



# *La Revue de Salem*

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



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

**Cover Photo:** The name Marquis was well-known in Salem. A sign for the family-owned dry cleaners was once one of Salem's largest. (Article begins on page 24.)

## News

As of this writing the U.S./Canadian border remains closed due to the Coronavirus epidemic. *Nous attendons l'ouverture bientôt!* • Most social events are cancelled, such as Lowell's Franco-American Week, and our own *L'Été en Fête*. Please call ahead before attending any public gatherings. *Soyez prudent!* • We have received a very large collection of historical and genealogical journals for our library! Our sincerest thanks to the generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous. *Mille fois merci!* • It is with regret that we announce the loss of two wonderful members, Dr Claire Quintal (#70) of *l'Institut français*, and Evelyn Gaudrault (#167), the wife of Dr Norman-C. Gaudrault. Also, longtime Salem teacher Sr Marie-Charles, S.S.Ch. (Thérèse Marceau) of Marlboro. *Nos condoléances.* • Our congratulations to longtime member Sr Irène Martineau (#76) of Lowell who entered the convent from Salem 65 years ago in June. *Ad Multos Annos!* • Also, our congratulations to charter members René and Marguerite (Lavoie) Bélanger (#8) who are celebrating 65 years of marriage in July. *Ça se fête!* • The new A.C.G.S. library in Manchester, NH is scheduled to open in July. Be sure to reserve ahead before visiting as space is limited. *Félicitations!* • Due to the epidemic, the business meeting of the F.A.I.S. on September 27<sup>th</sup> will be conducted by telephone and will be for board members only. *Un nouvel essai pour nous!* • News is scarce during these difficult times. If you would like to share an event with us, please let us know! Birthdays, anniversaries, honors received, and other important occasions are all of interest to our members. *Ça nous ferait plaisir de vous lire!* •

**Donations received** include: Journals (2,000) from an anonymous donor; books (3) from John-M. Kobuszewski (#3); CDs (12) and DVDs (6) from Laurent Autotte; and file material from Dr Georges-André Lussier (#184). *Un grand merci à tous!*

### Cancellation/Annulement

Our summer social *l'Été en Fête*, scheduled for August 30<sup>th</sup>, has been cancelled. Please plan to attend our 12<sup>th</sup> annual celebration next year, in the summer of 2021. In the meantime, do keep in touch with one another. *Bonne santé à tous!*

## ***Editorial***

### ***L'été d'autrefois***

Summer is typically a time of rest and relaxation. But this year, due to the Coronavirus, many are finding the days excessively long while confined at home.

Reading is an enjoyable way to pass the time! We recommend that enduring favorite of French-Canadian literature, "Maria Chapdelaine", by Louis Hémon (1880-1913). This classic is set in rural Québec at the turn of the twentieth century. As the plot unfolds and the seasons pass, many French-Canadian traditions and customs are colorfully described. Hémon depicts life in simpler times as experienced by many of our own ancestors.

The excerpts which follow are from a translation made a century ago by law professor William Hume Blake (1861-1924) and published in 1921. Translated into more than two dozen languages and published in more than 200 editions, this classic is readily available. Treat yourself to a copy of this fine work and enjoy the summer at home!

The fine weather continued, and in early July the blueberries were ripe. [Under] the constant sun these slowly turned to pale blue, to royal blue, to deepest purple, and when July brought the feast of Ste. Anne the bushes laden with fruit were broad patches of violet. The forests of Quebec are rich in wild berries but the blueberry is of all the most abundant and delicious. The gathering of them, from July to September, is an industry for many families who spend the whole day in the woods; strings of children down to the tiniest go swinging their tin pails, empty in the morning, full and heavy by evening.

"And tomorrow [July 26<sup>th</sup>] we will all gather blueberries. It is the feast of Ste. Anne." [It] was a day of blue sky, a day when from the heavens some of the sparkle and brightness descends to earth. The blueberries were fully ripe. The children began picking at once with cries of delight, but their elders scattered through the woods in search of the larger patches, where one might sit on one's heels and fill a pail in an hour. Side by side they picked industriously for a time, then plunged farther into the woods, stepping over fallen trees, looking about them for the deep blue masses of the ripe berries.

They sought again and made some happy finds: broad clumps of bushes laden with huge berries which they heaped into their pails. In the space of an hour these were filled; they rose and went to sit on a fallen tree to rest themselves.

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***Bon été à tous nos membres!***

## Marquis Cleansers

The Marquis sign, one of Salem's largest, stood as a prominent landmark in the city for 35 years.

Adélarde Marquis (1904-1957) and his wife Eva Banville (1905-1974) opened their laundry and dry cleaning service at 102 Broadway in 1949. After the death of Adélarde on 4 October 1957 at the age of 53, his widow Eva and their son René (1927-1993) continued to operate the family business.

The property at 26 Hersey Street near the corner of Canal was purchased by them and a new building was erected there in 1959. The modern single-story structure of buff-colored brick featured large plate glass windows beneath a stainless steel canopy surmounted by a clock. The ample parking lot in front of the building displayed a planter of similar brick, and this supported the company sign: a towering initial "M" with the name "Marquis Cleansers" emblazoned in neon lights.

The Grand Opening of the new facility took place at 8:00 A.M. on Friday 4 September 1959. Councilor George-W. Marquis (1916-1982) represented the city at the ceremony. He was a well-known city councilor for 14 years, from 1954 to 1967, and served as Council President in 1958 and 1966. George was, in fact, a fourth cousin of the late Adélarde; both were descendants of Joseph-Marie Marquis and Marie-Françoise Côté of Trois-Pistoles, PQ.

The firm promised "courteous and prompt service", and provided one-hour dry cleaning, shirt service, alterations, fur storage, and pick-up and delivery on request. Hours were from 7:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. daily.

Eva later married Edmond Talbot Jr (1898-1974), the widower of Marie-Louise Dubé (1902-1957). Edmond died on 24 November 1974, and Eva survived him by a mere six days. René Marquis conducted the family business until his death on 16 October 1993.

Marquis Cleansers and its impressive sign are now long gone, although the building remains. The business served generations of customers during the second half of the twentieth century.

**MARQUIS CLEANSERS Inc.**

*All Work Done In Our Own Plant*

102 Broadway, Salem

Pioneer 4-5135



PICK-UP and DELIVERY  
ALTERATIONS - FUR STORAGE  
SHIRTS

26 Hersey St.  
Salem, Mass.

Pioneer  
4-5135

Adélarde Marquis was the seventh of eighteen children born to Alexandre Marquis (1874-1936) and Rosanna Parent (1876-1945). They were married in Salem on 16 September 1895. Theirs was one of Salem's many large Franco-American families.

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Alphonse (1896-1976)    | 10. Yvonne (1908-1991)      |
| 2. Bernadette (1898-1948)  | 11. Marie-Eva (1909-1975)   |
| 3. Délia (1899-1900)       | 12. Imelda (1911-2000)      |
| 4. Emilie (1900-1904)      | 13. Délia-Clara (1913-1996) |
| 5. Amanda (1901-1988)      | 14. J.-Arthur (1914-1985)   |
| 6. Marie-Alice (1903-1903) | 15. Evelyn (1916-2000)      |
| 7. ADÉLARD (1904-1957)     | 16. Cécile (1918-1972)      |
| 8. Albert (1905-1949)      | 17. Lillian (1921-2004)     |
| 9. John (1906-1907)        | 18. Bella (1923-2002)       |

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### **Cartier & Pelletier, Hook Manufacturers**

The opening of the Cartier & Pelletier firm in 1899 attracted much attention by the press. Headlines read "Fish Hooks to Be Manufactured in This City – Hooks to Catch Anything From Fish to Bear – Elaborate Machinery Used – Large Orders Secured."

By the fall of 1899, Jacob Cartier and Arthur Pelletier had already secured patent rights "in no less than 10 different countries in the world" including the United States and Canada, as well as England, Germany and France. They offered "all kinds of fish hooks of the finest grade."

Jacob Cartier (1868-1928), the son of Joseph Cartier and Adéline Liret-dit-Rochefort, was born in Scarborough, Maine, and resided in Biddeford until coming to Salem. He was married at St-Hippolyte in Wottonville, PQ in 1890 to Mathilda Caouette. Arthur-Georges Pelletier (1871-1913), the son of Pierre Pelletier and Malvina Bois, was born in Québec city and came to Salem at an early age. He was married in Salem in 1897 to Victoria Trent.

The partners secured the entire second floor and basement of a large building on Central Street in the rear of the Phoenix Block. Two dozen new machines were installed, along with the necessary shafting and pulleys, at a cost of \$5,000. The machines included "dial feeders, double and triple presses, three drills, four riveting discs, wedging machines, millers, rotary shears, planers, turners, etc., all of which are automatic feeders." Production was expected to begin on 13 November 1899 with some 30 employees. The firm had "already received an order for 100,000 of the hooks for delivery in Boston and 50,000 for Canada."

“The fish hook is, on general principles, a patent spring hook. A bait hook occupies the centre of the line shank. On this shank is a wing guide. [If] a fish so much as nibbles at the bait hook, the spring hooks fly down as quick as a flash...”

In addition to these fish hooks, in all sizes, others were made for the trapping of seal, mink, bear, and other wildlife. The firm also manufactured “salvage leaders” for looms in the mills, as well as “hand guards” of asbestos.

Production continued for a decade until the firm was dissolved in April of 1909. Arthur Pelletier died in Salem on 5 August 1913, and Jacob Cartier in Saco, Maine on 4 May 1928. A century later, in September of 2012, a single Spring Trap Fish Hook by Cartier & Pelletier of Salem was offered at auction with a starting bid of \$599.99!



## **Père A.-Aimé Deschamps, A.A. (1915-1970)**

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Salem native Aimé Deschamps, a priest and scholar who left us too soon.

### **Parents and Family**

J.-Aldéric Deschamps (1860-1918) was born at St-Paul-l’Ermite, PQ. After his studies at the Académie Archambault in Montréal, he settled in Brockton, MA in 1878. Two years later he married Amanda Richard (1860-1895) and the couple would have eight children. Aldéric established a successful business dealing in hay, wood and coal, and became a licensed Justice of the Peace. Amanda died in 1895 at the age of 35, leaving Aldéric with their four surviving children.

Aldéric remarried on 12 January 1897 to Marie-Eugénie Rainville (1870-1931), the sister of Père Georges-Alphonse Rainville (1858-1920), then pastor of Sacré-Coeur. The couple would have nine children, including twin boys who died in infancy. Père Rainville was appointed pastor of St-Joseph in Salem in 1904. Three years later, Aldéric sold his business and moved his family to Salem.

Aldéric found employment with Paul-N. Chaput (1862-1945), a realtor and insurance agent and publisher of *Le Courrier de Salem*. He soon became an active member of many Franco-American organizations as well as a director of *Le Courrier*. He died on 3 February 1918 at the age of 57, leaving a widow and 11 children.

## Youth

Joseph-Alphonse-Aimé was born in Salem on 4 August 1915, the youngest of the Deschamps children. He was only two when his father Aldéric died, and four when his uncle Père Rainville died. A greater loss came in 1931 when, at the age of 16, his mother died on Christmas Eve.

Aimé was a student at Assumption College in Worcester and was said to have had a “remarkable intellectual capacity” when he graduated in 1937. He joined the Augustinians of the Assumption (Assumptionist Fathers) in Bergerville, PQ and was sent to France for studies in philosophy and theology. Immediately upon his return to Salem on 6 July 1942 he went to stay with his brother Ernest Deschamps (1901-1963) and his wife Marguerite Morin (1902-1983) at their 11 Dow street home. Marguerite was the sister of Marie-Jeanne Morin (1899-1993), then Sr Hélène-Joseph, S.S.Ch., of Loring Villa. Later that week the Salem Evening News described Aimé’s “years of intensive study, under adverse conditions and under the scourge of war”, saying in part:

Mr. Deschamps left Salem in October [1937] and first went to Agen in Southern France where he stayed for one year, then leaving for Metz for two more years of study, leaving there in August [1940]. When the war broke, the Salemite was in Paris and saw the bombing of the capital, watching with awe the bombs landing on hangars, also on big oil supplies, which sent bursts of black clouds 400 feet into the air. Mr. Deschamps stayed in Paris until the Nazis broke through and then, amidst great confusion and bewilderment, left for southern France. All trains were packed and every station in which Deschamps landed, he found that the Nazis were directly behind, capturing railroad stations all along the way. Bombers roared overhead and there was but little food or water available. For 36 hours he was on the train. After this weariness and confusion, the train finally landed in Rodez, where he was searched and questioned at length by French gendarmes who placed him under suspicion as a fifth columnist, due to his clerical garb, which was unlike the robes worn by French priests. Continuing to Massif Central, Deschamps and his fellow students with him found that these mountain ranges were completely surrounded by German troops who were swarming in from all directions, occupying all towns and territories. He spent the summer at Chanac until the armistice and then in October he went to Nimes to continue his studies for two years.

He left France May 22 [1942] and went to Lisbon where he stayed two weeks waiting for the boat which was late. He spent 17 days in Lisbon and finally got on the ship on June 20 and had to remain on the boat two days before it sailed to America. It arrived in New York after eight uneventful days on the Atlantic...there being a total of 941 passengers. On arrival in New York, Mr. Deschamps stated he was highly pleased at the thoroughness in which the FBI investigated all passengers. For five days he had to remain in New York, while they checked his family, his past history and work in Europe.

### **Priesthood**

Aimé Deschamps went to Bergerville, PQ where he was ordained on Sunday 26 July 1942, and returned to Salem to celebrate his first Solemn High Mass in St-Joseph's church the following Sunday. After completing his theological studies in Bergerville, he was assigned to a parish in New York from 1944 to 1949. While Superior of the community in Maryland in 1950 and 1951 he earned his Master of Library Science degree from the Catholic University in Washington, DC. He was then named librarian of Assumption College in Worcester in 1951 and was editor of the college magazine. Following the devastating tornado of 1953 he rebuilt the library, and in 1961 was named Director of Alumni Affairs. Père Aimé celebrated his Silver Jubilee at the college chapel on 30 July 1967 among a large number of relatives and friends.

His final assignment was to the Provincial House in New York City where he was librarian and archivist as well as editor of the Provincial Bulletin. While here, he translated the works of Père Émmanuel d'Alzon, (1810-1880) founder of the Order. On 22 January 1970, now 54 years of age, Père Aimé suffered a sudden and fatal heart attack. He was buried five days later from the chapel of the Assumption College in Worcester. He was to have received the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the college on 10 October of that year, and so it was accepted by his brother Charles Deschamps (1911-1972). It was said that he was "outstanding in his personal interest in and dedication to all the men and women that he was called upon to serve. He loved people..." A bronze plaque bearing his likeness hangs on the wall of the college library to perpetuate his memory.



### **Joseph and Addie**

One couple gained the attention of Salem residents a century ago, not for any heroic achievements, but for their quiet and exemplary lives which ended so suddenly.

Joseph-F. Gagnon (1857-1920) came to Salem from St-André, Kamouraska, PQ. He was married in St-Joseph's church, Salem, on 11 September 1877 to Adéline "Addie" Jackson (1858-1920), a native of Québec City. Four generations of the Jackson family had been married in Québec's Notre-Dame cathedral. They were descendants of Louis Jacson-dit-Jolibois and Madeleine Fleury of the parish of Ste-Marguerite in Paris.

Thirteen children were born to Joseph and Addie; five died at a young age, but eight sons survived. They were said to be "all well known, and upright young men living in Salem, two of them having served their country loyally." One was a veteran of the Spanish-American War, and one a veteran of World War I.



Joseph-Alexis (1878-1929)	married Marie-A. Turcotte (1886-1928)
Isidore-Napoléon (1880-1923)	married Delima Therrien (1886-1958)
François-Exanture (1882-1946)	married Rosie Armstrong (1887-1972)
Alexis-Théophile (1887-1924)	married Elise Delisle (1887-1979)
Napoléon-François (1888-1955)	married Eulalie St-Pierre (1890-1973)
Delphis-Georges (1891-1972)	married Anna-L. Gagnon (1895-1965)
Eusébe-Joseph (1892-1953)	(single)
Henri-Paul (1894-1973)	married Eva-M. Audet (1906-1995)

Joseph Gagnon supported his family by working as a painting contractor. His wife Addie “was a home lover, and was never so happy as when with her family.” In fact, the press marveled at the closeness of the family. “It would be hard indeed to find a more united family, all being deeply attached to one another.”

Joseph became ill in January of 1920 and was confined to his home at 10 Prince Street. His condition worsened over the next eight months, and he died on Monday night September 6<sup>th</sup>. It was his 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday. On Wednesday, Addie was said to be “as well as usual” until suffering a severe shock. She died that night at the age of 62. Joseph and Addie’s lives had closed within two days of one another. A double funeral was held in St-Joseph’s church on Saturday, the very day of their 43<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary.

The Salem Evening News paid them tribute in a simple statement which spoke for all who knew them: “They were lovely and pleasant in their lives and, in their death, they were not divided.”

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## **Nights at the Drive-In**

Many summer nights in the 1950s were spent watching movies from behind the dashboard of a car. Drive-Ins could be found locally in Lynn, Saugus and Gloucester. One was even proposed for Salem’s Highland Avenue in 1954, but was never built. But the Route 114 Drive-In Theatre at 230 South Main Street in Middleton on the Danvers line, which closed 35 years ago, was the last to survive. It was managed by Salem natives George Arpin and Philip Gallant.

Called “Greater Salem’s first open air theatre” and the “most modern drive-in theatre in the east”, it held its Grand Opening on Wednesday night 25 April 1956. A parade preceded the film, and all proceeds of that night were donated to charity. The three-screen theatre was situated on a 19-acre property with a capacity for 1,100 cars. It boasted “five separate entrance lanes to eliminate waiting” as well as specific exit roads to avoid traffic jams. It was “the first in New England to be equipped with in-car heaters for the convenience and comfort of patrons.” In addition, the

year-round theatre had a “thermostatically controlled” concession stand, clean modern rest rooms, and even a “playground” for children under 12, who were admitted free of charge.

Manager Georges-Henri Arpin (1916-1984) was born in Salem, the son of William Arpin and Florina Jodoin. His wife Dolores-Rose (1931-2004) was born in Salem, the daughter of Alfred Sansoucy/Jefferson and Rose-Anna Pelletier.

Manager Philip-J. Gallant (1925-1989) was born in Salem, the son of John Gallant and Denise Gallant. His wife Lucienne (1927-2003) was born in Salem, the daughter of Joseph Fraser and Yvonne Roy.

Managers Arpin and Gallant often screened French motion pictures and took advertisements in the Salem papers. One such film was the thriller “Diabolique”, voted best foreign film of the year by the New York Times. Arpin and Gallant used publicity gimmicks that were imaginative and effective for drawing crowds. “Patrons are requested not to reveal the ending and will sign a contractual agreement of their good faith upon entering the theatre. Also, the theatre will stand ready with ambulance and attendant to take care of patrons who cannot ‘take it’”.

The theatre hosted “generations of local residents”. Some recalled “methods of getting into the movies without paying, and the fear they felt of being caught in the dark by an attendant with a flashlight.”

By 1985, its days were numbered. It was then said that drive-ins were “on their way out”, and that was to be the last summer for the 30-year-old theatre. A new shopping center was scheduled to be built on its site, with construction beginning in the spring of 1986.

Both George Arpin and Philip Gallant of Salem had served as managers of the theatre for its entire 30 years... and Gallants’s wife Lucienne was cashier!

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### **À la mémoire de Claire (1930-2020)**

She was internationally renowned as a scholar, researcher, professor, author and lecturer – *la grande dame franco-américaine*. But as a member of the Franco-American Institute of Salem, she was a devoted friend and loyal supporter.

Claire Quintal was born in Central Falls, RI on 28 April 1930. She earned her degrees from Anna Maria College (B.A., 1952), the University of Montréal (M.A., 1958), and the *Université de Paris* (Ph.D., 1961). The French government awarded her the title of *Chevalier de la Légion d’honneur* in 1990. Numerous awards and honorary doctorates came her way, but her greatest

pride and joy was the creation of the French Institute which she founded at Assumption College in Worcester in 1979.

Dr Quintal was an ardent promoter of the faith, language and culture of Franco-Americans, and she pledged her full support to groups and individuals striving to do the same. Immediately upon hearing of the incorporation of the F.A.I.S., Claire became a member (#70). She wasted no time in writing an article specifically for *La Revue de Salem*, "*Survie et Survivance*", which was published in December of 2006. She was passionate and exuberant, and her elegant writing always employed *le mot juste*. She quickly acknowledged its publication in a note: "*Cher Michel, Merci d'avoir publié mon texte*" – "Dear Michel, Thank you for having published my text". Claire later enrolled a number of her friends in the F.A.I.S., and requested that each issue of *La Revue de Salem* be deposited in the archives of the French Institute for posterity.

One recollection is particularly memorable. Claire was being honored at a reception some 15 years ago, and many guests had gathered. What a surprise it was to hear her distinctive voice call out, "*Oh, c'est Michel!*" She took me by the arm and guided me into a nearby office, saying "*On va parler où c'est plus tranquille*" – "We'll talk where it's quieter." She was warm and gracious as always. She wanted to know about the progress of the F.A.I.S., and she expressed her continued support and encouragement. After a quarter-hour, when reminded of her other guests, she said simply "*Ils vont m'attendre*" – "They'll wait for me." Such was her concern for the F.A.I.S.

Her substantial correspondence with the F.A.I.S. over the years was always inspiring. "*J'ai appris bien des choses sur les Francos de Salem*" – "I learned many things about the Francos of Salem." Or, "*J'admire votre travail en faveur des nôtres*" – "I admire your work on behalf of our people." And, "*Cher ami, Bravo, comme toujours, pour ton excellent travail, toujours intéressant à lire*" – "Dear friend, Bravo, as always, for your excellent work, always interesting to read." Surprised when the name of one of her family members appeared in our journal, Claire wrote at length as she reminisced with much joy. And when word of a death was received, she was quick to offer her personal condolences, saying "*Je prie pour le repos de l'âme de ta mère bien-aimée*" – "I pray for the repose of the soul of your beloved mother." One can only marvel at her boundless energy and the vastness of her correspondence, even as she approached her 90<sup>th</sup> year. In one of her final messages to the F.A.I.S., she wrote "*Merci du fond du coeur de tes bons vœux...et longue vie à La Revue de Salem*" – "Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your good wishes...and long life to *La Revue de Salem*."

Dr Claire Quintal died in Worcester on 30 April 2020, only two days after her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. "She was loyal and devoted, a generous and endearing friend, a proud Franco-American woman who enjoyed life and her death will be grieved as a major loss."

*Adieu, chère amie!*

## A Monastic Interlude



For a brief time, forty years ago, Ste-Anne's parish was home to a monastery.

The convent at 9 Cleveland Street had been vacant since the closing of Ste-Anne's School in June of 1976. Shortly after, in September of 1978, a new order of contemplative monks was admitted into the Archdiocese of Boston. This was the Order of Penitents of St. Francis of Assisi. Père Herbert-J. Léger, pastor of Ste-Anne's, entered into negotiations with the community in 1979.

A new sign appeared over the door of the former convent in 1980. It read simply: "Monastery of the Holy Trinity". Father William-J. Driscoll, abbot, and two brothers were the first to arrive. They were soon joined by five more brothers who completed the eight-member community. The group included Frère Giles Goyette and Frère Girard Trottier, along with Brothers Kevin Beaton, Joseph Christianson, Richard Henning, Felix Lojakono, and Erastus Snylyk.

The monastery chapel was open daily for adoration, and all were welcomed here for daily Mass and the chanting of the Divine Office. The monks visited hospitals and nursing homes, and conducted a public Benediction and Night Prayer in the church every Tuesday evening. They gratefully accepted donations of food, but it was emphasized that the community "abstains from pastries and sweets".

Although the monastery thrived during 1980 and 1981, the monks left Salem to settle in their Motherhouse in Petersham, MA. One member of the Salem community, Père Giles Goyette, was ordained to the priesthood in 1982. Later, the monks became affiliated with the Order of Maronites.

In 1982, after the departure of the monks, five Sisters of Ste-Chrétienne returned to their former convent to continue their work in the parish. These were Sisters Marilyn Condé, Pauline Fortin, Annette Gagnon, Noëlla Langlois and Florence Marcaurelle.

The monastery, unique in Salem's history, existed for but two short years. The work accomplished by the monks and their great kindness will long be remembered.

## **L'Académie St-Joseph**

### **Part VIII**

Sr Jeanne-d'Arc-Marie (Jeanne Poirier) became Superior of the convent in 1975. Soon, rumors began to circulate that the parish was in financial difficulty and that it was considering the closure of its schools. The pastor, Père Arthur-I. Bergeron, addressed the Club Richelieu Salem in May of 1977 saying: "If the parish wants these schools open, we will maintain them and provide the education." The rumor had been put to rest and, once again, the future of Catholic education in the parish was assured.

French was "alive and well" in the spring of 1978 as students again prepared for the annual *Concours national de Français* (National French Contest). It was stressed that the school provided an "intensive study [program] with emphasis on language competence, both written and oral", and that this was offered by "teachers whose native language is French."

Teachers, parents and students took pride in their parish schools which were known for their continued excellence. But no one was prepared for the storm which was about to begin.

[to be continued]

### **Les anciens élèves de l'Académie**

[Correction: In our last issue (page 13), the heading "Class of 1976" should read "Class of 1974". We apologize for the error.]

<b>Class of 1976</b>	Pelletier, Catherine	Hudson, Lédia
Bédard, Marielle	Purcell, Norman	Lamarre, Linda
Berberian, Hykanoush	Soucy, Virginia	Lévesque, Robert
Bouchard, Jeanne	Suzuki, Keiko	Martineau, Michael
Deschênes, Roger	Thibodeau, Kathleen	Plourde, Roger
Gauthier, Edith	Tremblay, Cynthia	Prisby, Pamela
Grenier, Carolyn	Uchida, Kyoko	Shibayama, Kazue
Hudson, Denise	Yanagiya, Tamaki	Sirois, Maryan
Jacques, Raymond		Thompson, Carmen
Jalbert, Janet	<b>Class of 1977</b>	Tremblay, Linda
Languirand, Donne	Ahearn, Maureen	Ueda, Keiko
Marquis, Raymond	Bane, Marguerite	Walsh, Susan
Ouellette, Ann	Bédard, Joseph	
Ouellette, Daniel	Chouinard, Richard	
Ouellette, Patricia	Haché, Cécile	

**Class of 1978**

Bédard, Philip  
Bouchard, Ann-M.  
Caron, Cynthia  
Cloutier, Cherri  
Deschênes, André  
Gagnon, Ernest  
Gauthier, Mark

Grasso, Elizabeth-A.  
Hudson, Gisèle  
Labrecque, David  
LaPointe, David  
LaPointe, Johanne  
Lausier, Roger  
LeBrun, Debra

Lévesque, Laura  
Martineau, Claudette  
Morneau, Céleste  
Normand, Susan  
Nowlan, James  
Purcell, Donald  
Sauvageau, Laurie  
White, Marsha

## **Castle Hill 125 Years Ago**

A Growing Community.  
The French Settlement at Castle Hill  
Shows Signs of Prosperity.

Old residents of Salem who take notice of the changes in the city and outlying grounds note with interest the growth of the French settlement at Castle hill. The first house was put up only a few years ago, and now there is a village there, with stores, and other accessories of separate communities. The city has extended water pipes, and electric lights have been provided. For a long time the only approach was by the overhead bridge [on Ocean Avenue] leading by the Association factory, but now the [Jefferson Avenue] street by the side of the Mill pond is in good shape, so that most of the teams go that way. Considerable attention has been given to the few streets in the settlement itself during the last year.

Pretty new cottages have been put up within two years, and their owners evidently take pride in keeping the property in good shape, as the surroundings are in most cases neat, and there is a notable absence of the filth and rubbish seen around the tenement district at the "Point."

A good many of the residents work in the cotton mills, and in several instances they have accumulated money enough to buy land and build their own house at Castle hill. Land is in good demand now, as a number of new houses are projected.

There are several large tenement houses, but most of the dwellers seem inclined to build a cosy cottage, just big enough for one family.

-The Salem Evening New, Friday, 28 June 1895, page 8.

## *Traditions*

### **No. 22: "La Sainte-Catherine"**

*D-. Michel Michaud, #1*

St. Catherine's Day or "*la Sainte-Catherine*", celebrated exactly one month before Christmas, once brought much joy to the children of Québec. Although a minor feast on the Church calendar, its secular observance gained widespread popularity.

St. Catherine of Alexandria was martyred about the year 305 A.D. for refusing to marry Emperor Maximinus II. By the 10<sup>th</sup> century her feast day was fixed on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Devotion to Ste-Catherine increased during the Middle Ages, a time when it became customary to crown the statue of a saint on his or her feast day. In Normandy, France, the honor of crowning Ste-Catherine was reserved for unmarried women who now regarded her as their patroness. The expression "*coiffer la Sainte-Catherine*" (to dress the hair of St. Catherine) dates back to this time. Those who wanted a husband were urged to pray to Ste-Catherine and, in fact, many weddings were celebrated on her feast day. Eventually, single women in France began to "crown" one another with outlandish hats on that day. Even today, French milliners hold an annual parade or fashion show on November 25<sup>th</sup> to present their new line of womens' hats!

A very different development occurred in Québec. Ste-Marguerite Bourgeois (1620-1700) founded the *Congrégation-de-Notre-Dame* in *Ville-Marie* (now Montréal) in 1659. According to legend, it was on November 25<sup>th</sup> that she first began teaching, and so she observed that day each year with a celebration for her students. Because candy was such a rare treat in New France, she made a molasses taffy which she distributed to the children. This sweet confection became known as "*la tire*" from the action of "pulling" the warm taffy.

By the 19<sup>th</sup> century the day had become a school holiday in Québec, and evening gatherings or *veillées* took place in many homes. Women spent the day preparing a feast, and children took part in making *la tire* for the guests. Families visited, there was singing and dancing, and single girls were allowed to offer *la tire* to eligible boys of their choosing. The celebration also marked the end of the fall harvest season. The Advent season, a time of fasting, began on the following Sunday; this would mark the beginning of the winter season.

"*La tire Ste-Catherine*" appears to have first been sold commercially in Montréal in 1881 by Louis-Henri Bélanger (1858-1896). Today, the store-bought confection is readily available throughout Québec.

Here in Salem, Sisters who taught in our Franco-American schools related the story of Sainte-Catherine to their students on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Then, they tossed wrapped candies into the classroom as children scurried across the floor to retrieve all the sweet treats. This tradition survived here into the late 1950s and early 1960s, and perhaps later. Today, this much-loved childrens' holiday is only a memory.

## **Le Courrier de Salem**

### **Events of a century ago in Salem's Franco-American Newspaper September- December 1920**

#### **Societies**

- Salem attorney Joseph-F. Pelletier has organized *La Ligue Républicaine franco-américaine de la Nouvelle-Angleterre*.

#### **Politics**

- Émile Brunet has been elected councilor of Ward Three, and Omer Thériault councilor of Ward Five

#### **Families and People**

- Ubalde de Grandpré and Malvina Mongeau were married at St-Pierre-de-Sorel on 25 October 1920.
- Dr Albert-E. LeMarbre and Yvonne Audet were married in Salem on 25 November 1920.
- Among the couples married in 1895 and celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversaries are: Émile Lévesque and Marie-A. Lapointe (29 September), Joseph Morin and Joséphine Plante (22 October), Victor Corbin and Aurise Bousquet (24 November), Amédée Bousquet and Marie Michaud (24 November), and Charles Brisbois and Ernestine Plourde (25 November).
- Gilbert Tardif and Julie Gagnon are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They were married at St-Arsène, PQ on 20 November 1870.
- Emma Jacques of Salem, wife of Charles Thibodeau, died at Ivry-sur-Seine, France, on 4 October 1920 at the age of 51.
- Pierre Pelletier, proprietor of the Castle Hill General Store and widower of Malvina Bois, died on 27 October 1920 at the age of 78. A native of St-André, Kamouraska, he had lived in Salem since 1868.
- James Chalifour, proprietor of the North Street Arena and husband of Démerise Côté, died on 1 December 1920 at the age of 58.

#### **Music**

- Salem pianist Marie-Laure Audet has been elected president of her class at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.
- The Blais Family Orchestra, comprised of nine brothers and sisters, will give a concert in Salem in January.

#### **Entertainment**

- The *Cercle Dramatique* of Lowell will perform a French play in Salem.



## Genealogies

### Jackson

Louis Jacson-dit-Jolibois & Madeleine Fleury  
of Ste-Marguerite, Paris, France

- I Antoine Jacson-dit-Jolibois & Marguerite Chamberland (Étienne & Madeleine Lognon)  
Notre-Dame-de-Québec, 14 Feb 1757
- II Antoine Jacson & Angélique Fournier (Eméry & Marguerite Guénet)  
Notre-Dame-de-Québec, 30 Jan 1781
- III Prisque Jackson & Julie Rousseau (François & Marguerite Fraser)  
Notre-Dame-de-Québec, 26 Jan 1813
- IV Isidore Jackson & Philomène Maxwell (Martin & Adélaïde Germani)  
Notre-Dame-de-Québec, 15 Jun 1857
- V Adéline "Addie" Jackson & Joseph-F. Gagnon (Alexis & Adèle Gagnon)  
Salem, MA, 11 Sep 1877

### Marquis

Charles LeMarquis & Jeanne Bignon  
of Mortagne-sur-Sèvre, Poitou (Vendée), France

- I Charles Marquis & Agnès Giguère (Robert & Aimée Miville)  
Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré, 7 Jan 1698
- II Charles-Frs. Marquis & M.-Anne Boucher (Pierre-Galeran & M.-Anne Michaud)  
Ct. Étienne Janneau (Kamouraska), 20 Jan 1724
- III Joseph-Marie Marquis & M.-Françoise Côté (Prisque & Ursule Bernier)  
Trois-Pistoles, 27 Oct 1752
- IV Alexandre Marquis & Geneviève St-Laurent (Joseph & Reine Côté)  
Trois-Pistoles, 27 Aug 1792
- V François Marquis & Lucille Petit (Antoine & Marguerite Grandmaison)  
Isle-Verte, 10 Jan 1820
- VI Jean-Baptiste Marquis & Louisa Larouche (Hubert & Louisa Michaud)  
Cacouna, 22 Aug 1853
- VII Alexandre "Alexis" Marquis & Roseanna Parent (Thomas & Catherine Lemieux)  
Salem, MA, 16 Sep 1895

## Décès

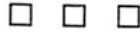
*Aux familles éprouvées par le décès d'un membre cher,  
l'Institut franco-américain de Salem offre ses plus sincères condoléances.*

Janet-L. (David) AUDESSE, 85 ans, 23 février 2020 • Patty-L. (Michaud) BEAULIEU, 56 ans, 10 mars 2020 • Nancy (Tollo) BEAUSOLEIL, 78 ans, 29 avril 2020 • Raymond BEAUSOLEIL, 76 ans, 10 mai 2020 • Sr Marie St. Henry, SND (Lorraine BÉDARD), 90 ans, 9 mai 2020 • Odile (Field) BERTRAND, 88 ans, 27 mars 2020 • Donna-M. (Vallée), BOUDREAU, 73 ans, 12 avril 2020 • Louise-M. (Bouchard) CASHMAN, 79 ans, 8 février 2020 • Linda (Pappalardo) CHARBONNEAU, 66 ans, 12 février 2020 • Richard-J. CLAVEAU, 72 ans, 4 mai 2020 • Jacqueline-L. (Deschênes) COLANTO, 89 ans, 21 avril 2020 • Rita-B. (Turcotte) CONWELL, 95 ans, 21 mai 2020 • Claudette DANJOU, 79 ans, 2 mars 2020 • Eugène-P. DESCHÊNE, 82 ans, 10 février 2020 • Sandra (Johnson) DESJARDINS, 83 ans, 13 avril 2020 • Jane-E. (Doyle) DIONNE, 85 ans, 10 avril 2020 • Thérèse-G. (Ouellette) FINLEY, 96 ans, 12 avril 2020 • Jacqueline-L. (Bouley) FONTANA, 89 ans, 19 avril 2020 • Mary-E. (Hurley) FONTAINE, 96 ans, 7 avril 2020 • Albert-H. FOURNIER, 72 ans, 27 mai 2020 • Helen-T. (Dziewguc) GAGNON, 96 ans, 26 février 2020 • Richard-J. GAGNON, 70 ans, 13 mars 2020 • Ernest-J. GALLANT, 72 ans, 30 avril 2020 • Evelyn-L. (Lord) GAUDRAULT (#167), 83 ans, 7 mai 2020 • Collette-G. (Tremblay) GORMLEY, 82 ans, 12 avril 2020 • Edna-Rose (Hudon) JUDD, 87 ans, 26 février 2020 • Gloria (Thériault) KEFALAS, 85 ans, 26 avril 2020 • Mary-Thérèse (Labonté) TAYLOR, 81 ans, 30 avril 2020 • James-A. LETARTE, 86 ans, 8 avril 2020 • Lucille-T. (Charron) LÉVESQUE, 93 ans, 2 avril 2020 • Sr Marie-Charles, S.S.Ch. (Thérèse MARCEAU), 92 ans, 16 avril 2020 • Claire (Dansreau) MELVILLE, 70 ans, 23 février 2020 • Raymond-R. MICHAUD, 83 ans, 30 mars 2020 • Helen (Bartnicki) MIGNAULT, 93 ans, 27 avril 2020 • Rita PELLETIER, 94 ans, 11 février 2020 • Dr Claire QUINTAL (#70), 90 ans, 30 avril 2020 • Margaret (Pelletier) RAYMOND, 67 ans, 26 avril 2020 • Rita-L. (Martineau) RAYMOND, 77 ans, 31 mai 2020 • Barbara-A. (Tardiff) ROCHON, 82 ans, 23 mai 2020 • Gertrude-M. (Languirand) ST-PIERRE, 93 ans, 29 mai 2020 • Constance-M. (Pelletier) SANFORD, 82 ans, 27 avril 2020 • Carol-A. (Dionne) SMITH, 71 ans, 27 avril 2020 • Helen-V. (Bourgoin) TANGUAY, 87 ans, 20 avril 2020 • William-A. THÉRIAULT, 90 ans, 16 mai 2020 • Joan-M. (Doucette) THIBAUT, 87 ans, 26 mai 2020 • Yvonne-N. (Bertrand) TOOMEY, 94 ans, 13 février 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.*



Programme de concert à la salle *Academy Hall*, Salem, lundi le 24 novembre 1913, par les élèves de Mme Napoléon Demers, née Eugénie Ménard (1876-1950).

Florence Ménard, violoniste, Bernadette Ménard, soprano, et M. J.-A. Demers, basse, ont participé avec les 16 étudiants de piano.

Mme Demers était organiste de l'église Ste-Anne de 1902 à 1917, suivie par son élève Rosanna (Tardif) Lévesque de 1917 à 1967.

### **Les élèves:**

Diana Blanchette  
Lillian Brunet  
Alice Champagne  
Béatrice Champagne  
Lauretta Demers  
Dolphis Demeule  
Alice Deroy  
Blanche Desjardins  
Lucienne Gagnon  
Blanche Lambert  
Annie L'Italien  
Rita Matton  
Ernestine Ménard  
Marie Ouellette  
Yvonne Richard  
Rosanna Tardif



ACADEMY HALL

24 NOV. 1913

### **... Concert ...**



— Par les —

Elèves de Madame Napoléon Demers

Avec le Concours de

Mlle FLORENCE MENARD, ..... Violoniste

Mlle BERNADETTE MENARD, ..... Soprano

M. J. A. DEMERS, ..... Basse

## *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

Telephone: 1-781-592-1425

Email: [francosalem@yahoo.com](mailto:francosalem@yahoo.com)

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

### **Officers 2020-2021**

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Nelson-L. Dionne, Vice President

John M. Kobuszewski, Treasurer

Judith Ware, Secretary

### **Directors**

Janet Lettich (*exp. 2020*)

Dorothy Morneau (*exp. 2021*)

Atty. Élisabeth-M. LeBrun (*exp. 2022*)

### **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.