

Cover Photo: *La Société St-Jean-Baptiste* was founded 130 years ago, in 1882, in the home of Raphaël Rousseau, 11 Prince Street. The photo was taken in 1907.

News

Salem's ever-popular chocolate manufacturer, Harbor Sweets, was featured in the Salem News on 12 October 2011. Proprietor Phyllis LeBlanc was expected to employ nearly 100 workers for the Christmas season. *C'est si bon!* • The National Park Service held a ceremony at the Salem Custom House on 1 November 2011. The "magnificent" model of the former Salem Armory, built by our member Léon Massé (#192), was unveiled. *Superbe!* • St. Joseph's Food Pantry, now known as Joseph's Storehouse, has reopened at its new location, 207 Highland Avenue, on 3 November 2011. *Meilleurs souhaits!* • Fifty veterans were awarded Salem Wartime Medals by the mayor and Roger Léger, Commander of the Salem Veterans' Council, on 11 November 2011. *Bravo!* • Excess donations for the Philias Verrette Memorial were presented to the Salem Veterans' Council on 16 November 2011. *Merci!* • Salem artist and art educator Paula Beaulieu held her 10th annual Open Studio on 19 and 20 November 2011. *Félicitations!* • The possible raz-ing of St-Joseph's church continues to make headlines. In December of 2011 the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation entered into discussions. *Alors, ça continue!* • Salem Police Lt. André Ouellette was honored with a dinner on 12 December 2011 by the Salem Licensing Board for his work as special investigator during more than two decades. *Félicitations!* • Salem native George Whitman, proprietor of the iconic Paris bookstore Shakespeare and Company since 1951, died on 14 December 2011 at the age of 98 and was buried in Père Lachaise Cemetery. *Nos condoléances.* • On 19 December 2011 Pope Benedict XVI advanced the cause of sainthood of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680). Born in New York, she died near Montréal at the age of 24. *Une vraie sainte!* • Salem Veterans' Agent Jean-Guy Martineau received a tremendous response to his appeal for assistance for veterans and their families this past Christmas, the last before his retirement. *Merci, et bonne retraite!* • In January of 2012 Ben Bouchard left his position as Assistant Director of the Salem Chamber of Commerce after five years. He has been called "a gentleman and a class act." *Meilleurs voeux!* • Our member Jeannette (Soucy) Massé (#192) celebrated her 100th birthday on 2 February 2012! *Une belle fête, Madame!* • Our member Rev. Arthur-J. Driscoll (#147) was ordained in 1952 and is celebrating his 60th anniversary of priesthood this year! *Ad Multos Annos!* •

Donations received include: Journals (100) and manuscript from Georgette-L. Kielbasa (#130); book, photograph, and file material from Nelson-L. Dionne (#2); books (16 volumes) from D.-Michel Michaud (#1); and gifts from May Pinault (#7), Mary-J. Levasseur (#23), J.-Armand Bergeron (#28), Paul-K. Auger (#106), and Maggi Smith-Dalton (#208). *Un grand merci à tous!*

L'été en fête: Our annual get-together, *l'été en fête*, will be held on Sunday, August 26th. All members are welcome to attend. Save the date! Details will be in the August 2012 issue.

Editorial

Nos journées oubliées

It was not so long ago that we first opened our new calendars for the New Year. There we find all the major holidays such as Easter, the Fourth of July, and Christmas. Many ethnic holidays are also frequently included such as St. Patrick's Day, Passover, and Kwanzaa. But where are our French and Canadian holidays and observances? Our own days of celebration are omitted from our calendars, and these days are allowed to pass unnoticed.

No fewer than ten such days will occur during these next four months – ten days which should appear on the calendars of every Franco-American. This is our heritage! While it may not be possible to celebrate each of these holidays, it is important that we pause to remember these significant dates in our own history, and to give thanks for the many contributions of our own ancestors. The motto of Québec sums this up eloquently: *Je me souviens*.

- May 17 - ***Foundation de Montréal*** – This is the birthday of Montréal, founded by Paul Chomedey de Maisonneuve in 1642.
- May 20 - ***La Journée Lafayette*** – Governor Saltonstall proclaimed Lafayette Day in Massachusetts in 1942 stating that “no man more fully embodies the honor and glory of the French”.
- May 21 - ***La Fête de Dollard des Ormeaux*** – This day commemorates the massacre of the patriots while defending New France in 1660.
- May 24 - ***La Journée du drapeau du Québec*** – This is Flag Day in the province of Québec, a day to display the blue and white *Fleurdelisé*.
- June 24 - ***La Fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste*** – This is the national holiday of French-Canadians and Franco-Americans, widely celebrated in Québec.
- July 1 - ***La Fête du Canada*** – Formerly known as Dominion Day, the holiday commemorates the confederation of Canadian provinces in 1867.
- July 3 - ***Fondation de Québec*** – This is the birthday of Québec City, founded by Samuel de Champlain in 1608.
- July 14 - ***Le quatorze juillet*** – The storming of the bastille in Paris in 1789 is observed as the national holiday in France.
- August 2 - ***La Fête du Nouveau-Brunswick*** – This is the national holiday of the province of New Brunswick.
- August 15 - ***L'Assomption*** – The Feast of the Assumption was proclaimed the national holiday of the Acadians in 1881.

These are OUR holidays: celebrate them!

Nos meilleurs souhaits pour un bel été!

Charles-H. Lamontagne (1906-1968)

Fifty years ago, in June of 1962, a large number of friends gathered to honor Charles Lamontagne on the occasion of his twenty-fifth anniversary as national director of *l'Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste d'Amérique*.

Charles Lamontagne, the son of François Lamontagne and Emélie Guérard, was born in the parish of Saint-Roch, Québec City, on 16 June 1906. He arrived in Salem with his family in 1930 and soon became a public figure.

By the age of 25, he was in great demand for his acting ability, and was recognized by the community as one of its most "outstanding dramatic players". Performing to yet "another capacity crowd" at St-Joseph's on 3 February 1935, the audience "again found Mr. Lamontagne revealing unusual ability in his rôle of the affable *L'Abbé Constantin*."

On 18 September 1935 he became a member of the U.S.J.B. *Conseil Laurier No. 72*, and was soon elected president of the Salem council. As a member of the *Fédération franco-américaine de Salem*, he was named delegate to the *Deuxième Congrès de la langue française* in Québec in June of 1937. When the *Conseil Laurier* hosted the 14th National Congress of the U.S.J.B. in Salem in October of that year, president Lamontagne was elected a national director. Serving until his death, with the exception of 1963-1965, this would be the second longest term of any director in the history of the society.

Charles Lamontagne was president of the *Troisième Congrès du Bon Parler Français*, a thirty-year director of Salem's St. Joseph's Credit Union and a member of its Quarter-Century Club, a member of *la Société du Saint-Nom* of St-Joseph's parish, a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, a member of the Salem Oratorio Society and of the Salem Elks' Club, and a founding member of the *Club Richelieu Salem*, serving as its president in 1967-1968. He was also Chairman of the fund-raising committee for the new St-Joseph's Convent, built in 1962.



Speakers at the Testimonial honoring Charles Lamontagne in June of 1962 included Mgr Mercier of St-Joseph's, Mgr Vincent of Ste-Anne's, Mayor Collins and Councilor Morency of Salem, and U.S.J.B. national director Philippe Raymond of Salem. Two national officers of the U.S.J.B. in attendance were secretary Normand Lachance of Woonsocket, RI and treasurer Jean Picher of Winooski, VT. Congratulations were received from U.S.J.B. president J-Henri Goguen and Congressman William Bates.

Charles Lamontagne was active in civic affairs, serving as a director of Salem's Palmer's Cove Playground, as a member of the Salem Licensing Board, and as a City Assessor.

A clothier by profession, he was proprietor of a haberdashery shop at 121 Lafayette street for more than a decade, and was then associated with Follett's Men's Shop/Colonial Men's Shop at 246 Essex street. His sudden death on 4 January 1968 at the age of 61 was a great loss to all who knew and respected him as one of Salem's most esteemed gentlemen.

Wilfred-A. Pelletier, representing St. Joseph's Credit Union, recalled that "he offered the best of his thoughts and talent at every call, and he typified the type of men and women who quietly and competently serve their community with only the pleasure of being of service."

Club Le Stade

In September of 1921, eleven men gathered to form what was undoubtedly Salem's smallest and most exclusive club. *Le Stade* (The Stadium) would exist for 33 years with no new members ever being admitted after its founding. The club was organized by Salem native Henry-J. Gourdeau (1898-1988), the son of Jules-A. Gourdeau of the Ile-d'Orléans, Québec.

On Saturday 3 November 1923 a meeting was called to order at one o'clock at which time a "Declaration of Trust" was drafted. The document indicated that "the members, otherwise called shareholders...have associated themselves together for social, educational and financial purposes, for their mutual benefit." Club president Henry-J. Gourdeau, secretary Alphonse-J. Audet, and treasurer Albert-L. Porter were chosen as trustees. Other members were Albert-S. Dumas, Ernest-J. Gagnon, René-E. Lavoie, Émile-W. Lavoie, Émile-J. Pelletier, Alexandre-J. Lamie, Arthur-R. Lebel, and Alonzo-V. Cimon.

At this meeting, a vote was passed to purchase a parcel of property, and the minutes were signed five days later in the presence of Attorney Clément-C. Desaulniers. On 13 November, the club purchased a tract of land comprising some three acres "ideally located on Lincoln road and bordering on Forest river". Three and one-half years would pass before the members' development of this property would be complete.

Eighty-five years ago, on 26 May 1927, the Salem Evening News described at length the beautiful grounds:

Le Stade club of this city will observe an important event in its history on Monday, May 30, when the fine new tennis courts constructed entirely by its members during the past three years will be officially opened...

A feature of the court is that all the work has been carried out by the members. In the program of construction no efforts or expense have been spared in providing a tennis court of the highest standard and for speedy playing.

During the year of 1924, the first year of actual work, much of the program included the removal of loam preparatory to the installation of the drainage system, which without doubt surpasses systems used by the best clubs in the country. It was the special desire of the members to provide a court with a drainage system to eliminate water puddles and which would be ready for play several hours after a rainfall.

The court has a large trench two feet deep and one foot wide along the length of the court and eight cross-court trenches of similar depth and width, all of which connect with three wells, located in central parts of the playing ground. All of these wells are six feet deep and five feet in diameter, and each has a wall of stones cemented together, although leaving ample space for the water to pass through to the center, or empty well. Each well has a concrete cover which insures stability and strength, as well as wear.

The task of levelling the court was a difficult one, due to the fact that on one of the corners the members found it necessary to add four feet of gravel. After levelling the ground,

eight inches of cinders were laid on to give the ground the required elasticity and spring. This was followed by the addition of two inches of clay and sand which now form the playing surface. Posts for the wire netting are set in solid cement.

The court is of regulation size throughout. The playing ground within the tapes is 78 feet long and 42 feet wide. The total length of the court is 118 feet long and 55 feet wide, thus enabling players to play back shots to advantage.

[The] court, without doubt the best of its kind in this section, is an achievement of note for the organization. An open house will be maintained throughout Memorial day to friends and invited guests of the members, who will be allowed the privilege of playing on the new court. A large number of visitors is expected.

The fact that the work could be done by the members themselves should come as no surprise. In that same year, 1927, the 29 year-old Henry Gourdeau launched his own construction firm, with Alexandre Lamie as surveyor and Albert Porter as draftsman.

At a meeting on 9 September 1927 it was voted to sell a strip of unused land measuring 50' by 114' lying northeast of the court. This was sold to one of the abutters on 10 August 1928. For the remainder of the property, the club had envisioned an extensive program which included "the building of more courts, a club house, canoe house and swimming pool." But a strange turn of events would bring these plans to a halt in the Spring of 1935.

The City of Salem was now in the process of appropriating land for the purpose of building a playground to be known as Pickman Park. Councilor Wilfred-J. Poitras presented a request to *Club Le Stade* for a 19,231 square-foot parcel of land abutting the river. A meeting of the club was held, and it was voted that the "majority of the members are opposed".

On 4 June 1935, the front page of the Salem Evening News declared: "Proposed Playground At Pickman Park Held Up by Le Stade Club". The outraged mayor had declared his intention to present an order to the city council seeking the taking of the property by right of eminent domain. But, an agreement was soon reached between the city and club before any such action was necessary. A vote by the club was taken on June 11th to sell the property, and a vote by the city council was taken on June 13th to appropriate a sum from the reserve fund. On 29 June 1935, the property intended for the expansion of *Club Le Stade* was sold to the City of Salem.

The members of the club passed the next two decades in quiet enjoyment. At a meeting on Monday 30 August 1954 the members voted to sell "all of the remaining land owned by the Club." The following day, a deed was signed by the three trustees and was notarized by Attorney J.-André Foisy. After thirty-three years, Salem's "smallest and most exclusive club" had passed into history.



Woodcarver of Salem, Donat Beauregard (1893-1998)

The traditional art of woodcarving – *l'art sur bois* – has a long history in Québec. These woodcarvers had no formal training, but learned their craft through long hours of observation and practice. In some families this practice was passed down through several generations where high-quality folk art soon developed into fine art. Perhaps the best known of Québec's woodcarvers was Médard Bourgault (1897-1967) whose descendants continue to produce *l'art sur bois* today in the picturesque village of St-Jean-Port-Joli.

Here in New England, many Franco-American woodcarvers have carried on in the tradition of their ancestors. One of the most important of these is undoubtedly Salem's own Donat Beauregard (1893-1998).

Donat was born in Salem on 15 February 1893, the second of three children of Moïse Beauregard, a native of St-Damase, and his wife Virginie Tardif. Donat developed an interest in wood at an early age, and by the age of 16 was a carpenter by profession and a woodcarver by obsession. He married Rose Richard in 1916 and soon after moved into his new home on Lussier Street where the couple would raise their five children.

Donat created a workshop in the basement of his home. Here could be found a supply of lumber, wood blocks, even tree trunks waiting to be carved. Basswood, mahogany, and other woods were sorted, some taking years to dry before being suitable for carving. On the bench were knives, gouges, and other tools, many made by Beauregard himself. On the walls were photographs, postcards, and assorted pictures which served as models for his detailed work.

After retirement in 1958, Beauregard found more leisure time for his passion for woodcarving. In 1959 a Great Eagle won him a blue ribbon at the Topsfield Fair. Eventually, his home would be filled with a "vast menagerie" of carved eagles, including a "gigantic" example which took more than a month to complete. One of these is now perched at Salem's Hawthorne Hotel.

Animals were often the subject of his work, from a small blue jay, to horses, moose, and elephants. One life-sized wooden cat was so finely detailed that "one day when his son's dog was sniffing around the room, he spied the cat and began barking away." Other objects ranged in size from tiny figurines to a large bust of Abraham Lincoln and a cigar store Indian. Then there were miniature fruit, plates, vases, urns, and other decorative objects. Among the curiosities was a solid seamless block surrounding a carved moveable ball. A number of commemorative plaques were carved in 1976 for the bicentennial year.

Donat Beauregard ranks among the great Franco-American artists, both in the quality and the quantity of his work. His art work can be seen in the White House in Washington, D.C., and in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Other works are in over 40 states and in no fewer than 14 countries throughout the world.

When Donat Beaugard died on 21 April 1998, he was Salem's oldest resident at the age of 105. He held memberships in the Carpenters' Union, *les Forestiers*, *l'Union St-Jean-Baptiste*, and *la Société du Saint-Nom*. Today, much of his work survives as witness to the high quality of *l'art sur bois* created by this master woodcarver of Salem.

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The Beaugard family would appreciate any information on the location of these woodcarvings, and would be grateful for the opportunity to purchase any which may be available. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Franco-American Institute of Salem.

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Journal (II) of J.-O.-Alphée Boucher

The journal of Alphée Boucher continues just after his arrival at the home of his uncle, 51 Congress street, Salem, on 28 March 1892.

After two days of rest, uncle John [Jean-Baptiste Léveillé], who spoke English, took us to the office of the Naumkeag [Mills] Cotton Manufactory Co. to introduce us and, at the same time, to ask for work for two men and three women, and we five were immediately hired to begin the following morning, 31 March 1892. The wages were \$1.00 per 12-hour day, 6 days per week, which gave my father \$5.00 per day or \$30.00 per week of income. It was a small fortune because it cost so little to live.

The Naumkeag company provided us with a 5-room apartment, very clean, with tap water in the house for \$2.50 monthly, but the toilets were outside in a little cabin. That was the custom in those days. Our address was #13 Naumkeag street.

On 15 April 1892 I began working for a company of contractors which renovated the tracks of horsedrawn cars for tracks for electric cars, and also added new ones. As the general foreman, Mr. Epiphane Simard, who was my cousin through the marriage of my cousin, the daughter of uncle Johnny Léveillé, he had the kindness to give me work with the iron crew. That is to say, to assemble the railsets [and] to nail them onto the slippers, which paid \$2.25 per day, while the men who did the digging in the dirt for the tracks had only \$1.25 per day. This was on Main street, Gloucester, Mass., some 30 miles from Salem.

My first pay was \$15.75. I tell you, I was eager to arrive home to let them know of my fortune. This continued until 20 October 1892 in the following cities: Melrose, and Wakefield. During November and December, no work [because] the weather was too cold and snowy.

From January to 15 February 1893 I went to work for the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Co. of Salem to replace my father who had gone to Canada to settle the affairs of our farm. [He] returned to Salem on 20 February 1893. During the months of February and March, I worked for the B. & M. R.R. shoveling snow to clear the tracks.

In April 1893, I resumed working for Mr. Simard, constructing tracks for the electric cars until 15 October 1893 in the following cities, namely Ipswich, Woburn, Stoneham, Winchester, West-erly [RI], Lynn, and Wakefield, Mass.

[On] 20 October 1893, I went to Canada to spend the winter at the home of a brother-in-law, Joseph Lebel, of St-André, until the month of March 1894. Then I went to rejoin my parents, Etienne, Elmina, Marie, and Exite, who had just arrived from Salem, Mass. on 10 March 1894 to resume cultivating our land. My brother and his wife, who had taken care of the land [during the winter], moved to Rivière-du-Loup to work on the Inter-Colonial R.R.

Having arrived in our old home at Notre-Dame-du-Portage, all of the old furnishings were there, as well as the kitchen dishes. In the stable were two horses, four dairy cows, ten sheep, three one-year-old pigs, some geese and hens. We, the men, took care of the cleaning and the repairs of the buildings, and the women, their big housecleaning. On the 1st of May we began to sow the land, and work continued all the rest of the year 1894, as well as the year 1895, always on the farm. Aside from our days of work, we had little family *veillées* from time to time, consisting of music, singing, and even little dances. Our musicians were Jules Bernier and Luc April, myself on harmonica, [and] Jean-Baptiste Pelletier on violin.

“One of the beautiful pages of my history” – On 1 January 1896, my girlfriend Amarilda Bernier and I decided to get married on 14 January 1896, a Tuesday. Arrangements were made for Mr. Alfred “Tom” Ouellette of Salem, Mass. to join us at Notre-Dame-du-Portage for a double wedding at the 8 o’clock Mass. The latter was to marry my sister Marie. It was the pastor of the parish, [Louis-Georges-Elzéar de Chavigny de] Lachevrotière who performed the ceremony. The spouses were: Mr. Alphée-C. Boucher, son of Cyriaque Boucher [and Adélaide Michaud, and] Miss Amerilda Bernier, daughter of Elzéar Bernier [and Georgianna Lafôret]. Witnesses: My father, Cyriaque Boucher, [and bride’s father] Elzéar Bernier. Second couple: Mr. Alfred “Tom” Ouellette, son of Alfred Ouellette [and Exorée Léveillé, and] Miss Marie Boucher, daughter of Cyriaque Boucher [and Adélaide Michaud]. Witnesses: Mr. Luc April, brother-in-law [of the bride, and] Mr. Damase Lebel, brother-in-law [of the bride].

After the Nuptial Mass, breakfast was served at the home of Mr. Elzéar Bernier for the two married couples with the close friends of the two families. In the afternoon, since the weather was very beautiful, with enough snow to make winter paths, the friends organized a horse and carriage ride for a trip to Rivière-du-Loup, five miles from our home. Then we returned to my father’s home, our ancestral house, for a supper with the two families, Bernier-Boucher. After supper, a crowd of relatives and friends, young and old, came to join the wedding party for what was called “diverting the newlyweds”. The house was full. The amusements were singing, music, and dancing of all kinds. It was in the small hours of the morning when we parted.

One week after the wedding, 22 January 1896, Tom and his wife Marie returned home to Salem, Mass, and I and my wife Amarilda stayed with my father-in-law until 12 April 1896. That is to say, three months: January, February, and March. And on 13 April 1896 we left Rivière-du-Loup by railroad, arriving at Salem, Mass. on 14 April 1896.

[to be continued]

Sainte-Anne's Fire

Already thirty years have passed since the devastating fire which destroyed Sainte-Anne's church. Older parishioners remember the tragedy as if it were yesterday; younger parishioners can only imagine the event as told to them.

The contract to build the original Sainte-Anne's church was signed on 23 November 1900, and the completed church was dedicated on Sunday 19 January 1902. The massive church which seated 1,000 people measured 81 feet long by 58 feet wide, and its steeple rose 120 feet. By 1982, some 600 families worshipped at Sainte-Anne's, a Salem landmark for eighty years.

Wednesday the 3rd of February 1982 was the Feast of Saint-Blaise. At about a quarter past three in the morning, parishioners were awakened by the mysterious tolling of the 750-pound bell in the steeple. Fire could be seen in the windows of the sacristy at the rear of the church. Alarms were sounded at 3:19, 3:25, 3:29, and 3:41. Some seventy-five firefighters responded immediately from Salem, Swampscott, Marblehead, Lynn, Beverly, and Danvers.

At first, the slate roof was "steaming under an early morning drizzle". Then, "it went up like a torch", the "massive flames" turning into a "ball of fire". The intense heat caused windows to crack in the nearby rectory. Fire spread rapidly throughout the interior and soon reached the lofty steeple which, within a half-hour, "toppled into the church in flames". The drizzle had turned to "heavy rain" which, combined with "near freezing temperatures", created extremely "icy conditions". Nearby homes in the heavily congested area were also threatened, many of which were now "steaming" and "ready to ignite". Crews fought vigorously to keep the "whole neighborhood from being destroyed".

By six o'clock in the morning, the church was reduced to ashes. Also destroyed was the addition at the rear of the church which had housed the quarters of the Athletic Club, the Boys Scouts, and the Girl Scouts. Firefighters, except those from Salem, were dismissed. Daybreak came an hour later. The four "jagged" corners, the "charred" arch of the center entrance, and the 60-foot chimney at the rear, all gave the appearance of a "skeleton". Clouds of smoke engulfed the "smoldering ruins".

Père Louis-D. Bourgeois (#206) had been pastor less than a year, having arrived on 17 March 1981. Before the last of the smoke cleared, he was offering the nine o'clock morning Mass for his parishioners. Confidently, he stated that "What fire has destroyed, our faith will rebuild".

Salem firefighters, exhausted from their ordeal, remained until midday. Some 1500 homes in the area would not have their electricity restored until later that afternoon. Already, people were reading accounts of the "very suspicious" fire. The Salem Evening News, the Boston Globe, and many other newspapers reported on the "\$1.5 million dollar loss". But for parishioners, it was simply "a beautiful church". People came from near and far to see this devastation with their own eyes, and remarked that "a lot of memories are gone".



Brothers and Sisters Reunited

Many are the stories of families which were reunited after many long years of separation. Oftentimes several members of one family had settled in New England, while others chose to remain in Canada. Occasionally reunions were arranged, reporters were notified, and their stories appeared in print.

But the three stories below, taken from the Salem Evening News, are decidedly different. These individuals had lost all contact with each other and, with little hope of ever seeing one another again, were unexpectedly reunited here in Salem in the 1930s.

THE GRAVEL SISTERS

"Sisters united after 20 years unknowingly lived in same house" – 18 March 1930

Two sisters, Mrs. Joseph-H. (Marie Gravel) Beaulieu and Mrs. Philias (Clarina Gravel) Sylvain, 41 Harbor street, were united Sunday under most unusual circumstances after being separated for more than 20 years. For the past year, both have lived in the same building and have passed each other daily without the slightest idea that they were sisters, and on Sunday, to satisfy the curiosity of a friend who suspected that there might be some relationship, the two women were brought together and there made the discovery that brought happiness to their hearts and tears to their eyes.

Both Mrs. Beaulieu and Mrs. Sylvain are daughters of Mrs. Celanire (Ouellette) Gravel and the late Louis Gravel of Lewiston, Me., and became separated when young.

A series of unusual incidents led up to the discovery. It originated several days ago with a visit from Thomas Pelletier, a distant relative from Manchester, N.H. It was his first visit to Mrs. Beaulieu in 20 years but both recognized each other upon meeting. Mr. Pelletier suggested that a search be made for the missing sister and of his own accord made several inquiries and found that a neighboring tenant was named Mrs. Sylvain and further that she originally came from Lewiston.

Mrs. Beaulieu assured Mr. Pelletier that she had seen Mrs. Sylvain for about a year and that she was positive that the latter was not her sister. Mr. Pelletier departed for his home without further action. On Sunday afternoon, the question was again discussed by Mrs. Beaulieu with Emile Gagnon, 48 Naumkeag street, a personal friend of the family. To satisfy his curiosity Mr. Gagnon called upon Mrs. Sylvain.

The latter was immediately questioned [by Mrs. Beaulieu] who sought to know her birthplace and whether she had any relatives living in Lewiston. Mrs. Sylvain replied that she had two sisters, Marilda of Lewiston and Marie Gravel who had married Joseph Beaulieu and a mother, Mrs. Celanire (Ouellette) Gravel.

Mrs. Beaulieu recalled that her missing sister's husband Philias Sylvain had often played jigs on the violin, and to remove all possible doubt from her mind, she inquired of Mrs. Sylvain whether her husband had ever played any musical instrument. The latter, at once, replied that her husband had played the violin, and further that his favorite violin was in the possession of Emile Gagnon of Naumkeag street, who had married her daughter. This removed all doubt and the happy reunion followed.

Since their separation, both sisters have had children. Mrs. Sylvain has three daughters living, namely – Mrs. Marie-Rose Gagnon, Mrs. Lillian Bergeron and Juliette Sylvain, all of Salem. Mrs. Beaulieu has six children – Juliette, Irene, Romeo, Rita, Fernande and Robert.

News of the happy reunion has been forwarded to their mother, who is expected to come to Salem in the spring. A reunion and reception will undoubtedly be held to celebrate the event. It is interesting to note that last year Mrs. Gravel came to Salem and remained with Mrs. Beaulieu at 41 Harbor street for several weeks, but failed to meet or recognize her other daughter, Mrs. Sylvain, who was living under the same roof.

JAMES-J. LeDUC

“Baby kidnapped by nurse 25 years ago finds brothers here” – 9 September 1930

A mystery which had its origin 25 years ago in this city, was solved Saturday afternoon, when James-Joseph LeDuc, born in this city 25 years ago...walked into the home of his brother, Joseph-M. LeDuc, 176 Lafayette street and saw his brothers for the first time and was recognized by them, even though they had not seen him since he was a day old, because of the strong family resemblance.

At the time of birth his mother died and the nurse who was attending her disappeared with the new born child and all trace of him was lost. Why she did this was never known but she simply took the child and disappeared as completely as though the earth had opened and swallowed them.

The case was suppressed at the time, due to the mother's death, and the unpleasant publicity that would arise, but the many friends of the family in this city knew about the circumstances and were very much surprised and pleased to hear of the reunion last Saturday.

It seems that James had been placed by the nurse in an orphan home in Lowell and later was adopted by a family in Lowell... He attended the Lowell public schools and graduated from the High School, not knowing all that time who or where his family was, and whether his mother and father were living or not.

The nurse, who kept in touch with him for years had to give his right name when he was placed in the orphan home and as a result James finally traced through inquiry his real name and found that members of his family were living in this city.

When James walked into the home of his brother, Joseph, Saturday, he was recognized even though he had not been seen since he was a day old.

AUGUSTE AND ADELE SIMARD

“Reunited after 42 years' absence” – 8 August 1939

An absence of 42 years – a long period in which there were no letters written or any other means of communication attempted – naturally has a tendency to deprive one of the keen sharpness of a memory.

Such was the case of Auguste Simard, 79, of 285 Lafayette street, a retired leather worker, who debated with himself for almost one week before he finally realized that a visitor in this city, Mrs. Adele (Simard) Marquis, is his own sister.

It was 42 years ago when they last saw each other in [Ile-Verte, PQ] Canada. Mrs. Marquis remained in her native town to operate the telephone system and her brother, upon the event of his marriage, removed to Salem, settled here, and now plans to return to his native land to visit a brother he hasn't seen in 40 years.

Recollection of childhood days and their youth eventually brought back happy memories to Mr. Simard. The visit to Salem was a complete surprise to Mr. Simard. Mrs. Marquis has been spending much time with her relatives and others in Salem. At the present time she is staying with a niece, Mrs. Emile Tardiff of 2 Lynch street.

Mrs. Marquis will remain in Salem an additional month before returning. Previous to her marriage she resided in this city for four years and then settled in the Canadian town.

Mr. Simard has seven living children, Joseph, Emile, Ludger, Alcide, Rose, Gertrude and Mrs. Florida St. Laurent. Mrs. Marquis has 10 living children, Arthur, Mary, Adele, Rene, Philippe, Leon, Clara, Cecile, Gertrude and Camille.

Inasmuch as the reunited couple are unable to speak English, Alcide Simard and his wife, Yvette, acted as interpreters for the interview.



Membership List

The following are the next ten 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.

- 201.INSTITUT FRANÇAIS, Assumption College, 500 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01609-1296
- 202.BLOOD, Dr Elizabeth, 16 Herbert Street, Salem, MA 01970-5104
- 203.THIBAULT-SLATER, Diane, 617 7th Avenue North, Nampa, ID 83687-3021
- 204.LeBLANC, Theresa & Peter, 21 Read Street, Salem, MA 01970-2817
- 205.DUCLOS-ORSELLO, Dr Elizabeth, Salem State University, Salem, MA 01970-5348
- 206.BOURGEOIS, Rev. Louis-D., 161 Federal Street, Salem, MA 01970-3297
- 207.COTÉ, Antoine-J., 16 Read Street, Salem, MA 01970-2818
- 208.INSTITUTE FOR MUSIC HISTORY, 203 Washington St. #263, Salem, MA 01970-3607
- 209.FRÉCHETTE, Elaine, 944 Lafayette Road Lot 58B, Seabrook, NH 03874-4256
- 210.SONIA, Margot, 399 Essex Street #413, Beverly, MA 01915-1951

Faites connaître le F.A.I.S.: Invitez vos amis à s'inscrire!

Promote the F.A.I.S.: Invite your friends to join!

Le Courrier de Salem

**Events of a century ago in Salem's Franco-American newspaper
May - August 1912**

Societies

- Amédée Côté has been elected to represent *les Artisans* at their convention in Fall River.
- Eugène Rabouin, Ephrem Barthelémy, and Napoléon Lévesque have been elected as delegates to the U.S.J.B. convention in Fall River.
- Herménégilde-T. Tremblay has been elected president of the *Cercle Social Canadien*.
- *La Société l'Assomption* is holding a contest for boys ages 12 to 20. The winner will receive free tuition for a college course.

Politics

- Gédéon Pelletier has been named Police Inspector by Mayor Adams.
- Napoléon Lévesque has been elected Superintendent of the Poor by the City Council.

People & Families

- Word has been received from St-Épiphanie of the death of Christine Paradis on June 9th, and of her husband David Marquis on June 12th. They are the parents of David, Pierre, and Mme Pierre Michaud of Salem, and of four children in Canada.
- A fire has damaged the home of Joseph Thibeault at 18 Lemon street.
- Sr Gélinas of Montréal is visiting her sister, Mme Sylvio Garon, on Congress street.
- Thomas Leclerc, who left Salem 14 years ago, is visiting here from St-Pascal.
- François-C. de Lachevrotière, a pharmacist in Québec City, is in Salem visiting his cousin, Père Henri-O. Paré, chaplain of *les Soeurs Grises*. With him is his brother-in-law, Professor J.-O. de Bondy, organist of Lynn.
- Père J.-A. Sirois, o.m.i., Superior of the Oblates at Plattsburg, NY, is here visiting his sister, Mme Wilfred Tondreau.

Business

- Monsieur Bourgeois has opened a new bakery at the corner of Congress & Palmer streets.
- Louis Carrier, the barber, has sold his shop to Joseph Lavoie.
- The Willows Park Café announces that it employs Franco-American waitresses and that it welcomes a French-speaking clientele.
- Napoléon Thibault, grocer, has moved from his Harbor street store to one on Roslyn.
- Alfred Roy has opened a new plumbing supply store at 50 Palmer street.
- Guillaume Caron has opened a grocery store at 143½ Canal street, near Ocean avenue.

Construction

- Johnny L'Italien and M. Bousquet are building cottages on Wheatland street.
- Joseph L'Italien is building a brick cottage at 232 Jefferson avenue.
- Fred Garneau is building a house on Ocean avenue facing Lawrence street.

- Ovide-A. Bouchard has built a 5-room house on Congress street.
- Saluste Bélanger has purchased a 3-family house on Green street from A.-M. Joly.
- Omer Thériault is building a 3-family house at 5 Eden street.
- Alfred Audet has been awarded the contract to build a new addition on the Saltonstall School.

Church

- Père Renaud, o.m.i., is preaching the annual retreat at Ste-Anne's.
- Père F.-X. Vézina, former pastor of St-Joseph's, will attend the 25th anniversary of *la Congrégation des Enfants de Marie* to be held in the new church on May 30th.
- Père Rosario Richard will give a presentation on his recent trip to Europe.
- Children of St-Joseph's will receive their First Holy Communion on June 15th.
- Novenas in honor of Ste-Anne will close at Ste-Anne's on July 26th, and at St-Joseph's on July 28th.

Music

- Students of St-Joseph's will present an operetta and a play on June 20th.
- Auguste Desjardins, director of *la Bande de la Garde Nationale*, died on May 26th at the age of 47.
- Thomas Bois has been appointed director of St-Joseph's Choir.

Travel

- M. et Mme Octave Morin are spending a month at Cap-St-Ignace.
- Mme Paul Fontaine and M. et Mme Joseph Jalbert are spending a month in Québec where they will visit Montréal, Rimouski, Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré, and l'Islet.
- Père G.-A. Rainville is in Québec for the first *Congrès de la langue française*.
- Ubalde de Grandpré is in Québec for the *Congrès du parler français*.
- Père Binette of St-Joseph's is spending his summer in the Saguenay region.
- Isidore L'Heureux is visiting his son in Detroit, Michigan.
- Frank Pariseau has received a letter from Arthur Gagnon who has moved from Salem to Cuba. He and others hope to found a French-Canadian village there. M. Gagnon will give a presentation here on September 2nd.

Entertainment

- *Le Cercle Veillot* will present the play "*La Malédiction*" on May 5th.
- *Le Cercle Montcalm* offers Tuesday night whist parties in the Cercle Veillot Hall.
- *Club Union* is holding a weeklong Carnival at Chalifour's North Street Arena.
- St-Joseph's parish will host a picnic at Forest River Park on the Fourth of July.
- The 10th annual picnic of Franco-American clerks will be held on August 8th. Mayor Adams of Salem will attend.

Traditions

No. 11: “Le poisson d’avril”

D.-Michel Michaud, #1

Both children and adults love to play practical jokes on the first day of April, the day known as April Fool’s Day, but few are aware of its origins in medieval France.

With the Julian calendar which was introduced in 45 B.C., the new year began on March 25th. An eight-day festival culminated on April 1st, which was a day of gift-giving. This New Year’s celebration was perhaps the most festive of all observances in the year.

On 24 February 1582 Pope Gregory XIII approved a new calendar, now known as the Gregorian calendar. From that time onward, New Year’s Day would no longer be celebrated on March 25th but on January 1st. Henri III accepted the new calendar that same year, adopting it for all of France. England did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1752, and other countries even later.

Many refused to accept the change of New Year’s Day to January 1st, and lamented the lack of gift-giving on April 1st. These people were called “Fools of April”, and were often offered mock gifts – generally in the form of a fish.

The fish became the primary symbol of the day for several reasons. The old holiday fell in early Spring at the beginning of the fishing season. It was also the time when the sun was leaving the zodiac sign of Pisces. Thus, those who held on to the old holiday were called “*Poissons d’avril*” or “Fishes of April”.

The day soon became one on which to play harmless tricks and practical jokes. People were sent on “fools’ errands” for non-existent items, such as a rope for catching the wind, a square egg, or a pail of smoke. Those hired to do work were often given an absurd task, only later realizing that it was an impossibility.

Some children hardly slept all night so as to rise early to begin their pranks. The most common practice was to cut a paper in the shape of a fish and to hang it on the back of another person – either a child or an adult. No one was exempt, not even parents or teachers. Everyone spent the day checking their backs for the dreaded *poisson d’avril*. Children were told of the legend of ‘*Tit Jean, pêcheur*’ (L’il John, fisherman), and enjoyed singing the song *Les Ment’ries* (The fibs). To-day in France, fine chocolates are molded in the form of a fish to celebrate the day.

If someone wishes you a *bonne année* (happy new year) on April 1st, they may be “fishing” for a gift. Perhaps you could offer them a glass of dehydrated water while exclaiming: *Poisson d’avril!*

Our traditions: a heritage worth remembering!

Genealogies

Gourdeau

Nicolas Gourdeau & Marguerite Michau of Niort, Poitou, France

- I Jacques Gourdeau & Eléonore de Grandmaison (widow of François De Chavigny)
St-Pierre, Ile-d'Orléans, 13 Aug 1652
- II Jacques Gourdeau & Marie Bissot, (François & Marie Couillard)
Notre-Dame-de-Québec, 26 Feb 1692
- III Pierre Gourdeau & Marguerite Robichau (Prudent & Henriette Petitpas)
Port-Royal, 28 Feb 1724
- IV Stanislas Gourdeau & Marie LeBlanc (Joseph & Marguerite Bourgeois)
Port-Royal, 24 Jan 1752
- V Isaac Gourdeau & M.-Elisabeth Forbes (Jacques & Madeleine Lecours)
Notre-Dame-de-Québec, 20 Feb 1792
- VI Isaac Gourdeau & M.-Angélique Dupil (François & Geneviève Clusiau)
St-Pierre, Ile-d'Orléans, 19 Nov 1833
- VII Charles-Honoré-Georges Gourdeau & Philomène Genest (Edouard & Brigitte Noël)
St-Pierre, Ile-d'Orléans, 30 Jan 1866
- VIII Jules-A. Gourdeau & Alice Bernier (Gilbert & Lumina Caron)
Salem, MA, 24 Nov 1895

□ □ □

Lamontagne

Renaud Baquet-dit-Lamontagne & Jeanne Montus of Montoye, Bordeaux, France

- I François Baquet-dit-Lamontagne & Anne Philippe (Jacques & Anne Audigé)
Québec, 12 Nov 1671
- II François Baquet-dit-Lamontagne & Elisabeth Guénet (Pierre & Elisabeth Paquet)
St-Michel, Bellechasse, 25 May 1710
- III Joseph Baquet-dit-Lamontagne & Agathe Goupil (Antoine & Françoise Boulé)
St-Michel, Bellechasse, 17 Apr 1747
- IV André Baquet-dit-Lamontagne & M.-Josette Dallaire (Louis & M.-Louise Fradet)
St-Michel, Bellechasse, 30 Jul 1787
- V Joseph Baquet-dit-Lamontagne & Françoise Gagnon (Gabriel & Angélique Mercier)
St-Michel, Bellechasse, 9 Feb 1813
- VI Jean-B. Baquet-dit-Lamontagne & Constance Mercier (François & Marguerite Marceau)
St-Michel, Bellechasse, 8 Aug 1843
- VII Cyrille Lamontagne & Céline Turgeon (Abraham & Eulalie Poliquin)
Notre-Dame, Lévis, 1 Aug 1871
- VIII François Lamontagne & Emélie Guérard (Charles & Angèle Goudreau)
St-Roch-de-Québec, 20 Jun 1904
- IX Charles-H. Lamontagne (1906-1968)

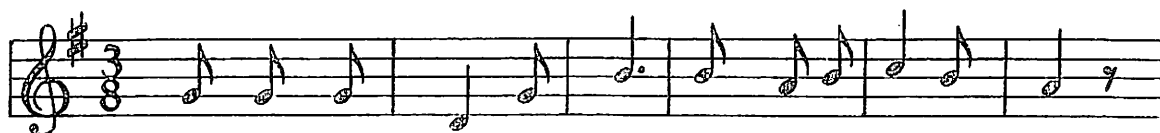
Décès

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

Cécile-M. (Beaulieu) ABODEELY, 101 ans, 16 novembre 2011 • Bertram-J. BEAULIEU, 83 ans, 16 octobre 2011 • Jeannette-C. (Brunet) BEAULIEU, 83 ans, 5 octobre 2011 • Léon-A. BÉRUBÉ, 94 ans, 20 octobre 2011 • Rita (Michaud) BÉRUBÉ, 89 ans, 11 octobre 2011 • Richard BOISVERT, 72 ans, 27 novembre 2011 • James-R. BOUCHARD, 72 ans, 27 janvier 2012 • Roland-J. CHARETTE, 82 ans, 2 octobre 2011 • Jean-P. (Jalbert) CORREIA, 77 ans, 4 novembre 2011 • James-F. DELAND, 78 ans, 20 novembre 2011 • Cécile-M. (Charette) DiMAMBRO, 94 ans, 1 décembre 2011 • Doris-L. (Louf) DUBÉ, 84 ans, 30 janvier 2012 • Robert-A. FECTEAU, 79 ans, 19 novembre 2011 • Rita-A. (Rainville) FINNISS, 89 ans, 23 octobre 2011 • Violet-Cécile (LaBrie) FONTAINE, 88 ans, 13 décembre 2011 • Nancy-Lee (Connors) FRASER, 81 ans, 5 janvier 2012 • Madelene-L. FRÉCHETTE, 83 ans, 2 janvier 2011 • Albert-J. GALLANT, 16 décembre 2011 • Gérald-J. GRANDMAISON, 63 ans, 4 décembre 2011 • Richard-J. GUY, 77 ans, 12 janvier 2012 • Mark-R. HUDON, 52 ans, 5 novembre 2011 • **Ricardo-R. JARDIN (#170)**, 50 ans, 11 janvier 2012 • Lillian-T. (St-Pierre) Quirk-KANELLOS, 85 ans, 17 octobre 2011 • Rose-Ann (Ruest) KRISKO, 76 ans, 11 octobre 2011 • Albert-N. LeBLANC, 86 ans, 3 janvier 2012 • Arthur-L. LeBLANC, 79 ans, 11 janvier 2012 • Henry-J. LeBLANC, 87 ans, 9 octobre 2011 • Mark-R. LeBLANC, 45 ans, 22 octobre 2011 • René-R. LeCLERC, 84 ans, 30 novembre 2011 • Alma-M. LeVASSEUR, 75 ans, 14 octobre 2011 • Claude-G. LÉVESQUE, 89 ans, 22 octobre 2011 • Lorraine-J. (Lavoie) LÉVESQUE, 82 ans, 6 janvier 2012 • Robert-Edward LÉVESQUE, 89 ans, 5 novembre 2011 • Armand-S. LUSSIER, 94 ans, 1 novembre 2011 • Jeanette-M. (Freeman) MALAWKA, 96 ans, 21 octobre 2011 • Doris-M. (Morency) MANSELL, 84 ans, 7 décembre 2011 • Joan-M. (Pelletier) MAVROULES, 72 ans, 1 novembre 2011 • Edmond-J. MICHAUD, 22 décembre 2011 • Jean-Anne (Mercier) MICHAUD, 84 ans, 11 janvier 2012 • Matilda-B. (Dubiel) NADEAU, 91 ans, 28 janvier 2012 • Rose-M. (St-Pierre) OUELLETTE, 81 ans, 2 janvier 2012 • Thérèse (Pelletier) PARENT, 86 ans, 8 novembre 2011 • Alice (Michaud) PELLETIER, 87 ans, 11 novembre 2011 • Arthur-L. PELLETIER, 86 ans, 12 octobre 2011 • Rose-M. (Pero) PELLETIER, 84 ans, 23 janvier 2012 • Roméo-A. POUSSARD, 92 ans, 31 janvier 2012 • Marjorie-R. QUINTAL, 92 ans, 29 janvier 2012 • William-M. ST-PIERRE, 52 ans, 3 novembre 2011 • Charles-B. SOUCY, 81 ans, 9 octobre 2011 • Regina (Niciewski) TRUCHE, 75 ans, 4 octobre 2011 • Rosaire-Joseph VERRETTE, 80 ans, 31 octobre 2011 •

À la mémoire de
Ricardo-R. Jardin
1961 - 2012

Un Canadien Errant



1. Un Ca - na - dien er - rant, Ban - ni de ses foy - ers,



Un Ca - na - dien er - rant, ban - ni de ses foy - ers,



Par - cou - rait en pleu - rant, Des pa - ys é - tran - gers,



Par cou - rait en pleu - rant des pa - ys é - tran - gers.

2. Un jour, triste et pensif,
Assis au bord des flots,] bis
Au courant fugitif] bis
Il adressa ces mots:

3. «Si tu vois mon pays,
Mon pays malheureux,] bis
Va, dis à mes amis
Que je me souviens d'eux.»] bis

4. «O jours si pleins d'appas,
Vous êtes disparus...] bis
Et ma patrie hélas!
Je ne la verrai plus!»] bis

5. «Pour jamais séparé
Des amis de mon coeur,] bis
Hélas! oui, je mourrai,
Je mourrai de douleur.»] bis

La Revue de Salem

La Revue de Salem, founded in 1999, is the official journal of the Franco-American Institute of Salem, and is published in April, August, and December. No material from this publication may be reproduced in any manner without the express written permission of the Franco-American Institute of Salem. The deadline for material to be included in the journal is the first of the second preceding month (April issue closes February 1 and is published on March 1).

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Vol. 14 No. 1 April 2012 Contents

News.....	2
Nos journées oubliées.....	3
Charles-H. Lamontagne.....	4
Club Le Stade.....	5
Woodcarver of Salem.....	7
Journal (II) of J-O-Alphée Boucher.....	8
Sainte-Anne's Fire.....	10
Brothers and Sisters Reunited.....	11
Membership List.....	13
Le Courrier de Salem (1912).....	14
Le poisson d'avril.....	16
Genealogies.....	17
Décès.....	18
Un Canadien Errant.....	19

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

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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.



La Revue de Salem

Volume XIV, Numéro 2

ISSN 1932-3026

août 2012

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



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

Cover Photo: Young scholars were arriving for Mass at Ste-Anne's church fifty-five years ago, in September of 1957, as they prepared for their first day of school.

News

Last summer, an article by Andrée Lebel appeared in Montréal's *LaPresse* (16 juillet 2011) entitled "*Sur la route des fruits de mer*". Salem's fine restaurants and tourist sites were recommended as summer destinations! *Bienvenue!* • An article on the new podium in the Salem Council Chamber, built by John Dionne, was submitted by our vice-president, Nelson Dionne (#2), and was published in the July 2011 issue of *LaVoix des Dionne*. *Bravo!* • On January 1st, Salem's U. S. Army Pfc. Michael Lévesque flew an American flag in Khost, Afghanistan, where he was stationed "during time of hostile fire". The flag was presented to Salem's Witchcraft Heights School in February. *Un honneur!* • Lisa Lavoie is a new member of the Salem School Committee, and her sister Sara Lavoie is the press secretary for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. *Chapeaux!* • Benoît Brodeur was honored by the Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association for his 40 years of personal licensure in the funeral business. *Bravo!* • On Good Friday, the Salem News announced that a building permit had been taken out for the St. Joseph's church site, saying that "demolition can't be far away". *C'est triste!* • Our sympathies to Mme Thomas Thibault (#156) whose sister-in-law, Doris-L. Dechêne, died on 19 April 2012 in Somersworth, NH. *Nos condoléances.* • *Le Club Richelieu Salem* is sponsoring a "*Pause-café francophone*" on the second Sunday of each month from 2 to 4 PM at the Cinema Salem Café. French speakers of all levels are welcome. *Venez bavarder!* • Gène Labonté has been appointed the new chief of police at Salem State University, succeeding interim chief Robert St-Pierre. *Bienvenue!* • Attorney Matthieu-J. Parenteau has joined the Salem law firm of Mazow & McCullough. *Félicitations!* • Congratulations to *les Soeurs de Ste-Chrétienne* who are celebrating anniversaries this year! 25 years: Sr Janine Savoie. 50 years: Sr Lisette Michaud. 60 years: Srs Jeanne Fortin, Dolores Gonthier, and Arlène Légère. 65 years: Srs Ida Perry, Gloria Côté, and Gertrude Girardin. 70 years: Sr Jeannette Perreault. *Ad Multos Annos!* •

Donations received include: Photographs (26), books (4), file material, and artifact from Nelson-L. Dionne (#2); photographs, yearbooks, newsclippings, programs, and file material from Jane-C. Stauffer; books (15) and recording from D.-Michel Michaud (#1); gifts from John-M. Kobuszewski (#3), and from Constance Servizio (#66). *Un grand merci à tous!*

L'été en fête: Our annual get-together, *l'été en fête*, will be held on Sunday, August 26th. All members are welcome to attend. (See details on page 30.)

Editorial

Sous le ciel de Salem

Summertime in Salem! Tourists have arrived, and their numbers will only increase until the celebrations at the end of October. They come for its history as a seaport, for its architecture, for its sites associated with Nathaniel Hawthorne, and for the events surrounding the witchcraft hysteria.

Curiously, when lifelong residents are asked about the many museums and historic sites of Salem, many are ashamed to admit that they have never actually visited them! We know that these places exist and that visitors come from around the world to see them. Yet, tourists often develop a greater interest in Salem's history than we ourselves do.

Of course, we Franco-Americans of Salem have our own history which, unfortunately, remains largely hidden from tourists and residents alike. In other cities, Franco-Americans proudly proclaim their history with descriptive names such as the "Athens of French-speaking America" (Lewiston, Maine), the "Québec of New England" (Woonsocket, Rhode Island), or the "Most French of American cities" (Manchester, New Hampshire). But Salem? Much of our French history remains secretly hidden on dusty shelves, and no *sobriquet* hints at our existence.

In this issue of *La Revue de Salem* will be found a timeline of events which traces a French presence in Salem from its earliest years. Many will be surprised to learn that one of Salem's first great shipowners was French, and that he was one of those accused in the witchcraft trials; or that a number of dispersed Acadians settled in Salem, and that Hawthorne was instrumental in the creation of their historical account "Evangeline".

When our Québec ancestors arrived in Salem, they were coming to a city already rich in French history. But, much like the people of today, they were undoubtedly unaware of Salem's secret past.

So, enjoy the summer "*sous le ciel de Salem*"! Visit the many interesting historical places the city has to offer. And when you meet a group of tourists (which you surely will), share your knowledge of our history! Remind these visitors that the French have always been a part of Salem's long and celebrated history. Take pride in the French contributions to our city. Perhaps one day it will be known as "*Le berceau de l'Amérique française*"!

Un bel été à tous!

The French in Early Salem

Salem had already existed for 230 years when the first Québec settlers began to arrive in 1856. But, prior to their arrival, there had always been a very significant French presence in Salem. The following are concise accounts of historical events which occurred from Salem's earliest years, through its long and celebrated history, and up to the time of the arrival of the first Québec settlers. Many more events of similar interest could be added to this all too brief overview of the French in early Salem.

- 1605** Samuel de Champlain (c. 1570-1635) explores the coast of New England. On 12 July 1605 he leaves Cap-aux-Îles (Cape Ann), sails through Salem Harbor, and reaches Cap Blanc (Cape Cod). Three years later, on 3 July 1608, he would found Québec City.
- 1643** Charles de LaTour (1593-1666) and Charles D'Aulnay (c.1604-1650), both natives of France, had been granted land in Acadia. A rivalry ensued as each attempted to gain control of each other's claim. LaTour comes to Salem in the summer of 1643 to seek aid from Governor Endicott, and is later authorized to recruit volunteers and to hire ships in order to attack D'Aulnay.
- 1651** A French Jesuit priest, Père Gabriel Druillettes (1610-1681) visits Salem on 9 January 1651. He and his companions are sent here as delegates to form an alliance between Québec and New England. The dangers are great, as the General Court had passed a law in May of 1647 "forbidding any Jesuit to enter the Massachusetts Colony, under penalty of banishment for the first offence, and death, if he should return."
- 1660** French Huguenots (Protestants) begin to arrive from France and the Channel Islands, especially from the Isle of Jersey, in "considerable numbers". Early families include those of Baudouin, Chevalier, Février, L'Anglois, LeBlanc, LeBrun, Lefebvre, Morel, Pépin, Touzel, Vouden, and many others.
- 1661** Jacques Pépin, a merchant from LaRochelle, France, petitions the General Court on 25 April 1661. He is allowed to become a Salem resident and homeowner, but is not given permission to engage in trade.
- 1674** Philippe L'Anglois (1651-1736), a native of the parish of La Trinité on the Isle of Jersey, arrives at least as early as 1674. Known here as Philip English, he quickly becomes one of the town's most prominent merchants and shipowners. His correspondence, written in French, has been preserved (See 1692 entry)
- 1678** Zacharie Leblanc (1645-1721), a native of Saint-Ouen on the Isle of Jersey, settles in Salem. His nephew, Philippe, arrives here in 1720 and inherits his uncle's estate the following year.
- 1684** Pierre Baudouin, a physician from LaRochelle, France, arrives in Salem. When Bowdoin College is established in Brunswick, Maine, it is named for Pierre's grandson James Bowdoin (1726-1790), former Governor of Massachusetts.

- 1690** A number of ships are ordered to set sail from Salem to fight in Governor Phipp's war with Canada. Port Royal (Acadia) is captured, but Québec is victorious. Later, Salem crews refuse to go on another such expedition; these men are sent to Boston for trial.
- 1692** Salem is caught up in the witchcraft hysteria. Philippe L'Anglois (see 1674 entry) is accused and is imprisoned, but escapes hanging. Upon his return, he regains his prominent status.
- 1735** Several residents of Salem, Massachusetts are granted a new town in New Hampshire. Its first settlers are sons and grandsons of soldiers from Salem who had fought in the war between New England and Canada in 1690. The town is named "Salem-Canada" until 1763 when it is renamed "Lyndeborough" in honor of Salem's Judge Benjamin Lynde, Jr. (1700-1781), one of its principal proprietors.
- 1739** French classes are conducted in Salem at least as early as 1739. The instructor is permitted to teach "so long as he keeps good order".
- 1755** Laurence D'Obleville, a native of Paris, is employed in Salem "teaching children and youth to dance, and good manners."
- 1756** Some 1,000 French-Canadians, expelled from Acadia in 1755, had been sent to Massachusetts. The first twelve arrive in Salem on 15 January 1756, among them members of the Legault family.
- 1765** Jean-Simon LeBlanc, born at Port-Royal on 23 August 1703, was one of the Acadians exiled in 1755. By 1765 he had been transferred to Salem. It was at his home that Catholics gathered on Sundays and Holydays where, in the absence of a priest, he offered "*une messe blanche*" ("a white Mass").
- 1766** In 1766, 141 Acadians set sail from Salem after a decade in exile. One vessel, built in Salem for Captain Amirault in 1763, is among the first to leave.
- 1772** Many Acadians, exiled since 1755, continue to reside in Salem. Pierre LeBlanc leaves Salem in 1772 and founds the town of Church Point, Nova Scotia. Michel Landry leaves in 1774 and settles in Québec. Pierre Doucet marries Marie LeBlanc in Salem before leaving in 1775. Others, such as Anne Rue, remain as permanent residents of Salem.
- 1772** Robert and Georges Viart conduct classes in Salem, not only in French and music, but in dancing and fencing.
- 1774** Louis Robichaux (1704-1780), one of the Acadian exiles, had received authorization by the Vicar-General of Québec to preside over marriages in the absence of a priest. He performs the marriage of Anselme Babin and Marie LeBlanc in Salem in 1774, and records the marriage in the register of Notre-Dame-de-Québec on 2 September 1776.
- 1775** The structure near the corner of High and Summer Streets, erected in 1645, is known as the "French House" because of its many French inhabitants. For 34 years, from 1775 to 1809, it is the Salem Custom House. The building is razed 25 years later.

- 1784** The Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) makes his first visit to Salem on 29 October 1784. Amid the cheers of crowds, he passes through the street which would later bear his name. Lafayette attends an elegant banquet in Concert Hall, followed by a grand ball in the Assembly House. (See 1824 entry)
- 1790** The first Mass in Salem is offered on 6 May 1790. The congregation is comprised of “only one or two Irishmen, with a large number of French”. It is said that “Canada had her sons there, and, in all probability, they were children of the noble Acadian exiles”. Among the first to be baptized in Salem, three months later, are “members of two Acadian families who had remained in Salem after the Great Departure.”
- 1794** The Comte de Grasse, one of the aides of Lafayette, sends his four daughters to live in the United States during the French Revolution. Emélie, Justine, Mélanie, and Sylvie arrive in Boston on 7 July 1794 and first take residence at the home of Colonel Pickman in Salem.
- 1797** Père Jean-Louis Lefebvre de Cheverus (1768-1836) begins a twenty-five year ministry to the Catholics of Salem. Born in Mayenne, France, he would become first bishop of Boston in 1810. After returning to France in 1823, he would become Cardinal Archbishop of Bordeaux.
- 1807** John Bertram (1796-1882) arrives in Salem with his family. He was baptized in the parish of Saint-Sauveur on the Isle of Jersey on 11 February 1796, was educated in the French schools and, in one year, learned English as a second language. As a merchant, shipowner, and railroad investor, he would become one of Salem’s wealthiest residents. (See 1855 entry)
- 1808** Père François-Antoine Matignon (1753-1818), a native of Paris, begins a ten-year ministry to the Catholics of Salem. He first performs baptisms here in 1808, then visits “at least every two months” until his death on 19 September 1818.
- 1811** The French advertize regularly in the Salem Gazette. Mr. J. Bourgoïn opens a school for teaching the French language, and Mr. G. Labottière establishes a dancing academy. Booksellers advertize titles such as “*Le Nouveau Testament*”, “*La Bibliothèque Portative*”, and Faucon’s “*L’Art de parler et d’écrire*”.
- 1820** Bishop Cheverus buys property at the corner of Mall and Bridge Streets where Jean Simon and Firmin Ottignon become “prominent workers” in the building of a church. The bishop offers the first Mass here on 14 October 1821. On 25 October 1826, this becomes St. Mary’s parish, the first to be established in Massachusetts after the Cathedral. (This is now the Church of the Immaculate Conception, located on Hawthorne Boulevard.)
- 1824** Nearly forty years after his first visit to Salem, the Marquis de Lafayette returns on 31 August 1824. Passing under several decorated arches, amid salutes and bell ringing, he is honored on Salem Common before attending a formal dinner at Hamilton Hall. An account of this American voyage, published in Paris in 1826, notes that “it was at Salem that the brilliancy of his reception was particularly marked”. (See 1784 entry)

- 1825** Death of Anne Rue on 18 February 1825 at the age of 97 years, “the oldest inhabitant of this town”. She was probably the last survivor of the Acadians who had been deported to Salem 70 years earlier.
- 1836** Salem is the second town in Massachusetts, after Boston, to be incorporated as a city. Its first city directory includes a number of French names such as Jaques, Lambert, Lefavour, Lorain, Montier, Ottignon, and others.
- 1839** Readers of the Salem Gazette of 26 February 1839 find a detailed account of the “shocking murder” of Dr Taché at Kamouraska, PQ, which has just taken place. Several years later, many residents of Kamouraska are among the first French-Canadians to settle in Salem. [The event is the subject of Anne Hébert’s 1970 novel, and of Claude Jutra’s 1973 film.]
- 1847** Salem-born author Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) had been asked to write a tale of the French Acadians. He declined, but offered the proposal to his friend, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. “*Évangeline*” achieves immediate acclaim upon its publication in 1847, and Longfellow acknowledges his debt of gratitude in a letter to Hawthorne saying: “This success I owe entirely to you”.
- 1855** John Bertram (see 1807 entry) builds his Italianate brick and brownstone mansion at 370 Essex Street. After his death on 22 March 1882, the property is transferred to the City of Salem which opens its doors on 8 July 1889 as the Salem Public Library.
- 1856** Pierre Caisse (1815-1893) arrives in Salem from Saint-Ambroise-de-Kildare (Joliette), Québec. Others would follow and, within a century, these French-Canadians would account for well over one-third of Salem’s total population.

Salem has a long and celebrated history, and the French have always been a part of it.



Early Salem Mayors and Canada

Did you know...

Stephen Clarendon Phillips (1801-1857) was Salem’s second mayor, serving from 1838 to 1841. He was on the steamship, the “Montréal”, when it exploded in the Saint-Laurent River while en route from Québec to Montréal. He was immediately killed in the disaster of 26 June 1857, and was our only mayor to die in Canada.

Charles Wentworth Upham (1802-1875) was Salem’s seventh mayor, serving in 1852. He was born in Saint-John, New Brunswick, on 4 May 1802, where his father was a Justice of the Supreme Court. He was our only Canadian-born mayor.

Paul-N. Chaput (1862-1945)

One of the most prominent of Salem's Franco-American businessmen for well over a half-century was Paul-N. Chaput. Today, 150 years after his birth, he is still remembered for his dynamic leadership.

Paul Chaput, the son of Edouard Chaput and Phélonise Duchesne, was born at Saint-Damase (Bagot) Québec on 25 September 1862. He came to Salem in 1876 at the age of 14, attending school in the mornings and working at the mills in the afternoons in order to help support his five brothers and one sister. He also attended evening classes in order to perfect his English and to further his education.

In 1885, at barely 23 years of age, he established Chaput Groceries & Provisions at 17 Congress Street. Ten years later, he opened the South Salem Hardware at 16 Congress Street, specializing in kitchen utensils and appliances. The following year, he opened the South Salem Boot & Shoe Company at 83 Harbor Street. Finally, in 1905, he established the Naumkeag Cash Grocery at 2 Congress Street on the corner of Harbor Street. By this time, he was operating all four stores simultaneously.

Chaput sold the hardware store in 1906, and the three remaining stores in 1908. Now financially secure, he established the Paul-N. Chaput Real Estate and Insurance Company. He quickly became one of the most successful agents in Salem, and rose to become vice-president of the Bay State Fire Insurance Company. In 1929, he was joined by Normand-R. Auger (1903-1972) who would later become his successor.

Called "the best known French-Canadian in politics in Salem", Chaput was first elected to the board of Aldermen in 1894 and later became Councilor of Ward Five. Franco-American voters persuaded him to run for Mayor in the elections of 1907 and 1909. In 1910 he was appointed License Commissioner, and he served on the committees for streets, bridges, sewers, public property, military aid, and recounts. In 1936 he



PAUL N. CHAPUT,

was appointed Park Commissioner, having already served a decade on its board.

Paul Chaput is perhaps best remembered as one of the founders of the Courier Publishing Company in 1901. He was manager and treasurer of the French-language newspaper, *Le Courier de Salem*, which appeared weekly from 1902 to 1950. In 1911, Alexandre Belisle wrote that this paper "*sans contredit, est un des journaux les plus prospères de la Nouvelle-Angleterre*" ["without question, is one of the most prosperous newspapers of New England"] (page 244). Chaput was also founder or one-time proprietor of other publications such as *Le Courier de Lynn*, *Le Courier de Lawrence*, *l'Étoile* (Lowell), and *Le Réveil* (Manchester, NH).

In addition to his many business ventures and positions of public service, Chaput was an active member of numerous organizations. He was a founder and treasurer of Saint-Joseph's Credit Union, a director of the Salem Savings Bank, a treasurer of the *Cercle Veüillot* and a member of the *Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste*, *l'Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste-d'Amérique*, *les Artisans*, *les*

Forestiers, Saint-Joseph M.B.A., *la Chambre de Commerce*, the Salem Associated Charities, the No License League, and a director of the Massachusetts Total Abstinence Society.

Chaput experienced suffering early in life. His mother had died in Québec at a young age. His father died suddenly in Salem on 23 March 1900 at the age of 63. And on the twelfth anniversary of his father's death, 23 March 1912, Paul's only son Georges died at the *Collège de Saint-Césaire* at the age of 14; the young student's body was brought back to Salem for burial.

On 14 November 1886, Paul Chaput was married to Emma-Joséphine Brûlotte, the daughter

of Isidore Brûlotté and Delphine Ratté. The couple would enjoy 54 years of marriage until her death on 16 December 1940 at the age of 73.

After a lengthy illness, Paul-N. Chaput died on 18 October 1945 at the age of 83. His last will and testament provided for the establishment of a scholarship trust fund at Assumption College in Worcester, which permitted his many charitable endeavors to continue long after his death. This kind and generous gentleman from Saint-Damase, a tireless worker, dedicated civil servant, and active member of society, will long be remembered as one of the great builders of Salem's Franco-American community.

Life in Rural Québec

Nearly a century ago, an interesting account of life in rural Québec appeared in the pages of the Salem Evening News (7 December 1917). The anonymous journalist calls Canada "a country much like our own", but emphasizes that "Québec and its French-Canadian population are a distinct and rather set-apart factor in the life of Canada". Here, he notes, urban areas are "exceedingly up-to-date...brimming over with the energy that grasps all modern innovations", but in rural areas, "conditions have changed little" over the years. The following description is typical of how many of our ancestors lived before coming to Salem.

The French-Canadian of Québec is above all else a landowner and passionately attached to his acres, few though they may be in number. In the beginning the land was owned by the *Seigneurs* who parceled it out to the people; they in turn paid a small rental in the shape of taxes. The tax was an acknowledgement of the *Seigneurs'* rights to reclaim the lands. This state of affairs was intolerable to the people, who insisted and secured the right to own the land in fee. At the same time they took to themselves the name "*Habitant*", meaning "free inhabitant", a term of which they were, and still are, justly proud and jealous.

The Habitant of today lives in the same manner, and often in the same house as did his great, great grandfather. An investigation in 1908 established the fact that there were two hundred and seventy families living on homesteads that have been occupied by their families for more than two hundred years. This is a charming district full of things quaint and old-fashioned. The villages are many, they lie nestled in the hills or sit beside some pretty stream. Usually they are named after some saint, there being fifty St. Annes alone. These hamlets consist for the most part of a single street that is lined with close-set houses, the land running back from the roadway in long, narrow strips. The object of such arrangement was to secure safety for the inhabitants in those bygone days when the blood curdling yell of the Redskin might sound a call to arms at any hour of day or night. The houses and barns painted white with doors and blinds of deep red, green or brown, as suits the householder's fancy, present a quaint, old-world effect. Most of the houses are of the three-room variety capped by a loft reached by a ladder, but circumscribed as these quarters are, they [are] no bar to large families. These humble roofs shelter on an average from ten to fifteen children, often as many as twenty. Early marriages and many children are matters of pride among the habitants.

Let us peep into one of these homes. Our knock is answered by one of the daughters, a ruddy-cheeked, raven-tressed *mam'selle*, who bids us welcome. The mother rises from her rocking chair beside the spinning wheel and adds her welcome. She is clad in homely garb of worn blue cotton, but wears it with all the dignity and grace with which French women have worn gay silks and heavy velvets. Another daughter is at a loom whose shuttles fly back and forth with lightning rapidity. We learn that she weaves the cloth that clothes the whole family as well as the household linens. A kettle is singing on the hob in the wide stone fireplace. All is spotlessly clean and inviting. Over a homemade cabinet is suspended a violin.

Madame tells us it was made by her husband, who has taught several of the children to play upon it, and they have many a gay evening in the winter time. Has she many children? Oh, not so many – still enough to bring a flash of pride to her eyes – twelve! That is the eldest son, and she points proudly to the photograph of a priest. The second son is married and lives near by, while *le Fils No. 3* is a successful advocate in the neighboring town.

This is a typical family. The daughters as a rule do not go out from the home until they leave for one of their own. They help with all the work of the farm, both indoors and out, and the wife, when not busy with babies, works side by side with her husband.

The community centers about the parish church, and the *Curé* is the priest in more than name. He welcomes his people into the world and attends them each step along the road of life – advising, helping, cautioning – until he lays them away in the little church yard. The many religious *fêtes* and processions appeal to the simple, light-hearted people, who love amusements, and they turn out to the last man to participate in these events. Not only are they regular in attendance at church, but also worship at the many roadside shrines and the lack of self-consciousness in which they kneel before these crosses, [oblivious to] whomsoever may be passing, is proof of the deep hold the church and its teachings has on their lives.

The French language is spoken almost exclusively, although most of the habitants have learned English in the schools. The newspapers are printed in French and church services held in that tongue. The people want no change. Lack of modern equipment in farming, adherence to old customs and manner of living, and antagonism to being drawn into the vital question of the day, are due to self-satisfaction in being descendants of the once greatest nation. So why change?

L'été en fête

The Franco-American Institute of Salem will celebrate its fourth annual social, "l'été en fête", on Sunday 26 August 2012 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

Venez! Fêtons l'été ensemble!

Le Courrier de Salem

Events of a century ago in Salem's Franco-American newspaper
September - December 1912

Societies

- William Bélanger, former secretary of *les Artisans*, has been elected treasurer of *U.S.J.B. Conseil Laurier, No. 72*.
- Lorenzo Bérubé has been elected president of the *Cercle Lacordaire*; over 600 guests attend the celebration in the *Cercle Veillot* Hall.
- Moïse Lavoie has been elected president of the *U.S.J.B. Conseil Laurier, No. 72*.
- Joseph Ouellette has been elected president of the *Société St-Jean-Baptiste*.
- Joseph Soucy has been elected Chief Ranger of the *Forestiers, Cour St-Antoine, No. 31*.
- Herménégilde Tremblay has been elected president of the *Cercle Social*.
- *Le Club Lafayette* holds a "Grand Souper" on October 18th; tickets are .50¢.

The Press

- Arthur Beaucage succeeds Ephrem Barthélémy as editor of *Le Courrier de Salem*.
- Ephrem Barthélémy sells his home at 22 Wheatland Street to Ulric Marchand before moving to Woonsocket, R.I.
- *Le Courrier de Salem* has purchased a new "Comet" printing press, built by the Goss Company of Chicago.

Police

- Hilarion Dumas, reserve police officer for the past three years, has been appointed to the regular police force.
- Mme Joseph Gagnon, née Rose-Délina Martineau, police matron for the past 12 years, dies on October 5th at the age of 60 years.

People & Families

- Léon Bouchard, son of M. et Mme Ovide Bouchard, has graduated from the Salem Commercial School.
- A large *soirée* is held in honor of Thomas Pelletier at his home, 79 Ocean Avenue, on his 50th birthday; a native of St-Pascal, he has been a Salem resident since 1880.
- Fabien Michaud, husband of Vitaline Bergeron, was found frozen to death at Castle Hill; a native of St-Fabien-de-Rimouski, he was 48 years of age.

Business

- Orphir Poirier has been elected president of the Franco-American Chamber of Commerce, which will celebrate its 5th anniversary with a banquet on January 23rd.
- Joseph Fugère has moved to a larger store at 47 Palmer Street. Among his employees are Rosa, Edwidge, Augustin, and Antoine Fugère, Mme Arthur Chagnon, Octavie Poitras, and Alice Michaud.

Church

- To benefit the new rectory which is to be built at Sainte-Anne's parish, a *soirée* is held in St-Joseph's convent hall, and a skating party is held at the North Street arena.
- Mgr Brunault of Nicolet, Mgr Roy, and M. l'abbé Gosselin, rector of *l'Université Laval*, are all in Salem as guests of Père Georges-A. Rainville.

Music

- Joseph Blaquièrre offers piano lessons at his home, 269 Jefferson Avenue.
- Professor J.-N.-A. Beaudry, organist of St-Joseph's from 1890 to 1897 and from 1903 to 1912, dies on October 31st at the age of 49.



Journal (III) of J.-O.-Alphée Boucher

The journal of Alphée Boucher continues just after his departure from Rivière-du-Loup on 13 April 1896.

I arrived in Salem, Mass. On 14 April 1896, and on 20 April of the same year I began working for Simard's company in the R.R. construction for electric cars in the following cities: Natick and Wakefield, Mass., Westerly, R.I., [and] Woburn, Mass. I worked until the month of October. Then, work was discontinued for the winter months. After two weeks without work, on 15 November 1896, I began working for the Lynn & Boston Narrow Gauge Railroad at Revere Beach for the construction of five miles of new tracks. We were fifteen men, all from Salem, Mass. Our foreman was Charles Cyr of Boston. On 15 May 1897 our work was completed.

On 20 May I went to work for the B&M R.R. My foreman was Mr. John Higgins for the Salem Division. The work was good but the conditions were not so good. We had to stay in the [railroad] cars six days per week, and on Sundays we went to spend the day with our families. For that, the R.R. Co. had converted the cars for us. That is to say, one car for the foreman and his office, another car for the kitchen and the cook, another car was for dining and recreation, then our cars for our beds. Our work was between Boston, Mass. and Portland, Maine, a distance of a hundred miles, and we moved our cars as necessary, closest to our work. The foreman bought all the provisions for one week and divided the total in equal parts per man. Our salary was \$9.00 per week. This work continued from 20 May 1897 to 1 November 1897.

This was a very tedious summer for the newly-married, to be separated six days per week for six months. Since we had no money in advance, we had to accept the conditions as they presented themselves. But I was very satisfied for the experience which this gave me in R.R. construction, which was very common at the time. Also, to manage the crews of workers and to make myself respected by them helped me very much in what was to follow.

On 5 December 1897 we decided to go visit our old relatives and friends in Canada, at Notre-Dame-du-Portage. [We] left Salem at 7 P.M. on 5 December 1897 [and] arrived at Rivière-du-Loup at 8 o'clock P.M. on the 6th of the month. There were two cars to receive us at the station and to take us the seven miles to the Portage. There was snow [and] we travelled in winter cars. It was Jules Bernier and Cyriaque Boucher who conveyed us.

Upon arriving at the home of Amarilda's father and mother, we were given a room for the time of our vacation. During our vacation, which lasted four months, we were the welcomed guests in our families and among our old friends. The principal families which we visited were the following: Boucher, Bernier, Lafôret, Gagnon, and April. Our musicians during the "veillées" were: accordion, Luc April [brother-in-law, and] violin, Jules Bernier [brother-in-law].

[We] returned to Salem on 8 April 1898. We left Rivière-du-Loup at 8 o'clock A.M. on a steam train, and arrived in Salem, Mass. on 9 April at about 9 o'clock A.M. We settled into a small apartment of four rooms, #30 Palmer street, the block of Mr. [Alphée] Demeule.

On 15 April 1898 I went to work for the Salem & Boston St. Ry. Co., Salem Division. The foreman was Mr. Jos. Simard for the maintenance of tracks of the electrical cars, until 15 October 1898. Trouble between the foreman and the old employees required us to go on strike and, after two months without work, I began working around the 15th of December for the B & M R.R. clearing snow from the tracks. Since the winter was very severe, this gave us an average of four days of work per week, paying \$6.00 per week. Then, there was ice cutting. There were no refrigerators in those days. And since there was no way to make artificial ice either, it was necessary to make use of natural ice which was cut on lakes and rivers. This was done during the months of January and February, which gave employment to hundreds of men with good salaries. With the snow and the ice, we could get through the winter without going into debt.

On 1 April 1900 I returned to work for the Salem & Boston St Ry. Co. again. A new foreman had been hired to replace Mr. Simard. It was a Mr. Tobin. I had work for the entire summer season until 30 October 1900. During the following winter, I continued to work for this same company [but] only for large snowfalls. In between, I worked at cutting ice for four weeks on Wenham Lake some ten miles from Salem. Thus, we passed the winter without going into debt, even putting a few dollars aside.

It was on 1 March 1901 that I was hired as assistant foreman to James Tobin for the company about which I spoke before. On 2 October of the same year, I was called to the office of the chief engineer at Boston who offered me the following proposition: to move to Lawrence, Mass. to take charge of the track department of the St. Ry. Division of Lawrence as General Foreman. The population of Lawrence at that time was 65,000, with a hundred miles of track, including its suburbs. It was a big decision seeing that I did not speak much English. So, I gave as an objection to this chief engineer, a Mr. Curtin, that I did not speak enough English to accept such a po-

sition. This gentleman began to laugh and said: "You're not wanted to speak English, but to do our work. Since there are many French-Canadians in that city, go and hire men of your nationality and continue to practice your English, and all will go very well." (This is what happened, to the letter.)

I began my work in Lawrence on 7 October 1901, and I roomed for a week with a cousin, Mr. Joseph Bérubé. And a week later, [on] 14 October 1901, the entire family moved to Lawrence into a 5-room apartment, #33 Melvin Street. The family then consisted of three young children. The baby, Henry, was two weeks old. My mother-in-law and her children, Adjutor and Alice, were with us. It was my brother, Ovide Boucher [of Salem], who moved us, since he had several horses at the time, a hack for the family, and another wagon for the furniture. Finally, with my little family settled in Lawrence, I did not have to go running for jobs because I had only one for the year, which paid me \$15.00 per week and which was very reasonable at that time. My wife, who was a dressmaker and milliner by trade, wasted no time in making friends among the women who did not like paying too much to have [new] hats made from their old ones, and to have their dresses altered. Since she was a regular in church choirs, she was asked to take charge of the choir at Ste-Anne's Church [Lawrence]. She consented and accepted.

In beginning my new job, there were a number of things to deal with apart from my ordinary work. First, there was a group of old employees with their foreman, all Irishmen, and they didn't like working under orders of a Canadian. So, one had to be very kind to win their friendship. But despite this, several left their jobs on their own, and as they did, I replaced them with Canadians. For starters, I had a brother-in-law, Adjutor Bernier, who had come with me from Salem, and a cousin John Léveillé, eighteen years old, a well-educated young man who spoke both languages well. He was my secretary and my time-keeper, as well as my interpreter when necessary. My regular employees numbered fifty, and fifteen men in winter. In the case of snowstorms, I added [workers] as necessary. My Irishmen were converted one after another and became more amenable. They were ready to come to help me, and even the foreman, Patrick Walsh, continued to work for two years.

During the winter season, I put myself to the task of perfecting my English. Since my office was five minutes from the house, I went there for two or three hours every night.

The remainder of the journal covers the years from 1902 through 1954 when Alphée Boucher was a resident of Lawrence, Massachusetts.



Traditions

No. 12: “Les Compérages”

D.-Michel Michaud, #1

Even with twelve or fourteen children, the arrival of yet another newborn infant was a cause for celebration! But unlike today, an approaching birth was a strictly private matter. It was not until the baptismal ceremony that the birth announcement was made public.

The future mother sometimes spent weeks or even months sewing a new baptismal robe with exacting detail. But the robe was more often a family heirloom, one that was passed down from generation to generation in the family of the mother or Godmother.

The baptismal ceremony took place as soon as possible after the birth of a child, preferably on the same day. It was not unusual for the *curé* to be awakened in the middle of the night by a knocking at the door, only to find the newest member of the parish awaiting baptism. The mother, still weak from childbirth, remained at home to rest; a close friend or relative was chosen as the *porteuse*, and it was she who carried the child to the font. Also assisting at the ceremony were the Godfather, the Godmother, the father of the child, and any children in the family who were old enough to attend Mass. After the ritual, the register was signed, *lampions* (candles) were lighted in front of the statue of a favorite saint, and the Godfather made a small donation to the sacristan who rang the bells in the church steeple.

News thus travelled quickly throughout the village! On their way home, the baptismal party made many stops to show the newborn infant who had just been baptized. At the family home, neighbors came to prepare a light luncheon for the many guests who would surely arrive. It was an old custom for the Godfather to present his Godchild with a coin. This coin was pierced with a hole, and a ribbon was attached. It was placed around the neck of the infant with the belief that it would protect against teething pains and other illnesses.

In the early years, the term *compérage* was used more frequently than the now-common *baptême*. The word appears to have come from the region of Aunis, France, and is derived from the old term for Godfather, *compère* (co-father). Thus, the celebration was not only one of welcoming a new child into the world, but one of announcing the union of two new “co-parents”. The role of Godparent was one of great importance, and of special honor. If the mother or father could not fulfill the rôle of parent, the obligation fell upon the Godparents to raise the child. The celebration was not unlike that of a wedding, and the Godparents then referred to each other with the term of endearment, “*ma commère*” or “*mon compère*”. A *compérage* was both a birth and a union, an event to be celebrated!

Our traditions: a heritage worth remembering!

Genealogies

Bédard

Isaac Bédard & Marie Girard (Simon & Françoise Giraudet)
La Rochelle (Aunis), France, 20 Mar 1644

- I Louis Bédard & Madeleine Huppé (Michel & Madeleine Roussin)
Charlesbourg, 15 Dec 1678
- II Bernard Bédard & Marguerite Parent (Pierre & Marguerite Baugis)
Beauport, 19 Feb 1719
- III Thomas Bédard & M.-Jeanne Blondeau (François & Jeanne-Véronique Roy)
Charlesbourg, 4 Oct 1751
- IV Charles-Thomas Bédard & Madeleine Lefebvre (Jean & Madeleine Bouré)
Charlesbourg, 20 Apr 1789
- V François-Charles Bédard & Angélique Bédard (Jacques-Louis & Angélique Langevin)
Charlesbourg, 5 Oct 1824
- VI Élie Bédard & Madeleine Cameron (Lazare & Madeleine Giguère)
St-Roch-de-Québec, 3 Mar 1862
- VII Élisée Bédard & Élise Hallé (Benjamin & Élise)
Leominster, MA, 31 Dec 1884
- VIII Alfred Bédard & Amanda Bérubé (Louis-Joseph & Delvina Ouellet)
Salem, MA, 13 May 1917

□ □ □

Chaput

Antoine Chaput & Claudine Reber of Besançon, France

- I Nicolas Chaput & Angélique Gauthier (Mathurin & Nicole Philippeau)
Pointe-aux-Trembles, 19 Apr 1689
- II Charles Chaput & M.-Josèphe Lemay (Joseph & Agnès Gaudry)
Varennnes, 16 Nov 1722
- III Louis-Basile Chaput & Josette Girard (Joseph & Marie-Josèphe Sénécal)
Varennnes, 26 Feb 1759
- IV Charles Chaput & Thècle Messier (Joseph & Marie-Anne Mongeau)
Varennnes, 8 Jan 1798
- V Eusèbe Chaput & Angélique Gauthier (André & Geneviève Coiteux)
Saint-Hyacinthe, 14 Sep 1829
- VI Edouard Chaput & Phélonise Duchesne (Michel & Ursule Charbonneau)
Saint-Hyacinthe, 11 Jan 1859
- VII Paul-N. Chaput & Emma-Josephine Brûlotte (Isidore & Delphine Ratté)
Lynn, MA, 14 Nov 1886

Décès

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

Helen-A. (Letarte) ALBERGHINI, 94 ans, 26 avril 2012 • Éva-A. (Auger) AMBREFE, 93 ans, 27 mars 2012 • Lucienne-D. (Fournier) BALL, 100 ans, 28 février 2012 • Clarinda-M. (Oullette) BAROWY, 93 ans, 16 mai, 2012 • Donna-Rose BÉRUBÉ, 35 ans, 18 mars 2012 • Roger-M. CAMIRÉ, 84 ans, 22 février 2012 • Albert-W. CASTONGUAY, 79 ans, 21 mars 2012 • Rita (Bouchard) CORMIER, 85 ans, 26 mai 2012 • Cécile-Rita (Blanchette) COTÉ, 95 ans, 14 mai 2012 • Jacqueline-E. (Thibault) COURTNEY, 81 ans, 11 février 2012 • Richard-R. CROTEAU, 84 ans, 22 mars 2012 • Doris-L. (Bernier) DECHÊNE, 79 ans, 19 avril 2012 • Gérard-R. DEMEULE, 86 ans, 29 février 2012 • Gérard-J. DENIS, 87 ans, 24 mars 2012 • Joseph-Paul DUBÉ, 85 ans, 1 mars 2012 • **Robert-G. DUFOUR (#185)**, 86 ans, 16 février 2012 • **Thérèse-E. (D'Entremont) DUMAS (#29)**, 84 ans, 21 mai 2012 • Jean-M. FECTEAU, 64 ans, 21 février 2012 • Lucille-T. (Bélanger) FORCIER, 95 ans, 6 mars 2012 • Arthur-Rosario FRASER, 79 ans, 27 mars 2012 • Maria-Frances (Bouchard) GATES, 96 ans, 8 février 2012 • Paul-D. GAUDREAULT, 66 ans, 12 mai 2012 • Kenneth-Paul GUILMET, 66 ans, 22 avril 2012 • Patricia-A. (LeDuc) LAMOTT, 60 ans, 1 mai 2012 • Edmond-E. LeBLANC, 78 ans, 25 avril 2012 • Robert-J. LeBLANC, 83 ans, 29 mai 2012 • Raymond-D. LeBRUN, 86 ans, 6 mai 2012 • Marcel-Edward LeFRANÇOIS, 67 ans, 2 avril 2012 • Richard-N. LEMELIN, 54 ans, 9 mars 2012 • Irène-E. LÉVESQUE, 81 ans, 2 avril 2012 • MaryJane-L. (St-Pierre) MAGUIRE, 76 ans, 29 mars 2012 • Janice-M. (St-Pierre) McCARTHY, 48 ans, 21 mars 2012 • Eleanor-L. (Simpson) MORIN, 84 ans, 20 février 2012 • Jeanne-M. (Bouchard) O'BRIEN, 86 ans, 19 mai 2012 • Edna-Mary OUELLETTE, 84 ans, 26 avril 2012 • Robert OUELLETTE, 80 ans, 23 mai 2012 • Élisabeth (Dauphinée) PALAMARA, 76 ans, 20 mai 2012 • Dora-E. (Brault) PAPPALARDO, 93 ans, 20 avril 2012 • Maureen-E. (McGovern) PARISEAU, 81 ans, 11 mars 2012 • John-Frederick POTHIER, 96 ans, 14 janvier 2012 • Johana-F. (Tardiff) POWER, 77 ans, 22 février 2012 • Léo-A. RENARD, 44 ans, 9 mars 2012 • Florence (Kaplan) RICHARD, 87 ans, 8 mars 2012 • Madeline-E. (Pagé) RODERICK, 86 ans, 21 mars 2012 • Ann-Marie (Brisbois) SAFFER, 72 ans, 3 avril 2012 • Lorraine-Lucia (Jalbert) ST-PIERRE, 79 ans, 13 avril 2012 • **Pauline-E. (LaRocque) SARACENO (#12)**, 84 ans, 26 mai 2012 • Lauriette (Bélanger) SAUVAGEAU, 87 ans, 24 février 2012 • Doris-A. (Cormier) SWACZYK, 80 ans, 20 mai 2012 • Peter-R. TESSIER, 45 ans, 3 mars 2012 • Robert-Arthur THÉRIAULT, 90 ans, 11 avril 2012 • Victor TREMBLAY, 69 ans, 15 février 2012 • Joanne-I. (Jacques) WALSH, 75 ans, 13 mai 2012 •

Nous nous souviendrons d'eux

M. l'abbé Herbert-J. Léger (1906-1992)

Il y a déjà 70 ans depuis le départ du Père Léger pour le service militaire.

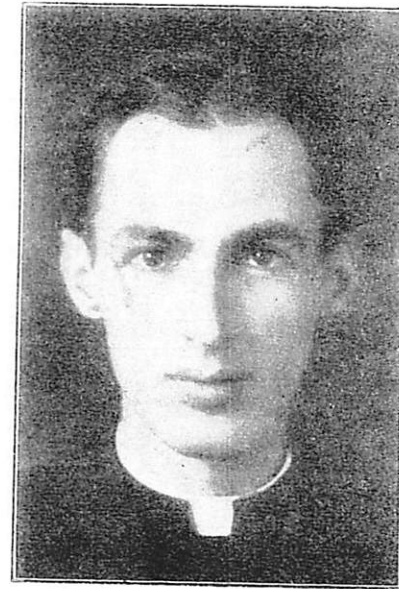
Né à Lynn, Massachusetts, le 1er avril 1906, il poursuivit ses études d'abord au séminaire Saint-Joseph de Trois-Rivières, ensuite au séminaire Saint John de Brighton. Ordonné à Boston le 2 juin 1933, il fut vicaire à Saint-Joseph de Salem pendant neuf ans (1933-1942).

Ses goûts militaires le dirigèrent vers le service du pays et, en 1942, il s'enrôla comme aumônier dans l'armée des États-Unis. Après avoir reçu plusieurs promotions, il fut promu caporal. Il servit son pays avec distinction et dévotion en l'Australie, la Nouvelle-Guinée, les Philippines, à Washington, en l'Autriche et l'Allemagne (où, en 1960, il fut maître des cérémonies au 37e Congrès Eucharistique International à Munich), en l'Islande, et enfin pendant un an à Paris.

De retour aux États-Unis en 1964, il fut nommé curé de la paroisse Sainte-Anne de Salem où il restera pendant 17 ans, jusqu'à sa retraite en 1981.

C'est à Boston que ce prêtre distingué rendit son âme à Dieu le 31 janvier 1992 à l'âge de 85 ans. Ses obsèques eurent lieu en l'église Sainte-Anne, et l'inhumation eut lieu au cimetière Sainte-Marie, Salem. Nous nous souviendrons de lui qui a si bien servi Dieu et patrie.

SOIREE D'ADIEU A
M. L'ABBE HERBERT-J. LEGER
A L'OCCASION DE SON DEPART
POUR LE SERVICE MILITAIRE



SALLE ST-JOSEPH, SALEM, MASS.

DIMANCHE, LE 15 NOVEMBRE, 1942

Programme

1. Entrée Marche Militaire Orchestre
2. Air Martial Orchestre
3. Introduction du maître de cérémonies
par M. Henri Gagnon, président
du comité d'Organisation
4. Bienvenue M. le maître de cérémonies
M. Philip L. Morency
Président du Conseil de Ville, Salem
5. Orateurs M. le Curé J.-Stanislas Vermette
L'Honorable Edward A. Coffey
Maire de la Ville
6. Chants Mlle Muriel Hallée
7. Déclamation Mme A. L. Lavoie
8. Chants M. Wilfrid Pelletier
9. Orchestre
10. Chants Un groupe d'Académiciennes
11. Lecture de l'Adresse, M. Adelard Beaulieu
12. Présentation du Cadeau
Mme Arthur Leblanc
Présidente des Dames de la Ste Famille
13. Réponse de M. l'Abbé Herbert-J. Léger
14. Star Spangled Banner O Canada
God Bless America

Nos sincère remerciements à
l'Orchestre "Salem Fraternity"

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous
fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say, does that star spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

O CANADA

O Canada, terre de nos aïeux,
Ton front est ceint de fleurons glorieux!
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix!
Ton histoire est une épopée
Des plus brillants exploits.
Et ta valeur de Foi trempée,
Protègera nos foyers et nos droits,
Protègera nos foyers et nos droits.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

God bless America
Land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above;
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America
My home sweet home,
God bless America
My home sweet home.

—Irving Berlin.

La Revue de Salem

La Revue de Salem, founded in 1999, is the official journal of the Franco-American Institute of Salem, and is published in April, August, and December. No material from this publication may be reproduced in any manner without the express written permission of the Franco-American Institute of Salem. The deadline for material to be included in the journal is the first of the second preceding month (April issue closes February 1 and is published on March 1).

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Vol. 14 No. 2 August 2012 **Contents**

News.....	22
Sous le ciel de Salem.....	23
The French in Early Salem.....	24
Early Salem Mayors and Canada.....	27
Paul-N. Chaput (1862-1945).....	28
Life in Rural Québec.....	29
Le Courrier de Salem (1912).....	31
Journal (III) of J-O-Alphée Boucher. ..	32
Les Compérages.....	35
Genealogies.....	36
Décès.....	37
M. l'abbé Herbert-J. Léger.....	38

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

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Il nous fera plaisir de vous servir en français.

□ □ □

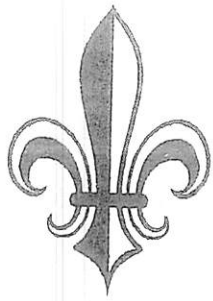
Officers 2012-2013

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

□ □ □

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.



JP/LA

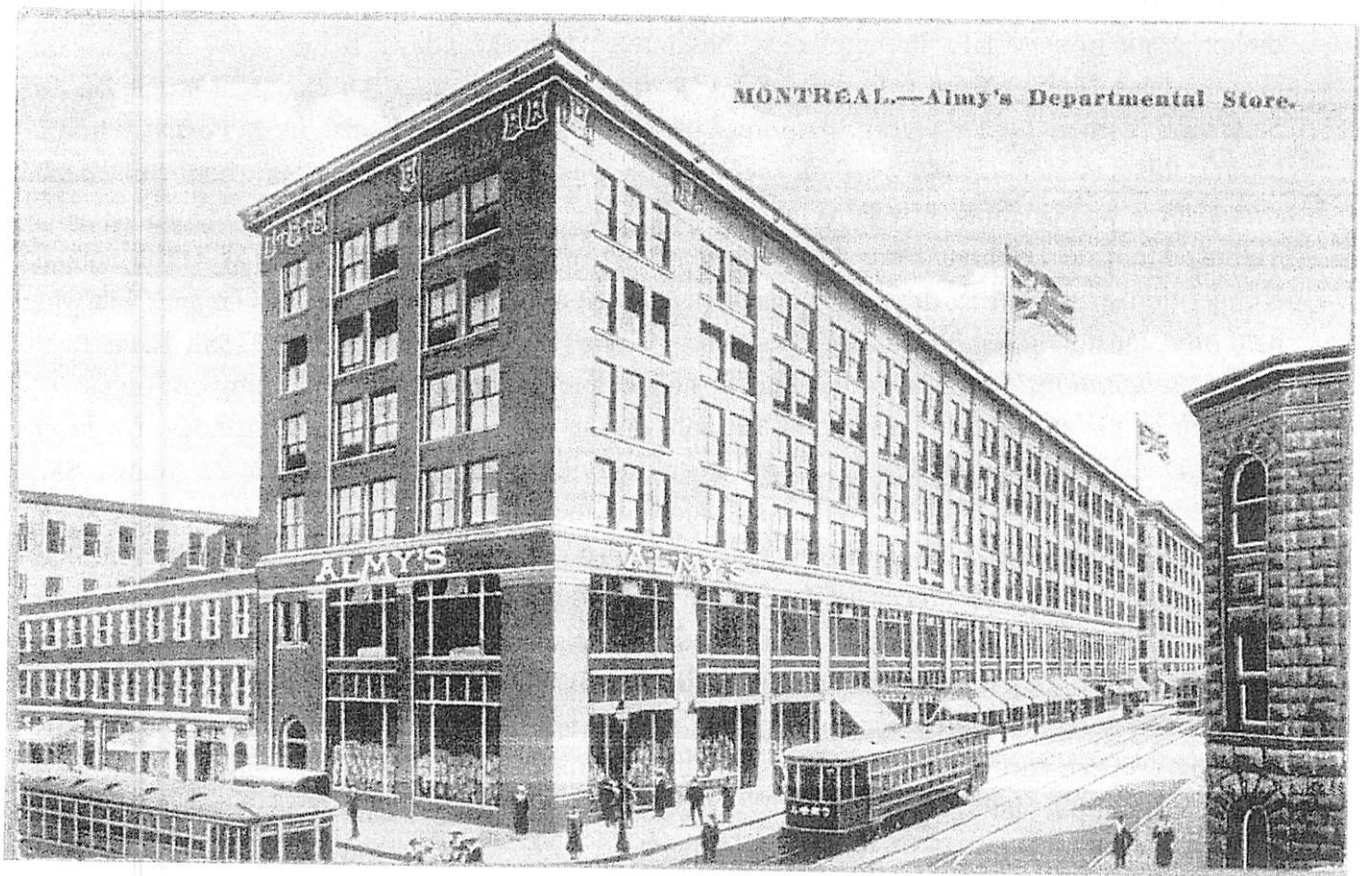
La Revue de Salem

Volume XIV, Numéro 3

ISSN 1932-3026

décembre 2012

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



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

Cover Photo: Almy's, a fixture in downtown Salem for 127 years, once operated Montréal's largest department store, seen here. (Article begins on page 44).

News

The 21-acre Lebel's Grove, a popular summer retreat, was sold to the Town of Danvers in June. *Des beaux souvenirs!* • Jonathan Lausier was among those of Ste-Anne's Boy Scout Troop 83 who attained the rank of Eagle Scout. *Félicitations!* • Lt. André Ouellette retired from the Salem Police Department in July after 38 years of service. He, along with Paul LeBlanc, Peter Garrette, and Robert St-Pierre, were known as the "French Connection". *Bonne retraite!* • The French radio program from M.I.T., French Toast, has moved from Mondays. It may now be heard on Wednesday mornings from 6 to 8 at 88.1 FM. *Il faut écouter ça!* • An excellent article on *La Sentinelle* written by Dr Georges-André Lussier (#184) was published in *LeForum*, Orono, Maine, this summer. *Un oeuvre bien recherché!* • Our annual French Mass in honor of *bonne sainte Anne* was celebrated by Père Dufour on 28 July. *Merci, mon père!* • Mme Omer (Hélène Talbot) Michaud celebrated her 100th birthday on August 3rd. *Meilleurs vœux!* • The annual competition sponsored by the Salem Beautification Committee and the Salem Garden Club was held on August 9th. First prizes were awarded to Claire (Bouchard) Bailey (#149) and Taché Real Estate. *Félicitations!* • Bernard's Jewelers hosted a three-day celebration beginning on August 9th in honor of its late founder, Raymond Tetrault, on the occasion of his 100th birthday. *Un beau souvenir!* • Diane Robichaud was featured in an interview in the Salem News on 22 August. She has tended to the games in the Willows Casino for the past 19 years. *Toujours le fun!* • Peter Jalbert was featured in the Salem News on 23 August. He has been building beautifully crafted dollhouses since 1955. *Un merveille!* • Our 4th annual summer celebration, *l'été en fête*, was held on Sunday August 26th. If you missed the festivities, plan to attend next year and meet your fellow members of the Franco-American Institute! *Toujours bienvenue!* • The large crucifix on the façade of St-Joseph's church was draped in black in August, prior to its removal to a retreat center in the western part of the state. *Adieu!* • The Marquis de Lafayette's 255th birthday was celebrated at Hamilton Hall on September 7th. *Club Richelieu* of Salem was among the sponsors. *Une belle fête!* • Salem received its first three police dogs in September. One was assigned to officer Jon Bédard. *Un bon chien!* • Edward Dumont, René Pelletier, and Roland Caron were among the eight Sylvania workers who were honored at the rededication of the WWII memorial on the grounds of Salem State University on September 17th. *Un honneur!* • The Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris will be celebrating the 850th anniversary of its founding during a Jubilee Year which begins on 12 December 2012. *La fête commence!* • **Donations received** include: Books (11), videos (10), and supplies from Dorothy Morneau (#107); books (9), CD, artifact, and file material from Nelson-L. Dionne (#2); books (6) from D.-Michel Michaud (#1); photos (2) from Rosemary-H. O'Brien (#9); photo from Orille-W. L'Heureux (#36); document from Jane Stauffer (#219); gift from John-M. Kobuszewski (#3). *Un grand merci à tous!*

Editorial

Petit dictionnaire de Noël

Many of us grew up learning words in French before knowing their English translations. This was especially true at Christmastime when tradition was so important to *mémère* and *pépère*.

Our "*Petit dictionnaire de Noël*" ("Little Christmas Dictionary") contains fifty words associated with Christmas. Read them and test your skills, use the words in conversation, teach them to your children and grandchildren, and enjoy *une belle fête de Noël comme autrefois!*

ange , <i>m.</i> , Angel.	gui , <i>m.</i> , Mistletoe.
arbre de Noël , <i>m.</i> , Christmas tree.	guirlande , <i>f.</i> , Garland.
avent , <i>m.</i> , Advent.	houx , <i>m.</i> , Holly.
bas , <i>m.</i> , Stocking.	jour de l'an , <i>m.</i> , New Year's day.
bonhomme de neige , <i>m.</i> , Snowman.	Joyeux Noël , <i>m.</i> , Merry Christmas.
boule de neige , <i>f.</i> , Snowball.	lait de poule , <i>m.</i> , Egg nog.
bûche de Noël , <i>f.</i> , Yule log.	lumières , <i>f. pl.</i> , Lights.
cadeau , <i>m.</i> , Gift.	lutin , <i>m.</i> Elf,
carte de Noël , <i>f.</i> , Christmas card.	messe de minuit , <i>f.</i> , Midnight Mass.
chandelle , <i>f.</i> , Candle.	neige , <i>f.</i> , Snow.
cheminée , <i>f.</i> , Chimney; mantel.	Noël , <i>m.</i> , Christmas; Christmas carol.
cheveux d'ange , <i>m.</i> , Angel hair.	papier d'emballage , <i>m.</i> , Wrapping paper.
cloche , <i>f.</i> , Bell.	patins , <i>m. pl.</i> , Skates.
coup , <i>m.</i> , A drink, nip.	Père Noël , <i>m.</i> , Santa Claus.
couronne , <i>f.</i> , Wreath.	rennes , <i>m. pl.</i> , Reindeer.
crèche , <i>f.</i> , Nativity display.	réveillon , <i>m.</i> , A midnight party.
décembre , <i>m.</i> , December.	rois , <i>m. pl.</i> , Kings.
dinde , <i>f.</i> , Turkey.	ruban , <i>m.</i> , Ribbon.
église , <i>f.</i> , Church.	sapin , <i>m.</i> , Fir tree.
Enfant-Jésus , <i>m.</i> , Child Jesus.	soirée , <i>f.</i> , An evening party.
étoile , <i>f.</i> , Star.	tarte au sucre , <i>f.</i> , Sugar pie.
fêtes , <i>f. pl.</i> , Holidays.	tempête de neige , <i>f.</i> , Snowstorm.
flocon de neige , <i>m.</i> , Snowflake.	tourtière , <i>f.</i> , Meat pie.
foyer , <i>m.</i> , Fireplace.	traîneau , <i>m.</i> , Sleigh.
glaçon , <i>m.</i> , Icicle.	veille de Noël , <i>f.</i> , Christmas eve.

Un joyeux Noël,

une bonne année,

et le paradis à la fin de vos jours!

Almy's Montréal Store

Almy's, Salem's oldest and largest department store, needs no lengthy introduction. Its tremendous popularity is well-known. But few may be aware that, at one time, it also operated the largest department store in the city of Montréal.

James Almy opened his first store here in Salem in 1858 when he was but 26 years of age. This retail space, located at 156 Essex Street, measured a mere 17 by 47 feet. Two years later, Almy's moved into the West Block at 188-196 Essex Street and eventually occupied its entire three stories. On the 50th anniversary of its founding it was hailed as Salem's oldest department store and the largest of its kind north of Boston.



The history of the Montréal store begins in 1878 when *Brouillet et Poirier* opened a small dry goods store at the corner of Sainte-Catherine and University Streets. Known as *G.-A. Brouillet et Cie*, the store was sold in 1883 to another dry goods merchant, William-H. Scroggie.

The store was enlarged for the new owner, first in 1892 and again in 1904. By this time, Scroggie's had become a "*grand magasin*", one of the first five to open on what had formerly been a residential street in the heart of the city. The success of the company was largely due to its "extensive mail order business", the largest east of Ontario, and the first to issue French-language catalogues in 1908. Forced to relocate in 1909, Scroggie's leased a two-story building at the corner of Satine-Catherine and Peel Streets while awaiting its new home.

A new building, called *l'édifice Belgo*, was under construction on Sainte-Catherine Street, between de Bleury and Saint-Alexandre Streets. The six-story building covered an entire city block, and was publicized as being "very large and very expensive". In November of 1913 Scroggie's entered into a nineteen and one-half year lease for the entire building. With five floors of retail space and the sixth devoted to its lucrative mail order department, it had succeeded in becoming Montréal's largest and most luxurious department store. But this success was to be short-lived. Expenses were high, competition was fierce, and failure was imminent. Within the year, Scroggie's was seeking a buyer for the business it had founded three decades earlier.

Almy's, now quite successful in Salem, purchased the Scoggie's concern in January of 1915. On January 30th of that year, the Salem Evening News announced that "Almy's Limited, the firm now in control of what was formerly known as the Scroggie store, will...reduce stock taken over, and so make additional room for the new line of goods which will shortly be introduced throughout." Its intended purpose was to offer "first-class merchandise at the lowest possible price."

On 5 March 1915, the Salem Evening News described at length the "spring fashion exposition" which was taking place in "Almy's Big Montreal Store". This was, no doubt, intended to boost sales in the Salem store by describing the latest styles. The event was an immediate success, as "hundreds of interested spectators thronged both sides of the roped-off promenade, which had to be extended further up the floor in order to give more people a chance to look on."

Almy's continued to operate Montréal's largest department store for seven years, despite ever-increasing competition in the newly-created shopping district. From 1915, and throughout the First World War, Almy's retained its lead among Montréal's retail establishments until it closed its doors in 1922. The company later expanded its chain of stores, operating as many as twenty-five stores at one time, but never again in Montréal.



The experience gained in Montréal was immeasurable. The Salem store continued to prosper, and Almy's now made greater efforts to attract a larger Franco-American clientele. Advertisements appeared in French in "*Le Courrier de Salem*" and in souvenir booklets. One such advertisement dating to 1939 lists no fewer than twenty-five French-speaking employees ready to serve its customers in the Salem store.

It was a great loss to the people of Salem when Almy's closed its doors on 17 March 1985 after 127 years. (Nineteen other stores still existed in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.) The Salem building was razed two years later, and only the antique clock on the pedestrian mall remains to mark the site. Yet, in Montréal, the great *edifice Belgo* at 350-390 rue Sainte-Catherine remains standing, once the site of a successful Salem enterprise in the heart of a French city.



Mais oui, madame, nous
avons chez Almy beaucoup de
commis français qui se feront un
plaisir de vous aider à choisir ce
que vous désirez pour vous-
même et pour votre famille.

A Votre Service, Madame--

Charles Marquis	C. Harrison
J. Bérubé	J. Nolan
E. St. Pierre	M. Labrie
J. La Rocque	E. Lowry Pannerton
G. Soucy	D. La Rocque
W. Odette	E. Julien
F. Sénéchal	I. Stacey
C. Jean	I. Labrecque
F. Bourque	Leo Nolette
A. Roberge	Joe Nolette
F. Madore	J. LeBlanc
F. Violette	C. Nolan
A. Bezilx	

ALMY'S DEPARTMENT STORE
ESSEX ST. - SALEM

Salem's Winter Carnival Champion

Many people around the world follow the Olympic Games with great enthusiasm. But for French-Canadians, nothing can compare to the *Carnaval d'hiver* or Winter Carnival. For a number of years, Salem's own Jules Lévesque was in the spotlight as a top athlete.

His parents, Jules Lévesque and Josephine Lapointe, were married at Saint-Arsène (Témiscouata) Québec on 25 November 1890. The couple settled in Salem, and their first child, Jules, was born in their Congress street home on 24 September 1891. Jules grew up in Salem, spending the first sixteen years of his life here. The family moved to Québec city in 1907, leaving many relatives and friends behind.

Jules Lévesque married Alice Dallaire (the daughter of Napoléon Dallaire and Emma Roberge) on the feast of Saint-Jean-Baptiste, 24 June 1913, in the church of Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Québec city. A more fitting date and place for a celebration could not have been chosen! The parish, the city, and the entire province was celebrating the *Saint-Jean* holiday with parades, fireworks, and numerous events. Jules first found employment as a telegraph operator with a brokerage firm, then began a lifelong career with the Canadian National Railroad. As an avid sports enthusiast, he took particular interest in Québec's famed Winter Carnival.

The first annual *Carnaval d'hiver* had opened in Montréal on 23 January 1883. It was later decided to move the carnival to Québec city, which had become known as the "Snow Capital", and the first games to be held there took place on 29 January 1894. These carnivals are as exciting for participants and spectators alike, and have only increased in popularity to the present day. Among the events are hockey tournaments and figure skating contests, canoe and snow shoe races, toboggan runs and sledding competitions, skiing, and the Dogsled Derby. There are also ice castles, sleigh rides, parades, fireworks, musical events, and much more.

Jules Lévesque held memberships in several athletic organizations in Québec where he won "several cups for winning walking and running races." But his special interest was in snow shoe racing, a sport in which he had become very proficient. In fact, he was the founder and first president of the *Club Montcalm*, an "exclusive" snow shoe club in Québec city. Lévesque was the winner of Québec's Winter Carnival snow shoe race in both 1928 and 1929. On 9 February 1930 he made record time, finishing the three-mile course in 31 minutes and 20 seconds, coming in first in a field of 25 entries. The two-foot high trophy which he was awarded became his permanent property since this was his third successive win. It was added to the 32 cups and trophies which he had won to date.

Jules and Alice (Dallaire) Lévesque were the parents of four sons, all sports enthusiasts: Pierre, Fernand, Rév. Paul, and Rév. René Lévesque. On 1 October 1968, Jules Lévesque died at his home in Québec city at the age of 77 years. He is remembered as the Salem-born champion of Québec's *Carnaval d'hiver*.

Professor J.-N.-A. Beaudry (1863-1912)

A century ago, residents of Salem were stunned to hear of the sudden death of one of their most talented musicians.

Joseph-Napoléon-Arthur Beaudry was born in Montréal on 18 June 1863, the son of Julien Beaudry and Eucharistie Hurteau. He began his musical training at an early age, graduating from *l'École Jacques-Cartier* in 1879. He was first employed as a bookkeeper and accountant in a mercantile establishment but, after two years, turned his attention to music.

Professor Beaudry opened his own studio for teaching piano and voice, and was named tenor soloist at Montréal's Jesuit church, *Le Gesù*. He was then appointed choirmaster of Ste-Brigide in Montréal (1885-1887), and organist and choirmaster of Sainte-Thérèse-de-Blainville (1887-1890), just north of the city.

Père Joseph-O. Gadoury (1851-1904) had been a parish priest in Montréal before coming to St-Joseph's, Salem, in 1885, and was well acquainted with Professor Beaudry. In 1888, he had purchased the large concert organ from Mechanic Hall for Saint-Joseph's church. Now, he wanted Professor Beaudry as his organist.

Joseph Beaudry had married Emma Dupré in the church at Sorel on 27 October 1886. After lengthy discussions, the couple agreed to come to Salem, arriving on 27 August 1890. After serving for seven years as organist and choir-master of St-Joseph's, the Salem Evening News of 26 June 1897 published the following account:

A thorough musician and master of the organ and piano, as well as an exceptionally fine singer, Mr. Beaudry's ability was soon recognized, and but few musical events of note have taken place in this city in which he has not participated, usually without any monetary compensation.



ARTHUR BEAUDRY,
Directeur de musique.

The choir at St. Joseph's, under his instruction, has for years been recognized as one of the best organizations in the city. During his residence in this city he has taught music successfully, and has found time to assist in taking the school census for six years, and last year began the canvas for the municipal birth census, which he also attended to this year, to the satisfaction of the municipal authorities. Since 1891 he has assisted in the work of compiling the Naumkeag directory by taking the record in South Salem.

An earnest member of the societies of St. Joseph and St. John the Baptist, he has for years held the position of recording secretary in the [latter].

The same article brought with it a note of sadness:

Joseph N. A. Beaudry has accepted a flattering offer to return to Canada and assume the management of the local

agency at Sorel, P.Q., of the Sincennes-McNaughton tug line, of which his father-in-law, [François] Dupre, is vice-president and general manager.

He will officiate tomorrow for the last time at St. Joseph's, and will leave Salem next Saturday for his new home, taking with him the best wishes of a host of friends who have learned to appreciate him highly during his stay in this city.

Professor Beaudry stayed with the Sincennes-McNaughton company for six years. This was "a large concern, owning and operating 20 tow-boats...where the receipts of the company passed through his hands, aggregating \$500,000 a year." Yet, despite such a lucrative position, the young professor longed for a career in music among the people of Salem.

In 1903, Professor Beaudry returned and resumed his position at St-Joseph's where he was "warmly welcomed". He was then called "a general favorite, socially, with all who knew him and is a recognized leader among the French-Canadian people of Salem. He devotes his spare time to...anything that interests or benefits the people of his nationality."

On the evening of 31 October 1912, Professor Beaudry died suddenly at his home, 22 Willow Avenue, after a few days' illness. He was but 49 years of age, and had spent 16 years of his life here in Salem. He left a widow, Emma, and four young children: Cécile, Lucienne, Armand, and five-week-old Mariette. (Mariette, a daily communicant of St-Joseph's and an avid sports fan, was well-known to Salem residents. She died on 17 February 2008 at the age of 95.)

Professor Beaudry was described as a fine tenor, a skillful organist, a musician of excellence, a tireless worker, and a social favorite. A century after his death, he is remembered as a leader of Salem's Franco-American community, one who left us too soon.

Vive le vent

Air: "Jingle Bells"

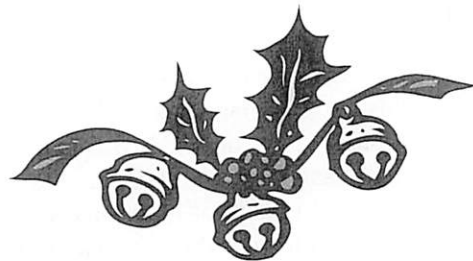
Sur le long chemin,
tout blanc de neige blanche,
un vieux monsieur s'avance
avec sa canne dans la main.

Et tout là-haut le vent
qui siffle dans les branches
lui souffle la romance
qu'il chantaient petits enfants:

Refrain:

Oh! Vive le vent, vive le vent,
vive le vent d'hiver,
qui s'en va sifflant, soufflant
dans les grands sapins verts.

Oh! Vive le temps, vive le temps,
vive le temps d'hiver,
boule de neige et jour de l'An
et "Bonne Année" grand'mère!



The Cocoanut Grove

Seventy years have passed since the tragic Cocoanut Grove fire, the worst in Boston's history. One of its unfortunate victims was a popular young woman from Salem's Franco-American community.

Béatrice Dufour was born at 9 Congress Street, Salem, in 1914. She was the second of three children born to Léopold Dufour, a native of Plessisville, Québec, and Marie Lafleur, of Ottawa, Ontario. In 1936, Béatrice married Charles Conway. The couple made their home at 12 Hancock Street, Salem, with their infant daughter, Mary.



In November of 1942, Béatrice was invited to attend the grand reopening of Boston's famed Cocoanut Grove nightclub, which was scheduled for Saturday evening the 28th at 10:15 P.M. Located at 17 Piedmont Street, the opulent showplace was called the 'rendez-vous of the élite', and had the reputation of hosting top entertainers such as Rudy Vallée, Guy Lombardo, and other well-known performers of the era.

Above the spacious dance floor and Boston's largest bar, the lighted ceiling was lined in dark blue satin, giving the "illusion of the heavens on a starry night". The effect was called "luxurious and breathtaking". Seven large silver-tipped cocoanut palm trees added glamour to the enormous ballroom. The new adjoining Broadway Lounge would open on the same night, and the popular and intimate Melody Lounge in the basement had been entirely redecorated for the occasion.

This was the Thanksgiving weekend, and a full house was expected. There was a reservation for a post-game celebration following the football game between Boston College and Holy Cross. Among the invited guests were Boston Mayor Maurice-J. Tobin and Boston Fire Commissioner William-Arthur Reilly. Although the space had been significantly enlarged, the nightclub had not yet received a new occupancy permit. It had been licensed for a maximum capacity of 460 guests, but the crowd attending this gala evening was estimated to be between 1,000 and 1,200.

Downstairs in the dimly-lit Melody Lounge, entertainment began shortly after 10:00 P.M. Some 250 to 400 guests listened as the orchestra began with a new song, "White Christmas". Then, near 10:15, a "small fire" was detected in a decorative palm tree in a darkened corner. The fire quickly rose to the satin ceiling, spread throughout the lounge, flashed up the stairwell, and filled the main dining room. Within seven minutes, the new Cocoanut Grove was entirely engulfed in flames. Escape was possible through only two of the nine exits, the others having been locked or concealed. Most attempted to escape through the main entrance, a revolving door, which quickly became jammed under the pressure of the crowd. By 10:45 the fire was out and the magnitude of the devastation became apparent.

The death toll reached 490, and another 166 were hospitalized with injuries. The most seriously injured of the survivors was not released until one year later. Among the long list of casualties

was Salem's Béatrice (Dufour) Conway, a young wife and mother, but 28 years of age. Her funeral Mass was offered at St-Joseph's church on Wednesday December 2nd, and she was buried in St. Mary's cemetery.

The December issue of the Naumkeag Mills newsletter, the "Pequot Shield", noted that she was the "Mill's only casualty in that dreadful Saturday night fire at the Cocoonut Grove. We miss her and will never forget her always-ready smile."

□ □ □

Soeur Marie-Ambroise, O.P. (1892-1981)

Christmas Eve of 1892 was the coldest on record. The thermometer had registered only 2° at five o'clock that morning, and newspapers noted that "everybody felt the sting of the frigid wave" which was to last for several days. It was on this icy Christmas Eve, in a home at 15 Maple Street in Somerville, that Elena Stanger was born.

When Elena was but nine months old, her father Anthony died at the age of 32. The six children were then placed in orphanages: George, 12, Annie, 10, Mabel, 8, Walter, 6, Edward, 3, and Elena, 9 months. One year later, their mother Annie died at the age of 34.



Elena, at 18 months, was adopted by Joseph and Hélène (Plourde) Lavoie of 10 Cleveland Street, Salem. These were "good people without children" who found a "charming and pretty little girl [who] conquered their hearts". They gave her the name Eva Lavoie. She grew up knowing that she had been adopted, but knew nothing of her family. From her home she witnessed the building of Ste-Anne's church in 1900, and was in the first classes to receive First Communion and Confirmation in the new parish.

One of her greatest joys came when she was twenty years of age. *Le Courrier de Salem* of 7 October 1913 describes the event:

Several weeks ago a young girl of about 28 years of age introduced herself at the rectory of Ste-Anne's at Castle Hill and asked the pastor, Fr. Peltier, if he did not know of a young girl of his parish who had been raised by a Lavoie family. The pastor responded affirmatively and, after having learned the name and the story of the stranger, promised a meeting in his rectory with her whom she wished to see. The meeting took place. Miss [Eva] Lavoie then learned the history of her family in the very words of the visitor, who was none other than her sister Mabel. It was the eldest, George, who, having grown up and remembering his brothers and sisters very well, began the research which culminated in the happy result which we now know: three brothers and three sisters, separated in

their early years, and reunited after twenty years of separation. Miss [Eva] Lavoie has, since this time, visited her brothers and her sisters, and we can more easily imagine than describe the great joys of these fraternal reunions. (*trans.*)

Two years later, after having attended a retreat given by the Dominican Fathers in Salem, Eva Lavoie decided to become a Religious Sister. She entered the convent of the Dominican Sisters of Sainte-Catherine of Siena in Fall River on 23 October 1915, donned the habit the following May, and pronounced her final vows in August of 1921 as Soeur Marie-Ambroise, O.P.

Her life was one of studying and teaching. She studied at Providence College in Rhode Island, at St-Michael's in Winooski, Vermont, and at the Catholic University in Washington, D.C., attaining her B.A. and M.A. degrees. She taught briefly at Ste-Anne's School in Fall River, spent one year at a Mission in North Dakota, and was Mother Superior of St-Peter's Convent in Plattsburg, New York for six years. Except for these brief assignments, her entire life was dedicated to teaching at the Dominican Academy in Fall River, and residing at the Mother House where she assumed the duties of Sacristan, Sub-Mistress of Novices, Sub-Prioress, and member of the Generalate. Soeur Marie-Ambroise lived to celebrate her Golden Jubilee in 1967 and her Diamond Jubilee in 1977. She died on the night of 28 August 1981 at the age of 88. Her funeral Mass took place in Ste-Anne's church, Fall River, and she was buried in Notre-Dame cemetery.

Soeur Marie-Ambroise was a member of *l'Association des Professeurs franco-américains*, and was a most competent French teacher. For 24 years she was a member of *Le Cercle Littéraire*, a French Literature study club of Fall River women, and served as its president from 1957 to 1969. She received an award from *l'Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste-d'Amérique* in May of 1965 "in recognition of her contribution to the spread of French culture in New England."

Orphaned at a young age, Elena Stanger never knew her German father and Irish mother. She was raised as a young French girl, as Eva Lavoie of Salem. And as Soeur Marie-Ambroise, she is always remembered as one who "communicated her enthusiasm and knowledge about French culture to others."

□ □ □

Genealogies

Our members Léon and Jeannette (Soucy) Massé (#192) were born in Salem a century ago, Léon on 19 April 1913, and Jeannette on 2 February 1912. They were married in St-Alphonse church, Beverly, on 29 June 1935, and have lived in their Salem home since 1939. We offer them our sincerest congratulations and wish them many more years of happiness!

Souhails sincères pour nombreuses années de joies!

Massé

Richard Massé & Jeanne Jardin
of Bacilly, Avranches (Normandie), France

- I François Massé & Marthe Paradis (Guillaume & Jeanne Hudon-Beaulieu)
Rivière-Ouelle, 12 Jan 1745
- II Louis Massé & Madeleine Miville-Deschênes (Jean & Élisabeth Beaudet)
Rivière-Ouelle, 23 Jan 1775
- III Louis Massé & Thérèse Eschemback (André & Geneviève Denault)
Rivière-Ouelle, 21 Oct 1805
- IV Bernard Massé & Angélique Guénette (Gabriel & Angélique Pelchat)
Beaumont, 19 Jun 1838
- V Wilfrid Massé & Eugénie Deschênes (Jean-Baptiste & Susanne St-Laurent)
Trois-Pistoles, 8 Jan 1878
- VI Edmond Massé & Bruna Nadeau (François-Xavier & Georgianna Simard)
Salem, MA, 2 Sep 1912
- VII Léon Massé & Jeannette Soucy (Joseph & Catherine Michaud)
Beverly, MA, 29 Jun 1935

□ □ □

Soucy

Claude Soucy & Françoise DeVaime
of St-Wulfram, Abbéville (Picardie), France

- I Jean Soucy & Jeanne Savonnet (Jacques & Antoinette Babillette)
Île-d'Orléans, c.1670
- II Pierre Soucy & Élisabeth-Ursule Fouquereau (Urbain & Jeanne Rossignol)
Rivière-Ouelle, 13 Jan 1699
- III Joseph Soucy & Madeleine Mignier (Michel & Angélique Thibault)
Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, 7 Jan 1727
- IV André Soucy & Marie-Catherine Nadeau (Denis & Élisabeth LeRoy)
Kamouraska, 20 Jun 1758
- V André Soucy & Josephte Roy-Desjardins (Alexandre & Josephte Plourde)
Kamouraska, 19 Jan 1784
- VI Alexandre Soucy & Euphrosine Chassé (Sébastien & Théotiste Paradis)
St-André-de-Kamouraska, 25 Jun 1811
- VII Elzéar Soucy & Caroline Lebel (François & Adéline Plourde)
St-Arsène-de-Témiscouata, 13 Jan 1862
- VIII Joseph Soucy & Catherine Michaud (Charles & Marie Caron)
St-Épiphanie, 22 Sep 1896
- IX Jeannette Soucy & Léon Massé (Edmond & Bruna Nadeau)
Beverly, MA, 29 Jun 1935

First Marriages of St-Joseph's

Saint-Joseph's parish, Salem, was founded in May of 1873. Twenty-one marriages were performed here during the first year. The couples are listed below with their date of marriage. (Beneath the names of the bride and groom are their parents' names, and their date and place of marriage in Québec, when known.)

LEBEL, Anselme
Joseph & Marcelline Miville
6 Feb 1837 Trois-Pistoles

26 May 1873 FORTIN, Marie-Philomène
Jean & Rosalie Chouinard
1 Jul 1841 St-Jean-Port-Joli

LUSSIER, Clément
Damase & Euphémie Ledoux
10 Oct 1843 St-Damase

26 May 1873 RONDEAU, Marie
Louis & Adèle Boutin

LÉVESQUE, Georges
Pierre & Claire Peltier
24 Feb 1835 St-Roch-Aulnaies

27 May 1873 DROLET, Flore
Edouard & Emélie Michaud
3 Aug 1841, N.-D.-Québec

RACINE, Olivier
Bénoni & Zoé Larivée
23 Jun 1846 St-Damase

16 Jun 1873 THIBAUT, Josephine
Amable & Mathilde Lagarde
24 May 1841 Ste-Thérèse

FILTEAU, Jean-Baptiste
Louis & Basilisse

6 Jul 1873 L'ABBÉ, Philomène
René & Catherine Dion
16 Jul 1844 St-François

BOIS, Henri
Basile & Marie Castonguay
1 Sep 1840 Ste-Anne-Pocatière

21 Jul 1873 PINAULT, Desneiges
François & Clarisse Voyer
15 Apr 1849 Rimouski

TESSIER, Henri
Eusèbe & Adélaïde Dupont
7 Feb 1842 St-Damase

21 Jul 1873 VINCENT, Adolphine
Casimir & Denise Benoît
4 May 1847 Longueuil

GAZAILLE, Flavien
Paul & Charlotte Guertin
19 Sep 1831 St-Hyacinthe

28 Jul 1873 PARISEAU, Odile
Narcisse & Julie Chabot
20 Aug 1849 La Présentation

BONIN, Rémi
Antoine & Zoé Bourque
3 Feb 1846 St-Hyacinthe

8 Sep 1873 GUERTIN, Marianne
Louis & Julienne Burel
18 Aug 1840 Beloeil

COTÉ, Athanase Charles & Louise Harnois 8 Oct 1844 St-Charles	13 Oct 1873	FRÉCHETTE, Exilda Cyrille & Arzille Dion 9 Feb 1852 St-Hyacinthe
MARQUIS, Louis L'Ange & Émérence Pelletier 5 Feb 1849 Cacouna	17 Nov 1873	DESJARDINS, Josephine Paul & Léonore Boisbrillant 15 Aug 1843 Kamouraska
FORTIN, Thomas Thomas & Marguerite Noël 15 Nov 1853 St-Roch-Québec	16 Feb 1874	GAGNON, Laure Noël & Louise Voyer 23 Feb 1852 Bic
DECHESNE, Joseph Firmin & Solange Pelletier 17 Jul 1849 Ste-Anne-Pocatière	16 Feb 1874	MORENCY, Lydia Damase & Théodose Turcotte 26 Nov 1844 Trois-Pistoles
PARADIS, Georges Ambroise & Emélie Boucher 10 Feb 1829 Rivière-Ouelle	16 Feb 1874	JACOB, Léda François & Martine Bernier 21 Sep 1841 St-Jean-Chrys.
JULIEN, Charles Joseph & Louise Rousseau 18 Feb 1833 N.-D.-Québec	6 Apr 1874	CARON, Sara Antoine & Sara Chouinard 7 Feb 1853 St-Jean-Port-Joli
CORBIN, Grégoire Pierre & Marguerite Pelletier 26 Nov 1850 St-Roch-Aulnaies	11 Apr 1874	CHAREST, Delphine Joseph & Esther Dubois 15 Nov 1831 St-Nicolas
DEMERS, Alexandre Médard & Flavie Bourassa 9 Feb 1847 Laprairie	13 Apr 1874	CAISSE, Hermine Pierre & Marguerite Boucher 10 Oct 1842 St-Ambroise-K.
PLAMANDON, Télesphore Joseph & Élisabeth Cockran 21 Nov 1848 St-Roch-Québec	20 Apr 1874	MORENCY, Aglaé Damase & Théodose Turcotte 26 Nov 1844 Trois-Pistoles
JACQUES, Pierre Pierre & Angélique Fournier 19 Aug 1844 Percé	20 Apr 1874	MORENCY, Sédulie Damase & Théodose Turcotte 26 Nov 1844 Trois-Pistoles
LEBLANC, Eugène Cléophas & Marguerite Massé 18 Oct 1842 St-Pie	11 May 1874	PATENAUDE, Elmiere François
MAGNANT, Jean Thomas & Marie Binette 15 Jan 1850 Charlesbourg	13 May 1874	DULUDE, Clémence Jean-B. & Marie Mercier

Le Courrier de Salem

**Events of a century ago in Salem's Franco-American newspaper
January - April 1913**

Societies

- The Franco-American Chamber of Commerce will celebrate its 5th anniversary on 23 January. Henri Bourassa, regrettably, cannot attend.
- Amédée Coté has been elected president of the *Ligue de Sacré-Coeur*.
- Moïse Lavoie has been elected president of the *U.S.J.B.* in Salem. Joseph-U. Gagnon has been elected president of *les Artisans* in Salem.
- The *Cercle Lacordaire* has moved into the building of Denis Lévesque, 41 Harbor Street.

The Press

- A new linotype has been purchased in New York for *Le Courrier de Salem*.
- *Le Courrier de Salem* will now be published twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Fridays, beginning in April.

Politics

- The mayor has named Charles Maurais as inspector of fences for the city.
- Ubalde deGrandpré, delegate of the *Club démocratique franco-américain de la Nouvelle-Angleterre*, is attending the inauguration of president Woodrow Wilson in Washington, D.C.

People

- Albert Goddu of Roslyn Court has moved to Saskatchewan where his brothers reside.

Business

- Charles-J. Michaud announces the opening of his Lafayette Street Garage, 47 Lafayette Street.
- Georges Filion announces the opening of his jewelry and optical store in the *Cercle Veillot* building at 117 Lafayette Street.
- Mme Joseph Devoe announces the grand opening of her women's clothing shop at the corner of Essex and North Streets.
- Mlle Hélène Rioux has taken a position at the store of J.-C. Tourangeau, and will be available each evening and on Saturdays.
- Eusèbe Savoie has been appointed Canadian Manager of Almy's Salem store.
- *L'Almanach du Peuple* and *L'Almanach Franco-Américain* are available at Rousseau's store on Harbor Street.

Music

- There will be a *Matinée Musicale* in St-Joseph's Convent on Sunday afternoon March 28th to benefit the new St-Joseph's church.
- Mlle Julia Perron, a student at the Boston Conservatory of Music, offers piano lessons at her home, 47 Prince Street. Joseph Blaquièrre offers lessons at 269 Jefferson Avenue.

Entertainment

- A scéance, "Le jour de l'an chez madame Durand", under the direction of the Sisters of Ste-Chrétienne, will be given at St-Joseph's in honor of Père Rainville.
- The *Troupe Paul Marcel* of France will appear in Salem on January 9th, with special guest, Georges Dumestre.
- The annual *Kermesse* will be held in the St-Jean-Baptiste Hall from January 11th through the 25th. Tickets are .15¢ for the day, or .75¢ for the season.
- The *Cercle Lacordaire* will sponsor a whist party in the Cercle Veillot Hall on the Monday before Ash Wednesday.
- A fighting match between U.S. champion Ulric Dionne and New England champion Fred Gilbert will take place in the Cercle Veillot Hall on March 14th.
- Cléophas Boucher is performing in Boston and New York with the Herbert Brothers troupes.
- A *Partie de sucre d'érable* will be held in the Cercle Veillot Hall on April 27th. Entertainment will include an appearance by Salem's Arthur Guilmet, known in Vaudeville as Frenchie Valentine, who will appear as the mysterious cowboy.



Membership List

The following are the next ten 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.

- 211. HUDSON, Thérèse, 237 Jefferson Avenue, Salem, MA 01970-2836
- 212. JACQUES, Cécile, 3 Grant Road, Salem, MA 01970-4418
- 213. JEAN, Pauline-M., 4 G Pioneer Terrace, Salem, MA 01970-5562
- 214. HARVEY, Richard, 8 Holly Street, Salem, MA 01970-4611
- 215. THÉRIAULT, Robert, 46 Hidden Road, Methuen, MA 01844-1845
- 216. BERNIER, Thérèse-G., 134 Augustus Street, Revere, MA 02151-1810
- 217. LeBRUN, Élizabéth-M., 201 Central Street #11, Georgetown, MA 01833-2419
- 218. QUINN, Susan-M., 65 Atkins Avenue, Lynn, MA 01904-2379
- 219. STAUFFER, Jane, 28 Beckford Street, Salem, MA 01970-3239
- 220. SCHROEDER, Mary Ann, 71 Auburn Road, Londonderry, NH 03053-2232

Faites connaître le F.A.I.S.: Invitez vos amis à s'inscrire!

Promote the F.A.I.S.: Invite your friends to join!

Traditions

No. 13: “La Guignolée”

D.-Michel Michaud, #1

The welcoming of the new year was a great celebration for our ancestors. The festivities began on the eve (“*la veille*”), continued throughout the night (“*le réveillon*”), and concluded on New Year’s day itself (“*le jour de l’an*”). The house was filled with family and friends for what was often the largest gathering of the year. There was food and drink, singing and dancing, and animated conversation. All were overjoyed to share the occasion together.

One very ancient tradition, brought from France in the 17th century, was called “*la guignolée*”. The term is a contraction of the words “*gui*” (mistletoe) and “*nouvelle année*” (new year). *La guignolée* was, essentially, a collection for the poor, an obligation to be fulfilled before all others, in order to assure a happy new year.

A small band of hale and hardy villagers, often young men and children, gathered at nightfall on New Year’s Eve. They dressed warmly, taking with them long walking sticks adorned with sleigh bells, and large empty sacks to receive contributions of all kinds. Oftentimes, a horse-drawn sleigh was on hand to take the group the long distance from house to house.

The travelers began their tour of the village. As they approached each home, they sang out the traditional carol (see page 59) with all the vitality they could muster, beating their jingling walking sticks in rhythm with the music, and creating a joyful noise as they neared the doorstep. The master of the house would exclaim “*Voilà la guignolée*”, and would rush to the door to invite them inside for warmth and a sharing of food and drink.

After a short stay, the visitors were offered donations for the poor – a piece of pork, fruit preserves, canned vegetables, cakes or breads, homemade soap or candle, a knitted scarf or hand-made toy, perhaps even a few coins – anything that would bring joy to the neediest of families as the new year approached. Occasionally, one would claim to have nothing to give, and the visitors would threaten to kidnap the master’s daughter! But, this was all in fun and the threat was never carried out. Donations were received, and the visitors continued on their way.

Today, *la guignolée* exists in some form in many parts of French Canada. In larger cities such as Montréal, volunteers in colorful costume sing the traditional carol on street corners, collecting coins for a central agency which provides meals for the poor. The collection continues throughout the month of December.

The ancient New Year’s Eve tradition of *la guignolée* is one filled with merriment and purpose. It is a celebration of generosity. There is perhaps no better way to share an overflowing of joy as a new year begins.

Our traditions: a heritage worth remembering!


Décès

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

Tracy ALLAIN, 40 ans, 10 juillet 2012 • Louise-A. (LeDuc) BAEZ, 64 ans, 11 juillet 2012 • Yvonne-B. (Laporte) BANVILLE, 90 ans, 31 juillet 2012 • Thérèse-Anne (Lévesque) BAXTER, 59 ans, 21 août 2012 • Doris-A. (Thériault) BEAUREGARD, 88 ans, 3 août 2012 • Paul-W. BEAUSOLEIL, 58 ans, 23 juin 2012 • Thérèse (Bourgeois) BEKERITIS, 80 ans, 27 août 2012 • Thérèse-F. BELLEAU, 86 ans, 27 juin 2012 • David-A. BILODEAU, 22 juillet 2012 • Raymond-R. BLANCHARD, 59 ans, 2 juin 2012 • Joanne-M. (Krzyszinski) BOULEY, 68 ans, 25 juillet 2012 • Bradford-J. BRUSSO, 69 ans, 28 juillet 2012 • Arthur-J. CHARETTE, 93 ans, 29 juin 2012 • Willie CHOUINARD, 56 ans, 22 août 2012 • Barbara-M. (St-Jean) CHRISTENSEN, 83 ans, 8 août 2012 • Arthur CORMIER, 87 ans, 6 juillet 2012 • Edward-E. COTÉ, 93 ans, 26 juin 2012 • Lucille-A. (Rivard) DESCHÊNE, 82 ans, 17 juillet 2012 • Dr Léonard-A. DUMAS, 73 ans, 13 juin 2012 • Gladys-R. (Sharrock) GAGNON, 93 ans, 30 juin 2012 • Esther-M. (Théberge) Houde, 90 ans, 11 septembre 2012 • Denise-R. (LeBrun) LANGLAIS, 89 ans, 10 août 2012 • Jeannette (Morneau) LANGUIRAND, 81 ans, 31 juillet 2012 • Barbara-Ann (Cook) LaPLANTE, 81 ans, 22 août 2012 • Barbara-Anne (Towner) LaPORTE, 30 juin 2012 • E.-Phyllis (Lévesque) LAPORTE-ARDULLAH, 85 ans, 15 janvier 2012 • Marie-L. (LeClair) LEBICZ, 87 ans, 30 septembre 2012 • Shirley-E. LeFLEUR, 85 ans, 30 juin 2012 • Léo-J. LEGAULT, 65 ans, 27 juillet 2012 • Michael-C. MADORE, 91 ans, 8 juillet 2012 • Lorraine (Lévesque) MARTIN, 84 ans, 6 juin 2012 • Suzanne-P. (LaMontagne) MATSUBARA, 64 ans, 13 septembre 2012 • Richard-Alphonse MATTON, 77 ans, 12 août 2012 • Bertha-L. (LeBlanc) MORIN, 91 ans, 3 août 2012 • Drusilla-M. (Macdonald) NADEAU, 92 ans, 10 juillet 2012 • Cécile-G. (Viel) NICASTRO, 91 ans, 11 août 2012 • Edmond PELLETIER, 77 ans, 18 août 2012 • Dillon-P. RENARD, 19 ans, 16 juin 2012 • Sarah-A. (Lipsett) ROCHELEAU, 90 ans, 12 juin 2012 • Shirley-Ann (Fuller) ST-PIERRE, 86 ans, 6 août 2012 • Thomas-A. ST-PIERRE, 33 ans, 16 septembre 2012 • Bertha-L. (Pelletier) SAUVAGEAU, 83 ans, 28 juillet 2012 • Paul-E. TACHÉ, 70 ans, 23 septembre 2012 • Lucien-E. THÉRIAULT, 93 ans, 2 août 2012 • Ann-M. (Tremblay) THOMPSON, 59 ans, 16 septembre 2012 • Doris-M. (LeClerc) TREMBLAY, 81 ans, 9 août 2012 •

Nous nous souviendrons d'eux

La Guignolée



Bon-jour au maître et la maît-res-se Et tout le monde de la mai-son

Pour le der-nier jour de l'an-née La Guig-no-lée vous nous de-vez

Si vous vou-lez bien nous don-ner Di-tes-nous le ———

On em-men-e-ra seul-e-ment La fille aî-née ———

On lui fe-ra faire bon-ne chê-re On lui fe-ra chauff-fer les pieds

On vous de-man-de seul-e-ment U-ne chig-née ———

De vingt à vingt-deux pieds de long Si vous vou-lez ———

La Guig-no-lée la guig-no-lo-che Met-tez du lard de-dans nos poches

Quand nous fumes au mi-lieu de bois Nous fumes à l'om-bre

Chantes a-mi chan-te le cou-cou et la col-om-be

Ros-sig-no-let du vert bo-ca-ge Ros-sig-no-let du bois jo-li

Et va donc dire à ma maî-tres-se Que je me meurt pour ses beaux yeux

Tou-te fille qui n'as pas d'a-mant Com-ment vit-el - le?

Elle vit tou-jours en sou-pi-rant Et tou-jours veil-le.

[La Guig-no-lée la guig-no-lo-che Met-tez du lard de-dans nos poches!]

La Revue de Salem

La Revue de Salem, founded in 1999, is the official journal of the Franco-American Institute of Salem, and is published in April, August, and December. No material from this publication may be reproduced in any manner without the express written permission of the Franco-American Institute of Salem. The deadline for material to be included in the journal is the first of the second preceding month (April issue closes February 1 and is published on March 1).

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Vol. 14 No. 3 December 2012 Contents

News.....	42
Petit dictionnaire de Noël.....	43
Almy's Montréal Store.....	44
Salem's Winter Carnival Champion...	46
Professor J.-N.-A. Beaudry.....	47
"Vive le vent".....	48
The Cocoanut Grove.....	49
Soeur Marie-Ambroise, O.P.....	50
Genealogies.....	51
First Marriages of St-Joseph's.....	53
Le Courrier de Salem (1913).....	55
Membership List.....	56
La Guignolée.....	57
Décès.....	58
Chanson: "La Guignolée".....	59

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

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Il nous fera plaisir de vous servir en français.

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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 2013 will be held at 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA on 19 May and 22 September at 4:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.