

Annual Newsletter 2025

Ste-Agathe Historical Society



Photo by Tammy Guerrette

Double Rainbow over the St. Agatha Catholic Church October 23, 2025

Ste-Agathe Historical Society
Incorporated March 23, 1978
P.O. Box 237, 534 Main Street, St. Agatha, ME 04772

Preservation Center Open: Last week in June to Labor Day weekend 1 to 4 p.m. Daily, Tues. ~ Sun.

Email: stagh77@gmail

Website: www.steagatethistoricalsociety.com

Visit us on Facebook

Registered Visitors 2025: 444

Board of Directors

President
Terry Ouellette

Vice President
Carole Plourde

Secretary
Diane Castonguay

Treasurer
Philip Morin

Directors

Harold Chamberland
Christy Chamberland
Sandra San Antonio

Judy Chamberland
Gary Boucher
Gaylen Thibeault

Roger Gervais
Jean Paul Chamberland

Trail Guides

Donna Boucher
Doreen Daigle
Jack Michaud

Joyce Plourde
Owen Sirois
Stan Albert

Dr. Paul Buck
Rachelle Caron



Ste. Agathe Historical Society

534 MAIN STREET

P.O. BOX 237

ST. AGATHA, MAINE 04772

December 30, 2025

Dear Members and Friends of the Society,

The Preservation Center's guest register collected some 444 signatures for the summer of 2025. A few special events for the summer included the Acadian Singers, who performed inside the Longfellow School during the last Sunday in June. The Class of 1970 gathered to celebrate with their classmates on August 19th, and the Class of 1960 also gathered at the site on August 22nd. The site is open Tuesday to Sunday with Trail Guides, made possible by the Maine Acadian Heritage Council, on hand to welcome visitors. It is always a pleasure to welcome new faces as well as the many visitors who return every year to observe what has been happening during their absence. Many comments on the Longfellow School marveled at the great accomplishment made by the volunteers who put together this most precious artifact. A definite proof that **Together Everyone Achieves More!**

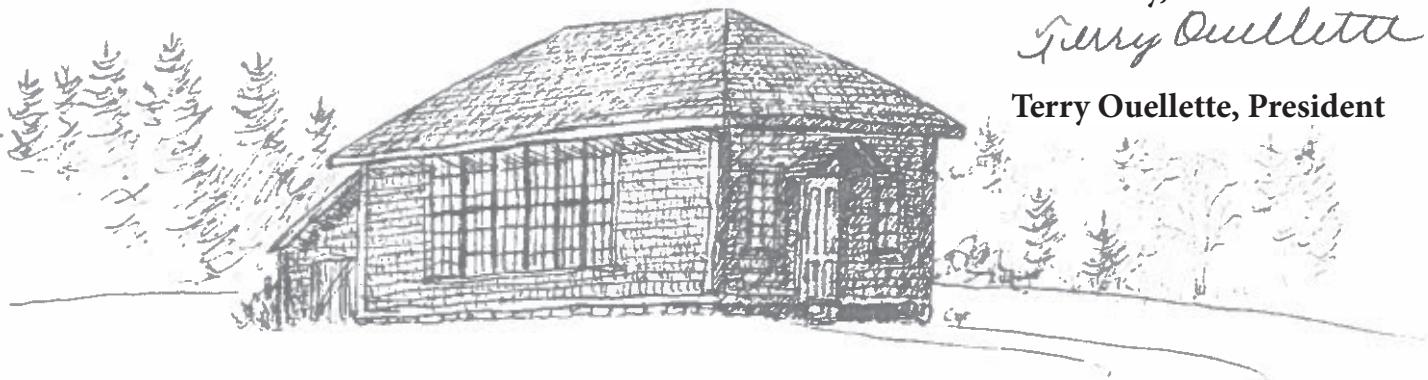
Board Member Jackie Michaud retired from the board in July after 30 years of interest and dedication to the society. Christy Sirois Chamberland agreed to become the newest member of the board to maintain the balance of six men and six women. We welcome her enthusiasm and purpose in helping us promote the mission of the society – “to collect, preserve, and disseminate historical information and arouse interest in the past.”

Looking ahead to the summer of 2026, we hope that Lisa Bosse will continue with the Craft Thursdays at the Preservation Center, as it was well attended during the summer of 2025. The Pelletier/Marquis House will be receiving some major attention in terms of repairs and will be considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. “The National Register is the Federal government’s official list of historic properties worthy of preservation.”

Thank you to the Town of St. Agatha, the Maine Acadian Heritage Council, Catholic Financial, and all the donors for their continued support of the Society. We look forward to having you visit the site during the summer of 2026.

Sincerely,

Terry Ouellette, President



CIMETIÈRE NOTRE DAME DE LA SAGESSE

REGISTRE DU CIMETIÈRE

Cemetery Burial Record

	BIRTH	DEATH
Soeur Ste. Placidie	03/24/1862	02/23/1911
Soeur Victorine de St. François	06/23/1876	03/28/1927
Soeur Anselme	02/02/1844	09/26/1930
Soeur Gérard Magella	05/28/1891	01/12/1938
Soeur St. Sernin	09/04/1880	07/27/1939
Soeur Celestine de St. Paul	03/15/1873	11/12/1940
Soeur Edouard de L'Enfant Jésus	06/22/1895	03/09/1941
Soeur Marie Rose	07/04/1859	03/20/1942
Soeur Léonie de la Croix	09/28/1874	08/20/1943
Soeur Marie Eugenie de la Croix	09/05/1876	08/02/1946
Soeur Ste, Emérentienne	03/29/1882	01/09/1949
Sister Nathalie Marie	10/21/1906	02/02/1953
Sister Maria de Bethlehem	07/19/1890	10/05/1953
Soeur Yvonne Marie	03/29/1865	08/06/1960
Soeur St. Justin	02/06/1874	12/23/1961
Soeur Modeste de St. Augustin	03/31/1880	07/06/1965
Soeur Alfred de St. Gabriel	04/16/1914	01/08/1966
Sister Catherine de Jesus (Audibert)	11/01/1919	12/26/1969
Soeur Ida Soucy	02/04/1907	11/01/1981
Sister Catherine of the Cross (Nadeau)	10/07/1907	05/26/1995
Sister Cecile Bouchard	09/07/1927	06/10/1997
Sister Yvette Raymond	12/25/1916	12/08/1998
Sister Cecile du Christ Roi (Ouellette)	04/02/1922	09/21/2001
Sister Thérèse Doucette	01/11/1936	12/30/2004
Sister Yvonne Germaine Dumont	01/16/1921	11/11/2009
Sister Annette Picard	05/01/1916	11/02/2013
Sister Candide Corriveau	03/08/1924	10/17/2016
Sister Thérèse Michaud	10/02/1921	02/12/2021
Sister Joan Ayotte	01/08/1938	10/15/2024
Rev. Ernest Étenaud, founder of Ste-Agathe Parish	1836	– 1921
Rev. N. Canuel, Chaplain du Couvent	1857	– 1918
Berthe Therese Étenaud	1863	– 1906
Papias Dionne	1834	– 1907
Julie Martin Dionne	1847	– 1924
Delina Guerrette	1862	– 1941
Anastasie Paradis	1874	– 1958

CIMETIÈRE NOTRE DAME DE LA SAGESSE

Bienvenue au Cimitière Notre Dame de la Sagesse
Welcome to Our Lady of Wisdom Cemetery in St. Agatha, Maine

My name is Sr. Jacqueline Ayotte, a Daughter of Wisdom

We are here to recognize and acknowledge the people who have served our parish of St. Agatha and the surrounding areas. The cemetery has been in existence since 1906. I will share facts about the persons buried here. 210 Sisters have served in St. Agatha and 29 are resting here. 55 sisters who came from France and 12 remain on our soil; of 42 sisters from Canada 3 sisters are here; 108 served from the USA of which 14 are here as well. We are truly on holy ground!

Soeur Anselme

Marie Françoise Gauthier was born on February 2, 1844 in Loudeac St. Brieuc, France, the daughter of Jean Marie Gauthier and Julienne Poupart. Soeur Anselme made Profession September 29, 1866 in St Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France. **She was one of the four foundresses of Notre Dame de la Sagesse Convent arriving in Ste-Agathe, Maine on October 1, 1904.** She served as catechist. Chère Soeur Anselme died in Ste-Agathe September 26, 1930.

Soeur Victorine de St. François

Victorine Olive Eugénie Magois was born June 23, 1876 in St. Hilaire de Talmon en Vendée, France. The daughter of Jean François Magois (propriétaire) et Marie Victorine Laidet. Soeur Victorine made Profession on February 2, 1899 in St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France. **She was one of the four foundresses of Notre Dame de la Sagesse Convent arriving in Ste-Agathe, Maine on October 1, 1904.** She served as a nurse and sacristan. Chère Soeur Victorine died in Ste-Agathe on March 28, 1927.

Soeur Ste. Émerentienne (Converse)

Léontine Veronique Joséphine Coquenlorge was born on March 29, 1882 in St. Hilaire de Chaléons, Loire-inferiere, France, the daughter of Jean-Marie Coquenlorge et Mélanie Rousseau. Soeur Émerentienne made Profession on February 2, 1909 St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France. Chère Soeur arrived at Notre Dame de la Sagesse in Ste-Agathe on February 9, 1909. She served for 40 years as cook and gardener until she died in Ste-Agathe on January 9, 1949.

Soeur St. Justin (Converse)

Louise Marie Guyomar was born on February 6, 1874 in Moelan, Finistere, France, the daughter of Jean-Marie Guyomar (Cultivateur) and Marie Corentine Guigoures. Soeur St. Justin made Profession on September 29, 1893 as a Soeur Converse in St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France. She arrived at Notre Dame de la Sagesse in Ste-Agathe on April 14, 1907, where she served as cook and gardener for 55 years. Soeur St. Justin died in Ste-Agathe on December 23, 1961. She is the Sister who served the longest in Ste-Agathe.

Soeur Ste. Placidie

Anna Catherine Joby was born on March 24, 1862 in Brest, France the daughter of François and Anna Legae Joby. Soeur Ste. Placidie made Profession on February 2, 1891 in St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France. She arrived at Notre Dame de la Sagesse in Ste-Agathe on September 8, 1910 and served as a teacher. After only 5 months, Soeur Ste. Placidie died on February 23, 1911. La première Fille de la Sagesse qui dormira son dernier sommeil dans la terre du Maine. She is the first Daughter of Wisdom to be buried here.

Soeur St. Sernin

Marie Madeleine Durand was born on September 4, 1880 in Fay, Loire Inferieur, France, the daughter of Paul Durand and Marie Madeleine Charpenteau. Soeur St. Sernin made Profession on September 29, 1901 in St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France. She arrived at Notre Dame de la Sagesse in Ste-Agathe on July 6, 1930. Soeur St. Sernin worked as a housekeeper until her death on July 29, 1939 in Ste-Agathe.

Soeur Célestine de St. Paul

Marie Aristine Mauger was born on March 15, 1873 in Bangot, Morbihan, France, the daughter of Pierre Mauger and Marie Célestine Malatie. Soeur Célestine de St. Paul made her Profession on November 14, 1894 in St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France. ***She was one of the Foundresses of the Edmundston, N.B. Community on May 29, 1905.*** She arrived at Notre Dame de la Sagesse in Ste-Agathe in September 1928 where she served as a seamstress. Soeur Célestine died on November 12, 1940 in Ste-Agathe.

Soeur Marie Rose

Marie Madeleine Baconnais was born on July 4, 1859 in Les Moutier Loire, France, the daughter of Clair Baconnais and Madeleine Limbert. Soeur Marie Rose made her Profession on February 2, 1879. in St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France. She arrived at Notre Dame de la Sagesse in Ste-Agathe on December 15, 1905. After serving 37 years as receptionist and housekeeper. Chère Soeur Marie Rose died in Ste-Agathe on March 20, 1942.

Soeur Léonie de la Croix

Antonia Doyard de Lamotte was born on September 28, 1874 in Valognes(Maucha), France, the daughter of Louis Clement and Françoise Léonie Pioline de Lamotte. Soeur Léonie made her Profession on June 8, 1903. She arrived at Notre Dame de la Sagesse in Ste-Agathe on September 26, 1905, where she served as a boarding school and piano teacher for 37 years. Chère Soeur Léonie died in Ste-Agathe on August 20, 1943.

Soeur Yvonne Marie

Marie Françoise Le Bruno was born on March 29, 1865 in Belle en Terre, France, the daughter of Yves Le Bruno and Marie Françoise Le Bienvenne. Soeur Yvonne Marie made Profession on November 21, 1886 in St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France and arrived at Notre Dame de la Sagesse in Ste-Agathe on June 2, 1949. Chère Soeur Yvonne Marie died in Ste-Agathe on August 6, 1960.

Soeur Modeste de St. Augustin

Augustine Émilie Mineau was born on March 31, 1880 in Cholet, France, the daughter of Augustin Jule and Modeste Victoire Pineau. Soeur Modeste de St. Augustin made Profession on September 29, 1903 in St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France and arrived at Notre Dame de la Sagesse Convent on March 23, 1905. She served as a teacher in the first district school which opened on April 10, 1905. Soeur Modeste also served as superior and teacher of Marie Mediatrix Convent in Madawaska as well as Notre Dame du Mont Carmel in Lille. After serving the St. John Valley for a period of 60 years la Chère Soeur Modeste de St. Augustin died in Ste-Agathe on July 6, 1965.

Soeur Marie Eugénie de la Croix

Amedée Roy was born on September 5, 1876 in Blois, France, the daughter of Jules Roy and Eugénie Souvent. Soeur Marie Eugénie de la Croix made Profession on September 29, 1902 in St. Laurent-sur-Sèvre, France and arrived in Ste-Agathe on January 15, 1906 as a teacher. Soeur Marie Eugénie established the high school in Ste-Agathe, where she served as principal for 30 years. From the earliest years, **Soeur Marie Eugénie worked with state officials** and was greatly admired by State Commissioner Dr. Payton Smith, **who helped her start the school.** Upon retiring as principal in 1935, la Chère Soeur served the Daughters of Wisdom in Ste-Agathe as portress and spent long hours as staff advisor on the "Echoes de la Sagesse" newsletter. Chère Soeur Eugénie de la Croix died in Ste-Agathe on August 2, 1946.

Sister Nathalie Marie

Mariane McCann was born October 21, 1906 in New York City, New York, the daughter of Thomas McCann and Nathalie Swane. Sr. Nathalie made Profession January 16, 1925 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada and arrived in Ste-Agathe February 27, 1940 and served as St. Agatha High School Principal for 13 years. Sr. Nathalie died February 8, 1953 in Ste-Agathe, Maine and is buried in the Sister's Cemetery.

Sister Catherine of the Cross

Florence Malvina Nadeau was born October 7, 1907 in Keegan, Maine, the daughter of Louis Nadeau and Euphémie Jalbert. Florence graduated from St. Agatha High School in 1925. Sister Catherine made Profession January 16, 1927 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada and arrived in Ste-Agathe in 1945 and served as an elementary teacher for two years then as a high school teacher until 1953. She became principal in 1953 and remained until 1966 when St. Agatha High School became Wisdom High School. Sister Catherine died on May 26, 1995 in Lewiston, Maine and she is buried in Ste- Agathe.

Soeur Maria de Bethlehem

Rose Thinkham was born on July 19, 1890 in New York, the daughter of Edward Thinkham and Maria Mond. Soeur Maria de Bethlehem made her Profession on January 16, 1921 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. She arrived in Ste-Agathe on March 29, 1949, serving as a nurse. Soeur Maria died in Ste-Agathe October 13, 1953.

Soeur Gerard Magella

Marie Anais Yvonne Ethier was born on May 28, 1891 in St. Emile de Suffolk, Québec, Canada, the daughter of Henri Ethier and Marie Roy. Chère Soeur Gerard Magella made Profession on January 16, 1918. in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. She arrived at Notre Dame de la Sagesse on August 16, 1937 serving as cook. Soeur Gerard Magella died June 12, 1938 in Ste-Agathe.

Soeur Edouard de l'Enfant Jésus

Melinda Thérèse Letendre was born on June 22, 1895 in Ste. Hyacinthe, Québec, Canada, the daughter of Edouard Letendre and Fortunat Brodeur. Soeur Edouard de l' Enfant Jésus made Profession January 16, 1922 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada and arrived in Ste-Agathe on September 10, 1940. She served as a housekeeper at Notre Dame de la Sagesse. She got very sick in January and died on March 9, 1941.

Sister Alfred de St. Gabriel

Yvonne Lucienne Morin was born April 16, 1914 in Hammer, Nipissing, Ontario, Canada, the daughter of Alfred Morin and Mathilda Proulx. Sister Alfred made her Profession on August 2, 1933 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada and arrived at Notre Dame de la Sagesse in Ste-Agathe on November 10, 1935. She was assigned to Madawaska on September 28, 1941. She returned to Ste-Agathe on October 12, 1961 where she died on January 8, 1966.

Sister Cecile du Christ Roi

Cecile Dora Ouellette was born April 2, 1922 in Caribou, Maine, the daughter of Israel Ouellette and Leonie Picard. Sister Cecile made Profession on February 2, 1940 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada After a fifteen-year missionary assignment to Spain Sister Cecile arrived in Ste-Agathe in April 1974 until March 26, 1986. She served in a Nursing Home as a Certified Nurse Assistant and Director of Activities. Returning in 1999, Sister Cecile stayed in Ste-Agathe until June 2001 at which time she needed nursing care. She died in Frenchville, Maine September 21, 2001 and is buried in the Sisters' Cemetery in Ste-Agathe.

Sister Yvonne Germaine

Germaine Odile Dumond was born January 16, 1921 in Ste-Agathe, Maine, the daughter of Antime Dumond and Yvonne Leclair. Odile graduated from St. Agatha High School in 1938. Sister Yvonne Germaine made Profession February 2, 1940 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada and spent 37 years as an Elementary Teacher in Haiti. Sister Yvonne Germaine came to Ste-Agathe from Haiti in May 1983 and left for Litchfield, Connecticut December 1983. She returned to Ste-Agathe in 1985 serving as bursar and volunteering her services until she left for Sound Beach, New York on April 11, 2003. She died on November 11, 2009. Her family requested that she be buried here.

Sister Catherine of the Sacred Heart

Thérèse Cecile Doucette was born January 11, 1936 in Madawaska, Maine, the daughter of Alexis Doucette and Catherine Dufour. Thérèse is a 1954 graduate of St. Agatha High School. Sister Catherine made Profession August 2, 1956 in Litchfield, Connecticut. She arrived in Ste-Agathe from Gate of Heaven School, Ozone Park, New York in September 1970 and left in December 1972. Sister Catherine served in the missions of Malawi, Africa from 1962 to 1966 and in Papua, New Guinea from 1972 to 1976. She spent the years 1982 to 1997 working as translator for the Men's Union of Superiors General in Rome. Sister Thérèse was assigned to Bristol, Connecticut where she continued her work of translating. She came to Montfort Heights in June of 2004 and died in December 30, 2004 in Bangor, Maine. She is buried here.

Sister Catherine of Jesus

Alexandrine J. Audibert was born on November 1, 1919 in Fort Kent, Maine, the daughter of John Audibert and Catherine Collins. Sister Catherine of Jesus made Profession on February 2, 1939 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. She arrived in Ste-Agathe April 4, 1966 serving as a bursar. Sister Catherine died in Ste-Agathe on December 26, 1969.

Sister Adeline de la Croix

Marie Ida Jeanne Soucy was born February 4, 1907 in Lille, Maine, the daughter of Joseph Soucy and Delina Bouchard. Sr. Adeline de la Croix made Profession on February 2, 1930 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. She was assigned to Notre Dame de la Sagesse Convent in Ste-Agathe on September 25, 1961 after serving for 35 years at the St. Charles Hospital in Port Jefferson, New York as a practical nurse. Sister Adeline devoted her time to caring for the sick sisters and students. Sister Ida died in Ste-Agathe on November 1, 1981.

Sister Ubald de la Croix

Cecile Bouchard was born on September 7, 1927 in Frenchville, Maine, the daughter of Ubald Bouchard and Helene Ouellette. Sister Ubald de la Croix made Profession on February 2, 1946 in Ottawa, Canada. She served as a seamstress and Pastoral Minister. She assisted the elderly for 51 years until her death in Lewiston, Maine on June 10, 1997. She is buried here.

Sister Florent du Rosaire

Yvette Raymond was born on December 25, 1916 in St. David, Maine, the daughter of Florent Raymond and Edith Bouchard. After graduating from Notre Dame de la Sagesse in 1934, Yvette entered the Congregation and made Profession on February 2, 1936 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Sister Florent du Rosaire served as an elementary school teacher in Lille from 1954 to 1960 and in Madawaska from 1960 until 1988. Sister Yvette then retired to Ste-Agathe on November 18, 1988 where she stayed until her death on December 8, 1998.

Note: It is Sister Yvette's nephew, Donald Raymond who follows in service making sure that the St. John Valley events are recorded and available to all.

Sister Lucille du Rosaire

Annette Picard was born May 1, 1916 in Grand Isle, Maine, the daughter of Vital Picard and Delia Picard. Annette came to Ste-Agathe as a student but devoted herself to working in the laundry for four years before entering the community. Sister Lucille made Profession February 2, 1935. in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. **A Foundress of Maryview Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia**, she came to Ste-Agathe in August of 1950 to work with the boarders until she left for Ozone Park, New York May 16, 1957. Sister Annette adapted readily to the needs around her. In the early part of her ministry she did community services such as cooking, laundry in the seminary, schools and hospitals serving in this capacity in Ottawa, Canada, Brooklyn and Long Island, New York. She later took a Nurses' Aide Course. She then served in St. Charles Hospital and Sound Beach, Port Jefferson, New York. Retiring in 1990 Sister Annette returned to Ste-Agathe on October 18 and has been at the service of the Church and the Ste-Agathe Community. She was a member of the Spirituality and Worship Commission. Throughout her ministry she was recognized as a talented seamstress. The Ste-Agathe Historical Society are the beneficiary of this talent. Sister Annette died on November 2, 2013 in Frenchville, Maine.

Sister Candide de l'Enfant Jésus

Marie-Reine Cecile Corriveau was born March 8, 1924 in Frenchville, Maine, the daughter of George Corriveau and Rose Anna Coté. Sister Candide made Profession August 2, 1948 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Sister Candide served in Madawaska as a substitute teacher from August 1973 until she came to Ste-Agathe August 21, 1986. She is a member of the Spirituality and Worship Commission and serves as lector and choir member while continuing to be involved in the parish and Community life. Sister Candide served as community co-ordinator 1987 - 1991 and 2000 to 2003. Sister Candide died on October 17, 2016 in Fort Kent, Maine.

Sister Aurelie de la Croix

Thérèse Michaud was born October 4, 1921 in Ste-Agathe, Maine, the daughter of Emile V. Michaud and Agnes Picard. Thérèse is a 1938 graduate of St. Agatha High School. Sister Aurelie made Profession February 2, 1940 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. She came to Ste-Agathe December 31, 1976 and left for West Virginia in August 1980. While in Ste-Agathe she worked as a Visiting Nurse and was community co-ordinator. Sister Aurelie served in Lewiston, Maine Throughout her life, she worked with the poor and the elderly. She retired at Montfort Heights in 2008. Throughout her life she worked with the poor and the elderly. She died in Madawaska, Maine on February 12, 2021 in her Hundredth year of life.

Sister Irene de Notre Dame

Joan Cecile Ayotte was born January 8, 1938 in Frenchville, Maine, the daughter of Lawrence Ayotte and Irene Albert. Joan graduated from St. Agatha High School in 1955. Sister Irene made Profession February 2, 1959 in Litchfield, Connecticut. She served in the New York area as cook from 1960 -1967, then studied and taught in the NYC Public schools until 1975. Sister Joan came to Madawaska February 15, 1975, teaching in Fort Kent High School and Madawaska middle and elementary schools until June 1998. Sister Joan came to Ste-Agathe June 5, 1999, a Certified Nurses Assistant, she worked at High View Manor, Madawaska and for Valley Home Health Agency. She worked for Hospice, the Aroostook Area Agency on Aging and the St. John Valley Faith Volunteers Caregiving Coalition in ministering to the elderly. From 2006 to 2022, as a founder, she was an integral part of Long Lake Public Library, a legacy we leave for the presence of the Daughters of Wisdom in St. Agatha. Sister Joan died on October 15, 2024 in Madawaska, Maine. She was my sister and a partner in mission.

Sr. Lawrence de Notre Dame

Jacqueline Sylvia Ayotte, born on December 12, 1939 in St. Agatha, Maine, daughter of Lawrence Ayotte and Irene Albert. I made Profession on February 2, 1961 in Litchfield, Connecticut. I was an elementary teacher and served at St. Mary Gate of Heaven in Ozone Park, New York. I came to Madawaska, Maine from Holy Angels School in Chesapeake, Virginia in August 1968 and retired to St. Agatha in June 1999. The Ste-Agathe Historical Society started preparations in 2003 to celebrate the Daughters of Wisdom Centennial in 2004. I took the list of the sisters' names and worked with Sr. Lise Therrien, archivist in Rome for more information about each sister. Those are some the facts I just shared with you here. Since I am the last Daughter of Wisdom to enter the community from St. Agatha, I felt it was important for me to find this information. It has been and continues to be a privilege to discover the possibilities that exist in our community to simplify and make life better for the people we serve. My involvement with the founding of Long Lake Public Library is the last project that I believe is a living legacy of the Daughters of Wisdom's presence in St. Agatha.

Two Priests and parishioners:

Rev. Ernest Etenaud was born March 3, 1836 in St. Martin, France. The son of Jean and Veronique Cherpentier. He was ordained May 25, 1861. **Fondateur et premier Curé à Ste-Agathe**, Founder of the parish in 1889-1899. He came to the convent to retire in 1918 and died March 25, 1921

Rev. Nicholas Canuel, was born October 4, 1858 in Rimouski, Bas-Saint-Laurent Region, Québec, Canada, son of Nicolas et Genevieve Langis. A Diocesan priest, he came to Ste-Agathe in 1918 and served as Convent Chaplain until May when he got very sick. He died on August 28, 1918.

Berthe Thérèse Etenaud Coté was born June 22, 1863 in Paris, France. The daughter of Henri Etenaud. She served as housekeeper for Fr. Etenaud. She married Dr. Isidore Coté from Frenchville. She died on January 6, 1906.

Papias Dionne was born 1834 and he died November 12, 1907.

Julie Martin Dionne was born 1847 and died April 11, 1924, spouse of Papias.

We read in the chronicles that when Papias got very sick, they came to the hospital and Julie stayed in the convent after his death. They were benefactors.

Delina Guerrette was born in 1862, the daughter of Jean and Rosalie Martin. She died on March 20, 1941.

Anastasie Paradis was born in 1874. She was the daughter of Isaac et Hortense Bard Paradis. She died October 20 1958.

Both Delina and Anastasie helped in the kitchen and lived at the convent.

The people who are in this holy ground have claimed their eternal reward and are part of the glorified Church. We ask that they accompany us as we continue in the service and mission of the Church.

All praise and honor to our God! This is truly holy ground!

**May be viewed on youtube.com Daughters of Wisdom Cemetery 2025*

“Little Red Schoolhouse Memory” by Patricia (Gervais) Flynn

* Patricia is the daughter of Benoit & Rose Ann (Hebert) Gervais



Front: Bobby Gervais, Jeannine G., Jean Guy Cyr
Back: Leota Soucy, Sylvio Saucy, Patsy G.

This photo, taken in the summer of 1944, shows our visiting cousins, the Soucys, my brother Bobby, sister Jeannine, myself, and a neighbor, Jean Guy Cyr, crouching in front of our home in St. Agathe on Main Street (Rte 162). It is the only picture I have of Coolidge School shown on the top right.

I attended Coolidge School from 1945 to 1947 after which Montfort School was built. Both my mother and father attended that school to the 8th grade. My mother from 1926 to 1934 and my father from 1921 to 1929. Living the closest to the school, my father's first job was to start the fire in the wood stove each cold day for 1 cent a day.

The school had around 30 desks and chairs in 6 rows. The rectangular, iron, wood stove was in the front right of the room, about 2 1/2 ft high. On the top half of the front wall hung a large blackboard, used and erased for each class in turn throughout the day. The lower grades had the luxury of listening in on 6th-, 7th-, and 8th-grade classes, while silently completing their lessons or waiting for their turn for instruction. All the while, their fertile minds absorbed all they heard and saw. What an advantage for a gifted child.

The classes only had a few students each. Sylvia Caron was my only classmate. She started school with me in 1945. I waited for her to walk from her home each day and join me. We got to school and played outside until the teacher rang the brass bell. After saying the Pledge of Allegiance and singing a patriotic song, each class was called in turn for that day's lesson, went up front near the teacher's desk, recited their lessons and got further assignments.... always quietly.

On cold days, the oldest boys kept the stove well fed and red hot in that drafty school. One cold winter day, we had a near disaster when the stove's front right foot gave out. The front door flew open and red-hot coals fell on the wood floor. No fire alarm to pull, not even a telephone to call for help. The closest phone available was down the road at Mr. Octave Cyr's house. One of the older boys ran for the snow shovel in the entry and scooped up the coals and the half-burned wood out

the front door into the snow. The teacher told the students to get handfuls of snow to throw on the smoking floor. Early dismissal that day and no school until the stove was repaired.

What most fascinated me was when the teacher pulled down the large maps from the “map box” on the top right wall while teaching Geography and History to the older classes. Europe, Asia, oceans, mountain ranges, Wow, fascinating.

The teachers I remember were Jeannine and Esther Chamberland. Loretta Collins, Elsie Chasse and Rachel Ringuette sometimes filled in.

I learned to love school and learning in that quaint little red schoolhouse called Coolidge School. I feel privileged to have experienced that early education and have loved learning to this day.

HENRY MICHAUD & SONS WELL DRILLING

While here on a family visit from California this past fall, Kim Michaud Benson found a Social Studies assignment she had done when she was a student at Wisdom High School. This was done for a Social Studies Class taught by Mr. Landry and dated April 26, 1993.

What follows is a copy of the assignment submitted by Kim Michaud.

PERERE'S WELL DRILLING BUSINESS

I. THE TOWN OF ST. AGATHA

- A. once was a part of Frenchville
- B. became its own town on March 17, 1899
- C. first settled by people of Frenchville
- D. people mostly settled around the lake

II. DRILLING WATER WELLS

- A. before electricity people used hand pumps
- B. different machinery developed
- C. electric pumps developed over time

III. PEPERE HENRY'S CHALLENGES OF FAMILY AND BUSINESS

- A. Had a difficult time speaking English
- B. Had a large family



INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- When was the business established?
- When did you start working for him?
- How did you learn about drilling wells?
- Where did Pepere drill most of his wells?
- Was the business profitable?
- When did you take over Pepere's job?
- How did the machinery develop over a period of time?
- Do you think someone in the family will take over the business?

THE WELL DRILLING INDUSTRY IN ST. AGATHA, MAINE

The town of St. Agatha was once part of Frenchville. St. Agatha became its own town on March 17, 1899. The beautiful Long Lake certainly attracted the first settlers to the area.

In 1946, Henry Michaud started a business of drilling water wells. The business wasn't very profitable when he started, so he had another job, cutting wood. As time passed, more people wanted these water wells, and the business became more profitable.

Henry Michaud had a family of five. When his youngest son, Paul Michaud, was fourteen years old, he started helping with the business. He learned how to drill wells by watching his father work. When Pepere retired, his son took over the business. It was in 1969 when he started to work independently.

Now, the well drilling business is more profitable than it was many years ago. Also, the rigs now used are more modernized than before. Now Dad would like someone else in the family to take over the business, but he doesn't think anyone will.

INTERVIEW

WHEN WAS THE BUSINESS ESTABLISHED? 1946

WHEN DID YOU START WORKING WITH PEPERE? When I was fourteen years old.

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT WELL DRILLING? I learned to drill wells by watching Pepere.

WHERE DID PEPERE DRILL MOST OF HIS WELLS? He worked mostly in the St. John Valley. He drilled some wells outside of St. John Valley, but not often, because he had a hard time speaking English.

WAS THE BUSINESS PROFITABLE? When he first started, Pepere had another job, which was cutting wood, but after a while, the well-drilling business became more profitable.

WHEN DID YOU TAKE OVER PEPERE'S JOB?

1969

HOW DID MACHINERY DEVELOP OVER A PERIOD OF TIME? Before electricity, everyone pumped water by hand. After electricity was discovered, people used electric pumps. That's when Pepere started his business. He used different rigs to drill wells.

DO YOU THINK SOMEONE IN THE FAMILY WILL TAKE OVER THE JOB? I hope so, but probably not.



Catherine (Chasse) Michaud, wife of Henry Michaud with well driller back in 1956.

SOURCES

Interview: Paul "Babe" Michaud (Father) Well Driller, St. Agatha, Maine
Maine Register: 1968 – 1969. Pg 399. Census information
Acadian Hard Times: Doty, Steward. University of Maine Press. 1991

The following is an excerpt from a 1978 Bangor Daily News article:

"Nine years ago, when Henry Michaud's health declined, Babe took the reins, covering a two-hundred-mile business radius in northern Maine. As the firm expanded, he added a pair of used Ingersoll-Rand T-3 "DRILLMASTER" rigs to keep up with it. Last year, he expanded into pump installation as well.

In recent years, Babe has drilled wells for local paper firms and other businesses, as well as doing municipal wells. Other wells are installed for lumber and forest camps. But he drills the most wells for residential customers, whether comfortably in town or roughing it in a log cabin in the North woods. Irrigation wells for Maine potato growers are also important. As Babe puts it, "If potatoes sell, we drill more wells."

Last fall, Kim was visiting her parents, Babe & Yvette Michaud, when the report reminded them of a funny family memory. When Kim was in first or second grade, she told her parents that she knew how to read, write, and do math and that she wanted to drill wells and drink beer when she grew up. It turned out that her love for math and numbers led her down the financial services path instead.

She also provided us with additional information about her grandfather, Henry's business as follows:

Henry Michaud and Sons Well Drilling was purchased, in part, from Jos Morin in circa 1946 and from Simeon Guerrette in circa 1947.

Henry had his first stroke in 1956, but was still able to work.

Paul "Babe" Michaud – In 1963, at the age of 16 or 17, he bought his own well driller rig from Alberique Charette in Madawaska. He took out a six-thousand-dollar loan and paid it off in one year. In the same year, he also bought a pick-up with a snowplow, for \$3200.00 and paid in cash.

In 1971, Henry had his second stroke. Paul was in Trade School in Ohio and working for his brother-in-law, Bernie McCarthy, as a steam pipe fitter. This is when Babe came back home to buy and take over the well-drilling business.

In 2003, the business was sold to Danny Marquis and became Marquis & Michaud Well Drilling. In 2024 or 2025, Matt and Josh Chamberland, Dale & Ellen Chamberland's sons, became the new owners Chamberland Well Drilling.

Submitted by Kim Michaud Benson

Kim lives in San Diego, CA and always considers St. Agatha her home.

The Cement Block House

Submitted by Gloria (Collin) Sirois



A St. Agatha Landmark - The Cement Block House

A St. Agatha landmark disappeared in June of 2024. It was a home to many families and even the Town Office in the early 1940's. The following information, submitted by Gloria Collin Sirois, details how her family was involved in the ownership of the cement block house.

"The property the house sat on was purchased by my grandparents, Levite & Josephine (Marquis) Collin on April 24, 1916. They bought it from my great-grandparents, Joseph & Elizabeth Collin.

Levite and Josephine had married two years earlier in Fort Kent, Maine where my grandmother was born. They were married on January 5, 1914, at St. Louis Church in Fort Kent.

According to what my dad, Gerard Collin, and his sisters, Alberta and Constance, told me, my Pepere Levite built the house on the property he had purchased from his father and mother.

I have researched the property records and obtained copies of the deeds from the Bureau of Records in Fort Kent, Maine, in 2007. My aunts and cousins had planned a family reunion for the summer of 2007, and I thought it might be interesting to have the deeds available for my dad's surviving siblings and their children to see the records of Levite and Josephine's family home.

After purchasing the property, my Pepere Levite went to Canada and bought the cement blocks that formed the house's exterior. The blocks were "fancy blocks," because they had something mixed into the cement that looked like shiny flecks. (It may have been mica or something similar.) The blocks were transported across the St. John River and then moved to the landsite and used to build the house.

I never saw the interior of the house, but my dad and my aunts told me it was a nice home with a beautiful staircase going up to the second floor, where the bedrooms were located.

My grandparents raised thirteen children in that house. They had two children when they built the house, but the others were all born there. The family included Clarence, Gladys, Bernadette, Emily, Aline, Gerard, Grazilla (Grace), Morel, Alberta, Kathleen, Constance, and Jacqueline. Another child, Bertil (Betsy), my aunt Gladys' daughter, was raised by my grandparents.

My Memere and Pepere farmed the land, as did most of the families in the area during that era. When the Great Depression came along, times got really tough, and my grandparents lost the farm and house in foreclosure.

The family moved to Madawaska and then moved to Forestville, Connecticut, around the middle of 1940. My Dad said he was about 15 years old when the family moved to Connecticut. There were jobs available in Connecticut, and things were not that great in Maine. They lived in an apartment in Forestville for a few years, and then they bought a three-family home in Bristol, Connecticut.

The "Cement Block" House was a home for quite a few families after my grandparents' foreclosure. The home eventually fell into disrepair, and at one time was used as a bottle and can recycling center. It continued to deteriorate until it was finally demolished, and the lot was put up for sale."



The Collin Family a short time before they moved to Madawaska

July 31, 2025



Center: Jackie Michaud receiving gifts and an acknowledgment of 30 years of service as a Board Member for The Ste-Agathe Historical Society.
Back: T.O. and Sandra San Antonio.



Newest Board Member Christy Chamberland with her sons, Noah and Henry, who were most interested in helping to greet visitors. Gerald Dubois' Craft Room captured their attention with the crafted John Deere tractor and (not seen in photo) the Farmall one too!

2025 Special Exhibit Room



The 2025 Special Exhibit Room displayed artifacts of Native Americans. In Photo is organizer of the exhibit, Stan Albert, with the videographer Don Raymond. The recording is on youtube.com.



One of the many precious artifacts Sylvio Albert donated to Longfellow School included this long handle water pump.

After Maurice Ayotte got it sandblasted, Gaylen Thibeault (in photo) had it painted BMW Green by Breanna Ouellette then installed near the school.



Before the cold weather set in, Raymond Cyr of RNC Concrete Designers, completed the new flooring in the Reception area.

In Memoriam

Lise Sirois was instrumental as a board member of the Ste-Agathe Historical Society for some 25 years. Her many talents as an artisan are reflected in many areas of the Preservation Center. The most famous was “le Coin a Memene,” which featured two looms that Lise had threaded and restored to working order. That special display also included spinning wheels, a knitting machine, rug hooking racks, and much more. For many years she organized the “Textile Thursdays” where ladies from surrounding towns joined in to exercise their skills at various crafts. Her dedication to preserving treasured crafts from the past showed up when she’d set a spinning wheel at the Acadian Festival and was dressed like an Acadian woman straight out of Grand Pre. She also shared her many talents with the use of various textiles and basket weaving. We are grateful for the memories she left us and the imprint she made in the role of being an artisan.



Sample Photo of the many happy times shared on these “Textile Thursdays.”
This one was a fine Thursday, September 1, 2011, called “Flower Making.”

Sitting: Jackie Daigle, reading the TIMES, Jeanne Lavertu and Jackie Beaulieu.
Standing l-r: Sally Gagnon, Jackie Rossignol, Lise Sirois, Jeannine Daigle, Fran Chasse, Carole Plourde, Donna Boucher and Bernadette Thibeault.

Photos from the 45th Annual Historical Society Breakfast



Helpers from Wisdom High School

L-R: Juliette Theriault, Joe Theriault, Joshua Theriault, Kayleigh Michaud, Dylan Dionne, Kamden Daigle, Riley Guerrette, Ava Lerman and Kelsie Daigle.

Thank you for spending your Sunday morning with us!



Bobby Michaud, Catholic Financial Life Rep. & Official Greeter Roger Gervais



Shirley Chasse & Kamden Daigle holding Half 'n Half winner's ticket - Brad Ouellette who donated his winnings back to the society. Thank You!

Annual Appeal Supporters for 2025

• Other Donations for 2025

Anita Hebert Madore	Lewiston, Maine
Scott Chamberland	Madawaska, Maine
Philip & Hermance Michaud	Boca Raton, Florida
Gary & Sandra Babin	St. Agatha, Maine
Bob & Gloria Sirois	Bristol, Connecticut
Patricia Morin	Kennebunk, Maine
Sebastian White	New York, New York
Leo James Ayotte	St. Agatha, Maine
James & Theresa Foster	Lakeland, Florida
Keith & Bernadette Lord	West Covina, California
Annemarie Poulin	Green Valley, Arizona
Cheryl Dionne	Newington, Connecticut
Philip Morin	St. Agatha, Maine
Stan Albert	St. Agatha, Maine
John B. Pelletier	Van Buren, Maine
Therese Albert Cyr	Hampton, New Hampshire
Matthew & Danielle Gorman	Waterville, Maine
James & Sylvia Virgona	Westfield, Indiana
Elaine M. Muldowney	Ocean, New Jersey
Dr. Tom & Jackie Chasse	Scarborough, Maine
Christina A. Joyce	Harwich, Massachusetts
Dale & Ellen Chamberland	St. Agatha, Maine
Bernadette Albert	S. Portland, Maine
John & Joan Corbitt	South Charleston, Ohio

Donors for 2025

Constance Marcucci	Terryville, Connecticut
Steven & Joanne Linder	Bonneau, South Carolina
Germaine Cormier	Brewer, Maine
Robert E. & Fern M. Gauvin	The Colony, Texas
Class of 1965	St. Agatha, Maine
Patricia Morin	Kennebunk, Maine
Lorraine Zimmerman	Loxahatchee, Florida

Annual Appeal For 2026

A donation to the Ste-Agathe Historical Society can be for the:

Save the Pelletier/Marquis Museum House Project

The Memorial Account

In Memory of _____

BY _____

Other

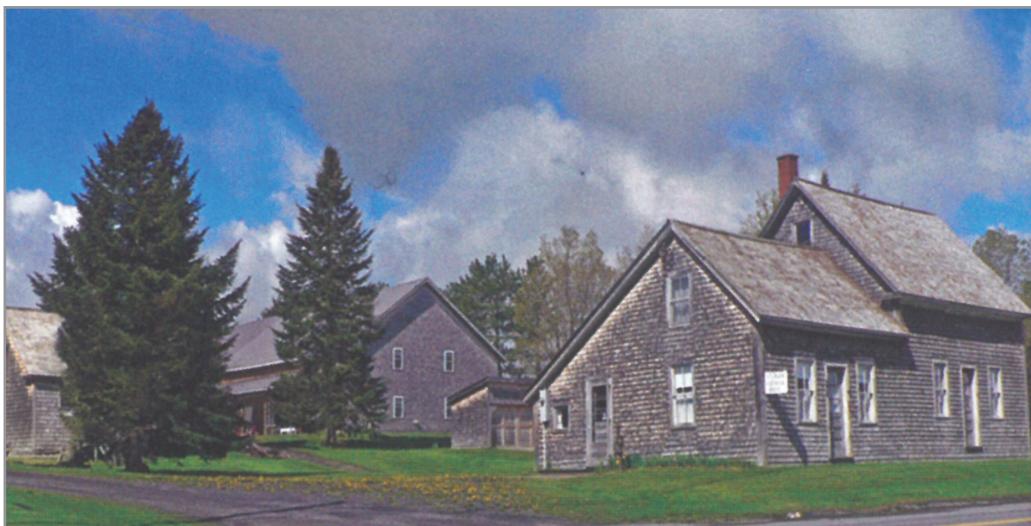
Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Project Save the Pelletier/Marquis Museum House

The house is situated on its original site and dates back to 1854, with the smallest portion of the house having been built by Andre Pelletier. The house represents an older working-class home, typically of commoner status, and is thought of as a sort of an “everyman’s home.” Humble in appearance, the rock foundation, low ceilings, square-headed nails, and buckwheat insulation provide proof of its importance as a significant historical structure. A series of various ownerships includes Horace Sylvain, Nere Picard, and Xavier Deschaine, and in 1927, it became the property of the Marquis family until the death of Mrs. Annie (Chasse) Marquis in 1976. A year later, it was purchased from Clarence Marquis (\$4500.00) by the historical society. The 2026 project to save the structure will begin with setting a firm footing to prevent the house from sinking and repairing any issues encountered during the process.



Deceased Lifetime Members of 2025

Clarence Ayotte 1949 - 2025

Conrad E. Cyr 1936 - 2025

Rose Marie (Parent) Dubois 1933 - 2025

Arthur L. Faucher 1952 - 2025

Francis Morin 1934 - 2025

Francoise (Martin) Plourde 1930 - 2025

Gunter Schultz 1938 - 2025

Lise (Simard) Sirois 1944 - 2025

New Lifetime Members

Phil & Elaine (Collins) Cyr

Roger & Carol (Lavoie) Gervais

Debbie (Sirois) Giggey

Judith (Marquis) Gonser

David Guerrette

Anita (Hebert) Madore

Jack J. Michaud

Anthony San Antonio

Michael San Antonio

December 13, 2025
Monthly Meeting & Luncheon
Lakeview Restaurant
Board of Directors and Invited Guests



December Front: Judy Chamberland, Terry Ouellette, Sandra San Antonio, Carole Plourde, Diane Castonguay.

Standing: Donna Boucher, Anne Chambrland, Jean Chamberland, Philip Morin, Christy Chamberland, Harold Chamberland, Gary Boucher, Stan Albert, and Gerard Castonguay.

Photo by Henry Chamberland

STE-AGATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMORIAL PATRON DONATIONS

January 1, 2025- December 31, 2025

In Memory of, **Mr. Gerald 'Nal' & Mrs. Violet Michaud**, by Philip & Hermance Michaud.

In Memory of, **Mr Randolph & Mrs. Lucille Marquis Bourgoin**, by Gary & Sandra Babin.

In Memory of, **Mrs. Angela Houghton**, by James & Theresa Foster.

In Memory of, **Mr. Arnold Guyotte**, by James & Theresa Foster

In Memory of, **Mrs. Marcella Michaud**, by Cheryl Dionne

In Memory of, **Mrs. Rose Marie Ouellette Poulin**, by Annmarie Poulin

In Memory of, **Mrs. Bernadette Ouellette Lizotte**, by Annmarie Poulin.

In Memory of, **Mr. Arthur Albert Jr.**, by Therese Albert Cyr

In Memory of, **Mrs. Lise Simard Sirois**, by Stan Albert, Terry Ouellette, Philip Morin, James & Patricia Morin,

Francis & Fernande Desjardins, Gary & Donna Boucher, Carole Plourde, Lynn Dugal King,

Debbie Sirois Giggey, Sr. Jacqueline Ayotte, D.W., Gerard & Diane Castonguay,

In Memory of, **Ms. Emma Ruby Giggey**, by Debbie Sirois Giggey.

In Memory of, **Mr. Raoul Sirois**, by Sandra San Antonio.

In Memory of, **Mrs. Lorraine J. Nadeau**, by Daigle Oil Co.

In Memory of, **Mr Emile & Mrs. Marie Estelle Chasse**, by Tom & Jackie Chasse.

In Memory of, **Mr. Donat & Mrs Anais Marquis**, by Tom & Jackie Chasse.

In Memory of, **Mr. Eddie & Mrs. Wellena Morin**, deceased Sons & Daughters,

Grand Children, by Simone M. Morin.

In Memory of, **Mr. Earl McGlaughlin Jr.**, by Muriel McGlaughlin.

In Memory of, **Mrs. Francoise Martin Plourde**, by Directors of Ste-Agathe Historical Society,

Terry M. Ouellette, Sandra San Antonio, Stan Albert, Philip Morin, Donna & Gary Boucher,

Odette & Donna Levesque, Alan, & Denyse Michaud, Mark & Nicole Chamberland,

Gerard & Diane Castonguay, Daniel & Roberta Labrie.

In Memory of, **Mr. George Cyr**, by Philip & Linda Bouchard, Ron & Anita Boucher, Rita M. Chamberland.

In Memory of, **Mr. Clifford Ouellette**, by Maurice Plourde & Greta Plourde.

In Memory of, **Mrs. Cecile Ayotte Ouellette**, by Maurice Plourde & Greta Plourde.

In Memory of, **Ms. Jean N. Chamberlain**, by Gerard & Diane Castonguay, Rita M. Chamberland

In Memory of, **Mrs. Rose Marie Parent Dubois**, by Margot McLaren, James Perley, and their families - Brian Corbin, Nancy Corbin, Roland W. Corbin, & Betsy Corbin, George & Judy Roy, Lorraine Verboys,

William & Helen Melvin, John & Eileen Dietz, Sr. Jacqueline Ayotte.

In Memory of, **Mr. & Mrs. Fred Marin**, by Alfred H. Marin

In Memory of **Mrs. Marylyn, 'Jane' Jalbert Marin**, by Alfred H. Marin, Sr. Jackie Ayotte, D.W.

In Memory of, **Mr. Dennis Joseph Morin**, by Rina Morin Williams, James & Patricia Morin, Jim & Theresa Foster.

In Memory of, **Mrs. Rita Morin Dionne**, by Rina Morin Williams

In Memory of, **Mr. Bertrand Albert**, by Rita M. Chamberland

In Memory of, **Mrs. Lorraine Dumont**, by Rita M. Chamberland.

In Memory of, **Mrs. Hortense R. (Belanger) Cyr** "28, **Mrs. Anita (Cyr) Knutila** "52,
Mrs. Delores (Cyr) Marsden "53, by Ruth Anne (Cyr) Hallier "63.

In Memory of, **Mrs. Marie Jeanne Picard**, by Sr. Jacqueline Ayotte. Terry M. Ouellette.

In Memory of, **Mrs. Therese Picard**, by Rita M. Chamberland.

In Memory of, **Mr. Gunter Schultz**, by Terry M. Ouellette.

In Memory of, **Mrs. Aline Corriveau**, by Daniel & Roberta Labrie.

In Memory of, **Mrs. Omerine Corriveau**, by Daniel & Roberta Labrie.

In Memory of, **Mr. Francis Morin**, by Lorraine Zimmerman, Bob & Pat Bourgoin, Philip Morin, Donna & Gary Boucher, Sandra San Antonio, Terry M. Ouellette, Pete & Rachel Lapointe, Elaine Michaud, Rita L. Chamberland, Mike & Pam Langford, James & Patricia Morin, Carole Plourde, Odette & Donna Levesque, Jim & Theresa Foster, Jacqueline Chamberland Blesso, Rina Williams, Doris Staples, Alan & Denyse Michaud, Rachel Daigle & Peter Daigle, Ken & Arlene Lerman, Carl & Therese Michaud.

In Memory of, **Mrs. Marie Marthe Morin Jewett**, by Jim & Theresa Foster.

Over the years, your support has helped advance the mission of the Ste-Agathe Historical Society in meaningful ways. We are deeply grateful for your belief in this work and the difference it makes.

Many supporters ask how they can ensure the causes they care about continue well into the future. One option some choose is including the Ste-Agathe Historical Society in their estate plans, such as through a will or trust. A legacy gift can help sustain our mission for generations to come, while always allowing loved ones to come first.

This is simply information to consider – there is no obligation, and gifts of any size can have a lasting impact. If you would like to learn more or have questions, we would be happy to provide additional details at your convenience.

Thank you for being part of our community and for helping shape the future of this work.



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

Change Service Requested