

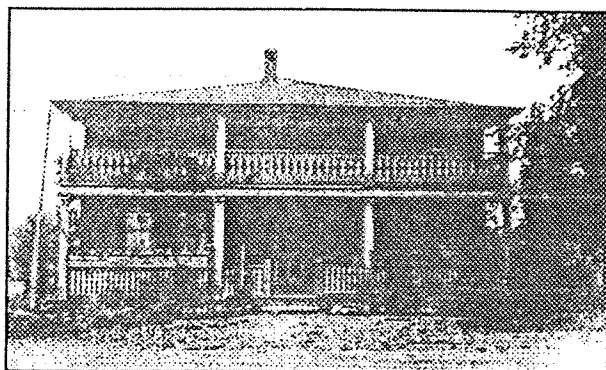
# THE GEORGEVILLE ENTERPRISE

Vol I No 1

AN OCCASIONAL PUBLICATION OF

SPRING SUMMER 1992

Société d'histoire de Georgeville / Georgeville Historical Society



The "Levi Bigelow Hotel" built in 1823 and torn down in 1945

MONTREAL, OCTOBER 31, 1823

Travellers to the Townships will hereafter find better accommodations at Stanstead Landing than formerly. The public owe this improvement to Messrs. PEASLY & COPP, who at considerable expense have erected a large and comfortable Inn, and procured a person to conduct it. We mention this because we think their enterprise deserves notice; and as we have personally suffered for the want of comfortable quarters, when in that country, from which we were relieved by the kind hospitality of Mr. PEASLEY.

*Times*

## Magog Hotel

E. Rockwood

Respectfully informs the Public, that he has taken, and at great expense furnished the above, (Tavern Stand lately built by Messrs Peasly & Copp) which is now ready for the reception of Company and ardently solicits the patronage of the Public, assuring all who shall please to favor him with their Company that no assiduity or attention shall be wanting on his part to merit their support and approbation.

Stanstead, Cops Ferry, Nov. 4th, 1823

*These were notices in The Colonist, a newspaper published in Stanstead from 1823 until 1831. The hotel that was advertised and is pictured above stood on the lot that is next to Mrs. Joan Murray's house.*

**THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING  
of the Georgeville Historical Society  
will take place on Saturday, July 4 at  
the MURRAY MEMORIAL CENTRE  
in Georgeville at 2:30.**

## THE GEORGEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS ORGANIZED

Lifelong Georgeville resident Mrs. Adelaide Hand Atkin says that it is "a dream come true." Mrs. Atkin has been studying the history of Georgeville a great many years. She assiduously followed the "History" column in *The Stanstead Journal* and made a great many tape-recordings of long-time Georgeville residents. She collected artifacts of all sorts. More recently, 'The Heart of a Village' group began a systematic study of houses in the village. So far they have covered 30 of the buildings that make up the village.

Now an historical society for the village of Georgeville is about to come into fruition. John Scott, whose summer and year round spiritual home is in Georgeville, writes "Georgeville is both a village and, in some measure, a state of mind. The history of 'Georgeville' is not only the story of the village and its people, but of the surrounding area whose people have historically identified themselves with the village, and cultivated an attachment to it. Generally speaking, this describes the Lake Shore extending north and south of the village from Oliver Corner to Magoon Point; and the area from Oliver Corner along the Magog Road, the East Road, the Fitch Bay Road and along Merrill Road to the Narrows on Fitch Bay." He, along with several others, thought that it was "none too soon" to begin preparing for the bicentennial of Georgeville in 1997.

Consequently, the SHG/GHS was provisionally organized. It is now incorporated, and a founding meeting will be held on Saturday, July 4, to organize the Society on a permanent basis. The Society's objectives are:

1) To research and record the history of Georgeville and its people, from the days of settlement to

*Editor's Note: The Georgeville Enterprise was published in Georgeville in the 1890s. The little we know about it is from an item in The Stanstead Journal dated November 11, 1897. It says simply "Rev. John Davis has resigned the editorship of the Georgeville Enterprise and Mr. A.W. Bullock has taken the position". If any of our readers have any information about this publication—or, better yet, a copy of it—we would be most interested.*

the present time.

2) To compile and maintain inventories of source material bearing on the history of Georgeville and its vicinity. These include:

- \* A bibliography of published and unpublished materials;

- \* An inventory of archival material, including maps; genealogies; directories, diaries, letters and reminiscences;

- \* An inventory of historic photographs of the village and its people;

- \* A catalogue of drawings, lithographs and paintings;

- \* Inventories of historic buildings and other structures, household goods, tools, clothing, equipment and machinery that illuminate changing patterns of life in the village.

3) To establish a Library and Archives to:

- \* Hold these inventories at a central place, so they are readily accessible to members of the Society and other researchers.

- \* Collect a basic library and archives bearing on the history of Georgeville;

- \* Encourage community organizations and, when appropriate, individuals to contribute contemporary records, so that we can maintain a continuing archives on the life of the Georgeville community.

4) To undertake an oral history program to record the recollections of residents of Georgeville.

5) To compile a photographic record of Georgeville and its vicinity (in addition to cataloguing existing photographs), by identifying and photographing historic structures and other subjects that should be photographed, and/or recorded on video-tape.

6) To advise and consult with the Community Association of Georgeville, and other community organizations, on historical matters; and more particularly, to help organize, in consultation with the Community Association, an exhibition program and other activities for the bicentennial of Georgeville in 1997.

7) To prepare and publish articles, booklets and other publications on the history of Georgeville, and more particularly a definitive history of Georgeville and its vicinity for the bicentennial.

8) To arrange talks, lectures, exhibitions and meetings with the object of promoting greater knowledge of the history of Georgeville among its residents and the general public.

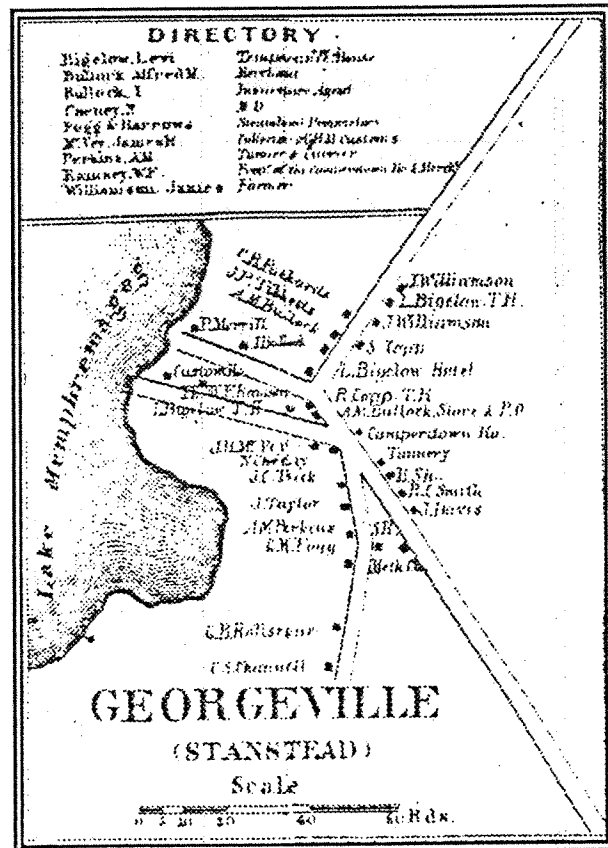
9) To consult and co-operate with other historical societies in encouraging the preservation and understanding of the historical record of Georgeville

and its people, and their contribution to the wider community of which we are a part.

10) To encourage the restoration and preservation of heritage properties.

11) To provide summer employment for students of history.

## GEORGEVILLE AS IT WAS IN 1863



To learn more about the history of our village, come to the First Annual Meeting at Murry Memorial Hall on July 4th. Annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for family memberships. There are many projects and jobs that will be productive, useful and fun. Learn about the people who lived here and the things that they did. There is much to be discovered! And it is through wide-spread community support that the SHG/GHS will thrive and be a very real asset to the community.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- When Moses Copp first settled in Georgeville in 1797, he did not own the land he settled on. He was a squatter.

- By the 1830s Georgeville was a major commercial center, far bigger and more important than Magog.

- The New Camperdown Hotel, which was built on the site of the present Community Hall and dominates so many old photographs of Georgeville, operated for only two years.

FROM THE PAGES OF THE COLONIST:

September 9, 1824

Ran away from the Subscriber, one yoke of Oxen they are certainly gone;--my daughter Peggy and I saw them four miles off, running upon a piece of level ground down a steep pitch, where dry water run out of a solid rock; if any man's man, or a muckle man's man, or a we man's man will take up said oxen, and return them to me, shall have one potatoe reward. I dont know where you will go to get your pay, for the devil has turned cow driver, killed one colt; lamed ore ankle, one young mare lamed, and took one old sow by the foretop, and dashed her brains out against the Fog Partelaw, Debt. Bailiff.

BOND LITTLE

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE:

The SHG/GHS is made up of people who have many diverse interests and skills. We need interested people to assist and bring their own skills, suggestions, enthusiasm, and expertise to the fore.

One main enterprise is the Georgeville History Project. It proposes to research the history and life of the village and its surrounding area, with a view to publishing a definitive history in time for the bicentennial. Another plan is to organize an exhibition of maps, prints, paintings and other *objets d'art* having to do with Georgeville and its environs for the bicentennial. Mary Landry is working on a photographic essay of Georgevillians and Arthur Friedman is going to photograph the village and compare it as it is today with photographs of the past.

Another goal is to involve young people and interest them is the historical background of the village. Other suggestions range from producing an historical play to planting a colonial garden. Quilters are proposing to contribute to an appropriate bicentennial quilt that commemorates the historical past of the village. There is also talk of a steam regatta. The SHG/GHS has received from *The Stanstead Journal* and the Stanstead Historical Society a complete set of *Stanstead Journals* dating from 1900. They are now being stored in boxes. We need volunteers to sort and organize them.

The SHG/GHS would like to contribute to making the bicentennial celebration a success. As one standard to aim for, for example, consider the celebration described in the next column.

From H.I. Bullock's Reminiscences in 1899

Probably the greatest day that Georgeville ever saw was the one in 1850 that witnessed the launch of the steamer "Mountain Maid". It seemed as if the crowd filled the entire basin formed by the surrounding hills and flowed over the heights in places, so great was the curiosity to behold a real steamboat. Possibly many had read or heard of steamers but not a half dozen had seen one, and this opportunity was not to be lost. Elaborate preparations had been made to ensure the success of the programme laid out. A vacant field between the two lake streets, now owned by C.H. McGowan, was chosen in which tables were erected with seats running nearly the entire width of the lot and shaded by a profusion of evergreen trees. At the entrance of each street, arches trimmed with spruce, fir and cedar, were erected, under which admittance was given to the grounds. At one side a temporary kitchen was erected of rough boards, containing a cook stove and all the accessories required in the culinary art, and in which coffee, tea, oysters, roast meats and turkeys were prepared for the hungry guests. A very large quantity of edibles, besides the above, had been contributed by the housewives of the village, and no lack of provisions was experienced... The Georgeville brass band was then in its maturity, and about 11 a.m., a procession was formed in the centre of the village headed by this organization, and to the strains of their choicest selections marched through the different streets and finally on to the banqueting grounds through one of the arched entrances. The seats were then quickly filled with invited guests... and a great onslaught was made upon the edibles which the cunning and industry of the ladies of Georgeville had provided. Then followed toasts and speeches, and for this part of the programme a generous quantity of wine had been provided. It must have been nearly three p.m. when the crowning event of the day occurred, that of the launching of the steamer, and the last tableful had hardly risen from their seats when notice was sent through the crowd to prepare for [the launching of the Mountain Maid.]

### GEORGEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### Provisional Executive

President	Jacques Valiquette
Vice Presidents	Addie Atkin, John Boynton
Secretary	Joan Murray
Librarian/Archivist	Peter Smith
Co-ordinator of the Georgeville History Project	John M. Scott

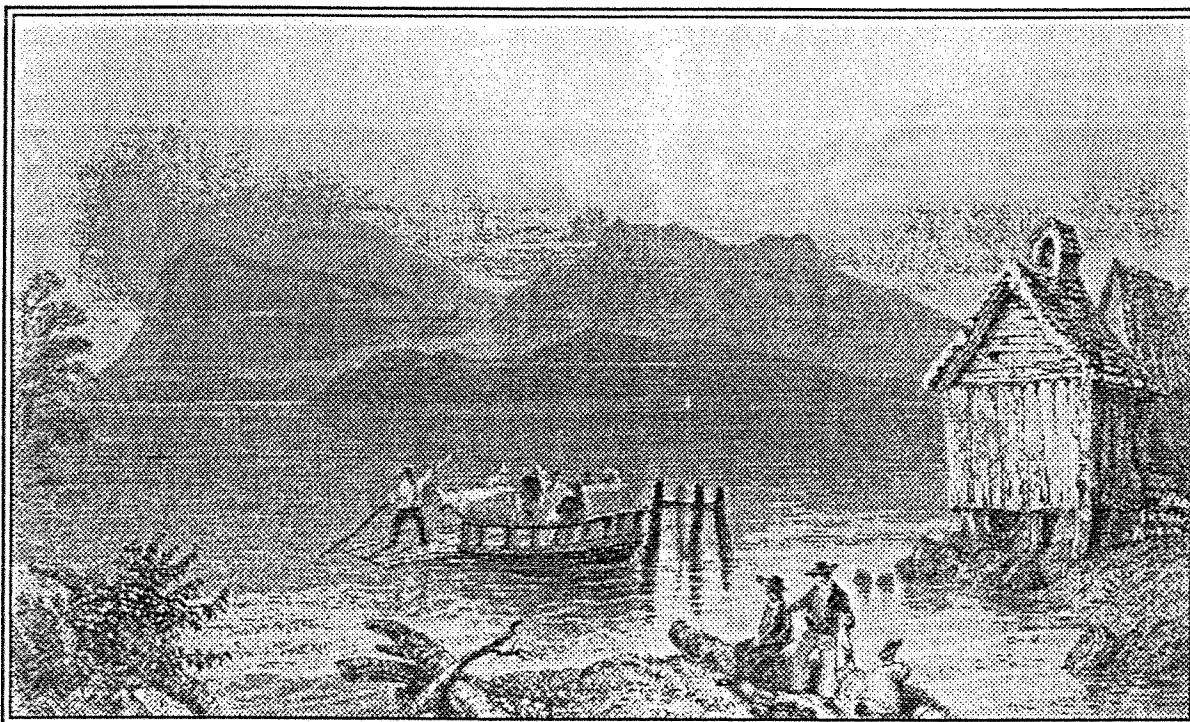
#### Directors

Jacques Boisvert	Bernard Drew
Katherine Mackenzie	Lorne MacPherson
Howard Smith	Elsie Sullivan

#### The Georgeville Enterprise

Acting Editor	Peter Smith
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## GEORGEVILLE IN THE 1830s



*Print of Copp's Ferry (Near Georgeville) by W.H. Bartlett. Bartlett made a trip to Canada in 1838. He made rough sketches which he then sent back to Europe for completion. Hence the Alpine mountains and the "Swiss Cookoo Clock" on the right.*

About the time this picture was drawn by William Bartlett, Moses Copp, the first resident of Georgeville, had died and the ferry was being operated by others. Joseph Bouchette, in his 1832 *A Topographical Dictionary of the Province of Lower Canada* lists Georgeville as Copp's Village. He says, "Georgeville, at Copp's Ferry on Lake Memphremagog, is a flourishing village in which there are, as well as in Stanstead, many tradesmen and mechanics... The settlements along the border are... in a very forward and promising state of improvement; the houses dispersed over them are well built, and are surrounded by neat well-stocked gardens, fine young orchards and every requisite convenience of rustic life." A stage line from Montreal to Stanstead via Georgeville and the ferry had been instituted. Georgeville had a fine new school, a registry office, several stores, and two inns. Joshua Copp, who along with James C. Peasley had been instrumental in bringing the stage through Georgeville, was operating a store near the site of the present Georgeville General Store.

From Joshua's ledger dated 1836-39, we have extracted a list of the sorts of items that he sold: barrels of pickled codfish, chests of tea, cook stoves, lengths of stove pipe, salt, barrels of flour, kegs of Maxwell's Tobacco, Nick Biddle Tobacco and Wimpee Tobacco

and Boden Tobacco, Bales of stout sheeting, Pulmonary Balsam, Wood Saws, good Russian Quills, barrels of ginger, gaspar, 50 lbs #9 yarn, barrels of butter, Vegetable Pills, Pills for Bile, Kegs of Gun Powder, boxes of 4x9 glass and 6x8 glass, a door handle, bars of iron, cast steel for axes, shirting, kegs of snuff, boxes of raisins, Castor Oil Butter, peppermint lozenges, peppermint drops, hoarhound candy, lemon candy, rock candy, mixed lozenges, boxes of axes, buttons, Oxford cloth, tea sets, plates, painted trays, combs, stay eyelets, men's seal hair caps, oakum, kegs of molasses, shoes, glassware, ploughs, scythes, kegs of nails, a grindstone, tar, pots & kettles, bags of coffee, saddle hooks, pad screws, and needles.

In 1839, Joshua Copp wrote to his supplier of plough points that his competitor, Mr. Bullock, was selling plough points at \$1.00 less than he could. Has Georgeville really changed that much?

THE SHG/GHS IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN LOOKING AT ANY PHOTOGRAPHS, DIARIES, REMINISCENCES, LETTERS, AND DOCUMENTS THAT PERTAIN TO GEORGEVILLE'S PAST. IF YOU SHOULD HAVE ANY IN YOUR POSSESSION, WE WOULD BE MOST HAPPY TO SEE THEM. PLEASE CALL JOHN SCOTT (843-6880), JOHN BOYNTON (843-2675) OR PETER SMITH (843-1424).