



Société d'histoire de Georgeville

Georgeville Historical Society

Newsletter – Fall 2013

DATES TO REMEMBER

SUMMER 2014

Saturday, June 28

Canada Day Parade 1 p.m.
GHS will sponsor a float.

Sunday, July 6

Annual General Meeting and talk.

Friday, August 29

Tour of the Bullock Cemetery.

Dig and clean up of historic site.
Site location and sign-up at AGM.

**Look for more details of events in
the summer issue of the Newsletter**

**B.C. resident wins Georgeville
historical contest**

In a presentation ceremony conducted by John Boynton and John Scott in the grounds of what was then the home of Peter and Roz Smith – Georgeville's oldest building at 4651 Chemin Georgeville – two winners of the GHS Challenge were declared.

The local winner was Karen Smith of Drummond Point who was awarded a dinner for two, donated by Auberge McGowan, and the overall winner was Janet Davidson Clark of Richmond, B.C. The latter's family roots go back to the earliest days of settlement on the lakeshore. Her great-grandmother possessed the wonderful name, Caroline America Everett Beach Davidson. The proceedings at the Smith home last summer was filmed and that film became Janet's prize.

Two dozen people attended the presentation and appeared to appreciate learning some things about the history of Georgeville that they had never heard before.

A few quick examples: the reason the “*Heart of a Village*”, Joan Murray and Jacques Valiquette all had difficulty in dating Mrs. Murray’s house is that no one realized until now that there were two Joshua Copp houses, not one – an older one, long gone and the house that now belongs to Jacques Valiquette. The trouble came from confusing the two.

Another example: It is possible to work out from the 1825 census that there were probably sixteen dwellings in the village of Copp’s Ferry that year. No fewer than half of those houses are still here today, a ratio of survival that is probably unparalleled in the Eastern Townships.

Carré Copp property acquired by Heritage Georgeville

This past summer, Heritage Georgeville Inc., the organization dedicated to the acquisition and preservation of local historical buildings, bought the property at 16-22 Carré Copp. These beautiful buildings, meticulously restored and maintained by the previous owner, Derek Price, house Studio Georgeville and three apartments.

An early reference to the property appeared in the February 20, 1890, Stanstead Journal, which noted that D.A. Bullock was building a shop on the lot to build boats. Mr. Bullock found other uses for his new building. In 1897, the Journal reported, “D.A. Bullock has finished off a neat and tasty office in the front of his boat shop for the GNW Telegraph office”. And, later, “Mr. D.A. Bullock is finishing off the lower floor of the building, where he had built boats, and

it will be occupied by his son, Mr. A.W. Bullock, as a grocery store”. After the great fire of 1898, and while W.N. Ives was still rebuilding, the Journal reported that A.W. Bullock “has put a choice stock of family groceries at the telegraph and telephone office”.

Then, on May 10, 1906, the Journal reported: “Mr. A.W. Bullock is now building a new store to replace the present one which is too small for his present volume of business”. By the end of July, Mr. Bullock had moved into the new building, which the Journal described as “an ornament to the village. The interior is very neat, the ceiling being of steel and the front has plate glass windows”.

In 1929, Bullock sold the property to Goff Probyn and Courtland Drew (Bernard’s father) who were in business for only a short time. They sold to George Boynton who rented the store, in turn, to Clifford Shonyo, D.C. Waite and Royal Bachelder [for whom the apartment upstairs was built] and the partnership of Longpré and Grainger. Max Grainger bought out his partner and continued in business until 1973.

In more recent times, the Village Store was widely known and patronized under the ownership and operation of Georgina and Dick Hornby.

Heritage Georgeville also owns and operates Auberge McGowan and the Georgeville marina.



16-22 Carré Copp

Georgeville's oldest buildings

Last summer, the Georgeville Historical Society Challenge invited participants to select the village's ten oldest buildings from a list of 26 surviving 19th century buildings, compiled by John Boynton and John Scott.

Here is a list of the ten oldest buildings, identifying the address and current owners, the year built and, if a house, the person or family for whom it was built.

Former Peter G. Smith house, (now owned by the Pierre Valiquette family), 4651 Ch. Georgeville 1814 Moses Copp Sr.

Pierre Valiquette house, 4659 Ch. Georegville 1820 Chauncey Bullock.

Jacques Valiquette house, 4665 Ch. Georgeville 1821 Joshua Copp

Peter Armour house, 4652 Ch. Georgeville 1823 Amasa Merriman

John Boynton house, 59 Ch. Magoon Point 1823 William Bullock Sr.

Stephanie Lord house, 24-26 Carré Copp 1824 Sylvester Hartshorn

Edward Vancour house, 32 Ch. Channel Hill 1824 Foris Wood

John Scott garage, 2 Ch. McGowan 1824 Adam Noyes

Red School House, 30 Ch. Magoon Point 1847

Peter Denis house, 34 Ch. Channel Hill 1847 John Livingstone



Georgeville's oldest building. 4651 Ch. Georgeville, former Peter G. Smith house, now owned and occupied by the Pierre Valiquette family.

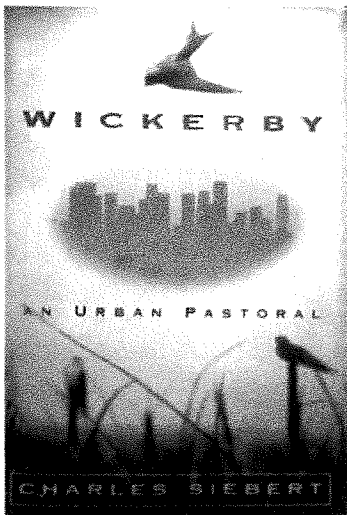
“Wickerby”

By John Boynton

How many of you know that on the “Eastern Township Lore” shelf of the Sydney Steel Memorial Library, containing books related to local history, is a loving description of a dilapidated pioneer log cabin along with a sympathetic portrayal of the eccentric subsistence farmer who was its caretaker.

The Wickerby property is set back from Merrill Road and situated roughly three kilometers along the west side of it and at the end of Chemin Landreville, which quickly becomes a country trail.

“Wickerby”, authored by Charles Siebert and published in 1998, is but a late chapter in this, one of the two log houses built in the early days of settlement still standing in this area. (The other one is Serge Bombardier’s on the Magoon Point Road, now incorporated in his modern country home.) We would like to tell you something about its earlier days.



Lot 18 in the third range of Stanstead Township was one of many granted in 1810 to Sir Robert Shore Milnes, former Lieutenant-Governor of Lower Canada. The cabin, perhaps built by one, Pearly Thayer, may have been

standing on the west half of the lots; in was certainly there in 1823, occupied by Thayer, his wife and three children.

In 1824, the west half, 100 acres, was sold by Milnes agent, Selah Pomroy to Elias Thayer, Pearly’s younger son, described in the deed as a minor who was required to confirm the transaction upon reaching the age of majority. He made a payment of one pound, five shillings and undertook to make three equal annual payments of four pounds, six shillings and eight pence. The deed was signed on February 24, 1824, in the presence of Nicholas Austin and Abraham Channel. Elias marked the deed with a X.

The east half of the property was deeded on the same day to his older brother, James, at the price of twenty pounds, five shillings and six pence. Ten years later, Elias was living in the United States at Lisbon, New Hampshire, leaving his father, Pearly Thayer, living on the farm and acting as his attorney in its sale for one hundred pounds to land speculator Horace Stewart. That was not one of Stewart’s better deals in that he sold to James Thayer in 1839 for seventy-five pounds. The property remained in the Thayer family until 1910.

In 1933, George Boynton bought the property and rented it to Wright Wilson. He was the father of Ed Markwell’s mother, Lucy, who lived there until her marriage in 1940. Mr. Wilson did not purchase the farm until 1945 and retained it for only nine years.

The late Anthony Brian, an RAF pilot and Ottawa-based communications consultant, together with his brother, Michael, purchased the property in 1965 as a vacation home. Soon after magazine writer Rebecca Brian, Anthony's daughter, met Charles Siebert, the book's subsequent author, she took him to her beloved Wickerby. Six years later, with his "near-wife", to quote him, on a prolonged assignment with a film crew in Africa, he returned to spend six months alone in the cabin. Though he feared that it would collapse about him, fifteen years later it is still standing and still owned by one of the Brians.



Stories and photos for future newsletters are always welcome.

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This newsletter was prepared by David Cox.

Photographs by Judy Bachelder.