

STE-AGATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This Town of St. Agatha photo dates back to c. 1905. The Parish of Ste-Agathe was established in 1899 and the town of St. Agatha was incorporated on March 17, 1899. Some of the people living here in 1877 were served an eviction notice. Just imagine the uncertainty that represented in light of the fact that 122 years before the Acadians were deported from their homes in Nova Scotia. In 1877, all families settled in Township 18 Range 4, were served this foreclosure notice.



We Thomas N. Egery, Mary Ann Hinckley, Daniel B. Hinckley & Frank Hinckley, all of Bangor Penobscot County Maine, owners of Township Numbered Eighteen in the Fourth Range, in Aroostook County in the State of Maine, hereby give you Andre Pelletier, notice of our intention to contest and prevent your acquiring any right or easement in Said Township by virtue of your having occupied or improved any part of the Same; and we hereby notify you to at once leave Said Township and no longer occupy any part of the Same-as from and after the date of the Service of this notice upon you, we shall regard you as trespassers and proceed against you accordingly unless you comply with the demand herein made - -

Thomas N. Egery, Mary Ann Hinckley, Daniel B. Hinckley, Frank Hinckley.

18 Range 4 Maine

January 30, 1877

STE-AGATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY EST. MARCH 23, 1978

P.O. Box 237
534 Main Street
St. Agatha, ME 04772

Preservation Center

Open:

mid June to mid September
12:30 to 4:00 daily, Tues. – Sun.

Email:

Staghs77@yahoo.com

Web Site

www.steagathehistorical.com
www.steagathehistorical.com

Board of Directors

President :

Terry Ouellette

Vice President :

Gloria Gervais

Secretary :

Diane Castonguay

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Philip Morin

Harold Chamberland

Judy Chamberland

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Alan Michaud

Gaylen Thibeault

Lise Sirois

Carole Plourde

Gary Boucher

Trail Guides :

Donna Boucher

Sylvia Belanger

Dr. Paul Buck

TOTAL STAHS LIFETIME
MEMBERSHIP- 399
REGISTERED VISITORS FOR 2015 – 401

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

No Names on the Map? But We Were Here!

*On a cold January afternoon Phil Morin and I went to meet with Guy Dubay to get some answers about the 1877 eviction notices our ancestors had received from Egery, Hinkley, Hinkley, & Hinkley. We asked Guy if he'd put that in perspective for us. The following is what he provided for the annual newsletter. If you read his 1976 play, "With Justice For All," you will understand what those people went through. The parents never shared with their kids (our grandparents) this fact of receiving an eviction notice. They protected the kids from knowing the trouble they experienced. "On parle pas à nos enfants de comment on a presque perdu la terre." The Ste-Agathe Historical Society has copies of "WITH JUSTICE FOR ALL." * SEE KEEPSAKE PAGE Terry Ouellette*

OUR PARENTS LOVED US. THEY DID NOT TELL US OF ALL THEIR TROUBLES. THEY SHELTERED US FROM THEIR ANXIETIES AND ANGST AS MUCH AS THEY COULD. THEY AVOIDED TELLING US OF THEIR DEEPEST WORRIES.

This is why we were never told of the eviction notices our great grandfathers received of the kind reading:

We, "give you André Pelletier, notice of our intention to contest and prevent your acquiring and right or easement in said township by virtue of you having occupied or improved any part of the same and hereby notify you to at once leave said township and no longer occupy any part of the same...."

In other words, "André Pelletier, Squatter, get off my land!"

Today my visitors from St. Agatha came to me with a baffled look, asking me to explain a history which they were never told. I'm asked to explain the history of St. Agatha between the finding of "Lac-à-Menon" and the incorporation of the town in 1899. My visitors want to understand why, on the Madawaska/Frenchville map from the Roe & Colby Aroostook Atlas of 1878 there are blank spaces around Long Lake where they and their neighbors are heirs.

When we played "En Cache" and "Marigoule" our parents did not show us the old deeds they had tucked in the bureau in their bedroom. They didn't tell us about "Pepère" being called a "squatter" and told to get off the land he had improved. We grew to maturity and we find in their paper trail words and phrases they never told us. In not too many words, my visitors showed me their document and asked, "Guy, what is this?"

It's our history. It's our history which up to now has been hidden in our literature. It's our history, so controversial that we have it masked in fiction in the chapter, "What the Bishop Knew" in Holman Day's novel, "The Red Lane." Your paper – the eviction notice is that which I tried to explain in theatre - on stage –with my play, "With Justice For All" in 1976.

"Egery and Hinckley – who are they?" my visitors asked. They are bond holders of bonds from a bankrupt railroad company. A railroad company, The European and North American Railway, that had been given a million acres of unoccupied wild land so that capital resources might be gained from the sale of lumber to finance the railway's construction "to the frontier." The land in question was not at all "unoccupied."

In 1859 the State of Maine passed the "Settlement Act" to encourage land settlement in Northern Maine (Resolves of Maine Chapter 288, 1859). The act allowed young families with little prospect of inheriting their parent's land (because of large families not being able to make everyone a successor) to take up new land on very liberal terms described as "road labor and settling duties." By working on new roads to be developed and building a home on the lot "licensed to occupy," a young person could secure land of his/her own by meeting the provisions of the law.

A land commission set up by the terms of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty, "to quiet the settlers' claims" had in 1845 identified the land settlers on the first three tiers of lots in Madawaska and up to the head of the lake in Frenchville (now St. Agatha). The report of that land commission resulted in the land grants from Maine & Massachusetts to each land holder of record as may yet be found at the Registry of Deeds. These lots all show up on the Roe & Colby map with occupants names updated to 1873. Yet not all of the occupants listed in the 1873 Maine Land Agent Report are set on the map.

In Madawaska there is a curious blank space between the third tier lots and the land fronting on Long Lake. In present day St. Agatha the blank area can be seen even fronting on the lake shore. Yet we know from the land abstract of the Ste-Agathe Historical Society property that the land there was occupied as early as 1857 by André Pelletier.

During the American Civil War there was a plan to develop a rail line "in defense of the frontier." (Public Laws of Maine Chapter 401, 1864) Envisioned was a railway from Bangor to the St. John River as International Border, but the plans ran into a financial hitch. The rail line was not immediately built. But in 1869 in order to encourage rail construction the State of Maine granted 2 million acres in Penobscot and Aroostook Counties to the European and North American Railway Company. (State of Maine to European and Northern American Railway Vol. 386 pp. 329-331 Penobscot County Registry of Deeds). The hope was that the sale of the lumber from these wild lands would bring in revenue to capitalize the building of the railroad. European and Northern American Railway did build the line from Bangor to the International Border, but not to the St. John River but to Vanceboro in Washington County.

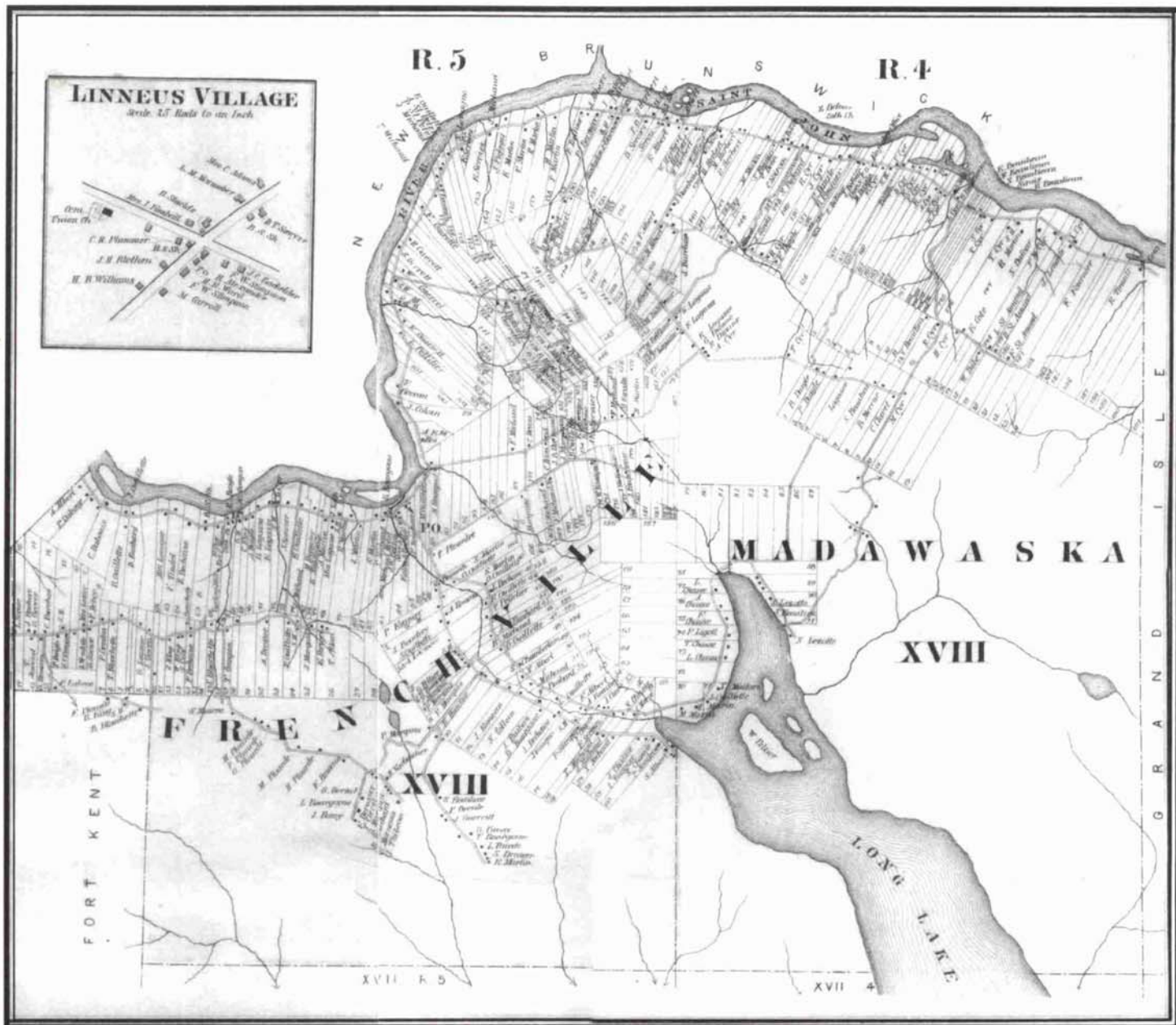
In 1873 there was a financial crisis in the United States. The European and North American Railroad likewise ran into difficult times. It defaulted on payments expected by those who had invested in the bonds. In order to recoup their investments bond holders began to place attachment on the railway's real estate, which included land described in the two million acre grant of wild lands presumed to be unoccupied. Yet it appears that some of the land described as "wild lands" had been licensed out to applicants purchasing lots under the Maine Settlement Act of 1859.

In 1912, Maine writer Holman Day (1865-1935) in his book "The Red Lane: A Romance on the Border" gives a description of the conflict between homesteaders and lumberpersons here. Using his description in chapter XXVI entitled – "The Picture the Bishop Saw," I delved further into the land records to identify Egery and Hinckley in the land eviction notice of the kind my visitors had in hand. This lead me to the railroad story which like Holman Day I dramatized in a literary format.

Until our literary creations are pushed into the field of history, readers may have to rely on Holman Day and my play for insight into the conflict that left a good quarter of our town lands blank on the maps of towns along the St. John Valley.

Guy Dubay
Madawaska, Maine

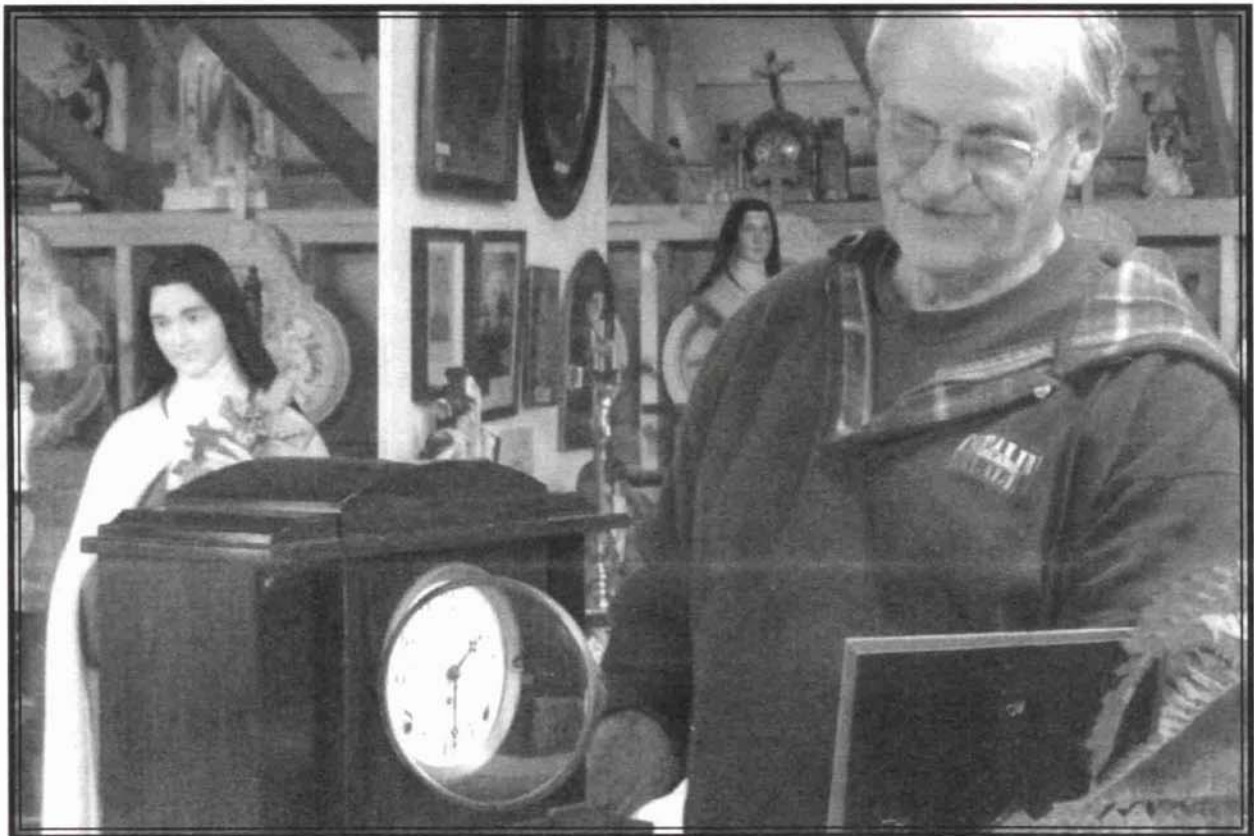
*See Copy of map with no names opposite Pelletier Island on the next page. We know homes had been established in the region.



First Visitors Of the 2015 Summer



Mrs. Alfreda Chamberland, Lori, Harold and Judy



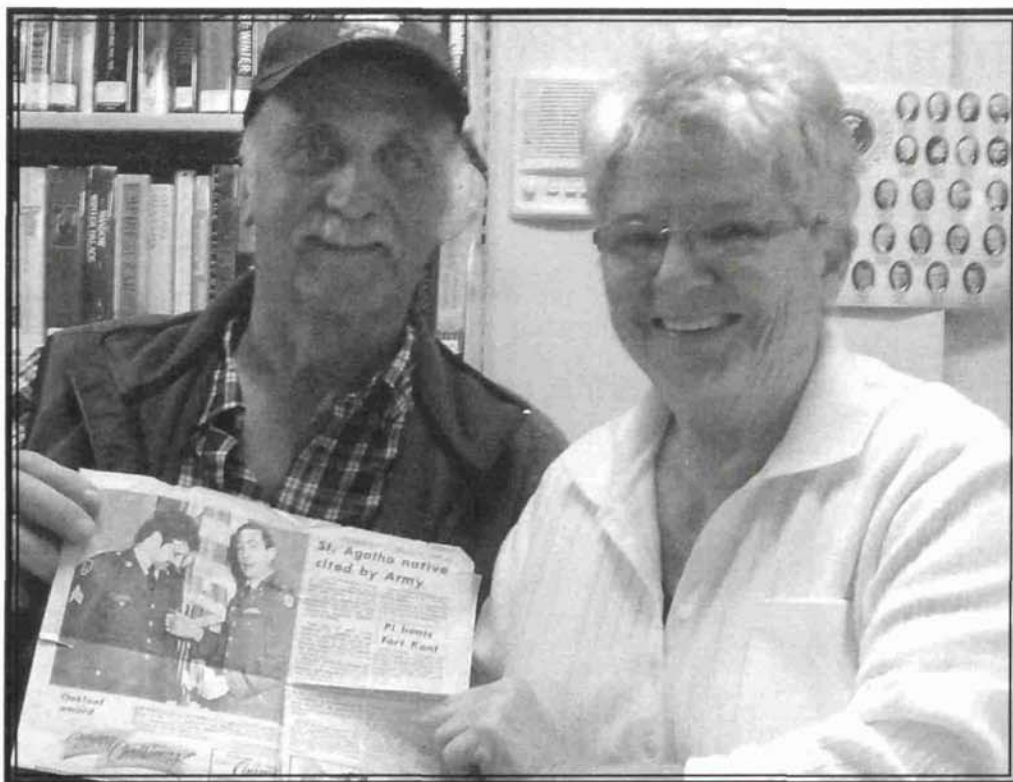
Keith Lord checks on the clocks

ANNUAL MEETING - JULY 13, 2015

Ste-Agathe Historical Society Board of Directors



*Front: Terry Ouellette, Judy Chamberland and Diane Castontonguay
Back Row: Harold Chamberland, Jackie Michaud, Gloria Gervais,
Gaylen Thibeault, Carole Plourde, Philip Morin, Lise Sirois
Not in Photo: Alan Michaud and Gary Boucher*



Gaylen Thibeault becomes the 700th donor since the Ste-Agathe Historical Society began collecting artifacts back in 1977.

Gaylen presents a newspaper article about his brother Russell Thibeault. Accepting the article is Terry Ouellette.



*July 9th Basket Weaving L-R:
Bernadette Thibeault, Lise Sirois, Jeannine Daigle and Denise Sinclair.*

October Visitors @ the Marquis/Pelletier House Museum and Preservation Center



*Debra and Richard A. Pickett with Delores St. Peter Fahey,
Madeline Guerrette, and Claudette Clavette.*

- THE SURPRISE BOXES -

*Lost something? Someone will say, "Pray to St. Anthony!"
Well here is a version of "une prière faite à la maison."*

*Saint Antoine de Padoue
Nez fourré partout
Ouvrez tous les petits trous
Trouvez ce qu'on a perdu.*

37th Annual Breakfast - October 18, 2015



*Mrs. Louise Raymond and Board Member Jackie Michaud.
The ticket Mrs. Raymond picked belonged to Linda Ayotte
- the lucky Half / Half Winner.*



*Wisdom Middle / High School students who volunteered at the breakfast:
L-R: Adam Weyneth, Sarah Harris, Shana Paradis, Emily Lavertu, Annie Ouellette,
Melanie Bellefleur, and Andrew Guimond.*

Remembering Our Deceased Life Time Members

Ste-Agathe Historical Society

Willie Albert

Marcel Chartier

Geraldine Chasse

Jean Michaud Crabtree

Patricia Chamberland Guimond

Patrick Hebert

Rene Hebert

Germaine Dumond Morin

John Morin

Thelma Ouellette

STE-AGATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

November 30, 2014 - November 30, 2015

*In Memory of **Mr. Albet V. & Mrs. Alma C. Michaud**, by Leo James Michaud.*

*In Memory of **Mrs. Bernice Vaillancourt**, by Gloria Gervais.*

*In Memory of **Mr. Gilman P. Morin**, by James & Theresa Foster.*

*In Memory of **Mr. Frank Martin**, by Gerard & Diane Castonguay.*

*In Memory of **Mr. Jean (John) D. Morin**, by Philip Morin, Terry M. Ouellette, Simone Morin.*

*In Memory of **Mr. Ronald Plourde**, by Terry M. Ouellette, Bob & Pat Bourgoïn,
Gerald & Rose Marie Dubois.*

*In Memory of **Mr. Rino Chasse**, by Terry Ouellette*

*In Memory of **Mrs. Aline Chamberland**, by Clifford & Theresa Guerrette,
Gerald & Rose Marie Dubois*

*In Memory of **Mr. Marcel Chartier**, by Terry Ouellette, Stan Albert, Philip Morin,
James & Pat Morin, Gerald & Rose Marie Dubois.*

*In Memory of **Mr. Harold "Harry" Sedlik**, by Linda A. Cyr, Candide Daigle Sedlik.*

*In Memory of **Mr. Henrie E. G. Lachance**, by Linda A Cyr*

*In Memory of **Mrs. Necebie Langford**, by Lorraine Zimmerman*

*In Memory of **Mr. Leslie Thibodeau**, by Bernadette Thibeault, Donna & Gary Boucher.*

*In Memory of **Mr. Mark L. Peterson Jr.** by Terry M. Ouellette*

*In Memory of **Mrs. Lucy Daigle**, by Patricia Morin*

*In Memory of **Mrs. Geraldine Chasse**, by Ste-Agathe Historical Society Directors,
Stan Albert, Philip Morin.*

*In Memory of **Mrs. Norma Dube**, by Stan Albert, Philip Morin*

*In Memory of **Mrs. Rita Belanger**, by Philip Morin, Clifford & Theresa Guerrette.*

*In Memory of **Joseph D. & Ida Morin Deceased Family Members**, by Philip Morin.*

*In Memory of **Rev. Ernest Etenaud, Founder of Ste-Agathe Parish**, by Philip Morin*

ACQUISITIONS FROM JANUARY 1, 2015 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2015

Jason & Jennifer Derosier Daigle	1989 Painting of Luke & Pauline Derosier Home
Marcel Chartier	Family Rosary Edition of the Holy Bible
Robert Landry	Landry-Bouchard Family Album
Baptismal Dress	Sr. Rosemarie Greco, D.W.
Rosaire "Ross" & Judy Ayotte Paradis	Four Volumes Senate Legislative Records, Human Sacrifice by James P. Moore, 4 Copies of Evangeline A Tale of Acadie by Françoise Paradis, Ed.D, Ste-Agathe Parish Centennial Sweatshirt, Bottle of Wine: SIEUR DE CASTEIGNE DU PAYS D'OC, FRANCE Collection of Souvenir Mugs
Roberta Daigle Guerrette	Holy Bible
Roger Morneault	2014 Wisdom Middle/High School Pioneer Yearbook
Julie Plourde Cyr	6 Bank Pouches
Greta Laferriere Martin	Fur Coat
Gerry Morin	1962 OWL Yearbook – Madawaska High School
Danny à Camille Morin	Saw Vice and assorted Tools
James & Pat Morin	Canning Jars
Stan Albert	Store Shoe Bench, Assorted Frames, Army Gloves, Scarf and Medals
Therese Chasse Albert	Spinning Wheel
Our Lady of the Valley Parish	48 Star United States Flag
Donna M. Levesque	November 1959 ECHOS de la Sagesse, Framed Certificate of Religious Instruction – 1924, Set of Books: The Classroom Teacher, Carrying Case for Slides
Danny & Roberta LaBrie	Book – Spirit Mind Body by Rev. Nelson Boucher
Gerald & Rose Marie Dubois	Buttress

ACQUISITIONS FROM JANUARY 1, 2015 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2015

Philip Morin	Three Yearbooks, Book: Tribute to Pope John Paul II, An American Flag
Romeo Nadeau Family	Blacksmith Forge With Bellow
Long Lake Public Library	Collection of Paper Talks, Publication on Acadians by Dr. Levesque School 5 th Graders -2014
Rachelle LaForge	Various Publications from Geraldine Chasse
Carole Plourde	School Master Desk
Rita Plourde	Picture of Margaret Chase Smith
Roger & Anita Chamberlain	Golden Book Encyclopedia, American Heritage Series
Gayle Pelletier	Fur Cape
Roger Bosse	Cable Terminating Tool Kit
Lise Bernier	Framed picture of Montfort School, School Photos, School Administrative District Directory -1969 – 2006
Dr. Fernande Desjardins	4 VHS Tapes, The Paymaster, 2 69"x48" Maps
Town of Frenchville	Photographs and Items from Leon Gagnon Household
Bobby Andrew Michaud	Memorial Book for Sr. Bertha Michaud, D.W.
*Odile & Stella Dube	Fred & Estelle Dube Family Photo – 1980
Simone LeBlanc Knight	Family Obituary Cards
Donald Daigle	Photo of Maine Representatives 1915-1916
Guy & Muriel St. Onge	Wash Tub or "Une Cuve"
Ron & Sylvia Caron Belanger	Dubois Genealogy Book - 2014
Fort Kent Historical Society	Collection of Book Matches
Sr. Candide Corriveau D.W.	Crucifixes
Paul & Leola Bouchard	Collection of Pioneer Yearbooks
Claudette Chasse Boucher	40 th and 50 th Class of 1956 Reunion Programs

*1980 Fred & Estelle Dube Family Photo



*Front L-R: Alfreda, Mathilda, Adline, Estelle & Fred Dube, Patrick, Leo
2nd Row: Ann Marie, Philip, Pauline, Guy, Alfred Jr.
Back: Odile, Stella and Jean Paul.*

Grammer School Students



Front: _____ Albert, Marie Claire Chamberland, Jacqueline Chamberland, Irene Bosse, Lorraine Lagassey, Rachel Michaud, Jackie Martin, Viola Albert, Jeannine Sinclair.

2nd Row: _____, _____, Marcella Morneault, Patricia Morin, _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.

3rd Row: _____, Rinette Paradis, Constance Dumond, _____, _____, _____, Lauria Bourgoin, and _____.

4th Row: Dorothy Chasse, Barbara Parent, _____, _____, Jean Michaud and Patricia Chamberland.

**Please contact us if can help with the names.*

2015

Thank You to Our Trail Guides & Volunteers



September 13, 2015

Appreciation Brunch

*Lise Sirois, "Textile Thursdays" Co-ordinator, Joyce Plourde,
Julie Cyr, Trail Guide Dr. Paul Buck, Doreen Daigle,
Trail Guide Donna Boucher, Gloria Gervais.*

Not in photo: Trail Guide Sylvia Belanger and Jackie Michaud.

KEEPSAKES

The following items can be ordered from the Ste-Agathe Historical Society:

Voici the Valley Culture way - CD & Booklet.....	\$15.00
Evangeline, The Novel by Richard F. Mullins.....	\$14.95 (Paperback).....\$24.95 (Hardcover)
Land In Between by Beatrice Craig.....	\$30.00
Destination Madawaska by J.R.T. Theriault.....	\$19.95
Fusion of the Acadian and Canadian Races In Madawaska-English Translation by J. Blesso.....	\$5.00
Les Filles de la Sagesse Ste-Agathe, Maine 1904 - 2004.....	\$30.00
Les Belles Histoire du Couvent de Ste-Agathe.....	\$25.00
Le Centenaire de St. Agatha Maine.....	\$25.00
History of Ste. Agathe Parish 1889 - 1989.....	\$10.00
Ste-Agathe Cemetery Records 1889 - 1989.....	\$10.00
Ste-Agathe Cemetery Records Part II 1990 - 2006.....	\$10.00
Marriages of Ste-Agathe 1889 - 1989.....	\$10.00
St. John Valley Souvenir Postcard Book.....	\$12.00
Recipes and Remembrances - Ste-Agathe Historical Society Cookbook.....	\$19.95
Heritage Sites of the St. John Valley by Louise M. Martin.....	\$ 5.00
Year 2016 Calendars.....	\$10.00
*New Items	
"With Justice For All" by Guy Dubay 1976.....	\$10.00

To place an order by mail, circle each item that you would like, specifying how many. Please include \$5.95 for the first item and \$1.00 for each additional item to cover mailing costs, and mail to:

The Ste-Agathe Historical Society
PO Box 237
St. Agatha, Maine 04772

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

November 30, 2015

Dear Members and Friends of the Ste-Agathe Historical Society,

The events sponsored at the historical society began last February when Diane Castonguay conducted a Presentation –VISIT ALASKA WITH US at Montfort Heights. She afforded the group in attendance a virtual cruise to the 50th State of the United States without the hefty price tag. The group was brought back to reality with a delicious winter favorite – “Des Beignets.” You can find 5 different recipes for “Beignets” in our 2014 Recipes and Remembrances – P. 134, 135, 136.

The Preservation Grant, awarded to the society by the Maine Acadian Heritage Council, made it possible to have Mark Guerrette and his helpers, Cole Marquis and Dustin Guerrette, build the 14 foot extension on the second floor. The purpose of this extension was to provide ample storage space for the ever growing collection of publications and artifacts. LED lights, installed by board member Gaylen Thibeault, was also a great addition to provide better lighting to all areas.

The Heritage Trail Guide Grant, awarded to the Ste-Agathe Historical Soceity by the Maine Acadian Heritage Council, made it possible for us to be open from 12:30 to 4 Tues. to Sunday from mid-June to mid-September. * The site is open on Sundays (12:30 to 4:00P.M.) with a board member as the Trail Guide. It has been a tradition to have each board member take a turn at a Sunday afternoon at the Center.

The exhibit room’s special feature this past summer was on the first town fathers and Town Managers of the town of St. Agatha. Textile Thursdays, under the guidance of artisan Lise Sirois, continued to be a special attraction for the preservation of endangered crafts such as basket weaving, twining, and working the loom. Over 400 hundred visitors signed the guest book. Some special groups included students from Dr. Levesque School, residents from the St. Joseph Nursing Home, and members of Class of 1960 celebrating a 55th Reunion.

The 37th Historical Society Annual Breakfast attracted some 288 guests. The display was graciously provided by a local artist, Linda Dufour Ayotte. Many volunteers, including 7 students from Wisdom Middle/High school, made this event possible.

Even though the site is wrapped up for the cold months, the photo albums and genealogy information is available at the Long Lake Public Library located at 384 Main Street. We look forward to seeing you at the Preservation Center in 2016.

Sincerely,



Terry Ouellette



*Joyeux Noël
Bonne et Heureuse Année
et le Paradis en fin de vos jours*

Ste-Agathe Historical Society
534 Main Street
P.O. Box 237
St. Agatha ME 04772