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



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Cover Photo: Members of Ste-Anne's *Ligue des Dames catholiques* sent more than one ton of clothing to victims of disasters in Québec in June of 1950. (Article begins on page 4.)

News

"The surprising benefits of being bilingual" (North of Boston, 3 October 2019) include "a greater ability to use logic, focus, remember and make decisions". Those who know more than one language often have an easier understanding of math concepts and word problems, better social skills, greater self-control, and a greater earning capacity. It may also "delay the onset of dementia." *Avis au public!* • Bonnie Hurd-Smith (#276) held a book launch party at the Lévesque Community Life Center on 10 November. Her latest book, "Salem Serves", is highly recommended! *Merveilleux!* • A proposal to build 250 to 400 residences on Salem State's South Campus, the former Loring Villa, was presented on 9 December. The 22-acre site was the home of *les Soeurs de Ste-Chrétienne* for sixty years. *C'est notre patrimoine!* • A belated *Bonne Fête* to our former secretary Rosemary (Jacques) O'Brien (#9) who celebrated her 90th birthday in Holyoke last year! *Meilleurs vœux!* • *Club Richelieu Salem* presented checks in the amount of \$1000 to the Plummer Youth and to the Boys and Girls Club at its Christmas Party in December. *Merci!* • Massachusetts Governor Baker proposes to block access to birth and marriage records for 90 years and death records for 50 years, negatively impacting all genealogical research in the state. A Salem News editorial on 5 February strongly opposed the measure. "Access endangered" (19 February) further described opposition to the proposal. *Quelle idée!* • Professor Gérard-J. Brault, author of "The French-Canadian Heritage in New England" (1986), died in Pennsylvania on 5 February 2020 at the age of 90. He was an officer of France's *Ordre des Palmes académiques*, and of the *Ordre National du Mérite*. *Nos condoléances.* • The American-Canadian Genealogical Society of Manchester, NH is scheduled to move into its new quarters in May. *Bienvenue!* • A special "Merci" to our former secretary Collette-A. Lavallée (#4) who has maintained and printed our mailing labels for many years. She will be retiring this summer. *Bonne Retraite!* • The outbreak of the Coronavirus has cast an uncertainty over upcoming events. Tentatively scheduled are Lowell's 50th annual *Semaine franco-américaine* beginning on June 21st, *la Messe en français* on the eve of the Feast of Ste-Anne on July 25th, and our own summer social *l'été-en-fête* on August 30th. *Mais, soyez prudent!* •

Donations received include: Books (5) from Laurent Autotte; books (27) from D.-Michel Michaud (#1); Book from Bonnie-Hurd-Smith (#276); archive material and gifts from Paul Darisse (#87), Dr Georges-André Lussier (#184), Ronald McCulley (#67), and Rosemary O'Brien (#9); and gifts from Armand Devoe (#35), Jeannine Francis (#20), Dr Norman Gaudrault (#167), Rév. James Gaudreau (#15), Ronald-J. Michaud (#168), Francis Pelletier (#13), Phyllis Sabourin (#230), Constance Servizio (#66), and Robert Thériault (#215). *Un grand merci à tous!*

Editorial

Plus ça change...

The year 2020 will forever be remembered as the year of the Coronavirus. In mid-March, Salem saw the closing of its churches, schools, libraries, and businesses. All public events were cancelled indefinitely and residents were confined to their homes for the duration. Only one month later, many are asking whether life will ever again be the same.

We know that history repeats itself, and therein lies the answer. Our ancestors lived through many such trying times and, after each epidemic, they were able to return to the life to which they had been accustomed. Our situation is no different today.

The people of Québec experienced no fewer than 26 epidemics in the 200 years between 1687 and 1889. Measles were rampant in 1687, and eight smallpox epidemics were reported between 1699 and 1889. Malignant fevers took their toll in 1710 and in 1717-1718. Some 2,000 patients were admitted at one time in Québec's *Hôpital-Général* in 1733, others in Montréal in 1735 and in St-Augustin in 1748, and still others throughout Québec in 1765 and again in 1797. All due to contagious disease. Typhoid epidemics struck Québec four times, in 1743-1745, in 1750, in 1756-1759, and in 1847. Many deaths were reported in the "fever" epidemic of 1749, and 1,100 died of smallpox or scarlet fever in 1783. An inflammatory illness, treated by blood-letting, was reported in several areas in 1809. The cholera epidemics of 1832 and 1854 resulted in 8,300 victims in Québec city alone. Twenty-six epidemics!

And we cannot forget the Spanish Influenza or "*la Grippe*" of 1918 which spread throughout the world. Salem was under quarantine for three months, from mid-July through mid-October, when nearly 4,000 cases were reported and 299 residents succumbed to the illness. Then, as now, the future seemed uncertain.

Epidemics are a serious matter. But after each has passed, normal life has resumed. History has proven this time and time again. "*Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose* – The more things change, the more they are the same."

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Our board meetings are scheduled for May 24th and September 27th, and our summer social is planned for August 30th. However, please call before attending as it may be necessary to postpone these events due to the current situation. To all of our members, stay well, and keep in touch with one another!

Profitez bien de la période estivale!

Bon été à toutes et à tous!

Aid for Québec Fire Victims

Two of the worst disasters in Canadian history took place 70 years ago, in the spring of 1950. Many Salem residents, deeply concerned for their relatives and friends in Québec joined together to offer assistance to the unfortunate victims.

It was about six o'clock on Saturday evening, 6 May 1950, when a fire began in the Price Brothers mill in Rimouski, PQ. Sixty mile-per-hour winds had snapped an electrical cable which ignited the lumber yard. Strong gusts throughout the night blew a shower of sparks over the nearby residences during what would be known as "*la nuit rouge*" (the red night). By the early hours of Monday morning, a light snow fell over Rimouski which had experienced more than 30 hours of wind-driven flames. The 383 residences destroyed left 2,365 people homeless, most of whom took refuge in neighboring towns. Dozens of commercial buildings were lost, as well as a school and convent, a hospital and orphanage, and the court house, leaving another 2,000 students and patients homeless. No lives were lost, but one-half of the city was reduced to ashes, and five to six hundred employees of the mill were left without work.

Only three days later, on May 9th, a similar fire struck the Pelletier mill at Cabano, some 50 miles south of Rimouski. There, 159 residences were destroyed as well as eighty-percent of the commercial buildings, or one-half of the town. Tents were set up to provide temporary shelter for the more than 1,000 left homeless.

The Red Cross, working in both Rimouski and Cabano, served 38,000 meals, distributed 4,000 blankets and 2,000 articles of clothing, furnished 344 beds, and gave first aid to 250 victims. Then, on May 15th, a committee of citizens was organized to collect and distribute donations to assist those in need. This committee served 1,200 to 1,500 meals per day, and maintained storehouses of clothing, furniture, construction materials and various merchandise donated by sympathetic and generous Canadians and Americans over the next three months.

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Here in Salem, some 350 women of Ste-Anne's parish belonged to *La Ligue des Dames Catholiques* (The League of Catholic Women). Père Gilbert-F. Leduc, their chaplain, spoke to them of the recent disaster. A committee was formed, a clothing drive was scheduled, and the urgent need was made public. On Monday and Tuesday, June 5th and 6th, blankets, clothing and shoes from throughout the city was brought to Ste-Anne's parish hall in response to their request. Donations were also received to defray the expenses of shipment of cartons and cartons of goods, amounting to ONE TON, from Salem to Québec!

A photograph (see cover) appeared in the Salem Evening News of 19 June 1950, headlined "Goodwill Offering for Unfortunate Canadian Friends". The caption reads as follows:

Ton of clothing on way to fire victims – Climaxing Weeks of Tireless Work During Which They Collected One Ton of Badly-Needed Clothing for Fire Victims of Rimouski and Cabano, Canada, Was the Recent Shipping of Cartons Upon Cartons to Their Less Fortunate Neighbors by Salem's St. Anne's League of Catholic Women. Headed by Mrs. Marie Madore, Chairman, the Women Canvassed Much of This City In Their Endeavors to Satisfy the Wants and Needs of Burned-Out Canadian Citizens. Committee Workers Are (Left to Right), Mrs. Marie Lavoie, Miss Nelida Tessier, Mrs. Madore, Rev. Gilbert Leduc, Chaplain; Mrs. George [Chalifour] Bingle, Mrs. Joseph Lambert and Mrs. Lucien Raymond.

The disasters of 1950 inspired a stage play by Denis Leblond, a song "*Le Sinistre de Rimouski*" by Isidore Soucy, a novel "*Après la nuit rouge*" by Christiane Frenette, and other works.



A Tale of Three Mères

Families of 10 or even 20 children were not uncommon among French-Canadians a century ago. But when mothers saw their children's children to the fourth and fifth generations, the numbers could be truly amazing.

Delphine Girard (1847-1928) and her husband Paul Gaudreault (1840-1924) were married at Les Éboulements, PQ on 30 January 1866. After the births of their 16 children, the family settled in Salem before moving to Haverhill. When Delphine returned to visit her relatives in Salem in 1925, her story made front-page news. She was then "at the head of a family of five generations [with] 110 descendants all living"!

More impressive was the story of Philomène Vaillancourt (1837-1926), the widow of Adolphe Dumas (1837-1909). They were married at Cap-de-la-Madeleine, PQ on 23 October 1855 and were the parents of 20 children. Although Philomène only resided in Salem during the last year of her life, her obituary in May of 1926 reported that she then had 10 children living, as well as 117 grandchildren and 65 great-grandchildren – a total of 192 living descendants!

But even more amazing is the story of Eliza Caron (1834-1924), widow of Clément Bérubé (1826-1879) who had given birth to 15 children. When she "quietly observed her 88th birthday" at her home at 54 Lawrence street in March of 1922, the Salem Evening News boasted that her family now consisted of 5 daughters, 8 sons, 109 grandchildren and 118 great-grandchildren – a total of 240 living descendants!

Born in St. Felicite, Canada, March 27, 1834 she came to this city in 1888 and many of her children and their children live here. She married Clement Berube in 1853 and had 15 children of whom 13 are living and all married. Her husband died nearly 40 years ago and when her children grew up and had homes of their own she lived with them.

At the time of the [1914] fire she made her home on Palmer street and lost practically all her possessions at that time. She was then a regular attendant at St. Joseph's church, going every day of her life to that church. Now she attends St. Anne's church at Castle Hill, but since the influenza epidemic when she was very sick, she has rarely left the house.

Despite her age, Mrs. Berube reads the French papers and keeps up with the time. She has never learned to talk English but loves the mother tongue and one of the chief delights of the young people about her is to have a song festival in which Mrs. Berube sings the old French songs of her youth.

-Salem Evening News, 29 March 1922

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A Trio of Musicians

Among the many talented musicians to come from Salem were three young women who attained national recognition in the mid-twentieth century. Although contemporaries and well-known to each other, their careers were decidedly different.

Rita LaPlante (1919-2012), concert pianist

Born in Salem on 6 December 1919, she was the daughter of Joseph LaPlante (1892-1947) and Olivia Caron (1897-1985). Rita first studied piano with the Sisters of the Assumption, then with Salem native Marie-Laure (Audet) Gillet (1898-1988). She gave her first public recital in Salem's Academy Hall on 8 September 1933 at the age of 13, and "revealed an understanding of interpretation" that was beyond her age. She received a scholarship to the New England Conservatory of Music, graduating on 18 June 1940 as the highest honored student of her class. After her debut in Boston's Jordan Hall on 25 March 1945, the Boston Post praised her "complete assurance and technical command", and the New York Herald Tribune deemed her "extremely talented". She then spent a year studying in Europe, the winner of a fellowship.

Her career was impressive. She "gave recitals in Salzburg, Vienna, and Paris, and also performed at the Brooklyn Museum and at Town Hall in New York...and at the National Gallery in Washington. She was soloist with the National Orchestral Association, the Boston Pops, and the Boston Symphony...and was pianist of the National Music League Trio with [members] of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra." She was a member of the piano faculty at the Indiana University School of Music, and taught piano at Clark University in Worcester.

A longtime resident of Worcester, she died on 13 August 2012 at the age of 92. She was the wife of pianist and composer Relly Raffman (1921-1988).

Murielle Hallé (1923-2014), lyric soprano

Born in Lewiston, Maine on 12 October 1923, she moved to Salem at the age of 3 with her parents Onésime Hallé (1885-1973) and Valentine Lapierre (1885-1970). Following her graduation from *l'Académie St-Joseph* in 1943, she won first prize in a vocal competition which drew more than 1,000 singers from throughout New England. She joined the U.S.O. and traveled with the American Theatre Wing. Following her graduation from the New England Conservatory of Music in 1950, she was awarded a scholarship to study in Milan, Italy. Her concert tours took her to England, France, Switzerland, and other countries. She directed her own Sunday afternoon program, "Habitat Revue Musicale", on WBZ radio in Boston, and produced the program "Look Up and Live" on CBS television. Murielle was a "talented professional opera singer who performed in many venues and stage productions in New York City and throughout Europe".

A longtime resident of Nashua, NH, she died on 26 March 2014 at the age of 90. She was the wife of tenor Dominic Daniel Chiacchia (1921-2013).

Rose-Alma Perron (1930-2003), theatre and church soloist

Born in Salem on 12 June 1930, she was the daughter of Edmond Perron (1890-1969) and Léontine Marcaurelle (1897-1968). She was a 1947 graduate of *l'Académie Ste-Chrétienne*, and studied music privately. She was called a "talented singer and actress [who] has long been popular locally with her radio and concert work and has been generous with her talents, appearing frequently at veterans hospitals and with the U.S.O." In 1950 she was invited to audition for a national musical sponsored by the American Legion. She won first place in the Salem division in May, and in the New England division held at Boston's Jordan Hall in June. Then, she became one of the "few to be chosen out of the thousands of auditions held throughout the country." She appeared in the World Premiere of "Red, White and Blue" which opened in Los Angeles on 7 October 1950 and then toured America.

Although she never again performed professionally, she remained active in local musical circles. She was a soloist with Ste-Anne's Choir and Glee Club, with St-Joseph's Choral Society, and with many other organizations. A lifelong resident of Salem, she died on 23 August 2003 at the age of 73. She was the wife of John Thornell (1913-1981).



J. Vadeboncoeur, Steam Engineer



One man was employed by the City of Salem for 53 consecutive years, a record which appears never to have been surpassed. At his death 80 years ago, many city officials recognized him as "one of the most valued" of Salem's employees. "Practically every street in the city bears his imprint."

Joseph-Telésphore Vadeboncoeur was born at Cap-Santé (Portneuf), PQ on 19 August 1863, the son of Augustin Vadeboncoeur and Reine-des-Anges Fafard. By the time he was 12 he was already working with his father, a locomotive engineer, and he quickly gained experience with steam engines. He left home at the age of 13 and found work in the engine room of the mills at Windsor, PQ. There he was placed in charge of the company power plant.

Joseph Vadeboncoeur was married to Élisabeth Bolduc in the Cathédrale St-Michel at Sherbrooke, PQ on 16 June 1884. Five of their eleven children survived: Georges (1885-1960), Angéline (1889-1973), Olida (1894-1967), Eliane (1895-1977), and Yvonne (1900-1964). The family lived briefly in Oakland, Maine before settling in Salem.

On March 28, 1886, he went to work for the city, running the stone crusher then located down near the pumping station at the Willows. For the first four years, he worked at the crusher in charge of the engines and at other jobs about the city until his ability as an engineer won him an assignment on the steam roller. Three years later he started on the steam roller but it was no new job to him for his experience in the past with stationary engines and locomotives made him well adapted to his new job...

He can tell about the days of horse cars and remembers the first electric car line to be laid in Salem, down at the Willows. The changes in street construction made necessary by the replacement of the horse by the automobile have not escaped his attention and he can tell of the days when streets were made at less expense and designed to resist only the wear

and tear of horses and teams. They were good roads for the purpose but they would not stand up under the pounding and heavy wear of the automobile and truck of today.

Work was done a little differently in those days, too. The first shift started around 4:30 in the morning to be taken up later in the day by another man who operated the roller until well after dark, having for light a couple of men with lanterns walking alongside the roller. Despite the fact that the days of long working hours have pretty well passed, Mr. Vadeboncoeur still maintains to a certain degree, the old schedule. The early morning hours, between 4:30 and 5 o'clock, find him on the job and he does not leave his roller again until after 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

[He] has seen city officials come and go. Streets have been laid, relaid, repaired and repaired again and he has taken an active part in it all. There has probably not been a street in Salem, except some of the newer ones, that has not received the weight of the steam roller on which he has worked.

Men have come and gone in the service of the city, but Mr. Vadeboncoeur has held his own and become an increasingly valuable factor in the smooth working of the street department. The long lives of the steam rollers have been due mostly to his great care; not only his own, but the others, for he keeps close tabs on them all and the minute that a steam roller shows signs of balky internals he gets after it, replacing new parts and putting it in smooth working condition again.

His hand is also felt in the stone crusher on Jefferson avenue. For, during the winter when there are no streets to be rolled and he has overhauled the steam rollers and placed them in good condition ready for the spring, he adjourns to the stone crusher where he makes necessary repairs and keeps that in good condition.

The many years he has spent in road work have only increased the veteran's interest in his job and his watchful care for the good of the steam rollers. Not only is he the oldest active member among the employees of the city but he is one of the most valued.

-Salem Evening News, 30 July 1930

After the death of his wife on 23 August 1929, Joseph continued to work "in good health and vigorous" until his own death a decade later on 9 November 1939 at the age of 76. He was survived by his five children, 15 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren, as well as his siblings Wilfred and Angéline of Québec. He was an active member of *la Société St-Jean-Baptiste*, of *l'Union St-Jean-Baptiste-d'Amérique*, and of *les Artisans*.

Accidents in the Workplace

Dangers in the workplace were many in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This was especially true in the mills, in the factories, and on the railroad. Men, women and children often suffered serious injury or even death. And although employers encouraged safety, they assumed no responsibility for the tragic accidents which occurred all too frequently.

Several passages from the 1943 novel "Mill Village" by Albéric-A. Archambault (1888-1950) illustrate the position taken by many employers at the time:

I am sorry...but under the law, you are not entitled to anything; ...mills could not keep on running if they paid damages to everyone who is hurt. Any person who accepts a job in this plant assumes the risk of his employment. The company will not be liable for any injuries suffered by any of its employees... (pages 108-109).

Franco-Americans made up the large majority of workers in the mills, and a great many worked in the factories and on the railroad. Accidents occurred regularly in each of these places, but few were reported by the press.

After a worker was killed in the Salem freight yards in 1895, it was reported that "Salem has been most unfortunate in the matter of fatal railroad accidents during the last two months, no less than six having occurred in that time within the city limits." After a widow was scalped in the Naumkeag Mills in 1903, it was reported that an "accident similar to the occurred in the mills several years ago." And this was not to be the last accident of its kind.

The examples given here illustrate some of the types of accidents which occurred. They are drawn from the large number of tragedies reported in the Salem Evening News between 1880 and up to the time of the Great Salem Fire of 1914.

On 8 December 1880 "A young man names Sabin...caught his hand in the shafting at Naumkeag mill...crushing all the fingers. He was conveyed to the city hospital."

On 19 June 1883 "a French woman employed at the Naumkeag mills fainted while at her work. She was removed to her home and the proper restoratives applied."

On 26 July 1884 "A girl named Lambert, living on Pingree street, had two of the fingers on her right hand badly crushed in the machinery at Naumkeag mills..."

On 21 July 1887 Pierre Giroux (1834-1914) was "loading cotton at the [Naumkeag mills] warehouse on Pingree street, when one of the bales of cotton tumbled over upon him. The poor fellow was crushed...between that bale and another. The only wonder...is that he was not killed..."

On 14 November 1888 "One of the French girl operatives of the Naumkeag steam cotton mills caught her right hand in the machinery...and had several fingers badly torn. She was taken to the hospital, where the middle finger was amputated. As she was unable to speak English, her name could not be ascertained."

On 26 April 1894 "A young French boy employed at Dane's shoe factory on Dodge street lost the end of one of his fingers in a dicing cut machine..."

On 24 October 1895 Octave Bercier (1853-1895) who "worked for the Boston & Maine [railroad] was engaged in shoveling ashes from the last one of three short coal cars [when another train was] backing down upon them. [He fell] over the end of the car...when the bunt came [and] his head struck the iron rail. All three of the loose cars passed over him [and] death resulted instantly. He leaves a wife and five small children...who are thus left without any means of support."

On 9 March 1903 Claudia (Castonguay) Trudeau (1866-1942) "was at work about one of the carding machines [at the Naumkeag mills] when...her hair was caught by the machine...and almost in a twinkling, her entire scalp was torn from her head. [She is a] widow...and has three children."

On 13 May 1903 Elzéar Bérubé (1881-1903), "a weaver [at the Naumkeag mills], felt sick...stepped on to the floor of the [freight] elevator...and fell to the floor so that...part of his body lay over the side. When the elevator had reached the second floor, Mr. Berube was...badly jammed. The ambulance hurried to the hospital with Mr. Berube, but he died just as he was being taken into the institution. He was about 22 years of age, unmarried, and he leaves a father, mother and two sisters."

On 18 February 1911 Rose Tardiff (1894-1991) "a stitcher at the shoe shop of Jonathan Brown & Sons, was literally scalped...by her hair becoming entangled in the shafting beneath the sewing machine bench. In spite of the painful nature of her injury, she retained consciousness and word was sent for the ambulance. [She is 17] years of age, living at Castle Hill..."

On 24 July 1912 Elzéar Côté (1877-1942) "met with a terrible accident at the National Calfskin Co.'s factory [in Peabody]...while running a putting-out machine. His right hand became caught in one of the [revolving] tables of the machine and was taken completely off at the wrist. [A doctor] found the man suffering in such agony that he immediately gave him morphine to ease his sufferings. [He] has a wife and two or three children."

On the night of 3-4 January 1914 "Joseph Jodoin, night watchman at the Naumkeag [mills] was burned by a flow of hot water from the steam pipes...Although considerable hot water flowed over the hands of the injured man, he was able to go unassisted to his home..."

L'Académie St-Joseph

Part VII

More than 100 students, including several Japanese exchange students, were enrolled at St-Joseph's High School in 1974. Sister Lucille Tétreault had been principal since 1972, and the faculty in 1974-1975 included Sisters Germaine Descheneaux, Béatrice Fluette, Jeanne Lafond, Louise Lataille, Bertha St-Jean, and Rita St-Onge, along with three Salem natives, Sisters Jeanette Gagnon, Irène Martineau, and Evangéline Pinette.

There was a sports revival in 1974 when programs included a bowling league, a basketball team for boys, and volleyball, track, cheerleading, and a pep squad for girls. An Athletic Office and trophy room was created.

Other extracurricular activities included the National Honor Society, the Student Council, the French Club, the Glee Club, the Business Club, the school newspaper, dances and a Senior Prom.

Sister Yvette Beauregard, S.A.S.V., a Salem native, became the first to pronounce her perpetual vows in St-Joseph's church on Sunday 23 March 1975, and a reception was held in the afternoon. Previously, all vows were pronounced at the Mother House in Nicolet, Québec.

Students in the Democracy Class received special recognition when they won the first prize in a statewide competition in Boston in May of 1975. A silver tray was presented to the school to commemorate the achievement.

The 50th anniversary of the founding of *l'Académie St-Joseph* was celebrated on Sunday 1 June 1975. Concelebrants at the 5:00 PM Mass were members of the alumni. A banquet was held that evening in the Knights of Columbus Hall for all former teachers and students, with special honors given to the Class of 1975. It was noted that many of the school's alumni "have had successful careers and many others have chosen the religious life."

St-Joseph's High School, now the only Catholic high school in Salem, had maintained a high level of excellence for a half-century, and its future seemed assured.

[to be continued]

Les anciens élèves de l'Académie

Class of 1975

Ashburn, Nancy
Bédard, Nina
Bérubé, George
Bisson, Jacques

Bouchard, Raymond
Caron, Denise
Cloutier, Doreen
Daigle, Susan

Darisse, Diane
Gagnon, Susan
Harrington, Mary Ann
Jacques, Marc

Jalbert, Diane
 Jalbert, Doreen
 Kelleher, Michael
 Kosaka, Kazuko
 Lamarre, Cathy
 LaRoche, Michaeline
 LeClaire, Susan

Lirette, Nora
 L'Italien, Alice
 Marquis, Marie
 Martineau, Anne Marie
 Morency, Cheryl
 Morneau, Kathleen
 Morneau, Michelle
 Nolan, Catherine

Pelletier, Thérèse
 Prisby, Bonnie
 Russo, Catherine
 St-Pierre, Denise
 Soucy, Elaine
 Thompson, Denise

Class of 1976

Banville, Michelle-Anne
 Beaulieu, Suzanne-R.
 Cloutier, Paul-F.
 Côté, Linda-Louise
 Deschênes, Gisèle-Louise
 Dionne, Elaine-Marie
 Dufour, Susan-Rose
 Fréchette, Lisa-Jacinthe

Golban, Gilda
 Hiltunen, Peter-L.
 Ishido, Makiko
 Jalbert, Rita-M.
 Kelleher, Kathleen Ann
 Lausier, Philip-N.
 LeBlanc, Jeannette-Marie
 Lynch, Julie Margaret

Malionek, Andrea Fay
 Nestor, Shannon Marie
 Ouellette, Rita-Ann
 Pelletier, Julie-T.
 Rodzen, Carol Ann
 Thériault, Janet-Marie
 Tomioka, Takako
 Wade, Gloria E.



Les Richelieu en 1985

Members of Salem's Richelieu clubs enjoyed a grand celebration 35 years ago!

Le Richelieu was chartered in Ottawa on 21 February 1944 for the purpose of preserving the French language, disseminating French culture, and aiding deserving youngsters. The first club in Canada was organized in 1945, the first in the United States in 1955, and the first in Salem in 1965.

Club Richelieu Salem was founded at the urging of Mgr Arthur-O. Mercier, pastor of St-Joseph's. It was sponsored by New Hampshire State Senator Louis-Israël Martel, a founder of Richelieu International. On 16 January 1965, President-General Raymond Dufresne of Ottawa presented the charter. The first officers were Georges-A. Aubertin, president; Anthony Goulet, vice-president; Philip Morency, secretary; and Jean-B. Beauregard, treasurer. Directors were Dr Gérard Côté, Gérard LeBlanc, Philip Lévesque, Alex Michaud, P.-Alcide Pelletier, Dr Arthur Tremblay, and Fred-M. Turcotte; Roger-L.-P. Dionne and Aimé-E. LeBlanc were Representatives to Ottawa.

Twenty years later, in 1985, this group sponsored a second club for Salem. Known as *Club Richelieu Nord de Boston*, it was the first women's Richelieu in the United States. Officers were Rose-Alma (Perron) Thornell, president and later Governor of the New England region; Edith (St-Yves) Boisvert, vice-president; Cécile (Coté) Roy, secretary; and Constance (Roy) Foisy, treasurer.

A celebration was planned for the weekend of 27-28 April 1985 to mark the 20th anniversary of Richelieu Salem and the founding of Richelieu Nord de Boston. The event took on larger proportions when it was announced that Salem would host the First Congress of all the Richelieu Clubs in the United States.

The site was the ballroom of Salem's Hawthorne Hotel. Among the dignitaries introduced by master of ceremonies Émile DeVoe were Georges-A. Aubertin, president of Club Richelieu Salem; Gérard Michaud, Regional Governor; Jacques Staelen, administrator of the United States clubs; and Yvon St-Denis of Ottawa, president of Richelieu International.

At Saturday evening's banquet and dance, Salem Mayor Anthony-V. Salvo took the occasion to announce the appointment of Richelieu member Robert-M. St-Pierre as Salem's new Chief of Police, the first Franco-American to hold this position.

The closing Mass of the convention was held on Sunday for members and their guests. The celebrant was Salem native Père Laurier-Jean-Marie Martineau.

Both Salem clubs remain active today. *Club Richelieu Salem* now celebrates 55 years, and *Club Richelieu Nord de Boston* celebrates 35 years *Félicitations!*



First Families of Salem (IX)

Brunet (1870)

Charles Brunet was born in the parish of Ste-Geneviève, Pierrefonds (Montréal) on 10 December 1840, the son of Xavier Brunet and Marcelline Lauzon. He was married to Léocadie Janvry at Île-Bizard (Montréal) on 8 February 1864. In 1870, after the death of his wife, Charles settled in Salem with his son and two daughters. A double wedding was celebrated here on 27 June 1887! Charles Brunet married Mathilde Pelletier, the daughter of Edouard Pelletier and Emérence Levasseur; she was the widow of Marcel Sirois. And in the same ceremony, his daughter Desneiges Brunet married Alfred Leboeuf. The two remaining children of Charles Brunet married shortly thereafter: Charles-Aurèle on 23 September 1889 to Adéline Bessette, and Aldège on 11 April 1890 to Ambroise Leboeuf. The two Brunet sisters were now married to the two Leboeuf brothers.

Charles died in Salem on 6 September 1908 at the age of 67, and Mathilde on 5 February 1922 at the age of 82. The obituary account of Charles Brunet reads in part:

Arriving in Salem 38 years ago, the deceased had practiced his trade of stone cutter...; he was a member of the Societe St-Jean-Baptiste for 25 years, as well as of the Ligue du Sacre-Coeur. He is survived by one son and two daughters, as well as his wife. (*trans.*)

Latranquillité (1866)

Louis Sénézac-Latranquillité (1808-1896) was married at L'Acadie, PQ on 8 October 1833 to Euphrosine Brouillet. Three of their daughters came to Salem to work in the orphanage staffed by the Grey Nuns of Montréal. These were Emérence (1838-1895), a cook, Alphonsine (1844-1903), a laundress, and Rosalie (1847-1906), a waitress. Alphonsine arrived in 1866, and her two sisters joined her at the same time or shortly after. After the death of their mother at L'Acadie on 13 June 1870, their widowed father came to Salem and resided with them at the orphanage. Emérence died there on 13 September 1895 at the age of 57, Louis on 16 March 1896 at 87, Alphonsine on 28 November 1903 at 59, and Rosalie on 5 October 1906 at 59. The obituary account of Alphonsine Latranquillité notes that she had been employed at the orphanage "since its establishment" in 1866. At the death of Rosalie in 1906, the Latranquillité family had lived in Salem for forty years, leaving no descendants to carry on the name.

Sénézaque-Latranquillité Genealogy

- Jacques & Jeanne Dreuse of Tilleul-Othon, Normandie, France
- I Jacques & Josèphite Brouillet, Chambly, PQ, 21 May 1764
- II Jacques & Louise Moisan, L'Acadie, PQ, 8 Aug 1803
- III Louis & Euphrosine Brouillet, L'Acadie, PQ, 8 Oct 1833

Le Courrier de Salem

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

May - August 1920

Medicine

- A funeral was held for Dr Émile Poirier who died on April 29th at the age of 64. He had practiced in Salem for 40 years.

Families and People

- Trefflé Nadeau and his wife Lucie Landry have gone to Notre-Dame-du-Portage to celebrate the 100th birthday of M. Nadeau's mother, Henriette Dupéré.

Businesses

- A meeting was held in St-Jean-Baptiste Hall on May 9th to form a Cooperative store. It opened at 37 Salem Street on July 2nd with Eugène Perron as manager, Irène Dallaire as cashier, and William Dubé and Joseph Plante as clerks.
- Adonias Létourneau has purchased the store at 53 Harbor Street from Georges Deschênes on August 2nd.
- Monsieur Collette offers a large selection of pastries at his bakery at 40 Lawrence Street.

Church

- Père Pierre-Hercule Grenier has been named pastor of St-Joseph's succeeding the late Père Rainville. Père Binette, who served as administrator in the interim, has been named pastor of St-Zéphirin, Cochrane.
- Père Georges-C. Duplessis, recently ordained, has been named curate at St-Joseph's.
- Père Rodolphe Fortier has been named pastor of Ste-Anne's. He succeeds Père J.-L.-M. Lévesque who has been named pastor of Ste-Marie, Marlborough.

School

- Eight Franco-Americans are among the 129 graduates of Salem High School: Georges-H. Bouchard, Doris-L. Boucher, Arthur-J. Bouffard, Lillian-E. Brunet, Béatrice Duquette, Yvonne-M. Leclerc, Florence Lemelin, and Élisabeth-H. Morin.
- A French play was performed at the Federal Theatre on May 23rd to benefit the new St-Joseph's school.
- The students of St-Joseph's school enjoyed a picnic at the Forest River Park in Salem on July 1st.

Music

- Aimé Leblanc offers violin lessons for beginners as well as advanced students at his studio at 114½ Bridge Street.

Entertainment

- A Whist Party will be held in St-Joseph's Hall on June 8th. Tickets are available at the stores of Mlle Rose Brochu, Mlle Aurélie Ouellette, and M. Octave Ouellette.

Genealogies

Brunet

Jacques Brunet-Létang & Jacqueline Recheine
of Tourouvre, Mortagne (Perche), France

- I Mathieu Brunet-Létang & Marie Blanchard (Jean & Martine Lebas)
Notre-Dame-de-Québec, 10 Nov 1667
- II Jean Brunet-Létang & Marie Perrier (Jean-Baptiste & Marie Gaillard)
Lachine, 19 Oct 1694
- III Philippe Brunet-Létang & Suzanne Barbari-Grandmaison (Pierre & Françoise Paré)
Pointe-Claire, 12 Nov 1725
- IV Philippe-Amable Brunet & Marie Demers (Baptiste & Marie-Anne Lauzon)
Ste-Geneviève (Pierrefonds), 21 Jan 1760
- V Philippe-Amable Brunet & Marie-Louise Delage (Nicolas & Thérèse Normand)
St-Laurent, 17 Feb 1783
- VI Charles Brunet & Marie-Anne Lantier (Antoine & Marie-Anne Breyer)
Ste-Geneviève (Pierrefonds), 27 Jan 1817
- VII François-Xavier Brunet & Marcelline Lauzon (Pierre & Émélie Brisebois)
Ste-Geneviève (Pierrefonds), 13 Jan 1840
- VIII Charles Brunet & Mathilde Pelletier (Edouard & Emérence Levasseur)
Salem, MA, 27 Jun 1887

Vadeboncoeur

Jean Fourré & Olive Magré
of Herbignac, Nantes, Bretagne, France

- I René Fourré & Thérèse Amiot (Pierre & Thérèse Gilbert)
St-Augustin (Portneuf), 24 Jun 1748
- II Augustin Fourré-Vadeboncoeur & Agathe Plante (Bernard & Thérèse Faucher)
Pointe-aux-Trembles (Portneuf), 5 Oct 1772
- III Augustin Fourré-Vadeboncoeur & Marguerite Godin (Augustin & Scholastique Piché)
Cap-Santé (Portneuf), 7 Aug 1815
- IV Augustin Vadeboncoeur & Reine-des-Anges Fafard (Louis & Reine Pagé)
Cap-Santé (Portneuf), 27 Jul 1857
- V Joseph-Telésphore Vadeboncoeur & Élisabeth Bolduc (François & Geneviève Brisson)
St-Michel, Sherbrooke, 16 Jun 1884
- VI Georges Vadeboncoeur & Délia Fecteau (Philius & Marie Lacouture)
Salem, MA, 11 Jun 1906

Décès

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

Juliette-A. (Gauthier) ANTONIADES, 94 ans, 2 octobre 2019 • Debra-Ann (LeClerc) ARNOLD, 67 ans, 24 octobre 2019 • Thérèse (Robichaud) BATES, 83 ans, 7 novembre 2019 • Richard-Roger BELLEAU, 73 ans, 26 novembre 2019 • Lucille-L. (Corbin) BLANCHETTE, 102 ans, 30 novembre 2019 • Roger-L. BLANCHETTE, 87 ans, 23 octobre 2019 • Annette-T. (Houde) BOUCHER, 60 ans, 28 décembre 2019 • Roger-D. BRILLANT, 91 ans, 18 décembre 2019 • Robert-W. CARON, 87 ans, 19 novembre 2019 • Virginia L. (Nimblett) CASTONGUAY, 80 ans, 14 décembre 2019 • Rév. John-C. CHAISSON, 83 ans, 27 décembre 2019 • Claire (Jalbert) COLE, 69 ans, 29 septembre 2019 • Mary (O'Neill) COTÉ, 98 ans, 20 janvier 2020 • Roger-A. DESCHÊNES, 96 ans, 20 novembre 2019 • Roger-D. DESCHÊNES, 68 ans, 28 octobre 2019 • Rita-I. (Audette) DiLISIO, 97 ans, 17 janvier 2020 • Anne-C. (LaCombe) DIONISI, 78 ans, 1 décembre 2019 • Eileen-Priscilla (Brochu) DUBÉ, 79 ans, 21 janvier 2020 • Susan DuBOIS, 63 ans, 28 décembre 2019 • Jeanne-M. (Lévesque) DUNN, 93 ans, 15 octobre 2019 • Evelyn-J. (Boudreau) DURKEE, 86 ans, 14 octobre 2019 • Roger-A. GAGNON, 85 ans, 3 décembre 2019 • Mary-I. (L'Heureux) GENTILE, 84 ans, 4 janvier 2020 • Estelle-M. (Legault) GODJIKIAN, 85 ans, 4 novembre 2019 • Ann-Marie-J. (Delisle) GOODWIN, 72 ans, 24 janvier 2020 • Michael-David GUINARD, 57 ans, 1 décembre 2019 • Marie-Jean (LaPorte) HEFFERNAN, 91 ans, 6 novembre 2019 • Carole A. (Irzyk) JALBERT, 82 ans, 11 décembre 2019 • Bernadette-M. (Bégin) JODOIN, 95 ans, 4 octobre 2019 • Raymond-A. JULIEN, 65 ans, 17 janvier 2020 • Jacqueline-E. (Morency) Norton-KELLEY (#259), 90 ans, 9 janvier 2020 • Joseph-Hector LÉTOURNEAU, 74 ans, 8 novembre 2019 • Florence-A. (Lareau) MANNING, 88 ans, 12 janvier 2020 • Lucille-M. (Pelletier) MARTINEAU (#239), 88 ans, 23 janvier 2020 • Lucille-J. (Bernier) MASSÉ, 82 ans, 11 janvier 2020 • Wilfred-E. MATTON, 72 ans, 18 octobre 2019 • Donna-M. MAURIS, 61 ans, 5 janvier 2020 • Thelma-E. (Léger) MELENDEZ, 71 ans, 15 décembre 2019 • Rita-M. NADEAU, 89 ans, 8 décembre 2019 • Marie-Élizabeth OUELLETTE, 89 ans, 3 décembre 2019 • Paul OUELLETTE, 78 ans, 17 janvier 2020 • Janie L. (Ruane) PELLETIER, 72 ans, 28 novembre 2019 • Nicole PELLETIER, 52 ans, 31 octobre 2019 • Philip-A. PELLETIER, 77 ans, 3 octobre 2019 • Rita-I. (Cyr) ST-PIERRE, 95 ans, 7 décembre 2019 • Rita (Michaud) SAMOLCHUK, 97 ans, 18 octobre 2019 • Francine-M. (Plamondon) SMALL, 70 ans, 21 janvier 2020 • Janet-Ellen SOUCY, 57 ans, 7 décembre 2019 • Helen P. (Scoglio) TALBOT, 79 ans, 5 octobre 2019 • Roger-E. TALBOT, 79 ans, 3 janvier 2020 • Roger-A. Thériault, 77 ans, 20 octobre 2019 • James-T. TURCOTTE, 55 ans, 4 octobre 2019 • Shirley (Michaud) YAROSH, 85 ans, 2 janvier 2020 •

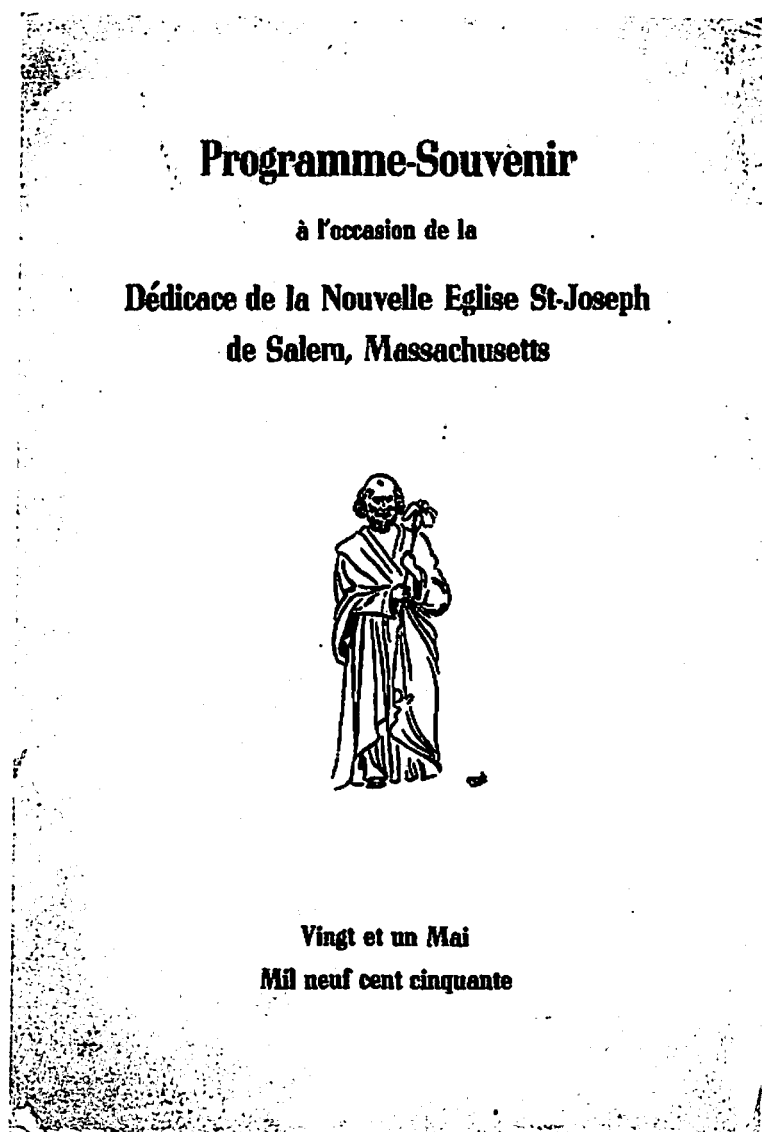
Nous nous souviendrons d'eux

Les Archives de l'Institut

Les documents divers qui se trouvent dans nos archives sont d'importance historique et généalogique. Le nombre de dossiers augmente continuellement, grâce à la générosité de nos membres.



Il y a 70 ans depuis l'ouverture de la nouvelle église St-Joseph. Nous conservons le "Programme-Souvenir à l'occasion de la Dédicace de la Nouvelle Eglise St-Joseph de Salem, Massachusetts - Vingt et un Mai Mil neuf cent cinquante" (Salem: Deschamps Frères, 40 pp.)



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 \$15.00 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.

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Meetings

Board Meetings of the Franco-American Institute of Salem for 2020 will be held at 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA on 24 May and 27 September at 4:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.