five Years Ago*

**Pelletiers lead phone subscribers** – The telephone caller who doesn't know the first name and initial of the Pelletier he wants to dial in Salem is in for real trouble, for there are 90 subscribers with that name listed in the current edition of the local telephone directory. In days gone by, the Smiths and the Joneses used to be the "common" names, but no more. The current crop of subscribers has Gagnon as the second most prevalent name in the telephone book. Further emphasizing the predominance of those of French descent in this city is the fact that there are 61 Ouellette families listed, closely followed by 58 of the Michaud clan and 54 Theriaults. The...Carons come next with 45 listings [and] the St. Pierres who have 43 telephones listed.

-The Salem Evening News, Thursday, 6 December 1956

### *Fifty Years Ago*

**J. A. Gourdeau, Contractor** – Jules A. Gourdeau, 87, of Ocean avenue, prominent building contractor in Salem for more than a half century, died yesterday following a short illness. Gourdeau, husband of the late Alice (Bernier) Gourdeau, was a native of Canada and learned his trade in Manchester, N.H. He came to Salem at the age of 18. Among his earliest contracts was the building of the Almy estate, well-known Lafayette street landmark. During the years he built hundreds of residences on the North Shore as well as the Salem common bandstand and the new St. Joseph's [church].

-The Salem Evening News, Friday, 13 January 1961

### *Forty-five Years Ago*

**Lamontagne is director** – Charles H. Lamontagne, Salem Assessor, was elected a national director of L'Union St. Jean Baptiste of America at the convention held over the weekend at Assumption College in Worcester. Lamontagne retired four years ago as a national director after serving for 25 years. He received an overwhelming vote from over 300 delegates. The national society has over 90,000 members.

-The Salem Evening News, Tuesday, 31 May 1966

### *Forty Years Ago*

**Salem man president of Franco-Americans** – A Salem man, Leon S. Blanchette, 13 Bertuccio Ave., who has been an active member of the organization for many years, has been elected president of the Franco-American Federation of Massachusetts. A member and past president of the Canadian Klondike Club of Salem, he was unanimously elected at the state convention held at the Chelsea club. The state federation's ranks include 28 clubs with a total membership of 75,000, including the Salem, Beverly and Lynn clubs. Blanchette, who is a member of the board of directors of the Witch City club, is a lifelong resident of Salem and was educated in its public school system. He is married to the former Florence Leboeuf of Salem and is employed at Maynard Plastic Co., Inc., Salem. They have 4 children.

-The Salem Evening News, Tuesday, 9 November 1971

### *Thirty-five Years Ago*

**Ste. Anne's [School] closing** – Monday was a sad, difficult day for the parents, faculty and children of Ste. Anne's elementary school on Castle Hill. Over the weekend it was announced that the Sisters of Ste. Chretienne, the order which staffs the school, will take the nuns out of the school at the close of the school year in June. The lack of vocations in recent years has produced too few nuns to replace those who have reached retirement age. There are 191 pupils attending kindergarten through eighth grade classes at the school.

-The Salem Evening News, Tuesday, 2 March 1976

### *Thirty Years Ago*

**C'est fini for Klondike Club** – Those were the days. May 1897...and the Canadian Klondike Club was born. By the time Arthur Raby became president in 1966, the Canadian Klondike Club at 96 Lafayette Street had a membership of more than 500 and was generally known as "one of the oldest and most active Franco-American organizations in the country." But last Saturday the doors closed. They will probably not open again. "We lost membership. A lot of the older members have died off, and the younger people aren't interested in joining clubs."

-The Salem Evening News, Wednesday, 14 October 1981

### *Twenty-five Years Ago*

**Rebirth of Ste. Anne's** – Hundreds gathered at Ste. Anne's Church at Castle Hill Saturday evening to participate in a joyous dedication of the new granite and brick edifice and to anoint its altar and walls. His Eminence Cardinal Bernard Law presided at the Rite of Dedication, which officially opened the church for common worship. The new church, featuring stained glass windows from Ste. Chretienne's and a beautifully rebuilt organ...was packed to standing room only.

-The Salem Evening News, Monday, 25 August 1986



## Remembrances of Rose ( II )

### School

It took us so long to learn! We always studied the same thing because there were too many children from one year to the next. Whatever I studied the previous year, I would have to study the same thing again. There were too many children in the same class. That's why I graduated from the fourth grade. They taught us reading, the Catechism, and history. When we went to school, we did drawings. There was a teacher who came once a week. She showed us how to do drawings. But grammar? We went only as far as nouns. After that, we started over at the beginning. We didn't get further than that. Don't ask me what an adjective is; I don't know what that is. We don't all have the opportunity to be educated!

In 1914 there was a big fire in Salem. There were some schools which were all closed. So, there were some teachers who gave lessons in painting in the schools. They opened a class, and we went there for nothing. I went there once a week, probably three or four months at most. I painted pictures. I gave a lot [of them] away.

### Cooking

The stoves? They were all black stoves with a big oven. There weren't any other stoves. The fire was always going.

My mother [cooked with] salted herbs and onions. We had soup to eat every day. In those days they gave away beef bones for nothing! Every Saturday night we had beans for supper. We had hens, [and] we had eggs from the hens. And we had two pigs once! After that, they took away the permit and we couldn't [keep them]. With the head, my mother made what they call head cheese; she cooked the whole head! And the liver?

My mother used to cut that, and she fixed it with onions. We took the blood and we made pudding. It's a long time since we could have pigs! But we never had cows though.

We had apple trees in the yard. In the summer, we picked up the apples and our mother made apple pies, apple preserves, and she made her own cakes and pies, bread, everything! Well, the butter, we always bought that; my mother never made butter.

*Ragoût*? I cook a chicken, clean it, and take off the skin, the bones. Then I take pork butts and make nice little balls with some salt, some pepper, and some onions in it. And I take two or three potatoes and cut them in small pieces. Then, with flour, that thickens my *ragoût*. It's delicious!

If you want good *corton*, buy pork butts; that's the best pork if you want good *corton*. I cut it into pieces and cook it very well [with] an onion. When it is well cooked, I mince it very well and put it back in the same water. I add another big piece of onion and I let it boil slowly until all the water is gone. I don't put any cover on it, but I have the heat low. When I see that it is well cooked, I put it in small dishes. That's your *corton*!

### Remedies

My mother bought a piece of camphor, and she put her piece of camphor in a bottle of alcohol, and she shook it. If I had a sore throat, we took the bottle of alcohol and we rubbed it on. She said, "You'll smell like camphor!" My father, it was linament that he used. If something didn't feel right, he rubbed it with linament.

### Tragedy

I started to work when I was 16 – J. Brown & Son, corner of Ocean and Canal streets. My job was to make buttonholes for shoes. And at 17, I was scalped! My scalp was pulled off my head by the hair! My birthday was in January; I had my accident [on February 18<sup>th</sup>] 1911.

I was sick during the [previous] week, so my mother said to stay home. I had to work on Saturday because I was afraid to lose my job. I earned five dollars and a half a week! I bent over to fix my pedal so I would go faster – I was oiling the machine – and my hair got caught someplace. It was a Canadian girl who picked me up from the floor with an Italian boy. She continued to say my Act of Contrition with me. The Italian said, “I had Italian blood on my shirt, but this is the first French blood that I got on my shirt!”

They took me to the hospital, and during the week that I was in the hospital they performed a big operation. That happened on a Saturday, and they did the first operation on Tuesday. They thought I was going to die. They put so much gauze bandage all over my head. When they came to take it off, it was all dried blood that was stuck. I screamed! It hurt me so much when they took all that off, more than when the accident happened! I spent six weeks in the hospital. My sister [had given] me a pretty bracelet on my birthday. She said, “I’ll bring you your bracelet, Rose”. I said, “I don’t need that here.” She brought it to me. It was a bracelet that opens and has my name. I still have it.

When I came out of the hospital, I was so weak! My mother put a quart of milk on the table. I tried to lift it with two hands, and I couldn’t. I was sick; a nurse came here for

one year’s time. My mother wrote to Brother André (1). [He] sent some oil of St-Joseph and some water of St-Joseph. “You tell her to take one drop of water and of oil when she is sick.” And she took off all my gauze bandages, and she rubbed my head with that oil so it would heal. But it took time to heal! I went to Canada the next year, in the month of July [1912]. When I went to see Brother André, he put his two hands on my head, and he said, “*Mademoiselle*, it will heal.” I had a lot of faith in him. That was many years ago! [Now,] I have a wig.

### Music

I took [piano] lessons from Mme Demers who played here (2). When I started playing [at church] I was 18 years old. [Later], she married and had a baby. When she had the baby, we had ceremonies, either Benediction on Tuesday nights, the Stations of the Cross, Holy Hours, and she couldn’t come. I was taking piano lessons from her, so she said, “Rose, why don’t you go to church tonight? There won’t be many people. You can do it. I’ll leave my keys, and you’ll play.” That’s when I started.

### Mourning

My mother always sang songs. My little sister died when she was eight years old, and the year my little sister died, my mother stopped singing (3). I never heard her sing again. Sometimes I hear songs and I say, “My mother used to sing that!” But it’s such a long time ago.

I’m the one who took care of my mother for one year. I was only 21 when my mother died (4). That’s young to lose one’s mother! My mother was only 60 years old. When my mother died I made myself a hat, with a crêpe butterfly, [and] a big veil with a border of crêpe all around. I wore that for six

months, and only black for one year. Then, I had little white cuffs and a little white collar for six months again. Today, they don't have any [such customs].

### **The Wedding**

[Joe and I] were supposed to get married, but we had a big storm of rain and lightning and thunder one night in the Summer, and the lightning struck my room (5). It burned all my clothing! So I said to my fiancé, "Look, if you want to get married this year, look for somebody else. I'm so discouraged, I won't get married this year." [And] the pastor said, "Do you think you will marry this year, in 1921?" I said, "No! I'm not getting married!" [But] I got married [on April 17<sup>th</sup>] 1922. I was 28 years old, and I had a fine young man!

When I got married my husband bought me an electric [washing machine]. They came out with an "Easy Machine", the first ones that came out. He bought me one! He worked for a baker, [Joseph-E.] Dubé (6). He carted the bread in a big truck from Salem to Gloucester. After that, he opened a business on his own: Ward Eight Café, on Ward Street. That was my husband with his cousin who opened that. He sold that in 1952 (7).

### **Conclusion**

That's where I was born, in the next room, and I never moved away from here. I married when I was 28 years old. We never had any children; the good Lord didn't give us any. Every Summer, we took beautiful vacations! We went everywhere, to California, Cuba, Florida, Washington, Atlantic City....Canada! Today, that doesn't tempt me.

There was a [French radio] program once a week – Thursday nights – and I used to look forward [to it]. About seven or eight years ago they celebrated the Centennial of St-Eleuthère (8). I heard of that on the radio. When I heard that, I wrote to the priest. He said, "*Madame Lévesque*, I would like it very much if you would come." And I would have loved to have gone! I'd have given anything to be there.

Now, my eyes. I have only one eye. And when I come down the stairs, I have to be careful when I come down to have both feet on the step. In the morning, I take the bottle of alcohol and camphor; and at night, I take the linament. I have faith in them.

I do knitting. And the blankets, I marked all that in a book, how many I made; I'm up to 84! I sold some of the 84, probably 30 at most. I didn't sell them for what they're worth; I gave them away! I work all the time.

### **Notes:**

1. Brother André was declared a saint on 17 October 2010.
2. Eugénie (Ménard) Demers was the first organist of Ste-Anne's, until 1917.
3. Donalda Tardif was born on 3 August 1895, and died of Typhoid Fever on 17 November 1903.
4. Marie (Plourde) Tardif died on 7 August 1915.
5. Lightning struck the Story Street home on 9 July 1921.
6. Dubé Bakery, 16-20 Leavitt Street.
7. Joseph-E. Lévesque died suddenly at his home on 23 August 1960.
8. St-Eleuthère celebrated its Centennial in 1974.

## **Le Courrier de Salem**

Events of a century ago in Salem's Franco-American newspaper  
May-August 1911

### **Societies**

- *Le Cercle Social Canadien* will hold a skating party at the Chalifour Rink on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Admission is .35¢.
- The Catholic *Forestiers* convention is being held in Salem from June 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>, and is call an "immense success".
- The French Naturalization Club will hold its annual *pique-nique* on June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The Franco-American Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual *pique-nique* at Canobie Lake, NH in July.

### **Politics**

- Thomas Bois, secretary to the Mayor of Salem, has been appointed clerk of the City Planning Commission.

### **People and Families**

- Dr Alfred-T. Leboeuf and Elmina-M. Nadeau will be married in St-Joseph's on 5 June.
- Jean-B. Léveillé of Leach Street is spending three months at Notre-Dame-du-Portage, PQ, where his brothers Alcide and Louis still reside.
- Hector and Alphonse Dansereau, the concert pianist and violinist of Montréal, are visiting with their cousin, Père Rainville of St-Joseph's.
- Joseph-Cyrille Tourangeau Sr died on Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> at the age of 76. His funeral services were held in Springfield, MA.
- Mme Georges Rainville, née Sara Dansereau, mother of St-Joseph's pastor, died in Salem on June 28<sup>th</sup> at the age of 77. She was a native of Verchères, PQ.
- Narcisse Talbot, who is employed by the Federal Printing Office at Ottawa, ON, is recuperating in Salem following an operation.
- Frère Amédée of the *Collège St-Hyacinthe* is visiting with his brother, Louis Dionne, on Forest Avenue, Salem.
- A *soirée* will be held on August 9<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries of M. et Mme Thomas Pelletier and M. et Mme Frank Richard.

### **Business**

- Mme Calixte Rousseau has just received a new stock of postcards, including views of the new St-Joseph's church. Her store is located at 33½ Harbor Street.
- The Park Café at Salem Willows offers fine dining. The staff here is French-Canadian.

### **Properties**

- Victor Corbin is building a two-family home on Wheatland Street, and Eustache Raby a three-family home on Jefferson Avenue.
- Frank Lussier is building a two-family home on Lussier Street, and Ernest April a three-family home on Ocean Avenue.
- Père Joseph-A. Peltier, pastor of Ste-Anne's, has recently sold a parcel of land with buildings on Jefferson Avenue to Alexandre-O. Brunet.
- Joseph-F. Michaud has received a permit to build a hen house at 75 Lawrence Street.
- After 2½ years, Edmond Léveillé has completed building his 40-passenger motor boat.

### **Church**

- A newly-ordained priest, Père J.-Henri Filion, has been assigned to St-Joseph's.
- Père Joseph-O. Duchesneau has returned to the Montréal diocese. He had been chaplain of the Grey Nuns of Montréal at the Salem Orphanage for 13 years, and assistant at St-Louis-de-France, Lowell, for the past two years.
- A beautiful illustration of the new St-Joseph's church, taken from the architect's plans, is published on the front page of *Le Courrier de Salem* on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The cornerstone of the new St-Joseph's church will be dedicated at 3:00 P.M. on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> by Bishop DaSilva of Lisbon, Portugal.
- The French Protestants plan to build a church on Dodge Street. The French Protestants "are rare here in Salem".
- Arthur Thibault has been named choir director of St-Joseph's.
- A party was held for Léda Marquis, the daughter of Emile Marquis and Emma Nadeau, who has entered the convent. [She later became Sr-Emma, S.S.Ch.]
- The annual pilgrimage to Ste-Anne's, Salem, will be held in July. The large statue of *le Sacré-Coeur*, recently purchased, will be blessed. The Dominican Fathers will preach.

### **School**

- The end of the year at St-Joseph's school on June 20<sup>th</sup> will feature the comedy "*Le retour en France d'un oncle d'Amérique*", and the operetta "*Fais ce que dois, advienne que pourra*".
- The Grey Nuns of Montréal will hold their annual Lawn Party at the Salem Orphanage on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are .10¢ for children and .25¢ for adults.

### **Library**

- The Franco-Americans of Salem continue to work to purchase *La Bibliothèque Mallet* and to keep it in the United States. Two thousand dollars is needed. Paul-N. Chaput and Dr Camille Coté each offer \$40. toward the campaign.

### Entertainment

- Ste-Anne's will present two plays in St-Joseph's Hall on May 23<sup>rd</sup>: the comedy "*La Mère Michel et Son Chat*", and the drama "*L'Orpheline des Pyrénées*".
- The Salem Willows has opened for the season with a concert by Jean Missud.
- Ste-Anne's will hold its annual Lawn Party at Loring Villa on June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- A *grand pique-nique* will be held in Middleton on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to benefit the new St-Joseph's church. No drinking or dancing will be tolerated.
- A wrestling match will be held in the *Cercle Veillot* Hall on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Admission is .25¢ and .35¢.

□ □ □

### Questions & Answers

**A-16** A number of our readers called or wrote to comment on the photograph that was published in this column in December. Several offered to identify some of the individuals if a clearer copy could be provided. Our member, J.-Armand Bergeron (#28), provided a most interesting explanation of this unique photo:

The December issue of *La Revue de Salem*, page 55, showed a group of boys dressed as "altar" boys. However, not all of them were altar boys. Some were choir boys. Rev. Francis LeBrun was in charge of St. Joseph's altar boys in the early '40s. Father LeBrun received tickets for a concert in Boston featuring the Vienna Choir Boys. He was so impressed, he petitioned the pastor to allow him to organize a boys' choir at St. Joseph's elementary school.

The photo shows approximately 58 boys in two different surplices. If you notice carefully, a few boys at either end are wearing a lacy surplice. These are the altar boys. The rest of the group of 48 or 50 are choir boys.

I hope you will find my "tale of the missing altar boys" intriguing.

In the front row, Léo-Paul "Lee" Caron (#42) is second from the left, and J.-Armand Bergeron (#28) is third. Other choir boys are Philip Bouchard and Raymond Gagnon, while the altar boys include Ronald Deschênes and Henri Martineau. Other names can be found in the program published in *La Revue de Salem* (August 2009) pp. 38-39. *Merci M. Bergeron!*

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

## Expressions

Many of us remember the boredom we experienced during French classes in elementary school. We began by learning *Je suis, tu es, il est...*, and by the end of the class we were thinking *Je dors, tu dors, il dort...*

But French-Canadians and Franco-Americans have many old and colorful expressions for nearly every occasion, none of which were ever taught in the classroom. After all, *on parle comme on a été appris...chez-nous!* (We speak as we were taught...at home!) Today, these expressions still cause us to smile:

When a person is wearing many layers of clothing to protect against the cold of winter, they are said to be *habillé comme un oignon* (dressed like an onion). When company arrives, you may ask for their coat and hat by saying *ôte tes plumes* (take off your feathers).

If someone is going out to drink, you may say *il part en fête* (he's on his way to celebrate). If he drinks heavily, *il boit comme un trou* (he drinks like a hole). And then if he staggers, *il a le talon rond* (he has a rounded heel).

To prove that something is not impossible, we may say *c'est pas la mer à boire* (it's not the ocean to drink). But if one exaggerates too much, someone may say *il met plus de beurre que de pain* (he's using more butter than bread). Then if the conversation strays from the subject, we may say *revenons à nos moutons* (let's get back to our sheep).

Someone who is wealthy is said to be *au bout des chiffres* (at the end of the numbers). But if someone is sad because his big plan has failed, we may say that *son chien est mort* (his dog is dead). Then, if someone isn't very smart, we say *c'est pas lui qui a inventé les boutons à quatre trous* (he isn't the one who invented four-holed buttons).

Someone with a strange or unusual name may be said to have *un nom pour coucher dehors* (a name that can sleep outdoors). And for someone with bifocals, *il porte des châssis doubles* (he's wearing storm windows).

To run into someone, literally, is to *rencontrer nez-platte* (meet flat-nosed). Then, if you are having a private conversation and suddenly need to change the subject because someone is arriving, you may whisper *le curé s'en vient* (the pastor's coming). Together, you may have a big meal, eating until you are *plein comme un oeuf* (as full as an egg).

These expressions, and many others, were once a part of our daily conversations. If there were long faces in the classroom, it was not so at home, especially when company arrived! We invite our readers to share other words and expressions with us so that we may preserve these gems of our spoken language.

## *Traditions*

### **No. 9: “L’eau de Pâques”**

*D.-Michel Michaud, #1*

Many traditions are associated with Easter, the most important feast of the Church year. One of these, *la cueillette de l’eau de Pâques* (the collecting of Easter water), was once very widely practiced, not only in Québec but throughout French Canada.

Very early on Easter Sunday, perhaps at three or four o’clock in the morning, individuals would rise, dress warmly, and gather the bottles and other containers which they had set aside for this annual ritual. Then, in complete silence, they would make their way to the nearest river or stream. (Still water, such as is found in a pond or well, could not be used.) Oftentimes, ice had to be broken in order to reach the water below! Then, before the break of dawn, hands and faces were rinsed, bottles and containers were filled, and the following prayer was said:

*O mon Sauveur Jésus,  
purifiez cette eau médicinale,  
qui guérit tout mal  
et qui est féconde  
pour tout le monde.*

O Jesus my Savior,  
purify this healing water,  
which cures all ills  
and is abundant  
for all people.

The water was considered to be holy, with miraculous properties, and was said to remain pure and fresh indefinitely. Those who were able to take part in this annual ritual returned with a sufficient quantity for their household for one year, as well as for distribution to neighbors who were elderly or infirm.

At home, palms from the previous Sunday were used to sprinkle the water in every room of the house, and holy water fonts were filled in each of the bedrooms. Then, one glass of this clear water was served to each person at Easter dinner. The remainder was reserved for use in times of illness, or to be sprinkled on windows as protection against thunderstorms.

The practice of this custom was considered an Easter privilege. It was generally encouraged by the clergy who understood that it was not the water itself which brought about protection and healing, but the faith of the person using it. If the origin of this custom is lost, its symbolism is not: Christ’s baptism took place in the flowing waters of the Jordan river, and His Resurrection took place before the dawn.

It was reported in 1922 that some five hundred people from one Montréal neighborhood had assembled on the shores of *le Saint-Laurent* to gather water on that Easter morning. In some parts of Québec, this ancient custom is practiced to this day.

*Our traditions: a heritage worth remembering!*



## Genealogies

### Demeule

François Demeule & Madeleine Tenue  
of France

- I Joseph Demeule & Catherine Dubeau (Pierre & Marthe Allaire)  
St-Jean, I.-O., 20 Nov 1707
- II Charles Demeule & Scholastique Savard (Joseph & Josephe Morel)  
Île-aux-Coudres, 16 Nov 1744
- III Jean-Marc Demeule & Constance Bilodeau (Pierre & Marie Pedneau)  
Île-aux-Coudres, 18 Apr 1774
- IV Jean Demeule & Euphrosine Perron (Pierre & Elisabeth Girard)  
Les Éboulements, 2 Oct 1804
- V Didier Demeule & Elisabeth Audet (Barthelémy & Scholastique Gagnon)  
Les Éboulements, 26 Nov 1844
- VI Vital Demeule & Marie Tremblay (Norbert & Emilie Degagné)  
Les Éboulements, 11 Aug 1874
- VII Joseph Demeule & Marie-O. Chalifour (Eusèbe & Marie Martin)  
Salem, MA, 27 Jan 1902

□ □ □

### Leboeuf

Thomas Leboeuf & Nicole Gazelle  
of Giray, LaRoche (Aunis), France

- I Jacques Leboeuf & Antoinette Lenoir (Jean & Antoinette Perois)  
Québec, 29 Oct 1669
- II Jean-Baptiste Leboeuf & Thérèse Lemousin (Hilaire & Antoinette Lefebvre)  
Batiscau, 10 Apr 1695
- III Joseph Leboeuf & Françoise Barabé (Nicolas & Marie-Anne Milot)  
St-Jean, Deschaillons, 8 Nov 1756
- IV Joseph Leboeuf & Françoise-Judith Baudry (Jacques & Françoise Chicoine)  
St-Charles-sur-Richelieu, 29 Apr 1782
- V Augustin Leboeuf & Magdeleine Brin (Joseph & Magdeleine Dansereau)  
St-Marc-de-Verchères, 27 Sep 1830
- VI Alfred Leboeuf & Lucie Jodoin (Isidore & M.-Elisabeth Bousquet)  
St-Marc-de-Verchères, 5 Jun 1860
- VII Isidore Leboeuf & Marie Aylwin (William & Diana Fournelle)  
Salem, MA, 21 May 1888

## Décès

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

Albert ARCHAMBAULT, 93 ans, 21 janvier 2011 • Lilyan-A. (Dion) ATKINS, 24 janvier 2011  
• Cécile-H. BÉRUBÉ, 99 ans, 5 janvier 2011 • Rita (Thériault) BÉRUBÉ, 84 ans, 14 janvier 2011 • Noël-Gérard BOUFFARD, 51 ans, 6 janvier 2011 • Léo BOURGAULT, 6 décembre 2010 • Doris (Lajoie) BOURQUE, 79 ans, 8 décembre 2010 • **Bertha-L. (Massé) CAPPUCCIO (#189)**, 10 janvier 2011 • J.-Roland CARON, 86 ans, 18 novembre 2010 • Patricia-A. (Flynn) CARON, 71 ans, 11 janvier 2011 • Eva-C. (St-Pierre) CASTRONOVA, 97 ans, 26 octobre 2010 • Marcelle-R. (Gervais) COMEAU, 92 ans • **Laurette-L. COTÉ (#157)**, 87 ans, 19 janvier 2011 • Robert-A. COUILLARD, 78 ans, 5 décembre 2010 • Florence (Thériault) DENIS, 84 ans, 27 janvier 2011 • Denise-J. (Auger) DESJARDINS, 81 ans, 3 décembre 2010 • Edna-M. (Bréard) DeVOE, 96 ans • Raymond-N. DUCHESNE, 81 ans, 10 janvier 2011 • Gilbert-J. FOURNIER, 62 ans, 24 décembre 2010 • Violet-D. (Mokren) GALLANT, 86 ans, 12 janvier 2011 • M.-Régina GASTONGUAY, 102 ans, 17 octobre 2010 • Jeanne-Marie (Tremblay) GRENIER, 88 ans, 15 octobre 2010 • Cécile-R. (Gagnon) HUGHES, 88 ans, 17 décembre 2010 • Raymond-A. JALBERT, 98 ans, 24 janvier 2011 • Céline-L. (Bernard) KASPRZYK, 87 ans, 19 octobre 2010 • Dorothy-B. (LaBrie) LANE, 87 ans, 1 janvier 2011 • Thomas-J. LANGLOIS, 50 ans, 6 octobre 2010 • Richard-F. LeBEL, 63 ans, 28 décembre 2010 • Gérard-J. LeBLANC, 93 ans, 8 janvier 2011 • Rita (Gastonguay) LeCLERC, 79 ans, 10 novembre 2010 • Robert-E. LEE, 67 ans, 26 octobre 2010 • Lorraine-T. (Morneau) LÉVESQUE, 81 ans, 1 octobre 2010 • Mary-Helen (Martin) LÉVESQUE, 88 ans, 1 janvier 2011 • Luci (Boulay) LONGVAL, 90 ans, 23 octobre 2010 • James-R. MARQUIS, 31 ans, 28 octobre 2010 • Rachel-P. (Cormier) MARTEL, 86 ans, 5 octobre 2010 • Raymond-A. MARTINEAU, 52 ans, 21 novembre 2010 • André-G. MOREAU, 76 ans, 7 novembre 2010 • Anthony-A. MOREAU, 47 ans, 1 janvier 2011 • Hector-B. MORNEAU, 82 ans, 15 janvier 2011 • Robert-A. MORNEAU, 82 ans, 25 novembre 2010 • Irène (Genest) O'BRIEN, 75 ans, 12 octobre 2010 • Raymond-E. OUELLETTE, 64 ans, 16 janvier 2011 • Roger-J. OUELLETTE, 82 ans, 7 décembre 2010 • Léona-Lee (Ouellette) PELLETIER, 62 ans, 26 octobre 2010 • M. l'abbé Marc-A. PICHE, 68 ans, 13 décembre 2010 • Gracia-D. (Bélanger) RAYMOND, 98 ans, 31 décembre 2010 • Jeannette ST-AMAND, 91 ans, 3 octobre 2010 • Richard-Arthur ST-PIERRE, 87 ans, 30 novembre 2010 • Lorraine-D. (Forcier) SURPITSKI, 87 ans, 7 décembre 2010 • **Jeanne-D. (Lévesque) TASSINARI (#114)**, 85 ans, 10 janvier 2011 • Donald-A. THIBODEAU, 76 ans, 18 janvier 2011 • Diane-J. (Dubé) VERRETTE, 57 ans, 10 novembre 2010 • Yvette-L. (Corbin) ZAKAS, 72 ans •

*Nous nous souviendrons d'eux*

Suit une copie du document qui a été déposé dans la cavité de la pierre angulaire de la nouvelle église St-Joseph, dimanche le 30 juillet 1911. La cérémonie, commencée à trois heures, prit fin à cinq heures et demie.

## **L'EGLISE SAINT JOSEPH, SALEM, MASS.**

L'an de Notre-Seigneur Jésus Christ, mil-neuf-cent-onze, le trentième jour du mois de juillet: Sa Sainteté, le Pape Pie X étant Pontife souverain de l'église catholique, William H. Taft étant président des Etats-Unis, Son Excellence, Monseigneur Diomède Falconio, D.D.F. Archevêque de Lavissa étant délégué aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique, Sa Grandeur, Monseigneur William H. O'Connell, D.D. étant archevêque du diocèse de Boston, Son Excellence, Eugène N. Foss, étant Gouverneur de l'Etat du Massachusetts, Sa Grandeur, Monseigneur Joseph G. Anderson, D.D. évêque auxiliaire de Boston, évêque titulaire de Myrina, Rufus D. Adams, étant Maire de Salem, J. B. Léveillé, Harry N. Lebrun et Emile Brunet, étant conseillers.

Fut la Pierre angulaire de l'église de Saint Joseph, à Salem, Mass., bénite par Monseigneur Henri-Joseph-Reed Da Silva, évêque titulaire de Trajanopolis, en l'absence des évêques du diocèse, en présence d'un nombreux clergé et d'un grand concours de peuple, les sociétés d'hommes s'étant rendues, bannière en tête. Monsieur l'abbé Charles Edouard Baillargeon ayant prononcé le sermon de circonstance.

En ce temps, la population des Etats Unis était d'environ 92,000,000, la ville de Salem avait au-delà de 43,000 âmes. Les canadiens ou Franco-Américains étaient environ 10,000 âmes. La paroisse fondée en 1873 a eu pour curés Mgr Harkins, alors vicaire à Salem, aujourd'hui, évêque de Providence, R.I., G. Talbot, Olivier Boucher, G. Talbot, J. Z. Dumontier, Octave Lépine, F. X. L. Vézina et J. O. Gaudoury. Monsieur l'abbé G. Alphonse Rainville en était curé depuis 1904. Messieurs les abbés Rosario Richard, J. Donat Binette et Henri Fillion exerçaient le ministère comme vicaires.

M. Urgel Jacques de Worcester fut l'architecte qui en prépara les plans et en surveilla les travaux.

M. Alphonse M. Joly en fut le contracteur.

La bâtisse est sur roc solide.

# *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 25 September at 4:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.



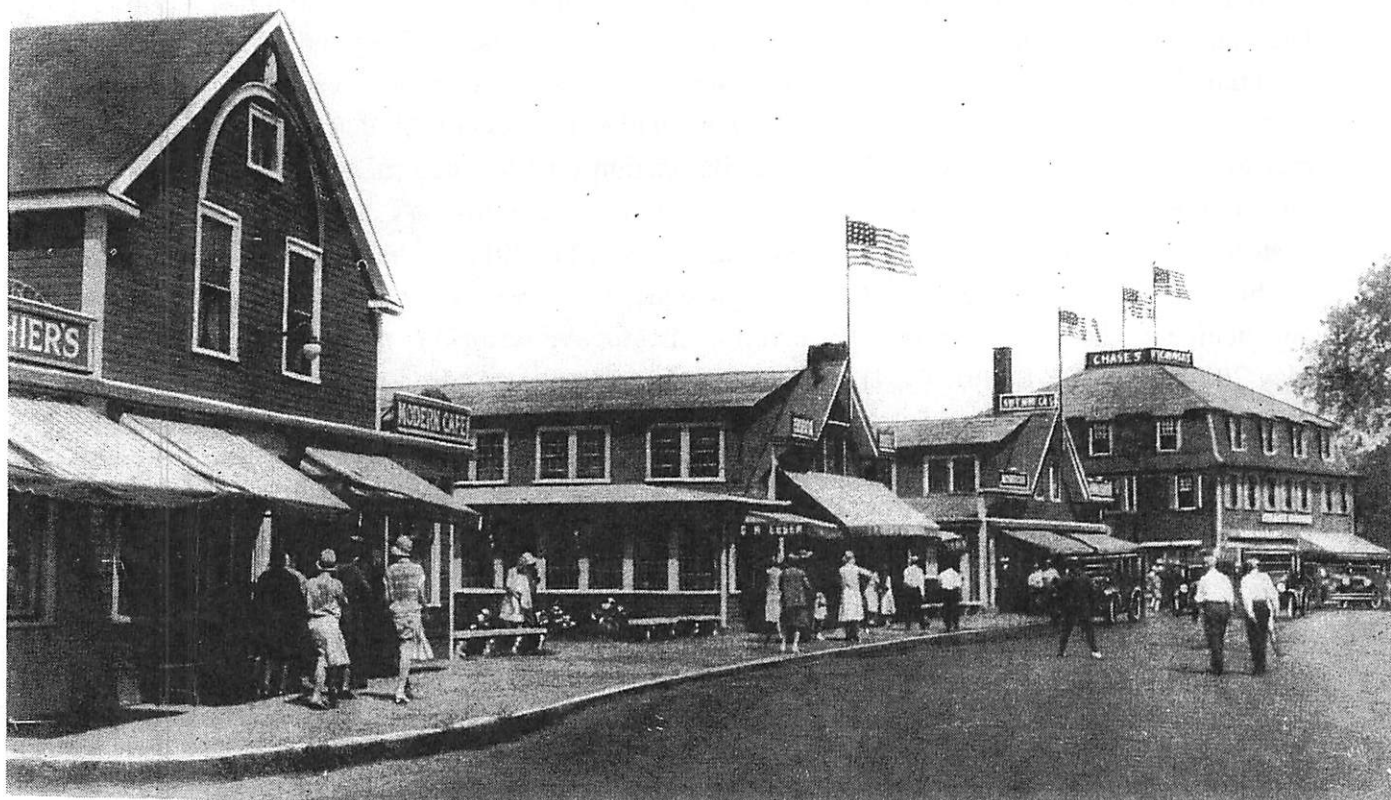
# *La Revue de Salem*

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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:** Gauthier's Modern Café, followed by Ebsen's, Swenbeck's, and Chase's on Restaurant Row. (Article begins on page 24.)

## News

John Dionne of Dionne's Cabinetry has designed, built, and donated a new podium for use by public speakers in the Salem City Council chambers. It was first used on 24 March 2011. *Un beau cadeau!* • The Franco-American Institute of Salem now has a microfilm reader in its library! Purchased on 25 March 2011 from the Centre franco-américain in Manchester, NH, it will be used for researching our collection of *Le Courrier de Salem*. *Merci!* • Salem resident Émile Doucette has produced a feature-length film. The documentary, "Birth of a Party", was premiered at the Kendall Square Cinema, Cambridge, in April. *Bravo!* • A Memorial in honor of the late Salem veteran, Philias-J. Verrette was dedicated at the corner of Flint and Mason streets on Saturday 14 May 2011 at 10:00 A.M. Verrette was the recipient of a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, and other awards. *Un honneur!* • Directors of ten Paris-based travel agencies toured Salem on 8 May 2011. The familiarization tour featured many of Salem's popular tourist sites which offer presentations in French. *Bienvenue!* • Joshua Lévesque was honored at Historic Salem's preservation awards ceremony on 18 May 2011 for having restored his home, the historic Frégeau House, at 268 Jefferson avenue. *Félicitations!* • Congratulations to four of our members who were elected to the board of the *Société historique franco-américaine* on 22 May 2011: Dr Roger Lacerte (#14), president, and Dr Georges-André Lussier (#184), D.-Michel Michaud (#1), and June-M. Turcotte (#171), directors. *Félicitations!* • We were saddened by news of the death of Père Wilfrid Pied, 85, on 29 May 2011 in Cambridge. A native of Ste-Anne's parish in Salem, he was the son of Napoléon-V. and Céline (Noury) Pied. *Nos plus sincères condoléances à sa famille.* • Our annual *Messe en français* was celebrated at Ste-Anne's, Salem on Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11 A.M. *Merci M. le Curé* • One of Québec's finest musical groups, *Le Vent du Nord*, performed at Lowell's annual Folk Festival on July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. *Magnifique!* • Our annual get-together, *l'été en fête*, will be held on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. All members are welcome to attend. Be sure to read the invitation which appears in this issue. *Apportez votre français, tel quel... Venez manger! Venez jaser! Venez!* • This year marks the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the Statue of Liberty on 28 October 1886, a gift from the people of France. Watch for the grand celebrations! *Ça se fête!* •

**Donations received** include: Books (18 volumes) from Georgette-L. Kielbasa (#130); books (13 volumes) from D.-Michel Michaud (#1); books (3 volumes) from Jeannette Beaulieu (#115); books (3 volumes), CD, photo, and artifact from Nelson-L. Dionne (#2); photos (7) and artifact from Mae Pinault (#7); original painting from Roger-E. Lavoie; and genealogies from Marguerite Bélanger (#8). *Un grand merci à tous!*

## ***Editorial***

### **Méli-Mélo**

We have recently completed the first phase of our General Repertoire, an index-card file of Salem's Franco-Americans from 1856 to the present. To date, some 75,000 names have been inscribed! Although not expected to be completed for several years, it has already proven most helpful in researching our history and genealogy.

Our members have been finding photographs, program booklets, and other materials which they have been donating to our archives. Many of the items received recently are of great interest! Something as small as a business card may seem insignificant, but each item received is deeply appreciated. We urge our members to continue adding materials to our archives. To each of our donors, a sincere *merci*!

If the summer gets too hot, treat yourself to a night at the movies in the air-conditioned Cinema Salem! Our *Club Richelieu* offers a French-language film with English sub-titles on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M. Films recently shown include "*The Rocket*" (*Maurice Richard*), "*Paris*", "*Route 132*", and "*Le Violon Rouge*".

New Franco-American organizations are springing up! The French Heritage Center was established in Chicopee earlier this year and plans to open a cultural center. Here in Salem, Dr Elizabeth Blood and Dr Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello of Salem State University have created the Franco-American Oral History Project. The renewed interest in our Franco-American history and culture is tremendous!

The Franco-American Institute of Salem has done a great deal of research during the past six months, and it is always a pleasure to express our deepest gratitude to the staff members who have been so helpful to us: Essex County Registry of Deeds, Salem Public Library (#93), and Salem State University in Salem; American-Canadian Genealogical Society (#100), *Le Centre franco-américain*, and St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH; American-French Genealogical Society (#150) in Woonsocket, RI; *Le Centre Élisabeth Bergeron* in Saint-Hyacinthe, PQ; and *La Grande Bibliothèque* and *Les Archives Nationales* in Montréal PQ. These places are always a joy to visit!

Lowell's 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Franco-American Festival Week (19-25 June) was spectacular, as always! Events included a French Mass, French Bingo Night, Vespers, and a *Soirée* with Josée Vachon and Daniel Boucher. The Franco-American Institute of Salem was one of the many proud sponsors of this event. *Un grand plaisir*!

It was not so many years ago that Franco-American culture in and around Salem seemed to be dormant. Today, there is a renewed interest both in preserving our historical and cultural heritage, and in promoting new and exciting Franco-American activities! *Vive les franco-américains*!

***Nos meilleurs souhaits pour un bel été!***

## The Salem Willows

When residents of Salem think of the summer, they are reminded of the Salem Willows, a 35-acre park on Salem's waterfront. The popular resort has a long history, and Salem's Franco-Americans have always been a part of it.

Named for the European White Willow trees planted there in 1801, the area was designated a city park in 1858. The earliest vendor to establish himself here, known simply as "François", is described in a Salem Evening News article dated 10 May 1922:

As the city grew, the Willows or "The Neck" as it was called in those days, became quite a picnic ground, but it was not until along towards 1870, that anyone located there and served fish dinners. A citizen named Francois, who afterwards became quite a caterer in and about Salem erected a tent, in the shelter of the old earthworks and served fish chowders and fish dinners to those who desired them. At one time he dined the city government of Salem. He soon tired of the business and launched into the larger field of catering.

Perhaps the earliest amusement concession to be established here was a roller skating rink. It was located in what was called the "Siege of Paris" building.

Surely, François the caterer and the Siege of Paris skating rink both drew the attention of Salem's French residents. But the park was developing rapidly, and transportation was needed to bring the crowds from the heart of the city to this outlying area. The Naumkeag Street Railway laid out tracks to the park, and rail service began in 1877. A history of Salem published in that year ("Old Naumkeag", p. 228) describes the park:

A pavilion, pagodas, fountains, new roads and eating-houses were built, and everything of an attractive nature about it improved. On pleasant summer days thousands of people come here to enjoy the cooling breezes, and to listen to the music from the band which is often employed to add to the enjoyment.

The Salem Willows Park officially opened on 10 June 1880, among much fanfare. Visitors arriving by railway found themselves at the Willow Park Pavilion, a massive building with multiple porches and an observation tower. The building housed a large ball room and a 300-seat restaurant.

### The Casino Opens

The Salem Evening news of Tuesday 26 June 1894 noted that the Casino building was now ready for occupancy. Built on the site of the "Old" Siege of Paris building, it was of two stories and measured 64' x 100'. In the front were four small stores, each measuring 16' x 20', and in the rear a dance hall measuring 44' x 100'. "One of the stores only is let, the party who is to occupy it being J. A. Nolet, who will conduct a refreshment counter there, making a specialty of soft drinks. He will open about Sunday next."

The following year, the store was operated by Salem's well-known baker, Ernest Pineault. On 7 June 1895, Lynn's French-language newspaper "Le Tricolore" described "*l'établissement de no-*



*tre compatriote Ernest Pineault, où se donne rendez-vous le tout Salem fashionable*” (“the establishment of our fellow countryman Ernest Pineault, where all the fashionable people of Salem meet”). The article goes on to state that the establishment offered “*des breuvages doux, des crèmes à la glace, des fruits, confiseries, cigares...Nous y allons souvent, faites comme nous*” (“soft drinks, ice cream, fruits, candies, cigars... We go there often, do as we do”).

The business was such a success that Pineault was able to expand the following year. The same newspaper, on 1 May 1896, announced that “*M. E. Pineault, le boulanger canadien, a fait construire un pavillon aux Willows. M. Pineault fera une spécialité de ‘fish dinners’*” (“Mr. E. Pineault, the Canadian baker, has had a pavilion built at the Willows. Mr. Pineault will specialize in fish dinners”).

Among the vendors who established themselves here in the early twentieth century were Arthur-G. Goddu who operated a refreshment stand in 1906, and Charles-J. Forrant, a native of Saint-Athanase, PQ, who operated a lunch room in 1913.

### **The Salem Cadet Band**

The Salem Cadet Band enjoyed a long run at the Willows. Beginning in 1882, concerts were given every Sunday evening during July and August. The director, Jean Missud (1852-1941) was a native of Villefranche (Nice) France. Members of the band in the 1920s included well-known Franco-American musicians of Salem such as J. Benoît, N. Bernier, A. Brunet, A. Drolet, W. Germain, A. Girard, A. Jodoin, W. Lalonde, R. Larocque, P. Pelletier, A. Pépin, G. Poirier, E. Thérien, and others. Following the death of Missud in 1941, concerts continued under other directors and with other bands.

### **Misery Island**

Canadian residents were frequent visitors to the Willows. As early as 3 September 1901, the Salem Evening News headline boasted that “15,000 people visited the Willows yesterday. Some from Canada”. But on 13 January 1917, some were startled by the headline which stated that a “Syndicate of Canadians buys Misery Island”. The article went on to indicate that “All sorts of wild stories have been traveling along the shore”, and that residents “seemed to see some ulterior motive in the purchase by Canadians.”

Misery Island is located in Salem Harbor, just off the coast of the Willows. “During the war, especially, there were many significant rumors...that this [matter] was being done secretly by a foreign government [but] none of these rumors developed.” The island remained peaceful throughout its Canadian occupancy. On 20 July 1921, the Salem Evening News reported that a representative of a Toronto bank had directed a Salem realtor to sell the island. The article explained that:

...wealthy Canadians planned to make Misery Island an exclusive summer resort and spend each season on this coast. It is about the most exclusive place of the shore and has been developed to a point where it has every modern convenience...There is a large casino or club house which accommodates 100 people...Residents of Misery Island created considerable of a furore a few years ago when they petitioned the state legislature to incorporate as a separate township. It is in the heart of the most fashionable summer colony on the shore.

### **Annual Visitors**

Many groups from out-of-town or out-of-state returned to the Willows annually. One such organization was led by a Salem native, Thomas Bois. The Salem Evening News of 16 September 1920 reported that:

Thomas Bois, former secretary to ex-Mayor Rufus D. Adams, now of Manchester, N.H., was in charge of a delegation from one of the French churches of that city at the Willows yesterday. The occasion was an outing of the choir and the party composed 32 members.

### **The Casino Dance Hall**

The Casino dance hall often accommodated up to 1,500 guests on Saturday evenings, hosting such well-known entertainers as Count Basie, Tommy Dorsey and Glenn Miller. Others who performed here include Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadiens, and Franco-American musicians such as Rudy Vallée and Al Rousseau. The Salem Evening News of 20 May 1920 announced that:

Worcester's most versatile musician, Al Rousseau and his variety singing orchestra, will open their summer engagement at Salem Willows Casino Tuesday evening, May 25... [The orchestra] will surely prove a favorite with the dancers during the summer months.

When the time came for "extensive alterations", the proprietors awarded the contract to Alfred Audet (1875-1960), a native of Saint-Gervais, PQ and resident of Salem. The news of 3 April 1924 explained that:

The exterior is to be stucco finished. There will be new windows in the upper balcony. Between the columns on the front, galvanized clapboards are to be used, the front is to be straightened and raised and a new orchestra stand is to be built onto the rear in the shape of an addition six by 12 feet, ground dimensions. The hall will be lighted by electricity instead of gas, as in the past, when the job is completed. Mr. Audet is architect as well as builder.

### **The Flying Horses**

The most popular of all the attractions at the Willows is undoubtedly the flying horse concession which is still in operation at 191 Fort Avenue. The property was purchased by Salem resident Paul-N. Tardiff, a native of Saint-Eleuthère, PQ. Measuring 128.42' by 60', Tardiff acquired the property on 24 June 1927 from the trustees of the J.C.B. Smith estate. Nearly a year later, on 19 May 1928, the news described the progress made:

Paul Tardiff is constructing a new flying horse amusement said to be worth \$40,000. There are many wonderful animals in the outfit, including massive dogs, spotted leopards, ponderous elephants, galloping and running horses, bears and tigers. Mr. Tardiff expects to open in a very short time. It will undoubtedly be fascinating to the grown-ups as well as the children. There will be a seating capacity for 400 persons.

The expense was indeed considerable. Only four years earlier, the Penny Arcade was erected for a mere \$3,000. Opening day was delayed because the "poor weather has held the work back considerably." But the new flying horses made their debut on Sunday 17 June 1928. The following Saturday, the Salem Evening News described the scene:

The newest amusement to open on the line is Paul's hippodrome, the new flying horses. While the building has not been entirely completed the horses were running last Sunday and Monday, proving very popular with the large number of people at the park. These horses have been installed at a large cost and should prove popular as the summer gets under way. One of the features of the new horses is the set of oil paintings around the upper part of the frame work. Many who viewed them over the holiday were loud in their praise. Mr. Tardiff, the proprietor, is looking forward to a very successful season.

After nearly two decades, on 30 April 1945, Paul Tardiff sold his "hippodrome". The original flying horses have since been replaced, and the name changed to Kiddieland, but the attraction remains as popular as ever. Today, a flying horse may be seen in the center of the Salem Willows logo.

### **Restaurant Row**

Restaurant Row was created in April of 1903 when seven existing restaurants were moved to one location. The Salem Evening News of 28 April 1903 noted that:

The restaurant owners have all decided to paint their buildings alike, the color to be dark green with white trimmings. This will be very effective. The road will be graded and a 13-foot sidewalk laid in front of the eating places with spaces left for flowers.

*Le Courrier de Salem* invited the Franco-Americans of Salem to dine at Swenbeck's Park Café. In its edition of Thursday 6 July 1911 we read:

*Quand vous irez à Salem Willows, allez dîner et souper au "Park Café". Là, vous y trouverez des Canadiens et Canadiennes qui seront heureux de vous servir.* (When you go to the Salem Willows, go to the "Park Café" for dinner and supper. There, you will find Canadian waiters and waitresses who will be happy to serve you.)

On 2 June 1928 the Salem Evening News announced that one of the dining establishments on Restaurant Row was now under new management:

What was known as the Deer Head restaurant, No. Seven on the row last year, has changed hands in its management, and this season it will be known as The Modern Shore Café. Mrs. M. L. Gauthier of Salem is the new manager. The restaurant has been thoroughly remodeled, which increases the seating capacity considerably.

Georges and Mélanie (Lajoie) Gauthier were married at Saint-Irénée-de-Charlevoix, PQ on 16 August 1887. Their son, François-Xavier, was ordained to the priesthood in Boston on 8 June 1917. And their daughter, Eliosa, was married in St-Joseph's, Salem, on 27 May 1918 to Amédée Tremblay. The above-mentioned article continues:

Mr. and Mrs. A. Tremblay who are associated with Mrs. Gauthier at the New Modern Shore Café on restaurant row celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at that place last week. The party consisted of 25 relatives and friends who enjoyed a fine shore dinner and other amusements. Father F. X. Gauthier, a brother of Mrs. Tremblay of Lowell who performed the marriage ceremony 10 years ago was among those present.

By 1935, when the Chalifour family entered into partnership with the Gauthiers, the restaurant was renamed The Linden.

By 1939, Wilfred-O. Thériault was the manager of the oldest existing restaurant at the Willows, the Chase House. The restaurant was closed for a time during World War II, and its reopening was heralded in the news on 14 June 1945:

The famed eating place, closed since 1942, has been handsomely redecorated under the direction of Wilfred B. Quintal...in soft green and ivory, with maroon drapes and hanging chandeliers.

The restaurant remained popular until its destruction by fire on 14 July 1952. Across the way, among the amusement concessions on Fort Avenue, many smaller eating establishments could be found such as William Richard's lunch room at #189 in the 1930s, Karon's restaurant at #153 in the 1940s and 1950s, and William Ouellette's ice cream at #167A in the 1960s.

### **The Pageant of Nations**

On Thursday evening 19 August 1937, the Salem Willows sponsored its annual Playground Field Day. The various playgrounds of the city were invited to create floats for the Grand Parade to be held on Winter Island beach. The organizers called for "large community groups to present living tableaux and historic scenes, together with a program of national music and dances on a central stage." The floats represented the many countries of origin of Salem residents, including England, Ireland, Poland, Italy Russia, China, Scotland, and Greece. Palmer's Cove Playground, in St-Joseph's parish, represented Canada, and Castle Hill Playground, in Ste-Anne's parish, represented France.

The first prize was awarded to Palmer's Cove Playground. The float, prepared under the direction of Père Paul Martin of St-Joseph's, featured Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Jacques Cartier, Marquette, Joliette, and the eight Jesuit martyrs.

### **The Willows Today**

The Memorial Shell was dedicated on 20 August 1965, and weekly open-air concerts are held here on Tuesday evenings throughout the summer. Among the bandmasters who have performed on stage are Richard Boisvert and Larry Drouin.

An impressive Veterans' Memorial to be built on the site of the former roller coaster was described in the Salem News of 3 May 2005. Planned by Albert Castonguay of Salem, the quarter-million dollar project received tentative approval from the city, but is yet to be built.

Salem artist Tommy Gagnon won a competition in 2010, and was commissioned to paint the ten large concrete blocks that line a picnic area near the entrance to the Willows. On one of these blocks can be seen the name of Salem flanked by two fleurs-de-lis, the symbol of our French heritage.

The Salem Willows has changed much over the years. Visitors can still find peanuts and popcorn, salt water taffy, ice cream and sodas, pizza and chop suey sandwiches. Gone are the large formal restaurants with their "famous fish dinners". Visitors can still enjoy a variety of games in the Casino or Penny Arcade, as well as Skee-ball, Miniature Golf, and the Flying Horses. Gone are the Shooting Gallery, the Whip and Dodge-Ems, and the Tilt-a-Whirl, the Miniature Train and Roller-Coaster, the open-air vaudeville theatre and the swimming pool, the bowling alleys and the water chute, the roller skating rink and the dance hall, the billiard room and the pool room, the palm reader and the photography studio. Even the postal sub-station and police station have disappeared.

Yet, the Salem Willows remains popular for its summer refreshments and amusements, for its picnic areas and its beaches, for its concerts and its fireworks. Salem's Franco-Americans have played a large part in the creation and development of this city park. And even today, one should not be surprised to overhear a French conversation on a warm summer night here at the Salem Willows!

## *L'été en fête*

**The Franco-American Institute of Salem will celebrate its third annual social, "l'été en fête", on Sunday 28 August 2011 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, an exhibit, and much good conversation!**

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

***Venez! Fêtons l'été ensemble!***

## Vénérable Élisabeth Bergeron (1851-1936)

A number of men and women from Québec have been declared Venerable by the Catholic Church, and many of these will one day be declared saints. One of these is of particular interest to us because she lived and worked in Salem for five years, and it is here that she began her teaching ministry. She is the only Salem resident to have received this honor and is, in effect, the Patroness of Salem's Franco-Americans.

Élisabeth Bergeron was born at La Présentation, a small village six miles outside of Saint-Hyacinthe, PQ, on 25 May 1851. She was the fourth of eleven children born to Théophile Bergeron and his wife, Basilice Petit.

In 1859, when she was but eight years of age, Élisabeth asked to make her First Holy Communion with her twelve year old brother, Octave. She was found to have known her catechism so well that she was given permission to do so.

Due to several mortgaged properties, the Bergeron family experienced economic hardships and decided to find temporary employment in the United States until their debts could be cleared. In the spring of 1865 when Élisabeth was 14 years of age, the family settled in Brunswick, Maine and found work in a mill. Several months later, this mill was destroyed by fire and the family was without employment. Soon, agents from Salem arrived in Brunswick with offers of employment.

The Bergeron family arrived in Salem in the fall of 1865. The Naumkeag Mills provided not only job opportunities, but housing in a tenement at 4 Naumkeag Street. The family of Théophile and Basilice then included eight children; two had died at an early age,



perhaps during their brief stay in Brunswick. On 27 November 1868 the 11<sup>th</sup> and last child of the Bergeron family was born in Salem and was given the name Marie.

Élisabeth spent her teenage years working long days in the Naumkeag Mills. In the evening, she helped her mother to cook and clean, or to knit and sew. She soon discovered that many French-Canadian children in the neighborhood had not yet received their First Communion, due to a lack of French-speaking teachers. With the permission of her parents, Élisabeth conducted classes in her home every evening from 7 to 8 o'clock. Each class consisted of about fifteen students between the ages of 12 and 18.

Élisabeth had also received permission to teach from Father William Hally, the pastor of Salem's Immaculate Conception church. Father Hally had been stationed at St. Patrick's church in Montréal for five years be-

fore coming to Salem, and it pleased Élisabeth that they could communicate in French. He said to her: "*Je tenais à vous remercier personnellement du beau travail que vous accomplissez dans la paroisse. Soyez fidèle! Le ciel se servira de vous pour lui amener beaucoup d'âmes!*" ("I wanted to thank you personally for the beautiful work which you do in the parish. Be faithful! Heaven will use you to bring many souls there!") Élisabeth had found her vocation!

The Bergeron family is last listed in the Salem City Directory in 1869 where we read: "Bergeron Theophile, laborer, house 4 Naumkeag". The following spring, the family decided to return home. Yet, when the Federal Census was taken on 22 July 1870, the family had not yet left Salem. Here we find Théophile and Basilice with eight of their eleven children: Jean-Baptiste, 24, Joseph, 22, Élisabeth, 19, Clarisse, 17, Amédée, 12, Olivine, 10, Nectaire, 9, and Marie, 1. Another son, Octave, now 21, is not listed among the family members. Presumably, he had gone to Saint-Hyacinthe alone in order to make preparations for the family's imminent return. Among the neighbors of the Bergeron family on Naumkeag Street during their final year in Salem were the Boucher, Charbonneau, Dupont, Fortier, LaSonde, Plamondon, and Vincent families.

After her return to Saint-Hyacinthe, Élisabeth made several unsuccessful attempts to join a religious order. One day, she met with Bishop Louis-Zéphirin Moreau of Saint-Hyacinthe who instructed her to found a religious teaching order for his diocese. This astonished her because, although she could read well enough, she had never been taught to write! But the bishop insisted, saying: "The weaker the instrument, the more God is glorified. Find yourself some companions." On 12 September 1877, a new reli-

gious order was founded. Élisabeth Bergeron would become Mère Saint-Joseph, Superior of *La Congrégation des Soeurs de Saint-Joseph de Saint-Hyacinthe*. Among the students in the first classroom was Élisabeth's own younger sister, the Salem-born Marie Bergeron.

Mère Saint-Joseph lived to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of her Order. After 59 years of religious life, she died on 29 April 1936 at the age of 84 years and 11 months. By the fifth anniversary of her death, 668 women had become members of her congregation and were now teaching in the provinces of Québec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Ontario, as well as in South Africa. Later, convents would be established in Brazil and Haiti. The Sisters also had two convents in the United States: Salmon Falls, NH (1926-1941), and Groveton, NH (1949-1970). By the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Order in 1977, 155 convents had been established throughout the world.

Many had long considered Élisabeth to be a saint. In 1968, her body was exhumed from the cemetery and was reinterred in the Motherhouse of her Congregation. On 19 December 1972 her Cause for Sainthood was submitted to the Sacred Congregation of Rites in Rome. And on 12 January 1996, the former resident and mill worker of Salem was declared Venerable by His Holiness Pope John-Paul II.

In speaking of the founding of the Order, Élisabeth Bergeron's biographer asks: "*N'étais-tu pas déjà, à Salem, la choisie du Seigneur pour l'oeuvre du 12 septembre 1877?*" ("Were you not already, in Salem, the chosen one of the Lord for the work of 12 September 1877?") [Guay, André, o.m.i. "*Dieu choisit les humbles*". Saint-Hyacinthe, 1977. p.202]

## *Biography*

### **Ovila-T. Giroux, Inventor**

Perhaps the most prolific of all Salem inventors was Ovila-T. Giroux. The youngest of the six surviving children of Pierre Giroux and Philomène Cloutier, Ovila was born on 10 July 1875 at St-Camille-de-Wolfe, PQ. Eight days later, he was baptized in the parish church and was given the names Arthur-Ovila. He came to Salem with his family when he was but 18 months of age. The Giroux family first resided on Congress Street, but by 1895 had found a permanent home at 42 Harbor Street. Ovila first worked in the shoe and leather industry until 1908 when he served a tour of duty in the U. S. Navy. Little was it known that, since 1900 at the age of 25, Ovila had been spending much of his leisure time in the development of the ideas which came from his creative mind.

On 8 February 1910, Ovila-T. Giroux was issued a patent for which he would long be remembered, a “collapsible barrel”.

*Le quart patenté...va être exposé samedi soir [le 4 juin] dans les vitrines du magasin de M. Joseph Richard, rue Harbor. Il est probable...qu'il donnera une explication sur son invention et une démonstration de son mécanisme. Il expliquera aussi son mérite sur le marché. (Le Courrier de Salem, 2 juin 1910)*

The patented barrel...will be displayed Saturday evening [June 4<sup>th</sup>] in the storefront of Mr. Joseph Richard, Harbor street. It is probable...that he will give an explanation of his invention and a demonstration of its mechanism. He will also explain its value on the market. (*Le Courrier de Salem*, 2 June 1910, trans.)

Giroux is said to have spoken with “simplicity” and without pretention about this most useful invention. Products, such as fruit and vegetables, could be shipped in five train cars filled with barrels. The barrels could then be collapsed, and could be returned in but one train car, thus saving the distributor great expense.

During the first decade of the twentieth century, Giroux had developed many of his ideas, some quite innovative for their time. These include: a non-refillable bottle, a non-stick bottle for glue, and a graduated bottle for hospital use; a substitute for ivory, and another for carpeting; a detachable waterproof shoe sole; a system for installing panes of glass without pointing or caulking; a combination suitcase, bed, and dressing table for travelers; a combination door for summer and winter; a noise-reducing trestle for railways; an automatic letter carrier (possibly a vacuum tube); an electric roller for melting snow; and many others.

A machine for scraping the bottom and sides of ships without dry docking them drew the attention of major steamship lines, such as the Cunard. And his rubberless tires drew notice from George Westinghouse of Pittsburgh. Giroux is said to have visited the principal countries of the world, preferring to sell his inventions outright to companies who could then apply for patents. His inventions were patented by companies in the United States and Canada, Central and South America, Europe, Japan and Australia.



By the summer of 1910, Giroux claimed to have created 356 inventions, 62 of which were in the process of being patented in Washington, and stated that he continued to invent daily.

The fire of 1914 destroyed the home at 42 Harbor Street where the Giroux family had lived for two decades. Ovila resided on a number of streets during the following years, including Bridge, Sewall, Norman, Brown, Liberty, and Federal.

By the spring of 1919, Giroux had invented a formula for waterproofing fabrics, and one for the reinforcement of rubber. Schaffer's Pens and the Toledo Scales Company had taken an interest in his designs. Another company had received four patents for his lamps "by which the flame is extinguished without the necessity of tipping the lamp or blowing down the chimney", and which were provided with automatic oil feeders. A Philadelphia firm had six patents pending for his improvements on vises. The Western Electric Company applied for a patent for his money-changing device, and Westinghouse was considering his "six-light lamp" (possibly the forerunner of the 3-way bulb).

By the summer of 1920, Giroux had returned from a trip to Indianapolis where he had demonstrated his "endless chain saw" to an interested manufacturer. The electric saw could fell 500 trees, one foot in diameter, in one day. Also, his gasoline powered gas-generator, for heating purposes, was demonstrated to the Standard Oil Company, and to another in St. Louis.

Giroux appears to have concentrated on improving the automobile during much of the next quarter-century, and patents were pending on many of these inventions by early 1946. Among these were a device to pull a car out of mud holes; a retractable step under the running board; an "attachment by which air would be generated from the fan and used to pump air to the tires"; inner tubes with separate cells which allow others to remain inflated if one is punctured; a detachable steering wheel to prevent theft, and for ease of sliding into and out of the car; and headlights which move in the direction of the steering wheel (possibly sold to Ford and later featured on the Edsel).

At the age of 65, when most people consider retirement, Ovila found a new occupation as a firefighter with the Salem Fire Department, a position he kept until at least 1943. Unfortunately, no record remains of his inventions from this latter part of his life.

By 1950 Giroux, now 74 years of age, was a resident at the City Home, an infirmary located on Salem's waterfront. Shortly after noon on Wednesday the third of May, his body was discovered at Collins Cove near Black Wharf, where he had apparently fallen and drowned. His wife Louise and daughter Grace had both died a number of years earlier. His funeral was held the following Saturday from the Church of the Immaculate Conception, and he was laid to rest in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ovila-T. Giroux is nearly forgotten today. His inventions were not patented under his own name, but under the corporate names of those who purchased the rights to his creative ideas. Fortunately, both the Salem Evening News and *Le Courrier de Salem* kept his name in public view, and many of his inventions are well documented. Salem has had many inventors, but few as prolific as the unassuming Franco-American, Ovila-T. Giroux.

## **Le Courrier de Salem**

### **Events of a century ago in Salem's Franco-American newspaper September-December 1911**

#### **Societies**

- *Les Forestiers franco-américains, Cour St-Antoine*, will hold elections on October 11<sup>th</sup> with Attorney J.-H. Guillet of Lowell presiding.
- Félix Gatineau and Philippe Boucher, president and treasurer of *l'Union St-Jean-Baptiste d'Amérique* visited the offices of *Le Courrier de Salem* on Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Politics and Law**

- Salem-born Fred-J. Hamelin is our youngest Franco-American attorney, having been admitted to the bar this past June. He is also a Justice of the Peace and notary.
- There will be a meeting of Franco-American voters in the basement of Ste-Anne's church on Tuesday November 21<sup>st</sup>.
- On December 7<sup>th</sup>, *Le Courrier de Salem* published a biography of Salem native Thomas Bois, personal secretary to the Mayor.
- In December elections, Émile Brunet has been elected Alderman, and Eugène Rabouin and Harry-N. LeBrun, Councilors.

#### **People**

- Thomas Parent is recovering after being injured by the elevator on the construction site of the new St-Joseph's church. Another worker was also injured when a bag of cement fell on him.
- William Gagné, 76, of 15 Perkins Street, died on November 29<sup>th</sup>. A veteran of the Civil War, his funeral was held from St-Joseph's church.
- A *soirée* was held for Damase Lamontagne who celebrated his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Business**

- Eugène Fournier has moved his barber shop from Leach Street to 128 Lafayette.
- Mme Desaulniers of 188 Lafayette, and Mlle Barbeau of 243 Washington Street, are offering a new line of fall hats in their shops.
- Anaclet Poirier has purchased the candy store of Horace Lévesque at 50 Palmer Street.
- Philippe Labrie has opened a new blacksmith shop on Lawrence Street in the Castle Hill neighborhood.
- Hermenegilde-T. Tremblay, undertaker, has moved his office to 24 Congress Street.

### **Properties**

- Charles-F. Maurais, contractor, has completed the three-story brick building at 192 Lafayette Street for P.-O. Poirier.
- Ludger Michaud has finished building his new four-story building on Jefferson Avenue, with a pool hall on the first floor and apartments above.
- Valère Bédard has received a permit to build a three-family home at 62 Lawrence Street.
- Arthur Frégeau is erecting a three-story building on Jefferson Avenue, with space for a retail store on the first floor.

### **Church**

- A large delegation from Salem attended the dedication of the Lourdes Grotto in Lowell on Labor Day.
- Père J.-D. Binette of St-Joseph's has gone to Nicolet to bring 14 boys to the Seminary, and 6 girls to the Convent of the Sisters of the Assumption.
- Éli Barnaud of Brockton, a seminary student, is visiting St-Joseph's in September. [Père Barnaud would later be pastor of St-Joseph's, 1944-1948].
- Père M. Lafontaine of Notre-Dame in Montréal celebrated Mass at St-Joseph's on Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- *Le Courrier de Salem* published an article with photos of St-Malachie, PQ on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The pastor, Père Lapointe, is formerly of St-Joseph's, Salem.
- Père Rosario Richard of Salem has been chosen to accompany Bishop O'Connell to Rome for his installation as Cardinal.
- Père Eméric Chenel, formerly of Salem and now of Woonsocket, visits here in November.
- On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 90 girls and 102 boys receive their First Holy Communion at St-Joseph's.

### **Music**

- Florence Ménard, the violinist from Castle Hill, has spent the summer in Nahant with her group, the Athenia Orchestra.
- Joseph Blaquièrre of Salem recently served as organist for the High Mass celebrated in Ipswich.
- Mlle Emma Richard is accepting new piano students at her home, 4 Wisteria Street.

### **Entertainment**

- A summer *pique-nique* has raised \$938.45 for Ste-Anne's parish; another will be held at Loring Villa on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

- Eugène Tremblay of Montréal, the World Champion wrestler, will compete in a match at the *Cercle Veillot* Hall on October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Two plays, under the direction of Père J.-D. Binette, will be presented on November 5<sup>th</sup> to benefit the new St-Joseph's church: "*La Malédiction d'une Mère*", and "*Le Laquais de Madame*".
- Joseph Bouchard of 19 Perkins Street has won the Thanksgiving cake offered by H.-T. Tétreault, baker.

#### Prices

- Joseph-F. Hudon of 28 Congress Street has eggs for sale at .20¢ per dozen.
- Joseph Richard of 29½ Harbor Street is offering suits made to order in his clothing shop. Prices are from \$16. to \$45.



#### *Traditions*

### No. 10: "L'épluchette de blé-d'Inde"

*D.-Michel Michaud, #1*

One popular tradition at the close of summer in rural Québec was both practical and entertaining. *L'épluchette de blé-d'Inde*, a corn-husking party, was held in many homes from early September through mid-October. Since many neighbors were invited to each of these, the gatherings were carefully scheduled over the course of several weeks.

Once corn was harvested, it was stored in the barn where it was sheltered from the weather until the day of *l'épluchette*. That morning, chairs, tables and other furnishings were moved out of the kitchen in order to create a great space in this largest room of the house. Corn was carried in until a huge pyramid appeared in the center of the room, nearly covering the entire floor space. With this task completed, children and young adults took their seats on the floor all around the edges of the room. The party was about to begin.

Each participant took a share of the corn, and when a signal was given the husking began. Some told stories and jokes amid shouts and laughter, but few were distracted from their work which was done at a rapid pace. Adults watched as the room became a flurry of corn husks.

But this was no mere household chore which needed to be accomplished. This was a game of chance, a competition, and excitement soon rose to a frenzy. All were seeking to find the rare "*épi rouge*", a purplish-red ear of corn found only once or twice from a cornfield of several acres. Once found, the elusive ear of corn was held up for all to see amid shouts and cheers. (Of course, there was the occasional prankster who arrived with a red ear hidden under his coat!) Then, the finder claimed his prize.

The one who found *l'épi rouge* had the privilege of kissing his chosen one. (If found by a girl, she often slipped it into the hands of a boy who would claim to have found it, thereby saving herself from much embarrassment.) Walking slowly around the room, the finder proudly displayed the red ear as all remained in quiet suspense. If a girl knew that she were about to be kissed, she often blushed as red as the prized corn, and their secret was out! It was frequently at the annual *épluchette* that two people first announced publicly that they were sweethearts.

At the conclusion of the game, some husks were put aside for stuffing mattresses or cushions, some were used as fuel for the fire, and the remainder made its way into the compost. Floors were swept, and the furniture was replaced. Large pots of water were brought to a boil on the stove, and tables were set.

Fresh corn, either boiled or roasted on an open flame, hot and buttered, was the highlight of the meal. Other foods included *la soupe aux pois* (pea soup), *ragoût* (stew), and *tourtières* (meat pies), as well as an assortment of desserts. Often, in order to accommodate a large number of guests, several seatings were required and the feasting went on for hours. The *épluchette* then turned into a typical *soirée*, with music, singing, and dancing until midnight or later. The following day, the corn was prepared for pickling or was preserved in jars for use during the following year.

This once popular annual tradition was already waning in the early years of the twentieth century, although many historians recorded their memories of these *épluchette* parties with much fondness. Today, in some areas, they are being revived in public halls. And there is the same sense of excitement when one cries out, "*Voilà l'épi rouge!*"

*Our traditions: a heritage worth remembering!*

## Genealogies

### Bergeron (II)

Pierre Bergeron & Catherine Marchand  
of St-Saturnin-du-Bois, LaRoche (Aunis), France

- I André Bergeron & Marguerite Demers (Jean & Jeanne Voidy)  
C. Gilles Rageot (Lauzon), 9 Jul 1673
- II Jean Bergeron & Madeleine Ferland (François & Jeanne-Françoise Milloir)  
St-Pierre, I.-O., 27 Jul 1711
- III Jean-Baptiste Bergeron & Thérèse Grenier (Étienne & Françoise Bergeron)  
St-Antoine-de-Tilly, 16 Aug 1752
- IV Jean-Baptiste Bergeron & Charlotte Malboeuf (Pierre-Noël & Geneviève Bussière)  
St-Hyacinthe, 8 Aug 1796
- V Jean-Baptiste Bergeron & Louise Goyette (Antoine & M.-Louise Richard)  
Verchères, 26 Feb 1821
- VI Théophile Bergeron & Basilice Petit (Joseph & M.-Reine Lussier)  
La Présentation, 21 Jan 1845
- VII Élisabeth Bergeron  
(25 May 1851 – 29 Apr 1936)

□ □ □

### Giroux

Jean Giroux & Marguerite Quilleron  
of Bignon, Réveillon (Perche), France

- I Toussaint Giroux & Marie Godard  
Notre-Dame-de-Québec, 29 Sep 1654
- II Jean Giroux & M.-Charlotte Garnier (Charles & Louise Vézina)  
Beauport, 22 Aug 1707
- III Joseph Giroux & M.-Geneviève Toupin (René & Geneviève Langlois)  
Beauport, 29 Aug 1731
- IV Joseph Giroux & Catherine-Pélagie Parent (Joseph & Élisabeth Lefebvre)  
Beauport, 28 Jan 1754
- V Louis Giroux & Françoise-Élisabeth Lapointe (François & Marguerite Guernault)  
Ste-Foye, 7 Jun 1790
- VI Louis Giroux & Madeleine Miran (Jean-Baptiste & Madeleine Drolet)  
Ste-Foye, 3 Aug 1819
- VII Pierre Giroux & Philomène Cloutier (Joseph & Catherine Mathieu)  
St-Hippolyte-de-Wotton (Wolfe), 22 Oct 1860
- VIII Ovila-T. Giroux  
(10 Jul 1875 – 3 May 1950)

## Décès

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

Keith-J. AUDETTE, 37 ans, 10 février 2011 • Ernest-J. BEAUSOLEIL, 64 ans, 23 février 2011 • Richard-O. BEAUVAIS, 78 ans, 5 février 2011 • Léa-Y. (LeBlanc) BÉGIN, 77 ans, 19 mars 2011 • Anita-C. (LeClerc) BELLIVEAU, 93 ans, 6 février 2011 • Rita (Daly) BERGERON, 88 ans, 28 avril 2011 • Céline-A. (Fréchette) BOUCHARD, 84 ans, 21 avril 2011 • Éva-M. (Pelletier) BOUDREAULT, 99 ans, 26 avril 2011 • David-F. BOURGAULT, 54 ans, 6 mars 2011 • John-C. CARON, 82 ans, 7 mars 2011 • Lillian-M. (Raymond) DALLAIRE, 83 ans, 3 avril 2011 • Mary-L. (Dion) DEMEULE, 16 mars 2011 • Patricia-A. (Denis) DONHAUSER, 69 ans, 13 février 2011 • Grace-E. (McDonald) DUBÉ, 83 ans, 5 avril 2011 • Sr Madeleine-G. DUBOIS S.S.Ch. 1929-2011 • Blanche-M. (Levasseur) DUFOUR, 26 février 2011 • Annette (Bélanger) DUMAS, 85 ans, 20 mars 2011 • Pauline-M. (Thériault) DUWART, 77 ans, 7 avril 2011 • Lucien-E. FECTEAU, 78 ans, 28 mai 2011 • Sheila-J. FEILTEAU, 48 ans, 18 avril 2011 • George-E. FILION, 93 ans, 10 avril 2011 • Adélar-A. GAGNON, 88 ans, 13 avril 2011 • Claire-M. (Costello) GAGNON, 86 ans, 27 avril 2011 • Adèle-T. (Cantone) GAUTHIER, 77 ans, 3 avril 2011 • Alice-M. (Lavoie) GAUTHIER, 87 ans, 22 mai 2011 • Noëlla-B. (Larivière) GAWRYS, 87 ans, 31 mai 2011 • Léonard-J. GRAVEL, 82 ans, 1 février 2011 • Agnès-B. (Cormier) HEALEY, 91 ans, 11 avril 2011 • Francis-G. HÉBERT, 52 ans, 25 avril 2011 • Roger-T. HÉBERT, 75 ans, 13 mai 2011 • Thérèse-A. KENDALL, 85 ans, 3 mai 2011 • Lucille-T. (Dubé) KULISICH, 88 ans, 9 avril 2011 • Marilyn-A. (Leclerc) LaCHAPELLE, 82 ans, 22 mai 2011 • Oliver-J. LeBLANC, 86 ans, 25 février 2011 • Doris-M. (Castonguay) LEBOEUF, 75 ans, 29 mai 2011 • **J.-Francis LeBRUN (#58)**, 91 ans, 9 avril 2011 • Matthew L'ITALIEN, 27 ans, 2 février 2011 • Armand-J. LONGVAL, 83 ans, 2 avril 2011 • Donald-B. MADORE, 68 ans, 16 mars 2011 • Agnès-G. (Thibault) McGRANE, 91 ans, 27 mai 2011 • Claire-G. (Jodoin) MORSE, 91 ans, 28 avril 2011 • Lucille-I. (Comtois) O'KEEFE-ALLEN, 87 ans, 26 avril 2011 • Wilfred-P. PAR-ENT, 77 ans, 12 mars 2011 • Rev. Wilfrid-L. PIED, 85 ans, 29 mai 2011 • Irène (Coté) PLOURDE, 89 ans, 30 mars 2011 • Sr Cécile POMERLEAU (Sr Bernadette-Marie S.S.Ch.) 1915-2011 • Ann-Marie (Bouffard) RAYMOND, 61 ans, 11 avril 2011 • Jeannette-G. (Pariseau) RAYMOND, 81 ans, 29 mars 2011 • Gérard-A. ST-GELAIS, 87 ans, 16 avril 2011 • René-P. ST-PIERRE, 87 ans, 11 avril 2011 • Eugène SAVARD, 88 ans, 10 mars 2011 • Shirley-M. (McGilvary) TALBOT, 72 ans, 24 février 2011 • Sr Claire TARDIFF S.A.S.V., 81 ans, 22 avril 2011 • **Henri-O. THÉBERGE (#11)**, 84 ans, 1 avril 2011 • Anita-L. THÉRIAULT, 83 ans, 13 mai 2011 • George-H. THÉRIAULT, 87 ans, 1 avril 2011 • Todd-W. THIBODEAU, 53 ans, 23 février 2011 • Raymond-L. TRUCHE, 80 ans, 14 avril 2011 • Ronald-J. TURCOTTE, 67 ans, 1 mai 2011 • Éva-L. (Lambert) VISTORINO, 86 ans, 28 février 2011 • Irène-L. (Tardiff) WEST-PHAL, 82 ans, 3 février 2011 •

*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.

□ □ □

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)

□ □ □

*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

□ □ □

### 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 25 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 ..."



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

**Cover Photo:** Soeur Saint-Antoine-d'Assise and the cast of Molière's "*Le Malade Imaginaire*" at l'Académie Saint-Joseph on 1 February 1968. (Article begins on page 47).

## News

Mario Beaulieu, president of the *Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Montréal*, founded the *Mouvement Québec français* (MQF) on 5 June. The purpose of the organization is to have French recognized as the sole public language of the Province of Québec. The 2006 composition by Raoul Duguay, "*Ô Kébèk*", has been proposed as the new anthem. *Vive le Québec!* • The late Roland Pinault (#7) was praised for his work with the Salem High School alumni in the Salem News editorial "Class of '41" on 28 June. *Bravo!* • A feature article on the late Paul Sauvageau was published in the Salem News on 4 July. *Un beau souvenir.* • The proposed demolition of St-Joseph's church is constantly in the news. The president of Historic Salem's Preservation Committee calls for its preservation and reuse (13 July), as does a Salem News editorial (1 September). *L'espoir fait vivre.* • Our member Dr Norman Gaudrault (#167) has written a fascinating French-language novel, "*Deux ans en Amérique*", published in Paris by the *Société des Écrivains*. *Un vrai chef-d'oeuvre!* • Our third annual social, *l'Été en fête*, became *l'Été en tempête!* Due to the arrival of hurricane *Irène* on August 28<sup>th</sup>, the celebration was postponed to September 25<sup>th</sup>. *Enfin, on a célébré!* • Retired Salem Police Chief Robert St-Pierre has accepted the appointment of interim chief of campus police at Salem State University effective September 1<sup>st</sup>. *Chapeaux!* • Dr Elizabeth Blood (#202) and Dr Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello of Salem State University conducted walking tours of "Salem's Franco-American Landscape" during the month of September. The professors, along with their students, also translated and recorded a guide for tourists at the House of the Seven Gables. *Nos sincères remerciements!* • Molly Gachignard of Salem has been selected for the national tour of the hit Broadway musical "Wicked". *Applaudissements!* • Salem native Ronald Morneau, senior vice-commander of the Second Corps of Cadets Veterans Association, has organized "Vettes for Vets" – a caravan of 400 Corvettes on 25 September in support of the Veterans' Association. *Un bel amusement!* • U. S. Army Pfc. Michael Lévesque of Salem received the Warrior of the Week award in Khost Province, Afghanistan on September 18<sup>th</sup>. *Bien mérité!* • Our vice-president Nelson Dionne (#2) has published yet another volume on Salem's history, "Salem in Stereo". This collection of 3-D stereoscopic images is believed to be the first book of its type published in America. *Il faut voir ça!* • Our member Ricardo Jardin (#170), a native of France, has recently moved from Salem to Brookline. An active member of *la paroisse Ste-Anne*, *le Club Richelieu*, and the F.A.I.S., his presence will be greatly missed. *Meilleurs vœux!* • Congratulations to *les Soeurs de Ste-Chrétienne* who are celebrating anniversaries this year! 60 years: Srs Lorraine Michaud and Jacqueline Ouellet. 65 years: Srs Alice Fontaine, Jeanne-Marie Frégeau, Angéline Martel, and Thérèse Marceau. Also, to *les Soeurs de l'Assomption!* 65 years: Sr Jeanne-d'Arc Poirier. 70 years: Sr Bernadette Lemoine. *Ad Multos Annos!*

[continued on page 43]

*Editorial*

## Les fêtes de chez-nous

It is not yet *décembre* and already a blanket of *la neige* has fallen upon Salem. Soon, our homes will take on a festive appearance with *une couronne* on the front door and *des chandelles* in the windows. Inside, *les cadeaux* will be wrapped and placed under *l'arbre de Noël*, and *la crèche* will be prominently displayed with all its intricate figurines including those of *Jésus, Marie* and *Joseph*.

On *la veille de Noël*, many will attend *la messe de minuit* and will listen attentively to the singing of "*Minuit, Chrétiens!*". Then, at home, the *réveillon* will begin, with its aromatic *tourtières* and its rich *tartes au sucre*. Guests will arrive with familiar names: *Lévesque, Ouellette, or Pelletier; Gagnon, St-Pierre, or Gauthier; Boucher, Caron, or Fournier*. And greetings of "*Joyeux Noël et bonne année*" will be returned with the wish "*et le paradis à la fin de vos jours!*"

*Nous vous offrons nos meilleurs vœux  
à l'occasion de noel et du nouvel an!*

□ □ □

The year 2011 has been a most productive one for the Franco-American Institute of Salem! Our research has taken us from Salem to Worcester, from Woonsocket, RI to Manchester, NH, and from Montréal to St-Hyacinthe, PQ. We have added several hundred volumes to our library, as well as countless photographs, programs, and other items. We have completed the first phase of our General Repertoire containing thousands of vital records, and have begun to catalogue the many photographs in our collections. Many of our members have attended our annual meetings and summer social, and our membership has increased.

The year 2012 holds much promise! Because our members are aware of the importance of preserving Salem's Franco-American history, many are donating items for preservation in our library, and are telling others about our wonderful organization. Our historical and genealogical holdings are growing at a rapid pace through the generosity of our members and of colleagues from other institutions. Our officers have outlined a number of new projects, both large and small, for the improvement of our journal, our library, and our social events for the coming years.

To all, *un grand merci!* And our best wishes for a well-deserved *Joyeux Noël 2011* as we all look forward to a *Bonne Année 2012!*

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**(continued from page 42)**

**Donations received include:** Books (28 volumes) from A.C.G.S. (#100); books (4 volumes), journals and file material from Lee Caron (#42); file material from Rosemary Jacques-O'Brien (#9) and from Anita Blais-Ingraham (#72); books (21 volumes) from Nelson Dionne (#2); books (29 volumes) and recordings (5) from D.-Michel Michaud (#1); books (7 volumes), photo, and donations from Richard Lévesque (#187); and a large and important collection of books, journals, photographs, genealogical material, and miscellaneous items from Georgette Pelletier-Kielbasa (#130). *Un grand merci à tous!*

## French-Canadian Contributions to America

*Hon. Thaddeus M. Buczko*

The Honorable Thaddeus M. Buczko, a lifelong resident of Salem, is a former state auditor and probate judge. He served as president of the Club Richelieu Salem for the 1998-1999 term. On Sunday 27 December 1970 he addressed the members of the Beverly Franco-American Club and their guests at their annual party. More than forty years later, his words continue to serve as an inspiration. We are grateful to the Hon. Thaddeus Buczko for his kind permission to reproduce his remarks.

Two or three generations ago, a great number of French-Canadians emigrated to the United States to establish new homes for themselves and their families. It is of great interest to look into the reasons which prompted them to take such a step.

First of all, we must consider the fact that many of these people came from the country rather than from the city. Many felt obligated to leave home for the following reason. As a rule, there were large families and the father, who was the patriarch, could not turn over his farm to all his sons.

Normally, the eldest became the beneficiary of the estate. The others had to seek employment elsewhere. This usually meant going "to the city". Instead of going to such cities as Montréal and Québec, many preferred to go to the United States.

At that particular time the word was prosperity in the United States, particularly in the areas where the wool, cotton, and shoe factories were located. Hoping to receive a relatively good salary, many came to settle down in various cities in New England where other French-Canadians had already picked out as their new home. As a result of that, certain cities became "Canadian" cities, such as Lewiston, Me.; Manchester, N.H.; Lowell, Holyoke, Fitchburg, Mass.; and Woonsocket, Central Falls, and Pawtucket, R.I.

However, there was a great problem: the language. That is the very reason why they felt obligated to group themselves in certain areas. This explains the fact that many never even had the opportunity to learn the English language, particularly the women who were busy at home with the children. Most of their business could be handled in the French language. Whether it was in the business field, such as grocery stores, clothing stores, doctors, or in any other field, every profession was represented. The English language was not a must.

However, with the years, particularly with the second and third generation, the young element who attended schools in this country, thus learning English along with their French, communicated much more easily with people of other nationalities. It is at that time that a decrease in the exclusive use of the French language is noticed.

Thinking of future generations, at great sacrifices, the French-Canadians established schools. At first, it was evidently just a question of establishing schools on the elementary level, but with the years were added high schools and even colleges. Among others: Assumption College in Worces-

ster; St. Francis College in Biddeford, Me.; Rivier College in Nashua, N.H.; Notre Dame College in Manchester, N.H.; and many others.

Such is the way the seed was planted in good soil and today we are reaping its fruit. Our fraternal organizations such as l'Union St. Jean-Baptiste d'Amerique, the Artisans, the Society of the Assumption and many others are all flourishing. We have outstanding men in all the professions – doctors, lawyers, businessmen, professors, politicians, etc.

One must admit that this little group of courageous people who left Canada with nothing to come to the United States have left a tremendous heritage in the line of French culture. This will last for many more years to come. Let us all try to follow this magnificent example of our ancestors and seek to develop French culture. Let us make an effort to make it known everywhere. This is the way by which we shall become worthy of our admirable ancestors.



## Membership List

The following are the next fifteen members of the Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc. We will continue this list of members in subsequent issues of *La Revue de Salem*. Thereafter, we will list new members and address corrections as they become available.

- 186. LeBLANC, Alice, 13A Cheever Street, Danvers, MA 01923-3732
- 187. LÉVESQUE, Richard, 6 Leech Street, Beverly, MA 01915-4130
- 188. MORIN, Michael, P. O. Box 121535, San Diego, CA 92112-1535
- 189. CAPPuccio, Bertha Massé, 29 Washington Square, Salem, MA 01970
- 190. LETTICH, Janet Briggs, 12 Riverside Street, Danvers, MA 01923-3722
- 191. MORENCY, Mr & Mrs Roland, 88 Bayview Avenue, Salem, MA 01970-5747
- 192. MASSÉ, Léon-J., 15 Fairmount Street, Salem, MA 01970-1607
- 193. SMITH, Carole L'Italien, 6 Ross Lane, Middleton, MA 01949-1418
- 194. KERWIN, Claire-E., 21 Glendale Street, Salem, MA 01970-5401
- 195. BOUCHARD, Gaston, 42 Hathaway Avenue, Beverly, MA 01915-1438
- 196. POUSSARD, Irène, 398 Jefferson Avenue, Salem, MA 01970-4441
- 197. POUSSARD, Arthur, 398 Jefferson Avenue, Salem, MA 01970-4441
- 198. BISGARD, Paula, 201 S. Gilpin Street, Denver, CO 80209-2612
- 199. DESJARDINS, Marguerite-A., P. O. Box 545, No. Woodstock, NH 03262-0545
- 200. CHAREST, Pierrette, 6 Richard Street, Hampton, NH 03842-2753

## Soeur Saint-Antoine-d'Assise, S.A.S.V.

Soeur Saint-Antoine-d'Assise (Jeannette Lavallée) died at Nicolet, PQ on Ash Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the age of 95. Sixteen years of her religious life were spent here in Salem where she taught French classes at l'Académie Saint-Joseph.

Jeannette was born in Chicago, Illinois on 16 May 1915, the daughter of Léopold and Éva (Guenette) Lavallée. At an early age she returned to Québec with her family, settling first in Saint-Germain-de-Grantham and later in Montréal.

On 22 January 1935 at the age of 19, Jeannette entered the convent of Les Soeurs de l'Assomption de la Sainte-Vierge at Nicolet and received the name Soeur Saint-Antoine-d'Assise. She took her first profession of vows on 16 August 1937 and was assigned to the school of St-Zéphirin in La Tuque, PQ where she taught French for three years.

Following her perpetual vows on 16 August 1940, she spent the next 33 years teaching French to students in the United States. Her assignments brought her to Greenville, NH (1940-1951), Laconia, NH (1951-1954), Salem, MA (1954-1970), and Petersham, MA (1970-1973).

Returning to Québec, she was assigned to the Pavillon Sainte-Marie for infirm Sisters in Nicolet where she worked as a nurses' aide (1973-1999) and as receptionist (1999-2002). Following her retirement at the age of 87, she found joy in caring for the convent gardens. A much needed rest at the Maison Sainte-Thérèse came in 2005, and she was admitted to the infirmary at the Pavillon Sainte-Marie in 2008 where she spent her remaining days.

Petite in stature and frail in appearance, Soeur Antoine was abounding in energy and gave fully of herself. Her French classes inspired a true love of the French language, and her joy of teaching was always evident. She also had a special gift for understanding teenagers, and always took the time to discuss their concerns. Her



approachable disposition gained her the affectionate title of "Sister Toni". Often called upon to ease the workload of other teachers, she adjusted her busy schedule and gladly came to their aid. Soeur Antoine was "adored" by her students, and was considered a "treasure" by the faculty members.

Soeur Antoine was also an expert theatrical director who took joy in sharing her talents. The annual French play of Molière by her own "Club Dramatique" became the highlight of the school year for her students. (See page 47).

As a nurses' aide, she always brought "devotion, compassion, and kindness". Because of her calm and refined manner, along with her playful sense of humor, she was called a "perfect" caregiver by the members of her Congregation.

Soeur Saint-Antoine-d'Assise will be remembered by many as a brilliant teacher, a wise counselor, a talented director, and a devoted friend who gave great joy to all whose lives she touched.

## Molière in Salem

French theatrical performances have a long history in Salem where the plays of Molière (1622-1673) have always enjoyed much popularity. News articles from as early as 1895 mention the presence of the Molière Dramatic Club of Salem, calling the troupe "a large one" and stating that it had already "been in existence a long time". In that year, Émile Dumont was the group's director, and Émile Gagnon was its stage manager.

In 1929, Molière's "*L'Avare*" was presented in St-Joseph's auditorium under the direction of Delphine Arpin. The leading role was played by Paul Tremblay, whose "performance left little to be desired". Cast members included Alexandrine Roberge, Thomas Raymond, Anita Morin, Lucien Raymond, David Denis, Ernest Morency, Alphonse Raymond, Léna Tremblay, Philippe Morency, and Georges Pelletier. Critics stated that "the audience found much pleasure in the play presented by a group of talented players", and noted that the performance had to be "repeated as a result of many requests."

Throughout the years, plays were frequently performed in their original French language here in Salem, not only at St-Joseph, Ste-Anne, and Ste-Chrétienne, but also at the Saltonstall School, at Salem High School, and at Salem State College! Yet, none could compare to the elaborate productions staged annually at *l'Académie St-Joseph* under the expert direction of Soeur Saint-Antoine-d'Assise, S.A.S.V.

Soeur Antoine's knowledge of Molière's work was so comprehensive that members of the cast affectionately called her "*Madame Molière*". She took a personal interest in every detail, from rehearsing lines, to acting and dancing. Every gesture of the hand or inflection of the voice was brought to perfection under her careful supervision.

On Sunday evening, 20 November 1966, Soeur Antoine's *Club dramatique* presented Molière's "*Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*", a satire which ridicules the social aspirations of the rising middle-class. M. et Mme Jourdain were "superbly" played by Normand Cimon and Carmen Sirois. The cast of 19 actors, six dancers, and four musicians included Phyllis Poitras as Jourdain's daughter Lucile, Jean-Claude Martineau as her suitor Cléonte, Thérèse Grenier as the Marquise Dorimène, and Robert St-Pierre as her suitor Comte Dorante. Dancers were Ronald Gagné and Gloria Guilmette, Conrad St-Pierre and Béatrice LeBlanc, and D.-Michel Michaud and Laurel Pelletier. The school newspaper reported that:

*De nombreux témoignages nous sont parvenus félicitant les acteurs d'avoir*

### SÉANCE D'HOMMAGES

donnée à l'occasion de la

Fête de notre distingué Pasteur

Monsieur le curé

**Albert A. Michaud**

Paroisse Saint-Joseph, Salem, Mass.

DIMANCHE, LE 20 NOVEMBRE, 1966

A la Salle Paroissiale, Rue Harbor

Entrée à 7h.

Lever du rideau à 7h.30

Offrande \$1.00

*rendu leur rôle à la perfection. Certains invités qui ne connaissaient que peu la langue française ont pu saisir l'idée générale de la pièce grâce à la mise-en-scène et à la mimique des acteurs. Molière lui-même aurait pu être ravi du talent de nos jeunes gens...*

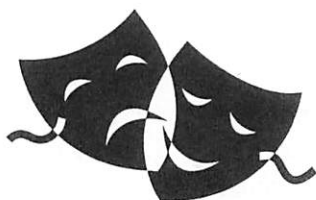


Molière's last play, "*Le Malade Imaginaire*", was given twice to accommodate ever-increasing ticket sales – on the evenings of February 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 1968. This is the story of Argan, a hypochondriac, whose chief concerns are his health, and the marrying of his daughter to a physician in order to assure his free and constant medical attention. The Salem Evening News called the performance a "smash hit" with "authentic costumes [which] are nothing short of fantastic"; Jean-Guy Martineau was "superbly ridiculous" as Argan, Élane Lemieux portrayed his daughter Angélique with Donald Lavoie as her "buffoonish" suitor Thomas Diafoirus; Diane Lausier as his "clever" maid 'Toinette, and Elisabeth Richard as his "scheming" wife.

The members of the *Club dramatique* of St-Joseph's enjoyed every minute of their theatrical experience, but never failed to give credit to their devoted director:

*Tout en offrant des félicitations aux jeunes acteurs qui ont prouvé leur mérite sur la scène, il ne faut pas oublier qu'ils n'ont atteint leur gloire que grâce au dévouement caché de celle qui a montée la pièce, notre Soeur Antoine-d'Assise, qui ne s'est pas ménagée donnant son temps et sa peine sans compte pour que le succès couronne nos efforts.*

Whether or not French theatrical performances will ever return to Salem remains to be seen. If they do, Molière will undoubtedly remain the favorite of audiences. Until then...*Rideau!*



*Saint Joseph High School*  
Le Club Dramatique  
présente  
**LE MALADE IMAGINAIRE**  
DE MOLIERE  
LE 1 ER ET LE 4 FEVRIER, 1968  
*Chants par la Chorale de l'Ecole*  
Entree a 6:30      Lever du rideau a 7:00  
Adultes \$1.00

# HOMMAGE de GRATITUDE

À MONSIEUR LE CURÉ  
ALBERT A. MICHAUD



DIMANCHE, le 20 NOVEMBRE 1966

SAINT JOSEPH  
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS



## Journal (I) of J.-O.-Alphée Boucher

The journal of Alphée Boucher is unique in that it begins with his birth in 1873 and ends on 2 August 1954, just one month before his death at the age of 81. Written entirely in French, the journal was later transcribed by Alphée Boucher's daughter Corinne (Soeur Marie-de-Saint-Cyrille, S.C.I.M.).

Alphée Boucher came to Salem in early 1892, and moved to Lawrence, Massachusetts nearly a decade later in late 1901. His description of the events which took place during these ten years will be especially interesting to our readers. And although Alphée did not remain in Salem, several of his siblings settled here. Many of these families continue to make Salem their home.

Excerpts from Alphée Boucher's journal are published here in an English translation. Several birth and death dates have been corrected according to parish registers, and names of spouses have been added to the list of siblings which Alphée records at the start of his journal.

□ □ □

**Memoirs of Alphée-Oscar Boucher and his family.** Alphée, born on 12 June 1873, was baptized on 15 June of the same year by the pastor [Père Napoléon-Henri] Constantin at the church of Notre-dame-du-Portage (Témiscouata county), P.Q., Canada. Godfather: Mr. François Lévesque (son of the neighbor) – Godmother: my sister, Gracieuse, age 15 years.

I am an offspring of the family of my father, Mr. Cyriaque Boucher, and of his wife, my mother Adélaïde Michaud. My parents were married in 1856 at Notre-Dame-du-Portage. Fifteen children were born of this marriage, of whom here is the list:

Name:	Birth:	Death:	Spouse:
Gracieuse	Dec 1857	2 June 1934	Damase Lebel
Anaïsse	10 Jun 1858	1925	Joseph-Roch Lebel
Louis-Ovide	28 Jun 1859	23 Aug 1920	Gracieuse Dionne
Démerise	18 Aug 1860	6 Feb 1939	David Raymond
Éveline	18 Aug 1860	14 Jan 1943	Luc April
"Ludivine"	3 Sep 1862	1863	
"Adée"	17 Feb 1864	10 Dec 1941	Virgile Desrosiers
Elmina	20 Oct 1865	20 Oct 1953	Joseph Pelletier
Cyriaque	5 Jan 1869	18 Jun 1936	Georgianna April
Joseph	28 Mar 1870	28 Mar 1870	
Adélaïde	12 May 1871	1886	
Alphée	12 Jun 1873	8 Sep 1954	Amarilda Bernier
Marie-Léda	29 May 1875	24 Feb 1965	Louis-Alfred "Tom" Ouellette
Exite	6 Mar 1878	4 Jun 1949	Aurélius Darisse
J.-P.-Étienne	17 May 1880		Marie Gendron

My father, Cyriaque, was born on 2 May 1832 and died on 10 June 1907; my mother, Adélaïde, was born on 26 June 1837 and died on 15 June 1905.

All of the family was born in my father's house located on a farm of 200 acres of land situated in the parish of Notre-Dame-du-Portage on the banks of the Saint-Laurent [River], to the west of the church of the Portage. We, the children, all went to the parish elementary school in the second *arrondissement*. The school age requirement was from the age of reason (7 years) up to the age of First Communion and Confirmation (8 to 9 years). I tell you, our knowledge did not go very far, but that did not make any difference because our parents needed us, both boys and girls, for the cultivation of the land which began on the first of May [and lasted] until 15 June. That ended the sowing. From 15 June until the first of August, it was vacation-time for the youngsters. We took pleasure trips with our neighbors and friends, and had picnics on the farm; and since we had a sailboat with a capacity for thirty passengers, we took excursions with our friends to the three-mile-wide islands nearby which we called *les Pèlerins*. There was a lot of hunting and fishing there. We had outdoor dinners with the products of our hunting or fishing.

But it wasn't so much fun in the month of August. Work had to be resumed with the making of hay, and then the harvesting of grain, and the reaping of potatoes. All of that ended around All Saints' Day on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The months of November, December, January, February, March, and April were what we called the winter months. The mother and daughters took care of the clothing, spinning, weaving, and knitting stockings for the members of the family. For us, the men, [the chore] was the cutting of wood needed for the heating of the buildings, and of other wood needed for the upkeep of the properties. Then, we had to see to the feeding and other needs of the animals such as horses, cows, sheep, pigs, hens, geese, and ducks. That concluded [the year of] family life in Canada.

At the age of 19, on 1 March 1892, I entered the hospital of the *Hôtel-Dieu* of Québec to undergo an operation. It was decided to remove a tumor which I had behind my right ear which was two inches in diameter and a half-inch in thickness, which had grown there over the years. It was a Dr Lalonde who performed the operation. I was hospitalized for two weeks. On 14 March 1892 I returned home, and after two weeks of rest, March 27<sup>th</sup> of that same year, with my father and mother and a part of my family – that is to say myself, Étienne, Elmina, Marie, and Exite, seven people in all – we embarked on a passenger train at Saint-Alexandre at 8 o'clock A.M. for Salem, Mass.

Arriving in Salem at 8 o'clock A.M., we went to lodge at the home of my father's brother-in-law, Uncle "John" [Jean-Baptiste] Léveillé, 51 Congress Street. It was 28 March 1892.

*[to be continued]*

## The First New Year's Day

A century ago, New Year's Day was a day like any other. January 1st 1912 fell on a Monday, and it was "business as usual". Mills operated from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., retail stores were open during regularly scheduled hours, and school children attended a full day of class. Here in Massachusetts this was not recognized as a holiday, and conservative legislators saw no reason to disrupt everyone's busy schedule with such frivolity.

French-Canadians had long considered *le jour de l'an* to be one of the most important holidays of the year. Christmas was observed as a Holyday, but it was on New Year's Day that the real celebrations took place. Friends and relatives came to visit, and many good wishes were exchanged. There was eating and drinking, singing and dancing, gift-giving and rejoicing.

Two young and energetic Franco-Americans were elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in the fall of 1911: Henri Achin (1883-1955) of Lowell, and Chauncey Pépin (1869-1931) of Salem. One of Achin's first acts as Representative was to introduce a bill that would declare New Year's Day a legal holiday. His principal supporter would be his friend and colleague, Chauncey Pépin. Achin explained:

*Pour les citoyens américains d'origine canadienne-française, ce jour est particulièrement évocateur, car il leur rappelle le pays natal, la vieille demeure ancestrale et les coutumes anciennes, un peu oubliées sans doute, mais toujours chères.*

For American citizens of French-Canadian origin, this day is particularly evocative, for it reminds them of their native land, of their old ancestral home, and of their ancient customs, a bit neglected undoubtedly, but still cherished.

It would come as little surprise that this new bill would be defeated in the House when first proposed on 26 January 1912. But the initial vote of 92 to 84 was encouraging, indicating that nearly one-half of the Representatives were in favor of creating a new holiday. Achin and Pépin vowed to make another appeal the following year.

The vote of 10 March 1913 resulted in a tie, 108 to 108, and therefore the bill did not pass. Several opponents of the bill had argued that its adoption would only give legal status to what amounted to nothing more than a "Catholic feast". Clearly, much work needed to be done.

By 1914, Representatives such as Leboeuf and Talbot of Fall River and Alain of Fitchburg, had become strong supporters of the bill. But new objections were being put forth, and debates became heated and prolonged. To the objection that Massachusetts had too many legal holidays, it was argued that many states had more. New York, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, California, and North Carolina each had nine; Texas and Pennsylvania each had ten; and Louisiana had twelve holidays. To the objection that the day was too close to Christmas, it was argued that it was only "just and reasonable" for workers to be granted a day of rest after having worked a "considerable" number of additional hours during a very busy and very profitable season.

One Boston Representative made the claim that only Franco-Americans were in favor of this holiday, and that they were far too few in number to be given any such consideration. This angered Achin to cry out:

*Les citoyens américains d'origine française n'ont aucune excuse à offrir à qui ce soit parce qu'ils se trouvent dans le Massachusetts. Ils n'ont pas non plus d'excuses à offrir pour l'aide donnée par Lafayette et Rochambeau à ce pays pendant la guerre de l'Indépendance.*

The American citizens of French origin have no apologies to offer to anyone because they find themselves in Massachusetts. Neither do they have apologies to offer for the aid given to this country by Lafayette and Rochambeau during the War of Independence.

After a thunderous round of applause in the House of Representatives, Achin and Pépin were even more determined to see the bill pass. Yet, the firm hold of ultra-conservatism in Massachusetts politics was clearly apparent. Kansas was now the only other state in the union which had not yet granted its citizens a holiday on the first day of the New Year. Both Achin and Pépin formed executive committees to assist in defending the bill. The Salem Committee was comprised of Attorney Joseph-F. Pelletier, Napoléon Thibault, Nicolas Boulé, Joseph St-Louis, and Guillaume Richard.

At long last, the bill was accepted in House Chambers on 11 February 1914, and it was adopted on 16 February by a vote of 133 to 76. But this victory celebration would be short-lived. On 24 February the bill was defeated in the Senate. The struggle would go on.

Another tie occurred in the 1915 session, with a vote of 106 to 106, and again the bill failed to pass. Something needed to be done. Legislators worked to have the bill placed on the next referendum.

On 7 November 1916, the people of Massachusetts voted to approve of the new holiday, winning by a tremendous margin of 312,000 to 113, 000. The bill was enacted into law by Governor Samuel W. McCall, and New Year's Day was first legally celebrated in Massachusetts on 1 January 1917.

The New Year's Day holiday in Massachusetts was earned by the efforts of the Franco-American people, but only after a five-year battle which began a century ago. Its purpose was simply to provide a day of leisure when family and friends could gather to celebrate according to age-old French-Canadian customs. The Franco-Americans of Salem indeed played a large rôle in legalizing this holiday, and can now take great pride in this accomplishment.

***Une bonne année à tous!***

## **Le Courrier de Salem**

**Events of a century ago in Salem's Franco-American newspaper  
January - April 1912**

### **Societies**

- Members of the *Conseil Laurier* met in the new Cercle Veuillot Hall for the first time on Wednesday January 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Among the newly-elected officers of our societies are: Jules Poussard (*La Fanfare de la Garde Militaire Nationale*), Herménégilde Tremblay (*Chambre de Commerce*), and Eugène Fournier (*les Artisans*).
- Henri Ledoux, president-general of the *U.S.J.B. d'Amérique*, will install new officers in Salem on February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- *Club Union*, a naturalization group, will open new quarters in the Cercle Veuillot building sometime in March.

### **The Press**

- M. J.-N.-A. Beaudry is compiling names and addresses of Canadians in the Castle Hill district for the annual almanac as he has done since 1890.
- One of the largest issues of *Le Courrier de Salem*, with 30 pages, is published on 4 April.

### **Police**

- M. Augustine Chouinard has been appointed a Salem Constable.
- Eleven people have been arrested and fined \$5. each for playing cards for money on a Sunday.

### **People & Families**

- Mme Joseph Dion of Matane, a Salem resident for 17 years, is visiting her daughter, Mme Joseph Harrison.
- François Simard of St-Épiphanie is visiting his brother Joseph on Hersey Street.
- Père François Lamontagne of Pontbriand is visiting his cousin François Lamontagne on Pingree Street.
- Jean-Baptiste Tondreau is visiting Salem, having lived here from 1881 to 1895.
- Auguste Desjardins, director of the band of the *Garde Nationale*, is seriously ill at the *Hôtel-Dieu Montréal*.
- Sr Ste-Adéline of Sherbrooke is visiting her brother Oscar Leblanc at 16 Harbor Street.
- Amable Paradis, a founder of the old *Société St-Jean-Baptiste* in 1882, died at Roberval, PQ on January 11<sup>th</sup>. He had lived in Salem for 40 years.
- Georges Chaput, 14, died at the *Collège de St-Césaire* on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The son of Paul-N. Chaput, he will be buried in Salem.
- Père Joseph Gagnon of St-Boniface, Manitoba, is visiting his brother Ernest in Salem.

### **Business**

- A new tannery, *Levisseur et Conway*, has opened at Flint and Mason Streets.

- Joseph Gilbert has purchased the meat market of Joseph Choquette at 32 Park Street.
- Théophile Belleau, the tailor, has relocated to a new shop in the Cercle Veillot building.
- Achille Thériault of 75 Congress Street is selling coal at \$7.00 per ton.
- Majorique Martel has moved to St-Lambert, PQ, where he will operate a grocery store.
- Napoléon Lavoie has purchased the variety store at 50 Palmer Street, next door to the barber shop of Louis Carrier.
- E. Tremblay, the grocer, has relocated to larger quarters at 51-53 Palmer Street.
- Mme Marie Morency, former co-owner of *Morency et Bourque*, has taken a sales position at Webber & Co.
- André Picard has opened a new cobbler shop at 33 Perkins Street.

#### **Properties**

- Dr Émile Poirier has sold a large property on Leavitt Street, measuring 358 feet by 380 feet, to Alfred Dumas.

#### **Church**

- On Epiphany Sunday, Ste-Anne's choir will repeat the music of the Christmas Mass for the last time.
- Père J.-A. Peltier, pastor of Ste-Anne's, has been called to St-Ambroise upon the death of his mother.
- A fire was discovered in the basement of the new St-Joseph's church at 11:00 on Wednesday evening, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Damage is estimated at \$50.
- A reception will be held for Père Rosario Richard on February 25<sup>th</sup> in the Cercle Veillot Hall upon his return from Rome.

#### **School**

- St-Joseph's students will present two plays at a *soirée musicale* on Thursday January 25<sup>th</sup> in honor of Père Rainville's birthday.
- Students of Ste-Anne's have prepared two plays in honor of Père Peltier's birthday: "*Ne vous occupez pas du lendemain*" and "*L'Orpheline*". Performances will be on April 28<sup>th</sup> and on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Entertainment**

- The *Troupe Paul-Marcel* of France will perform "*Le Maître de Forges*" by Georges Ohnet at the Empire Theatre on January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The eighth annual *Kermesse de la Garde Nationale* will be held for two weeks in the St-Jean-Baptiste Hall from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of February beginning at 7:30 each evening. Admission is .15¢, or .75¢ for the season.
- A *Mardi-Gras* party to benefit the new St-Joseph's church will be held on February 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be a performance of the play "*Les Perdrix de Josephine*" followed by a whist party.

## **Christmas Observance in France**

*[The following article appeared in the Salem Evening News  
fifty years ago, on Wednesday, 6 December 1961]*

The Christmas season in France first begins Dec. 6 – St. Nicholas day, a holiday more or less reserved for the children who like candy. That's what they can expect to receive in honor of old St. Nick, or "le Pere Noel," as he's known in France.

In Lorraine, however, the Dec. 6 holiday is considered particularly important, and personifications of St. Nicholas can be seen walking about the streets of most villages followed by three children whose lives he saved, according to the legend.

But St. Nicholas day is only a prelude to Christmas itself – certainly the most important religious holiday of the year in France, as in other countries of the Free World.

Although the Christmas tree is becoming a more popular home decoration in France, the most traditional item to be seen in most houses is the "creche," or nativity scene. The "creche" includes the manger, along with clay figures of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the animals, the shepherds, the Wise Men, as well as the various dignitaries and tradesmen of the typical French town.

### **Religious Art**

Called "santons," these clay figures are made in Provence, where the turning out of religious figures has been an art for centuries. Many Provencal santon-makers, in fact, have become so famous that they are able to spend years producing figures for just one life-sized creche to be installed at a particular church or cathedral in other parts of France.

One of the most famous of these life-sized creches, in fact, is on the Riviera, in the tiny church atop the hill of the old town of Cannes, overlooking the Mediterranean. There, the figures of the creche actually move about by a series of weights and pulleys, and as the nativity scene is relived, a chorus of angels can be heard singing in the distance.

### **Shepherds carry lambs**

Each town and city of France has its own special way of celebrating the birth of Christ. In all cases, of course, this celebration begins with the midnight mass of Christmas eve. But in Provence, for example, the mass is marked by a shepherds' procession, and in Les Baux, a village near Arles, the shepherds actually carry their lambs with them.

Far to the north, in Normandy, a similar procession of shepherds and their lambs precedes the mass held in the Abbey of Saint Georges de Boscherville. Meanwhile, in the Loire valley, or "Chateau country," south of Paris, visitors may stop at the 1000-year-old Benedictine basilica of St. Benoit-sur-Loire or the 11<sup>th</sup> century Benedictine abbey at Solesmes to hear some of the world's most celebrated interpretations of the Gregorian chants.

### **Torchlight skiers**

Farther south, at Valberg, the famous ski center in the Maritime Alps above Nice, midnight of Christmas eve is celebrated by a colorful torchlight procession of skiers winding their way across the snow-covered slopes. And in the Var department, also near the Riviera, the people of Solliès-Ville gather to receive the traditional gift of bread. "Oboles," a combination of bread, sweets, and meat, are distributed to 12 children dressed as the apostles.

Other regions, too, have their ways of celebrating the Christmas eve services, some of which are based on centuries-old traditions. In Alsace, the mountain of Saint Odile, high above the Rhine river and Strasbourg, is illuminated and a midnight mass is said in the historic convent church on the summit.

So, too, across the country in the Pyrenees, religious Catalan ceremonies give Christmas a special regional flavor in such towns as Arles-sur-Tech, Ceret, Prades, Prats-de-Mollo, and picturesque Perpignan. Even in Ajaccio, on the island of Corsica Christmas services become unique, with the singing of ancient Corsican carols, unlike any heard elsewhere in the world.

### **Fantastic fare**

But Christmas in France is not an entirely solemn, religious festival. After the mass, French families everywhere repair to their homes for the "Reveillon" – just about the finest meal of the year. The fantastic fare served up at a reveillon varies according to regional specialties, but in Paris, for example, a typical menu consists of pate de foie gras, oysters, turkey or goose, cheese and a special Christmas cake called a "buche de Noel" and shaped like the traditional yule log. Each course in the meal is, of course, served with its own special wine, and the entire meal topped off with a well-merited "digestif" or cordial.

For the children, too, Christmas day is a happy one, marked by gifts piled in and around every tot's "sabot" or "soulie." For unlike their American counterparts, French kids place their shoes – wooden or other – beside the chimney instead of their stockings.

### **No gifts for adults**

Adults, however, don't get any presents on Christmas – they have to wait until New Year's day, at which time the French also send out their cards. New Year's eve, of course, is celebrated as festively in France as in other lands. Included is another reveillon, which in some areas lasts as long as 48 consecutive hours. Unlike the Christmas reveillon, the New Year's eve party includes music and dancing and is usually held in restaurants rather than at home.

Most restaurants have a "prix fixe" for the entire reveillon, which means that anyone - Frenchman or American – can enjoy unlimited quantities of food, wine, dancing, and merrymaking for one all-inclusive price. And "le patron" makes certain you become friends with all his guests before the party's over! Most of the country inns near Paris also provide transportation to and from the city as part of the prix fixe. But reservations for New Year's eve in Paris should be made in advance, for every family in France wants to "reveillonner," as well as you.



## **Genealogies**

### **Duplessis**

Jean-François Sirois-Duplessis & Marie-Angélique Dumond  
of St-Germain-en-Laye, Île-de-France

- I François Sirois-Duplessis & M.-Françoise Roy (Pierre & M.-Anne Martin)  
C. Janneau (Rivière-Ouelle), 5 June 1721
- II Maurice Sirois-Duplessis & M.-Joseph Hayot (Zacharie & M.-Joseph Levasseur)  
Kamouraska, 7 Nov 1750
- III Maurice Sirois-Duplessis & M.-Anne Landry (François & Agnès Thibodeau)  
Kamouraska, 9 Oct 1775
- IV Michel Sirois-Duplessis & Victoire Cormier (Jean-Baptiste & Madeleine Cormier)  
St-Basile, (Madawaska) 1802
- V Edouard Sirois-Duplessis & Marie Ouellet (Pierre & Marie Paradis)  
St-Basile, (Madawaska) 30 Aug 1825
- VI Hilaire Sirois-Duplessis & Adélaïde Côté (Louis & Angèle Sirois)  
St-Basile, (Madawaska) 6 Sep 1869
- VII Oménil Duplessis & Camille Viel (Joseph & Eléonore Lévesque)  
Salem, MA, 26 Apr 1897

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### **Longval**

Jean Fafard-dit-Laframboise, Sieur de Longval & Antoinette Leverdier  
of Hotot-en-Auge, Lisieux (Normandie), France

- I Bertrand Fafard-Laframboise, Sieur de Longval & Marie Sédilot (Louis & Marie Challe)  
Trois-Rivières, 20 Dec 1640
- II Louis Fafard-Laframboise, Sieur de Longval & Marie Lucas (Jacques ( Françoise Capel)  
C. Cusson (Batisca), 10 Nov 1671
- III Michel Fafard, Sieur de Longval & Charlotte Godfroy (Joseph & Catherine Poulain)  
Trois-Rivières, 18 May 1717
- IV Charles Longval & M.-Joseph Duguay-dite-DuPlessis (Maurice & Madeleine Claire)  
Trois-Rivières, 7 Sep 1761
- V Charles Longval & Joseph Levasseur (Ignace & Joseph Camirand)  
Trois-Rivières, 13 Apr 1795
- VI Olivier Longval & Louise Rivard-dite-Dufresne (Joseph & Joseph (Proteau)  
Trois-Rivières, 6 Oct 1828
- VII Louis Longval & Emélie Boisclair (Louis & Mélanie Levasseur)  
St-Camille (Wolfe), 21 Jan 1873
- VIII Stéphane-R. Longval & Josephine Cameron (Joseph & Eloïse DeRoy)  
Salem, MA, 27 Apr 1903

## Décès

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

Robert-F. APRIL, 80 ans, 11 juillet 2011 • Norman-J. BEAULIEU, 80 ans, 7 juillet 2011 • Raymond-H. BÉDARD, 85 ans, 30 juillet 2011 • Richard-J. BERNIER, 84 ans, 31 juillet 2011 • Cécilea (Boudreau) BERTOLATTI, 88 ans, 20 septembre 2011 • A.-Joseph-B. BLANCHETTE, 89 ans, 4 juillet 2011 • Roger-D. BLANCHETTE, 68 ans, 1 juillet 2011 • Janet-T. (Palardy) BOLDEN, 81 ans, 11 juillet 2011 • Dorothy-A. (LeDuc) CAULFIELD, 87 ans, 14 juin 2011 • Norma-M. (Labrie) CLARK, 91 ans, 17 septembre 2011 • Frances-M. (DeGrandpré) CURLEY, 85 ans, 17 août 2011 • Thérèse-R. (Beausoleil) DETTORRE, 85 ans, 20 juin 2011 • Doris-M. (LeBlanc) DIONNE, 81 ans, 9 juillet 2011 • Jeannette-M. (Tremblay) FORWARD, 89 ans, 11 juillet 2011 • Germaine-Corinne (LeBel) FUGÈRE, 97 ans, 26 septembre 2011 • Richard-F. GAGNON, 68 ans, 27 septembre 2011 • Esther (D'Entremont) GARDNER, 97 ans, 2 septembre 2011 • Charlotte-Y. (Labbée) HOOPER, 10 juin 2011 • Marie-H. (Richard) KALINOWSKY, 87 ans, 8 juillet 2011 • René-J. LeCLAIRE, 12 juillet 2011 • Robert-G. LEMELIN, 85 ans, 30 juin 2011 • Anna-A. (Thibault) LONGVAL, 90 ans, 4 juillet 2011 • Jeannette (LaBelle) LUND, 30 septembre 2011 • Donald-W. MARCHETERRE, 61 ans, 1 juillet 2011 • Emma-C. (Ciosek) MARQUIS, 99 ans, 24 septembre 2011 • Jeanne-A. (MarcAurèle) MCGINN, 82 ans, 27 juillet 2011 • Laurretta-L. (Lamarre) O'BRIEN, 91 ans, 14 juillet 2011 • Émile OUELLETTE, 84 ans, 1 septembre 2011 • Bruce-Albert PELLETIER, 54 ans, 3 août 2011 • Rachel (Michaud) PELLETIER, 88 ans, 26 août 2011 • Edward-J. PROVENCHER, 78 ans, 21 juillet 2011 • Eileen RICHARD, 92 ans, 6 juillet 2011 • Lucien-J. ROBERGE, 79 ans, 24 septembre 2011 • Dr Paul-P. SAUVAGEAU, 59 ans, 21 juin 2011 • Alfred-V. SIROIS, 84 ans, 3 juillet 2011 • Rita-E. (Leclerc) STEPCHIN, 83 ans, 8 août 2011 • Doris-J. (Jalbert) TSOUTSOURIS, 83 ans, 25 août 2011 • Linda (Lawlor) VOYER, 64 ans, 20 septembre 2011 • Jacqueline (Bélanger) WILSON, 84 ans, 24 septembre 2011 •

*Nous nous souviendrons d'eux*

## Chaque jour une fête

JANVIER	FÉVRIER	MARS	AVRIL	MAI	JUIN
1 JOUR de l'AN	1 Ella	1 Aubin	1 POISSON d'AVRIL	1 Philippe/Jacques	1 Justin
2 Basile	2 Près Seigneur	2 Charles	2 Sandrine	2 Boris	2 Blandine
3 Geneviève	3 Blaise	3 Guénolé	3 Richard	3 Phil / Jacques	3 Kévin
4 Odilon	4 Véronique	4 Casimir	4 Isidore	4 Sylvain	4 Clotilde
5 Edouard	5 Agathe	5 Olive	5 Irène	5 Judith	5 Igor
6 Mélaïne	6 Gaston	6 Colette	6 Marcellin	6 Prudence	6 Norbert
7 Raymond	7 Eugénie	7 Félicité	7 Jean-Baptiste	7 Gisèle	7 Gilbert
8 Lucien	8 Jacqueline	8 Jean de Dieu	8 Julie	8 Désiré	8 Médard
9 Alix	9 Apolline	9 Françoise	9 Gautier	9 Pacôme	9 Diane
10 Guillaume	10 Arnaud	10 Vivien	10 Fulbert	10 Solange	10 Landry
11 Paulin	11 N.-D. Lourdes	11 Rosine	11 Stanislas	11 Estelle	11 Barnabé
12 Tatiana	12 Félix	12 Justine	12 Jules	12 Achille	12 Guy
13 Yvette	13 Béatrice	13 Rodrigue	13 Ida	13 Rolande	13 Antoine
14 Nina	14 VALENTIN	14 Mathilde	14 Maxime	14 Mathias	14 Elisée
15 Rémi	15 Claude	15 Louise	15 Paterne	15 Denise	15 Germaine
16 Marcel	16 Julien	16 Bénédicte	16 Benoît	16 Honoré	16 J.-F. Régis
17 Roseline	17 Alexis	17 Patrice	17 Anicet	17 Pascal	17 Hervé
18 Prisca	18 Bernadette	18 Cyrille	18 Parfait	18 Eric	18 Léonce
19 Marius	19 Gabin	19 Joseph	19 Elphège	19 Yves	19 Romuald
20 Sébastien	20 Aimée	20 Herbert	20 Odette	20 Bernardin	20 Silvere
21 Agnès	21 Damien	21 Clémence	21 Anselme	21 Constantin	21 Louis de Gonzague
22 Vincent	22 Isabelle	22 Léa	22 Alexandre	22 Emile	22 Alban
23 Bernard	23 Lazare	23 Victorien	23 Georges	23 Didier	23 Audrey
24 François	24 Modeste	24 Catherine de Suède	24 Fidèle	24 Donatien	24 Jean-Baptiste
25 Paul	25 Roméo	25 Humbert	25 Marc	25 Sophie	25 Prosper
26 Paule	26 Nestor	26 Larissa	26 Alida	26 Bérenger	26 Anthelme
27 Angèle	27 Honorine	27 Habib	27 Zita	27 Augustin	27 Fernand
28 Thomas	28 Romain	28 Gontran	28 Valérie	28 Germain	28 Irénée
29 Gildas	29 Auguste	29 Gwladys	29 Catherine Sian	29 Aymar	29 Pierre / Paul
30 Martine		30 Amédée	30 Robert	30 Ferdinand	30 Martial
31 Marcelle		31 Benjamin		31 Angèle de Mérici	
JUILLET	AOUT	SEPTEMBRE	OCTOBRE	NOVEMBRE	DÉCEMBRE
1 Thierry	1 Alphonse	1 Gilles	1 Thérèse	1 Toussaint	1 ELOI
2 Martinien	2 Julien	2 Ingrid	2 Léger	2 Défunts	2 Viviane
3 Thomas	3 Lydie	3 Grégoire	3 Gérard	3 Hubert	3 Xavier
4 Florent	4 Vianney	4 Rosalie	4 François As	4 Charles	4 BARBE
5 Antoine Marie	5 Abel	5 Raïssa	5 Fleur	5 Sylvie	5 Gérard
6 Mariette	6 Mariette	6 Bertrand	6 Bruno	6 Bertille	6 NICOLAS
7 Raoul	7 Gaétan	7 Reine	7 Serge	7 Carine	7 Ambroise
8 Thibaut	8 Dominique	8 Nativité	8 Pélagie	8 Geoffroy	8 Imm. Conception
9 Amandine	9 Amour	9 Alain	9 Denis	9 Théodore	9 P. Fourier
10 Ulrich	10 Laurent	10 Inès	10 Ghislain	10 Léon	10 Romaric
11 Benoît	11 Claire	11 Adolphe	11 Firmin	11 Armistice	11 Daniel
12 Olivier	12 Clarisse	12 Apollinaire	12 Wilfried	12 Christian	12 J.-F. Chantal
13 Henri Joël	13 Hippolyte	13 Aimé	13 Géraud	13 Brice	13 Lucie
14 Fête Nationale	14 Evrard	14 Sainte-Croix	14 Juste	14 Sidoine	14 Odile
15 Donald	15 Marie	15 Roland	15 Thérèse d'Avila	15 Albert	15 Ninon
16 N.-D. Mt Carmel	16 Armel	16 Edith	16 Edwige	16 Marguerite	16 Alice
17 Charlotte	17 Hyacinthe	17 Renaud	17 Baudouin	17 Elisabeth	17 Judicaël
18 Frédéric	18 Hélène	18 Nadège	18 Luc	18 Aude	18 Gâtien
19 Arsène	19 Jean Eudes	19 Emilie	19 René	19 Tanguy	19 Urbain
20 Marina	20 Bernard	20 Davy	20 Adeline	20 Edmond	20 Théophile
21 Victor	21 Christophe	21 Matthieu	21 Céline	21 Près de Marie	21 Pierre C.
22 Marie Mad.	22 Fabrice	22 Maurice	22 Salomé	22 CÉCILE	22 François-Xavier
23 Brigitte	23 Rose	23 Constant	23 Jean de C.	23 Clément	23 Armand
24 Christine	24 Barthélémy	24 Thècle	24 Florentin	24 Flora	24 Adèle
25 Jacques	25 Louis	25 Hermann	25 Crépin	25 CATHERINE	25 NOËL
26 Anne	26 Natacha	26 Côme	26 Dimitri	26 Delphine	26 Etienne
27 Nathalie	27 Monique	27 Vincent de Paul	27 Emeline	27 Séverin	27 Jean Apôtre
28 Samson	28 Augustin	28 Venceslas	28 Simon	28 Jac de la Marche	28 Innocents
29 Marthe	29 Sabine	29 Michel	29 Narcisse	29 Saturnin	29 David
30 Juliette	30 Fiacre	30 Jérôme	30 Bienvenue	30 André	30 Roger
31 Ignace	31 Aristide		31 Quentin		31 Sylvestre

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

□ □ □

### Officers 2012-2013

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 2012 will be held at 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA on 20 May and 23 September at 4:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.