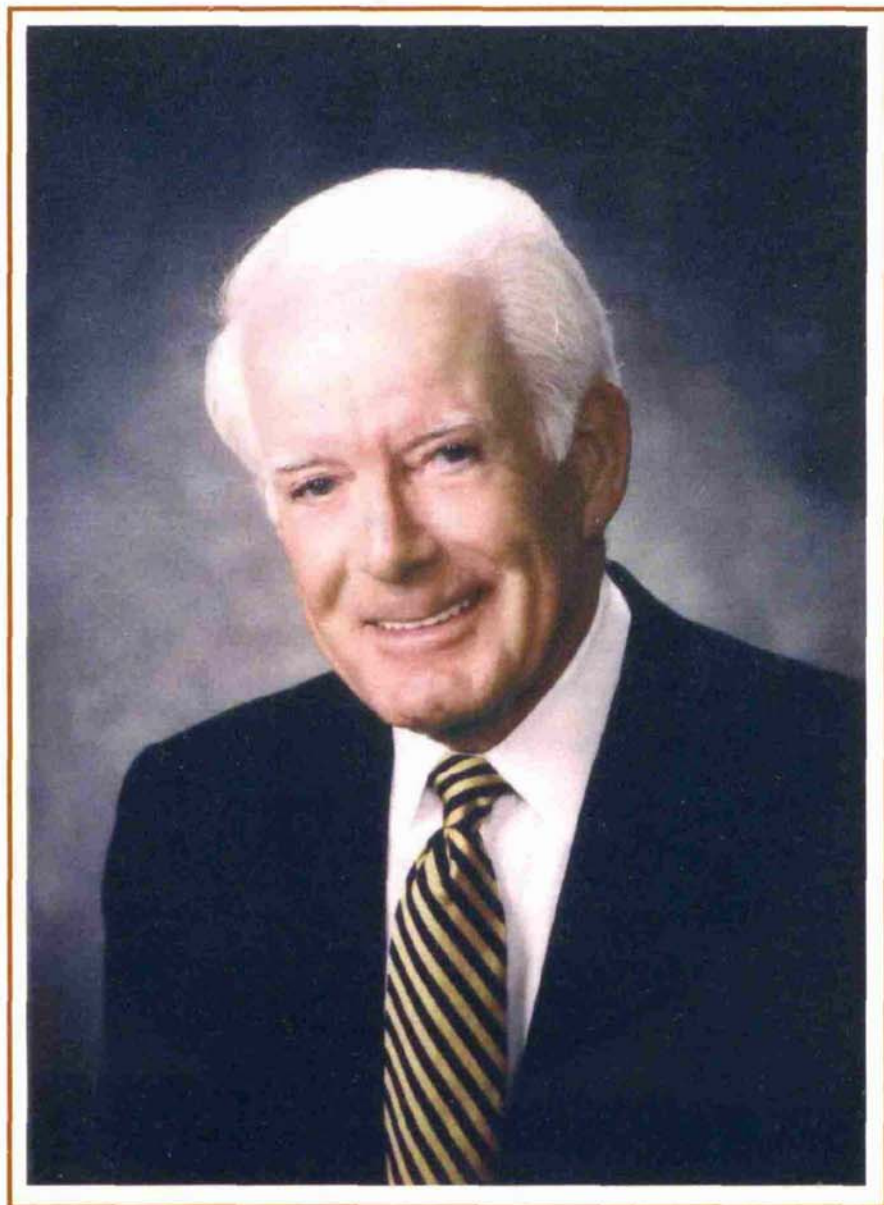


Ste-Agathe Historical Society  
Annual Newsletter  
2008



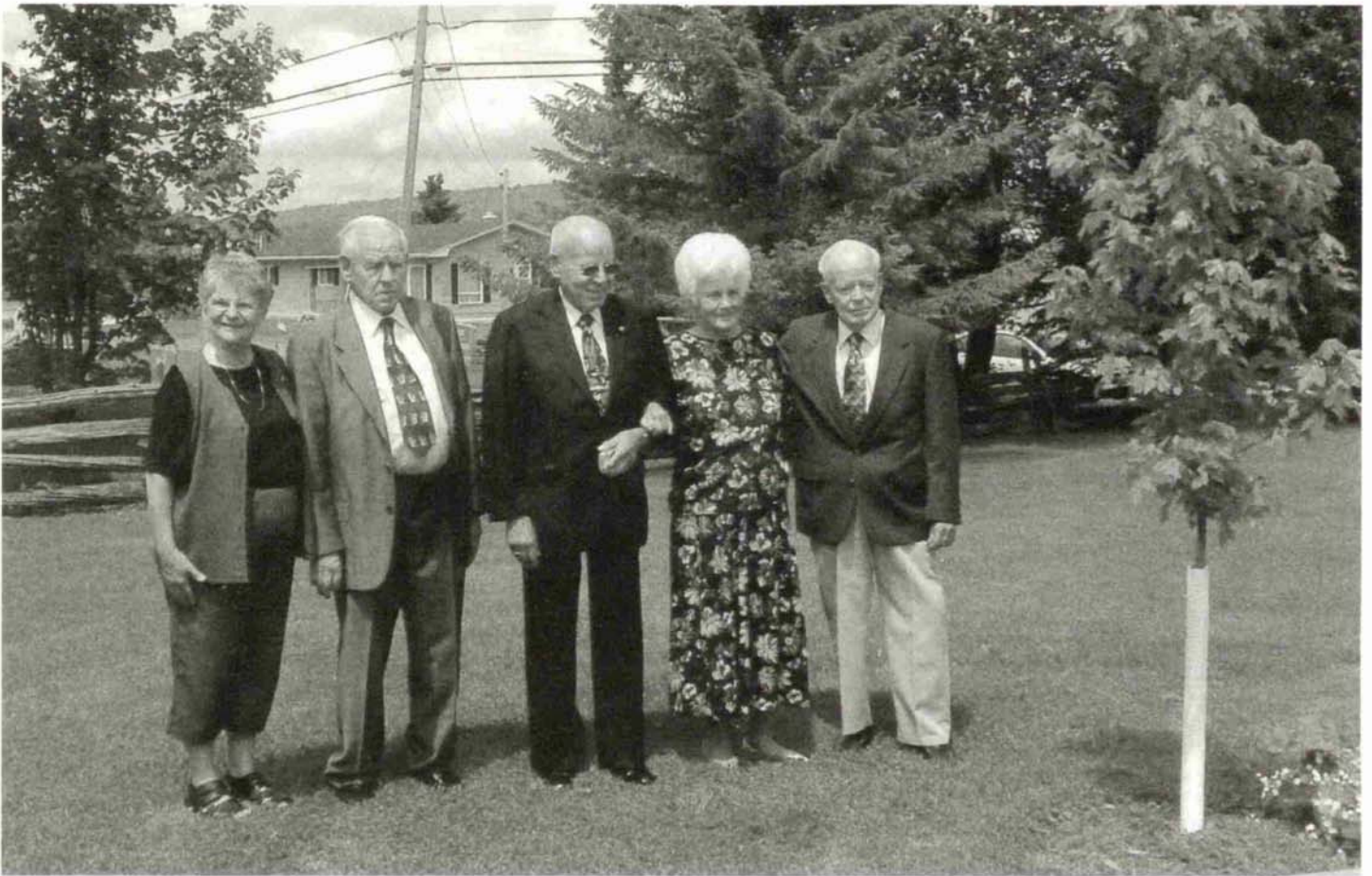
Leonide N. Albert  
1920 - 2007

## ***Leo N. Albert***

Leo Albert, son of Felix and Azilda Michaud Albert, left St. Agatha after he graduated from Notre Dame de la Sagesse High School in 1937. He traveled many roads in his lifetime, but never lost touch with his hometown of St. Agatha located on the beautiful shores of Long Lake in the northern part of the state of Maine. Leo went a long way from picking potatoes on his uncle's farm to president of Prentice-Hall International Inc. His ambitions started when he was a young altar boy at the St. Agatha Catholic Church. His sisters, Françoise and Marie Blanche, recalled this incident while chatting with Bangor Daily News correspondent, Jeannine Albert, in the early 1960's. As a lad, Leo held the long robe of Bishop John Gregory Murray, bishop of the diocese of Portland, who had come to St. Agatha for Confirmation ceremonies. "Bishop Murray had stepped on Leo's toes," recalled Marie Blanche. "The bishop took Leo in his arms to console him, and asked him, what do you want to be when you grow up? A priest?" "No," replied young Leo. "A bishop like me?" Again a no. "A cardinal?" A third no. "Well," asked the bishop, "what do you want to be?" "A Pope," was the innocent reply.

Leo Albert served in the U.S. Marine Corp during World War II and saw action in Saipan and Okinawa. He was most inspired by America's disabled veterans for their courage and sacrifice. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude by donating \$1 Million – twice – to the campaign to build the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, D.C.

After completing his time in the military, Leo landed a job at Prentice-Hall International publishers as a stock clerk. He worked his way up the corporate ladder and retired from the company as Chairman of the Board. His active memberships have taken him behind the Iron Curtain, and to virtually every important world capital. Some of his affiliations included Chairman of the International Copyright Task Force for the American Text Book Publishing Institute, American Book Publishers Council, the Atomic Energy Commission's Advisory Committee on Technical Information, the U.S. Government's Advisory Committee on the International Book Program, the Inter-Governmental Conferences on Publishing in Geneva and Paris, Chairman and member of



*Family of Philip Albert*

*Tree Dedication for Benefactor Leo N. Albert – June 21, 2008*

*Left to right : Terry Ouellette, President of Ste-Agathe Historical Society,  
Philip Albert, Jean Albert, Francoise Albert Sirois, and Roger Albert.*

*Unable to attend : Marguerite Albert LaPine and Juliette Albert Tardif.*

the President's Council's Joint International Trade Committee and the American Educational Publishers Institute. Leo also served as a technical advisor to Book Production magazine and was a member of the U.S. State Department Advisory Board on International Copyright. He served Dean Rusk on the Interstate International Trade Committee and in 1966, received the President's E Award, on behalf of Prentice-Hall International, from President Lyndon B. Johnson for promoting the cause of International Trade. He was the recipient of commendations from two U.S. Presidents in recognition for his success in expanding his company's publications to developed and developing countries. He served on the Executive Committee of the Library of Congress as publishing advisor to the Atomic Energy Commission and as Chairman of the

Association of American Book Publishers. Leo testified before Congress on many occasions regarding illiteracy, copyright violations, and postal rates and was awarded a Doctor of Humanities Degree by the College of the Holy Cross in recognition of his successful efforts in the 1970's to share Prentice-Hall's educational books with all developing countries at no cost to them.

Leo Albert's accomplishments and generosity continued after his retirement. The Palm Beach Today called him "a philanthropist extraordinaire." "Leo Albert has that certain star-like quality. He turns heads when he drives down Worth Avenue in his black Bentley and one is pleasantly surprised when they meet this man...his gentle tone and warm nature...his immaculate clothes and manners to match. This is a man who personifies – "giver." In 2006 he contributed over \$3 million to 139 charitable organizations." Leo Albert has definitely traveled many roads in his lifetime and he chose to come back to his hometown for his permanent place of rest. He is buried on the family plot in the St. Agatha Lower Cemetery located near the Ste-Agathe Historical Site.

*"The Ste-Agathe Historical Society will always be grateful for the encouragement and generous donations it has received from Leo Albert. He always showed interest in the projects that the Board of Directors had undertaken and was helpful in financing the publications of the "Centenaire de St. Agatha, Maine 1899-1999" and "Les Filles de la Sagesse Ste-Agathe, Maine 1904-2004." When the Pelletier-Marquis House Museum became too small to house the collection of artifacts, he supported the building of the Preservation Center in 2003 and the expansion of that building in 2007. We appreciate that he always remembered the people in his hometown of St. Agatha, Maine, and we consider ourselves very fortunate to have known him."*

*Terry Ouellette, President of Ste-Agathe Historical Society*

# ***Montfort Heights – Past and Present***

***by Michelle Chamberland***

The Daughters of Wisdom, who arrived in St. Agatha, Maine on October 1, 1904, established the Notre Dame de la Sagesse Convent on a parcel of land across from the St. Agatha Church and Rectory. This convent was a Catholic high school, boarding school, day school and hospital. Many buildings were added to the convent over the years. They were demolished, except the Queen of Peace Hall, now known as Montfort Heights.

The beginnings of Montfort Heights go back to May 24, 1940. On this date the initial plans were made to add an addition to the convent, Queen of Peace Hall. The plans of this building were drawn by Mr. A. Gravel and were executed by contractor J. Delisle and J. Cyr of Fort Kent. The building was constructed in bricks and was to measure 140 feet on the façade and 65 feet wide with two stories above the basement. The two floors above the gymnasium were identical. On each floor were three dormitories with large windows and a central washroom. For over two decades this building housed boarders and held numerous functions including plays, sporting events and commencement exercises. The boarding school closed in 1966 due to the formation of M.S.A.D. #33. From 1966 until 1970, the building remained unoccupied and was purchased by J & B Properties on August 29, 1970. Between 1979 and 1982 two local entrepreneurs, James M. Chamberland and Francis Morin re-purchased the building and undertook the task of refurbishing Queen of Peace Hall. With funds from Maine State Housing Authority's Section 8 Rehabilitation Program, this building was transformed into a 20-unit elderly housing complex. The complex was named Montfort Heights for many reasons: to honor the founder of the Daughters of Wisdom, St. Louis Marie de Montfort, as a tribute to the Montfort School (a K-6 elementary school that closed its doors in 1979 and was previously situated nearby), and it also happened to be the middle name of co-owner James. Despite the numerous changes made to the grounds and building, one item remains unchanged. For the past 68 years a 5-foot-high statue of St. Louis Marie de Montfort has inhabited a place of honor in front of the building where it

still stands today. Another relic preserved from the buildings older days is Our Lady of Peace Statue, which is illuminated and stands in the front upper center of the building.

In 1982, once the building was completed, Montfort Heights opened its doors as an elderly housing complex. The original residents were:

Maxime & Julie Albert

Marie Agnes Pelletier

Leonide & Marie Rose Ouellette

Patrick & Lillian Guerrette

Cecile Caron

Alfreda Fongemie

Dave & Denise Castonguay

Rejean Michaud

Maria Chamberland

Olivette Martin

Joseph & Ida Hebert

James & Oriette Rogan

Benoit & Alma Chasse



*Montfort Heights Building – St. Agatha, Maine*

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on December 12 with the official opening date as December 20, 1982. Reverend John Audibert, who was pastor of St. Agatha at the time, presided over the events and blessed the structure and grounds. The present Montfort Heights building, located at 384 Main Street, is not only a housing complex but has grown to incorporate other roles as well. In 1997, the Northern Maine Medical

Center in Fort Kent opened the Long Lake Regional Health Center, housed in Montfort Heights. This much-needed facility now affords residents accessibility to high quality health care without having to drive long distances. On July 22, the Long Lake Public Library, located at the back of Montfort Heights (the old laundry room) opened its doors as well. Other areas of the building are also a place of gathering. The community room is the site of a weekly Catholic Mass. The town's senior citizens enjoy Charlemagne card games on Wednesdays sponsored by the St. Agatha Recreation Department. The community room is also the location of the annual Christmas Dinner held for the residents. The meal is prepared and served by the owners James & Rita Morin Chamberland, Francis & Claudia Plourde Morin and friends. It is always a memorable event. In 2007, at the 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner, Alma Chasse was honored as the only original tenant who resided at Montfort Heights. Mrs. Chasse received a corsage and shared in this special event along with her family which was also in attendance.

Montfort Heights was established by the Daughters of Wisdom as a place of shelter, knowledge and spirituality where they ministered in the fields of education, health care and social and pastoral outreach. Although the building and its grounds have evolved over the years, the principles on which the building was created remain. Montfort Heights is a landmark, and an integral part of the town, providing the option of wellness, spirituality and knowledge for those in St. Agatha and the surrounding area.

*Montfort Heights  
St. Agatha, Maine • December 18, 2007  
25th Anniversary Christmas Dinner*



*Alma Chasse and Family*

*Alma Chasse - Resident of Montfort Heights for 25 years.*

*One of the first couples to move into Montfort Heights in 1982 -- Benoit and Alma Couturier Chasse  
Benoit Chasse d. May 17, 1994*

*Sitting : Roger Chasse, Reno Chasse, Alma Chasse holding Trevor Chasse and Gerard Chasse.  
Back : Georgianne Fongemie, Eileen Chasse, Ruth Harquail, Casey Chasse,  
Therese Chasse Rossignol, Judy Chasse, Angie Rossignol, Gaetan Rossignol and Dorothy Rossignol.*



*Francis, Claudia Morin, Rita, James Chamberland. Front : Alma Chasse*



## *In Memoriam*



### *Sr. Lorette Chamberland* *1917 – 2008*

Sister Lorette Chamberland, D.W., died on July 25, 2008 at Maria Regina Residence, Brentwood, N.Y. A native of St. Agatha, Maine, she was the daughter of Olivier and Anastasie Michaud Chamberland. She made her first profession of vows as a Daughter of Wisdom in Ottawa, Canada, in 1936, and took the religious name of Sister Marie Olivier. She served as a cook at St. Charles Hospital,

Port Jefferson, New York (1937-1944) and St. Charles, Brooklyn, New York (1944-1957), and offered community service and visitation of the sick at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Convent (1971-1976). She also served as a cook at Our Lady of Wisdom, St. Agatha, Maine (1957-1964); Mary Immaculate, Litchfield, Connecticut (1964-1968); and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Waterbury Connecticut (1968-1971). From 1976-1984, she was semi-retired at Mary Immaculate, Litchfield, Connecticut, where she helped in the kitchen and retreat house, worked at the seminary, and delivered Meals on Wheels. She provided home visitations at Our Lady of Wisdom, St. Agatha, Maine (1984-1987) and, as part of the Senior Community Service Project affiliated with the University of Maine, she did research and collected data for the Ste-Agathe Historical Society and served as a receptionist at the Marquis-Pelletier Museum House in the summer (1987-1992). In 2002, she retired to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Convent, Sound Beach, New York, and in 2005, because of failing health, moved to Maria Regina Residence, Brentwood, New York, where she resided at the time of her death.

Sister Lorette was predeceased by her parents, her brother, Patrick Chamberland, her sisters, Annie Chasse, Edith Daigle, Lumina Fortin and Marie Albert; and by a niece, Jeannine Michaud. She is survived by several nieces and nephews

*Mother of the Year*  
*Jeanne Gagnon Chamberland*



Les Dames de Ste-Anne of Our Lady of the Valley Parish (St. Agatha) honored Jeanne Chamberland as Mother of Year in May of 2008. Jeanne married Valere Chamberland in 1943 and moved to St. Agatha shortly afterwards. Their children include : Carmen, Carl, Rinette, James, Rodney and Ray. Jeanne became a widow in 2003. She lives in the homestead located near her son and daughter-in-law, Rodney and Judy. Jeanne keeps busy with her involvement in Les Dames de Ste-Anne and the Prayer Group. She enjoys visiting with her children, 14 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Many relatives and friends gathered to honor Jeanne and in the above photo with her are those who were previously selected as Mother of the Year : center, Jeanne Chamberland, left to right, Pauline Marquis, Alma Chasse, Alfreda Chamberland, Lucille Michaud and Edwina Dufour.

**STE-AGATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

**OCTOBER 16, 2007 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

*In memory of **Mr. Lucien Desrosier**, Andre & Lynn Ouellette, James & Theresa Foster.*

*In memory of **Mr. Roger Levesque**, James & Theresa Foster.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Laurette Marin Ayotte**, Terry Ouellette, Paul & Avril Marin.*

*In memory of **Mr. Leo Albert**, Terry Marin Ouellette*

*In memory of **Mr. Louis Marquis**, Carl & Theresa Michaud, Maynard & Claudette Martin.*

*In memory of **Mr. Richard (Mitch) Michaud**, James & Patricia Morin, Philip Morin, Stan Albert, Florine M. Michaud, Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Chasse, Claudette & Maynard Martin, Paul & Avril Marin, June & Gloria Gervais, Richard & Jeanne Ayotte, Bob & Rachel Michaud Marquis.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Laurette Lavertu**, Maynard & Claudette Martin.*

*In memory of **Mr. Norman Michaud**, Cecilia Michaud & Family.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Lillian Martin Gagnon**, Philip Morin, Stan Albert, Terry Marin Ouellette, Maynard & Claudette Martin.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Florence Kent Corbin**, Eugene & Jackie Michaud.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Berna Audibert**, Maynard & Claudette Martin.*

*In memory of **Mr. James McQwen Leslie**, Maynard & Claudette Martin.*

*In memory of **Ms. Alice Chasse**, Jessie & Nancy Michaud.*

*In memory of **Mr. John Houghton, Sr.** Candide Corriveau.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Laurette Albert Vaillancourt**, Terry Ouellette.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Dolores Bourgoin**, Bob & Pat Bourgoin.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Juliette Martin Michaud**, Cynthia Michaud Remington.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Annie Chamberland Albert**, Terry Marin Ouellette.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Lorraine Thibeault**, Jean Marc & Wendy Soucy.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Bernadette Chamberland Michaud**, Terry Marin Ouellette, Florine Michaud.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Ola Thibodeau**, Roland J. & Theresa A. Pelletier.*

*In Memory of Ms. Kathy Guerrette, Bob and Pat Bourgoin*

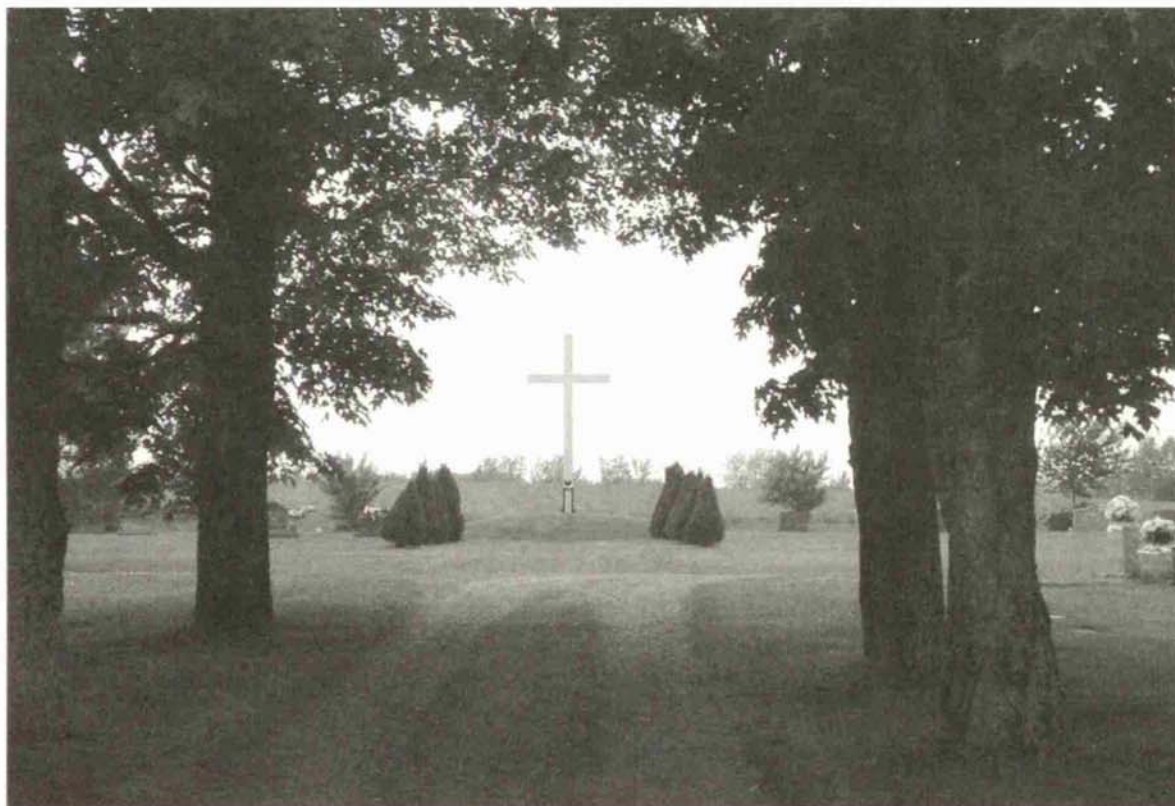
*In memory of Sr. Lorette Chamberland, D.W., Constance Desrosier,  
Ste-Agathe Historical Society Directors, Dot and Dave Michaud, Tommy,  
Diane, Tracy and Nikki Voisine.*

*In memory of Mr. Rosaire Lagassey, Conrad and Louise Cyr, John and Francine  
Lagassé, Juliette M. Cyr, Terry Marin Ouellette, Leonie Lagassé, Paul and Carol Baker,  
Mr. and Mrs. Rene Hebert, James and Rita Chamberland, Phil and Glenna Guerrette,  
Jackie and Ron Rossignol, Pat Ouellette, Steve, Cheryl and Stephen Dionne, Bernard and  
Florine Gervais, Joseph A. and Gloria Gervais, Florine Michaud, Frank and  
Claire Colgan, Blandine Gain and Janice Spindler, Jaclyn Gilbert, Avril and Paul Marin,  
Connie Desrosier, Arthur D. Purcell, Terry Marin Ouellette, Lise Sirois, Roger Plourde,  
Alan and Denyse Michaud, Marilyn and Arthur Thompson, Roger and Rejeanne Dufour,  
James and Raymonde Wetmore, Helen D. Reilly, Pamela Scheppele, Bob and  
Pat Bourgoin, Gary and Donna Boucher, Ronald-Linda-Christina and Danielle Daigle.*

*In memory of Mr. Daniel Daigle, Bob and Pat Bourgoin*

*In memory of Mrs. Mathilda Ouellette, Bob and Pat Bourgoin,  
Harold and Joanne Chamberland.*

*In memory of Mr. Irvin Gordon, Bob and Pat Bourgoin*



*Ste-Agathe Historical Society Memorial Program  
P.O. Box 237  
St. Agatha, Maine 04772*

*Ste-Agathe Historical Society  
 Preservation Center Expansion Fund Raiser  
 Names of Donors  
 September 10, 2007 to September 30, 2008*

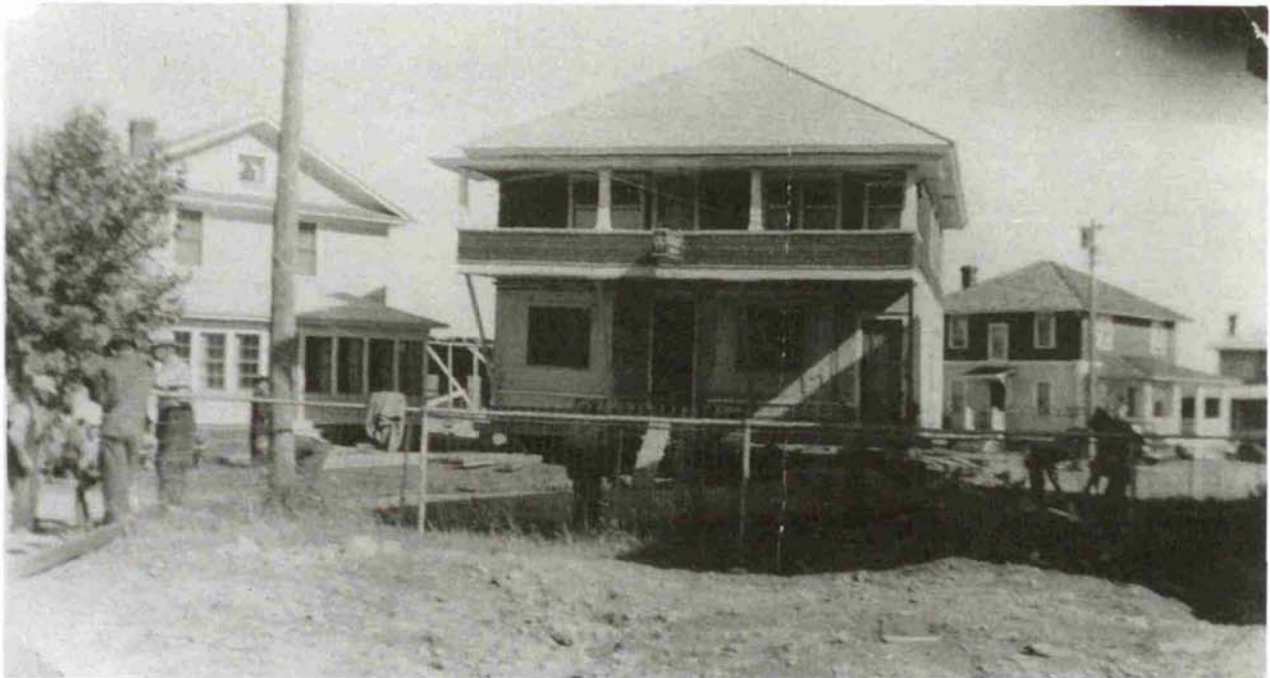
Albert, Jean & Yvette	Lagasse, Paul & Rose
<b>Albert, Leo N.</b>	Lapointe, Peter & Rachel
Albert, Rev. Claude J.	Lerman, Ken & Arlene/LLMI
Albert, Roger L.	Lizotte, Roger V. & Antoinette .
Albert, Stan	Mannello, Tina
Ayotte, Adrian & Melinda Ricker	Marin, Avril
Ayotte, Joan & Jackie, D.W.	Marin, Maude
Boccialetti, Linda	Martin, Donat A.
Baller, M. Jacqueline	Martin, Roger & Bernice
Barville, Beurmend	McGlaughlin, Mureil
Beaulieu, Doris Plourde	McLellan, Thomas & Germaine Ayotte
Belanger, Ronald & Sylvia Caron	Melvin, Bill & Helen
Bilodeau, Eddie & Rolande	Michaud, Alan & Denyse
Bither, Louise Chasse Bither & Michael	Michaud, Babe & Yvette
Blesso, Francis & Jacqueline Chamberland	Michaud, Bobby, Rachel & Jack
Bosse, Marie Florine	Michaud, Elaine
Boucher, Philip & Sharon	Michaud, Eugene & Jackie
Bruno, Stephen, Peggy Tyler, Patrick	Michaud, Florine M.
Caron, Abel	Michaud, Lewis & Rinette
Chamberlain, Bob & Carol	Michaud, Philip & Hermance
Chamberland, Dale & Ellen	Michaud, Rev. Leo James
Chamberland, Greg & Parise	Morin, Camille
Chamberland, James & Rita Morin	Morin, Patricia J.
Chamberland, Marie Mae & Family	Morin, Philip
Chamberland, Pete	Morneault, Philip and Frances
Chamberland, Rodney & Judy	Mosher, Catherine (Croucher-LaChance)
Chasse, Armand	<b>Muldowney, Elaine &amp; Jos</b>
Chasse, Dr. & Mrs. Marc	Myers, Clayton & Hilda
Chasse, Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Chasse	Olmstead, Norman & Jacqueline
Crosby, Linwood & Joyce	Ouellette, Patricia
Cyr, Bertand J. & Eileen	Paradis, Francoise
Cyr, Jeanne Bosse	Parent, Donald & Edwina
Cyr, Juliette M.	Pelletier, Ryan & Liza (Caron)
Daigle, Don & Rachel	Plourde, Carole
Derosier, Butch & Margie	Plourde, Reginald & Francoise
Desjardins, Francis & Fernande	Plourde, Richard & Krystal
Dionne, Steve & Cheryl	Raymond, Rev. David
<b>Doucette, Francis G.</b>	Risano, Gerard & Arlene B.
<b>Dubois, Gerald</b>	Schmidt, Kit Morin
Dubois, Ned & Cheryl	Sinclair, Herman & Lise
Dufour, Lorraine	Sirois, Lise
Foster, Jim & Theresa	Sirois, Mr. & Mrs. Robert J.
Fournier, Walter	Souliere, Geraldine Morin
Gervais, Joseph "June" & Gloria	St. Agatha Credit Union
Guimond, Leon	Tardif, Juliette A.
Hebert, Patrick & Charlotte	Williams, Rina Morin
Knight, Doug & Carol	
Labrie Farms, LLC	
LaChance, Margaret	
Lagasse, M. Leonie	



## *Do you remember this?*



*The home of Rosario and Ida Franck down from Albert Michaud's and the Dufour Brother's stores on what is now known as Cleveland Road.*



*July 1942 -- «The building was raised, put on skidders, and with enough horses huffing and puffing, and hundreds of gaping onlookers cheering them on, was dragged up Cleveland Road and south onto Main to within a few hundred yards of its initial site.»*

*Taken from the 2005 Annual Newsletter*



*Cleveland Road back in the 40's -- Left to right : Homes of Wilfred Dufour, Rosario Franck, Thomas Franck, Philip Bosse and Woodsman's Theater. In the 2005 newsletter Paul Marin wrote, «According to the late Mr. Rosaire Lagassey, live productions 'out of Canada', entertained the local population. Movies in black and white, and without sound of course, regaled young and old alike.»*



*Rosario Franck's Store and Barber Shop in the 1960's. It's present day Gary Babin's Groceries & Meat and Sandra's Kitchen on the same location.*

*Photos courtesy of Oreen and Monique Franck Daigle*

## DONATED ITEMS

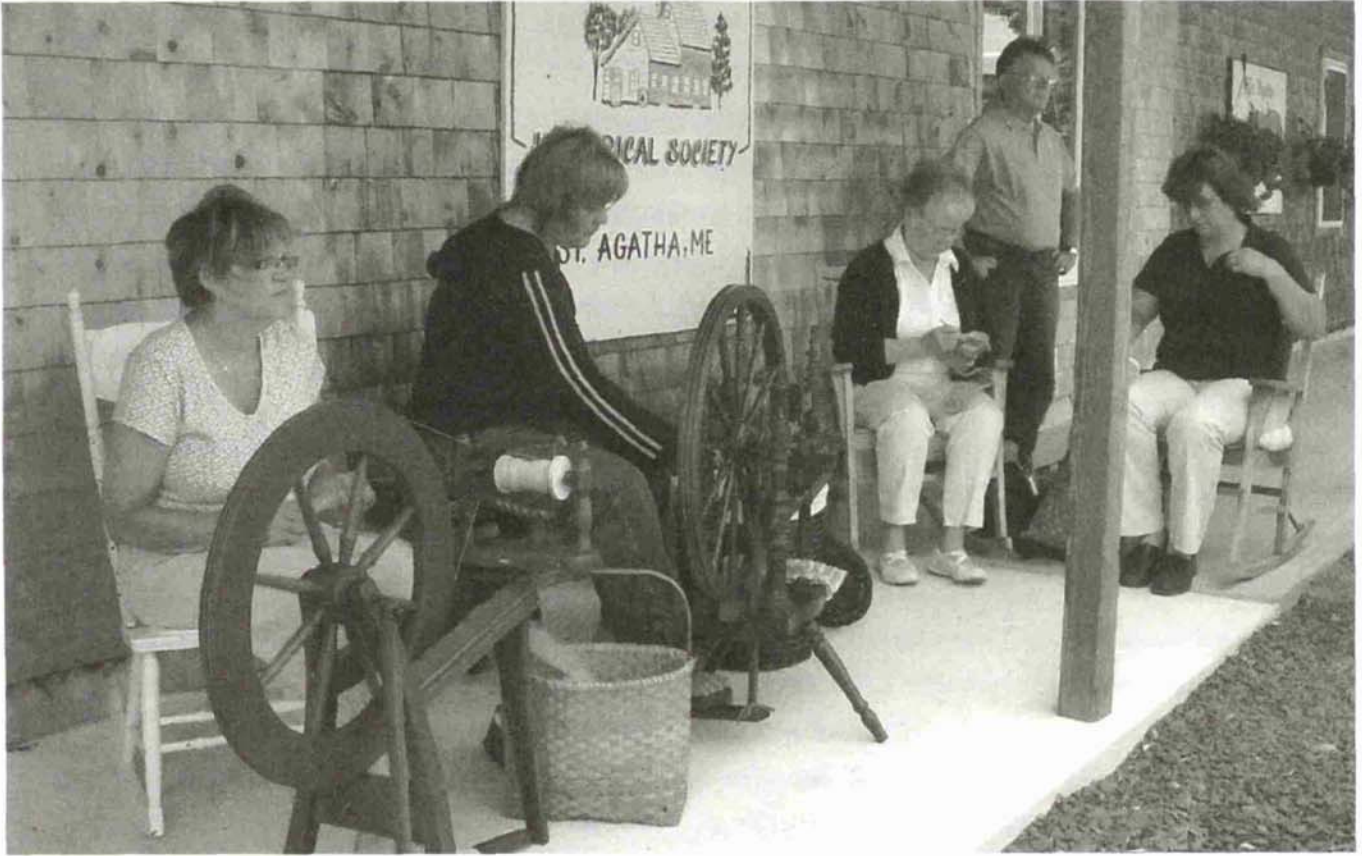
Florence Rose Martin	Hand crafted rosette throw, collection of assorted books, pant stretchers and wooden shoe forms
Marcel Chartier	European Command Yearbook from the German Occupation and 2 religious missals
Lakota Bouchard	Sled
Kaige Bouchard	Child's rocking chair
Stephen Murphy	Collection of playing records
Stan Albert	Philco radio, sickle, vanity set, butter churn, mold and wooden bowl, chamber pot, pitcher & bowl, cup, pedestal, shaving brushes and soaps, water color painting, rosary, milk jug and bowls, hand-carved wooden truck and a Holy Water font from St Euthrope
Cyr-Plourde American Legion Post #145	POW * MIA Banner
Philip Morin	Snowshoes, 3 outboard motors, 1 sled, various blacksmith items, assortment of tools, one man yoke, 1 chair, tablecloths, Infantry Division Album, butter dish, ice skates, horse bridle, bowls porcelain pitcher and a rosary
Dr. Marc Chasse	Honolulu Star Bulletin newspaper announcing the bombing of Oahu
Sybil & Carroll Deschaines	Spinning wheel, yarn winder and assorted wools
Alfreda Chamberland	One row potato digger
Sr. Gabriel Michaud	Prayer books, 1 hand held mirror and various memorabilia items
Robert & Frances Collins	Washing machine and assortment of hand held tools
Leona Rossignol	Sunday missal
Lucille Chasse Michaud	Collection of mortuary cards, Diamond Jubilee plaque
Bill & Helen Vaillancourt Melvin	Thomas Edison Record Player, collection of records, a clock, buck saw and a sickle
Jeanne Gagnon Chamberland	Collection of St. John Valley Times, Echoes and Memories of Maine magazines and an Aroostook County Sesquicentennial Book meat grinder and hats
Jeannine Vaillancourt Haley	Collection of St. John Valley Times
Denis & Phyllis Martin Levesque	Cobbler sewing machine, a collection of hats and 1 hat case
Gerald & Rose Marie Parent Dubois	Sled, snowshoes, golf clubs, boiler, wooden entertainment center, chamber stove and kettle
Terry Marin Ouellette	Child's school desk and a money bag
Julie Plourde Cyr	Butter churn wrench
St. Agatha U.S. Post Office	Burroughs adding machine
Dick Smith	"Le Coin à Memene" sign
Catherine Plourde Morneault	Plourde / Morneault family pictures



## DONATED ITEMS

Nelson & Bernice Paradis Dionne	Horse drawn cultivator
Therese Popolizio	School compass
Louise & Adrienne Dubois	Remington typewriter
Betty Ouellette	U.S. Army medals and symbols belonging to Emile Ouellette
Arlene Voisine	Electric sewing machine
Carmen Chamberland Martin	Book of Presidents
Estate of Laurette Albert Vaillancourt	Descendants of Charles LeMarquis book and reading glasses
Bertrand & Barbara Michaud Guerrette	Carved wooden potato truck with barrels
Robert Albert	Cow yoke & barrel grabber
Claudette Albert Cyr	Collection of keys from the Notre Dame de la Sagesse Convent
Jeanne Bosse Cyr	Pamphlet of Jeanne d'Arc
Gary & Linda Pelletier	Game warden uniforms with showcase
Gerard Morin	Framed pictures
Therese Chasse Albert	Collection of Paper Talks magazines, potato inspector basket, welding rod, oil can and cushions
Don H. Michaud	Collection of Annual Town Reports
Lise Simard Sirois	Glass cake plate cover
Rachel Chasse Clavette	Afghan
Edwin & Laura Daigle Corriveau	Statue of St. Agatha
Long Lake Public Library	Books
Joe & Elaine Muldowney	Patio doors
Children of Henry & Sadie Coulombe	Plow and ironing board
Lionel Barton	Wooden clothespins
Roger Belanger	Grand Isle official ballot and a collection of antique curling irons
Joanne Bouchard Lavoie	1966 Wisdom High School Yearbook
Mike & Doreen Daigle	Hand razor, Moxie bottle cork and a water bottle cork
Roger & Juanita Belanger	Cow collars, bread pans and various tools, and a State of Maine State Treasurer Report
Key Bank	Service counter
Clayton Myers	Hat, hat box, bible and a collection of razors
David Daigle	Sylvio Michaud's Town Manager office chair
Patricia Michaud Dow	Le Breilan pamphlets
Albé & Rachel Dubois	Necchi sewing machine and cabinet

## *Scenes from Summer and Fall of 2008*



*Textile Thursdays – Lise Sirois, Brenda Caron, Jackie Daigle, Philip Morin and Annette Gross.*



*Saturday afternoons at the Preservation Center with «June» and Gloria Gervais.*

## *Scenes from Summer and Fall of 2008*



*Making Pottery with Sue Gerard -- Sitting, left to right : Geneva Fournier, Julie Cyr, Nicole Chamberland. Standing, left to right : Annette Gross, Florence DeCroix, Patricia Morin, Carole Plourde, Terry Ouellette, Janice LaBrie, Jackie Lozier, Brenda Caron, (hidden) Sue Gerard, Claudia Morin and Donna Boucher.*



*Gerald Dubois and his brother, Louis Dubois, with Gerald's replica of the Longfellow School....*

## *Scenes from Summer and Fall of 2008*



*Pi au déjeuner il y avait des cousins pi des cousines pour aider. En avant : Shirley Chasse, Florine Michaud, Lisa Dumond et Donna Boucher. En arrière : Patricia Morin, Philip Morin, Julie Cyr, Riola Morin, Claudia Morin, Francis Morin et Theresa Foster.*



*Thank you to the volunteers : Florine Michaud, Doreen Daigle, Jackie Michaud, Trail Guide Donna Boucher, Lewis Michaud, Gloria and «June» Gervais. Not in photo : Stan Albert and Julie Cyr.*

*Dear Members,*

We wish to thank all of the donors who helped make the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ste-Agathe Historical Fundraiser such a success. The total of the donations, \$22,285.00, made the extension on the Preservation Center possible. There is still some work to be done on the exterior and hopefully the project will be completed before the snow flies. The Preservation Center opened on Father's Day and stayed open till the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in September. The Heritage Trail Guide, Donna Boucher, funded by the Maine Acadian Heritage Council, and numerous volunteers made it possible to have the Center open Tuesday thru Sunday from one to four. Special events at the Center this past summer included a 3<sup>rd</sup> performance by the Chanteurs Acadiens, Tree Dedication Ceremony for Leo N. Albert, Remembrance Day for Renauld Franck and Denis Daigle, Soap Making with Karen and Diane, Pottery with Sue Gerard, and Class Reunion visitors – Class of 1958 and Class of 1963. The exhibit room featured the story of "Les Petites Écoles" that provided formal education for the young people of the area before that installation of Montfort School in 1948. Board Member Gerald Dubois built a replica of the Longfellow School for the exhibit. This one room school house, Longfellow School, is still standing near the Maurice Guerrette homestead.

Many artisans in the area choose to gather at the Preservation Center's "Le Coin à Mémene" on Thursday and that's when the idea of "Textile Thursday" was born. The participants enjoyed involvement with their special skills and visited with other artisans at the same time. This event usually had Lise Sirois, Brenda Caron, Patty Hill and Carole Plourde welcoming visitors to "Le Coin à Mémene."

We hope that you had the opportunity to visit with us this summer and view the growing collection of artifacts and photographs. Now that the Center is closed, the photo albums and genealogy materials are available to you at the Long Lake Public Library located in Montfort Heights at 384 Main Street in St. Agatha.

So we can keep the Society's mailing list up to date please notify us of your new address in case there is a change.

If you have family pictures or soldier pictures that you would like us to add to the collection, just send them along and we will return originals at your request. Remember the collection can only be as extensive as what the members give us.



*Board of Directors*

President.....Terry Ouellette  
Vice President.....Gloria Gervais  
Treasurer.....Philip Morin  
Secretary.....Carole Plourde  
Harold Chamberland ..... Jackie Michaud  
Gerald Dubois.....Kate Hebert  
Judy Chamberland.....Dana Michaud  
Anne Chamberland.....Clifford Guerrette





*New Lifetime Members*

Clifford & Theresa Guerrette  
Sarah M. Desjardins  
Dave D. Desjardins  
Aaron F. Desjardins  
Leo James Ayotte  
Clayton & Carmen Chamberland Martin  
Barry & Lorraine Ayotte McKinley  
Mary, Danielle, Elyse LeBlanc  
Sr. Solange Michaud, D.W.  
Lionel & Jackie Plourde Daigle  
Jean Guy & Jean K. Plourde  
Richard & Alice Plourde Caron  
Bob & Rachel Michaud Marquis



*Judy Chamberland - 1<sup>st</sup> Raffle Item Winner*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Item Winner Rita Chamberland*  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Item Winner Sandra SanAntonio*

## **Commercial Entry in A & S Dufour, Merchant Traders 1846 Alexandre “Menon” Ouellette**

In the 1840's, the St. John Valley may be characterized as populated by two kinds of people” “Les gens d'en haut” and Les gens d'en bas,” that is, the up river folk and the down river folk. By and large the down river folk were Acadian descent and settled below Le Petit Sault or Edmundston. Their families had come here first in 1785 and generally considered themselves the elite. First come, first served, so they ended up with the best lots, better farms and by this time the means to begin thinking of sending their daughters to the convent.

“Les gens d'en haut,” were mostly Quebecois and latecomers. However, like latecomers everywhere, they were more often “debrouillard” that is go-getters than older more established folk. They may not have had the pick of the lots, but what they did have, they put it to best use. Alexandre Ouellette figures among “les gens d'en haut.”

According to the U.S. Census of 1850, Alexandre Willett, Laborer, aged 44 was born in Canada. That would place his birth at about 1806. Being that his parents, Alexandre Ouellet and Marie Anne Michaud were married at St. Andre de Kamouraska, November 21, 1803. “Menon,” as he came to be nicknamed, was likely born in that parish. Census records, however, are not always accurate as for example in 1860 Menon Ouellette's age is given as 58. That would mean that he would have been born in 1802 – an unlikely occurrence in those days of strict religious upbringing. So in any case, one of the two census entries is wrong. Should the 1806 date prove correct, that would place Menon at about twenty-one years old when he showed up in the St. John Valley. On June 11, 1827 in the presence of Father Sirois, pastor of St. Basile, he married Theotiste Michaud, daughter of Benjamin Michaud and Marie Anne Bourgoin. About three weeks later, over in Baker Brook, John Baker raised an American flag and promptly got himself arrested for claiming this part of the valley to be American territory. The British authorities meant business when they claimed the valley as their own. Alexandre Ouellette, however, was not likely to meddle into such politics. He was still in love anyway and there was work to be done on his brother-in-law's farm where the newly wedded couple lived before they could set up a home of their own.

Four years later, the St. John Valley was visited by two agents of the State of Maine, John G. Deane and Edward Kavanaugh, who came to press the Maine claim to this disputed territory. Kavanaugh, an Irish Catholic, had attended school in Montreal so he spoke French and proved to be an ideal contact for the State in dealing with the French-Canadian immigrants in the valley like “Menon” Ouellette.

It was they who in 1831 recorded in their report that Alexandre Ouellette, native of Canada, lived with his brother-in-law, Pascal Michaud, to help him support his mother and father-in-law. Considerable work had been done on both the Pascal Michaud and Alexandre Ouellette farms which adjoined each other. Pascal had twenty acres under

culture and Alexandre had cleared twenty-four acres on his lot. Both lots were said to run thirty rods wide along the river front.

Pascal Michaud (1805-1893) was newly married at the time, having married at St. Basile the February previous to the July 1831 visit of the State agents. The report stated that Pascal then held the lot from his parents who had taken it up eighteen years earlier, this is in 1813. His parents, Benjamin and Marie Bourgoin Michaud had married at St. Louis de Kamouraska in 1784 and his sister, Theotiste, whom "Menon" married appears to have been older than Pascal and her husband, Alexandre. The census of 1860 gives a birth date of 1800 while the 1850 census leads us to 1802 as Theotiste Michaud's year of birth.

In any case, the picture we get is that of an aging couple living on a pioneer homestead with their teenaged children. Then along comes this stalking young man from Canada who falls in love with the eldest daughter, who by then, is pretty much responsible for tending to household tasks. When they eventually get married, the groom is taken in by the family so as not to lose the housekeeper who was of general help to the aging parents. The teenage brother, Pascal, might have enjoyed teasing the young couple – always getting in the way when the young couple discovered a chance to be alone. But then he in turn fell in love, and it was his turn to have the wedding bells rung. "Le v'la Monsieur Le Bedeau cinquante sous, faites sur de sonner les cloches a ton sous!"

To help things progress, the old father-in-law, Benoni Michaud, decided to split his farm perpendicular to the river. His son would get the upper half, his daughter and son-in-law the other, on condition of course, both take care of their mother and I the rest of our days. The old folk called this "devinir rentier." The object of life was just that. When a person could boast, "Je suis a ma rent," it meant he had life licked. He had worked hard to build an estate to retire on and his pension would be paid by those who inherited that estate. The Maine agents, Deane and Kavanaugh, helped us to see that was exactly what the "debrouillard," Menon Ouellette did.

In both cases, Pascal and "Menon" each claimed a share of the island in the river facing their lot. In those days island property was important. Not that you could build on them since they flooded over every year, and ice floes grasped on to them to melt, they were often renewed with fresh alluvial soil perfect for growing hay. The ridges at the rear of the farm were forested over and the few front acres that had been cleared and burnt over were used for gardening. To the exception of a few meadows, the broad pasturing lands and fields we see today had not been developed, so the hay from the island was an important source of feeder for the cattle and horses. Some meadow land could be found here and there but in most places the forest came up to the river. So both Pascal and "Menon" were quick to claim their share of the island when the agents asked about each man's holding.

As near as we can figure, since American land records do not begin here until nearly fifteen years later, the original Ouellette farm stood on river lot 82 just above Bourgoin Brook which empties in the St. John at Frenchville facing the large island which now yields part of Gerard Raymond's potato crop each year. The Deane and Kavanaugh



report listed their immediate neighbors up river as Christophe and Raphael Martin. It ought to be remembered that in September of that year, residents of the Valley acting on a warrant left behind Deane and Kavanaugh, held the first Legislative election in Raphael Martin's house in Frenchville. In that election, Pierre Lizotte of Madawaska beat John Baker of Baker Brook for a legislative seat in Augusta. The British, however, who still claimed the territory, protested the election and Pierre Lizotte. The victor wrote a letter to Maine Governor, Samuel Smith, saying in part that he could not accept the seat since, "I was born a British subject and intend to die so!" The organizers of the election, mostly American lumbermen originally from the Kennebec Valley who had moved here, were arrested and those French speaking citizens who had taken part in the election were lectured for having let themselves be taken in by the Americans and then released.

While Ouellette's neighbors figured among the participants of the election, again it may be safe so say that the young couples on the Michaud-Ouellette farm had other business to tend to that day, politics not being exactly their bag. The only Ouellette listed as having taken part in that election was Ferdinand Ouellette who had gained a reputation as "Fordin l'homme fort." Being bold, he was probably not about to let himself be intimidated by British agents like Francis Rice and Leonard R. Coombs who were quick to press British claims when they saw Americans venture action in the area.

Life was not all roses on the rustic farm. We tend here to accentuate the flourish of youth. The St. Basile record helps us note that on August 24, 1830, "Menon" and Theotiste Ouellette lost their eldest child, a daughter, two, and named after her mother. Today we think of winter as the season for colds and chills but back then more children were lost in summer due to the spread of germs like cholera, in which flies hopping from the outhouse to the butter churn, helped spread disease.

In those days Pasteur's germ theory of how disease spread was not yet understood and summer season with its black flies and hard sweaty work of haying in the hot sun brought faints and spells. Little ones suffered worse fare, being victims of having drunk spoiled milk. The old folks had their way of preserving foods, sometimes in cellars under kitchen trap doors but pasteurization and homogenization of milk were as yet in the future. Little ones often took sick, being colicky, the feverish, and after much tender care and rocking, as the young mother trying to be helpful would lullaby them to sleep. Then before you knew it, the child was gone. The young people, in tears, embraced each other, seeking to understand the mysterious ways of the Lord. From the bedroom they could hear the elder brother or uncle pounding a pine box that would serve as a coffin for the infant that would quietly be buried in the morning. To distract herself, Theotiste looked to her little one, Romain, then but a year and a half. He looked with wonder in his mother's eyes, then cracked a smile. She responded with a smile too. "Oui, Romain," she told herself, "Il faut sourire encore."

*Article written by Joan Ouellette and submitted to the Ste-Agathe Historical Society in the fall of 2007 by Rosaire Lagassey. .... To be continued next year.*

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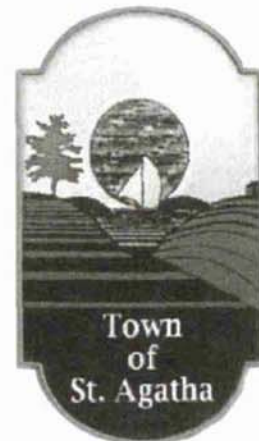


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