



## *Historic Gloucester*

Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

[www.gloucesterhistory.com](http://www.gloucesterhistory.com)

VOLUME 13, NO 4

Winter 2012



*Green's Creek Shanty*

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THE GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
IS HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE  
THAT ITS HISTORY ROOM WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
EACH THURSDAY FROM 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
BETWEEN MAY 1 AND OCTOBER 23, 2013,  
OR BY APPOINTMENT

LOCATION: 4550B BANK STREET (AT LEITRIM ROAD)

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
Contact Robert Serré at 613-749-0607 or bob.rosealine@gmail.com

**Cover Photo:**

*Our cover photo shows an old shanty which was built in the 1830's near Green's Creek. It has board and batten covering. The photo is from the book "Carleton Saga" by Harry and Olive Walker (see article on page 9).*

**Historic Gloucester** is published by The Gloucester Historical Society. It is intended as a Newsletter to members of the Society to provide interesting articles on Gloucester's past and to keep them informed of new acquisitions by the Museum, publications available, upcoming events and other items of general interest. Comments and suggestions regarding the Newsletter are always welcome.



*Gloucester Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa.*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Once in a while, our Society invites one or more persons to attend one of our board meetings, to better understand who we are and what we're doing. Once in a blue moon, someone simply asks if there are vacancies on our board, which is how I became a director on 17 March 2004, five days after becoming a member.

Our Society welcomed two guests at the board meeting held on 20 October 2012: Lois Kemp, publisher of *The Leader / Gloucester News* from September 1981 to April 1994, and Eleanor MacQuarrie, wife of former Gloucester reeve Robert MacQuarrie. Lois and Eleanor were co-founders of Ringette in Gloucester in 1972, and they both donated archival material to our Society during that most pleasant fall morning.

We encourage our members in particular, as well as present and former residents of Gloucester to think about our Society when they 'don't know what to do' with papers and mementos they no longer use or need and want to "get rid of."

We are making efforts, these days, to systematically rearrange the contents of our History Room in order that researchers may access, in a matter of minutes, information related to the families, communities, schools and churches, or the geography, institutions, services and facilities of the former Township and City of Gloucester, now part of Ottawa.

We are there to ensure that Gloucester's past is preserved, to some extent at least, for future generations. Keep us in mind...

*Robert Serré*

**Note: The Grace Johnston History Room is now supplied with Internet to assist researchers when they come to visit us. Drop in some Thursday and see us!**

### Board of Directors 2012-2013

President:	Robert Serré (2013)*	Directors:	Bob Kemp (2015)
Past President:	Mary Boyd (2014)		Jean-Marc Jossinet (2014)
Vice-President			Aline Mageau (2013)
and Webmaster:	Glenn Clark (2015)		Mary Patterson (2014)
Treasurer:	Laurel Sherrer (2014)		Russell Johnston (2014)
Secretary and			
Newsletter Editor:	Joan Scott (2014)		
Membership	Shirley McCooye (2015)		

\* Indicates date when this person is up for re-election to Board of Directors.

## GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

by Robert Serré

The origins of the Gloucester Historical Society date back to a meeting that was held at the town hall in Leitrim on 29 June 1962. More than twenty people were present, eager to preserve what they could of Gloucester's heritage, the main focus being to find a place to store the growing number of artifacts collected since the early 1950s.

This first Gloucester Historical Society did not survive, but a new society was organized within two years. Called the Carleton West-Russell Historical Society, it was incorporated in 1964, embracing the ten townships of Carleton County and two townships in West Russell. For five years an old school in Navan was used to store the artifacts. Then for three years the artifacts were kept in the old Vars train station that was moved to a site that marked the beginning of the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum.

The focus was changing, however, as people began planning local historical groups. The CWRHS was disbanded, and its Gloucester members formed a second Gloucester Historical Society on 13 May 1978, with Grace Johnston as president. Some artifacts were brought back from Cumberland, and in 1982 the E.D. Jones Public Library on Highway 31 provided a room for Gloucester's history. In 1983 Gloucester City Council let the Society store its artifacts in two rooms at the Johnston's Corners School.

When the city hall was moved to a new location in 1984, the council chamber in the old Leitrim facility, at 4550 Bank Street, became a display area for a museum, and the basement was made available for storage,

archival space and the Grace Johnston History Room, to which all the material in the E.D. Jones Library was transferred. In April 1984, Jim McPherson became the second president of the Society. Mary Patterson was elected president in 1985, and in 1987 Brenda Dowling became the Museum's first curator.

In February 1989, Grace Johnston officially opened the Gloucester Historical Society and Museum, and Lois Kemp was elected president. Lynne Terroux was appointed curator in February 1990. The first newsletter of the Society was edited by Lois Kemp in 1989. In 1993 Lillian Kitchen was elected president, and in 1994 Guy Legault revived the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC), serving as its chairman. In 1995 Deborah Scott was appointed museum curator, a new editorial committee led by Florence Ladds produced the newsletter, and Guy Legault was elected president, with LACAC conducting an inventory of Gloucester's historic buildings. Lillian Kitchen was elected president in 1996, but resigned for health reasons, and Guy Legault completed her term as acting president. Clive Broomfield served as president in 1997, and Janice Beath was the museum director/curator; her successor was Jennifer Busato. Guy Legault was re-elected president in 1998, and since June 2000, the Society has published a quarterly newsletter called *Historic Gloucester*, edited by Joan Scott.

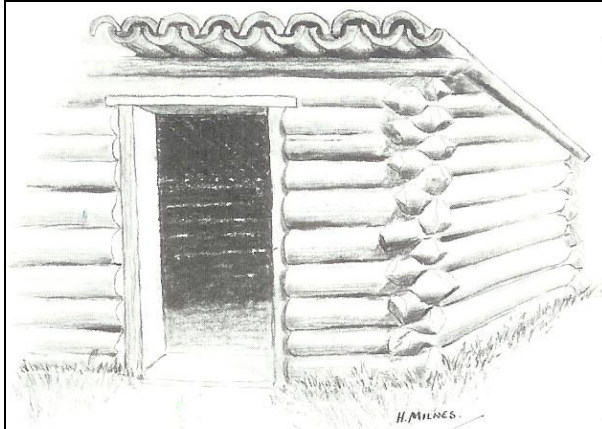
In the first issue of *Historic Gloucester*, dated June 2000, Guy Legault announced that the Gloucester Historical Society no longer owned the Museum, which was renamed Gloucester Museum and Archives. It was taken over by the City of Gloucester, and thus became the property of the new City of Ottawa on 1 January 2001. Mary Boyd took over as president of the GHS in 2005, and in



2006 Glenn Clark became the Society's web-master, creating a website at [www.gloucesterhistory.com](http://www.gloucesterhistory.com). Robert Serré was elected president in 2009.

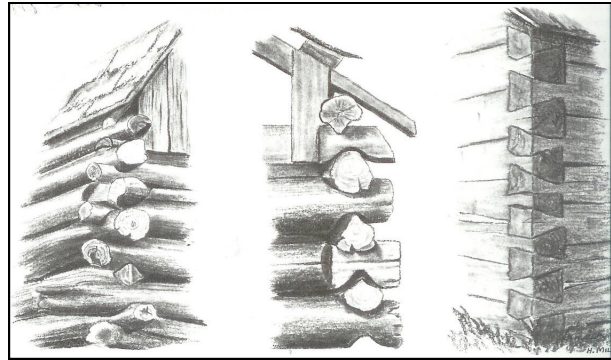
## Pioneer Home Building

By Joan Scott



Have you ever thought that you might like to build a cabin or log home like the ones that the early settlers built? Well, it is not as easy as it looks! But here are a few ideas if you are still thinking of it.

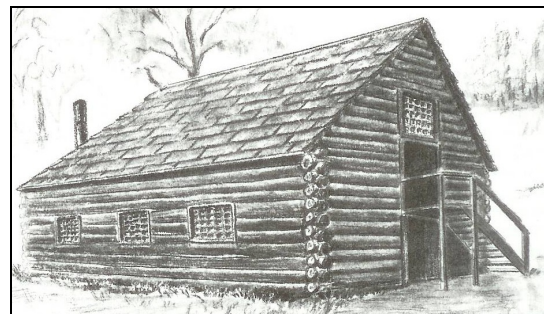
The drawing above shows an early shanty which would have been a first home. Note the hollowed split log roof. This building would have been about ten feet by eight feet in area with a sloping roof about six feet high in front and going to four feet in rear. There might be an open doorway in the front wall with a blanket hanging over it, or there might be only three walls with the front left open so that a fire outside could heat the shanty. Initially the roof might be made of bark slabs supported by poles and held down by other poles and rocks.



In the drawing above you will see three examples of construction methods, depending on the size and purpose of the building. The first is used for a large building such as a barn. Round logs are set into round notches. It is unchinked and has a boarded peak, shingle roof. The second example is for a small building. It consists of round logs, round and triangle notches, and is chinked with wooden slats. The third example is for a house and it is made of squared logs. They are dove-tailed, with tapered joints and it is chinked with white plaster.

Log construction was labourious but resulted in a warm, strong, long lasting building as evidenced by the church, built in 1832, which is shown below.

Source: Milnes, Herbert, *Settlers' Traditions*, The Boston Mills Press, 1980.



**Public Notice** – The Gloucester Historical Society notifies all members that photographs donated to the society over the years may be copied, distributed or published by the society or the Ottawa City Archives. Whenever possible, credit will be given to the original donor of a photograph. If you have donated photographs to the society and you wish to restrict the use of those photographs, please notify the Gloucester Historical Society.

**Publications Available From the Gloucester Historical Society:**

For further details regarding publications visit our website: [www.gloucesterhistory.com](http://www.gloucesterhistory.com)  
(Postage, if mailed, in brackets)

<i>Blackburn - Glen Ogilvie - Centennial History 1887-1967</i> Compiled and Edited by Mrs. Anna Elliott	<b>5.00</b> (3.00)
<i>Bowesville: A Place to Remember</i> By Grace Johnston	<b>20.00</b> (12.00)
<i>Clarkstown (Eastview/Vanier) Pioneer Families/Familles pionnières</i> By Robert S��rre	<b>10.00</b> (3.00)
<i>Familles pionnieres des Carrieres de Gloucester dans l'Est de l'Ontario</i> By Robert Serr��	<b>10.00</b> (3.00)
<i>Familles pionnieres de Cyrville (Canton de Gloucester)</i> By Robert Serr��	<b>10.00</b> (3.00)
<i>Gloucester Lions Club Inc. , History of the First 42 Years, 1968 to 2010</i> By the History Committee of the Gloucester Lions Club and Robert Serr��	<b>25.00</b> (8.00)
<i>Gloucester Memories</i> By Mel Rowat	<b>5.00</b> (3.00)
<i>Gloucester Roots</i> Compiled and edited by Lois Kemp	<b>20.00</b> (5.00)
<i>Gloucester Township Ratepayers Listed by Family Name and Concession/Lot Number for the Years 1855, 1864 and 1872</i> Compiled by Robert S��rre	<b>10.00</b> (3.00)
<i>Hawthorne Reflections</i> By Laurel Sherrer	<b>10 .00</b> (3.00)
<i>Memories of the Lock Stations</i> Compiled and Edited by Grace Johnston	<b>5.00</b> (3.00)
<i>Milk/Cream Producers—Distributors in Gloucester 1892-1975</i> Compiled and edited by Grace Johnston	<b>15.00</b> (5.00)
<i>Pioneer Families of Cyrville (Gloucester Township)</i> By Robert Serr��	<b>10.00</b> (3.00)

**Publications (continued):**

<b><i>Pioneer Families of Glen Ogilvie )Gloucester Township)</i></b> <b><i>By Robert Serré</i></b>	<b>10.00 (3.00)</b>
<b><i>Pioneer Families of the Gloucester Quarries</i></b> By Robert Serré	<b>10.00 (3.00)</b>
<b><i>Pioneer Families of Hurdman's Bridge (Gloucester Township)</i></b> By Robert Serré	<b>10.00 (3.00)</b>
<b><i>Pioneer Families of Janeville (Gloucester Township)</i></b> By Robert Serré	<b>10.00 (3.00)</b>
<b><i>Pioneer Families of New Edinburgh, Volume One: 1830-1870</i></b> By Robert Serré	<b>10.00 (3.00)</b>
<b><i>Pioneer Families of St. Joseph (Orleans) in Eastern Ontario</i></b> By Robert Serré	<b>10.00 (3.00)</b>
<b><i>Pioneer Families of Rockcliffe Annex and Manor Park in Gloucester Township</i></b> By Robert Serré	<b>10.00 (3.00)</b>
<b><i>Place Names of Ottawa, Canada's Capital 1791-1950</i></b> By Robert Serré	<b>12.00 (3.00)</b>
<b><i>Remembering Carlsbad Springs (Gloucester Township)</i></b> By Mary Boyd and Robert Serré	<b>10.00 (3.00)</b>
<b><i>The Story of the First English Church of Gloucester Township:</i></b> The history of St. James Anglican Church, Leitrim, 1853-2003 By Glenn Clark	<b>50.00 (20.00)</b>
<b><i>Who Was Who in Gloucester, Eastview/Vanier and Rockcliffe Park</i></b> By Robert Serré	<b>10.00 (3.00)</b>
<b><i>1879 Belden Map of Gloucester Township</i></b> The map shows who owned each lot in 1879 as well as the location of roads, churches, schools and interesting features of the township during that early time.	<b>10.00 (5.00)</b>

**Note:** Copies of publications may be ordered through: Robert Serré, President of the GHS, 1057 Riviera Drive, Ottawa K1K 0N7, e-mail: bob.rosealine@gmail.com. A shipping charge as shown for each publication will be added to mail orders.

**JUST PUBLISHED****CLARKSTOWN (EASTVIEW / VANIER)  
PIONEER FAMILIES / FAMILLES PIONNIÈRES**

Officially, the village of **Clarkstown** existed from the late 1880s until the last day of 1908. It became part of Eastview / Vanier, which is now part of Ottawa. Its name survived for decades, and its largely French Canadian population formed a close-knit and distinct community. The pioneer families of Clarkstown are the main focus of this book, but the author has included geographical, political, economic and social information that will help preserve a reasonably accurate picture of this community for future generations, and for the descendants of the pioneers.

This 48-page book costs \$10.00 (postal orders, add \$3.00). Please make your cheque payable to the Gloucester Historical Society, and send your order to: Robert Serré, GHS Publications, 1057 Riviera Drive, Ottawa ON K1K 0N7. For more information, contact [bob.rosealine@gmail.com](mailto:bob.rosealine@gmail.com) or call 613-749-0607.

**FAMILIES FEATURED IN THIS BOOK**

ARBOUR  
BÉLAND  
BOISSEAU  
CHAMPAGNE  
CHARRON  
CLARK  
DAGENAIS  
D'AOUST  
DAZÉ  
DESJARDINS  
DUMOULIN  
FOISY  
GALARNEAU  
GOUGEON  
GOYER  
JOLICOEUR  
KEEFER

KNIGHT  
LACELLE  
LANDRY  
LANTHIER  
LAROCQUE  
LEDUC  
LEGAULT  
LOYER  
MAHEUX  
MARIER  
MONETTE  
NADON  
RHÉAUME  
TRUDEL  
VALIQUETTE  
VÉZINA



## Green's Creek

By Joan Scott

Today there is little evidence of the once well-known Green's Creek. Now much reduced in size, it still meanders through the growing urban landscape, visible to the public at only a few choice spots, where it flows under a busy highway or close to a road.

During the nineteenth century it was an impressive waterway floating large timber to the Ottawa River. In the 1869's Prosper Olivier operated a small saw mill at the upper end of the creek and built a dam from which he obtained his water power. As late as the 1890's or early 1900's I am told that there was a sawmill still in operation on the creek.

Peter Hart, who settled in the Gloucester area before the building of the Rideau Canal, is quoted in Harry and Olive Walker's *Carleton Saga*. He tells of the early days in the area when the great stands of red pine which covered the land around the creek were felled, squared on site, and floated down to the Ottawa River. Logs 60 feet long and 18 inches in diameter were not uncommon. They were placed on the shore of the stream after being felled and squared, and in the spring the high water would take them down to the river where they were cribbed and rafted for the trip to the Quebec market.

Green's Creek at this time was a very twisty waterway but, nevertheless, in the 1850's Peter Hart saw a small steamboat travelling up the creek about two miles past the bridge at the Montreal Road. The current bridge which now carries the Montreal Road over the creek has recently been named the "Harry Allen Bridge."

The creek was originally named for Robert Green, who was one of the first men to send square timber down the stream. There were a number of others who utilized the fortuitous waterway to carry their timber to the river, including Johiel Noak, Pat O'Toole, James Mann and William Cosgrove.

Green's Creek has long been a favourite area for Canadian and American geologists who search its banks for fossils and nodules which were deposited there when the old Champlain Sea dried up after the Ice Age of thousands of years ago. Today people still find the odd fossil, but the creek's allure now is more in its scenic and placid winding path which is a great place for a canoe ride or a hike along its banks.

Source: Walker, Harry and Olive, *Carleton Saga*, The Runge Press Limited, Ottawa, Ontario, 1968

### ***Interesting Trivia ..***

*If you are right handed, you will tend to chew your food on the right side of your mouth. If you are left handed, you will tend to chew your food on the left side of your mouth.*

*To make a half a kilo of honey, bees must collect nectar from over 2 million individual flowers.*

*The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows. In the Renaissance era, it was fashion to shave them off!*

*Because of the speed at which Earth moves around the Sun, it is impossible for a solar eclipse to last more than 7 minutes and 58 seconds.*

## Members Wanted:

The Gloucester Historical Society is always looking for new members. Regardless of age, anyone who is interested in the history of Gloucester, as a Township, City, or part of the City of Ottawa, can benefit from membership in the Society. There is a well-stocked history room at our Leitrim Road office. Every Thursday, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm from early May to the end of October, there are knowledgeable people there to help you in all aspects of research about your family, friends or neighbours in Gloucester.

Your membership entitles you to receive the *Historic Gloucester* newsletter four times a year so that you can keep up with what is going on with the GHS and read interesting articles of times and places of long ago. For more information on the Gloucester Historical Society be sure to check out our wonderful website at **[www.gloucesterhistory.com](http://www.gloucesterhistory.com)**.

## Family Histories Wanted:

If you have information on any family who resided in Gloucester, we would be happy to add this to our records. There may be others who would like to share this information but have been unable to find it. And, you may find that the family of someone you know was once a neighbour of your ancestors!

## Volunteers Needed:

The GHS is always looking for volunteers to assist others with research, to assist at society functions or to help the Board of Directors in many other ways.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP, OR IF YOU WISH TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SEND IT IN WITH YOUR CHEQUE.** (Membership year runs from Jan 1 to Dec 31 calendar year)

**\* \* NOTE: NEW MEMBERSHIP FEES EFFECTIVE APRIL 2012 \* \***

### **Membership Form—Gloucester Historical Society/Société historique de Gloucester**

Membership/Adhésion - \$20.00 for one year..... \$150.00 for life membership.....

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:\_\_\_\_\_

CITY:\_\_\_\_\_ PROV\_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: Gloucester Historical Society  
4550B Bank Street,  
Gloucester, Ontario  
K1T 3W6