



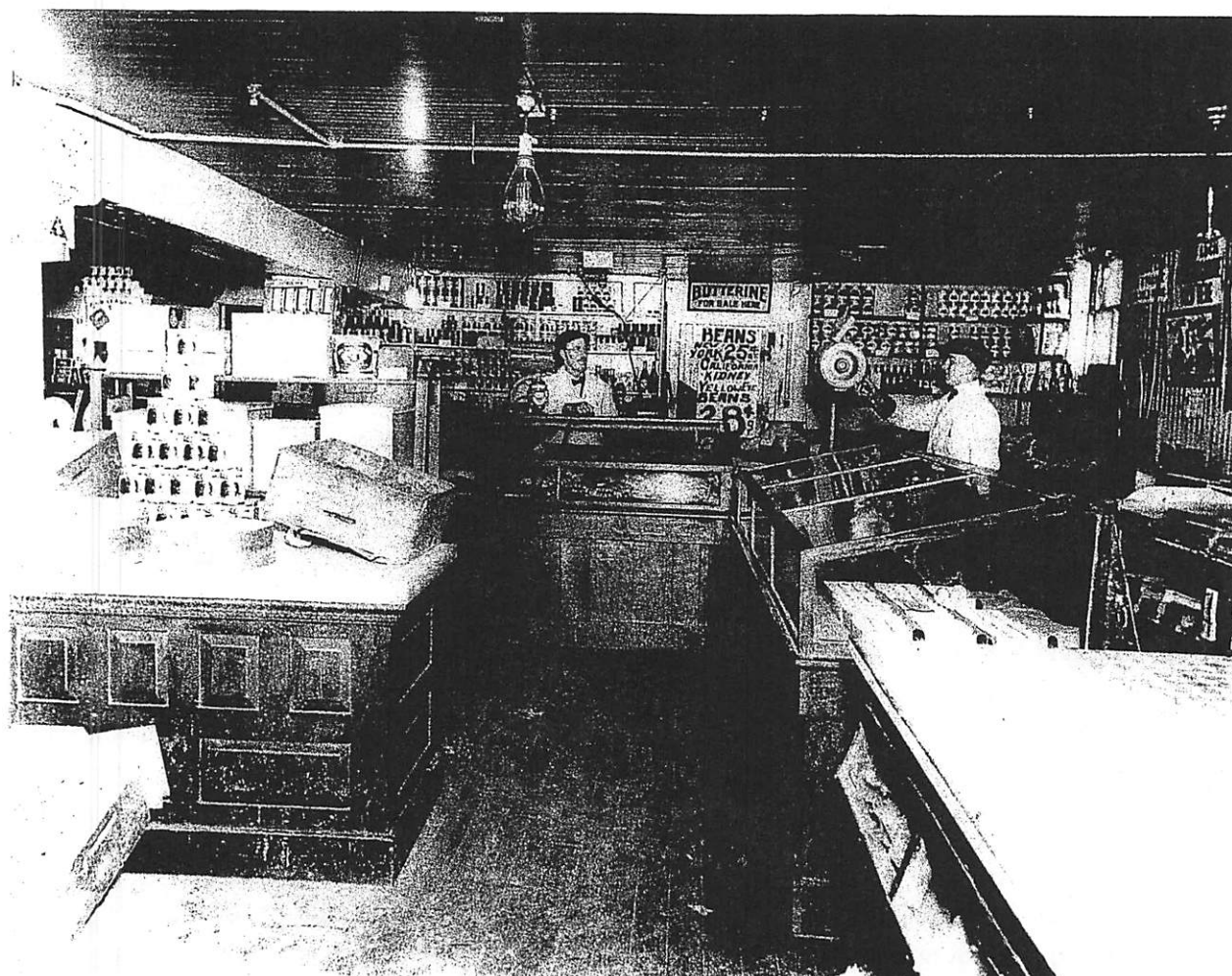
La Revue de Salem

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



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

Cover Photo: The interior of the Subway Market as it appeared in 1912. Elphège L'Heureux is ready to greet customers behind the center case, while his son Orille stands at the counter to the right. For another photo, see page 13 (Article begins on page 7).

News

L'Académie St-Joseph Class of 1962 held its 50th reunion at the Danversport Yacht Club in September. *Une grande fête!* • Mike Gauthier went to Mesquite, Nevada in October where he competed in his third World Long Drive Golf Championship. *Bonne chance!* • Rita (Pelletier) Labrecque was presented with a flag in honor of her brother, Adrien, who was killed in World War II and is buried in France. *Un honneur.* • Eve LaPlante is the author of two new books published in November by Free Press (Simon & Shuster): "Marmee & Louisa" and "My Heart is Boundless". *Bravo!* • Actress Helen Hunt portrays Salem native, Cheryl (Thériault) Cohen-Greene in the movie "The Sessions" which was released this past fall. *L'avez-vous vu?* • the Friends of the Salem Council on Aging helped raise \$11,000 for a new passenger van. Andrew-J. LaPointe is president of the Friends, and John Sauvageau is Transportation Coordinator of the Council. *Un beau cadeau!* • Sixty-five local veterans received the City of Salem Wartime Service Medal on Veterans' Day. Among those honored by Commander Roger Léger was our own member, Orille L'Heureux (#36). *Félicitations!* • Paul Caron has been appointed head baseball coach at Salem High School. *Hourra!* • *Club Richelieu Salem* presented the Boys and Girls Club with a donation of \$3,000 at its annual holiday gathering. *Joyeux Noël!* • Randy Thériault was among those who received the "Firefighter of the Year" award from Governor Patrick on December 18th. *Bravo!* • Saint-Joseph's church is no more. Demolition of the convent began on December 19th, and the church on January 9th. *Sacrilège!* • William Legault was appointed Salem City Councilor on January 8th, after an unprecedented 302 votes. *Enfin, victoire!* • Congratulations to our member, Père Wilfred-K. Harvey, o.m.i. (#151), who celebrated his 50th anniversary of priesthood. The Salem native was ordained in Rome on 9 March 1963. *Ad multos annos!* •

Donations received include: books (7 volumes) from D.-Michel Michaud (#1); yearbook and gift from J.-Armand Bergeron (#28); and gifts from John-M. Kobuszewski (#3), Rosemary-H. O'Brien (#9), Mary-J. Levasseur (#23), Constance Servizio (#66), Paul-K. Auger (#106), and Paul-A. Salvas (#109). *Un grand merci à tous!*

L'été en fête: Our annual get-together, *l'été en fête*, will be held on Sunday, August 25th. All members are welcome to attend. Save the date! Details will be in the August 2013 issue.

Editorial

Déjà quinze ans!

La Revue de Salem now begins its 15th year of publication!

The Franco-American Institute of Salem is honored to have a fine journal such as *La Revue de Salem* which makes our history known to the general public and preserves it for future generations. This journal is not only read by our members, but is on the shelves of a number of libraries both in the United States and in Canada!

As our Franco-American history is researched, fascinating discoveries come to light! We have already produced articles on a wide variety of subjects spanning many years. Yet, our history holds endless surprises, and we look forward to even more of these exciting accounts in future issues!

But without our loyal members, *La Revue de Salem* would not exist at all; our wonderful history would continue to remain hidden. So, this anniversary is truly a celebration of gratitude for each of our members who make this publication possible!

It is always a joy to read the encouraging comments of our members. Clearly, *La Revue de Salem* has instilled in each of us a sense of pride in our Franco-American heritage! Here are just a few of the comments we have received since the publication of our last issue:

"I really enjoyed the latest issue of *La Revue de Salem*!"

"Your *Petit dictionnaire de Noël* has inspired me to make a *tourtière*!"

"*Excellent travail, comme toujours. Mes félicitations.*"

La Revue de Salem "is quite impressive."

"Four-Star Magazine" * * * *

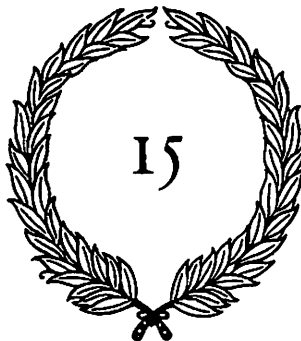
"...every issue, a good read."

"You help to enrich my heritage."

"Thank you for all you do."

"*Merci!*"

We extend our deepest gratitude to each and every one of our members and faithful readers as we enter our 15th year!



The Belleau family comes to America

The following account was written by the late Ernest-R. Belleau, Jr. (1915-2007), and first appeared in the New Hampshire Sunday News, Manchester, N.H., on 18 May 1997. We are grateful to his son, George-D. Belleau, for his kind permission to reprint the article in its entirety

My grandfather [Elzéar Belleau] decided to come to America after my aunt sent him a letter telling him that everyone was doing well here. She wrote that people would run out and pick up the gold that goes down the gutter – the words intended to lure my grandfather to the U.S.

Grandfather lived in St. Aubert, Canada, where he had three general stores which kept the family of 16 busy. He was the alderman, for which he received no pay, and also took care of church business.

Most of the Canadians had farms, and many did logging or worked in the paper mills. They worked long hours, from 5 in the morning to 6 in the evening, for very low wages. If you had a job, you were a king. If the man had a job, the women and children took care of the farm.

One of my grandmother's sisters had 29 children, 23 of whom were living. They all knew what their job was on the farm. Papa was the boss, leaving orders before he went to work. One group did the cooking, another did the washing by hand and another did the housework. The boys did the farming, tapping the trees for maple syrup. All my aunts knew how to boil down the maple syrup and jar it for the stores; this was a big business.

My grandfather always relished the sheet metal business – anything made of metal, he could make. He was a great all-around mechanic. Also, a good man, he supplied the priest with his clothes, food and spending money.

They sold molasses by the hog's head. They got lamb meat by the wagon load to be distributed to the three stores. They sold maple products and tools. They repaired and built wagons.

My grandmother had so many children that my grandfather kept a midwife at their home all the time. This was a must, although my grandmother was in excellent health.

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Every New Year's we all went to seek our blessings from our father and grandfather. We would kneel down in front of them and they would give us their blessings. We did the same for our children.

All the family came to visit. Always, there was food on the table. This was the French welcome – fill your tummy before you leave.

We always had a good time on New Year's Day. Every child in the family had to do something in front of all the relatives. Some played the piano or the guitar and many other instruments. We practiced in the summer to be good for New Year's celebration. The acting was done in the kitchen, but before the program we had sandwiches and pork pies and Gram would make a French pea soup. We always had fresh homemade bread – this was our pride and joy. The piano players would play all day and night.

After eating all day we would have dessert and to top off all the food we had corn on

the cob. My grandfather kept the corn wrapped in a damp cloth for two and a half months and the corn was just like you had picked it that day.

My Grandfather would make 55 gallons of elderberry wine every year in wooden kegs. Wine was in big bowls for you to dip your glass into.

Grandfather was very proud of his elderberry wine. We went out in teams to pick the elderberries for Gramp. He would keep them for three days in the basement; then they were washed and sugar added and left to ferment and then put into bottles. He gave one bottle to each family.

My grandmother was a little weak, but she lived to be 88 years old. She had one tablespoon of brandy three times a day for 30 years. She would make root beer and birch beer for all holidays.

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When my grandfather read the letter from relatives in Salem, Mass., telling him about the great USA, he started thinking about selling his business and equipment. He found buyers for his stores and real estate; he sold his wagons, horses and leather harnesses.

His aunt in Massachusetts wrote that she had rented a house for my grandfather's family when they arrived in the U.S. He told the children they'd be leaving by train, and to pack their clothes in rag bags. Their mother would make 20 gallons of French pea soup. One of the boys would bake 20 loaves of the large size bread and their mother would cook up corton pork spread to eat on the train. We drank water for our beverage.

The Elzéar Belleau clan took off for the United States, a trip my grandfather said was

the start of a new life. None of them, even my grandfather, had been on a train. The conductor came along and explained how we could turn our seats around to face one another and that we could use our knees as a table for our pot of pea soup.

We left Canada at around noon and were to arrive in Salem late the next day. Our first meal on the train was a dish of pea soup and Grandma's pork corton sandwich. The soup was cold but tasted good and the sandwich did it for all of us. For dessert we had bread custard pudding which was a great finish. After eating we all cleaned up and went to sleep, all but Grandpa – he was on guard.

The train would stop every so often to load up with fresh water and more firewood and the changing of engineers, conductors and others who operated the train with wonderful efficiency.

None of us stayed asleep. We dozed off and then got up and watched the wild country through the windows. Grandfather would point out moose and deer and beavers. As we went by, all the houses had their clothes lines full. You knew it was Monday because all the clothes were flying in the wind.

The conductor told us we should arrive in Salem at about 6 or 7 o'clock. He said it would still be light, and the weather would be nice and warm. He also assured us there would be many French people in Salem, and other parts of the state.

My Grandfather was a punctual man and he was sure his Bélanger family would see them on arrival in Salem. He had sent ahead to rent a place with an open basement, so he could open his shop.

The beautiful white horse that pulled our wagon never got excited during the entire

trip until we arrived in front of our new home and shop. Across the street was the Naumkeag Mills, operated on two shifts, 12 hours each and employing more than 4,000 people.

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My aunts noticed that the women had shorter skirts than they did. The Canadian skirts touched the ground; American skirts were just below the knee. The boys all wore knickers and long stockings folded down. Shoes were homemade and would last for years. My grandfather resoled all the shoes and gave all his boys hair cuts.

Grandfather had a midwife who brought all his children into the world. He kept them all healthy by giving them a tablespoon of molasses, dash of pepper and sulphur, which he believed would prevent any illness. When we turned 4 or 5 Gramp would have my mother make little cloth bags and insert camphor ice and close them with a string to hang around our necks. This he called "preventative medicine" – you had to report to Gramp if you lost your bag of camphor. Doctors were hard to come by in those days and we did not have the money to pay them for their services.

The new house had water and a sink in the kitchen, and a slate tub to wash clothes. Everyone was very happy with all the conveniences, inside bathroom and running water.

After a while we all got settled in our new home. Some of the boys made themselves beds in the basement shop and slept there. Gramp bought the Salem News every day to learn how to read English.

My grandmother was a very kind and gracious lady, a great church believer and very

honest. She always said indoor plumbing, [with] running water, was the greatest improvement. They had running water in Canada but, they had to run and get it by the bucket.

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My Grandfather started manufacturing smoke pipes and elbows for heaters. We were later awarded the contract to build the mud guards and running boards on Lafrance fire engines.

Belleau Metal Works operated for 80 years. I eventually ran the company, specializing in church renovations.

I always loved New Hampshire. I bought property on Great East Lake and built a summer home and fell in love with the area. I would return to New Hampshire and buy more land. Altogether I had at least 2,000 acres and no laws to interfere. I put a dam in and flooded an area about three miles, plus or minus, long, which made a beautiful lake. That's what can be done if you have the freedom.

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Editor's note: Ernest-R. Belleau, Jr. was a well-known entrepreneur, having developed numerous properties such as Belleau Road in Salem, MA and Belleau Lake in East Wakefield, NH. An avid traveler, he frequently gave accounts of his voyages to exotic places around the world. He was a member of the *Club Richelieu Salem*, and once served as Ambassador to Québec for the State of New Hampshire. Ernest-R. Belleau, Jr. died in Salem on 9 October 2007 at the age of 92. (For the genealogy of the Belleau family, see page 17 of this issue.)

The L'Heureux Family Markets

The fragrant aroma of pork pies, known as *tourtières*, is unmistakable! A century ago, these could be found baking in French-Canadian homes on a cold winter's day. In Salem, the pork very likely came from a market owned by a member of the L'Heureux family.

Isidore L'Heureux (1853-1930) and his brother Elphège (1868-1936) came from Roxton Falls (Shefford County) Québec, the sons of Gédéon and Marcelline (Authier) L'Heureux. Isidore was the first to settle in Salem, where he married Marguerite Labrie in 1876; Elphège arrived soon after, and married Malvina Lefebvre in 1894.

Isidore was working as a sausage maker for Glidden's, a market specializing in pork and hams at 62 Union Street, at least as early as 1890. In 1895, the market moved into the basement of the Market House in Derby Square where it was known as Glidden's Subway. When Glidden again relocated in 1900, Isidore remained in the Market House location and established his own meat market. An advertisement in the Salem City Directory of 1901 announced the "New" Subway Market with Isidore as proprietor:



The New Subway Market,
I. L'HEUREUX, Prop.
... Wholesale and Retail Dealer in ...
Frankfurt, Pork and Bologna SAUSAGES,
Pressed Ham and Pure Leaf Lard.
Beef, Pork, Lard, Ham, Tripe and Pigs' Feet.
Curer of Hams. Corned Beef and Hams
Cooked to Order.
Basement Market House, Derby Square, SALEM.

The Market House, built in 1816, was in the heart of Salem; Town Hall occupied the entire second floor. Dealers leased the first floor, and in the basement was the City Dining Room which advertised "meals at all hours." Vendors of meats, fish, poultry, produce, and other provisions filled the surrounding square with their wooden stalls on Friday evenings and all day on Saturdays until ten o'clock at night. Nearly "a hundred and fifty or more market teams are gathered in and about this place, presenting a lively and interesting sight. The surroundings of the Town Hall, are hotels, billiard halls, dining and liquor saloons." Constantly bustling with activity, this was a prime location for business.

Allez au New Subway. Sachez apprécier les bonnes viandes et les marchandises de première classe que vous offre M. Isidore L'Heureux propriétaire.

Le Courrier de Salem

30 mai 1907

Elphège had operated the market with his brother since its opening in 1900. When Isidore returned to Canada in 1908, he sold the business to his brother. Hours were long and business was brisk. But Elphège had a growing family, and each of his seven sons and two daughters found their first employment in *papa's* meat market. The children were Orille (1894-1979), Imelda

(1896-1986), Donat (1898-1962), Henri (1900-1957), Eva (1903-1987), Albert (1905-1969), Louis (1906-1954), Paul (1909-1975), and Gérard (1913-1997).

In 1911, after a three-year stay in Canada, Isidore returned to Salem where his brother continued to conduct a successful business. He leased a building at 22 Front Street at the foot of Derby Square and, with his son Raoul (1893-1978), opened a market known as Isidore L'Heureux & Son. Father and son operated the market for ten years which, in 1913, became known as Raoul L'Heureux Co. The business was sold to Joseph Dionne and Médard Barbeau in 1921 when Isidore again returned to Canada. Raoul remained in Salem and, in 1922, opened the Salem Public Market at 15 Front Street, which had formerly housed the Salem Police Station. Another move came in 1926 when Raoul opened Ray's Market at 12 Front Street with Patrick Gagnon as a partner. This market was sold to Gagnon in 1935, and to Émile Pelletier in 1948, before closing its doors in 1950. Raoul had also established the Ray Beef Company in Gloucester, Massachusetts in 1928. He retired from this wholesale meat business in 1959, and was succeeded by his son Raoul-I. (1916-1999) until his retirement in 1981.

Meanwhile Subway Market continued to prosper and Elphège soon found his sons establishing their own markets. Donat and Henri opened the L'Heureux Bros. City Meat Market at 31 Front Street in 1919. Donat, who would also own a market in Peabody in the 1930s, was succeeded by his son Lucien (1923-1979) from 1950 to its closing in 1953. As for Henri, he owned Henri's Market at 109½ Bridge Street from 1932 to 1936, with the help of his brother Louis as meat cutter. And in 1924, Orille established the Hawthorne Cash Market at 104 Essex Street, which he sold to Arthur St-Pierre in 1928.

Of course, the Subway Market remained the largest and most prosperous of all the L'Heureux markets. Through hard work, and with a good sense for business, Elphège was able to consider himself successful when his market celebrated its 25th anniversary. When the ten-year-old Lincoln Hotel came up for sale in 1926, Elphège and his son Donat purchased it for the sum of \$100,000.00! The brick structure, covering an entire block on Lafayette Street, boasted 66 rooms in the three upper stories, and seven stores on the ground level. The hotel remained in the family for 62 years, until its sale in 1988.

Elphège continued to operate the Subway Market, with his son Albert as manager. In 1929, L'Heureux purchased a registered Poland-China pig from an Illinois breeder, had it fattened to 800 pounds, and soon was able to display what was believed to be "one of the largest pigs ever displayed in a Salem market." Few other businesses could compete for publicity on such a grand scale!

More publicity came in early 1933, revealing how much conditions had deteriorated surrounding the city-owned Market House. On Tuesday evening, March 28th, Paul L'Heureux saw a "chip of wood" fall from overhead, but heard no noise. He went up the stairs and stepped out into the street, but "the square was deserted." As he was about to return inside, a bullet skimmed off his right shoulder, inflicting a wound. He sought medical attention at the offices of Dr Horace Poirier. Meanwhile, police investigated and later reported that "there has been a young man in a building opposite the market on some evenings who has been amusing himself by indulging in the practice of using the market place rats for a target."

A major blow came later in 1933 when the city of Salem evicted all tenants of the Market House. The building was slated for a complete renovation, and the entire structure was to be reserved for city offices. Elphège, now 65 years of age, sold the business to his son Paul and took his retirement. Paul relocated to 23 Front Street, directly across from the Market House, where the business continued to prosper. In 1937, Paul's youngest brother Gérard left the family business to open his own grocery store at 264 Washington Street opposite St-Joseph's church.

In May of 1962, advertisements heralded the "new" Subway Market, after major renovations created a bright, modern facility. In that same year, Orille-W. L'Heureux, the son of Orille and grandson of Elphège, purchased the North Shore Market at 95 Congress Street from Roger-A. Caron. Later known as the Multi-Save Super Market, its location in the Point was ideal for serving the Franco-American community.

Once again, the Subway Market was in peril. In 1972, the city of Salem again evicted its tenants, this time due to "Urban Renewal". The building at 23 Front Street was slated for a complete restoration by the Salem Redevelopment Authority. Paul L'Heureux closed the Subway Market, and an auctioneer was retained to sell the contents on 10 July 1972. Then, Paul joined his nephew Orille in the market on Congress Street. A decade later, in 1982, Orille L'Heureux sold the market which he had operated successfully for 20 years. Thus ended eight decades of Salem markets operated by *la famille L'Heureux*.



Monseigneur Mercier's Prophecy

Those who knew Monseigneur Arthur-Oza Mercier (1895-1966) are well aware of his tireless efforts on behalf of the Franco-American population. Immediately upon his arrival as pastor of Saint-Joseph's in 1948, he began to design a magnificent new church which would soon be called an architectural jewel of the city.

All were stunned when the Archdiocese of Boston announced that this thriving parish would be closed on 17 August 2004. Many proposals were suggested for the re-use of the church structure, such as a youth center, a senior center, an arts center, private housing, or retail space.

But when Saint-Joseph's was dedicated on 21 May 1950, the only threat to the future of the parish was that it could, one day, lose its French identity. Monseigneur Mercier then made a startling observation, one which today can be seen as prophetic. He was quoted in *Le Courrier de Salem* on 23 June 1950:

J'aimerais mieux, et Dieu m'en est témoin, voir notre belle église St-Joseph s'écrouler aujourd'hui si elle devait jamais devenir une église de langue anglaise.

As God is my witness, I would rather see our beautiful St-Joseph's church collapse in ruins today if it were ever to become an English-language church.

Happily, Saint-Joseph's church was never allowed to become something for which it was not intended; it remained a French National parish to the very end. Perhaps, when the steeple was toppled on 9 January 2013, Monseigneur Mercier's ultimate wish was granted.

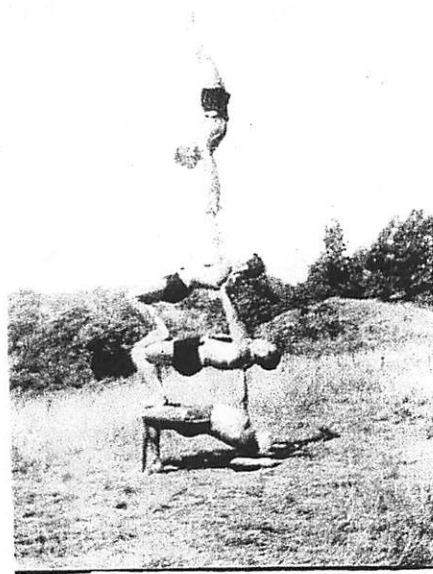
Les Frères Sauvageau

Throughout the 1930s, three young Salem natives performed acrobatic acts which captivated audiences across the country and in Canada as well.

Gaétan (1909-1996), Albert (1915-2006), and Joffre-Roméo (1917-2000) were three of the twelve children of Fidèle-V. and Roseanna (Toupin) Sauvageau. They joined the Salem Y.M.C.A. at an early age, and were coached by Jean-Pierre St-Laurent (1879-1960), a native of Rimouski. Under his guidance, they perfected their talents for juggling and acrobatics.

The three boys were enthusiastic, practicing their skills at every opportunity. The back yard of their home, situated at the foot of Leach Street on Salem Harbor, was an ideal location. At low tide, they constructed a high-wire prop, securing the stakes in the soft earth; at high tide, they were able to practice their routine above water. Soon, they were thrilling "Salem audiences and others".

Pierre St-Laurent had previously performed with the Normand juggling team in Québec. In early 1930, while participating in Québec's Winter Carnival, he negotiated a contract with Fred Normand. The Sauvageau Brothers would make their professional debut at the Théâtre Impérial in Québec City on Sunday 19 January 1930. This would be followed by numerous appearances at other venues during their three-week tour. The circuit was considered the "big time" in Canada, and gained for them a "high salary". Reports indicated a "successful opening for the team which is perhaps the youngest of its kind in New England". They were said to be "in a class by themselves."



Gaetan Sauvageau is the oldest of the group, being 20 years of age. He is a slack-wire artist of unusual ability. Climbing up a ladder balanced on the wire, and juggling articles while standing on the ladder, are outstanding in his repertoire of stunts. Albert Sauvageau, [14 years of age], compares favorably with his brother as a slack-wire artist, and in the act performs "double" work. Joffre Sauvageau, the youngest of the group, is but 12 years of age and performs on the unicycle.

Shortly after their return, the trio was booked for what was called "one of the most diversified programs yet presented at an annual exhibition of the Salem Y.M.C.A., scheduled for eight o'clock on 24 April 1930. On that day, the Salem Evening News printed the following account:

One of the feature acts will be the slack wire and unicycle number by the Sauvageau Brothers, Gaetan, Albert and Joffre. They have recently

returned from a tour of Canada on the vaudeville circuit. These young men have been members of the Y.M.C.A. for the past several years and have done much of their training under the supervision of Pierre St. Laurent, local business man, himself a well-known performer to whom credit for much of their excellent work is due as he recognized the natural ability that the boys possessed and gave generously of his time in helping them to cultivate it through his coaching.

Gaetan and Albert appear on the slack wire in double and single work. Gaetan, who has been practicing only a few seasons, is already duplicating the work of some of the old masters at this game while his younger brother, Albert, is already an accomplished performer.

On the unicycle, Joffre gives one the impression that riding the single wheel is as easy as two, three, or even four wheels. He goes backwards, forward, stops, turns with apparent ease and in addition juggles and picks up objects from the floor and performs a series of tricks that would do credit to a performer twice his age.

Audiences recalled the "fine work" of the brothers from previous annual exhibitions of the Y.M.C.A. where they were always the "hit of the show", and they were called back to appear on 30 April 1931. The Salem Evening News of the previous day indicated that "not only have they got all of the regular stunts nicely polished up to give the audience a fine thrill", but in addition "they will offer something else quite different from anything yet seen at the exhibitions."

They are going to perform on the high perch, a slender pole about 17 feet long which has a small foot rest near the top. While Gaetan holds this pole in a socket attached at his waist, his younger brother Albert will climb to the top where he will perform several tricks including Indian club juggling.

Blindfold walking, picking objects from the wire with their teeth, juggling, climbing ladders, walking singly and in double combinations, foot to foot movements and foot to head style will be included in their routine...

The brothers were much in demand. A letter from the Melrose Y.M.C.A. dated March 11, 1932 invited the brothers to return for a third successive year, stating that "I am sure our circus would not be a success without the Sauvageau Brothers." Performances were held on Friday and Saturday nights, April 8th and 9th.

Shortly after, the brothers set off on a four-month tour which took them from New Jersey to Pacific Beach, California. Back in Salem, they performed for an annual gala sports night on December 19th which brought them numerous 'rounds of applause' by a "capacity crowd despite the rainy weather".

By the mid-1930s, the brothers were teaming up with well-known performers and were performing adagio dancing with stars such as Dorothy Darling. Under the auspices of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey, the Sauvageau Brothers appeared on stage at the famed Boston Garden.

As the decade of the Great Depression came to a close, the brothers sought careers in

other fields. But they continued to entertain their family members and friends, both by performing and by recounting many fascinating tales of their days on stage.

The eldest brother, Gaétan, died on 14 October 1996 at the age of 87. His son Richard recalls that "At the conclusion of Gaétan's burial service in the cemetery, my three boys

all got their juggling equipment and juggled at the headstone as a final tribute to their grandfather who had started the juggling tradition in the family." Albert, then 81 years of age, also "picked up the clubs and was able to juggle for a short while." Joffre died on 12 October 2000 at the age of 83, and Albert on 7 March 2006 at the age of 90. The joy they brought to many will long be remembered.

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French-Canadians in Salem in 1892

By 1892, Salem's French-Canadian population had reached between 5,000 and 6,000 individuals. Yet, due to the language barrier between the English-speaking and French-speaking peoples, many longtime residents were curious about the lives of this immigrant community. Reporters for the Salem Evening News gathered information and published their findings on at least two different occasions during that year. Both accounts are quite similar.

Salem's French Colony.

Interesting Facts as Told by a Census Taker.

How Families Increase and Multiply Their Earnings.

Perley Derby [1823-1897], who has had years of experience in census work in Salem, is in possession of an inexhaustible fund of information concerning Salem's foreign population.

To a News reporter, a day or two ago, Mr. Derby stated that the French population was increasing much more rapidly than any other nationality in the city. Every day new additions arrive on the trains from the north, although the influx is partly offset by departing Canadians. The latter put in two or three years in Salem, work hard and save their money, and after amassing a snug sum, return to their native places, where they buy land and settle down. This practice, however, is in direct opposition to the wishes of the French priest, Rev. J. O. Gadoury, who uses every endeavor to induce his countrymen to become American citizens and settle in Salem.

Another factor in the increase of population is the large numbers of births in the French families. Since January 1, there have been over 150 reported from the French district. Large families are the rule rather than the exception, many numbering from a dozen up to the twenties, one Congress street family numbering twenty-five heads.

The Frenchmen are industrious. The whole family, down to small children, are obliged to work, the majority being numbered among the employees of the Naumkeag cotton mills. The head of one family stated to Mr. Derby that his family earned \$180 per month. Their living expenses were in the vicinity of \$30 per month, all told, hence he made a clean gain of \$150 per month.

He owned some property and was going to buy more. The sum of \$30 for a month's living expenses seems scarcely creditable, yet Mr. Derby says that he has no doubt that the figures are correct. They purchase the cheapest materials and understand how to put them together in such a way that they get a great deal for their money. He has on many occasions partaken of meals from their tables and has no fault at all to find with what has been set before him. The Castle hill district is being rapidly built up by Frenchmen. There is already a population of nearly 300, where not long ago a single house stood.

-Thursday 22 September 1892

Our Man About Town.

The French citizens are as thrifty a class as can be found. They take pride in owning their own homes and it is really surprising how many of them do own houses and land. In the Castle hill district this is especially true, nearly all the French residents being land holders. The settlement, by the way, now numbers about 450 persons.

On the Point, in Ward 5, the French are large property holders, all the recent builders there being Frenchmen. They believe in tenement houses, cheaply constructed. One of the new ones is of the Canadian tenement house style, the stairways being open on the outside of the house.

One French citizen, who came to Salem a few years ago with but a few dollars in his pocket, is now the owner of half a dozen tenement houses, which he acquired one by one. Between thirty and forty families pay him rent now, the monthly roll of which is as much as his entire capital when he came here.

-Saturday 19 November 1892

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A salesman poses with Elphège L'Heureux and two of his sons at the entrance to the Subway Market in this 1912 photo. Left to right: Donat, salesman, Elphège, and Orille.



Traditions

No. 14: “La Saint-Jean”

D.-Michel Michaud, #1

A special day is set aside each year for French-Canadians and Franco-Americans to celebrate their faith, their language, and their culture. The feast of *St-Jean-Baptiste*, celebrated on June 24th, is one of the most ancient on the Church calendar. Because of its position on the calendar, six months away from Christmas Eve, it is commonly called the “Summer Christmas”. It falls on one of the longest days of the year, and is a celebration of light.

This was a major feast in France, and our ancestors celebrated it with even greater vigor when they first arrived in Québec. Here it marked the anniversary of the day in 1497 when the explorer John Cabot first landed in Canada, and of the day in 1615 when Père Denis Jamet celebrated the first Mass in Québec. The earliest account of a public *St-Jean-Baptiste* celebration in Québec was recorded by Père Paul Lejeune, S.J. in 1636.

The founding of *la Société St-Jean-Baptiste* by Ludger Duvernay in Montréal in 1834, the declaration of *St-Jean-Baptiste* as patron of French-Canadians by Pope Pius X in 1908, and the recognition of June 24th as *la Fête nationale* by the Québec Parliament in 1922, all added greater importance to the day.

The traditional highlight of the celebration is the lighting of *le feu de la Saint-Jean*, an evergreen bonfire, on the eve of the feast, accompanied by singing and dancing. Later, festivities would include parades (with the final float carrying a young boy depicting *St-Jean*) and marching bands, speeches and banquets, and numerous flags and banners. In modern times, there are also concerts, fireworks, various forms of entertainment, and cultural events. Québec’s flag, the *fleurdelisé*, is now flown everywhere, and blue and white streamers and banners adorn gathering places both indoors and out.



The French-Canadians of Salem commemorated *la Saint-Jean* ever since their arrival here. Celebrations increased with the founding of Salem’s *Société St-Jean-Baptiste* on 27 September 1882. As late as 1971, Salem’s *U.S.J.B. Conseil Laurier* held its annual Communion-Breakfast on June 24th. Even today, annual events are held in many of the Franco-American communities throughout New England on this all-important day.

Many of our traditions are no longer observed, but *la Saint-Jean* continues to be a day of pride and of celebration for French-Canadians and Franco-Americans alike. Every June 24th is our day to celebrate!

Our traditions: a heritage worth remembering!

Le Courrier de Salem

**Events of a century ago in Salem's Franco-American newspaper
May - August 1913**

Societies

- Eighty members of the *Cour St-Octave* went to Lawrence for the state convention of the Catholic Order of Foresters.
- Alfred Bouchard, Chief Ranger of the *Cour St-Octave*, will attend the international convention of the Order of Foresters in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Members of the Franco-American *Chambre de Commerce* will hold its annual *pic-nique* in Swampscott on July 31st.
- Fifty-one members of *Les Petits Zouaves* enjoyed an outing in Revere with Representative Chauncey Pépin.

The Press

- *Le Courrier de Salem* will publish a special 28-page edition on July 14th with features on Salem's history and businesses.

Police

- Arthur-Romuald Grisé has been appointed Police Officer for the Point area. He was born in St-Césaire, Québec, in 1881.

People & Families

- Brothers Phydime, Théotime and Didyme Lavoie have left Salem and will take up residence in Montréal. Arsène Joly and Xavier Taché and their families have left Salem and will take up residence in Ottawa.
- The boat of William-T. Nadeau, docked at the foot of Leach Street, was damaged by fire.
- Georges Deschênes, the son of Napoléon, was accidently killed by a delivery truck on June 3rd. He was five years of age.

Business and Professions

- Joseph-F. Pelletier, 22, has been admitted to the Massachusetts Bar and is Salem's youngest attorney.
- Sylvio Gagnon of 40 Park Street has received his insurance license from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- Joseph Beaudry, a licensed pharmacist, has purchased the Brooks drug store located at the corner of Lafayette and Harbor Streets.
- Joseph Bérubé has purchased the barbershop of Joseph Voyer on Congress Street.
- Joseph Choquette, the Park Street grocer, has relocated to 143½ Canal Street.
- Gélas Gaudette and Arthur Lapointe have purchased the lunch cart of Onésime Godbout, located at the corner of Lafayette and New Derby Streets.
- Mme Lucienne-B. Gagnon has sold her candy shop and ice cream parlor at 41 Harbor Street to Mme Régina Voyer.

- Mme Georges-E. Thibodeau of 41 Pingree street creates custom-made hats for women, and welcomes new clients.
- A fire on August 6th destroyed the pool room of Arthur Frégeau, situated in the building of Ferdinand Denis at the corner of Lafayette and Peabody Streets.

Real Estate

- Thomas Pelletier of 16 East Gardner Street has sold his home to Gilbert Bourgault of Sherbrooke, Québec.
- Edmond Leclerc has completed a new building of three apartments on Leach Street for Louis Bourgeois.

Church

- Père Ferdinand Jodoin, curate at Acton Vale, Québec, is in Salem visiting with his aunt, Mme Théodore Côté, and his uncle Arthur Jodoin.
- Père Pierre Gagné of Mont-Louis, Québec, is in Salem visiting his cousins, Mme Napoléon Lévesque and Mme Arthur Nadeau.
- Père I.-A. Sirois, o.m.i., Superior of the Oblates in Plattsburg, New York, is in Salem visiting his sister, Mme Wilfred Tondreau of Cabot Street.
- Frère Auguste Dumas of Alberta is in Salem visiting with his brother Joseph and his nephew Hilarion.
- Sr St-Damase of the Sisters of the Presentation in St-Hyacinthe is in Salem visiting with her sister, Mme Jean-B. Jodoin.
- Sr Marie-Jérôme of Florida and Mme Olier David of Lowell are in Salem visiting their brother, Jean-B. Landry, proprietor of the popular shoe store.
- Louis Poitras of Salem Street has left for Baie-Saint-Paul where his daughter Marie-Anne-Lucie will make her profession as Sr Marie-Félix-de-Cantalice in the chapel of *Les Petites Franciscaines de Marie* on August 25th.
- The former pastor of St-Joseph's, Père F.-X.-Louis Vézina, died at St-François-de-Sales, Québec, on May 30th at the age of 76.
- *La Fête-Dieu* (Corpus Christi) will be celebrated with processions to outdoor repositories in both St-Joseph's and Ste-Anne's parishes.
- **Music**
- A concert was held on June 15th to celebrate the opening of the basement chapel in the new St-Joseph's church. Some 800 people attended.
- Delphis Gagnon offers piano lessons at his home, 10 Prince Street.

Entertainment

- Ste-Anne's will present a play on June 22nd, "*Le Gendre à Mon Parrain*"; St-Joseph's will present an operetta on June 24th, "*La Dame Blanche*".
- There will be a parade and all-day events to celebrate *La Saint-Jean* on June 24th.

Genealogies

Belleau

François Belleau-Larose & Marguerite Crevier of Cachiot, Périgueux, France

- I Blais Belleau & Marie Cailly (Pierre & Marie Sosse)
Notre-Dame-de-Québec, 25 Sep 1673
- II Jean-Baptiste Belleau & Catherine Berthiaume (Jacques & Catherine Bonhomme)
Ste-Famille, Île-d'Orléans, 23 Oct 1702
- III Jean-Baptiste Belleau & Félicité Bernier (Charles & Anne Lemieux)
Cap-Saint-Ignace, 30 Jul 1727
- IV Jean-Baptiste Belleau & Marie Vermette (Pierre & Madeleine Boutin)
Berthier, 11 Jan 1751
- V Pierre Belleau & Catherine Audet-Lapointe (Louis & Angélique Drapeau)
St-Henri-de-Lauzon, 15 Feb 1790
- VI Jean Belleau & Victoire Leclerc-Francoeur (Étienne & Josephine Mercier-St-Cyr)
Cap-Saint-Ignace, 19 Oct 1824
- VII Prudent Belleau & Catherine Tondreau (Firmin & Catherine Kirouac)
L'Islet, 27 Jan 1852
- VIII Elzéar Belleau & Amanda Marois (Abraham & Florence Gaudreau)
Cap-Saint-Ignace, 23 Oct 1883
- IX Ernest-Rosario Belleau & Lydia Bérubé (Victor & Claire Pelletier)
Salem, MA, 30 Aug 1914

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Sauvageau

Jean Sauvageau & Madeleine Ouvré of Marçay, Touraine, France

- I Claude Sauvageau & Jeanne LeGendre (Isaac & Claude Lentonne)
C. Cusson (Cap-de-la-Madeleine), 3 Dec 1669
- II Alexis Sauvageau & Marguerite Massé (Martin & Thérèse David)
Grondines, 19 Apr 1694
- III Alexis-Augustin Sauvageau & Marguerite Germain (Henri & Geneviève Marcot)
Deschambault, 10 Aug 1723
- IV Joseph-Marie Sauvageau & Françoise Brunet (François & Louise Letarte)
Grondines, 7 Apr 1750
- V Joseph Sauvageau & Marguerite Arcan (Pierre & Marguerite Montambault)
Deschambault, 14 Jan 1783
- VI Pierre Sauvageau & Marie Dessaint-St-Pierre (Jean & Marie-Louise Allard)
Grondines, 12 Feb 1805
- VII Jean-Baptiste Sauvageau & Marguerite Rivard (Nicolas & Marguerite Hamelin)
Grondines, 5 Feb 1839
- VIII Jean-B.-Olivier Sauvageau & Céline Gauthier (Isidore & Louise Trottier)
Grondines, 18 Feb 1868
- IX Fidèle Sauvageau & Rosanna Toupin (Moïse & Zoé Vézina)
Lowell, MA, 13 Oct 1907

Décès

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

Robert-R. BLAIS, 84 ans, 4 décembre 2012 • Cécile-M. (Banville) BOSSÉ, 98 ans, 1 décembre 2012 • Daniel-J. BOUFFARD, 85 ans, 16 janvier 2013 • Lorraine-J. (Bergevin) BRADBURY, 86 ans, 9 décembre 2012 • Rosamond-Edith BRISSETTE, 90 ans, 24 octobre 2012 • Rita-L. (Bossé) CASTONGUAY, 93 ans, 26 décembre 2012 • Paul-N. CHALIFOUR, 84 ans, 19 novembre 2012 • Stella-M. (Pied) COTÉ, 97 ans, 22 décembre 2012 • Karl "Mike" CYR, 78 ans, 3 décembre 2012 • Marion (Rackliffe) DEROCHER, 95 ans, 29 octobre 2012 • Fernand-Joseph DUBÉ, 88 ans, 4 janvier 2013 • Gloria-M. (Soucy) DUNN, 86 ans, 10 janvier 2013 • Doris-R. (Turgeon) DUPUIS, 65 ans, 11 décembre 2012 • Maurice-H. GUILBAULT, 91 ans, 7 octobre 2012 • Jeanne-M. (Pelletier) GUILMETTE, 3 décembre 2012 • **Cécile-M. (Desjardins) JACQUES (#212)**, 94 ans, 6 janvier 2013 • Lucie-M. (Morin) KOSEK, 82 ans, 24 décembre 2012 • John-D. "Jack" LaPORTE, 25 octobre 2012 • Félix-A. LaRIVIÈRE, 71 ans, 22 décembre 2012 • Laura-M. (Maillet) LAURANZANO, 93 ans, 25 janvier 2013 • Janet-D. (Lapointe) LEACH, 94 ans, 9 décembre 2012 • Kenneth-A.-J. LESSARD, 75 ans, 13 novembre 2012 • Mary-A. (Boltas) LEVASSEUR, 85 ans, 13 janvier 2013 • Rita-M. (Gaudreau) LÉVESQUE, 92 ans, 6 octobre 2012 • Sean-Joseph MARCHAND, 10 jours, 23 janvier 2013 • Doreen-M. (Guy) MARTINI, 50 ans, 7 octobre 2012 • **Donald-J. MICHAUD (#6)**, 93 ans, 6 février 2013 • Hélène-E. (Talbot) MICHAUD, 100 ans, 30 décembre 2012 • Priscilla-G. "Pat" (LeBrun) MICHAUD, 97 ans, 21 décembre 2012 • Rita-T. (Allain) MILLETT, 86 ans, 3 janvier 2013 • Antoinette-L. "Ann" (LaBrie) OUELLETTE, 96 ans, 28 janvier 2013 • **Gérard-O. OUELLETTE (#95)**, 84 ans, 31 octobre 2012 • Bernard-C. PERRON, 96 ans, 5 octobre 2012 • Elizabeth-Emily (St-Arneault) PETTERSEN, 100 ans, 3 janvier 2013 • Alma RICHARD (Sr Aimé, S.S.Ch.), 26 mai 2012 • Gabrielle-G. ROUSSEAU, 104 ans, 13 décembre 2012 • Rita-A. (Lévesque) SCANZANI, 89 ans, 7 décembre 2012 • Robert-L. SICOTTE, 71 ans, 16 décembre 2012 • Victoria-Marie (Witwicki) TACHÉ, 92 ans, 21 janvier 2013 • Gregory-Francis TARDIFF, 36 ans, 17 octobre 2012 • Thérèse-R. (Grégoire) TGETTIS, 82 ans, 27 octobre 2012 • Barry-D. TREMBLAY, 63 ans, 4 novembre 2012 •

Donald-J. Michaud (1919-2013)

Un de nos membres fondateurs, Donald-J. Michaud (#6), est décédé à sa demeure mercredi le 6 février 2013. Il était toujours prêt à assister aux réunions des franco-américains, à partager avec nous ses belles histoires, et à souligner l'importance de conserver notre patrimoine québécois. Malgré ses 93 ans, il était toujours rempli d'enthousiasme et d'une joie de vivre. Nous avons perdu un cher ami et un membre très dévoué.

Il y a 100 ans...

[Extrait du *Courrier de Salem*, jeudi, le 6 février 1913.]

L'ACADEMIE DES ETUDIANTS

OUVERTURE DES CLASSES DU SOIR

La semaine dernière avait lieu à leur salle, rue Washington, l'installation des officiers de l'Académie des Etudiants, pour le prochain terme de six mois. Les officiers installés ont été les suivants: Président, M. Jules Poussard; vice-président, J. A. Arthur Thibault; secrétaire, Napoléon Barbeau; trésorier, Zothique Morneau; auditeurs, Noël Wright et Arthur Larivée; bibliothécaire, Albert Goddu; concierge Egide Pothier.

Après l'installation, les officiers sortant de charge adressèrent la parole, ainsi que les officiers installés. Le président Poussard se leva ensuite et donna un exposé du programme qu'il avait préparé et qu'il demande aux membres d'étudier et de suivre, afin que son administration soit bonne et fructueuse. Une clause du programme, qui a excité un vif intérêt chez tous les membres, était celle d'organiser des classes du soir, en français et en anglais, projet auquel tous les membres ont applaudi.

A l'heure actuelle, les classes sont commencées et se tiennent les Mardi et Vendredi soirs. La classe du mardi soir, qui est en anglais, consiste

dans l'étude de la grammaire, de la géographie et des mathématiques. Cette classe est faite sous la direction de M. Joseph F. Pelletier, E.E.D. La classe du vendredi soir, qui est en français, consiste dans l'étude de la grammaire, de la rhétorique, de la philosophie pratique et d'exercices littéraires. Cette classe est dirigée par M. J. A. Arthur Thibault.

C'est assurément un beau mouvement, dont les membres de l'Académie des Etudiants méritent d'être féliciter. Ces classes feront revivre dans leur coeur le souvenir des beaux jours passés sur les bancs des écoles et des collèges, où ils ont puisé les premiers principes de la science qui les ont aidés à se frayer un chemin dans le monde.

Ces classes sont accessibles à tout jeune homme, soucieux de son avenir et désirant se perfectionner dans l'étude de la langue anglaise ou française.

A cette assemblée, M. Chauncey Popin, représentant à la législature, et M. Arthur Beaucage, rédacteur du "Courrier de Salem", ont été élus membres honoraires de l'Académie.

La Revue de Salem

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Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc.

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

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

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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.



La Revue de Salem

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



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

Cover Photo: Al Simard, third from left, poses with his band in the spring of 1947.
(Article begins on page 26.)

News

John Walker has created a scale model of *l'église St-Joseph* – out of 20,000 Legos! The 4½-foot model, which will be on display in Salem churches, was featured on the front page of the Salem News on 18 March 2013. *Un chef-d'oeuvre en miniature!* • Ste-Anne's is now part of the Salem Collaborative, with one pastor serving four parishes as of 4 June 2013. The Salem News noted that "Pere" Daniel Riley is "half French-Canadian", a group which comprises "about 80 percent of the Catholics in the city." *Bienvenue!* • A Tribute in honor of former Mayor Jean-A. Lévesque was held at the Salem Moose Family Center on 24 March 2013. (See article on page 24.) *Merveilleux!* • An article by D.-Michel Michaud (#1) appeared in the April 2013 issue of "*Le Breton*", the journal of the *Association des familles Michaud*, in Rimouski, PQ. *Très intéressant!* • The time-capsule from the cornerstone of St-Joseph's church, sealed on 15 May 1949, was opened on 7 April 2013 by Père Rondeau and Deacon LaPointe. *Un beau souvenir!* • Léon-J. Massé (#192) celebrated his 100th birthday on 19 April 2013. *Bonne fête!* • A story by Alma Pelletier (#112) appeared in the May 2013 issue of AAA Southern New England. *Bon voyage en Floride!* • Nelson-L. Dionne (#2) was the recipient of the fourth annual Historic New England award, "Prize for Collecting Works on Paper". Ceremonies took place in Portsmouth, NH on 1 May 2013. *Félicitations!* • The enormous century-old statue of Saint-Joseph was discovered during excavations on 3 May 2013. Apparently, such religious symbols are no longer welcome in public places; it was secretly reburied four days later. *Quel dommage!* • Salem's Peabody Essex Museum has appointed its first composer-in-residence. Matt Aucoin, a Harvard graduate and assistant conductor of the Metropolitan Opera, gave his first performance in Salem on 25 May 2013. *Bravo!* • The corner of Hawthorne Boulevard and Charter Street has been dedicated as Pelletier Square in honor of Salem's World War II Army Pvt. Adrien Pelletier who was killed on 8 June 1944 and is buried in France. *Nous nous souviendrons de lui.* • Salem's Greenhouse School presented its first Art Residence Award in memory of Richard-Georges Rousseau who died on 31 May 2013 at the age of 48. Rousseau was the designer of the school's logo. *Un honneur!* • Plans for next year's *Congrès mondial acadien 2014* are well underway! The grand celebrations will take place between 8 and 24 August 2014 in the regions of Edmundston, NB, Madawaska, ME, and Témiscouata-sur-le-Lac, PQ. Contact the F.A.I.S. for a brochure. *Une belle fête!* •

Donations received include: books (2 volumes), ephemera, and artifacts from Nelson-L. Dionne (#2); gift from Rachel Farley (#227); journals (10), books (8), and audio tapes (2) from Georgette-L. Kielbasa (#130); books (2), and gift from John-M. Kobuszewski (#3); books (12), CDs (2), and artifact from D.-Michel Michaud (#1); books (12) and souvenir program from Jane Stauffer (#219); and manuscript from Sheila-L. Théberge (#11). *Un grand merci à tous!*

Editorial

Les Actualités

It is said that “Today’s News is Tomorrow’s History”.

Each issue of *La Revue de Salem* contains a page of current events from Salem’s Franco-American community. Many of our members are amazed that there has been so much activity in such a brief span of time.

More importantly, this news summary will provide future historians with a look at Franco-American life in Salem today. In fact, the past fifteen years of our history has already been preserved in the pages of *La Revue de Salem*.

On the subject of current events, we offer several interesting news items which have recently appeared in Salem’s ‘northern suburbs’:

- Québec’s flag, *le fleurdelisé*, celebrates its 65th anniversary in 2013! It was adopted on 21 January 1948, replacing the British Union Jack. *Fêtons notre drapeau national!*
- Pennies have been taken out of circulation in Canada as of 4 February 2013. Soon, *les cennes noires* will be a thing of the past. *Adieu!*
- The cardinal considered to be the most likely contender in the papal election of 13 March 2013 was Mgr Marc Ouellet of Québec. *Il est un des nôtres!*
- The city Council of Burlington, Vermont has authorized *l’Alliance française* to place 700 bilingual signs in its downtown in order to welcome tourists from Québec. *Une bonne idée pour Salem aussi!*
- Lowell’s 43rd annual *Semaine franco-américaine* took place between June 23rd and 29th. *Toujours le fun!*
- A new film entitled “Louis Cyr” premiered in Québec theatres on 12 July 2013. Stronman Louis Cyr (1863-1912) was a Lowell resident when he performed in Salem. *Il faut voir ça!*
- Québec celebrated the 179th anniversary of its *fête nationale* on 24 June 2013, recalling the observance of Ludger Duvernay in 1834. *Bonne St-Jean à tous!*
- Québec, New Brunswick, and Maine are working together to plan a grand *Congrès mondial acadien 2014* for next summer. *Bienvenue à tous!*



Obituary

Mayor Jean-A. Lévesque (1924-2013)

The Franco-American mayor who “really epitomized the City of Salem” during his ten years in office has died at the age of eighty-eight.

Jean-Alfred Lévesque, one of six children of J.-Alfred Lévesque and Délia Dandurand, was born in Lynn, Massachusetts on 28 July 1924. “Pépère Lévesque was from Kamouraska and Pépère Dandurand from Rimouski.” His family settled in Salem four years later, and Jean was enrolled in l’école Saint-Joseph. He recalled that “I lived right near the school, in a section at the Point area. Most of the families there were Franco-American. My parents spoke only French at home. I didn’t speak English until I was seven years old. I can remember my mother making *corton* with pork butts that were ground. I used to work at a little local store called Audet’s Market on Palmer street, and we used to make it in 10-gallon containers.”

After serving three years in the U.S. Army, Jean (or *Petit Lévesque* as he was known) found work as a hod carrier in the construction of the new St-Joseph’s church. Each day he carried heavy bricks, mortar and other materials to the stone masons. A half-century later, he stated that “I’d be interested in finding out if there’s anybody similar to me, who put their sweat and blood and earned a living building that church.” The closure and ultimate destruction of St-Joseph’s weighed more heavily on him than did the bricks and mortar that he had carried.

It was at this time, in 1949, that he was married in the Chapelle Sainte-Thérèse to Florence-T. Lapointe. The couple would



have three children: Jean-Paul, Jeannette, and Julianne.

Jean Lévesque entered politics in 1969 and was elected Councilor of Ward Five. “All roads to the corner office go through Ward Five,” said Lévesque. In April of 1973, now President of the City Council, he was nominated to fill the vacancy of the mayor who had been appointed Judge. He could now be addressed as “*Monsieur le maire, Jean Lévesque*”.

At the annual convention banquet of the Federation of Franco-American Clubs of Massachusetts held on 14 October 1973, Lévesque was named “Man of the Year”. The award was presented by Léon-S. Blanchette of Salem, then President of the Federation. It was stated that “Mayor Lévesque has championed the cause and

betterment of the Franco-American in the city, county and state.”

Less than a month later, on 7 November 1973, the press announced the election of “Salem’s first Franco-American mayor.” The Salem Evening News editorial stated that “It’s been a great 100th year for St. Joseph’s parish...And that victory by Mayor Jean Lévesque was frosting on the cake.” At the Canadian Klondike Club, a banner was hung which read “Welcome to Jean Lévesque Country”. But in all humility, the mayor stated that “It is a little difficult to dig out the words which could express how I feel about your confidence in me.”

Among his many accomplishments during the next decade were the implementation of the downtown Urban Renewal plan, the redevelopment of Pickering Wharf, and the opening of the new Salem High School. He was called “a diligent mayor and a hard worker [who was] always a gentleman and respectful in the way he did things.” But Jean Lévesque gave credit where credit was due. He said: “Through life I’ve remembered what our good nuns taught us. Even while I served in the mayor’s office, when I was faced with a difficult decision, I often thought ‘What would Sister...think if I did this?’”

After serving with distinction as Mayor for ten years, the third longest term since 1836, Lévesque continued to express himself with a touch of humor saying: “I got out of office because of illness. The voters were sick of me.”

After his retirement as vice-president of business development for Century Bank, Lévesque again occupied an office in City Hall where he headed Salem’s Commission on Disabilities, without compensation, until his retirement at the age of 85.

On Sunday 24 March 2013, three decades after leaving the office of Mayor, a tribute was held in his honor at the Salem Moose Family Center. Speakers included Mayor Driscoll, Congressman Tierney, Senator Lovely, Representative Keenan, Council President Ryan, Police Chief Tucker, Retired Police Chief St-Pierre, and Former Mayors Salvo, Harrington, and Usovicz. A sketch of Salem’s proposed Senior Center was unveiled and an announcement was made that it would be called the Mayor Jean-A. Lévesque Community Life Center.

Jean Lévesque died at sunrise on Sunday 2 June 2013, and his funeral was held from Sainte-Anne’s church. “A humble, good-humored gentleman, Jean loved his family, his city, his country, and his church.” *Adieu, monsieur le maire!*

Généalogie Lévesque

Pierre & Marie Gaumont
St-Sulpice, Rouen, France

Robert & Jeanne LeChevalier
L’Ange-Gardien, 1679

François & Charlotte Auber
Rivière-Ouelle, 1701

François & Angélique Bérubé
Rivière-Ouelle, 1734

Isidore & Madeleine Pelletier
St-Roch-des-Aulnaies, 1773

Pierre & Angélique St-Pierre
St-Roch-des-Aulnaies, 1818

Clément & Philomène Ouellet
St-Pacôme, 1858

Alfred & Lysia Moreau
Lewiston, ME, 1893

Alfred & Délia Dandurand
Salem, MA, 1920

Jean & Florence Lapointe
Salem, MA, 1949

Popular Bands of Yesteryear

Many can still remember dancing to the music of a band, and when talented musicians provided the music, crowds came in large numbers! Salem's Franco-American bands and orchestras have a long and varied history, one that is sure to bring back memories of "*le bon vieux temps!*"

The earliest French bands in New England were those of P.-H.-Alexandre Baribault (Worcester, 1868), Pierre Painchaud (Biddeford, 1872), and Joseph-R. L'Africain (Manchester, 1874). The earliest in Salem, founded in 1878, soon gained international fame and enjoyed a popularity which spanned more than six decades.

The Salem Cadet Band was founded by Jean-Marie Missud (1852-1941), a native of Villefranche (Nice), France. A large number of Salem's French-Canadian musicians were regular members of the band. The versatile group performed military marches in parades, classical music in concert halls, and popular waltzes in ballrooms. It traveled throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe, performing for school commencements, for presidents, and for royalty. At home, the band played regularly on the Salem Common and at the Salem Willows Park. Missud, an accomplished clarinetist, directed his band for 63 consecutive years until his death in 1941 at the age of 89.

L'Orchestre Pépin was founded in 1884 by the 15 year-old Chauncey-J. Pépin (1869-1931), and remained active until the First World War. In that same year, Joseph-R. L'Africain (1850-1927) came to Salem and founded the *Fanfare de la Garde Militaire Nationale*. Also active until war-time, directors included René de Dion, Napoléon Amelotte, Léon St-Jean, and Auguste Desjardins. Members of the Pépin and L'Africain groups joined to form *La Bande Canadienne*, *La Bande Lafayette*, and other smaller groups for various functions.

Many smaller bands and orchestras were popular during the early years of the twentieth century. Herménégilde Tremblay (1873-1954), a native of Cap-Chat, PQ, was a popular singer and entertainer who organized small groups for various events. An undertaker by profession, he moved to Lawrence in 1913 where he co-founded a recording company, *La Patrie du Disque Français*. *La Bande Jacques-Cartier* was composed of musicians from the Castle Hill area. Following a brief existence between 1906 and 1908, members joined other local bands. *L'Orchestre Veillot* was founded by Gédéon Poirier in 1909. Its promising career was cut short when its hall at the corner of Lafayette and Harbor Streets was destroyed in the Great Salem Fire of 1914. *L'Orchestre Athénia* was directed by violinist Florence (Ménard) Desrochers (1890-1978) as early as 1910. She and several of her ten musical sisters were well-known music teachers in Salem. *L'Orchestre Cimon*, *l'Orchestre LeBlanc*, and *l'Orchestre Michaud* were among the many that were in demand for wedding receptions and family gatherings just prior to World War I. The 1920s saw the appearance of *La Famille Blais*, composed of nine brothers and sisters who began performing as

early as the age of eight. The children of Joseph and Anysiema (Houle) Blais performed frequently in Salem's Ames Memorial Auditorium, and several went on to graduate from the Boston Conservatory of Music. Octave Lévesque (1876-1958), a native of Mont-Carmel, PQ, organized the Salem Scout Band during the First World War, and in 1935 organized the 25-member Salem Fraternity Band, which he frequently directed in Academy Hall.

Among Salem's most popular dance halls were the National Crystal Ballroom and the Charleshurst. The first of these was built by Alfred Audet (1875-1960) and opened on New Year's Night 1918. When the building was sold to the Club Klondike in 1926, its popularity only increased. The Charleshurst at the Salem Willows opened in 1924 in what was formerly the Casino dance hall. This quickly became a favorite of people from across the North Shore on summer evenings. Nearby, in 1931, the North Shore Gardens in Peabody and the Starlight Ballroom in Lynnfield opened their doors to dancing "under the stars". The entertainment at each of these venues was often provided by Salem's Franco-American musicians.

Big Bands, with their new sounds, gave people a much-needed lift during the Great Depression. This was the "Era of Swing", and no band leader was more popular than Guy Lombardo (1902-1977) who, along with "His Royal Canadians" produced "the sweetest music this side of heaven". Local musicians organized their own bands and emulated Lombardo by playing swing versions of old standards as well as popular music of the day.

One of the earliest of the "new" bands was the Cormier Quartet. Founded by Cyrille Cormier (1900-1959), a banjo player, the quartet included saxophonists René-O. Thibault (1903-1954), Allard-J. Simard (1908-1984), and Lucien-E. Audette (1911-1979). The group performed frequently at the Club Klondike, at the St-Jean-Baptiste Hall, and at the Palmer Cove Yacht Club where Cormier was Steward. Simard and Audette later formed their own groups which featured the Big Band sound.

Allard-J. "Al" Simard performed with many of the area's leading orchestras and made several crossings on ocean liners playing saxophone with the ships' orchestras. He founded the Al Simard Band which became well-known throughout the North Shore. The group performed regularly at the Naumkeag Mills where Simard was employed. Richard Bergeron (1919-1989) was a longtime drummer in the orchestra.

Napoléon-J. Provost (1910-1978) was "at one time known as New England's top entertainer and part of the famous Keith Circuit." A professional entertainer since the age of seven, he was "a vocalist, musician, and dancer as well as heading his own musical group." When not performing in New York City, he frequently appeared at Salem's Moose Lodge.

Lucien-E. "Lou" Audette was a member of the first graduating class of *l'Académie St-Joseph*, and was elected first president of its Alumni. After leaving the Cormier Quartet, he formed his

own orchestra and soon became a well-known band leader on the North Shore. Among his long-time band members was William “Bill” Tremblay (1915-2000) who also played in various bands and venues on the North Shore.

Réginald-R. “Reggie” Thibodeau (1913-1988) was born in Rumford, Maine and settled in Lynn before coming to Salem. In 1938 he formed the Thibodeau Family Band with his brothers Désiré “Joe” and Aurèle “Bob”. The group performed throughout the North Shore, and frequently in Canada.

William-S. “Bill” Grondin (1914-1965), with his 12-piece orchestra, quickly became a favorite of local bands during the Depression Era. Among his regular musicians were tenor saxophonist Alban-V. “Al” Guénette (1914-1993) and William “Bill” Tremblay. Grondin was prominent in all musical circles, and was president of the Musicians Association Local 126.

Henry-A. Létourneau (1893-1974) headed a singing group known as the Lafayette Four which toured the RKO-Keith Circuit. His three daughters, Marguerite (1914-2006), Lucienne (1917-1998), and Béatrice (1918-2002) gained greater fame as the swinging “Burnett Sisters”. They sang the tunes of the then-popular Andrews Sisters who were featured nationally on radio and television, and were said to have matched their idols “note-for-note”. Béatrice, the youngest, first performed at the opening of Salem’s Paramount Theatre on 19 April 1930. The trio sang and danced professionally with many Big Bands throughout the northeast during the 1930s and 1940s, appearing in many of the top entertainment spots on the east coast, and for many years were heard regularly on Thursday evenings at Salem’s Now and Then Hall (razed in 1955).

Richard-J. “Dick” Bergeron began as a drummer in Al Simard’s orchestra. He played for a time with Kim and the Country Boys, and later formed his own Country and Western band, Dick and the Rhythm Ramblers. He was elected into the Hall of Fame of the Massachusetts Country Music Awards Association.

Pianist Armand “Red” Bergeron organized a new group in 1949 called *Les Rhythmaires*. Reorganized several times as the Rhythm Kings, the Rhythm Knights, and the Three Casuals, the group included René Bélanger on clarinet and saxophone, Roland “Moe” Foisy on drums, Ronald Léger on guitar, Ronald Lebrun on accordion, and Dan Surette on drums. The band performed extensively in Salem, at the Lafayette Associates, at the Ward Two Social Club, at the Klondike Club, and for private weddings and functions.

As the 1950s approached, a new and more modern form of entertainment gained popularity. “Record Hops” brought top performers to the local stage at minimal cost, with sound equipment, recordings, and a disc jockey. Teen Town opened on 15 January 1949 in the Ames Memorial Hall in Salem’s Y.M.C.A. Over 200 people enjoyed dancing every Saturday evening from 7:00

to 11:00. On the first anniversary of Teen Town, Albert Sirois was chosen to receive the award for the success of the first year. By 1957 Teen Town was enjoying its “best season to date” with a peak attendance of 492 on April 6th. Phil Cyr was voted the number one disc jockey, and Larry Dallaire was among the finalists.

By the mid-1960s, high school teens brought live music back into the dance halls. Franco-American musicians were found in many of the leading bands which frequently performed at school and C.Y.O. functions. Among them were the following: The Pawns (1965) with Ronald Nowlan, Lucien Bélanger, George Girard, Les Thibault, Ray LeBlanc, and others. Called one of the “better known” rock groups of New England, the band performed at Montréal’s Expo ’67. The Lancasters (1966) included Charlie Rocheleau, Bruce Croteau, Paul Caron, David Deschênes, and others. The band performed across the North Shore and in Boston nightclubs. The Goose and the Ganders (1966) included Bruce Ouellette, Richard Tardiff, Kenneth L’Italien, and others. The Bit O’ Lemon (1968) included Donald Lévesque, Ronald Castonguay, Andrew and Léo LaPointe, and others. The band was popular along the North Shore and also performed in Maine nightclubs. Similar bands continued into the 1970s and 1980s and later.

One hundred and thirty-five years have passed since Jean Missud first organized his band, and new groups have entertained the people of Salem ever since. One could mention the founding of the Franco-American Fiddlers by Joseph Blanchette in the 1920s, the Salem Philharmonic Orchestra by Auguste Michaud in the 1930s, the Salem Civic Music Association by Georges-A. Pelletier in the 1940s, the Dick Boisvert Band in the 1950s, and a host of others. Today, the Golden Age of Big Bands may be in the past, but the music goes on!

□ □ □

Journal (VI) of J.-Alexandre Michaud, Sr

*Submitted by the late
Donald-J. Michaud, #6*

Editor’s Note: J.-Alexandre Michaud (1880-1941) was the son of Isaïe Michaud and Odile Soucy. He settled in Salem, Massachusetts with his family on 7 October 1885, and was married there on 8 November 1903 to Phoébé LaChance.

The following excerpts are from his sixth and last journal, written in 1935. It describes a trip which he took around the Gaspé Peninsula when he was 54, accompanied by his son Alex Jr, 26, and his nephew Lionel Caron, 25. Unfortunately, the final pages of the journal are lost.

Sunday, July 28. Left 16 Pingree St., Salem, Mass., in Ford V8 sedan, 1934 model, at 7 A.M. [We] reached the Canadian Custom Office at 2:15 P.M. Mr. Caron, a customs officer, has a brother in Salem [whose] name is Camille (1905-1976). We had a roadside lunch here, and then kept on to Lévis, arriving at 4:05 P.M., 375 miles from Salem. At Lévis we stopped at Henri Plourde's home for the night. Mrs. Plourde's mother, who lives with them, is an aunt to Lionel Caron, my nephew. Their home is situated on the cliffs by the water's edge and commands a grand and picturesque view of the St-Lawrence River and also of the city of Québec which is situated directly across.

Monday, July 29, rain. We spent the forenoon in conversation with these folks and, after a noon-day lunch, we left at 1:40 P.M. The boys had driven around town the evening before and had run up the speedometer some 12 miles. We then traveled through Lauzon, Montmagny, St-Roch-des-Aulnaies, Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, Rivière-Ouelle, St-Denis, and Kamouraska, arriving at 4:30 P.M.; 100 miles in 3 hours, raining all the way. We stopped here to call on Mr. Jean-Baptiste Raymond, the father of Ludger Raymond (1883-1954) who was a tenant in my house in Salem for six years. We exchanged greetings, and he gave me some native tobacco to bring home to his son. Then we went to St-André, and then to Notre-Dame-du-Portage where I was born on Sept. 10, 1880. We stopped here at the Hôtel Michaud [which] was owned by an aunt of mine [Adée Michaud (1842-1934)]. Here we met my brother Martial (1871-1946) and his wife who were spending a vacation there. We stopped here only a few minutes and went to Rivière-du-Loup. We had supper here at Jean-Baptiste Soucy's, 14 rue de la Cour, and stayed overnight. Mr. Soucy, who is a cousin of mine, was away. He is employed as a railway mail clerk on the Témiscouata R.R. We were all well accommodated – good food and good lodging. This suited us very well, for we had undertaken a voyage that would have overtaxed a good-sized wallet, but the size of our budget was somewhat limited.

Tuesday, July 30. In the forenoon we visited Mrs. Paradis at Rivière-du-Loup, and here we also met her sister, Mrs. Fabiola Caron of Brunswick, Maine. They are sisters to J.-B. Soucy. We returned to J.-B. Soucy's for lunch, and there we met his brother Philippe. Mrs. Soucy, with a son and a daughter, together with Philippe and Alex Jr and I, went out on a short afternoon trip; Lionel had lunch and spent the afternoon at Mrs. Ouellette's. We went to "La Pointe", somewhat of a summer resort, there being a dancing pavilion, a steamship wharf, lunch and refreshment stands, and also an Indian village. These Indians are direct descendants of a tribe which was once prominent in this locality. They make a living by selling articles of their handiwork. We continued to Cacouna; there is a nice beach here and many summer hotels. Then to l'Isle-Verte [where] we stopped and called on some acquaintances. The folks here were busy doing their chores. Mr. Labrie was at hand to greet us. The mother was busy around the bee hives, and Alex decided to go out and call her. He got stung a couple of times, [but] she appeased the bees and we enjoyed staying a little while longer and were very well entertained. Leaving there, we went to St-Arsène,

[arriving] at 3:45 P.M. We left the folks off, and Alex, Lionel and I went to the R.R. station to meet J.-B. Soucy; we hadn't seen each other for more than 6 years. We drove to his home and had supper with him and his family, then we took him and his wife on a short ride to Notre-Dame-du-Portage. Here we met my brother Martial and his wife. [Returning] to Rivière-du-Loup, we played cards all evening, Jean-Baptiste and I playing against Alex and Lionel. We lost every game of the evening, except for the last. This was on a wager that the losers would buy a drink for the winners. We won that game, but we were out of luck. Although we called at two hotels, they refused to serve us. It was 2 A.M.

Wednesday, July 31, fair. Left Rivière-du-Loup at 11:20 A.M. for a trip around the Gaspé Peninsula. We were at Pointe-au-Père, Ste-Flavie, Baie-des-Sables, Métis-sur-Mer, and reached Matane in short time. Now, there was a wedding celebration. We met Louis Caron (1895-1964) and Edmond Talbot (1898-1974) from Salem, and we joined the party which lasted until early morning.

Thursday, fair. I remember the pleasant evening that we spent last night at Mr. Gustave Harrison's (1899-1959). During the night, one of our tires went flat; the boys took it off in the morning and replaced it with the spare. Left Petit-Matane at 10:30 A.M. We went along through a number of towns and, arriving at Ste-Anne-des-Monts, we passed a "quêteux", or wayfarer or tramp as you may call him. Persons of this character were quite common in Canada some years ago, and in many cases they were quite welcome. Before the days of the railroad and telephone, they acted as message carriers from one town to another as they traveled on foot. Some of these men were utterly illiterate, but they could be trusted with verbal or written messages, and even with parcels which they would deliver as directed. Their compensation was a hearty meal or a night's lodging wherever they stopped. Many of them were interesting characters. They could either sing or dance, some could play the fiddle or jew's-harp, and all of them were good story tellers.

We then journeyed through a few more towns until we stopped at Mont-St-Pierre. All along here the scenery is majestic. One can almost touch the sides of the cliffs [which] overhang the highway and rise above you some 400 or 500 feet. Here, at Mont-St-Pierre, there is a small roadside inn – the only building in this hamlet – and a gasoline pump. The 2 or 3 pioneer families there all live together. We left the car and walked around for a bit of relaxation, [and] opened the lunch box for a little repast. As we were about to start off, we observed a formation of black clouds over the mountain [but] decided to face the squall in the shelter of the cliffs rather than rough it out in the valley. I observed the innkeeper with his son and grandson, all in a hay wagon. They had left their hayfield, some eight miles away, to come home. They arrived at the inn as we were preparing to leave, and we fell into pleasant conversation. At 2:30 P.M. [we] were on our way up the hill. It was raining, and the lightning and thunder was terrific. As we were rising up the mountain into a clear sky, the squall was playing havoc in the valley behind us...

Dr Florent Fournier (1824-1899)

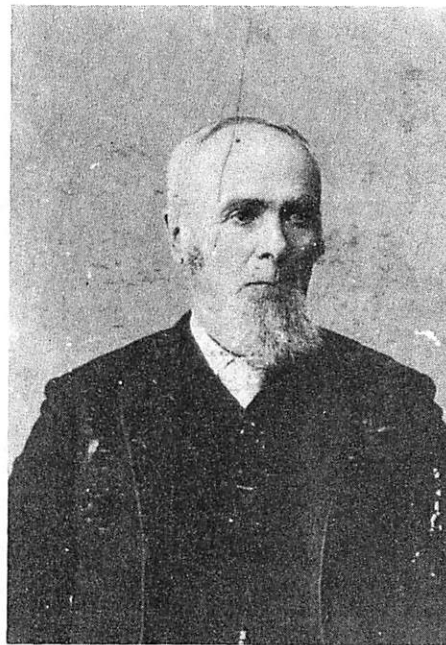
Dr Florent Fournier is prominent in the history of Madawaska, having been the first native-born physician from that region of northern Maine. During his final years in Salem, he came to be “well known and highly respected” by the French residents here.

Florent, the son of Jean-Baptiste Fournier and Salomé Cyr, was born in Madawaska, Maine on the south shore of the St-John River on 10 August 1824. He was baptized across the river in the church of St-Basile, New Brunswick.

He studied at the Collège de Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière in Québec from 1839 to 1847, then at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. After further studies in Vermont he received his medical degree and was licensed to practice by the Council of Physicians and Surgeons. He opened an office at Petit-Sault (now Edmundston) about 1852, and attended to patients on both sides of the river which separated Maine and New Brunswick. He travelled on foot, horseback, carriage, canoe, sled, and snowshoes, covering a wide territory where he was said to have had “a very large patronage”. Later, he became one of the first resident physicians at the *Hôtel-Dieu* in Edmundston.

On 17 July 1857, Dr Fournier married Elizabeth Tighe in the church of St-Basile. NB, and the couple had ten children born between 1858 and 1877. In addition to his role as father and physician, Dr Fournier was active in politics and was twice a candidate in provincial elections.

After a career which spanned more than four decades, Dr Fournier found himself a widower and in poor health, suffering from heart disease. He retired from practice in



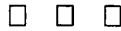
1895 and came to Salem to be with four of his daughters, Elisabeth, Délia, Hélène, and Cécile. He made his home with his eldest daughter Elisabeth, the wife of Maxime Cyr, at 19 Lagrange Street (now Leavitt Street).

Dr Fournier, said to be “a man of fine literary attainments”, immediately took an interest in the activities of St-Joseph’s parish where he was elected to serve as president of *la ligue du Sacré-Coeur*. Although retired from the medical field, he remained quite active with the church and with his family. His daughter Elisabeth presented him with a grandson, Georges-Henri, born in Salem on 21 February 1899. Only five months later, on 25 July, the doctor’s single daughter, Hélène, died in Salem at the age of 25.

A tragic accident took place on Wednesday noon, 6 September 1899. Dr Fournier’s son-in-law, Maxime Cyr, was working at the wood factory of Magloire Caron at 11 Edicott Street. “Cyr was operating the

[circular] saw in cutting a plank when the shaft of the machine broke, the knife cutting Cyr's wrist in a horrible manner, in fact, almost severing the left hand from the arm." Cyr was taken to the hospital where his hand was amputated above the wrist. Later that afternoon, the 75 year-old Dr Florent Fournier died, "about an hour after hearing

the news of the severe accident". His funeral was held on Saturday from St-Joseph's church, and a large delegation from *la ligue du Sacré-Coeur* escorted the body to St. Mary's cemetery. He was survived by three sons and three daughters, including Elisabeth (1865-1941) and her husband Maxime Cyr (1857-1935) of Salem.



L'été en fête

The Franco-American Institute of Salem will celebrate its fifth annual social, "l'été en fête", on Sunday 25 August 2013 at 40 Nahant Street, Lynn.

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

To "R.S.V.P.", or for directions, call 781-592-1425 or write to francosalem@yahoo.com

Venez! Fêtons l'été ensemble!



Le Courrier de Salem

**Events of a century ago in Salem's Franco-American newspaper
September - December 1913**

Societies

- Joseph-F. Pelletier was elected president of the *U.S.J.B., Conseil Laurier*.
- Arthur Beaucage, editor of *Le Courrier de Salem*, has been elected president of the *Cercle Lacordaire*.
- Among the recently elected officers of the El-Yu-Tan Club are Edmond Madore, president, Marcel Sirois, secretary, and Joseph Thériault, treasurer.

The Press

- Mlle Mila Vanasse, an editor at *Le Courrier de Lawrence* for the past 2½ years, has joined *Le Courrier de Salem* and will work as a translator.

Politics

- Ubalde de Grandpré is Salem's first Franco-American to be appointed a permanent member of the Salem Fire Department.

People & Families

- Arthur Tremblay, the Mayor of Les Éboulements, PQ, is in Salem visiting his sister Georgina and her husband Georges Michaud.
- A 35th birthday party for Lorenzo Bérubé was held at the home of his father-in-law. Aimé Roy, 65½ Harbor street, on November 26th. *L'Orchestre Leblanc* furnished the music.
- Mlle Ernestine Brassard, owner of the women's clothing shop on Harbor street for 20 years, died at her home, 11 Cedar street, on December 4th at the age of 47.
- Joseph Couillard, a Salem resident since 1868, died on December 26th at the age of 72 years.

Business and Professions

- The leather factory on South Mason street, owned by Albert Ducharme, was destroyed by fire on September 9th.
- Livain Fournier has purchased the barber shop of Joseph Lavoie, located at the corner of Palmer and Naumkeag streets.
- Eugène Fournier has added three magnificent chairs to his Lafayette street barber shop at a cost of \$180.00.
- Elzéar LeChasseur, formerly of Salem, has been appointed General Manager of the Singer Sewing Machine Company for the entire state of Vermont.
- Charles-E. Fraser of 36 Park street has retired from the Ivers & Pond Piano Co., Boston, and is available to tune pianos.
- Madame E.-A. Chagnon has opened a sewing school at 29 Harbor street on October 1st. This was formerly the jewelry store of M. Desjardins.
- David Cyr has opened a rooming house at 43 Harbor street and offers meals at all hours.

- Adélarde Thibault, the Roslyn street grocer, has had a telephone installed in his store. His telephone number is 406.

Church

- Père J.-Napoléon Jacques, who served as assistant at St-Joseph's from 1888 to 1891, died in Lowell on September 5th.
- Père Rosario Richard, assistant at St-Joseph's for the past eight years, has been named pastor of St-Antoine in Shirley, effective September 29th. He will be replaced by Père Louis-Philippe Tanguay.
- St-Joseph's parish was honored by the visit of Mgr Bruchési, Archbishop of Montréal, on October 21st.
- Mlle Clara Saindon of Salem attended the ordination of her cousin, Père Ludger Ouellette, in Portland, Maine, on December 20th, and his first Mass in his home town of Chisholm, Maine, on December 21st.

School

- Mlle Elisa St-Pierre has been appointed as an English teacher in the night school by the Salem School Committee.
- *École Ste-Anne* opened on September 3rd. Due to space limitations, only 130 of the 300 applicants could be admitted.
- *École St-Joseph* has an enrollment of 1,506 students for the 1913-1914 school year.

Entertainment

- A whist party was held in the *Cercle Veillot* hall to benefit the *Société St-Vincent-de-Paul*. "Frenchie Valentine" Guillemette was the featured performer.
- In honor of the 100th anniversary of Louis Veillot, 500 people attended the *soirée* in the *Cercle Veillot* hall on October 12th.
- A *soirée* with plays and music was presented in the *Cercle Veillot* hall on November 11th by the students of St-Joseph's.
- An evening of music was presented by the students of Mme Napoléon Demers in Academy Hall on November 24th. Some 300 people attended.
- *Les Enfants de Marie* presented a *soirée musicale* in the *Cercle Veillot* hall on December 21st to benefit St-Joseph's church.

*Savourez
l'été!*

Traditions

No. 15: “Fais pas ton p’tit Jean Lévesque”

D.-Michel Michaud, #1

This expression, literally translated as “Don’t be a little Jean Lévesque”, has long been in common usage in Québec. It refers to one who is arrogant and bossy. But unlike so many expressions born of legend, a real Jean Lévesque did exist, and his story can be told.

Jean Lévesque, the son of Georges Lévesque and Monique Lachaume, was born at Ste-Anne-des-Monts, Gaspé-Nord, PQ on 11 December 1846. At about 5’8” tall and 140 pounds, with light brown hair and blue-grey eyes, he appeared rather slight. But he had gained much strength, was quite agile, and showed no fear.

At 13 or 14, he appeared to be a young man of twenty. He left his poor family and went to Ontario where he found work laying rails for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad. Because other workers were much older than he, he quickly had to learn to defend himself as an adult.

After several years, he returned to the Gaspé, tanner, more mature, and self-confident. He was well-traveled, had developed a taste for gin, and had money in his pocket. He had also learned to swear – and in English, no less – and he used his words freely. He loved to impress his friends with tales of life among fighters and drinker, or with displays of agility or strength. He could twirl about and slam the heel of his boot against the top of a six-foot door frame, and could burst a sandbag with one calculated punch. Soon, his reputation was spreading.

Lévesque found employment as a logger. With great strength and stamina, he worked ten-hour days to the delight of his employers. He was promoted to foreman, receiving \$12 per month, while others received only \$8. He exacted the same dedication from his workers, and did not hesitate to fire those who did not live up to his expectations, even if they were relatives or friends.

One day, three rather mediocre workers decided to beat up Jean Lévesque in a gang fight. Lévesque heard of their scheme and was prepared for them. When they arrived, he dashed around the room wildly, screaming obscenities, jumped over the stove, and in one leap booted one of the men in the stomach, sending him reeling into the wall. The other two men, upon seeing this spectacular display, ran as fast as their feet could carry them. Again, his reputation spread and other loggers became fearful of running into Jean Lévesque.

In later years, Lévesque became the manager of a company which exported dry cod. He piloted boats and was in charge of the crew, but was no less demanding to the end of his life. Jean Lévesque died in 1924 at the age of 77.

Although the story of Jean Lévesque is true, one legend did arise shortly after his death. It was said that when he met Saint Peter, he was read a lengthy list of faults committed during his lifetime. As he attempted to defend himself, Saint Peter interrupted saying: “*Fais pas ton p’tit Jean Lévesque!*”

Our traditions: a heritage worth remembering!

Genealogies

Fournier

- Gilles Fournier & Noëlle Gagnon of Coulmer, Normandie, France
- I Guillaume Fournier & Françoise Hébert (Guillaume & Hélène Desportes)
Notre-Dame-de-Québec, 20 Nov 1651
 - II Charles Fournier & Élisabeth Bouchard (Nicolas & Anne LeRoy)
Cap-St-Ignace, 13 Jul 1699
 - III Charles Fournier & Angélique Langlois (Joseph & Louise Nolin)
Montmagny, 15 Oct 1725
 - IV Jean-Marie Fournier & Angélique-Desanges Dionne (Joseph & Madeline Meneux)
C. Dupont, 13 Feb 1757
 - V Jean-Baptiste Fournier & Félicité Martin (Jean-Baptiste & Marie Brun)
St-Basile, NB, 28 Jun 1793
 - VI Jean-Baptiste Fournier & Salomé Cyr (Paul & Charlotte Ayotte)
St-Basile, NB, 17 Jan 1815
 - VII Florent Fournier & Elisabeth Tighe (Michael & Angélique Fournier)
St-Basile, NB, 17 Jul 1857
 - VIII Elisabeth Fournier & Maxime Cyr (Hilaire & Malvina Hébert)
Edmundston, NB, 27 Feb 1883

□ □ □

Landry

- Mathurin Landry & Damienne Dessaints of La Ventrouze (Perche), France
- I Guillaume Landry & Gabrielle Barré (Jacques & Judith Dubaut)
Québec, 14 Oct 1659
 - II Claude Landry & Angélique Verieul (Nicolas & Marguerite Hyardin)
Ste-Famille, I.-O., 17 Aug 1688
 - III Louis Landry & Geneviève Migneron (Jean & Françoise Marcel)
Île-Dupas, 9 Feb 1722
 - IV Joseph Landry & Geneviève Vermet (Charles-Augustin & Josette Juneau)
C. Rigaud, 24 Jun 1768
 - V Augustin Landry & Josephte Lajoie (Jélie & Françoise Trudelle)
Maskinongé, 12 Jan 1795
 - VI Augustin Landry & Euphrosine Petit-Bruno (Joseph & Françoise Lebrun)
Maskinongé, 8 Aug 1820
 - VII Charles-Onésime Landry & Marie-Cécile Blais (Jacques & Apolline Gélinas)
Trois-Rivières, 21 Jul 1863
 - VIII Jean-Baptiste Landry & Clarinda Fugère (Magloire & Eugénie Bourgault)

Décès

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

Diane-Y.-L. (Gagnon) BACKRY, 67 ans, 3 mai 2013 • Thérèse (Beaulieu) BERRY, 82 ans, 2 avril 2013 • John-Joseph BILODEAU, 71 ans, 3 février 2013 • Catherine-Margaret (Royack) BOUCHARD, 82 ans, 10 mars 2013 • June-A. (Richards) BUKOWSKI, 79 ans, 8 mars 2013 • Donald-Paul CAMIRÉ, 59 ans, 4 mai 2013 • Adrien-Norman CHOUINARD, 89 ans, 6 mars 2013 • Rachelle (Morency) COLLEGE, 74 ans, 4 avril 2013 • Joan-F. (Lévesque) CORMIER, 25 mars 2013 • Gloria-A. (Bouchard) DAVIS, 76 ans, 13 février 2013 • Jeannette-H. (Daigle) DIONNE, 102 ans, 8 février 2013 • Dorothy-R. (Soucy) EMENEY, 80 ans, 3 mars 2013 • M.-Rita (Dionne) FRENCH, 84 ans, 14 février 2013 • Elizabeth-A. (Plourde) GABRIELSKI, 89 ans, 10 mai 2013 • Girard-N. GAGNÉ, 80 ans, 6 février 2013 • Daniel-J. GAGNON, 64 ans, 30 mai 2013 • Roy-F. GÉLINEAU, 92 ans, 28 avril 2013 • Conrad-L. GIRARD, 86 ans, 9 avril 2013 • Rita-Eva (Boucher) GRENIER, 80 ans, 9 février 2013 • Helen (Clancy) GUÉNETTE, 98 ans, 31 mars 2013 • Helen-M. (Dumas) HAWRYLUK, 98 ans, 26 mai 2013 • Cécile-Délia (Potvin) HIGGINS, 85 ans, 6 mai 2013 • Wilfred-F. LaBELLE, 87 ans, 27 avril 2013 • Zoël-A. LABRIE, 85 ans, 18 mars 2013 • Rose-J. (DeSantis) LAMARRE, 88 ans, 20 février 2013 • Antonio-A. LAVOIE, 95 ans, 18 mai 2013 • **Gérard-J. LAVOIE (#10)**, 85 ans, 2 avril 2013 • Anita LeBLANC (Sr Régina-Marie S.A.S.V.), 92 ans, 3 février 2013 • Lorraine (LeClair) LEWIS-CONLEY, 93 ans, 14 mars 2013 • Jean-A. LÉVESQUE, 88 ans, 2 juin 2013 • Jeannine (Dion) LORANGER, 92 ans, 7 avril 2013 • Thérèse-M. (Banville) LUCA, 85 ans, 4 mai 2013 • Arthur MARQUIS, 71 ans, 6 mai 2013 • Florence-L.-Blanche (Lemelin) McCULLEY, 96 ans, 15 avril 2013 • George-E. MICHAUD, 73 ans, 24 avril 2013 • Norma-E. (Billings) MIGNAULT, 77 ans, 15 février 2013 • Janis-Lee (Chartier) MONAHAN, 85 ans, 28 février 2013 • Eva-H. (Pelletier) MOREAU, 78 ans, 21 avril 2013 • Marguerite-M. (Bouchard) MORIN, 81 ans, 24 avril 2013 • Ronald-F. MORIN, 68 ans, 9 avril 2013 • Roger-Gérald-Joseph NOISEUX, 75 ans, 15 février 2013 • Edward-E. PELLETIER, 58 ans, 21 mai 2013 • Lucienne (Daly) PELLETIER, 92 ans, 2 février 2013 • Marguerite-T. (Fallon) PELLETIER, 86 ans, 18 mai 2012 • Wilfred-J. PELLETIER, 89 ans, 2 février 2013 • Yvonne (Collette) REIDY, 94 ans, 31 mars 2013 • Catherine-M. (Pelletier) ROMAGNOLI, 73 ans, 30 mai 2013 • Richard-G. ROUSSEAU, 48 ans, 31 mai 2013 • Roland-O. ROUTHIER, 83 ans, 22 mai 2013 • Anne-Marie (Blanchette) TURCOTTE, 50 ans, 18 mars 2013 • Lucienne-M. (Martin) VAILLANCOURT, 99 ans, 27 février 2013 •

Nous nous souviendrons d'eux

Poème de J.-B. Landry

Jean-Baptiste Landry (1881-1954), le fils de Charles-Onésime Landry et de Marie-Cécile Blais de Trois-Rivières, s'établi à Salem vers 1907. En 1908, après avoir épousé Clarinda Fugère (1885-1974), il ouvre son magasin de chaussures au no. 49, rue Palmer. Plus tard, le magasin se trouvera sur la rue Essex, Congress, et finalement au no. 38, rue Lafayette avant de fermer ses portes vers 1930.

Son poème, d'après "Les Dix Commandements de Dieu" (bien connu en ce temps-là), est témoignage de son esprit d'entreprise, de son caractère comique, et de sa puissance créatrice. Voici le poème, écrit par J.-B. Landry de Salem, qui remonte aux années 1910:

Les Dix Commandements de Jean-Baptiste

- I Tes chaussures tu acheteras
 Afin qu'elles durent longuement.
- II Chez Landry tu iras
 Pour bon marché sûrement.
- III En tout temps tu y trouveras
 Le meilleur assortiment.
- IV Une bonne paire tu acheteras
 Au plus bas prix honnêtement.
- V En monsieur tu te chausseras
 Tu auras aussi pour ton argent.
- VI Tes cors ne sentiras
 Tes oignons aucunement.
- VII Le dimanche messe entendras
 Sans grimacer à tout moment.
- VIII L'esprit aux pieds tu n'auras pas
 Et tu prieras dévotement.
- IX À Landry grâce rendras
 Dans tes chaussures si content.
- X Chez-lui encore tu reviendras
 Lorsqu'il faudra en faire autant.

La Revue de Salem

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Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc.

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

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

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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 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.



La Revue de Salem

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



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

Cover Photo: *Joyeux Noël!* The Martineau Family Christmas Card, 1959. Seated: Jean-Claude, Jeannine, Henri (*papa*), Sr Irène SASV, Irène (*maman*), Annette, Jean-Guy. Standing: Bernard, Henri, Père Laurier, Maurice, Marie-Thérèse, Richard.

News

Tara Deschênes, a freshman at the Salem Academy, was named Player of the Year by the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization. *Félicitations!* • Mark Côté, director of the Life-bridge homeless shelter, received a \$500.00 donation from the Salem State Wellness Center. *Un beau cadeau!* • Richard Pelletier has retired after 20 years as assistant director of facilities at Salem State University. His department was awarded a Commonwealth Citation for Outstanding Performance. *Bonne retraite!* • When Salem's mayor held her big political bash on July 14th, the Salem News quipped: "That's an odd day to hold a political event in this French-American city. Isn't that Bastille Day...the day people rose up and overthrew their government? *De coïncidence, sans doute!* • Salem artist Gilles Laroche has published yet another children's book, "If You Lived Here: Houses of the World". A frequent exhibitor in museums, Laroche is now working on a book about towers. *Un chef-d'oeuvre!* • The annual *Messe en français* in honor of Sainte Anne was celebrated by Père Louis Bourgeois on Saturday July 27th at 11:00 A.M. *Merci, mon père!* • The Salem Garden Club announced the winners of its annual contest during Salem Heritage Days, on August 8th. Louise Michaud, photographer, won first prize in the Business Window Box category, and Bouchard's Garage won first prize in the Traffic Island category for the Riley Plaza flagpole area. *C'était très beau!* • We were all saddened by the death of Père Georges-J. Dufour on August 28th. He was pastor of Ste-Anne's in Salem from 1 June 1993 to 4 June 2013. *Au revoir, au ciel.* • Bernard's Jewelers, owned and operated by the Tétrault family since 1934, announced its closing on September 13th. It has been called "a city landmark, the last of the big-name stores". *Une perte énorme!* • A belated "Happy Birthday" to longtime Salem resident Noëlla (Goguen) Savoie who celebrated her 100th birthday on 23 February 2013, and to Salem native Léa (Jalbert) Mitchell who celebrated her 100th birthday on 7 October 2013. *Bonne fête!* • Congratulations to *les Soeurs de Ste-Chrétienne* who are celebrating anniversaries this year! 60 years: Srs Cécile Berthiaume, Jeannette Desorcy, and Louisa Perreault. 65 years: Srs Marie-Thérèse Ebacher, and Irène Ledoux. Also, we congratulate three Salem natives who are celebrating their Golden Jubilees: Sr Catherine Caron, s.s.s of Vatican City, Sr Irène Martineau, SASV (#76) of Dracut, MA, and Père Robert-G. Labrie of Salem. *Ad Multos Annos!* • We welcome Dorothy Morneau (#107) and Jane Stauffer (#219) who were elected to the board of directors of the Franco-American Institute of Salem at the September 22nd meeting. *Bienvenue!*

Donations received include: books (3 volumes) from Janet Briggs Lettich (#190); books (2) from Nelson Dionne (#2); microfiche reader from the French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut; gift from John Kobuszewski (#3); photos (2) and CD from Elisabeth LeBrun (#217); books (6) and artifacts (4) from D-Michel Michaud (#1). *Un grand merci à tous!*

Editorial

La Revue Souffle Quinze Chandelles!

As we look back on fifteen years of publication of *La Revue de Salem*, we realize how fortunate we are to have had the continued support of so many individuals and institutions both in the United States and Canada! From the beginning, we have been aided in our research, and encouraged in our work of preserving and promoting Salem's Franco-American history. Additionally, we have had the great joy of being able to help others trace their genealogies and to shed light on their family's past. Since our modest beginning in 1999, our archives have grown to include thousands of genealogies and vital records, as well as books, photographs, documents and historical accounts. The French have been a vibrant part of Salem's history for over 150 years, and it has been our pleasure to collect and preserve this material, and to share it with our members. For fifteen wonderful years, *un grand "Merci"!*

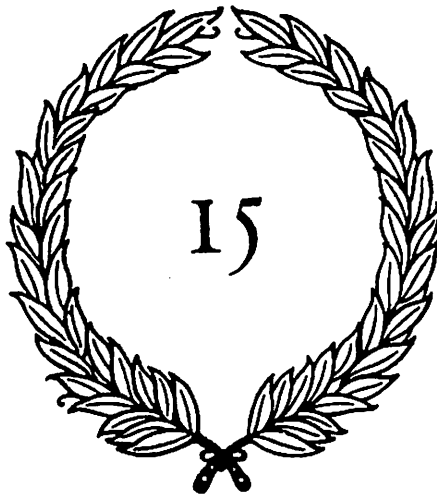
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To each of our members and their families, we offer our unchanging annual wishes:

Un joyeux Noël,

une bonne année,

et le paradis à la fin de vos jours!



First Families of Salem (I)

Many French-Canadians came to Salem during the decade between 1862 and 1872. Pierre Caisse spent his seventh consecutive summer in Salem in 1862 before establishing his family here; ten years later, on 30 June 1872, the French-Canadians were numerous enough to gather for Mass and to begin the proceedings which would lead to the establishment of St-Joseph's parish the following year.

But the French population of Salem was very unstable throughout this decade. Many families were transient residents, some remaining here for but a season, while relatively few settled here as permanent residents.

From the civil records of births, marriages, and deaths, and from the Federal Census return of 1870, we find no fewer than 350 French-Canadian families residing in Salem during this ten-year period. Undoubtedly, many others also arrived whose presence remains unrecorded.

Although it would be impossible to identify every family which came to Salem during this first decade of settlement, it is possible to identify those which remained, many of which left descendents, and which may be called the First Families of Salem's Franco-American community.

In this series we will give brief accounts of these early settlers.

Caisse (1863)

Pierre Caisse (1815-1893) and Marguerite Boucher (1815-1897) were married at St-Ambroise-de-Kildare, PQ on 10 October 1842. For seven summers, beginning in 1856, Pierre lived in Salem where he was employed as a farmer. On 14 February 1863, he arrived in Lawrence, MA with his wife and six children. After a month's stay, the family settled permanently in Salem. Pierre died in Salem on 20 October 1893 at the age of 77 years, and Marguerite on 6 March 1897 at the age of 81 years. Pierre's obituary account reads in part:

Pierre Caisse, residing in Salem for 30 years, was the first French [-Canadian] citizen to arrive in Salem.

Harnois (1863)

Jean-Baptiste Harnois (1827-1903) and Marie Lafrenière-dite-Desrosiers (1828-1899) were married at Ste-Élisabeth-de-Joliette, PQ on 23 September 1850. The couple settled in Salem in 1863. Marie, a native of the Île-Dupas, PQ died in Salem on 16 February 1899 at the age of 70 years. Jean-Baptiste, a native of St-Paul-de-Joliette, PQ died in Salem on 30 August 1903 at the age of 76 years, having resided here for the last fifty years of his life. Marie's obituary account reads in part:

With her husband, who survives, she came to this city about 36 years ago, being one of the earliest of the Canadian families to settle in Salem. For many years the family resided on Ward street. Besides her aged husband, four sons and three daughters survive. The funeral will take place from St. Joseph's church, at which she had been a regular attendant since its erection.

Dion (1865)

Urbain Dion and Julie Paquet-dite-Lavallée were married on 20 August 1833 at St-Gervais, PQ. They arrived in Salem with their family in 1865 and, like so many others, frequently traveled back-and-forth to Québec. Their daughter Julienne Dion (1845-1946) and Damase Lamontagne (1845-1926) were married on 4 November 1872 at St-Gervais, and the couple made their home in Salem. Damase died in Salem on 1 April 1926 at the age of 80 years, and Julienne on 27 February 1946 at the age of 100 years, having resided here for the last eighty years of her life. Julienne's obituary account reads in part:

Mrs. Julienne Lamontagne, who recently passed her 100th birthday, came to Salem when she was 20 years of age, and was one of the oldest living residents of this community. [She] was beloved by all who knew her because of her cheerful disposition and because of her activities in the life of Salem's Franco-American organizations.

Fortin (1865)

Jean-Hector "Victor" Fortin (1816-1891), was born at l'Islet, PQ on 14 March 1816. There he married Rosalie Chouinard (1822-1880) on 1 June 1841, and the couple settled in Salem in 1865. Rosalie died in Salem on 23 July 1880 at the age of 58 years. Victor remarried in Salem on 14 January 1883 to Anastasie Deschênes (1831-1901), the widow of Cyrias Rioux. Victor died in Salem on 1 April 1891 at the age of 75 years, and Anastasie on 20 October 1901 at the age of 70 years. Victor's obituary account reads in part:

[He] was born at l'Islet, PQ, coming to Salem Aug. 10, 1865, since which time he has been employed on the Eastern railroad. He leaves a family of 9 children. He was well known for his charitable disposition and his excellent manner of making friends with all who came in contact with him. Fortin was among the first seven French families that took up a residence in this city.

Boucher (1866)

Joseph Boucher (1844-1921) was born at Ste-Élisabeth-de-Joliette, PQ on 5 October 1844. He first settled in Danversport in 1863 where he found employment in the brickyards. On a visit to Canada, he was married at St-Guillaume-d'Upton, PQ on 18 February 1868 to Tharsile Fontaine (1844-1924), a native of St-Hughes-de-Bagot, PQ. Joseph brought his new wife to Salem, where he had resided since 1866. Joseph died on 27 January 1921 at the age of 76 years, and Tharsile on 24 February 1924 at the age of 79 years. At the time of their 50th wedding anniversary, *Le Courrier de Salem* (21 February 1918) wrote in part:

Mr. Boucher has worked in the brickyards for 55 years; he has almost always been employed at Danversport, and has been foreman there for the past several years. Mr. Boucher has lived in Salem for 52 years. Upon his arrival in our city, there were only 3 French Canadian families here, and 50 years ago, there were only 8. (*trans.*)

[to be continued]

Salem in a Québec Legend

French-Canadian storytellers, known as *raconteurs*, kept tradition alive by relating mysterious legends to their children and grandchildren. These stories were often told with great enthusiasm at family gatherings known as *soirées*, and were once a popular form of entertainment.

Many of the legends, such as the one below, are based on fact. Nearly 310 years ago, on 29 February 1704, French and Indians raided Deerfield, Massachusetts, killing some 50 residents and taking more than 100 others into captivity. Among those who took part in the attack were the Mohawks of Caughnawaga (Kahnawake, Québec), a Jesuit mission established in 1667.

According to the legend, it was a bell seized here in Salem that was the motive for their participation in the raid. The bell is symbolic of the captive, and its return is explained as an act of redemption.

Legend of the Bell of Caughnawaga – Toward the end of the first century of the French colonization (17th century), Father Nichol, a missionary, asked the Catholic savages of Caughnawaga to put aside a tithe from the fruit of their labors for the purchase of a bell to be used at the mission church. A bell! The savage peasants did not know what that was, as they had never seen one; but the good missionary wanted one and they hastened to respond to his request. Before long they were able to order a bell from France. Time passed, and the bell should have already arrived some time earlier, but nothing came. The Father and the savages began to grow impatient and to lose hope when, one day, it was learned at Montréal that the vessel carrying the precious bell had been taken by the English. The entire cargo had been transported to SALEM, in Massachusetts. The bell had already been placed in the belfry of a Protestant church in Deerfield, near Salem [that is to say, also in Massachusetts].

One must admit, this was a very cruel disappointment. The savages had awaited their bell, as Israel had awaited the Messiah. Upon hearing the terrible news, one of them cried out: “We will raise arms and fight for the bell.”

Several years later, when M. de Vaudreuil asked Father Nichol to obtain the cooperation of the residents of Caughnawaga, the missionary replied: “Let me recover our bell and you will have the help of our people.”

The promise was made, and Father Nichol, assembling the savages in the village square, shared with them the governor’s request and announced to them that they would retrieve the bell... “The bell, the bell,” they cried out with one voice, “let’s go, let’s go!”

After the Deerfield raid..., the savages were only too eager to scale the church steeple where the bell had been placed. It was taken down quickly, with the intent of carrying it back to their native country.

It was not as easy task to drag this bell over barely passable paths, during a season when the snow was a serious obstacle to the journey through the forest. And so, once they arrived at the

border, it was decided to bury the bell in an old Indian cemetery near Swanton [Vermont], probably at the place now called Maquam Bay, and to continue the route to the village by the Rapids with the intention of coming to retrieve it in a more favorable season. In the month of June, they returned to get it and brought it triumphantly into the Wigwam, amid cries of joy and songs of triumph from the entire population. It is this same bell which still rings today in the belfry of the old stone church of Caughnawaga.

"Histoire de la Congrégation canadienne de Winooski, au Vermont" by
Rév. Jean-Frédéric Audet (Montréal, 1906); trans. By D.-Michel Michaud,
2013

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Salem's French Neighborhoods

The French-Canadians settled in two distinct areas of Salem. Each became known as a *Petit Canada* or Little Canada, a self-sufficient neighborhood with its own church, school, and businesses. Even today, people speak of the Point district and the Castle Hill district of Salem, but few may be aware of the early origins of these names.

The Point – The area behind the former St-Joseph's church on Lafayette street is known as the Point. Spanning between Peabody and Leavitt streets, the tract extends easterly into Salem Harbor. Here, at the farthest point, frameworks called stages were constructed for drying cod and other fish, hence the name Stage Point.

The Naumkeag Mills were built on this site and began operating in 1847. The earliest French-Canadian settlers began arriving in the 1860s, found work in the mills, and rented living quarters in the mill housing developments or in privately owned tenement buildings. The entire area was destroyed in the fire of 25 June 1914, but was quickly rebuilt. Many of the properties were purchased by the French residents who constructed large brick apartment blocks, most of which exist today.

Castle Hill – The area surrounding Ste-Anne's church on Jefferson avenue is known as Castle Hill, but the actual hill and its castle have long disappeared. The hill was situated between Jefferson avenue and Canal street, and extended from Ocean avenue to as far as Bertuccio avenue. Its name is derived from the fact that a fort or castle was erected on its summit by the Naumkeag tribe, destroyed in the battle of 1616.

Development of the area began in the 1880s. Virtually all of the house lots were purchased by French-Canadians who had been living in rented quarters in the Point. New homes, largely single and two-family, were constructed, as well as a church, a school, and many small businesses. The Massachusetts Broken Stone Company began blasting the hill away in 1890, and the crushed stone was used to pave the streets of the city. The site of the hill is now entirely flat, but the area surrounding it retains the name of Castle Hill, and the homes built by the early settlers exist today.

The First Census of 1889

The first definitive census of Salem's French population was taken nearly 125 years ago, in the early fall of 1889. All figures prior to that time were estimates which varied greatly.

As early as 1872, one reporter for the Salem Observer wrote: "We have heard the present French population of the city estimated at one thousand, but although the number of such is large, we do not believe it reaches that figure."

Immigration appears to have been slow but steady, bringing the number to approximately 1,500 French residents in 1885. Four years later, on 15 March 1889, the Salem Evening News noted a surge in the "French-Canadian Influx":

Salem must be an attractive spot for French-Canadians, judging from the recent arrivals witnessed at the Boston & Maine depot. The influx is something remarkable, and at the present rate Salem's population will take a surprising jump. French arrivals are noted daily, the 4:05 trains from the east being especially noticeable. On Wednesday, in the vicinity of 40 passengers were landed, and yesterday there were from 20 to 25 more. Today's train is also expected to bring another larger freight. The Castle hill settlement offers special inducements to Frenchmen who have a little money to invest in homes of their own.

French-Canadians had been drawn to Salem due to its accessibility by rail, its employment opportunities in the mills, and its well-established parish. The purchase of properties by individuals in the 1880s was a sure indication that the French-Canadians were now ready to invest in permanent residences. And as plans for a large French parochial school began to materialize, families were drawn to Salem in even larger numbers.

With all of these factors in place, the time had come for an accurate accounting. On 22 October 1889 the Salem Evening News published a lengthy report of the first "full and complete census" of Salem's French community:

Salem's French Population – Rev. J. O. Gadoury of the French Catholic church has just completed an important task. Some time ago he conceived the idea of taking the census of the French population of the city, with several objects in view. In the first place, he desired to post himself in the matter for the best interests of the cause which he represents; but there were many other reasons that lead him to impose on himself the arduous task. There has never before been taken a full and complete census, and he was aware that one of this kind would be of inestimable value in many ways. He commenced his labors on the 27th of September, and by putting all his spare time into the work completed it on the 18th of this month. Yesterday a News reporter called at the residence of the reverend gentleman and obtained a copy of the most important figures, together with more or less information in general concerning the French population of the city, and the church which the greater portion of them attend.

Undoubtedly The News' readers will be as much surprised as the reporter was to find that there are 3336 French residents in Salem. Of this number 2457 are over 10 years of age, and the balance, 879, under that age. They are divided among 587 families, the majority of whom reside in that section of the city known as the "Point." The Castle hill district is being rapidly populated by

visitors from the north, however, and there is already quite a colony established there. Land can be purchased very reasonably and industrious men are stimulated to secure homesteads for themselves. The largest number of residents on one street is on Congress street, where 695 make their homes. Salem appears to have offered special inducements to people of this nationality, for since August 26, 1885, when the number was computed before, the population has doubled itself.

In general, families were very well situated. In 1885, there was only one Frenchman who owned property in the city; now there are forty-five property owners. There are fifteen storekeepers, besides three bakers with well established places of business.

In regard to the church, the reverend gentleman stated there was very little debt carried at the present time. It cost \$21,000, all but \$4000 of which was paid at the time it was erected. The parochial residence, which adjoins the church property, was purchased of Charles Hallowell at an expense of \$4500. The capacity of the church has been severely taxed at times and an addition to the structure would not come amiss. At the time of the last mission held at the edifice, there were nights for men and nights for the women and either could fill the place. There is seating capacity for 806 persons and these are not infrequently occupied.

The next move contemplated is the erection of a parochial school. The church has already acquired by purchase land in the vicinity of Harbor square to the extent of 14,500 square feet, which is all the room needed upon which to build when the time comes. A piece of property in the rear of the church was recently purchased from W. H. Merrill that gives a clear right of way to Harbor square. One of the ideas advanced by a prominent Frenchman in favor of the parochial school for the French children is that they may have French teachers, who will be better able to teach the English language than the English teachers of the public schools. Continuing, the gentleman said: "There is not the illiteracy among the French people that many imagine. The officials in making their queries ascertain from parties whether they can read or write. The party addressed will answer nine times in ten 'no,' supposing that their interrogators mean the English language." In closing the gentleman stated that he hoped that when the next national census was taken a Frenchman would be assigned to cover the French district.

□ □ □

The Castle Hill section of Salem, opened to development in the 1880s, was the focus of much attention. Virtually all of the house lots would be purchased by French-Canadians. Shortly after the 1889 census was taken, 28 families were already residing in the new *Petit Canada* while other new homes were in the process of construction. The Castle Hill families of 1890 were: Moïse Beauregard, Clément Belval, Napoléon Boisvert, Pierre Boucher, Pierre Bousquet, Pierre Caisse, Louis Charland, Bruno Deschênes, J.-Antoine Desjardins, Clifford Dussault, William Frégeau, Olympe Gagnon, Georges Labrie, Isidore L'Heureux, Elisée Marchand, Théophile Marchand, Désiré Ménard, Joseph Morin, Pierre Morin, Étienne Ouellette, Adolphe Paquin, Pierre Pelletier, Eustache Raby, Henri Roucher, Joseph Sicard, Alfred Soucy, Pierre Tardif, and Auguste Therien.

The Theatre in 1889

Theatrical performances were the entertainment of choice at the turn of the century. Nearly 125 years ago, on 9 May 1889, French-Canadians thronged Salem's Mechanic Hall to attend two French-language plays featuring local actors. Proceeds from the event were for the benefit of St-Joseph's church.

Of particular interest is the raffle of a parlor set, valued at nearly \$4,000. today. Among those who sold tickets, the two individuals with the highest sales realized the equivalent of nearly \$56,000. in today's currency!

On the next day, the Salem Evening News published the following account:

French Comedy.

A French Audience Regaled with French Pieces.

An entirely French play or plays with an entirely French cast is something of a novelty even in Salem. Such an event occurred last evening at Mechanic hall and that edifice was fairly crowded with gay French girls and their escorts, the more sedate matrons, and their husbands, all in aid of a fund for the French church.

The programme was carried out by the actors in great style, and included a couple of short pieces. The audience seemed to enjoy the entertainment, judging by their animated looks and frequent applause. In keeping with the play was the programme, which was printed in French, advertisements and all, Barry & Lufkin having done the work. In the first farce, the characters were as follows:

Benval, riche bourgeois	C. [Aldric] Forest
Elmire, sa fille	Mde. Ernest Berube
Edouard Durand	Elisee Levesque
Georges Durand, son frere jumeau	Elisee Levesque
Domestique, serviteur	[Calixte] Rousseau

This was followed by an intermission and then the piece "A divorced tailor" (Le divorce d'un tailleur) was rendered by the following cast:

M. Lefebre	[Calixte] Rousseau
Mde Lefebre	[Ernest] Pineault
Guillaume, patron	[Elzear] Emond
Remi	[Philippe] Chouinard

The whole entertainment was under the direction of Rev. J. O. Gadoury, pastor of the church. [Alfred] Garneau was the publisher of the programme. Judging from the size of the audience a handsome sum must have been netted.

The result of the vote contest for a parlor set, in the interest of the same fund, was announced. Mrs. Plamondon was the fortunate solicitor, her collections amounting to \$1612. Her nearest competitor was Mrs. [Eustache] Raby, who secured \$1246. Both the collections are large, and were great surprises. The parlor set is valued at \$200.



New Year's Eve 1930

[from the Salem Evening News, Tuesday 30 December 1930]

In accordance with the usual custom, Franco-Americans in Greater Salem will observe New Year's eve and the day itself with many family reunions and socials. This day is looked forward to with pleasant anticipation and to the Franco-American, it is one of the most important holidays.

The day is one in which family reunions are numerous. It is also marked by exchanges of visits and wishes for a "bonne et heureuse annee," the French equivalent to the English "a fruitful and happy year."

In Canada, members of one family, sometimes up to four generations gather around the paternal table to receive the benediction of the head of the family. Here, much enthusiasm and joy mark the observance, and on New Year's eve and through the holiday, groups roam the streets, shouting their greetings to passing acquaintances and marching from one house to another to visit relatives and friends.

While the enthusiasm locally is not so great, there are many reunions where often are present representatives of three and four generations. The visit of the Franco-American on this day is not merely a perfunctory social call, but a real call on real friends. Open house for visitors is kept and everyone is welcome. Calling at this time of the year has not fallen into the list of lost arts with the Franco-American who believes that this is a holiday which should be ushered in properly; and, further, that there is something about visiting, calling for a visit, actually exchanging wishes and ideas and so on that is tremendously stimulating.

Le Courrier de Salem

Events of a century ago in Salem's Franco-American newspaper January - April 1914

Societies

- The Annual "*Kermesse*" of *la Garde Nationale* will take place in the St-Jean-Baptiste Hall from the 10th through the 23rd of January.
- The Franco-American *Chambre de Commerce* held its banquet in Washington Hall on Thursday January 29th. Eighty members attended.

Medicine

- Napoléon Lévesque was appointed to the Salem Board of Health.

The Press

- Attorney Joseph-E. Laferrière, formerly of Salem, is director of a new monthly journal to be published in Boston, "*Le Beau Parler*".

People & Families

- M. et Mme Jean-Baptiste Poirier of 10 Langdon Street are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on 26 January 1864 at the church of Saint-Henri in Montréal.
- M. et Mme Louis Larue announce the birth of twin sons, Joseph-Paul-Émile and Joseph-Louis-Raoul, on 7 April.

Business and Professions

- David Cyr has purchased the restaurant at 199 Washington Street, formerly owned and operated by Napoléon Ouellette.
- Henri Beauregard has purchased the blacksmith shop of Magloire Caron on New Derby Street.
- Attorney Joseph Pelletier has opened his new office at 101 Washington Street, Room 21.
- J.-H. Chouinard, the optometrist, has purchased the building at 112 Lafayette Street.
- Edmond Tondreault has reopened his photography studio at the intersection of Ward and Peabody Streets after an illness of two months.
- Mme Joseph Plourde, widow, has opened a new store at 56 Congress Street. Visit her for candy, ice cream, soft drinks, and tobacco products.
- Joseph Dubé, the baker, has purchased a new electric delivery truck. It is able to travel 12 miles per hour, and can operate for 45 miles without recharging.

Church

- Père Charles-E. Baillargeon, professor at the Seminary of Nicolet, is in Salem visiting Père Rainville on New Year's Day.

- Père Eugène-J. Vincent will offer his first Mass on Easter Sunday, April 22nd, at 10:30 AM in St-Joseph's Church.

School

- Mère Marie-Séraphine, S.S.Ch., Superior-General of the Sisters of Ste-Chrétienne, died in Metz, France on January 14th. She had visited Salem in 1907 and in 1911.
- *L'Académie des Étudiants franco-américains* will hold a series of *soirées* with conferences and music in the Cercle Veillot Hall on Sundays, February 1st and 15th, and March 1st, 15th, and 22nd.
- Mme Delvina Dupuis will conduct a sewing school at 116 Lafayette Street evenings from 7:00 to 9:00.

Music

- Alexandre Bérubé was elected director of the *Garde Militaire* band.
- Arthur Brunelle of Lewiston, Maine has published his song "*Debout*". The words are by Arthur Beaucage, editor of *Le Courrier de Salem*.
- The *Trio Nadeau* will present a concert in Ames Memorial Hall on Wednesday, February 4th.
- A Sacred Concert with *l'orchestre Pépin* will take place on Sunday March 1st at the Empire Theatre to benefit the new St-Joseph's church.

Entertainment

- A *séance* will be held on January 29th in St-Joseph's Convent to celebrate the birthday of the pastor.
- St-Joseph's altar boys will sponsor a Grand Whist party in the Cercle Veillot Hall on Thursday April 23rd. Music will be provided by an orchestra.



Traditions

No. 16: "Le Calendrier" (I)

D.-Michel Michaud, #1

Daily life in French-Canada followed the liturgical calendar year very closely. Many feast days were celebrated with traditional observances, both sacred and secular, and wise sayings known as *dictons* were associated with these days.

JANUARY

- 1 *Le Jour de l'An* or New Year's Day was one of the most important holidays of the year. At church, the *marguilliers* or churchwardens were installed, and all joined in singing the hymn "*Mon Dieu, bénissez la nouvelle année*". At home, the father imparted his annual blessing upon his children and gifts were exchanged. This was a day for visiting with friends and relatives, and for taking part in a feast at each home. It was believed that "*Jour de l'an beau, mois d'août très chaud*" (When there is good weather on New Year's Day, August will be very hot).
- 3 *Ste-Geneviève* is the patroness of the city of Paris. It was an ancient custom on this feast day for churches to distribute *petits-pains* or little bread rolls to parishioners.
- 6 *Les Rois* is the feast of the three kings or wise men, and their presence is noted in the *crèche* or nativity scene at the church. At home, a cake known as the *gâteau des rois* was served, and whoever found the pea or bean inside became king or queen for the day. Although rain in winter is rare, it was believed "*Pluie aux Rois, blé jusqu'au toit*" (Rain on the feast of the three kings results in wheat to the rafters). This is also the day to begin the *Carnaval d'hiver* or Winter Carnival, with outdoor celebrations until the beginning of lent. Some believed "*Carnaval au soleil, Pâques au feu*" (Sunshine during the carnival predicts a fiery-hot Easter).

FEBRUARY

- 2 On *la Chandeleur* or Candlemas Day, candles are blessed at church for use throughout the year. These were lighted at home during storms, and when communion was brought to the sick or dying. Many looked forward to the annual *veillée de crêpes* on Candlemas night. Among the many sayings associated with this day is "*À la chandeleur, l'hiver s'en va ou prend vigueur*" (On Candlemas Day, winter either goes away or strengthens). On the following day, the feast of St-Blaise, the candles are used for the blessing of throats.
- 3 *Mardi-Gras* or Fat Tuesday arrives as early as February 3rd or as late as March 9th. A feast is prepared, and there is singing and dancing. But all celebrations must end before the stroke of midnight when the season of lent begins. The famous legend of Rose Latulippe, who suffered dire consequences, was often retold.

- 4 *Mercredi des cendres* or Ash Wednesday arrives as early as February 4th or as late as March 10th. Ashes are placed on foreheads at Mass as the lenten season begins. It is said that "*En carême, saumon et sermon sont de saison*" (During lent, salmon and sermons are in season). The regulations concerning daily fast and abstinence were once severe, and attendance at daily Mass and other services was expected.
- 14 *La St-Valentin* or Valentine's Day was often observed by children who exchanged notes and handmade cards, a tradition influenced by the English. An ancient French saying states that "*Valentin fait tout geler sur le chemin*" (Everything on the way freezes on Valentine's Day).
- 26 *Mi-carême* falls on the Thursday following the third Sunday in lent, as early as February 26th or as late as April 1st. Mid-lent *soirées* were held in many homes as a respite from the rigors of lenten observances. Costumes were worn, food and drink were served, and singing and dancing were enjoyed despite the objections of the clergy.

MARCH

- 4 A nine-day lenten retreat, a novena in honor of *St-François-Xavier*, opens on this day. The practice, which dates to the early years of the French settlement in Canada, is still widely observed.
- 15 *Les Rameaux* or Palm Sunday arrives as early as March 15th or as late as April 18th. Parisians once brought spruce branches to church to be blessed, and these were then placed in the home. Despite the variance of the date from year to year, many insisted "*Le roper jour des Rameaux, sème oignons et poireaux*" (On the very day of Palm Sunday, sow onions and leeks). This is also the start of Holy Week. Church bells were silenced from Holy Thursday through Holy Saturday, and children believed the legend which tells that all bells go to Rome during the sacred triduum.
- 19 *La St-Joseph* was a major holyday honoring the patron of Canada. Public celebrations often included spectacular fireworks. The day ushers in spring, and it is said that "*Pour la Saint-Joseph, chaque oiseau bâtit son château*" (For St-Joseph's day, each bird builds his castle-nest). This was the traditional day for starting tomato plants indoors.
- 22 *Pâques*, or Easter Sunday, arrives as early as March 22nd or as late as April 25th. *L'eau de Pâques* or Easter water was gathered at dawn, new clothes were worn for Mass, and a sumptuous feast broke the lenten observance of fast and abstinence. So rare was rain that it was believed that "*Quand il pleut le jour de Pâques, il pleut pendant quarante jours*" (When it rains on Easter, it will rain for forty days). This is also the time of *les sucres* or maple sugaring. "*Pâques commence les sucres ou bien les finit*" (Easter either begins or ends the sugaring season). Maple sugar parties are frequently held, and friends and neighbors all are invited.

APRIL

- 1 *Le poisson d'avril* or April Fool's Day was brought to Canada from France, and the practice of playing practical jokes was widely observed. It is also a month of much variable weather: "*Avril le doux, quand il se fâche, le pis de tout*" (April the mild, when it becomes angry, is the worst month of all). Few other holidays appear on the April calendar, as Easter may fall at any time through the 25th.
- 25 On *la Saint-Marc* or St. Mark's Day, Mass was offered for the protection of crops. Each parishioner brought a handful of seeds to the church for blessing on this day. These were mixed with the seeds to be sown, as the planting season was about to begin. Many prayed for a clear day, believing that "*À la Saint-Marc, s'il tombe de l'eau, il n'y aura pas de fruits à noyaux*" (On St. Mark's Day, if rain falls, there will be no nut-bearing fruit).

[to be continued]

Our traditions: a heritage worth remembering!



Membership List

221. CLAY, Nina, 190 Bridge Street, #3309, Salem, MA 01970-7416
222. COADY, Irène, 78 W. Dartmouth Street, Auburn, ME 04210-6130
223. JALBERT, Paul-L., 367 Wethersfield Street, Rowley, MA 01969-1639
224. TURMENE, Lorraine, 10 Glenway Avenue, Peabody, MA 01960-6223
225. STEWART, Lucille, 18 Sunset Road, Salem, MA 01970-5319
226. LeBLANC, Lilliane, 1 Courageous Court, Salem, MA 01970-6665
227. FARLEY, Rachel, 2 Lee Street, Peabody, MA 01960-5829
228. L'HEUREUX, Conrad, 5343 Broadway Terrace #206, Oakland, CA 94618-1410
229. NOON, Cynthia-T., 355 Essex Street, Swampscott, MA 01907-1229
230. SABOURIN, Phyllis, 2381 Avenida Helecho, Carlsbad, CA 92009-9361

Genealogies

Cimon

Joseph Simon & Jeanne Lefebvre
of St-Pair-sur-Mer, Rouen Normandie, France

- I Jean-François Simon & Dorothée Gagnon (Jean & Geneviève Gamache)
Rivière-Ouelle, 14 Feb 1744
- II Jean-Baptiste Simon & Angélique Miville (Jean-B. & Isabelle Beaudet)
Rivière-Ouelle, 20 Jul 1775
- III André Cimon & Thérèse Rodrigue (François & Marie-Ange Gagnier)
Baie-St-Paul, 13 Jul 1802
- IV Boniface Cimon & Émérentienne Bouchard (Jacques & Catherine Barette)
Malbaie, 18 Apr 1836
- V Arthur Cimon & Marie Potvin (Eucher & Vénérande Néron)
Baie-St-Paul, 20 Aug 1878
- VI Alonzo Cimon & Hermance Marchand (Elisée & Catherine Desjardins)
Salem, MA, 6 Jun 1926

Paré

Mathieu Paré & Marie Joannet
of Saint-Laurent, Souloire, Lyon (Lyonnais), France

- I Robert Paré & Françoise Lehoux (Jacques & Marie Meilleure)
Notre-Dame-de-Québec, 20 Oct 1653
- II Noël Paré & Marguerite Caron (Jean & Marguerite Gagnon)
Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré, 12 Nov 1685
- III Louis Paré & Marie-Joseph Guay (Jacques & Marguerite Chauvaux)
Beaumont, 18 Jul 1719
- IV Pierre Paré & Marguerite Gagnon (Pierre & Marie-Anne Racine)
St-Joachim, 20 Jun 1747
- V Augustin Paré & Brigitte Brie (Jacques & Élisabeth Boulet)
Montmagny, 28 Jan 1788
- VI Joseph Paré & Émérence Moreau (Jacques & Thérèse Blanchette)
Cacouna, 22 Feb 1830
- VII Michel Paré & Eugénie Guimont (Pierre-Gabriel & Perpétue Tondreau)
St-Arsène, 6 Feb 1872
- VIII Omer Paré & Amérilda Lavoie (Moïse & Joséphine Marquis)
Salem, MA, 28 Oct 1900

Décès

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

Lucille-M. (Demeule) AUBERT, 91 ans, 4 août 2013 · Arthur BARRETTE, 69 ans, 2 février 2013 · George-A. BEAUREGARD, 91 ans, 25 septembre 2013 · Debra (Gallant) BONIA-GREEN, 54 ans, 23 août 2013 · Elise-M. BOUCHARD, 52 ans, 21 septembre 2013 · Norman BOULEY, 75 ans, 11 septembre 2013 · M.-Christine (Dupuis) BURKINSHAW, 68 ans, 29 septembre 2013 · Lucy (LaBrie) CLARK, 95 ans, 14 juin 2013 · Robert-M. CLOUTIER, 62 ans, 2 juin 2013 · **Bertrand COTÉ (#140)**, 79 ans, 14 septembre 2013 · Richard-F. DELANDE, 82 ans, 11 juillet 2013 · Claire (Dionne) DiTROIA, 72 ans, 16 septembre 2013 · Rev. Georges-J. DUFOUR, 73 ans, 28 août 2013 · Marcel DUFOUR, 49 ans, 23 juillet 2013 · Raymond-L. FONTAINE, 89 ans, 7 juillet 2013 · Thérèse-P. (Madore) FONTAINE, 88 ans, 19 septembre 2013 · Thérèse-I. GAGNON, 89 ans, 15 juin 2013 · Constance-K. (Peach) GALLANT, 89 ans, 28 juillet 2013 · Jean-Marie GASTONGUAY, 64 ans, 11 juillet 2013 · Joseph-R. GIRARD, 83 ans, 4 septembre 2013 · Corinne-A. (Poitras) HAYWARD, 89 ans, 26 septembre 2013 · Robert-J. LANGLAIS, 91 ans, 31 août 2013 · Irène-M. (Godbout) LAURIE, 90 ans, 12 juin 2013 · Patricia LAVOIE, 75 ans, 27 septembre 2013 · Girard-R. LEBEL, 84 ans, 11 juillet 2013 · Susan (Buxton) LeBLANC, 64 ans, 28 juin 2013 · Catherine (Boudreau) Norbeka-LÉVESQUE, 71 ans, 18 septembre 2013 · Gérald-E. LÉVESQUE, 80 ans, 20 juillet 2013 · Joan-M. (Keefe) LÉVESQUE, 81 ans, 22 juin 2013 · Alice-D. L'HEUREUX, 88 ans, 14 juin 2013 · Dennis-R. L'HEUREUX, 46 ans, 29 septembre 2013 · Helen-E. (Laramie) MADORE, 15 juillet 2013 · Stephen-D. MALBOEUF, 60 ans, 5 août 2013 · Cécile-Y. (Demeule) MARQUIS, 91 ans, 22 août 2013 · **Léon-J. MASSÉ (#192)**, 100 ans, 19 juillet 2013 · Emile-J. MORIN, 96 ans, 20 septembre 2013 · Dianne-M. (Gagnon) OCCHIPINTI, 70 ans, 17 juin 2013 · Corinne (Arsenault) O'NEIL, 82 ans, 7 juin 2013 · Jeannine-J. (MarcAurèle) PALM, 79 ans, 3 août 2013 · Angel-R. PELLETIER, 89 ans, 27 juin 2013 · Anita-M. (Ouellette) PELLETIER, 77 ans, 18 juin 2013 · L.-Claire (Charette) PELLETIER, 85 ans, 12 septembre 2013 · Lorraine-R. (Guilmette) RHÉAUME, 87 ans, 30 septembre 2013 · Aurore-M. (Montminy) ROUILLARD-BOWDEN, 87 ans, 22 septembre 2013 · Virginia (Dorion) RUDDOCK, 82 ans, 27 juillet 2013 · Anita-A. (Thériault) SHALIT, 80 ans, 4 septembre 2013 · Colette-A. (Belleau) SULLIVAN, 74 ans, 15 septembre 2013 · Joseph-Albert TACHÉ, 78 ans, 16 juin 2013 · Gérard-F. TARDIFF, 67 ans, 4 septembre 2013 · Gertrude (Beaulieu) THÉRIAULT-FONTAINE, 85 ans, 7 juillet 2013 · Richard-A. TREMBLAY, 83 ans, 29 septembre 2013 ·

À la mémoire de
M. l'abbé Georges-J. Dufour
Ancien cure de la paroisse
Sainte-Anne, Salem

Ça, bergers

Paroles de
l'abbé PELLEGRIN (1663-1745)

Allegro

XVI^e siècle



Ça, ber-gers, as-semblons-nous; Al-lons voir le Mes -



si - e; Cherchons cet en - fant si doux Dans



les bras de Ma - ri - e. Je l'en-tends, il



nous ap-pel-le tous, O sort di - gne d'en - vi - e.

2
Laissons là tout le troupeau,
Qu'il erre à l'aventure,
Que sans nous sur ce coteau
Il cherche sa pâture.
Allons voir dans un petit berceau
L'Auteur de la nature.

3
Que l'hiver par ses frimas
Ait endurci la plaine,
S'il croit arrêter nos pas,
Cette espérance est vaine.
Quand on cherche un Dieu rempli d'appas, On ne craint point la peine.

4
Sa naissance sur nos bords
Ramène l'allégresse;
Répondons par nos transports
A l'ardeur qui le presse;
Secondons par de nouveaux efforts
L'excès de sa tendresse.

5
Dieu naissant, exauce-nous,
Dissipe nos alarmes;
Nous tombons à tes genoux,
Nous les baignons de larmes;
Hâte-toi de nous donner à tous
La paix et tous ses charmes.

La Revue de Salem

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Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc.

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

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

Email: francosalem@yahoo.com

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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

Directors

Dorothy Morneau (*exp. 2015*)
Jane Stauffer (*exp. 2016*)

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Meetings

Meetings of the officers of the Franco-American Institute of Salem for 2014 will be held at 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA on 18 May and 21 September at 4:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.