



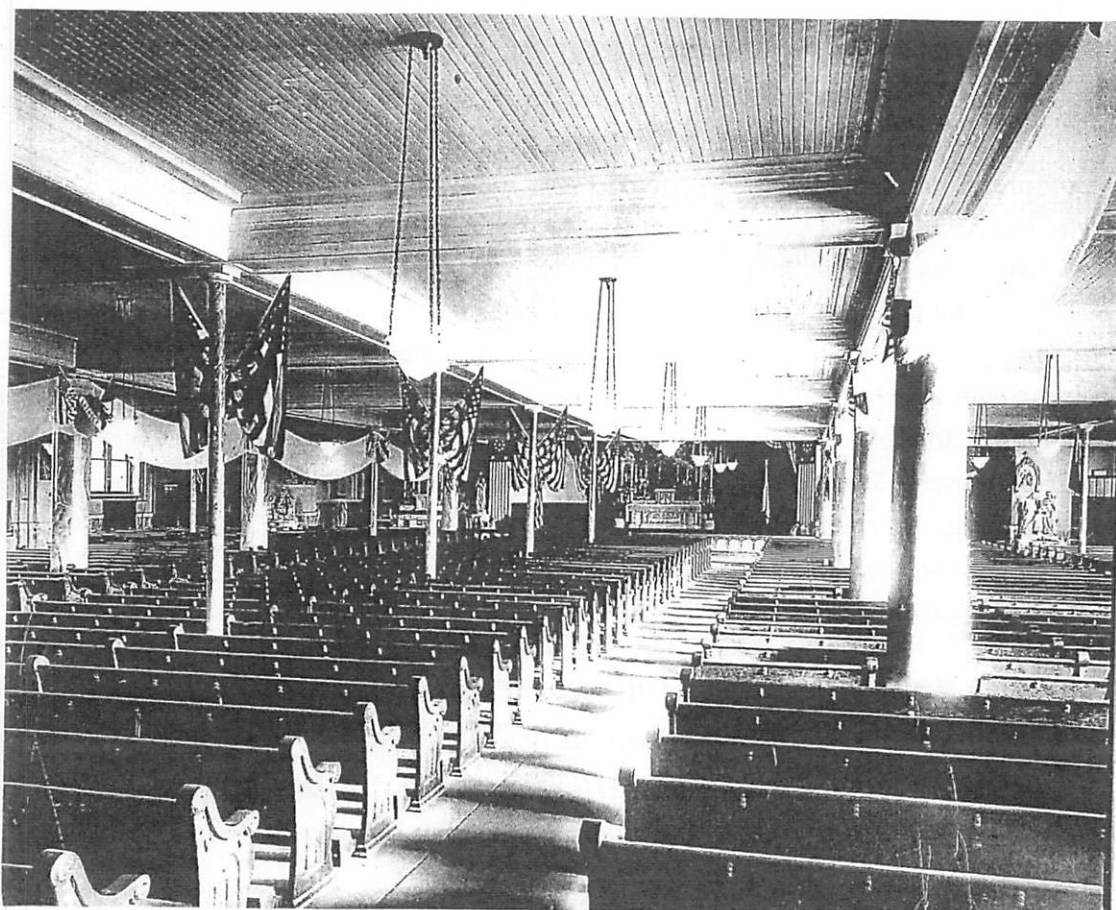
# *La Revue de Salem*

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



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

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**Cover Photo:** The interior of St-Joseph's church as it appeared a century ago. Reconstructed after the Great Salem Fire of 1914, the basement church reopened on 25 July 1915 and remained in use until 1948.

## **News**

The History Collection of our vice-president Nelson-L. Dionne (#2), now at Salem State University, was open to the public on 9 December 2014. *Un vrai trésor!* • Salem's Point neighborhood, built by the Franco-Americans following the Great Salem Fire, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on 16 December 2014. *Un honneur!* • Père Louis-D. Bourgeois (#206), pastor of Ste-Anne's parish from 1981 to 1993, died on 9 February 2015 at the age of 82. *Nos sincères condoléances à sa famille et à ses anciens paroissiens.* • *Club Richelieu Salem* celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Hawthorne Hotel on 11 February 2015. The new banner was presented by president Donald Harlow-Powell (#232) and by past president Armand Devoe (#35). *Une belle soirée!* • Brandi Dion of Salem was the winner in the Summer Photo contest sponsored by the Salem News this past March. *Félicitations!* • Our total snowfall for this past winter in Salem was 122.4 inches, an all-time record. *Merci Dieu, l'hiver est définitivement terminé!* • Lowell's 45<sup>th</sup> annual *Semaine franco-américaine* opens on Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. All are invited to attend the many events which take place daily during this week of celebration *Toujours formidable!* • Congratulations to René and Marguerite (Lavoie) Bélanger (#8) who will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They were married in Ste-Anne's church, Salem, on 26 June 1955, and are the proud parents of seven children: Richard, Roland, Gloria, Katherine, Ronald, Annette, and Emily. *Meilleurs souhaits!* • Our seventh annual get-together, *l'été en fête*, will be held on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. All members are invited to attend. *Bienvenue à tous!*

***La fête de Sainte-Anne – Une messe en français pour la fête de la Bonne Sainte Anne sera célébrée samedi le 25 juillet 2015 à onze heures du matin à l'église Ste-Anne, avenue Jefferson, Salem. Après la messe, il y aura un petit goûter à la salle de l'école. Bienvenue à tous!***

**Donations received** include: book and photo from Tom Hoopes; books (4) from D.-Michel Michaud (#1); books (2) from Nelson-L. Dionne (#2); books (12) from the American-Canadian Geleological Society (#100); photo collection from Suzanne Demers Cockerill (#169); and gifts from Rosemary O'Brien (#9), Mary Levasseur (#23), Gloria Hiltunen (#25), Constance Servizio (#66), Paul Auger (#106), Irène Fazio (#236), and M. et Mme Henry Martineau (#239). *Un grand merci à tous!*

## ***Editorial***

### **Fêtons dix ans**

*Bonne fête à tous nos membres!* This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Franco-American Institute of Salem!

Our first meeting was held on Sunday the first of May 2005, and our goals and objectives were set forth. *La Revue de Salem*, which was already in its seventh year of publication, was to continue as the official journal of the Institute. Regular meetings for business, social, and educational purposes were to be scheduled. And a library for the preservation of printed matter, manuscripts, photographs, and artifacts was to be established.

Our Charter of Incorporation was granted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on 16 February 2006; there were 56 Charter Members. Congratulatory letters were received from a number of dignitaries such as France Dionne, *la Déléguée du Québec*, and François Gauthier, *le Consul general de France*.

Our accomplishments during these past ten years have been amazing! Our library is growing, our membership is increasing, and our journal is making our history known to readers in the United States and Canada. We have indexed thousands of newspaper articles, and have transcribed tens of thousands of vital records.

Our dedicated board members have worked very hard to advance the growth of the Institute, to propose new projects, and to bring them to completion. Our members have been most supportive and generous. Together, we have formed an organization in which we can all take great pride.

Our very first editorial in *La Revue de Salem* (1999) stated the following:

It was nearly one-hundred and fifty years ago, in the mid-1850s, that French-speaking immigrants from the Province of Québec began to settle in Salem, Massachusetts. Yet, if one reads the many histories of Salem, these people seem to have never existed. Some of our history is lost forever, but much remains to be discovered, collected, translated, and brought to light.

The Franco-American Institute of Salem has continued on the path set forth by *La Revue de Salem* so many years ago, and has remained faithful to the goals and objectives on which our organization was founded in 2005.

So, to each of our members, *bonne fête!* Together, we have rescued our history from being forgotten by future generations. We have established a strong organization with a bright future. We have helped rekindle our pride in our Franco-American heritage. *Fêtons dix ans!*

## Rémy Ouellet, Notaire

During a career which spanned more than a half-century, Rémy Ouellet (1802-1883) distinguished himself as a *notaire* or contract lawyer in Québec. His final year was spent here in Salem among his children.

Rémy Ouellet was born at l'Isle-Verte, PQ on 8 November 1802, the youngest of three children of Joseph Ouellet and Cécile Melançon. After the death of Cécile, Joseph married Françoise Castonguay at Cacouna and two more children were born. The children were Cyrille, Gertrude, Rémy, Joseph, and Elzéar.

Little is known concerning Rémy's education, but on 29 December 1829 he received his commission as a *notaire*, a highly prestigious legal profession in Québec. The *notaire* drew documents such as marriage contracts, loan agreements, support obligations, guardianships, real estate deeds, business partnerships, estate inventories, and many others. The *notaire* was frequently consulted in matters of political, social, economic, and educational importance.

Ouellet travelled much in his early years, practicing in Rivière-du-Loup, Trois-Rivières, Petit-Matane, and primarily in Cacouna. Here, he was frequently engaged by Simon and Louis Talbot, merchants, to whom many were indebted. In September of 1844 Ouellet settled in Matane where he became the first resident *notaire* of the area, drawing a large clientele. His home was located on what became known as *la Côte-du-Notaire* or Notary's Hill.

Rémy Ouellet was married at Matane on 5 April 1853 to Marie-Marcelline Thibault. Born at l'Islet, she was the daughter of Claude Thibault and Marcelline Caron. Rémy was then 50 years of age, and his bride was but 16! Nine children were born to this couple between 1853 and 1874, five of whom survived: Malvina, Joseph, Arias, Ernest, and Sylvie.

By 1860 Matane was becoming heavily populated. In that year alone Ouellet prepared 211 legal documents, the largest number for any given year during his career.

Rémy's daughter Malvina was the first of his children to leave the family home. She was married at Matane on 6 April 1880 to Hubert Boulanger, the son of Vital Boulanger and Eléonore Roy. The couple settled in Salem, Massachusetts, and their first child was born here on 1 November 1881. Rémy's four remaining children soon followed; Sylvie arrived in Salem in 1880, Joseph and Ernest in 1881, and Arias in 1882.

Now at 80 years of age, it was time for Rémy Ouellet to retire. He prepared his final notarial document on 13 September 1882. During a lengthy career which spanned 53 years, he had drawn 3,265 legal acts which are now deposited in the *Archives nationales du Québec*, at Rimouski. This impressive collection exists as a rich documentary of regional history.

Rémy and his wife left Matane in 1882 and settled in Salem with their children. Unfortunately, his retirement would be brief; Rémy died in Salem on 24 September 1883 at the age of 80 years and 10 months. His widow survived him by 20 years; she died in Salem on 5 February 1904 at the age of 67 years and 1 month.

Rémy Ouellet is remembered for his unusually lengthy career in the legal profession in the province of Québec, and he is perhaps the only *notaire* to be buried here in Salem. He should also be remembered for his five children who settled in Salem, and for his 46 grandchildren who left many descendents in Salem and the surrounding region.

### **Ouellet Genealogy**

- François Ouellet & Isabelle Baré  
of St-Jacques-du-Haut-Pas, Paris, France
- I René Ouellet & Anne Rivet  
Québec, 8 Mar 1666
  - II Mathurin Ouellet & Angélique Lebel (Nicolas & Thérèse Mignault)  
Rivière-Ouelle, 8 Jan 1691
  - III André Ouellet & Marguerite Levasseur (Pierre & Elisabeth Michaud)  
Kamouraska, 28 May 1733
  - IV Maurice Ouellet & Angélique Émond (Jean & Marie Pelletier)  
Kamouraska, 23 Sep 1776
  - V Joseph Ouellet & Cécile Melançon (Joseph & Marie Côté)  
Isle-Verte, 4 Jul 1800
  - VI Rémy Ouellet & Marie-Marcelline Thibault (Claude & Marcelline Caron)  
Matane, 5 Apr 1853

### **Children:**

1. Malvina, born in Matane 5 May 1857; married in Matane 6 Apr 1880 to Hubert Boulanger; died in Salem 23 Jan 1920; 4 children.
2. [Henri-] Joseph, born in Matane 28 Feb 1862; married in Salem 22 Nov 1885 to Hélène Pelletier; died in Salem 27 Oct 1929; 10 children.
3. [François-Xavier-] Arias, born in Matane 15 Sep 1865; married in Salem 23 Apr 1888 to Théodora Pelletier; died in Matane 7 Oct 1922; 8 children. [The Great Salem Fire occurred on 25 Jun 1914, and Théodora died in Salem the following week, on 4 Jul 1914; Arias then returned to Matane.]
4. Ernest, born in Matane 2 Aug 1869; married in Salem 14 Jul 1895 to Rosa Bolduc; died in Peabody in 1940; 11 children. [Ernest moved to Peabody after the Great Salem Fire; after his death, Rosa returned to Salem where she died on 24 May 1947.]
5. Sylvie, born in Matane 14 Aug 1874; married in Matane 4 Sep 1894 to Timothée Pelletier; died in Salem 20 May 1927; 13 children. [The marriage of Sylvie and Timothée was celebrated in Matane, but the couple returned to Salem by 1896.]

## Pool and Billiard Halls

Evenings at the pool parlor were full of excitement in the early 1900s. It was a place for men to gather after a long day's work, to practice their skills, to challenge other players, and to discuss the issues of the day. Of course, pool tables could be found in bars and in private clubs, but the public billiard hall was more spacious, contained multiple tables, and attracted a larger number of players, both individuals and teams.

Louis Létourneau, a barber, was gaining fame as a pool player as early as 1883. Within a decade, the Lafayette Social Club had formed a team consisting of MM. Caisse, Dubé, Dumont, Laflamme, Ouellette, Richard, and Tremblay. Challenged by the old Salem Social Club, the Lafayettes won their first public tournament on 17 May 1894 by a score of 19 to 8. By the turn of the century, Salem's French-Canadians were gaining a reputation for top players such as MM. Chaurette, Dumas, Gagnon, St-Pierre, and many others.

One of the oldest public billiard rooms in Salem was the Grand Central, located on the second floor of a brick building at the southwest corner of Derby Square. Opened about 1866, it was called "the most sumptuously fitted billiard room, public or private" ever established in Salem. "Brussels carpet covered the floor," the walls were "elegantly papered and the ceiling frescoed. The mirrors were heavy plate glass, encased in mahogany," and the five pool tables measuring 4½ by 9 feet were of "elegant black walnut." It was called "the favorite with the professional and business men of the city and all the prominent local players".

A much-publicized pool match was played here in the Grand Central in April of 1898. A "large crowd" gathered to witness two of Salem's top players, Gardner and St-Pierre. Gardner won by a score of 200 to 117, and St-Pierre was said to have been "out-classed". It was not until several years later that the News announced: "Gardner's real name is Philip Desjardins, he being of French extraction, but plays pool under the more easily pronounceable name of Gardner." In fact, Philippe-L. Desjardins (1878-1966), the son of Cyrias Desjardins and Adèle Emond, was born at Ste-Hélène-de-Kamouraska, PQ, and had been a resident of Salem since 1885.

The annual Essex County Championship game was held in Salem on Monday evening 29 April 1901. Philippe "Gardner" Desjardins defeated George Fields by a score of 75 to 42, winning the gold medal. He had not sustained a single defeat in the entire tournament and was now recognized as the county's top player.

Pool had become the most popular form of recreation among Salem's French-Canadian population, and dozens of these players opened their own "*salle de billard*" in the Point, in Castle Hill, and even in downtown Salem.

### **Early Years (1893-1914)**

At least as early as 1893, Thomas Pelletier was residing at 68 Harbor street and was operating a pool room next door at 70 Harbor street. When he returned to Canada in 1895, Arthur Lussier was proprietor of the hall. A match for the "Championship of South Salem" was played here in "Lucy's pool rooms" in February of 1895 when Dubé and Ouellette defeated Bouley and Richard. This hall closed in 1901 after having operated for at least eight years.

Many early pool halls had a brief existence. Henry Delano operated a pool room at 47 Harbor street in 1893 and 1894, and Philius Chartier operated one at 211 Derby street in 1895 and 1896. Clovis Bélanger Jr operated a pool room at 28 Congress street in 1895 and 1896; this was operated by Ludger Wright in 1901 and 1902. The pool room at 9 Congress street was owned by Alcide Ouellette in 1901 and 1902; he was succeeded by *les Frères Lebel*, Victor and Joseph, in 1903 and 1904.

J.-Hector Létourneau was, like his father Louis, one of Salem's top players. He opened a pool room at 34 Congress street in 1903, moved to 15 Palmer street from 1906 to 1910, and returned to the Congress street location until it was destroyed in the Great Salem Fire of 1914.

Thomas Bérubé operated a pool room at 45 Harbor street from 1905 to 1908, and Louis Gagnon operated one at 24 Congress street in 1909. James Chalifour had purchased the North Street Arena in 1904 and operated it until his death in 1920; in 1911 he advertised a pool room at the 43 North street location.

Hormidas Palardy operated a pool room at 29 Palmer street from 1911 to 1913 when he moved to 37 Palmer street. Adélar Rouillard opened one at 68 Palmer street in 1912. Joseph Voyer opened a pool room at 15 Congress street in 1912; he was succeeded by Joseph Bérubé in 1913, and the room was enlarged in 1914. All of these were destroyed in the 1914 fire, and only Rouillard's was later rebuilt.

Arthur Frégeau opened a two-table pool room in early 1913. It was located in a 3½-story building at the corner of Lafayette and Peabody streets, owned by Ferdinand Denis. The room and its contents were destroyed in a suspicious fire on the evening of 6 August 1913 and never reopened.

### **Castle Hill (1912-1937)**

J.-Eudger Michaud (1887-1946) and his brother Paul-H. (1880-1963), both natives of Mont-Carmel, PQ, operated the first pool rooms in the Castle Hill area. The first was located at 275 Jefferson avenue from 1911 to 1914, and the second at 252-254 Jefferson avenue from 1915 until after 1923. The brothers frequently donated use of the hall to groups such as *les Artisans* for games to benefit Ste-Anne's parish. Georges Richard was operating this room as early as 1927,

and he was succeeded by René Marcaurelle from 1928 to 1937. This pool room operated for 25 years.

Eustache Morin operated a pool room at 280 Jefferson avenue from 1913 to 1917, and Wilfred Boisvert at 2 Arthur street from 1915 to 1917. The building owned by Napoléon Leblanc at 291 Jefferson avenue was a pool room from 1920 to 1928, and Aurèle-L. Fraser operated one at 245 Jefferson avenue from 1929 to 1931. Albéric Dubé operated a pool room at 317 Jefferson avenue in 1933 and 1934 before converting it into Dubé's Café.

### **Later Years (1915-1948)**

Adélar Rouillard rebuilt his pool room at 68 Palmer street after the 1914 fire, and operated in larger quarters at 29-31 Palmer street from 1917 to 1924. Benjamin Thériault operated a pool room at 83 Lafayette street from 1916 to 1922, Joseph Michaud at 75 Lafayette street from 1917 to 1920, and Napoléon Marquis at 51 Harbor street from 1924 to 1926.

Thaddée Girard and his son Thomas opened a pool room at 40 Palmer street in 1923, moved to 33 Prince street in 1929, and returned to the Palmer street location in 1932. When Edgar St-Pierre became a partner in 1939, the hall was renamed the Mutual Pool Parlor. It closed in 1948 after operating for 25 years.

Albert Gagnon opened a pool room at 90 Congress street in 1929, and he was succeeded by Albert Caron in 1930. The Naumkeag Pool and Billiard Parlor at 98 Lafayette street was owned by Frank Dubé in 1929, and by Ovila Warner from 1930 to 1934. Napoléon-A. Jodoin opened a pool room at 102 Congress street in 1931, and he was succeeded by Léo Leclerc from 1932 to 1936.

Elzéar Gaucher operated a pool room at 53 Harbor street from 1932 to 1936, before purchasing the establishment located on the third floor of 175 Essex street which he operated from 1937 to 1941. Albert-G. Morin purchased the pool room at 75 Lafayette street and operated it from 1937 to 1940. Ralph Chouinard operated a pool room at 1 Harrison avenue in 1940.

### **Last Years (1965-1984)**

It was not until 1965 that Salem's largest and best equipped pool hall was opened. Owned by Alfred-J. Thibault (1921-2000), the Salem Cue & Cushion Lounge occupied the entire street level of the spacious Canadian Klondike Club building at 92 Lafayette street. With 15 tables, it was one of the largest and best in the region, and attracted players from throughout New England, including both 'world champs' and "local legends". The hall was the site of the New England Championship tournaments which gained winners a spot in the U. S. Open. After Thibault sold the business in 1972, it continued under several owners, eventually moving to the basement level of the building, and was forced to vacate in November of 1984.

## Père Émile Dupont



One hundred years ago, Émile Dupont became the first Salem-born Franco-American to be ordained to the priesthood.

Joseph-Isaïe-Émile Dupont was born in Salem on 8 July 1889, the third of five children born to Isaïe Dupont and Delphine Tous-saint. The father was born at St-Damase, PQ, and the mother at Edmundston, NB. They were married in Gardner, MA on 26 December 1883 before making their home in Salem.

Émile was educated at l'École St-Joseph, Salem. Shortly before his graduation, on 8 February 1903, his father died at the age of 52. He had been a member of the Salem Police force and was well known. Young Émile then completed his secondary education at the *Collège St-Joseph* in Memramcook, NB under the direction of the priests of the *Congrégation de Ste-Croix*.

While studying philosophy at the *Séminaire de Rimouski*, PQ, Émile was given a teaching position at the *Séminaire de la Ste-Famille* in Chicoutimi, PQ. He completed his theological studies at St. John's Seminary in Brighton, MA, and was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston on 28 May 1915. His first Solemn Mass was celebrated in St-Joseph's church, Salem, on Sunday 30 May 1915.

Père Dupont's first assignment was to Ste-Anne's parish in his hometown of Salem, the first curate to be assigned to this parish. Three years later he was assigned to St. John's parish in North Chelmsford. While there, on 26 September 1922, his mother died in Salem at the age of 59. *Madame Dupont*, as she was known, had been a "prominent" dressmaker who "had as her customers hundreds of the best families" at her shops in Salem and in Boston. Several weeks later, Père Dupont was transferred to the parish of Ste-Marie in Marlboro.

In March of 1930, the 40-year-old priest was appointed pastor of the parish of Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption in Bellingham. Three years later he resigned his only pastorate due to frail health, but later accepted the position of curate at the parish of St-Louis-de-France in Lowell. In October of 1941 he was transferred to St-Alphonse in Beverly where the talented priest served as both curate and choir director.

In 1947, after a period of rest to regain his health, Père Dupont was named Chaplain to

*les Soeurs de la Sainte Union des Sacrés Coeurs de Jésus et de Marie*, and of the convent and school of the Holy Union in Groton. During his twenty years of chaplaincy in Groton, he also assisted at the Sunday Masses in the nearby parish of St-Antoine, Shirley.

Père Émile Dupont, Salem's first Franco-American priest, died in Groton on 17 February 1967 at the age of 77, in his 52<sup>nd</sup> year of priesthood. His funeral Mass was sung by another Salem native, Monseigneur Alfred Julien, in the church of St-Antoine, Shirley.

## Point Rebuilding at its Height

By the spring of 1915, Franco-Americans were quickly rebuilding the Point neighborhood which had been devastated by the Great Salem Fire. The following excerpts are taken from an article published in the Salem Evening News a century ago, on 13 May 1915.

That the Point rebuilding boom is on and that that part of the city will soon be as well built up as any other section of the burned district is apparent.

One of the strongest evidences of the Point rebuilding is the sight of the magnificent new buildings now in process of construction for the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Mills company. And it is due to the rebuilding of these mills, of course, that about all of the building now done or being done on the Point is brought about.

In the basement of the St. Joseph's church things are shaping up nicely and the contractors expect this portion of the edifice will be finished ready for the holding of services by the latter part of June.

Truly the Point will be the home of the big tenement house. Up to the present time there have been provided for former residents of the mill section of the town something like 200 tenements, and as many more are on the way or just started. Included in the list of those finished or nearly so are the **Chouinard** 16-tenement block on Salem street. Among those in the process of building or about to be started are the 12-tenement block of A. **Demeule** at the corner of Palmer and Perkins streets.

On Ward street among the new building jobs are the starting of operations on the three-story brick mercantile and office building of Alfred **Berube**.

The **Levesque** four-story hotel and store block on Lafayette street between Ward and Harbor streets is rapidly moving onward toward completion. G. **Potvin** has just moved into his new three-story concrete block house at 64½ Harbor street and he intends to put up another in front of this one on Harbor street.

On Congress street proper Herbert **Belanger**'s three-story concrete block is occupied, while the two and one-half story stucco finished two-family house of Ovide **Bouchard** is nearly done. To the south of this street is the four-story brick store and tenement block of Auguste **Deschene**. A. **Bosse** has foundations in on this street also for a two-family house.

There are several houses going up on Perkins street. The eight-family brick block of Edmond **Girard**, a four-story affair, is practically completed. George **Michaud**'s two-story, four-family houses are going along nicely, one being well up and the other with the first floor on. Good progress is noted on the two-family house of Thomas **Desjardins** also. At Perkins and Palmer streets Joseph **Turcotte**, baker, will erect a four-story brick block, the lower part of which will be used for his business.

J. A. **Deschamps**' unit brick block at Pingree and Palmer streets, a three-story, three-family affair, is about ready for plastering. At the corner of Pingree and Leavitt streets it is understood that Joseph **Dube** will erect an addition to his bakery plant, he being crowded for room for his increasing business.

At Palmer and Perkins streets the foundations are in for the 12-tenement block of A. **Demeule**. Work is being hustled on Majorique **Guay**'s houses at Perkins and Leavitt streets, while good progress is noted on the three-story brick block of A. **Gauthier**. At Prince and Palmer streets the foundations are in and the first floor laid for the eight-family block of Delima Levesque.

The two-family house of I. **Tremblay** on Prince street is boarded in, while foundations are being put in for another on the next lot. Joseph **Gagnon** is excavating for a two and one-half story house on this street also.

M. **Demeule**'s four-family house, which extends from Prince to Park streets, is finished and occupied. The frame is being raised for the four-family, two and one-half story building of Mark **Demeule** at Park and Palmer streets, while the foundations are in for the three-story, six tenement block of Adelard **Morin** on Park street, the first floor being laid. The frame is being raised for the two-story, four-family block of Joseph **Bouchard**. A permit has been granted to Thomas **Tremblay** to erect at the corner of Park and Dow streets a three-story brick block.

[At] Salem street, the two and one-half story tenement and store building of Leon **Belanger** is boarded in. This will be of wooden frame with brick veneer on the outside. Joseph **Plourde**'s store and lodging house block at Salem and Everett streets is almost finished. It is one of the best built buildings in the city and is of buff brick. Alfred **Berube**'s two-family house on the southerly end of Salem street was but recently finished and occupied. Among recent permits granted are those of Exilia **Chouinard** for a two-family house at 26 Salem street, and Joseph **Peltier** for an eight-family house near the **Chouinard** block. The last will be of brick construction.

Excavating is in progress for the three-story brick block of Joseph **Dionne** at 6 Everett street, his permit having been granted but recently. On Lagrange street, the three-family house of Joseph **Morin** will soon be ready for occupancy. This is located at the corner of Harrison avenue. Alfred **Theriault**'s two-family house on Harrison avenue is now being plastered.

In West place several new buildings are being rushed along. The four-family house of Exilia **Chouinard** will be ready in about two weeks, while the same party has plans for a store building on what would correspond to the extension of Salem street. A. M. **Joly**'s four-family house at 8-10 West place is ready for plastering, while on one of his two-family houses at the foot of the street the frame is being raised and foundation work is being done on the other.

□ □ □

## **First Families of Salem (IV)**

### **Bois (1867)**

Étienne Bois and Euphémie Marier were married on 28 November 1843 at St-Roch-des-Aulnaies, PQ. The couple settled in Salem in 1867. Their son Pierre (1854-1917) was married in Salem on 22 April 1878 to Délina Jacob, and on 27 January 1895 to Philomène (Caron) Lincourt. Pierre died in Salem on 8 April 1917 at the age of 62. His obituary account reads in part:

Pierre F. Bois died at his home 26 Roslyn street. He was one of the best known French citizens of Salem for over 50 years, and for many years worked as a stone cutter. He leaves three sons and two daughters.

### **Gagnon (1869)**

Noël Gagnon (1822-1894) and Marie-Louise Voyer were married on 23 February 1852 at Bic, PQ. The couple settled in Salem in 1869 when their daughter Victoria (1859-1924) was ten years of age. Victoria was married in Salem on 1 May 1877 to Joseph Roy, and she died here on 16 November 1924. The obituary account of Victoria notes that she was "in her 66<sup>th</sup> year, and had been a resident of Salem 55 years". Her daughter Sophie-E. Roy (1886-1953) was married in Salem on 5 June 1905 to Joseph-L. Bourgault. Their son, Rév. Joseph-Louis Bourgault (1906-1983), was born in Salem on 28 April 1906 and served as curate at Ste-Anne's in Salem for 17 years, from 1938 to 1955.

### **Boucher II (1871)**

A second Boucher family arrived in Salem in 1871. Barthélemi Boucher (1851-1928) and Eliza Demers (1845-1914) were married in the cathedral at Sherbrooke, PQ on 13 November 1871 and

made their first home in Salem. Eliza died in Salem on 6 September 1914, and her obituary account notes that she had been “a resident of this city 43 years”.

The parents of Barthélemi Boucher also settled in Salem at this same time. Laurent Boucher (1808-1890) and Marguerite Hamel (1813-1878) were married at St-Antoine-de-Tilly, PQ on 24 April 1843. The only existing gravestone of a French-Canadian in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Salem, prior to 1880, reads as follows:

*Ici repose le corps de  
Marguerite Hamell  
Epouse de  
Laurent Boucher  
Desede 10.Avril 1878  
Age 65 ans.*

## **Bergeron (1872)**

Cléophas-Pierre Bergeron (1833-1919) and Rosalie Armstrong (1839-1927) were married on 19 January 1858 at St-Barnabé-Sud, PQ. The couple settled in Salem in 1872. Cléophas died here on 20 November 1919 at the age of 86, and Rosalie on 29 August 1927 at the age of 88. The obituary account of their son Joseph (1866-1947) reads in part:

Joseph Bergeron who died here yesterday [27 November 1947] at the age of 81 after residing in Salem for the past 75 years, was the oldest Franco-American in point of years of residence in Salem. Born in Canada, he came to Salem at the age of six and was the husband of Marie (Corriveau) Bergeron. [He] was employed for 50 years by the Boston & Maine railroad, retiring as a foreman 15 years ago. Surviving him are five sons [and] two daughters.

□ □ □

## **Membership List**

- 231. CUTRELL, Lynda Michaud, 63 Naugus Avenue, Marblehead, MA 01945-1549
- 232. HARLOW-POWELL, Donald, 12 Almeda Street, Salem, MA 01970-1928
- 233. LaBONTÉ, Jarrod-Y., 796 W. Calle Ormino, Sahuarita, AZ 85629-7833
- 234. BEAULIEU, Alfred-L., Peabody, MA
- 235. NUCCIO, Linda-I., Broomfield, CO
- 236. FAZIO, Irène, Danvers, MA
- 237. THÉBERGE, Andrew-H., 7 Pauline Road, Danvers, MA 01923-3312
- 238. D’AGNESE, Lee Tremblay, P. O. Box 323, Swampscott, MA 01907-3323
- 239. MARTINEAU, Mr. & Mrs. Henry, 75 Cutler Street #1, Clifton, NJ 07011-2025
- 240. CAMARDA, Jeannine, 143 Tedesco Street, Marblehead, MA 01945-1029

## Salem's Wealthiest Vagrant

The following story appeared on the front page of the Salem News a century ago, on New Year's Day 1915. This was a difficult time, economically, for those who had lost everything in the Great Salem Fire only five months earlier. The presence of a "vagrant" carrying a small fortune (the equivalent of nearly \$25,000 today) was sensational news and the topic of much conversation.

The story began on Tuesday 29 December 1914 when the News reported simply that a certain gentleman "claiming a residence in Canada, was in court for vagrancy. He was held in \$100 bonds until Friday. The police want to look him up further."

There have been vagrants, and vagrants come into the glow of the police limelight in Salem, but a vagrant with collateral amounting to nearly \$1000 is a new experience for the local department. Most of the men held as wayfarers of the road in this city have seldom had the price of a plate of bean soup, let alone a batch of cash, checks and a bankbook with \$500 in deposits.

The "vagrant with the roll" is Joshua D. Cormier, a Canadian who has lived for some years in Moncton. Last Monday the proprietor of the Commercial house [on Washington Street] saw a man who was not a guest of the hotel, coming out of one of the bath rooms; he told him to stop and the man broke into a run and escaped to the street. He explained afterward that he was afraid he would "either get a licking or get pinched." Employees of the hotel gave chase and he was later apprehended in a house on Mill street by Inspectors Pelletier and Barrett.

Later, when he was searched, a bankbook with deposits of \$500 recorded in it, checks amounting to \$304, made out to Joshua D. Cormier on Canadian banks and a Canadian dollar bill, were disclosed. The dollar bill, he said, was all the ready money he had. He told the police he had come to Salem in search of a brother. His mother had died recently without making a will; four brothers come into possession of the family farm at Moncton by her death and the man picked up in Salem, so he said, had bought out the interest of two of his brothers and sought the third to do likewise. He believed the missing brother to be in Salem and when he came to this city last Sunday had planned to remain there until he accomplished his mission. He told the inspectors that the bankbook was his own and that the checks were his. The police thought they would be fooling themselves if they did not hold the man. He persisted in the fact that the lone dollar bill was all the money he had. He was shabbily dressed and as he admitted that he had slept in the bathroom at the hotel he was locked up as a vagrant. When his case came up in court Tuesday morning the police asked that he be held over until today until they could look him up.

The inspectors wrote to the chief of police in Moncton, where Cormier claimed a residence and to the Fitchburg bank, where he claimed to have the money. They now have reason to believe that the greater part of his story is correct, with the exception of the ready money he was sup

posed to have had. When he was searched at Salem jail, where he was committed to await his appearance at district court today, \$188 in cash was found on him. It was thus shown that no ordinary vagrant was in the toils of the police net.

In his reply to the local police, the chief at Moncton, N.B., characterized Cormier as one of the most "careful" men in Canada regarding financial matters, but vouched for his story. He lived in Moncton for several years, wrote the chief, and left there on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month to go to St. John, so his boarding mistress there thought. That was the last they heard of him until the Salem police wrote him. The letter from the bank in Fitchburg convinced the officers that he had the money there. Whether he will be judged a vagrant will be decided in court today.

If his stay in Salem is any indication, Cormier should be a real financier some day. The police say that a Canadian in Castle Hill took pity on Cormier when he found that he was short of real money and offered to give him board and room for \$2 a week until he had located his brother. The man in Castle Hill says that he would not agree to this. Cormier also preferred eating the crackers and sipping the water of the police station menu to having a square meal with a part of his dollar, the police say.

Other reports of Cormier's short-lived career in this city would indicate that he might be a Rockefeller if he can keep up his pace for a few more years. Cormier is about 30 years old.

[New Year's Day was not yet a legal holiday, and court was in session. The evening edition of the News summarized the story, bringing it to the following conclusion.]

Judge Sears in district court today could not find the "thousand dollar vagrant," Joshua D. Cormier, guilty, and he was discharged. He was the wealthiest "vagrant" who ever struck Salem.

□ □ □

### **Le Courrier de Salem**

**Events of a century ago in Salem's Franco-American Newspaper  
May – August 1915**

#### **Societies**

- The first meeting of the newly-formed *Société des artisans* of Ste-Anne's parish will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Joseph-N. Gagné is president.
- The *Société des artisans* of Ste-Anne's will host a Whist Party on June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The *Club Klondike* has relocated to the new building of Alfred Bérubé on Ward street.

#### **People and Families**

- Raoul L'Heureux and Yvonne Bouchard are being married at Cap-Chat, PQ. They will return to make their home in Salem.

- Philippe-Orphir Poirier died in Springfield on August 7<sup>th</sup> at the age of 62. He had owned the Florence, the Montcalm, and the Lafayette Hotels, all destroyed in the Great Salem Fire. He will be buried in Salem.
- Père Philippe Dubé, C.S.V., professor of music at the *Séminaire de Joliette*, is in Salem visiting his mother, Mme Alsphonse (Eliza Paradis) Dubé.

### Church

- The newly-reconstructed chapel in the basement of St-Joseph's church will re-open on Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. The Solemn Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 AM. In the evening, there will be a Benediction with blessing of the Statues and of the Stations of the Cross.
- The Feast of Ste Anne will be celebrated at Ste-Anne's church on Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a Solemn Mass at 10:00 AM. In the afternoon, there will be a procession and Benediction at which time Père Dupont will preach his first sermon.

### Music

- A concert will be held at Ste-Anne's in May. Uest speakers will be Mgr Lepailleur and Atty L.-J. Gauthier of Montréal.
- Marguerite Deschamps has gone to Louiseville, PQ, where she has secured a position as music teacher.

### Entertainment

- The play by L.-O. David, *Le Drapeau du carillon*, will be performed at St-Joseph's on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and again on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Construction

- The contractors *Boisjoli et Vaillancourt*, of Holyoke, now have offices at 112½ Essex street, Salem.
- A brick block with four stories and 8 apartments has been built at the corner of Perkins and Palmer streets for Pierre Tremblay. *Gagnon et Brochu* are the contractors.
- A new grocery store of cement construction has been built at the corner of Salem and Everett streets for Adélard Audet.
- A brick block of six apartments has been built at 58 Congress street for Arsène Bossé.
- A four-story brick block has been constructed on Prince street for Isaïe Martel.
- The Naumkeag Mills will construct a brick block of 16 apartments between Harbor and Leavitt streets. Alfred Audet has been awarded the contract.

**À la mémoire de  
M. l'abbé Louis-D. Bourgeois  
Ancien curé de la paroisse  
Sainte-Anne, Salem**

## Décès

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

Robert-E. BEAULIEU, 87 ans, 1 novembre 2014 • Vivian (Legault) BELISLE, 81 ans, 13 décembre 2014 • Michelle-Marie (Gagnon) BÉRUBÉ, 44 ans, 9 décembre 2014 • Thomas-L. BÉRUBÉ, 72 ans, 11 octobre 2014 • **Rév. Louis-D. BOURGEOIS (#206)**, 82 ans, 9 février 2015 • Lionel-R. CAMIRÉ, 90 ans, 15 octobre 2014 • William-J. CHOQUETTE, 43 ans, 22 décembre 2014 • Raymonde-T. (Gagnon) CIMON, 91 ans, 4 janvier 2015 • Lance-S. COTÉ, 44 ans, 3 décembre 2014 • Robert-C. DELANDE, 82 ans, 3 octobre 2014 • Lucille (Coté) DEVEAU, 77 ans, 8 novembre 2014 • Eleanor-A. (Hughes) DIONNE, 88 ans, 17 janvier 2015 • Olive (Townsend) DUPUIS, 84 ans, 29 janvier 2015 • Eléanore-Marguerite (Garneau) FORBES, 93 ans, 24 novembre 2014 • Louise (Daudelin) GAGNÉ, 93 ans, 20 septembre 2014 • Alfred-J. GAGNON, 91 ans, 9 janvier 2015 • Helen (Furey) GAGNON, 77 ans, 19 janvier 2015 • Kenneth-D. GAGNON, 67 ans, 5 octobre 2014 • Louise-E. GAGNON, 78 ans, 10 janvier 2015 • Iris Mary (Hughes) GARIÉPY, 88 ans, 26 novembre 2014 • Omer-P. GAUTHIER, 87 ans, 31 octobre 2014 • Lorraine-M. (Pinault) GIRARD, 83 ans, 23 janvier 2015 • E.-Joseph GUAY, 78 ans, 31 janvier 2015 • Claire-H. (Francoeur) GUY, 24 décembre 2014 • Mary A. (Silva) GUY, 91 ans, 3 janvier 2015 • Florence-Marie (LeBlanc) HACHÉ, 15 octobre 2014 • Robert-J. JALBERT, 87 ans, 4 décembre 2014 • Rosemary-E. (LeBlanc) JODOIN, 61 ans, 4 décembre 2014 • Annette-L. (Proulx) KARONIS, 83 ans, 4 janvier 2015 • Béatrice-Evelyn (Ouellette) LAVOIE, 95 ans, 11 octobre 2014 • Edward-V. LAVOIE, 92 ans, 24 octobre 2014 • James-E. LeBLANC, 46 ans, 17 janvier 2015 • Cassandra-A. (Bédard) LESLIE, 32 ans, 27 janvier 2015 • Ann B.(Carey) LÉTOURNEAU, 5 décembre 2014 • J.-R.-William LÉTOURNEAU, 99 ans, 16 janvier 2015 • Wallace-A. L'ITALIEN, 92 ans, 18 octobre 2014 • Dorothy-A. (Saulnier) LABAO, 71 ans, 30 novembre 2014 • Raymond-A. LOUF, 66 ans, 15 octobre 2014 • Richard-J. LOUF, 74 ans, 5 décembre 2014 • Irene (Lynch) MARCHAND, 87 ans, 27 novembre 2014 • Mary E. (Cass) MORIN, 56 ans, 18 janvier 2015 • Karen (LeBrun) Powderly-NAMVAR, 58 years, 9 décembre 2014 • Joann-T. (St-Charles) PELLETIER, 80 ans, 21 décembre 2014 • Linda PELLETIER, 62 ans, 29 novembre 2014 • Yvonne (Jalbert) PELLETIER, 93 ans, 11 janvier 2015 • Norman-L. PLOURDE, 59 ans, 21 décembre 2014 • Karen-A. ROY, 61 ans, 17 novembre 2014 • Rita-E. (Pelletier) Caron-ROY, 90 ans, 25 novembre 2014 • Marguerite-J. (St-Laurent) SIENKIEWICZ, 77 ans, 26 décembre 2014 • Gertrude (Chénard) STANCHFIELD, 95 ans, 8 janvier 2015 • Paul-L. TALBOT, 55 ans, 9 novembre 2014 • Roger-O. THÉRIAULT, 91 ans, 16 février 2015 • Mary-Gloria (Bushey) TURCOTTE, 90 ans, 14 décembre 2014 • Thomas-G. VOYER, 69 ans, 18 janvier 2015 • Mary-A. (LaBorde) WILKINS, 93 ans, 21 novembre 2014 • Germaine-A. (Gagnon) ZELANO, 93 ans, 4 janvier 2015 •

## **S. E. Mgr André Ouellette (1913-2001)**

*par D.-Michel Michaud, #1*

Il me semble convenable de dire quelques mots à titre d'éloge d'un vrai franco-américain, devenu canadien-français, ensuite, prélat distingué de l'église au Québec.

Joseph-Louis-André Ouellette naquit à Salem, Massachusetts le 4 février 1913, le fils d'Amédée Ouellette et de Céline Ouellette. Il fréquenta l'école paroissiale où, en 1928, il reçoit son diplôme aux premières cérémonies de la nouvelle Académie St-Joseph de Salem. Là, en 1937, il fonda l'association des anciens élèves de l'Académie. Sociétaire actif dans le Conseil Laurier No. 72 U.S.J.B. de Salem depuis 1929, il fut protégé de la Caisse de l'écolier de l'Union St-Jean-Baptiste d'Amérique de 1935 à 1938.

Après ses études aux séminaires de Trois-Rivières et à l'Université Laval, il fut ordonné le 11 juin 1938 dans la cathédrale de Trois-Rivières. Mais, c'est dans l'église de St-Joseph de Salem que le nouveau prêtre, alors âgé de 25 ans, chanta sa première messe, le jour même de la Fête-Dieu.

Pendant vingt ans tout près, sa carrière a été consacrée à l'enseignement, comme professeur de philosophie, de théologie, et de littérature française. Devenu juge synodal, il fut nommé supérieur du grand séminaire de Trois-Rivières en 1949. Le 21 mai 1950, il prononça le discours de circonstance lors de la dédicace de la nouvelle église de St-Joseph de Salem. Deux ans plus tard, il reviendra pour chanter ici les funérailles de son père bien aimé. Il fut nommé supérieur du petit séminaire de Trois-Rivières en 1953, membre de l'exécutif de l'Université Laval en 1955, et président de la Fédération des 51 collèges classiques du Québec en 1956.

Prêtre animé d'une piété profonde, il fut créé chanoine honoraire du diocèse de Trois-Rivières en 1952, et fut élevé à la dignité de prélat domestique en 1956. Nommé évêque, il fut sacré dans la cathédrale de Trois-Rivières le 25 février 1957, devenant auxiliaire et vicaire général du diocèse de Mont-Laurier, et directeur de l'Action catholique. À Rome, il participa aux sessions du Concile où il fut nommé administrateur apostolique. Le 27 mars 1965, il est installé comme troisième évêque de Mont-Laurier. Ainsi, c'est l'évêque de Mont-Laurier qui concélébra la messe du centenaire de la paroisse de St-Joseph de Salem le 20 mai 1973.

Il se retira le 15 février 1978 et, demeurant toujours à l'évêché, consacra son temps aux archives du diocèse où il a fondée, auparavant, le journal mensuel "La Voix du Diocèse". En m'écrivant le 30 juillet 1982, Mgr André s'explique:

Je dois quand même ajouter une sourdine car, étant, depuis ma retraite comme évêque, préposé aux archives du diocèse de Mont-Laurier, je suis en contact quotidien, avec les écrits du curé Labelle de St-Jérôme qui jusqu'à sa mort en 1891 travailla de toutes ses forces pour établir les québécois sur les terres du Nord de Montréal et de l'Outaouais

plutôt que de les voir partir pour les filatures de la Nouvelle-Angleterre. Il y réussit partiellement, témoin l'existence du diocèse de Mont-Laurier, mais pas entièrement, témoin le grand nombre d'immigrés du Québec aux États-Unis. Tu vois donc mon dilemme: mes ancêtres et du côté paternel et du côté maternel ont opté pour les États-Unis, alors qu'après y avoir grandi en Nouvelle-Angleterre, j'ai choisi de devenir citoyen canadien.

De toute façon, mes ancêtres et leurs descendants, dont deux de mes soeurs, ont semblé et semblent encore heureux de vivre sous le "star spangled Banner" et moi, je ne regrette pas d'oeuvrer au Canada depuis bientôt 55 ans... Nous sommes donc tous heureux!

Le 11 octobre 2001, Mgr André Ouellette mourut à Mont-Laurier à l'âge de 88 ans, dans sa 63ième année de prêtrise, et sa 45ième année comme évêque. Il restera toujours un enfant de Salem, un franco-américain qui n'a jamais oublié sa paroisse natale, où tout le monde rend encore témoignage à son dévouement.



## ***La Revue de Salem***

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## **Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc.**

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

Membership, which includes a subscription to *La Revue de Salem*, is available for \$12.50 per year. Address all correspondence to F.A.I.S., 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA 01902-3305  
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*Il nous fera plaisir de vous servir en français.*

### **Officers 2014-2015**

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

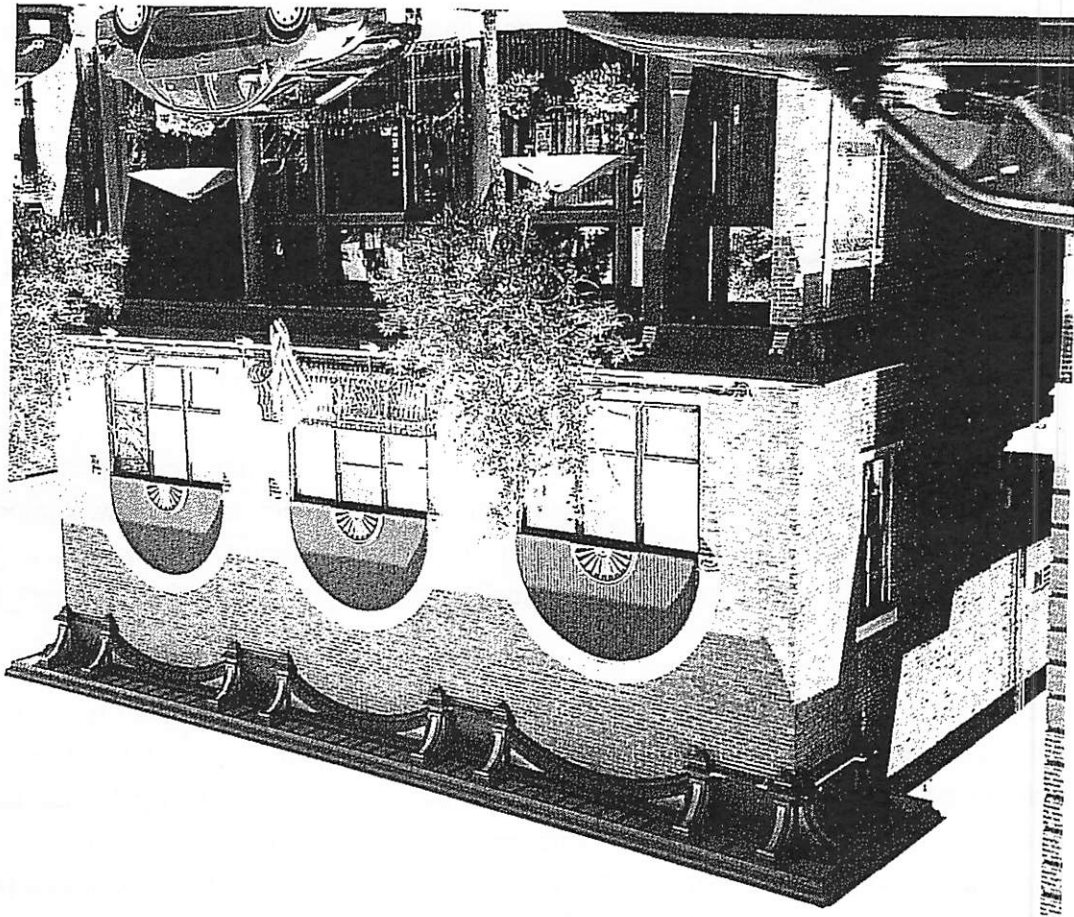
### **Directors**

Dorothy Morneau (*exp. 2015*)  
Jane Stauffer (*exp. 2016*)  
Judith Ware (*exp. 2017*)  
Janet Lettich (*alt.*)

### **Meetings**

Board Meetings of the Franco-American Institute of Salem for 2015 will be held at 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA on 17 May and 27 September at 4:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.

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



**Cover Photo:** The Audet block at 92-96 Lafayette street, built in 1917, was the home of the Canadian Klondike Club from 1926 to 1981. It is seen here in a recent photo.

*Editorial*

## L'époque d'un grand club

The Canadian Klondike Club was an imposing presence in the city of Salem for nearly 85 years. From its humble beginnings, it grew to enjoy a huge membership, a vast and magnificent building, and enormous social functions which could not be rivaled. Virtually every city official and member of the clergy took part in its activities, either as a member or as an honored guest. The Club remained politically active and deeply patriotic, its teams excelled in numerous sports, and its Scholarship Funds provided many students with a higher education. Perhaps the greatest achievement of the Club was its continuing promotion of the faith, the language, and the culture of Salem's Franco-Americans.

It is difficult to imagine that such a large organization ever existed, or that it could ever cease to exist. One reporter, announcing its closing in 1981, repeatedly stated that "Those were the days." To elaborate, we may say that those were the days when Franco-Americans took great pride in their heritage, took an active part in social functions, and worked to promote the unity of their community. Today, we are scattered. But those who remember the "Klondike Club Era" continue to say "Those were the days."

The history of such an organization cannot be told in a few short pages. The highlights which appear in this special issue are only a glimpse into the long and celebrated history of what was the social center of Salem's Franco-American community for generations.

□ □ □

Our seventh annual social, *l'été en fête*, will be held on Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup>. A special feature will be an exhibit of photographs and items from the Canadian Klondike Club. All members are welcome to attend this informal gathering. For more details, see page 39 of this issue.

□ □ □

*Notre Journal--Numero Souvenir.*

## Le Club Klondike Canadien

**The Founding of a Club** – As the nineteenth century drew to a close, French-Canadians continued to arrive in Salem in ever increasing numbers. The French population, estimated at 5,000 in 1890, rose to nearly 7,000 in 1900 and to well over 12,000 by 1910. Most of these latest arrivals spoke no English and needed help in finding suitable housing and employment. Some needed financial assistance and many, in time, would want to apply for citizenship.

These were the concerns of a group of gentlemen who frequented the barbershop of Odilon Pelletier. Two of the men, Cléophas Barbin and Camille Chouinard, proposed the formation of a social club which would address these needs.

On Saturday evening 15 May 1897, the group of fifteen gathered in a vacant room adjoining the barbershop at 48-50 Palmer street in order to form an organization. Edouard-Alexandre Demers was chosen to serve as acting-president. Odilon Pelletier offered to rent his room at \$1.00 per week, providing that the heat be “furnished by all members, each taking their week in bringing the fuel from his home and taking care of the furnace to keep his brother members warm and comfortable.” Further, club hours would be limited to Monday through Friday from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, and Saturdays from 1:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Curiously, it was noted that whiskey would be sold at 5¢ per glass, and beer at 10¢ per bottle! Co-founders Cléophas Barbin and Camille Chouinard specified that only married men of French descent, gainfully employed, would be admitted as members, and that all meetings were to be conducted in French. (Hence the provisional name of “*Le Club des Ouvriers*” or “The Workmen’s Club”.) Finally, a vote was taken and Odilon Pelletier was elected president with Alfred Thériault as secretary-treasurer. The fifteen charter member were as follows: Cléophas Barbin, Joseph Blanchette, Napoléon Casavant, Louis Charbonneau, Camille Chouinard, Edouard-Alexandre Demers, Odilon Dubé, Ovide Dubé, Isidore Godbout, Arthur Jodoin, Joseph Ledoux, Joseph Martin, Odilon Pelletier, Téléphore Pépin, and Alfred Thériault.

The matter of raising funds in order to finance their charitable work was debated by the club over the course of the next two months. Then, on 19 July 1897, the press broke the news that gold had been discovered in the Canadian Klondike. “Gold Dust in Abundance – Hundreds Going There – Excited by Yellow Gold”. Articles claimed that miners were returning with “nearly one million dollars in pure gold”, and boasting that “gold dust is scooped up with every shovel of dirt, and that applies to every piece of ground into which the shovel is driven.” Success stories and “fabulous tales” appeared daily which kept excitement at fever pitch. After extensive preparations, Jean-B. St-Pierre left Salem for the Klondike in November and, within the week, Albert Boulanger and Jean-B. Bourque announced their intention to do the same. Five months later Fred Marchand left Salem by rail for Seattle where he would join a group from Gloucester.

At a special meeting held on Sunday 16 January 1898, the club was reorganized and adopted its new name, "*Club Klondike Canadien*" or "Canadian Klondike Club." Only three days later, the club placed the following notice in the Salem Evening News:

THE KLONDIKE CLUB. – The Klondike club will have a dance at the rooms of the Harbor Light club Thursday evening, Feb. 3. The club will conduct a series of dances for the purpose of netting a sufficient amount of money to meet the expenses of sending at least one member of the club to the Klondike gold regions.

The Harbor Light yacht club, organized in 1888, was not a French organization. However, its quarters on Leavitt street, with a dance hall on the second floor and "excellent views of the harbor", was built by contractor Joseph Devoe in 1893. Devoe may have served as a liason between the two clubs.

Daniel Boudreau left Salem for the Klondike on 2 March 1898, and Jean-B. St-Pierre returned on 20 May having gone no further than San Francisco. By June of 1898, five members of the Canadian Klondike Club were on their way to the gold fields: Cléophas Barbin, Camille Chouinard, Auguste Larivée, Ernest Pinault, and Delphis Plamondon. When they returned to Salem a year later, The News reported that they brought no gold, met with no good fortune, and encountered all sorts of hardships in the frozen north:

Their experience was severe, and they did not have the satisfaction of securing any of the gold with which the country was said to be filled. They traveled into the interior of the country, and were several hundred miles away from the traveled paths, only to meet with disappointment.

Others who attempted the expedition suffered even worse fates. Chauncey Pépin and Napoléon Giroux boarded a ship which, to their surprise, sailed to France. Louis Claise, a native of French Belgium, left Salem and was never heard from again. Despite many discouraging and devastation experiences, the name Canadian Klondike Club was retained to perpetuate the memory and ambitions of its founding members.

**The Early Years** – Club membership continued to grow steadily during its first decade. By 1903, larger quarters were secured in a building at the rear of 41-43 Harbor street which was owned by Stanislas Lévesque. Annual events such as banquets and summer outings were now drawing members and their guests by the hundreds. In February of 1909 "*Le Club Klondike Canadien*" was incorporated by the Commonwealth.

The loss of both founders within three years was a severe blow to the club. François-Cléophas Barbin died on 29 October 1909 at the age of 61. Born at Ste-Croix-de-Lotbinière, PQ, he had lived in Salem nearly 30 years. He was survived by his wife, Rosanna Tremblay, and seven children, the eldest of whom was Soeur Ste-Lydie, S.S.Ch. Camille Chouinard died on 9 October 1912 at the age of 59. Born at St-Roch-de-Québec, PQ, he had lived in Salem for 35 years. He was survived by his wife, Exilda Bédard, and three daughters.

Shortly after, on 25 June 1914, the Great Salem Fire swept across the city, taking with it the club as well as the homes of many of its members. Activities were suspended for 14 months. On Sunday 15 August 1915, the club resumed under the presidency of Alfred Thériault, and quarters were secured in a new building at 4½ Ward street which was owned by Alfred Bérubé. The following year, on Sunday 20 August 1916, the annual summer outings resumed. Held at Lebel's Grove in Danvers, it was called "a splendid success. The weather was ideal, the program interesting and varied, and the attendance numerous."

With ever increasing membership, the club quickly outgrew its Ward street location. Alfred Audet, a director of the club, offered the entire third floor of his building at 64 Lafayette street (now the site of the Central Fire Station) at a cost of \$240. per year. A ten-year lease was signed on 11 March 1918, and the club took possession of its spacious quarters on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Only four months later, the club was saddened by the sudden death of its first president, Odilon Pelletier, on 2 September 1918 at the age of 57. Born at St-Jean-Port-Joli, PQ, he had lived in Salem for 47 years. He was survived by his wife, Séraphine Labrie, four sons, and four daughters.

On 3 May 1921 "*Le Courrier de Salem*" reported that silver had been discovered in the Klondike, only 150 miles from where gold had been discovered a quarter-century earlier. Unlike the first discovery, which had been so disappointing to so many, little notice was taken.

During the mid-1920s, annual banquets drew 300 to 400 members and guests. Officers were installed, sumptuous turkey dinners were served, guest speakers were eloquent, and dancing to live orchestras continued until midnight. Among the regular speakers were Mayor George Bates, Representative Chauncey Pépin, City Council President Omer-P. Thériault, Police Captain Gédéon-F. Pelletier, Père Georges Duplessis of St-Joseph's, and others.

A turning point in the history of the club took place on the first day of March 1926 when the organization purchased the Audet block at 92-96 Lafayette street for some \$80,000. Called "one of the finest" in the city, the Klondike Club building, as it became known, would remain an impressive social center of Salem for more than a half-century.

**The Audet Block** – In January of 1917 the City of Salem granted to Alfred Audet a permit to construct a large two-story brick block at 92-96 Lafayette street with "a frontage of 49 feet and a depth of 114 feet six inches". The street level, "with no posts in the interior," was to be leased to the Union Motor company as a showroom for Hudson automobiles, and the second story was to become Audet's own "National Ballroom". The building was erected quickly, but the numerous interior details took a full year to complete. By December, descriptions began to appear in the press:

The stairs are of marble. Within its doors are features entirely new to this city. The hall itself is magnificent and one Salem should be proud of. The owner, Alfred Audet, of Salem, has gone to great expense to produce a ballroom that will excel all other halls in this part of the country. One glimpse of the interior of the hall will prove this beyond the shadow of a doubt.

The floor is the best obtainable, and is laid hexagonal in shape, so that the dancers are dancing with the grain all the time. The dancing surface is one of the finest along the coast. Six-foot mirrors have been placed on one side of the hall. The lighting system is unique, the French indirect system being used. A set of chimes, such as cannot be found anywhere else in New England, is arranged in 32 locations around the hall and lends a harmonious blend to the music of the orchestra. Chicago is today the only city in the United States, it is said, where the fine harmony of such carillons can be heard.

The hall, in itself, is one of the most beautiful in Salem. Very large, very high, well lighted, well heated, well ventilated, it will be an ideal gathering place. It is one of the most beautiful ballrooms in the state.

The National Ballroom held its Grand Opening on New Year's Night, 1 January 1918. A seven-piece orchestra performed from the balcony, and there was continuous dancing from 8:00 PM until midnight. Admission was .35¢ for gentlemen and .25¢ for ladies. From then on, the hall was open to the public for dancing three evenings each week. There were also spectacular shows with well-known performers and acrobats, and dancing classes were offered regularly. There were costume balls in which prizes were awarded, and dances to benefit soldiers serving in World War I.

In 1919 the ballroom was said to have been "even more popular than it was last season" due to its "new and cheerful surroundings". The hall had been entirely redecorated as a "Japanese Garden, with many lanterns and other decorative effects", and a room adjoining the main hall was converted into an ice cream parlor.

Audet spent the next three years designing and building the eight-lane "National Bowling Alleys" in the basement. The press could not have been more enthusiastic in its praise:

The alleys are the last word in bowling construction and are without a doubt the most elaborate of any in New England. No expense was spared in their construction. Mr. Audet is the first man who ever attempted to build and install a set of bowling alleys outside of a regular bowling concern. Few builders that do not confine their work to the erection of bowling alleys will tackle the job of building them.

The building offered "separate entrances for ladies and gentlemen," with "a marble stairway for each entrance" down to the alleys. Between the fifth and sixth lanes "a 35-foot partition, moving on tracks, can be set up for parties that contain ladies". The press described the alleys in great detail:

As one enters the alleys a brilliantly lighted and handsome chandelier catches the eyes. The interior is harmoniously finished in moss green and cream colored tile work and the walls are frescoed to match the whole. The lighting arrangements are elaborate, there being an almost daylight effect upon the alleys without the usual glare. The benches are so arranged that spectators can see what is going on, as the second and third rows are elevated.

The alleys were constructed of hard maple, while the runs are of unique design, owing to the brass and nickel fixtures. An electrical signal system to call the pin boys has also been installed. The pin boys have been provided with special quarters in the rear and the pits have been screened in the back with maple, so that spectators can witness the pinfall at close quarters without any danger of being struck. A special sound-proof arrangement has been installed in the ceiling over each alley which will tone down the usual bowling alley rumbles and crashes. Exhaust fans that carry away to the roof 6000 cubic feet of air per minute and return fresh air from the outside have been installed at great expense.

The high ceilings, private lockers, and Audet's many unique innovations created an ideal bowling alley, which was placed under the management of Chauncey Pépin and Paul Laroche. On opening day, 12 April 1922, more than 2,500 visitors arrived for the open house between 2:00 PM and 11:00 PM. City council president Omer-P. Thériault had organized a competition which began at 9:00 PM in which a team from every ward in the city, led by its councilor, participated. The winning team was awarded a silver cup, donated by Alfred Audet. The press stated that "with the dance hall upstairs and the alleys in the basement this building will probably become quite a social centre" in the heart of the city.

Only two years later, on 3 January 1924, the quality of Audet's construction was put to the test when a fire was detected at 11:45 AM. Originating in the boiler room, "heavy dense smoke filled the entire building. The smoke from the fire filled the bowling alleys, the boiler room being in the rear. The Union motors, which occupy the first floor, was filled with smoke while the ballroom on the second floor also was smoked a bit." Fortunately, the damage was minimal "due to the boiler room being of fireproof construction."

The vast retail space at street level was intended to provide additional revenue for the complex. When the Union Motor company did not renew its lease, Edgar-C. Leblanc opened a furniture store which was equally short-lived at this location. Alfred Audet then offered the space to his cousin, Aimé-V. Audet, an experienced furniture dealer. In order to attract the public to this enormous space, Alfred, a contractor, provided a unique attraction. The press marveled that "A modern four-room bungalow, completely furnished, is on display in the center of the store." Many curious customers came to visit what was advertised as "The Home Beautiful" on its opening day, 7 May 1925. The Audet Furniture Company was "renowned for the fine quality of its furniture and appliances" until its closing nearly three decades later.

**The Growth of the Club** – With the acquisition of the magnificent structure in 1926, membership "exploded into the hundreds". Weekly dances continued to be offered in the ballroom, which was also rented out for private functions, and the club received additional income from the retail space and bowling alleys. Further, Alfred Audet rented a large front room adjoining the ballroom from which he conducted his contracting business.

By 1927, annual banquets frequently exceeded 500 in attendance, with guest speakers which invariably included the mayor, several councilors, and members of the clergy. That year, the Klondike Club began making annual contributions to St-Joseph's building fund. In 1931

councilor Edward A. Coffey, later to serve as mayor, said that “he felt right at home with so many of his friends present, and which he said brought many pleasant memories of early associations with Franco-Americans” of Salem.

**The Federal Raid** – Prohibition, which lasted from 1920 to 1933, was considered an attack on the cultural traditions of Franco-Americans, many of whom ignored the ban. Every province in Canada had adopted similar laws, except for Québec. More than one million gallons of liquor were smuggled into the United States from Québec during prohibition, and much was manufactured under cover.

Police raids were a regular occurrence in Salem. In fact, in 1931, the mayor noted that in the “eight years of my administration 1124 raids have been made by the Salem police department. The greater number of these were successful.” However, only one of these had been at the Klondike Club, back in 1927.

On Tuesday afternoon 18 August 1931, federal agents raided the Klondike Club and seized “an assortment of liquors, French brandy, beer, and some 300 quarts” of alcoholic beverages. About 40 members and guests present were detained, and two club officers were placed under arrest.

City officials and the local police were accused of protecting the club. After an internal investigation the mayor admitted that there had been “rumors afloat that such conditions at the Klondike were common knowledge,” although police officers denied this “very strongly”. The conclusion of the City Marshall was that “I do not feel justified in meting out punishment” to the police. The club and its two officers who had been arrested were fined in federal court on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Three weeks later the Assistant U.S. District Attorney filed a libel suit seeking “forfeiture and condemnation of liquors” which had been seized by federal agents.

The Klondike Club enjoyed the dubious distinction of being the only site in the city of Salem to have been raided by Federal Police during the entire prohibition era.

**The 1930s** – Despite the hardships of the Great Depression, the Canadian Klondike Club flourished. Among the honored guests at the annual banquet in 1935 were Mayor Bates, Monseigneur Jean-B. Labossière, Representative Edmond Talbot, Attorney André Foisy of the licensing commission, Norman Auger of the school board, Albert Ledoux of the board of registrars, Alfred Audet of the board of appeal, and a number of city councilors both past and present. It was on this occasion that the pastor of St-Joseph’s announced his intention to erect a veterans’ monument in Lafayette Park “as a means of demonstrating the Franco-American loyalty.”

A week later, the hall was transformed for the opening of its Grand Bazaar to benefit the building fund. The “mammoth” affair ran for 18 days. “Steady crowds filled the hall to capacity from early evening until late at night.” In addition to the many booths “overflowing with goods and prizes”, popcorn, ice cream and soft drinks were available. A loudspeaker kept “the air filled with music” until 10:30 each evening when a special prize was awarded. On closing night, Norman-R. Auger was the winner of the grand prize, a new Plymouth.

It was fortunate that the club's officers had the foresight to maintain a well-endowed building fund. That May, a fire broke out in the basement bowling alleys which "sent huge billows of smoke throughout the building." The damage was "not great, but the dense smoke permeated everything." Repairs were quickly made and the alleys soon reopened. But only five months later on the evening of October 25<sup>th</sup>, a more serious fire was detected. "The fire started in a blind attic on the second floor used for storage purposes [and] flames spread quickly to the partitions and then mushroomed between the metal ceiling and the roof. About 30 feet of the timbers which hold the roof were either burned or charred by the flames." Again, repairs were quickly made and the hall soon reopened.

Edward Coffey, serving his first term as mayor, was a special guest at the Halloween Party of 1938 which "drew a capacity crowd". A reporter noted that a "fine program of entertainment, dancing and music by [Napoléon] Provost contributed to the delight of the affair. The costumes were particularly interesting in their originality and variety."

At the annual banquet of 1939, Monseigneur Labossière expressed his pleasure at the "unification of the French people" brought about by the club, and Mayor Coffey noted the "sociability and friendliness" which existed among its members.

In April, the Palmers Cove Yacht Club of Salem hosted a reception at the Klondike Club for 39 delegates of the Massachusetts Bay Yacht Clubs Association. Among the speakers was J.-Alexandre Michaud of Salem, vice-commander of the Palmers Cove club and chairman of the board of directors of the Massachusetts Bay Yacht Clubs Association.

The Klondike hall also continued to be a popular venue for private functions. In June of 1939 "a pre-nuptial shower, attended by more than 500 friends was given Miss Rose Marquis and Wilfred Dansereau. Presentation of a check to the couple on behalf of their many friends was made by Mayor Edward A. Coffey and Miss Marquis was given a bouquet by Adelard Beaulieu, president of the city council."

More than 400 members and guests attended the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual picnic of the Klondike Club at Lebel's Grove in Danvers in August of 1939. The morning softball game was followed by a dinner at noon with guest speakers which included Mayor Coffey. A variety of sports and races were held throughout the afternoon and prizes were awarded. Dinner was served, and there was dancing to the music of the Napoléon Provost Orchestra. Among the organizations represented were delegates from *les Forestiers*, *la Société St-Jean-Baptiste*, *l'Union S.J.B.d'A.*, *l'Amicale St-Joseph*, the Laurier Guard, and clubs from Amesbury, Newburyport and Lawrence.

The first annual dance of the Zouaves from St-Joseph's parish was held in the Klondike hall on Friday evening 1 December 1939, with music furnished by an orchestra. Proceeds were used to provide a Christmas Party for the children of the *Conseil Laurier*, and for new uniforms for the members of the Laurier Guard.

**The 1940s** - The "outstanding feature" of the annual banquet and dance of 1940 was the presentation of a very sizable check to Monseigneur Jean-B. Labossière for the construction of a new church. The presentation was made by treasurer Henry Gagnon on behalf of the officers and

members of the club. Monseigneur Labossière then “led a prayer for the deceased members of the club”: the elderly and ailing pastor died only six months later.

**The Gift** – On Monday evening, 20 October 1941, more than 300 club members gathered to honor one of its directors, Alfred Audet. After Mayor Coffey’s address, president Joseph-O. Pelletier presented the organization with a large portrait of Audet which would “hang in the library of the club as a monument to him.” Audet then addressed his fellow club members and expressed his gratitude for such a fine testimonial given in his honor. During his remarks, he produced a mortgage of \$11,500 and notes amounting to \$7,500 which he held against the club. In a magnanimous gesture he burned the papers, thus giving \$19,000 to the Canadian Klondike Club and “wiped the slate clean.”

During World War II, the club issued a monthly paper entitled the “Boomerang” which was mailed to all members of the club in military service. It was prepared by Joseph Caron with photography by Émile DeVoe, and was printed by Noé Simard.

More than 400 persons attended the 1945 banquet which honored two members of the club who were serving in the armed forces. These guests were Sergeant Roger Blanchetts, wearing the Presidential Unit citation, and PFC Arthur LeBlanc, stationed in the First Service Command.

The annual Mother’s Night was introduced in May of that year, “replete with varied entertainment.” The club presented “a substantial sum of money” to Père Éli Barnaud for St-Joseph’s parish after his prayer of invocation. Prizes were awarded to the oldest and youngest mothers and grandmothers, and to the mother with the most children. All mothers were presented with a box of chocolates. Muriel Hallé, accompanied by Aimé-V. Audet, and Edmond Boucher, accompanied by his son Jean, provided the musical entertainment. Mayor Coffey declared that “this party is the finest demonstration of public devotion I have ever seen.” After the banquet, “dancing was enjoyed until midnight.”

The Klondike Club softball team had become widely recognized by the 1940s. “A large crowd” attended a special benefit game at Palmer’s Cove in June of 1945 when the Klondike team defeated the Sears-Roebuck team by a score of 10 to 7. A reporter noted that “Jodoin pitched a masterful game, Laporte and Letourneau excelled at bat, and Michaud and Banville shone afield.” The benefit was for St-Joseph’s building fund, and a “sizable amount” was handed over to Père Barnaud, the pastor.

The Klondike Club and St-Joseph’s parish joined to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of club treasurer Henry Gagnon and his wife in September of 1945. A High Mass was celebrated in St-Joseph’s on Saturday morning, 450 of their relatives and friends gathered in the Klondike hall for a reception and dancing on Saturday evening, and a catered dinner was served in the hall on Sunday afternoon. The couple was given a chest of silverware on behalf of the club’s members.

At the annual Softball Supper in the Klondike hall in January of 1946, special recognition was given to Arthur Melanson "whose exceptional work was a big factor in the Klondike Club softball team being one of the best on the North Shore." The committee noted that "the coming season may surpass any previous records and, with the return of several servicemen, the team will offer stiff competition to teams in surrounding communities." The officers of the sports committee were president Alphonse Jodoin, vice-president Edmond Michaud, secretary Léo Plante, and treasurer Léon Blanchette.

Members of the Klondike Club sports committee banded together and travelled the streets of the Point and Castle Hill neighborhoods in April of 1947, collecting bundles for their first annual Paper Drive. The money raised was used to provide a Christmas Party for the children of the club's members.

The Fiftieth Anniversary of the 500-member club was observed with a three-day celebration in October of 1947. Speakers at the Grand Banquet included Père Éli Barnaud of St-Joseph's, Père Eugène Vincent of Ste-Anne's, Mayor Edward A. Coffey, Congressman George J. Bates, and Senator Henry Cabot Lodge. The only living charter member, Alfred Thériault, was hospitalized and unable to attend. As a sign of their affection, several members were delegated to bring him gifts and "a huge cake, a replica of the Klondike club." The officers at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canadian Klondike Club were: Joseph-O. Pelletier, president; Alfred Turgeon, vice-president; Edward Gagnon, secretary; Henry Gagnon, treasurer; Aimé Gagnon, collector; Arthur Caron, sergeant-at-arms; René Chouinard and Léo Plante, accountants; Alfred Jodoin, Armand Larocque and Robert Caron, auditors; and Adrien Bouchard, Willie Roy, Alexandre Devarenne, Laurence Morency and Edgar Michaud, directors.

Always eager to support local sports, the Klondike Club hosted many gala evenings for Salem teams. In December of 1947 the members of the Salem High School football squad and their guests, some 200 in number, were given a turkey banquet and testimonial at the Klondike Club. Special guest speaker was Robert Margarita (1920-2008), "backfield coach of Harvard college, former star of the Chicago Bears and All-American from Brown university." The club presented trophies to the captains of Salem High, including Pete Jalbert, and silver footballs to other members of the squad.

The Klondike Club's own basketball team was one that was hard to beat, and the 1947-1948 season was perhaps one of its best. It defeated teams such as the AMVETS, teams from Beverly and Marblehead, and General Electric. Its 45-36 win over the Salem All-Stars marked its 25<sup>th</sup> victory of the season.

**The 1950s** – A warm applause greeted Mayor Collins when he pledged to fill municipal positions with Franco-Americans at the annual banquet in 1951. This was followed by a humorous debate called a "Battle of Wits between two reverend gentlemen". Père Mercier of St-Joseph's and Père Vincent of Ste-Anne's entered into a "verbal fencing match" which provided a great deal of entertainment. The "never-ending but ever humorous battle" between the clergy of the two parishes continued for several years by popular demand.

In January of 1951 the club hosted Père Jules Chenevert who, “speaking in the French tongue as required under club rules, gave his hearers an interesting account of his experiences on Devil’s Island” and in Martinique where he had been stationed. In October of that year, Père A.-J.-B. Cossette, o.m.i. of Manitoba, showed a film in the club hall which illustrated the vast mission territory where he had been stationed for 14 years.

Club member Aimé-V. Audet retired in February of 1952, after conducting the Audet Furniture Company on the street-level of the Klondike Club building for nearly three decades. Born at Lac Drolet, PQ, he died in Salem on 9 December 1957 at the age of 69.

At the annual Mothers’ Night in May of 1952 Mayor Francis X. Collins “addressed the French mothers in their native tongue,” and André Moreau offered a solo accompanied by his mother Laurette. In his remarks, Père Mercier “suggested that the club undertake the establishment of a scholarship fund to aid worthy students of French extraction.” The Club pledged its support, and the fund was established.

More than 300 attended the banquet and testimonial for longtime treasurer Henry Gagnon in the Klondike hall in September of 1953. Mayor Collins declared that he made a fine choice in appointing Gagnon to the licensing board, and Père Mercier noted that Gagnon had served on every parish committee as a dedicated leader or member.

On Christmas Eve 1954, Alfred-J.-Herméné Thériault died in Salem at the age of 79. He was the last surviving charter member of the Canadian Klondike Club. Born at St-Épiphanie, PQ, on 14 April 1875, he was the son of Cyprien Thériault and Clarisse Anctil. He settled in Salem in 1891 where he married Marie-Louise Martin in 1897; the couple had 4 sons and 4 daughters. He was an esteemed member of the club for nearly six decades, and had served as its president for five years, in 1909-1910 and in 1913-1915.

**The 1960s** – Alfred Audet died in Salem on 5 January 1960 at the age of 84. A noted Salem contractor and builder of the club’s headquarters, he was a generous benefactor, a longtime director, and an honorary life member of the Canadian Klondike Club. Born at St-Gervais, PQ, on 18 May 1875, he was the son of Augustin Audet and Lucie Brochu. He settled in Salem in 1893 where he married Eugénie Léveillé in 1898; the couple had one daughter, Marie-Laure. A tragedy ensued when four of Alfred Audet’s nephews left Québec City to attend the funeral of their uncle. In a serious accident on the snow-covered roads of Vermont, Rév. Louis Audet and Rév. Charles-Henri Audet were severely injured, and their brothers Rév. Rosaire Audet and Albert Audet were killed. “Hundreds of friends, relatives and city officials thronged St-Joseph’s church” for the funeral Mass of Alfred Audet, and committal prayers were offered by Bishop André Ouellette of Mont-Laurier, PQ, in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Salem.

The Klondike Club was open to the public as usual on the first Sunday in November 1960. “Continuing a custom” inaugurated in the early years of the club, all candidates for city offices were invited to express their views before the election. A buffet luncheon followed.

Joseph-O. Pelletier died in Salem on 4 December 1960 at the age of 70. Born in Salem on 26 April 1890, he was the son of Odilon Pelleiter and Séraphine Labrie. Following in his father's footsteps, who had been the first president of the Klondike Club, Joseph-O. Pelletier served nearly two decades as president, from 1932 to 1946, and from 1954 to 1957. He was survived by his wife, Marie-A. Poussard, a son and a daughter.

Captain Lucien Gauthier was given a retirement party in Klondike hall in June of 1961 after having served 30 years with the Salem Fire Department. The mayor, the fire chief, and close friend Père Paul Bérubé were among the many guests.

In February of 1962, during the 65<sup>th</sup> annual banquet, the Klondike Club presented Monseigneur Mercier a generous gift on behalf of the members as its contribution to the St-Joseph's Convent Building Fund.

*L'Académie St-Joseph* was long known for its exceptional basketball team, and the Klondike Club frequently honored its players. At a banquet in April of 1963, the club presented a large trophy to the school, more than 80 trophies to members of the team, jackets, sweaters and varsity letters to the players, and gifts to the Blue and Gold Cheerleaders. The special guest speaker was Richard "Duke" Dukeshire, (1933-2012), head coach at Northeastern University, who had been named small college Coach of the Year.

The annual banquet, scheduled for 20 February 1966, was postponed for one week due to the sudden death of Monseigneur Mercier. During nearly two decades as pastor of St-Joseph's, he had been a strong supporter of the Canadian Klondike Club for its role in preserving the faith, the language, and the culture of the Franco-American community.

The Women's Auxiliary of the Canadian Klondike Club was founded in 1968. The auxiliary grew rapidly, and its officers and members took an active role in the many activities and functions of the club.

The club continued to host its annual events throughout the 1960s. Among the guest speakers were Congressman William H. Bates, a top-ranking member of the House Committee on Armed Services, who declared that "our boys [in the Vietnam War] will get all the support they need." Another notable guest speaker was Alfred Thériage, president of the Federation of Franco-American Clubs of Massachusetts, of which the Klondike Club was a member. But it was the 1970s that would become the most active decade in the club's history.

**The 1970s** – The Klondike Club, now called "one of the oldest and most active Franco-American organizations in the country", celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding with a five-day affair in April of 1972. On Wednesday, an Open House and luncheon for members and their guests concluded at 10:00 PM. On Thursday, a Country Western Dance lasted until midnight. On Friday evening, a lobster and steamed clam dinner was followed by a Whist Party. On Saturday, an Anniversary Ball highlighted the festivities from 8:30 PM to 12:30 AM. And on Sunday, a Jubilee Banquet beginning at 2:00 PM concluded the celebration. That same year, past president Léon Blanchette was honored to be elected president of the Franco-American Clubs of

Massachusetts, which embraced some 30 clubs of the Commonwealth and represented some 65,000 members.

On Memorial Day weekend of 1973, the crew and officers of the Canadian naval ship HMCS Ottawa, docked in Boston, enjoyed an Open House, luncheon and entertainment at the Klondike Club. The event was co-sponsored by the Franco-American Federation and *l'Union St-Jean-Baptiste-d'Amérique*.

Longtime club member Jean-A. Lévesque (1924-2013) had been elected to the city council in 1969 and to the council presidency in 1972. In March of 1973 he was honored as Man of the Year by the Franco-American Clubs of Massachusetts, and the following month was appointed interim-mayor by the city council. The Klondike Club was "jammed for the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet" which honored Lévesque as the city's chief executive. He "stole the show" saying "I'm proud to share the high honor bestowed upon me by my colleagues of the City Council with my fellow members of the Canadian Klondike Club." In November of that year he was elected Salem's first Franco-American Mayor, and a banner was hanged in the Klondike hall which read "Welcome to Jean Lévesque Country". Lévesque held the position of mayor for the next ten years, and people always filled the Klondike Club from "wall to wall" for his victory parties with his fellow members.

A special and unexpected guest at the annual installation meeting of the Klondike Club in November of 1975 was Washington State Senator and Democratic Presidential candidate Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson (1912-1983). He was introduced to the membership by Mayor Lévesque, and was presented with a boutonnière by Eléanor Raby, president of the Women's Auxiliary. Addressing the club, Jackson stated proudly: "I was born 40 miles from the Canadian line". The meeting continued with prayers for seven club members who had died during the past year, led by councilor-elect Jean-Guy Martineau. A buffet-luncheon was served, followed by dancing to the music of an orchestra.

On Memorial Day weekend 1976 the Klondike Club held its first annual Memorial Sunday observance for deceased members. Père Arthur Bergeron, pastor of St-Joseph's, offered the Mass which was attended by the mayor, several councilors, the Drum and Bugle Corps, and by many members of the club.

On Saturday evening, 23 October 1976, more than 150 people were evacuated as "fire swept up toward the main hall on the second floor where a crowd was dancing to a live orchestra shortly before 11 p.m." There was acrid smoke and "heavy flames racing up the rear stairwell." One witness said "I saw paper streamers used for decorations starting to burn, and a paper display on a balcony started to burn and dropped to the floor." The front stairway to Lafayette street was the only escape route, and firefighters were trying to enter. "We had a terrible time getting out. People were pushing and shoving each other and stepping on each other." Patrons "shivered on the sidewalks" for more than 90 minutes before being allowed to return for their coats and belongings. "The Lord was with us," said the Deputy Fire Chief, and "I feel a tragedy was avert-

ed in this one.” The Fire Marshall allowed the club to remain open as usual, but ordered dances cancelled until repairs could be made.

Aimé Gagnon, affectionately known as “*Monsieur Klondike*”, was honored at the annual banquet in April of 1978. He had been a member for nearly a half-century, and had served as financial secretary for nearly four decades. Less than a year later, on 19 February 1979, Gagnon died at the age of 77. Born in Salem on 12 January 1902, he was the son of Napoléon Gagnon and Rose Demers. He was survived by his wife Anna Marquis, and a son.

The Canadian Klondike Club was not only one of large-scale banquets and formal affairs. At the close of the decade, one writer observed that the club was “a favorite gathering place for those of French-Canadian background.”

The club is a magnet for those who like to just sit in the club rooms on the second floor level and watch the world go by on busy Lafayette street. It has become a place where company and conversation are always available seven days of the week. The elderly like to meet there to play cribbage, socialize, and recall the good old days, while the young arrive by the hundreds for the weekly dances sponsored by the club as a means of bringing the community closer together.

**The End of an Era** – The fire of 1976 had proven to be quite costly, maintenance costs for the large building remained high, and fuel prices were skyrocketing. By the summer of 1980, membership had dropped to fewer than 100. Many Franco-American families had moved away from the Point neighborhood and were no longer within walking distance of the club which offered no available parking. Older members had died, and the younger generation showed little interest in membership. The club secured a mortgage in order to meet its obligations but, a year later, found itself in default. Longtime members saw “little chance of rescuing the club” which, only a few years earlier, had been so popular. On Saturday evening 19 October 1981 the Canadian Klondike Club, now in its 85<sup>th</sup> year, closed its doors forever. Four days later the Salem Evening News announced the closing on its front page stating simply “*C’est fini*”.

The Canadian Klondike Club had been the center of social life for Salem’s Franco-American community for most of the twentieth century. It had survived the Great Salem Fire, two World Wars, and the Great Depression. It had hosted Grand Banquets and Summer Outings with eloquent speakers, and had provided dancing for its members and their guests on a regular basis. It had honored members of the clergy, mothers, veterans, athletes, and politicians. It had shown great generosity to the church, and had provided scholarships for countless students. It had promoted the French language in all of its activities, and had provided a comfortable meeting place for its members on a daily basis. Despite all of this, its financial hardship at a time of declining membership proved to be devastating, and the downward spiral was rapid. Its closing sent shock waves throughout the community. Today, many still hold fond memories of the Canadian Klondike Club era which brought our community closer together.

**HOMMAGE**  
**aux Présidents du**  
**Club Klondike Canadien**  
**fondé à Salem le 15 mai 1897**  
**chez M. Odilon Pelletier:**  
**MM. Cléophas Barbin et Camille Chouinard,**  
**fondateurs,**  
**M. Edouard-Alexandre Demers, président-gérant**

Odilon Pelletier 1897-1899  
Arthur Caron 1900-1901  
Joseph Chouinard 1902-1903  
Napoléon Lévesque 1904-1905  
Philippe Voyer 1906  
Donat Desjardins 1907  
Odilon Pelletier 1908  
Alfred Thériault 1909-1910  
Napoléon Lévesque 1911  
Émile Bernard 1912  
Alfred Thériault 1913-1915  
Nazaire Chouinard 1916  
Joseph St-Louis 1917-1918  
David Lévesque 1919

Nicolas Bouley 1920-1922  
Napoléon Casavant 1923-1927  
Eugène Beaulieu 1928-1930  
Stéphane Longval 1931  
Joseph-O. Pelletier 1932-1946  
Léon-S. Blanchette 1947-1952  
Joseph Delisle 1953  
Joseph-O. Pelletier 1954-1957  
Raymond Lebel 1958-1962  
Arthur Bérubé 1963-1964  
Raymond Lebel 1965-1967  
Arthur Raby 1968-1977  
Stanley Caron 1978-1979  
Félix Larivière 1980-1981

**Premier président**



**Odilon Pelletier**  
**(1861-1918)**

**Dernier président**



**Félix Larivière**  
**(1918-2007)**

## **Le Courrier de Salem**

### **Events of a century ago in Salem's Franco-American Newspaper September – December 1915**

#### **Societies**

- The *Cercle Lacordaire* hosted a Whist Party on November 10<sup>th</sup> to benefit St-Joseph's church. *L'Orchestre Larocque* provided the music, and 260 people attended.
- Amédée Côté, general manager of the Courrier Publishing Company, went to Montréal as a delegate to the convention of the *Artisans*, of which he is local treasurer.

#### **People and Families**

- Ovide Boucher attended the religious profession of his daughter Régina who is now *Soeur St-Ovide* of the order of *les Religieuses du St-Rosaire*.
- Philippe Deschamps has moved to Fall River where he is employed as a typographer.
- Charles Audet, son of Louis Audet, has returned to Baltimore where he is in his third year of medical school.
- Dr Philibert Morin of Montréal is in Salem visiting his brother Sigefroid on Ward street.
- Isidore L'Heureux hosted his eight brothers and sisters on December 5<sup>th</sup>. This is the first time the family has been together in 40 years.
- Seminarians François Gauthier, Louis-Étienne Raymond, and Léandre Moisan are in Salem visiting with their families.

#### **Businesses**

- Mme Louis Fournier offers meals at her boardinghouse at 45 Harbor street. Prices are .25¢ for men and .20¢ for women.
- Edmond-P. Madore has completed a 7-month course in engraving and watch repair in Boston.
- Wilfred Harvey has installed a new soda fountain in his variety store at 77 Lafayette street.

#### **Church**

- Père Henri Filion of St-Joseph's, Salem, has been appointed pastor of St-Joseph's in Everett/Malden as of December 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Music**

- Aimé Leblanc offers violin lessons at his home, 61 Lawrence street.

#### **Entertainment**

- Seventeen couples attended a celebration of *la Veille de la Toussaint* (Halloween) at the Simard home, 2 Meadow street.

#### **School**

- St-Joseph's school, now located above St-Joseph's basement church, opened on September 13<sup>th</sup> with nearly 600 students.

## Construction

- *MM. Bouchard et Demeule* will build a brick block with six apartments at 19 Harbor street for Arthur Guilmet, and a brick block with seven apartments and a storefront on Salem street for Joseph Pelletier.
- *Paul Lebel et fils* will build a building of four apartments on Leach street for M. Goudreau.
- Arthur Marchand, architect, has designed a brick block of eight apartments on Harbor street for Adéline Proulx, and a store and hall on the corner of Dow and Salem streets for M. Dionne.
- Hector Dion has signed contracts to paint the offices of the Naumkeag Mills and the interior of the Salem Electric Lighting Company.
- Théodore Côté is building a brick block of eight apartments on Congress street, and a brick block with six apartments and a storefront on the corner of Congress and Palmer streets.
- *Georges et Wilfrid Rioux* are building a two-family home on Green Street. They have built 32 such buildings since the fire.

□ □ □

## Décès

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

Lucille-L. (LeClerc) BEGLEY, 81 ans, 16 février 2015 • Roger-J. BELIVEAU, 68 ans, 9 mai 2015 • Janet-Lee BERGERON, 60 ans, 6 mars 2015 • Hélène-J. (Devarenne) BLOUIN, 92 ans, 9 avril 2015 • Roger-A. BOULEY, 74 ans, 12 mai 2015 • **Sandra-Lee (Deschênes) CHAPUT (#133)**, 73 ans, 17 mars 2015 • Lorraine CHOUINARD, 56 ans, 21 avril 2015 • Mona-C. (Jalbert) CHOUINARD, 85 ans, 2 février 2015 • Arthur-J. CLOUTIER, 72 ans, 22 mai 2015 • Irène-B. (LeBel) CONNELL, 78 ans, 18 février 2015 • Bryan-P. CORRIVEAU, 71 ans, 9 mars 2015 • Edward-J. CÔTÉ, 87 ans, 15 mars 2015 • Ernest-L. DALY, 93 ans, 19 mai 2015 • Eugène-G. DESCHÊNE, 92 ans, 20 avril 2015 • Rita-L. (Audesse) DUBÉ, 88 ans, 4 mai 2015 • Jeannette-A. (Michaud) DUCHESNE, 73 ans, 12 mai 2015 • Robert-G. GAGNÉ, 86 ans, 4 mars 2015 • Florence (Thériault) GAGNON, 99 ans, 24 avril 2015 • Lillian-J. (Gagnon) GAJEWSKI, 92 ans, 17 février 2015 • Andrew GALLANT, 84 ans, 8 mai 2015 • Edward GAUDET, 69 ans, 29 avril 2015 • Raymond-L. GRÉGOIRE, 83 ans, 12 mars 2015 • Lorraine-G. (LaPlante) HENDRICKS, 91 ans, 26 avril 2015 • Lillian-F. (Leroux) HIOS, 85 ans, 13 mars 2015 • Priscilla-J. (Freeto) JALBERT, 89 ans, 24 mars 2015 • Robert-R. JALBERT, 86 ans, 24 février 2015 • Rose (Cudmore) JALBERT, 74 ans, 14 mars 2015 • Paul-E. LACOMBE, 83 ans, 4 mars 2015 • Albert-H.

LAPORTE, 90 ans, 22 février 2015 • Lorraine-L. (Pelletier) LeBRUN, 83 ans, 18 février 2015 • Monique-J. (Moratille) LeCLAIR, 81 ans, 26 avril 2015 • Roger-J. LeCLERC, 79 ans, 9 février 2015 • Philip-L. L'HEUREUX, 96 ans, 29 avril 2015 • Rose (Dion) Petit-LOCKWOOD, 59 ans, 21 avril 2015 • William-James MAILHOIT, 82 ans, 29 mai 2015 • Jeannette (Soucy) MASSÉ (#192), 103 ans, 4 juin 2015 • Elaine (Dallaire) McKENNA, 80 ans, 10 mai 2015 • André-R. MICHAUD, 95 ans, 8 février 2015 • Pauline-M. (Fortin) MILAN, 78 ans, 20 mai 2015 • Jocelyne-J. (Côté) NINO, 59 ans, 1 mars 2015 • Malvina-A. (Gagnon) NOLET, 95 ans, 18 mai 2015 • Ronald-Edward NORMAND, 80 ans, 5 février 2015 • Doris-May (Belleau) OUELLETTE, 91 ans, 3 février 2015 • Yolande (Poussard) PALARDY, 89 ans, 2 mai 2015 • Lillian-Carmen (Tremblay) PAPALEGIS, 92 ans, 17 mai 2015 • Lorraine (Jalbert) PEARSON, 67 ans, 20 mai 2015 • Claire-D. (Marquis) PELLERIN, 90 ans, 14 mars 2015 • Mary-Fréda (Gallant) PELLETIER, 91 ans, 31 mai 2015 • Nancy-Anne (Jennings) PELLETIER, 58 ans, 14 avril 2015 • Maria-Joanne (Patti) PERO, 88 ans, 9 mai 2015 • Elizabeth-M. (Remon) PERREAULT, 88 ans, 5 mars 2015 • Mary-M. (Brennan) PERRON, 92 ans, 25 décembre 2014 • Rév. Richard-J. PERRON, 94 ans, 25 mai 2015 • Térèsa-C. Paquette) RABY, 99 ans, 20 mars 2015 • Émile-J. RICHARD, 92 ans, 15 mai 2015 • Albertine-G. (Beaulieu) ROBINSON, 103 ans, 1 février 2015 • Cécile-L. (Côté) ROY, 86 ans, 21 mars 2015 • Doris-Marie (Martin) ST-PIERRE, 86 ans, 3 février 2015 • Joanne-L. (Dragon) ST-PIERRE, 73 ans, 8 avril 2015 • Thomas-Joseph ST-PIERRE, 70 ans, 21 janvier 2015 • Richard-Eugène SIMARD, 75 ans, 17 avril 2015 • Stephen-J. TARDIFF, 73 ans, 13 février 2015 • Nancy-V. THÉRIAULT, 78 ans, 1 mars 2015 • Roger-O. THÉRIAULT, 91 ans, 16 février 2015 • Tyla-Ann (Thibodeau) THÉRIAULT, 52 ans, 14 avril 2015 • Régina-E. (Lévesque) TOORKS, 100 ans, 16 mai 2015 • Elaine-Margaret TREMBLAY, 65 ans, 28 mai 2015 • Rose-A. (Bernard) WALSH, 93 ans, 23 mars 2015 •

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## L'été en fête

The Franco-American Institute of Salem will celebrate its seventh annual social, "*l'été en fête*", on Sunday 30 August 2015 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 yearbook to share; bring a deck of cards if you like; bring an instrument if you are willing to play; ...and don't forget your camera! We will have French music, an exhibit on the Canadian Klondike Club, and much good conversation! To "R.S.V.P.", or for directions, call 781-592-1425 or write to [francosalem@yahoo.com](mailto:francosalem@yahoo.com) Venez! Fêtons l'été ensemble!

## *La Revue de Salem*

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

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## **Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc.**

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

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

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

### **Officers 2014-2015**

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*)  
Judith Ware (*exp. 2017*)  
Janet Lettich (*alt.*)

### **Meetings**

Board Meetings of the Franco-American Institute of Salem for 2015 will be held at 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA on 17 May and 27 September at 4:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.



# *La Revue de Salem*

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



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

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**Cover Photo:** A student choir performs in the convent chapel at *l'Académie Ste-Chrétienne* in December of 1959.

## News

Brandi Dion was named Businesswoman of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce at its 93<sup>rd</sup> annual Celebrate Salem Awards Dinner in April. • Élisabeth Turgeon (1840-1881), foundress of the *Congrégation des Soeurs de Notre-Dame du Saint-Rosaire*, was beatified at Rimouski, PQ on 26 April 2015. • Alfred Bérubé (#75) was honored by *La Société généalogique canadienne-française* (#61) in Montréal for his publication of the repertoire of Grosse-Île. • Ernest-L. Daly, 93, son of Ernest and Émilie (Ouellette) Daly, died on 19 May 2015. He was president of the Club Richelieu Salem in 1978-1979, and was awarded the Legion of Honor by the French Consul General in 2010. • Rev. Richard-J. Perron, 94, son of Joseph and Emma (Richard) Perron, died on 25 May 2015. He was the nephew of Mgr Joseph-Stanislas Richard, and of Sr Marie-Alma, S.S.Ch. (née Marie-Laure Perron). • A rare photo of the 1947 Salem High School football team was discovered, and was donated to the High School in June. Among those in the photo are Pete Jalbert, co-captain; Dick Ouellette, captain-elect; Dick Delande, Bill Thériault, and Bob Julien. • Lowell celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> *Semaine franco-américaine* in June. The Franco-American Institute of Salem was again a proud sponsor of the events. • Seaport (formerly St-Joseph's) Credit Union of Salem, merged with St-Jean's Credit Union of Lynn on 1 July 2015. Salem offices are at 336 Lafayette Street and at 370 Highland Avenue, with additional locations in Lynn, Newburyport, and Revere. • The wonderful book "*Deux ans en Amérique*" by Salem native Dr Norman-C. Gaudrault (#167) was featured in the Salem News on 31 July 2015. • Bonnie Hurd Smith has published "U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Salem, Massachusetts", with photos from the collection of Nelson-L. Dionne (#2); the book was featured in the Salem News on 7 August 2015. • Janet Dubois, Mary L'Heureux, and Carol Michaud were among the neighbors who celebrated the rehabilitation of 28 Jackson Street on August 26<sup>th</sup>. This was Salem's first project undertaken through the Massachusetts' Attorney General's Abandoned Housing Initiative. • New York's World Trade Center welcomes an estimated four million visitors each year. The tower, the tallest structure in the western hemisphere, is surmounted by an antenna made in Québec. In the "See Forever Theatre" on the 102<sup>nd</sup> floor, visitors may view the 3-D video produced by Roger Parent and his staff, based in Montréal. • We are most grateful to Rosemary-H. O'Brien (#9) for her dedication as secretary of the Franco-American Institute of Salem for the past nine years. We welcome Janet Briggs Lettich (#190) who will succeed her on January 1<sup>st</sup>. • Salem Police Officer Éric Gagnon was given the President's Award at the Massachusetts Coalition of Police conference in September. • Sheila Théberge (#11) wrote a beautiful article describing her home, the "Pink Castle", which was built by her late husband Henri. It was published in the Boston Sunday Globe on 20 September 2015 • Nelson-L. Dionne (#2) was presented a Pioneer in Partnership

Award by the Essex National Heritage Commission on 15 October 2015 “in recognition of his leadership in preserving and promoting local and regional history”. • Salem’s Taché family was inducted into the Salem High School Hall of Fame on 28 November 2015. “This is the first time a family will be inducted”. The Tachés have been involved in sports in Salem for over 60 years. • Congratulations to the Sisters of the Assumption (S.A.S.V.) who are celebrating anniversaries this year. 50 years: Srs Muriel Lemoine and Nancy Sheridan. 60 years: Srs Estelle Grenier and Fernande Richard. 65 years: Srs Jane Flamand and Lucille Monette. • Congratulations to the Sisters of Sainte-Chrétienne (S.S.Ch.) who are celebrating anniversaries this year. 50 years: Srs Pauline Roy and Julie Tremblay. 65 years: Srs Jean Bouchard, Jeanne Girardin, Emma Johnson, and Evelyn Pomerleau. 70 years: Sr Jeannette Gonthier.

**Donations received** include: Forty-five volumes from Laurent Autotte; photos (10) and artifact from Jane Stauffer (#219); books (10), photos (7), artifact, and file material from Nelson-L. Dionne (#2); books (32) from D. Michel Michaud (#1); audio tapes (2), book, chart, and file material from Dorothy Morneau (#107); DVDs (2) and scrapbook/photo album from Roland Michaud (#40); music volume from Eric Bermanni (#44); gift from John Kobuszewski (#3); repertoires (14) and books (6) from Robert Pelletier. *Un grand merci à tous!*

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### ***Editorial***

## **Voici, la nouvelle année!**

It is late January – and our December issue is just going to press! We apologize for the delay, remembering that “*il n’est jamais trop tard pour bien faire.*”

And so, we offer our French readers an exquisite description of January in Québec, taken from one of the beautiful pages of Louis-Honoré Fréchetts (1839-1908).

...au mois de janvier 1844.

L’hiver avait été exceptionnellement rigoureux. Des vents de nord-est presque ininterrompus avaient déchaîné sur la région de Québec tourmente sur tourmente, en avalanches de grêle et de neige aveuglante...

Un jour, cependant, le soleil s’était levé sur un horizon clair et calme. Le froid était vif, mais sec. On entendait au loin craquer les banquises, la neige durcie criait sous le pas des piétons, mais le ciel flamboyait, limpide et transparent comme du cristal de roche.

***Bonne année à tous!***

## Photography in Salem

The Salem Gazette published the first advertisement for photography in Salem on 9 May 1843. Snell and Bowdoin, photographers, had just opened their studio in Mechanic Hall on Essex Street. David W. Bowdoin (born 1819) was quite successful and continued in this profession for three decades. He was undoubtedly a descendant of Pierre Baudouin, a Huguenot and physician of La Rochelle, France, who arrived in Salem in 1684. More than 60 photographers worked in Salem between the mid-1840s and the mid-1880s.

**Genest** – Salem's first French-Canadian photographer, Joseph-Gédéon **Genest**, was born at Bécancour, PQ on 14 August 1860. He and his wife Vitaline settled in Salem in 1884, and he opened his studio at 42 Peabody Street the following year. Fourteen other photographers were then working in the city.

The quaint studio has an interesting history. Located on a triangular lot at the junction of Peabody and Ward streets, the site then offered a magnificent view of Salem Harbor. The small building, "a 1½ story structure of three-cornered shape", appears to have been built in the mid-1840s. The "Jib", as it was called, had been "a noted resort" which took its name from its "resemblance to the jib sail of a ship". Later converted for retail space, it served as the photography studio of Gédéon **Genest** and his successors for three decades. Called "one of the best known landmarks of this portion of South Salem", the building was destroyed in the Great Salem Fire of 1914.

**Genest** sold his business and left the city in 1888.

**St-Pierre** – Joseph **St-Pierre** was born at Montmagny, PQ in 1866 and settled in Salem in 1888. He purchased the business founded by **Genest**, and worked from the same studio. On Saturday 9 February 1895, the Salem Daily Gazette reported a tragic fire at the studio. The article reads, in part:

With the thermometer registering several degrees below zero, the fire department was called to a fire in the small building at the junction of Ward and Peabody streets. The fire originated, probably, among the chemicals used in making photographs, and had been burning a considerable length of time before discovered. The opening of two windows permitted a huge volume of black smoke to escape, succeeding which was a brilliant flame, lighting up the entire neighborhood and causing the neighboring residents to fear for the safety of their homes. The interior of the building had been badly burned, and one side and a portion of the roof had been removed. The building is valued at \$1000 and is insured for \$500. Mr. St. Pierre carried \$800 insurance on the many hundreds of negatives, the collection of years. The loss on the building and negatives will exceed the insurance.

The studio was rebuilt and **St-Pierre** continued his business for a short time. He sold the business in 1896. Married to Alma Lemieux in Salem on 25 May 1891, the couple relocated to Ipswich.

**Tondreault** – Wilfred **Tondreault** was born at St-Eugène-de-l'Islet, PQ on 4 January 1865. He purchased the business from **St-Pierre** in 1896 and continued to work from the same studio for 18 years. His son Edmond began working in the studio in 1909, and became a partner by 1912. After the destruction of his studio in the Great Salem Fire of 1914, Wilfred retired from photography. The husband of Emélie Sirois, he died in Salem on 6 August 1929 at the age of 64. Edmond continued the business in a studio at 199 Essex street until 1917 when he entered the U.S. Navy. After the war, he operated a studio in Providence, RI until 1939, and in Boston until his death on 6 February 1942 at the age of 51.

**Robb** – Malcolm-Elvin **Robb** was born at Knowlton, PQ on 17 August 1863. He operated a studio in Knowlton in 1887, in Cowansville in 1889, and in Granby in 1896. He settled in Salem in 1898 and operated studios on Essex street, first at #226 (1899-1900), at #228 (1901-1909), at #221 (1910-1927), and at 214½ (1928-1934). Robb Studio was then located in Almy's Department Store at 188 Essex street from 1935 through 1941. **Robb** retired and relocated to Orange, California where he died on 20 December 1947. The Salem Studio continued to operate under his successor until closing in 1951.

**Robb**, a Methodist from the English-speaking section of Québec known as the Eastern Townships, was quite fluent in French and was held in esteem by the Franco-Americans for his high-quality work.

**1900-1914** – Wilfred and Edmond **Tondreault** continued throughout this period, as did Malcolm **Robb**. Henry **Tremblay** purchased the studio at 274 Essex street in 1900 but remained only two years before selling to Salem News photographer Leland O. Tilford. Henri-W. **Rousseau** opened a new studio at 54 Harbor street in 1900 and remained here for the next seven years.

**Chouinard et Madore**, jewelers in the Poirier block on Lafayette street, published and advertisement in *Le Courrier de Salem* on 20 April 1916 noting that:

*...aujourd'hui, dans toutes nos demeures canadiennes, il y a un membre de la famille qui possède un instrument photographique. (...today, in all of our Canadian households, there is a member of the family who owns a photographic instrument.)*

The store offered a complete line of cameras and accessories, as well as developing and printing services.

**1916-1941** – Malcolm **Robb** continued throughout this period. Alfred-J. **Hamel** (1876-1935) purchased the studio at 199 Essex street in 1919 but remained only two years before relocating to Newburyport. Salem native Léo-S. **Gagnon** (1905-1993) worked for the Bachrach studios in

Boston for eight years before opening his Salem studio at 115A Lafayette street on 17 June 1931. He remained only one year before settling in Waltham. Elzéar-Edouard-Joseph **Pinette** (1886-1969), a native of Kamouraska, PQ, worked as a photographer in Lynn and Lawrence before opening his Salem studios. He advertised as an “air brush artist and commercial and portrait photographer”, and produced passport and identification photos. His studios were at 159 Derby street in 1933 and 1934, and at 109 Essex street from 1935 to 1941 when he retired. His daughter Évangéline (1923-1985), known as Sr-St-Jean-d’Ephèse S.A.S.V., was a well-known art teacher.

**1942-1976** – Malcolm **Robb** retired in 1941 after 43 years in Salem, while other photographers continued to operate his studio for another decade.

Émile-J. **DeVoe** (1920-1992), the son of Eliude Devost and Alexina Jean, was born in Salem on 16 May 1910. He attended St-Joseph school and, at the age of 13, went to work at the newsstand in the Salem Depot. He received his first camera the following year, a gift from his employer. Later, while working at the Naumkeag Mills, he became interested in industrial and advertising photography.

In 1935 Émile **DeVoe** married Edna Bréard. It was in the basement of their home at the corner of Perkins and Leavitt streets that he opened his first studio. He opened a new studio at 90 Congress street in 1941, operating it for the next 35 years. **DeVoe** specialized in portraits and wedding photography, and for many years produced the annual yearbooks for *l’Académie St-Joseph*. He offered “oil paintings that reflect the highest artistry”, and three-dimensional stereography which produced “thrilling effects”. In fact, he “handled about every phase of photography” during his long career. After closing his studio in 1976, he continued to work until the age of 80.

The City of Salem paid tribute to **DeVoe** on 17 August 1984 – a man known as the “Dean of Photography on the North Shore” – for his years as a dedicated public servant, civic leader, and friend. He received numerous awards, including a certificate from the White House and greetings from many dignitaries. He was a charter member and president of the *Club Richelieu*, a member of the Salem Board of Registrars, of the Knights of Columbus, of the Kiwanis Club, of the Holy Name Society, and of many other organizations. He died on 19 March 1992 at the age of 81, and was survived by his wife and eight children: Armand, Léonard, David, Marianne, Thérèse, Victor, Marcel, and Wilfred.

Donald-W. **Goucher**, a Beverly resident, was co-owner of the Donral Photo Service at 263 Essex street from 1948 to 1951 before working for Cameracraft until 1953.

The Cameracraft Shop opened its doors in March of 1936 at 79 Lafayette street. It was owned by brothers Clarence-H. (1906-1985) and Jean-W. **LeBrun** (1910-2008). The shop moved to 22 Central street in 1941, and Roméo-E. **Michaud** (1911-1962) joined the staff in 1947. The shop was sold in 1968 but continued under new ownership until 1975.

Jean **LeBrun** and Roméo **Michaud** left Cameracraft to open a new store, the Camera Supply Shop, on 2 August 1951. First located at 10 Norman street, the shop moved to 137 Washington street in 1959, to 222 Essex street in 1974, and to Derby Square in 1975. Roméo **Michaud** died in 1962, and Jean **LeBrun** retired a decade later. Robert-A. **Grenier** (1930-1973), a photographer and employee owned the shop until his death, and his widow Rita-E. **Boucher** (1932-2013) continued until closing the shop in 1977.

Both the Cameracraft Shop and the Camera Supply Shop were owned and staffed by professional photographers; both carried a complete line of photographic supplies, and offered developing and printing services.

J-Léo **Arsenault** (1914-1974) married Rolande Côté in Lowell in 1944, and the couple made their home at 21 Glendale street in Salem from which he operated his studio. A well-known North Shore photographer, he worked from his home under the business name J. Leo Photo Lab for three decades. **Arsenault**, a member of the Photographers' Association, produced group photos for many organizations and was frequently in demand as a wedding photographer.

Léon-P. **Fontaine** (1926-2014), the son of Antoine Fontaine and Blanche Tetrault, was a Salem native who worked independently in the late 1940s and early 1950s before moving to Lynn.

Anthony **Richard** (1923-1984), the son of Joseph-E. Richard and Claudia Tardiff, operated Tony's Home Photo Studio at 84½ Highland avenue in the mid-1950s. A veteran of World War II, he received several decorations from the French government.

At least two Franco-Americans of Salem have become award-winning photographers and continue to work in this profession. Paul-A. **Dubé**, the son of Gérard Dubé and Jeannette Thibault, graduated from the New England School of Photography before first becoming affiliated with the Medical Photography Department of Leahy Clinic. A member of the Massachusetts Professional Photographers Association of New England, he has since worked for numerous firms as well as independently. Louise **Michaud**, the daughter of Donald-J. Michaud and Mary Rothwell, graduated from Southeastern Massachusetts University with a degree in visual design, concentrating in photography. She was first employed at New England Color Lab in Lynn before opening Derby Studios at 224 Derby street in Salem more than two decades ago.

One hundred and thirty years have passed since Gédéon **Genest** opened his small studio in 1885. Remarkably, the Franco-Americans of Salem have never been without a photographer of their own to record important moments in their lives.

## Monseigneur Mercier



Mgr Mercier, the dynamic pastor of St-Joseph's parish and fervent promoter of the French language and culture, is still remembered by many, fifty years after his death in 1966.

Arthur-Oza Mercier, the son of Louis Mercier and Angéline Marchand, was born in Central Falls, RI, on 28 November 1895. He attended Catholic schools in that city, the *Séminaire St-Joseph* in Trois-Rivières, PQ, and St. John's Seminary in Brighton. He was ordained to the priesthood in Boston on 25 May 1922. Père Mercier was assigned to St-Joseph in Kingston (1922), St-Jean-Baptiste in Lynn (1922-1929), and St-Louis-de-France in Lowell (1929-1937) before being named administrator of Ste-Thérèse-de-l'Enfant-Jésus in Dracut (1937-1948). Only four months later, on the morning of 21 January 1938, the church was destroyed by fire. Père Mercier worked passionately to build a new church which was dedicated only ten

months later. He was named pastor of Ste-Thérèse in 1939, and built a large outdoor grotto in her honor. Pilgrims came to the *Sanctuaire Ste-Thérèse* from throughout New England and Canada.

On 14 May 1948, after more than ten years in Dracut, Père Mercier was named pastor of St-Joseph in Salem. He himself designed a new church to replace the one which was destroyed nearly 35 years earlier. The cornerstone was laid on 15 May 1949, and the new St-Joseph's church was dedicated on 21 May 1950.

Two days before his 55<sup>th</sup> birthday, on 26 November 1950, some 900 parishioners and friends gathered in the church hall for a banquet in his honor. Père Mercier was presented with a gold and silver medal, *Honneur et Mérite*, by the *Société du Bon Parler Français*, and was given the title of lifetime director in this international academic order. The medal was awarded by Jules Massé, president of the society, on behalf of the French Consuls of Montréal and Boston. Speakers included the Vice-Consul of France, the Consul of Québec, journalist Lucien Sansouci of Woonsocket, and Mayor Francis-X. Collins who, speaking in French, brought the congratulations of the City of Salem. Père Charles-Émile Gadbois of St-Hyacinthe, PQ, founder of *La Bonne Chanson*, led the audience in singing. Manuel Maître, a tenor from the *Conservatoire de Paris*, was among the soloists.

A greater honor came to Père Mercier when, on 15 April 1956, he was named *Monseigneur*. In the years which followed, he improved the rectory, the elementary school, and the high school. He built a new convent for the Sisters of the Assumption in 1962, and organized the *Club Richelieu Salem* in 1964.

While vacationing in Hollywood, Florida, Monseigneur Mercier died suddenly on 16 February 1966 at the age of 70. The follow-

ing day, Sr-Ste-Graciosa, S.A.S.V. (Aurore Casavant), died suddenly in the convent; she had been principal of St-Joseph's elementary school for the past six years. Mgr Mercier's funeral Mass was celebrated in St-Joseph's church on Monday 21 February 1966 by Cardinal Cushing, with another funeral Mass the following day in Notre-Dame church in Central Falls. In remembrance of his beloved parishioners, he bequeathed nearly \$90,000 to St-Joseph's, and for the education of future priests from that parish.

□ □ □

## First Families of Salem (V)

### Ménard (1863)

Désiré Ménard, the son of Paul Ménard and Marie-Louise Charlebois, was born at St-Pie-de-Bagot, PQ on 6 September 1847. He came to Salem in 1863 at the age of 16, and first worked as a shoemaker before finding employment in the Naumkeag Mills. He is said to have encouraged many others from Québec to settle in Salem. Désiré was married in Salem on 31 January 1869 to Azéline Caisse, the daughter of Pierre Caisse and Marguerite Boucher. The couple had 15 children, 11 of whom survived – all girls! Désiré was a very proficient *violoneux* or fiddler, and all of his children inherited his musical talents. In 1881 he became the first French-Canadian to construct a home in Salem. Désiré Ménard died in his home on 14 October 1900 at the age of 53 following a long illness.

### Péloquin (1865)

Georges Péloquin and Esther Caplette were married on 21 November 1837 at Sorel, PQ. The family settled in Salem in 1865, and Georges died here on 23 October 1891. Their daughter Dorothée (1844-1918) was married in Salem on 10 December 1865 to Maxime Caisse, the son of Pierre Caisse and Marguerite Boucher. Theirs was the first wedding of two French-Canadians to be celebrated in Salem. Maxime died here on 19 February 1917 at the age of 74, and Dorothée on 28 February 1918 at the age of 73.

### **Arpin (1866)**

Pierre Arpin and Marie Goddu-dite-Beauregard were married on 22 July 1839 at St-Charles-sur-Richelieu, PQ. The couple settled in Salem in 1866, and Pierre died here on 14 March 1877 at the age of 64. Their son François-Xavier "Frank" (1859-1936) was married in Salem on 16 August 1880 to Laura L'Heureux. The obituary account of Frank notes that he "was born in Canada but had been a resident of this city for the past 70 years". His daughter, Mlle Delphine Arpin (1884-1969), was a longtime organist of St-Joseph's church, Salem.

### **Aylwin (1870)**

William Aylwin (1831-1894) and Diana Fournelle (1837-1912) were married on 3 July 1855 at St-Roch-de Québec, PQ. The couple settled in Salem in 1870. William died in Salem on 1 January 1894 at the age of 62, and Diana on 18 June 1912 at the age of 75. William's obituary account reads in part:

One of the most prominent and respected residents of the French quarter, and one of the leading members of the St. Joseph church and L'Union St. Joseph, passed away suddenly. William Aylwin [was] born in St. Ambroise de la Jeune Lorette, P.Q. He took up his residence in Salem 24 years ago, and had been an American citizen 20 years. He was a blacksmith by trade, and had followed that calling for many years, working at several of the shops in this city.

The origins of the Aylwin (or Allouine) family are shrouded in mystery. The family had belonged to the Huron mission at Loretteville, near Québec City, for four generations. William's great-grandfather Jean was married there in 1761, and was said to have been an Englishman from "*la Pointe-Noire en Nouvelle-Angleterre*" ("Black Point in New England"). His name is sometimes recorded as "Enahouil" in the Huron dialect, further obscuring any clue to his identity.

### **Thibault (1871)**

Olivier Thibault and Henriette Caron were married on 17 July 1855 at St-Jean-Port-Joli, PQ. The couple settled in Salem in 1871. Their son Zéphirin (1865-1939) was married in Salem on 11 October 1896 to Joséphine Godbout. Zéphirin died in Salem on 12 November 1939. His obituary account reads in part:

Stricken with a heart attack while attending 9 o'clock mass at St. Joseph's church, Zéphirin Thibault, 40 Cabot street, died in one of the offices of the rectory. Mr. Thibault, who was 74 years of age, was well known in Franco-American circles, having come to this city at the age of six and having made his home here since.

## Les Magasins Fugère

Salem's Fugère family was well-known for the fine retail stores which it operated here for several generations.

Magloire Fugère (1839-1908), the son of Louis Fugère-dit-Champagne and Julie Gatien, was born at St-Charles-sur-Richelieu on 14 March 1839. The family settled in St-Valérien in 1849, and Magloire was married there on 2 September 1863 to Julie Bourgault. The couple would have 15 children. Magloire Fugère was elected Mayor of St-Valérien thirteen times, from 1876 to 1886, and again in 1889 and 1890.

Arriving in Salem in 1891, Magloire and his son Joseph (1866-1931) immediately opened *Fugère et fils* Dry Goods at 23½ Palmer street, moving to larger quarters at 27 Palmer street in 1895. Also in 1891, Magloire's sons Euclide (1867-1940) and Edmond (1871-1936) opened *Fugère Frères* Grocers at 35 Perkins street, before moving to 49 Perkins street in 1895 and to 21 Palmer street in 1897. In 1901, Magloire sold his business to his sons Joseph and Euclide, and their brother Stanislas (1881-1927) joined the firm. Magloire Fugère then retired to Easthampton where he died on 13 April 1908 at the age of 69.

Euclide Fugère had moved the grocery store to 65 Congress street in 1901, and by 1909 was said to have been...

among the enterprising and progressive merchants in the city. A store with up-to-date furnishings, kept attractive in every detail, is kept stocked with staple and fancy groceries, provisions, prime, fresh and cured meats, teas, coffees, flour, hay, grain and straw... Prompt service is given by the proprietor and ten assistants. Floor space of 2,400 square feet and a store house of 900 square feet is occupied.

Meanwhile, the Dry Goods store moved to 49 Palmer street in 1907, and was greatly expanded in 1909 and again in 1912. Joseph Fugère now owned the entire block on Palmer street from #41 through #53, with stores on the street level and apartments on the upper levels. The press described Fugère's newly-expanded store, giving it the highest praise.

Yesterday, we had the pleasure of visiting the magnificent store which has just opened, at 47 Palmer street, of our enterprising fellow-countryman, Mr. Joseph Fugère. Everything there is beautiful, neat, sparkling, and as soon as we crossed the threshold, we breathed an atmosphere of ease and comfort. Long counters, artistically fashioned, extend all around the store. In the center are two other very beautiful semi-circular counters. A banner of cut tissue paper, suspended from the ceiling, carried this inscription: "*Heureux Noël*" [Happy Christmas]. Along the walls, some one hundred shelves laden with merchandise, both pretty and varied, attract the eye and the pocketbook. Besides a very complete haberdashery department for men, women and children, there are also cigar and cigarette, candy, perfume, and patent medicine departments to be seen. To the right, upon

entering, is a magnificent soda fountain, so neat and so tempting that one glance makes one's mouth water and draws one irresistibly to it.

And at the service of the large clientele of this vast store, so attractive and so beautiful, both inside and out, a charming lady and four ravishing young girls compete with their politeness and eagerness. They are Mme Arthur Chagnon and the Misses Rosa Fugère, Edwidge Fugère, Octavie Poitras and Alice Michaud. Two very courteous and very likeable gentlemen complete the staff. They are Mr. Augustin Fugère and Mr. Antoine Fugère. And at the head of this establishment is the very brilliant director Mr. Joseph Fugère, the owner, the Canadian who has risen gradually from the bottom of the ladder to the heights of fortune and success by the strength of his own intelligence, by his honesty, and by his great love of work. (*Le Courrier de Salem*, 19 December 1912, *trans.*)

Euclide Fugère sold the grocery store on Congress street on 22 August 1910 and took his retirement. The new owners were his brother Stanislas Fugère, his brother-in-law Ladislav De Grandpré (1864-1940), and his nephew Philippe Fugère (1891-1944) the son of Joseph. The company was reorganized on 6 August 1913.

The state commissioner of corporations has granted a certificate of incorporation to Fugere & Co., Inc., of Salem to conduct a grocery and provisions business. The capital stock of the new corporation is put at \$3500, represented by 100 shares of stock...

The board of directors consisted of Joseph Fugère, treasurer, with 51 shares, Philippe Fugère, with 48 shares, and Ubald DeGrandpré, president, with one share. (Ubald was the brother of Ladislav, and the brother-in-law of Joseph Fugère.)

Both stores were destroyed in the Great Salem Fire of 25 June 1914. Joseph Fugère quickly found temporary quarters for the dry goods store at 100 Lafayette street in partnership with his son-in-law Louis Lambert (1893-1953), and for the grocery store at 10-12 Front street in partnership with his son Philippe Fugère. Within four years of the devastating fire, the stores were rebuilt.

Two of the most beautiful stores in Salem are, in the opinion of all who are aware of them, those which Mr. Joseph Fugère has just opened in his splendid four-story brick building on Lafayette street, facing Ward.

The first, at number 108, is a grocery, provision and meat store, measuring 95 feet in depth and 30 feet in width, where is found all which one could desire in the line of food products.

The entrance is in the form of an oak vestibule, with mosaic pavement. The shop windows, both interior and exterior, are of oak and very beautiful, with white tile groundwork and large mirrors on each side. On the façade, above the vestibule of which the up-

per part is artistically carved, is the name of the proprietor which is encrusted into the glass in gold letters.

The interior of the store has a most attractive and rich appearance. The shelves and counters are of maple. The pillars each have a large mirror. The refrigerator is of the most modern and most stylish. On the façade of the refrigerator is a large clock, also embellished with mirrors. The counter drawers are automatic and are completely dust-proof. Two bookkeeping desks, very pleasing and very well finished, add to the beauty of the ensemble.

The other store, also with a vestibule, is a dry goods store, and its beauty and richness even exceed, if possible, that of the neighboring establishment. There one notices magnificent counters and eight showcases, very long and very wide, artistically constructed and of colors which please the eye. Daylight streams into the vast space. (*Le Courrier de Salem*, 20 April 1918, *trans.*)

Joseph Fugère later opened a grocery store at the corner of Lafayette and Gardner streets which he operated until his death on 9 January 1931 at the age of 65. Philippe Fugère moved his grocery store to 101 Congress street in 1921 and sold it to Léo-E. Brunet who operated it from 1942 to 1948. Philippe, who also owned the Mill Hill Beverage Company, died on 20 July 1944 at the age of 53. Stanislas Fugère did not work in the family business after the Salem Fire, but opened an undertaking establishment which he operated from 1914 until his death on 12 August 1927 at the age of 45. Rosilda Fugère and her husband Louis Lambert operated a variety store at 29 Cabot street from 1922 to 1951. Louis died on 4 May 1953 and Rosilda on 14 May 1974. These businesses, and several others, trace their origins to Magloire Fugère, the longtime Mayor of St-Valérien, who chose to make Salem his home.



Joseph Fugère (1866-1931)

## **Le Courrier de Salem**

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

**January – April 1916**

#### **Societies**

- Paul-N. Chaput and Amédée Côté are going to Fall River in January as delegates of the *Cercle Lacordaire* to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesthood of its founder, Père Jacquemet, O.P.
- Père Jean-B. Labossière, pastor of St-Louis-de-France in Lowell, has been named assistant Spiritual Director of *l'Union St-Jean-Baptiste-d'Amérique*. [He would later serve as pastor of St-Joseph's, Salem, from 1931 to 1940.]

#### **Medicine**

- Henry Dragon, a *ramancheur* (bone-setter) from St-Denis, PQ, offers his services and promises relief from pain.

#### **Politics**

- Émile Brunet has been named City Assessor by the mayor, and the appointment has been ratified by the City Council.

#### **People and Families**

- Désiré Bernier died on 20 January 1916 at the age of 57. A native of Cap-St-Ignace, PQ, he had been a resident of Salem for 40 years, and was an undertaker for 25 years until his retirement six years ago.
- Joseph-E. Fournier, 9, of 255 Jefferson Avenue, and Eva Lapointe, 17, of 8 Lagrange [now Leavitt] Street, were killed in separate auto accidents on 7 April 1916.

#### **Businesses**

- Misses Maria and Sara Perron have opened a new variety store at the corner of Perkins and Palmer streets.
- Rose-Delima Brochu will open a new store in the Poirier block at 5 Lafayette Street on 2 May 1916. She will carry music scores, books, religious articles, and magazines. A student of Professor Oscar Nadeau of Boston, she will also offer piano lessons.

#### **Church**

- Miss Annie Labrecque will substitute as organist of Ste-Anne's church while Mme Napoléon Demers is vacationing in Canada.
- The music for Christmas at St-Joseph's was provided by the organist, six soloists, a 10-piece orchestra, and a choir of 200 voices. J.-Alexandre Delisle rendered the solo "*Minuit Chrétiens*".

#### **Entertainment**

- A Grand Concert and a play entitled "*Ne vous occupez pas du lendemain*" were presented at the Salem Theatre on 13 February 1916 for the benefit of Ste-Anne's school fund. Some 900 people attended, and the performance was repeated in Ste-Anne's church two weeks later by popular demand.

### **School**

- Marie-Laure Audet, along with two daughters of Joseph Dubé, have returned to Salem after a fire destroyed a part of the convent at Marlboro on 8 January 1916.
- Attorney Clément Desaulniers was named Hockey Coach at Salem High School on 28 December 1915.
- Students of St-Joseph's school, under the direction of the Sisters of Ste-Chrétienne, will present a play and musical entertainment on 30 January 1916 in honor of Père Rainville's 58<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **Construction**

- Alfred Audet has proposed a monument to Lafayette and Washington to be erected in the new park across from St-Joseph's church, at the intersection of Lafayette and Washington streets.
- Alfred Audet is building the new St-Joseph's rectory of brick, and Maxime Poitras is building the new convent of wood.

□ □ □

### ***Traditions***

#### **No. 18: "Le Ramancheur"**

*D-Michel Michaud, #1*

Physicians were scarce in the rural villages of Québec. The *ramancheur* (or "*rebouteur*") was a bone-setter, a prescriber of remedies, and a general healer whose skills were passed down from generation to generation. His "mysterious gifts" were said to have been inherited and developed over time. Villagers with a resident *ramancheur* considered themselves fortunate, while others had to travel a great distance or wait for an itinerant practitioner to arrive.

The *ramancheur* diagnosed pain by touch. For fractures and dislocations, he set the bones, fashioned wooden splints, fastened them with strips of cloth, and applied homemade plaster. He also fabricated crutches if necessary. The *ramancheur* healed twisted backs, pulled muscles, and sprained ankles by massaging them, providing his own liniments and poultices, and advising the proper therapy. Very often, the *ramancheur* worked with the parish priest who offered prayers and blessings to supplement the gift of healing. The *ramancheur* charged no specific fee, due to legal ramifications. His stipend was occasionally in the form of currency, but more often in farm produce; his compensation was based upon the amount of pain he had relieved. (He was often a *cultivateur* of farmer by profession, and did not rely upon his therapeutic gifts for his livelihood.)

Physicians, who were licensed to practice medicine, often attempted to discredit these *ramancheurs*. Lawsuits sometimes led to fines or even imprisonment. But more often, the *ramancheur* was able to demonstrate his abilities, and brought the testimony of his clients and of the parish priest to win his case. By the 1930s, physicians had replaced both the *sage-femme* (mid-wife) and the *ramancheur* in most villages.

□ □ □

Isidore Dragon, who practiced for more than six decades at St-Denis-sur-Richelieu, PQ, is mentioned in the 1905 history of that parish. The author, J.-B.-A. Allaire, had been a parish priest there from 1894 to 1897, and he knew his subject well:

Other than the doctors, there was in the parish the famous bone-setter Isidore Dragon. All know that he was popular. He was very often called for, and people came from very far to request his services. Never, however, did he study medicine or surgery; that which he knew, he possessed by natural inclination. Thus, in no way amassing a fortune, he maintained the favor of the people for more than sixty years. Doctors, finding him troublesome, sometimes placed obstacles in his path; they once even made him pay a fine but, upon the pleas of sufferers, the poor bone-setter always returned to his practice. He fell asleep in the Lord in 1903, at the age of eighty-two... (pp. 75-76, *trans.*)

□ □ □

After the Great Salem Fire of 1914, the Franco-Americans of Salem were well cared for by three licensed physicians: Dr Émile Poirier, Dr Alfred Leboeuf, and Dr Horace Poirier. Yet, on 27 January 1916, *Le Courrier de Salem* announced:

Those who suffer from dislocations, from fractured members, from sprains, etc., have only to visit Mr. H. Dragon, 199 Essex street, bone-setter ("*ramancheur*") of long experience, who will bring them prompt healing. Mr. Dragon is the son of the famous bone-setter Isidore Dragon, of St-Denis, PQ. (*trans.*)

[Télesphore-] Henry Dragon was born at St-Denis-sur-Richelieu on 13 February 1859 and inherited his father's talents. He first went to Springfield, MA where, on 16 June 1884, he married Delia Aubertin. Settling in Salem, he opened a tailor's shop from which he practiced his talents as "*ramancheur*". Delia died on 18 September 1930, and Henry married Léna Bourque on 8 May 1932. Henry Dragon, one of the last of the old time *ramancheurs*, died in Salem on 2 July 1938 at the age of 79.

## Genealogies

### DeVoe

Thomas Denos and Jeanne Couillard  
of St-Planche, Coutances, Normandie, France

- I Jacques Denos & Marie-Charlotte Boucher (Pierre & Marie-Anne Michaud)  
Kamouraska, 10 Oct 1740
- II Joseph Denos & Marie-Rose Michaud (Joseph & Marguerite Cordeau)  
Rivière-Ouelle, 26 Feb 1775
- III Joseph Denos & Marie-Judith Deschamps (Louis & Josephte Bourgelas)  
St-Louis-de-Kamouraska, 6 Aug 1803
- IV Fabien Denos & Hortense Morin (Bénoni & Pétronille Côté)  
St-André-de-Kamouraska, 9 Feb 1830
- V Octave Denos & Georgianna Dufour (Bonaventure & Séraphine Marchand)  
St-Alexandre-de-Kamouraska, 7 Oct 1866
- VI Eliude Devost & Alexina Jean (Calixte & Georgianna Deschênes)  
Salem, MA, 27 Apr 1903

### Fugère

Nicolas Fugère-dit-Champagne and Anne Cussin  
of France

- I Edmé-Aimé Fougère & Thérèse LeRiche (Jean-B. & Jeanne Desmarets)  
Repentigny, 7 Sep 1736
- II Joseph Fougère & Cécile Édeline (Pierre & Catherine Roch)  
Varennnes, 26 Jan 1767
- III Amable Fugère & Judith Dalpé-dite-Parizeau (Claude & Josephte Lavigne)  
Varennnes, 17 Feb 1800
- IV Louis Fugère & Julie Gatien (Michel & Marie Catudal)  
St-Marc-sur-Richelieu, 13 Jan 1829
- V Magloire Fugère & Julie Bourgault (François & Angélique Foisy)  
St-Valérien-de-Milton, 9 Feb 1863
- VI Euclide Fugère & Élise Nadeau (Jean-B. & Marguerite Renaud)  
Salem, MA, 14 Aug 1892

## Décès

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

Elizabeth-Ann (Graham) AYOTT, 86 ans, 16 juin 2015 • Clara-E. (Guérrette) Kacherian-BARRY, 94 ans, 16 juillet 2015 • Thérèse-B. (Bérubé) BELLEAU, 90 ans, 15 juin 2015 • Donald-Bernard BÉRUBÉ, 75 ans, 27 août 2015 • Richard-E. BOISVERT, 81 ans, 19 septembre 2015 • Wendy-Jean (Thomas) BOMBARDIER, 65 ans, 30 juillet 2015 • Jean-Arthur BOUCHARD, 78 ans, 3 juillet 2015 • Richard-E. BOUCHARD, 74 ans, 21 juillet 2015 • Richard-E. BOUCHER, 62 ans, 8 septembre 2015 • Dolorès-L. (Brunet) BUTLER, 82 ans, 22 juillet 2015 • Frank-A. CLOUTIER, 81 ans, 28 septembre 2015 • Doris-E. (Grondin) COLANGELO, 90 ans, 13 juillet 2015 • Florence-Y. (Poussard) COLLIN, 92 ans, 11 juin 2015 • Claire-A. (Sansoucy/Jefferson) CONNELL, 75 ans, 15 août 2015 • Dorilla-M. (LeBlanc) DOMBROWSKI, 103 ans, 6 juin 2015 • Roland-R. DUBÉ, 91 ans, 13 septembre 2015 • Lucille-L. (Durand) FABRI, 73 ans, 27 août 2015 • Richard-Vincent FRASER, 65 ans, 18 août 2015 • Cécile-M. (Cormier) GAGNÉ, 92 ans, 12 septembre 2015 • Roger-J. GALLANT, 68 ans, 15 juin 2015 • Wilfred-E. GOURDEAU, 82 ans, 29 septembre 2015 • Thérèse-A. (Lamarre) GRENIER, 91 ans, 11 août 2015 • Richard-T. GUY, 68 ans, 1 août 2015 • William-J. HARRISON, 75 ans, 22 septembre 2015 • **Beverly-Ann (Blais) JACQUES (#124)**, 76 ans, 27 août 2015 • Émile JALBERT, 92 ans, 5 juin 2015 • George-H. JALBERT, 93 ans, 14 juin 2015 • **Hector-A. JALBERT (#110)**, 84 ans, 3 septembre 2015 • Arthur-H. JEAN, 73 ans, 27 juillet 2015 • Jazmine JULIEN, 5 août 2015 • David-W. LANGLOIS, 77 ans, 20 juin 2015 • Doris-C. (Plante) LAPOINTE, 82 ans, 20 août 2015 • Gérard-O. LeBEL, 93 ans, 9 août 2015 • Henrietta (Morin) LEBLANC, 82 ans, 3 août 2015 • Lillian-M.-R. (Lévesque) LeBLANC, 93 ans, 2 septembre 2015 • Marie-Laure (Ouellette) LeBLANC, 100 ans, 6 septembre 2015 • George-H. LÉVESQUE, 80 ans, 19 juillet 2015 • Joseph-F. LÉVESQUE, 60 ans, 18 août 2015 • Lorraine-E. (Lapham) MANDEVILLE, 81 ans, 29 juin 2015 • R.-Philip MARCHAND, 63 ans, 9 juin 2015 • Henry MARTINEAU III, 58 ans, 24 août 2015 • Jeannette-M. (St-Pierre) MAURICE, 96 ans, 24 août 2015 • Dorothy-L. (Holmes) MICHAUD, 84 ans, 4 août 2015 • Léda-Mary (Tardiff) MICHAUD, 77 ans, 13 septembre 2015 • David-Charles MORENCY, 76 ans, 27 juin 2015 • Patricia (Lévesque) MORRISON, 59 ans, 5 août 2015 • Jeanne-Anne (Morneau) O'TOOLE, 81 ans, 9 août 2015 • D.-Jeanne (Massé) OTTO, 86 ans, 28 juillet 2015 • Marie-T. (Léveillé) OUELLETTE, 85 ans, 17 septembre 2015 • John-M. PAGÉ, 70 ans, 14 septembre 2015 • Jean-R. PALARDY, 77 ans, 9 septembre 2015 • Carolee-Ann (Phaup) PELLETIER, 76 ans, 15 septembre 2015 • Gérard-L. PELLETIER, 61 ans, 8 septembre 2015 • Francis-W. PITREAU, 83 ans, 28 mai 2015 • Joseph-A. PROVENCHER, 83 ans, 27 septembre 2015 • Bertram-S. QUINTAL, 87 ans, 28 juin 2015 • Constance-L. (Demers) RUSSELL, 83 ans, 30 août 2015 • Noëlla (Goguen) SAVOIE, 102 ans, 4 juillet 2015 • Ruth-E. (Gauthier) STANTON, 86 ans, 29 septembre 2015 • Louise (Caron) SULLIVAN, 92 ans, 9 août 2015 • Linda-L. (Gendron) WILSON, 66 ans, 22 septembre 2015 • Dorothy-M. (Fortin) ZOCCO, 84 ans, 25 août 2015 •

# Decoration a M. l'abbé Mercier

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SALEM, 25 — La remise de décoration de l'Ordre académique "Honneur et Mérite" à M. l'abbé Arthur-O. Mercier, curé de la paroisse St-Joseph, de Salem, Mass., par la Société du Bon Parler Français, donna lieu, le dernier dimanche de novembre dans la nouvelle et vaste salle paroissiale, à une éclatante manifestation d'amitié canadienne et franco-américaine.

Le titre de directeur à vie du B.P.F. et la grande médaille d'argent et d'or qui le symbolise, furent décernés à M. le curé Mercier au cours d'un mémorable banquet de 900 convives tant de Salem même que de l'extérieur.

S.H. le maire, Francis-X. Collins, présenta dans les deux langues les félicitations officielles au nom de la ville de Salem.

Le conférencier, M. Jules Massé, démontra la nécessité d'une solidarité patriotique et fraternelle entre le Canada français et la France-Américaine. Le président du B.P.F. mit en relief la valeur de la civilisation française. Elle constitue, déclare-t-il, un précieux actif pour tout franco-américain. M. Massé résume la carrière de M. le curé Arthur-O. Mercier en sa double qualité de prêtre et de patriote. Il rappelle qu'il a sauvé des paroisses franco-américaines et qu'il vient d'ériger une magnifique l'église attendu depuis 1914 C'est aux applaudissements des 900 convives, qui venaient de se lever, que M. Massé lui remit la médaille de directeur à vie de l'Ordre académique "Honneur et Mérite" du B.P.F.

Le récipiendaire rappelle les principales étapes de sa vie de prêtre et d'apôtre de français. Il voit la main de la Providence à la fois dans des réussites spirituelles et dans ses initiatives patriotiques. Il décrit la juste part faite à l'anglais et au français dans les écoles paroissiales qu'il soutient et qui comptent 1,000 enfants. M. le curé Mercier compare enfin les parents, les éducateurs et

le curé à une trinité qui constitue la véritable clé du grave problème franco-américain, dit-il, en remerciant le B.P.F. de l'honneur qu'il vient de recevoir, à cette trinité qu'il faut attribuer le mérite de nos réalisations à St-Joseph-de-Salem, et dans les autres paroisses où il lui font donné de servir Dieu et la langue française en terre américaine où il est né.

M. le curé Mercier avait été présenté par son confrère de collège, M. Lucien-C. Sansouci, de Woonsocket, directeur du "Phare", organe du B.P.F. aux Etats-Unis, et grand commandeur de l'Ordre patriotique militant de la Société du Bon Parler français. Ce journaliste bien connu fit l'éloge du récipiendaire et déclara que peu de décorations avaient été aussi bien justifiées que celle du B.P.F. à M. le curé Mercier.

Les autres orateurs furent: M. Paul Beaulieu, consul du Canada à Boston; M. René Cerisoles, vice-consul de France à Boston; M. Wilfred J. Poitras, président du comité d'organisation de la fête; Mgr William-E. Drapeau, curé à Lynn, Mass., et M. Charles Lamontagne qui agissait comme maître de cérémonie.

Le programme artistique fit applaudir les artistes suivants: Mme Cécile Lachance-Magrame, soprano-lyrique; Mme Eva Audet, pianiste; Eugène Raboin, diseur; de Fall-Rimile Colette Rashford, harpiste, M. ver; M. Wilfrid Pelletier, baryton; et M. Manuel Maître, premier ténor de Radio Monte-Carlo, premier prix du Conservatoire de Paris.

M. l'abbé Charles-Emile Gadbois, dignitaire du B.P.F. et directeur de la Bonne Chanson, membre de délégation, ainsi que M. J.-B. Rioux et Mme Jules Massé, dirigea plusieurs chansons chantées par la foule.

La table d'honneur comprenait une quarantaine de personnalités.

"La Patrie"

## ***La Revue de Salem***

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## **Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc.**

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

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

### **Officers 2016-2017**

D.-Michel Michaud, President  
Nelson-L. Dionne, Vice President  
John M. Kobuszewski, Treasurer  
Janet Lettich, Secretary

### **Directors**

Jane Stauffer (*exp. 2016*)  
Judith Ware (*exp. 2017*)  
Dorothy Morneau (*exp. 2018*)

### **Meetings**

Board Meetings of the Franco-American Institute of Salem for 2016 will be held at 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA on 15 May and 25 September at 4:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.