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GEORGEVILLE WOMEN WIN BATTLE IN COUNCIL BUT LOSE THEIR WAR OVER BIGELOW'S SHED

It has probably always been true that behind every successful man there is, as the saying goes, a surprised woman. But when the Stanstead County Council met in Griffin's Corner on June 11, 1850, it was the male councillors who were in for a surprise—and none more than the senior councillor, Levi Bigelow. He was the proprietor of Georgeville's Bigelow Inn and known as a man of decided views.

On the council's agenda that morning was, as Councillor Bigelow dryly observed, "something new under the sun." What was new, and rather a shock to some of the councillors, was that "the Ladies of Georgeville" had taken it upon themselves to address a petition to the council. The county council's meetings in those days usually went on for three for four days, dealing mostly with endless appeals to council to improve the county's deplorable roads. But a petition from womenfolk?

The women's grievance was, so to speak, in Bigelow's backyard. They were bothered by the carriage shed of his stage coach inn. The shed was not only unsightly, but so close to the road (the north side of Carré Copp, where the Pioneer Garden now is) that unwary passersby were apt to be drenched by rain from its eaves.

What brought matters to a head for the womenfolk was that the newly-built steamer *Mountain Maid* was scheduled to be launched in the village at the end of June, and a new wharf was being pushed out into the lake to accommodate the steamer. With Georgeville about to become a steamship port, the ladies thought the time had come for Bigelow to demolish—or at least move—his shed.

The County Council's minutes in the archives of the Stanstead Historical Society make extremely dry reading—they merely refer to "the petition of Mrs. Chapman and others" in a single sentence. But fortunately the *Stanstead Journal* captured the full flavour of the debate sparked by Levi Bigelow's shed.

Councillor Bigelow launched the debate by say-

ing he hardly know what to say about the ladies' petition—and then went right ahead and said it anyway. He was reminded, he told the council, of what an old lady had said, "that the men were fools, for if they would only stay at home, women would go a-courting." Then she lifted up her spectacles and said, "it would *sartain* come to pass."



Levi Bigelow's Union Hotel and his offending shed.
The shed is on what is now the village's Pioneer Garden.

Photo: Courtesy
Joan Murray

As far as Bigelow was concerned, matters had now certainly come to this dreadful pass. He "begged the council to keep them (the ladies) back as long as they could, for the council had to sit almost a week to receive and act on petitions from the men. If they allowed petitions to be received from the ladies, they would have to sit from one quarterly meeting to the other." And that was not all. After the next election, he supposed, the council would be composed of "at least one Lady from each Township."

To hoots of laughter, Bigelow observed that "in looking over the names of the petitioners, he found girls from ten to 14 years of age, old maids and married women," and he "called upon the Lord to protect him from this evil."

Quite apart from the women's legal standing—or lack of it, in his view—Levi protested that this was the first he had heard of the ladies' complaint. If they had come to him and told him "that

the eaves were dropping upon their delicate forms, he had so much respect and love for them that he should have been half inclined to move the shed." But in fact, he pleaded, there was nothing he could do. He had no other shed he could use for travellers' carriages, and no space on his property to move it. Besides, the law required all petitions to be signed by five freeholders, and while "the Ladies might have freeholds, they could not be recognized by this Council. (Roars of laughter)."

When Levi subsided, however, it turned out that the women were not without support around the council table. Although the councillor from Bolton was so offended by the women's petition that he got up and left the room because, he explained, he "could not stand that," the majority on the council was less alarmed by the precedent and voted to receive the petition.

The *Enterprise* is indebted to Prof. J.I. Little, the leading Eastern Townships historian, not only for calling our attention to the story of Levi Bigelow's shed, but for the following comment on the significance of the episode: "Women were often in the forefront of public demonstrations in 18th century Canada. But when the Constitutional Act of 1791 provided an elected Legislative Assembly, it accorded the vote on the basis of property qualification. Little is known about the extent to which women with property voted in the early 19th century, but some did. In 1841 Dr. Moses French Colby lost a hotly contested Legislative Assembly election to Marcus Child in Stanstead, despite—according to the county registrar, William Richie—having been supported by 'a large number of female voters.'

"But women's public status was paradoxically lowered with the rise of republicanism in the late 18th and early 19th centuries when 'the rights of man' tended to be interpreted as exactly that. As Historian Allan Greer has noted in *The Patriots and the People*, Rousseau taught that because women were necessarily associated with childbirth and nurturing, 'their orientation was with the family, a particularistic allegiance which they could not fully transcend without denying their nature.' Men, on the other hand, had a looser attachment to specific loved ones, giving them 'the potential to develop the civic virtue—the dedication to the common good—required in any healthy republic.'

"The rise of industrial capitalism during the early 19th century also ensured that the cult of female domesticity would become an increasingly powerful force as so-called productive work was increasingly separated from the home. Not a word of objection was heard in 1834 when Louis-Joseph Papineau's radical *parti Patriote* passed a bill in the Lower Canadian Assembly formally disenfranchis-

ing the small proportion of women who could vote. This legislation did not survive the Rebellion three years later, but another bill to the same effect was passed in 1849, within a year of the winning of responsible government in the Province of Canada.

"All this may seem a long way from Levi Bigelow's shed, but it was because of that humble building that the question of women's political rights rose briefly in the Stanstead County Municipal Council. While there was no formal stipulation that women who owned property did not have the right to vote at the municipal level of government, which was first established in Lower Canada in 1841, the shed incident illustrates how circumscribed women's public role had become by this time.

"The council's decision in the end to receive the petition over Bigelow's objections was obviously only a tiny victory for women's rights during an era of significant reversals. It is safe to assume that despite this precedent there was no flood of women's petitions crossing the Stanstead councillors' desks during the following years. But the women of Georgeville had successfully challenged an influential man in their community, and they had made their collective voice heard on an issue which touched the community as a whole. It would appear that they were neither as submissive nor as lacking in public influence as the popular image of Victorian womanhood would suggest."

Levi Bigelow may have lost the debate over the principle of whether the women had a right to be heard, but in the end he won the war over his carriage shed. As our photograph shows, it was still standing in the 1880s. Nor did his dispute with the ladies harm his political career. At the council's next meeting in October 1850, held in his hotel, Levi was elected as the new mayor of Stanstead County. But, of course, only the men were entitled to vote.

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Pierre de Sales Laterrière:

UNE TRAVERSÉE DU LAC EN 1788

par Bruno d'Anglejan

Parmi les nombreux sillages inconnus qui ont ridé la peau du lac Memphrémagog à l'époque où ce n'était qu'une poire malformée sur les premières ébauches de cartes (voir ci-jointe un carte de la région datant de 1788), peu ont laissé de traces dans l'histoire. Le bref écho d'un de ces randonnées ayant la fraîcheur et l'imprécision d'une première découverte et d'une lointaine réminiscence se retrouve dans les Mémoires d'un personnage fascinant du XVIII^{ème} siècle, qui relatent en quelques notes brèves sa traversée du lac nord-sud.

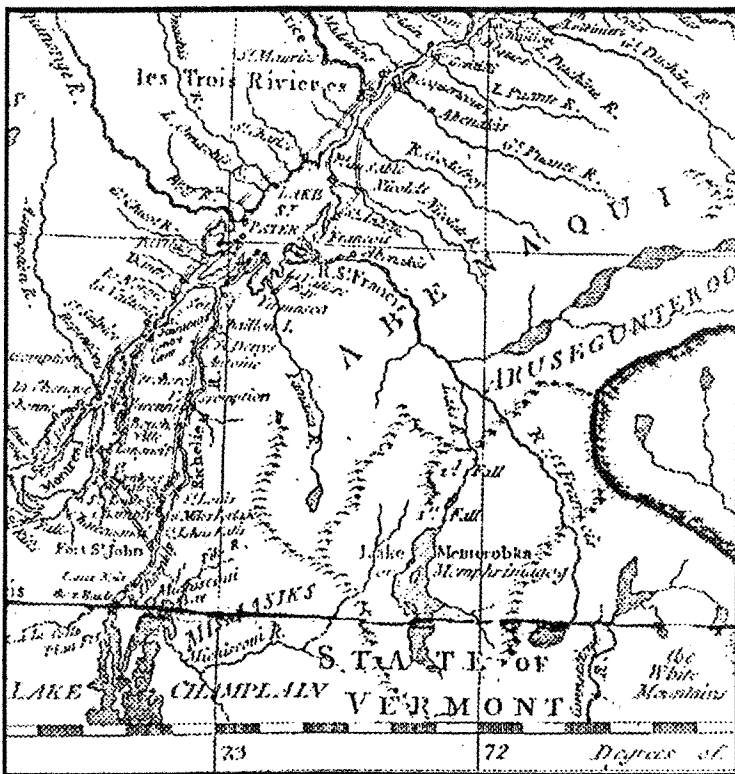
Par une fraîche journée de la mi-septembre 1788, trois hommes s'affairent autour de leur canot à la pointe nord du lac, et s'embarquent en direction du Vermont. Ni bruits de moteur, ni relents d'essence ne viennent corrompre le silence et la fraîcheur de cette fin d'été. Les guides sont deux indiens Abenakis, dont l'un nommé César est familier avec les rives du lac. Leur compagnon est Pierre de Sales Laterrière, négociant et médecin de son état. Qui est-il? Que fait-il là?

Pierre de Sales a tout juste quarant-et-un ans à l'époque. D'après ses Mémoires, d'une véracité quelquefois douteuse, il est originaire du Languedoc, dans le sud-est de la France, étant né dans une

famille noble réputée, au Château de Sales, diocèse d'Albi, en 1747. Tôt rebuté par le métier des armes, après un bref essai à l'école de marine de La Rochelle, il aurait décidé à dix-huit ans de se faire médecin, et devint stagiaire chez le médecin de la reine à Paris. Bref apprentissage: son patron meurt soudain, et il part pour Londres, et de là pour le Canada, débarquant à Québec le 7 septembre 1766. Pour vivre, il se lance dans le négoce à Montréal, devient agent commercial aux forges de St. Maurice, et éventuellement directeur et propriétaire de l'entreprise; mais c'est la médecine qui surtout l'intéresse, et ayant amélioré ses connaissances chez un praticien de Montmagny, il donne des soins à ses temps perdus, se spécialisant dans le traitement de la syphilis chez les jeunes gens. Pour le reste, la danse et la galanterie occupent ses loisirs. "Il faut avouer que le sexe canadien est beau..." écrit-il. Peu modeste, il ajoute: "Jeune, de figure faite pour plaire, ayant de belles manières, je ne manquais pas d'amusement. Les jeunes demoiselles se plaisaient forts en ma compagnie." Il s'éprend de la toute jeune femme du maître des forges, mari négligent et peu tendre, s'enfuit avec elle, et lui fait un enfant. Dénoncé au gouverneur, selon lui par le mari trompé

et autres ennemis, comme ayant collaboré avec les troupes américaines qui avaient franchi la frontière et menacé Québec dès 1775, il est mis en prison en 1779, et y reste quatre ans. Disculpé et relâché, il devient fermier, tout en pratiquant la médecine au village Abenaki de Saint-François (Odanak). Mais les autorités exigent un diplôme qu'il n'a pas. On lui conseille d'aller au collège de Harvard en prendre un, et le voici en route pour Cambridge, Mass., le 8 septembre 1788, guidé par César, "muni de pain, de viande etc.. poudre, plomb, et d'un fusil avec une bonne paire de pistolets." Ils arrivent cinq jours plus tard à la pointe nord du lac "Mara, ou Magock" (aussi nommé Memorobka, ou Mrahabegek sur des cartes de l'époque), de Sales ayant failli se noyer dans les rapides de la rivière. Voici le récit de sa traversée, qu'il rédigea 21 ans plus tard, d'une mémoire plus ou moins fidèle, ayant égaré ses notes de voyage à Boston chez son professeur d'anatomie.

"Cette route est si fréquentée par les sauvages (Note: Abenakis) que, de dis-



1788 Map: signée Captain Carver, Londres, d'après des relevé Français

tance en distance, ils y ont des cabanes faites, que nous arrivâmes à la deuxième couchée, une famille de cette nation occupait déjà la cabane, et il nous fallut faire comme ceux qui arrivent à une auberge trop tard, c'est-à-dire nous cabaner à côté pour la nuit. Nous n'y perdîmes rien; le chef de famille venait de la pêche au saumon et de la chasse à l'orignal, et il était chargé de ses prises; quelques coups de rhum nous procurèrent assez de chair et de poisson bien boucanée pour le reste de notre voyage. Le lac est grand et vaste, la rive plate presque partout. Le matin, après le soleil levé, je fis mes observations. Le lac ressemble à un entonnoir. Le sol me parut excellent et couvert de bois de toutes sortes. Depuis mon passage, cette localité s'est peuplée d'habitants américains qui, dit-on, y vivent à leur aise. Nous nous arrêtâmes pour dîner sur l'île des Noyers, au milieu du lac, à 8 ou 9 lieues de notre dernière couchée. (Note: la lieue valant environ 4 km, ils auraient parcouru de 30 à 40 km en une matinée. Si leur dernier campement avait été proche de la pointe nord du lac, l'île des Noyers pourrait être l'île Ronde). Cette île est plate et probablement très fertile, car les arbres y croissent hauts et gros; le rivage était garni de bonne herbe et de quantités d'arbres et arbustes à fruits. Nous eûmes le temps avant le soir de gagner l'île où est la ligne de séparation entre les deux provinces, tracée par Samuel Holland (Note: l'île Province); et justement nous cabanâmes là où la ligne commence. Même terrain qu'à l'île des Noyers; seulement la première est un peu mon-

tagneuse, et le matin, m'étant avancé dans l'intérieur, j'y vis un couple de châtaigniers, que je reconnus à leurs piquants. Je n'en avais encore vus nulle part depuis que j'étais parti de l'Europe. Cette journée nous suffit pour atteindre l'embouchure de la rivière Noire à l'extrémité sud du lac. Ici nous trouvâmes encore un sauvage avec sa famille, qui dépeçait un orignal qu'il avait tué la veille. C'était un ami de mon César, et celui-ci voulut passer la journée dans ce lieu, ce qui me permit de visiter les alentours. Le pays ressemblait à celui que j'avais vu, excepté que le climat m'y paraissait bien plus doux, et toute la végétation s'en ressentait. Ce point aussi me semble fait pour servir tôt ou tard d'emplacement à un bourg ou une ville. Tout y était de toute beauté."

L'intérêt de cette traversée du lac dans sa longueur, qui prit environ trois jours, est qu'elle eut lieu trois ans avant l'Acte Constitutionnel de 1791 qui définit les cantons, et les ouvrit à la colonisation. Le lac et son environnement, y compris le site de Georgeville, étaient donc encore à l'état vierge. Pierre de Sales Laterrière retourna au Canada durant l'été 1789 par une autre route, ayant rédigé une thèse sur la fièvre puerpérale et obtenu le diplôme requis. Après avoir pratiqué avec succès la médecine à Québec et Trois-Rivières, il acquit en 1810 une seigneurie aux Eboulements (Charlevoix) où il se retira. Il mourut à Québec en 1815.

Bruno d'Anglejan est un vice-président du SHG/GHS.

Update:

PIONEER GARDEN PLANT EXCHANGE

by Katherine Mackenzie

At 1 pm on Saturday, May 20, 1995, we will be sponsoring a plant exchange in the village. It will be held in the garage beside the McGowan House or outside it, depending on the weather. This is the format for the exchange. Dig up, pot, label some of your favorite and, perhaps, rare plants. Bring them to the McGowan House between 11 am and noon. You will be given a ticket for each plant. Then at 1 pm, you can return with your tickets and choose the plants you would like. If you have no plants to exchange, you may buy the ones you choose. Between noon and 1 pm, the McGowan House will be offering lunch. Money raised by the plant exchange will go to the maintenance of the Bigelow Garden.

The garden was a busy place last summer. Some 114 visitors, coming from as far away as Geelong, Australia, signed the book. Philip Mackenzie made a stand for the centre of the garden which names the plants found in each section and gives their uses. It

has been a great centre of interest.

It is with great sorrow that we learned that Noelle Bador was killed in an automobile accident last summer. She was a wonderful help in getting the garden going. Her family has planted a tree in her memory between the fence and the lane and, next summer, they will place a stone bearing her name beside it in the grass.

Maury Devlen and Hood Gambrel have taken on the job of being advisors to the garden. They have been a great help to all concerned.

We hope that this summer the garden will be even more successful than it already has been.

Coming this summer

THE GEORGEVILLE 1996 CALENDAR

featuring historical pictures of Georgeville as it was. It is bound to become a collector's item. The calendar is a project of the Georgeville Bicentennial Committee and proceeds will be used to finance bicentennial activities. Don't miss it.

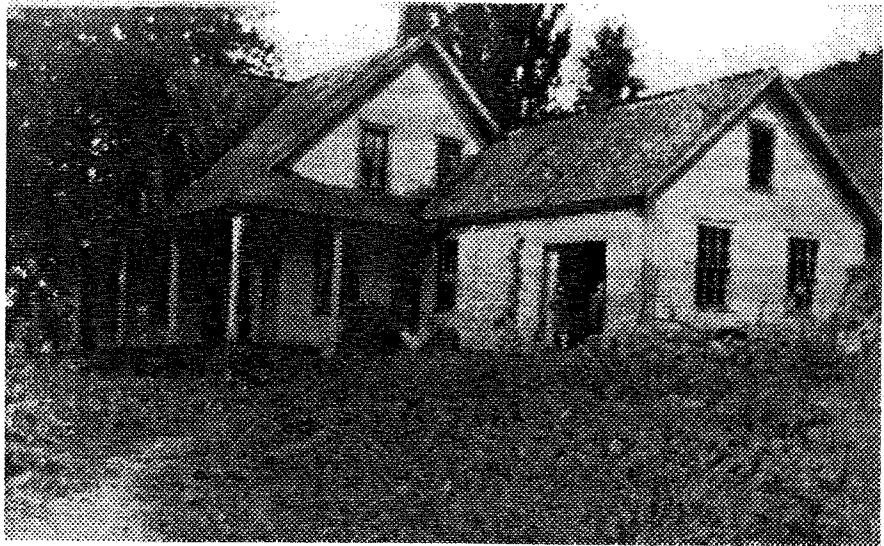
The Story of Magoon's Point

A HAMLET BUILT ON LIMESTONE AND PERSEVERANCE

Today, as Stephen Moore told the SHG/GHS 1994 annual meeting, Magoon's Point presents the appearance of "a large, wild tract of land four miles south of Georgeville, heavily wooded, sparsely populated and somewhat inaccessible." Not so 100 years ago, when the Point was a flourishing hamlet with its own post office, a small store, a one room schoolhouse, a boarding house, and its own social notes column in the Stanstead Journal. Stephen Moore spent much of his youth on Magoon's Point, where his great-grandfather William Brevoort farmed 270 acres — the largest farm on the Point and one of the most productive in Stanstead Township. Excerpts from his profile of the settlement:

In 1994, to the casual visitor, there are no visible signs of the community that once prospered on the point of land on Lake Memphremagog at the entrance to Fitch Bay. For the more adventuresome investigator, there are old foundations of farm houses and the school, an overgrown and almost obscured cemetery and a tumble-down pile of rocks that was once the lime kiln.

The name of the settlement, like that of the Point itself, is derived from the Magoon family, who were among the earliest settlers. Indeed, its *raison d'être*



The Brevoort farmhouse on the Point, circa 1890.

is likely attributable to the Magoon family's lime business that was in operation as early as the 1820s. The labour-intensive production of lime served as a source of employment and the impetus that led to the establishment of the tiny community.

The business evolved during the 1800s because the raw product, limestone, was discovered in an outcrop on the Point. There are a number of deposits of limestone in the Memphremagog area, on the lakeshore north and south of Georgeville. But the purity of the stone as measured by the calcium content was notably higher on the Point than in other areas surrounding Georgeville.

The limestone was revealed in a series of outcrops above the road. Here as many as three separate quarries were established.

The raw ore was then transported by wagon down to the lakeshore, where it was either shipped in its original state or refined in one of the family's lime kilns. The finished product was packed in barrels and loaded onto barges which were towed up and down the lake by one or more of the steamers that plied the lake.

The lime produced was a highly valuable commodity, and the Magoon family had a ready-made market. By spreading lime over their fields, local farmers could counteract the acidic tendencies of Eastern



William Brevoort, his wife Hannah and their sons William, Jr. and Henry, on the front porch of the farm house, circa 1890.

Townships' farmland.

In 1871, Aaron Magoon had \$8,000 invested in fixed capital, \$7,000 in operating capital. This was a great deal of money when \$2,000 or \$3,000 would fetch a sizeable farm, complete with livestock and farm implements. Aaron operated nine months of the year, employed ten men and paid out wages amounting to \$2,350. In that year, Aaron produced 45,000 barrels of lime. The value of his raw material was set at \$200, his finished product at \$10,000. That's what businessmen mean when they use the term "value-added."

By any standard, the lime manufacturing business was a vital stimulus to the local economy. In 1871, it was the largest industrial operation in the township in terms of capital invested and number of employees, except for the factories in Stanstead-Rock Island. The Magoon lime business surpassed all the various saw and grist mills in the township, not to mention the local artisans and merchants.

Despite all of this, the lime industry was not the main preoccupation of most residents of Magoon's Point. Most were farmers, in an age of subsistence farming augmented by cash crops — wheat, barley, oats, beans, corn and potatoes — that would pay for occasional necessities and longed-for luxuries. In 1871, the farms on the Point ran from 50 to several hundred acres. Some farmers favoured dairy husbandry while others raised sheep.

My great-grandfather William Brevoort's farm, at 270 acres, was the largest farm on the Point. It supported a herd of 25 milking cows, the second largest herd in the township. Today a herd of 25 cattle seems unimpressive. However, at the time, a typical farm in the township had just 4 or 5 milch cows. Among farmers on the Point, Wilder Magoon and Aaron Magoon exceeded the average, while Thomas Bertrand and Thaddeus Blake had herds in the double-digit range. And not far away, up on Merrill road, was William Brevoort's father, Hiram, whose herd of 23 tied for fourth in the township. Not bad when one considers that, discounting farms of less than 10 acres, there were over 500 farms in the township during this period.



Harry (left) and Jack Atkin at the Magoon's Point schoolhouse in the 1920s

Education was an important element of rural life, a legacy of the Americans who settled here. As early as the 1830s, Magoon's Point had its own school. A surviving record shows that 31 students sat for examinations in 1831. Later a one-room school house served the school-age population until after the First World War. After it was torn down, local children were "bussed" — and I use the term loosely — to a schoolhouse on the Merrill road or the Boynton schoolhouse near the Elephant Barn.

I don't want to romanticize the lifestyle of the farming community down on the Point. It was not easy-going. The work was hard and the rewards limited. Here is part of a letter written by Annis Bullock to her grandson in 1878:

"Wednesday afternoon your Uncle Wilder and Aunt Lecta and I went over to your Uncle Aaron's. We had a pleasant visit. It is astonishing to see how much work Aunt Betsy does. More than three ought to do. They have 29 cows. Your aunt does all the housework in the forenoon. Then after dinner she goes into the hayfield or harvestfield and does more work than the hired hand. She helps milk all the cows, night and morning. She works harder than any slave did. Their farm is under a mortgage that they hope to lift. It is \$4000, not a small sum."

Even owning and running the large Brevoort farm was no picnic. It was not always so productive, or the surrounding neighbourhood so advanced.

When John Christie acquired the farm during the 1830s, it was a far cry from the productive operation that my great grandfather was able to exploit in later years. Here is an account of her family's move from Derby, Vermont to the Point in 1837, written by John Christie's daughter, Penelope Riedell.

"My father found that his Derby farm would not produce enough to keep his growing family as he wished them to live. And as farms on the Canadian side of the 'Line' were cheaper, he looked around in the township of Stanstead. It was in the winter that my father bought in a neighbourhood called Magoon's Point. It was a winter of deep snows and fences were buried, and rough and rocky fields were very smoothly covered by their coating of snow. The shrewd seller knew that the snow was to his

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

advantage and he dwelt on the extensive meadows and rich soils buried so deep."

"As the spring weather advanced, the young folks in the family rejoiced at the sight and novelty of beautiful Lake Memphremagog which bordered two sides of the farm, the large extent of woods where the maple sugar was made, the rather thrifty apple orchard and the soft clear spring water running by the door. I think father and mother were less satisfied. There were many drawbacks. We were far from church and market. Our neighbours were not all they desired—few of them religious and some quite immoral—and the schools were not as good as in Vermont. However, believing that the change had been made under Divine guidance, our parents tried to make the best of their surroundings."

The moral of the story, I guess, is never buy property in the wintertime! Despite their initial disappointments, the Christie family nevertheless rose to the occasion and turned the farm into a most successful operation.

Unfortunately, by the turn of the century, a number of changes came about that resulted in the ultimate decline of the Magoon's Point community. The lime industry fell victim to overpowering competition from Lime Ridge, in the township of Dudswell. City folk began acquiring property for private lakeside residences, which increased the value of farm acreage bordering the lake, and much of it was taken out of profit-oriented agricultural use. There was the migration of farm populations to urban centres in search of factory jobs.

Looking back, there is little left to remind us of the families that once lived and played in the peaceful tranquillity that was, and is, Magoon's Point. In the early years, there were the Magoons, the Blakes, the Adams, the Drews, the Boyntons and the Christies. Later came the Brevoorts, the Hutchins, the Cambers, the Merrills, the Saballs, the Atkins, the Mashias, the Wilsons, the Johnstons and the McTavishes, to name but a few. It is they who make up the history of Magoon's Point.

Preparing for the Bicentennial

QUILTS AND MORE QUILTS FOR JULY 15 AUCTION

by Rosalyn Smith

A date to mark in your calendar: Saturday, July 15, when a splendid quilt auction will take place at the Murray Memorial Centre, sponsored by the Bicentennial Committee of the Community Association of Georgeville. All proceeds of the auction will be earmarked for Georgeville's bicentennial celebration in 1997.

We have already collected 25 quilts—and hope, by the time the gavel falls, to have 25 more. Susan Steele, of North Bay, Ont., has contributed two smashing quilts, one a "School House" quilt she made in dark blue, red and white (it was displayed at the Elephant Barn last summer). And if this effort is not enough, her 18 year old daughter, Pippa, has donated a log cabin quilt she has made.

A special feature of the auction will be the result of a collaboration by two Georgeville residents. Priscilla Devlen, whose prize-winning quilts have won honours at the American Quilters Society and at the Vermont Quilt Festival, is making a pair of twin bed quilts, incorporating wild flower drawings by Katherine Mackenzie.

Many other Georgeville residents are keeping warm this winter with quilts-in-progress on their laps. So far the old quilts we have already gathered for the auction range from "Stars" to "Pineapples", in from excellent to slightly-used condition. We would be grateful for more if your attic, old trunks or linen closets contain any quilts you are willing to part with. We would like to have as many as 50 quilts in the auction, so we still need more.

Alden Ticehurst, the well-known Townships auctioneer, will preside at the sale. The quilts can be seen at the hall the morning of Saturday, July 15, and the auction will start at 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be available at the hall or, if the weather co-operates, for a picnic in the park. For further information, please call Maureen Cameron at 843-0962.

THE ENTERPRISE JOINS THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY

I was suprised to discover that the *Enterprise* and the SHG/GHS are becoming known on the Information Highway. While we are concerned with the past, we are stepping also into the future. It is nice to think that we are a bridge between the two.

In November, I received an E-mail message from Joanne Roth in Enon, Ohio on the *America on Line* computer network. She was enquiring about Magoons who, she was hoping, were her ancestors. I sent her the information that we had about them and, in return, she sent us a large packet of material about Magoons who had gone west to Minnesota and Nebraska in the 1840s or '50s.

While the SHG/GHS is not a genealogical society, we are certainly interested in hearing from people whose families' roots are in this area. We will do our best to respond to their enquiries. This is a fine example, both literally and figuratively, of networking. Please note my E-Mail address in the *Letters* section of this *issue*. (PGMS)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

I have just received the latest issue of *The Georgeville Enterprise* and found it most interesting. Already I am looking forward to the next issue. Having been born in Georgeville, I can't tell you how happy it makes me feel to know that its history is at long last being documented. Congratulations and continued success to you and the many others who have put so much time and effort into preserving the history of Georgevillians.

Stephanie Hutchins Oldfield
Pierrefonds, Quebec

I enjoyed reading *The Enterprise* and your piece on the impact of the 1837-38 troubles on your peaceful community. It appears to me that the authorities used the occasion as a means of silencing some troublesome critics. I am glad that the malefactors all returned to the village and enjoyed prosperous careers in later years.

You are to be commended for your enterprise in starting a society in a region which has experienced so much history.

David M.L. Farr
Ottawa, Ontario

Dr. Farr is the retired chairman of the History Department at Carleton University.

Can you imagine how surprised and delighted I was to open *The Georgeville Enterprise* to discover the familiar pictures of my great great grandparents, Julius and Laura Ives. My father Major W.H. Hunt did extensive genealogical research to document his four contributing lines. During my attendance at a colloquium during the Eastern Townships Bicentennial, I [was] pleased to learn that a Georgeville Historical Society was being formed.

Margaret A. Carter
Winnipeg, Manitoba

I want to congratulate you and urge you to persevere with *The Enterprise*. Do resurrect the Brass Band. (When did it live, die, etc?) I look forward to the history of Georgeville and, perhaps, updates on the Bigelow garden.

Dr. Marie-Louise Desbarats-Schönbaum
Venhorst, The Netherlands

It's always a pleasure to receive your newsletter. It sounds as if the 1997 bash in the Big G is going to be good. I will be there! Keep up the good work!

Kevin Rumsey
White Horse, Yukon

The Enterprise welcomes your letters. Please send them to Editor, *The Georgeville Enterprise*, 4651 Chemin Georgeville, Georgeville, Quebec J0B 1T0. E-Mail address is PeterGMS@AOL.com.

BOOK-ENDS

We would be glad to receive books, photographs, and archival material on Georgeville's history for our Library and Archives. Some recent gifts include:

From Maurice Berry

The Border Writers' Group, *Voices on the Border*, Pigwidgeon Press, 1986.

From John Boynton

Copy of Penelope Riedell's "Memoir" of the John Christie family's emigration from Scotland in 1830 and to Magoon's Point in 1837.

From Michael Davis

Copy of Isabel Barrow's *Chopped Straw, or the Memories of Threescore Years*. Typescript, 1908.

From Sylvia Drew

Theodore Clark Smith's "Camp Reminiscences" for the years from 1884 to 1945.

From Elizabeth Ensink-Hill

Copy of Samuel June Barrows' account in the *Christian Register* of his first camping visit to Lord's Island and Bedroom Point, August 1878.

A "Camp Journal" kept by Henry Mussey for the summer of 1907 at Birchbay.

Posters listing the cast for a children's play produced by Mabel Barrows at Birchbay, July 20, 1918.

Abigail Adams Eliot's memoir *A Heart of Grateful Trust*, Boston, 1983.

Photos dating from the 1880s of camp life at Birchday and Cedar Lodge.

From Stephen Moore:

Lists of Eastern Townships Material in the John Bassett Memorial Library, 2 vols, 1985.