

GATINEAU VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

June—July 2003

Box/C.P. 1803 Chelsea PQ J9B 1A1 (819) 827-4432

Number 2003-03

Coming Events

Aug 16, 2003, 9:00 am

St. Stephens Church, Old Cheslea

GVHS Annual Auction and Flea market

After a one year hiatus, the Society's annual auction returns with the 40th edition of the popular summer event.



Again the Society will be counting on the help of volunteers for the organizing committee or on the day of the event, and on donations of items to be auctioned.

If you can help, please contact Jay Atherton (827-1703), or Theresa Winfield (827-0678).

July 7 to July 12th, 2003

137 Centre Street, Shawville

Open House for the Pontiac Archives

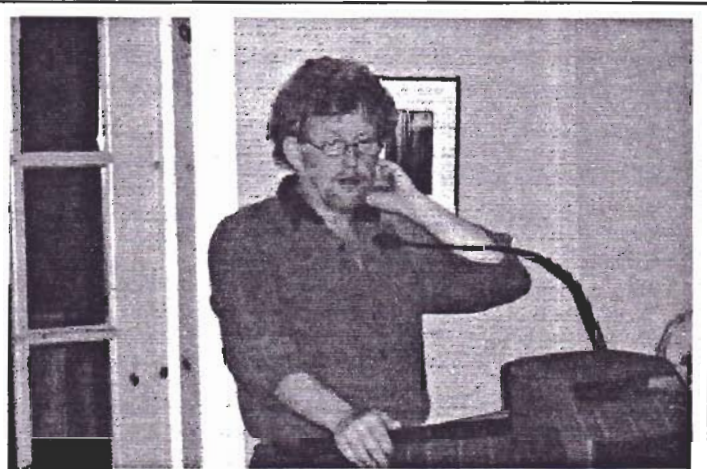
The annual open house for the Pontiac Archives will be held July 7th to the 12th. The hours are Monday, July 12th to Friday, July 11th, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm; Saturday, July 12th, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

The Pontiac Archives are located at 137 Rue Centre Street, Shawville, Quebec. The archives will be relocated in the newly built Shawville library which is expected to be ready by October this year.

More about the Pontiac Archives—Page 3

2003 Annual Dinner

Over 80 Society members and guests gathered at the Wakefield Mill Inn for the 2003 GVHS Annual Dinner. Master of Ceremony and Society President Ernie Mahoney remarked on the appropriateness of holding the event at the Mill, "the most historic site in the Outaouais". The site recalled fond memories for the many Society members who volunteered at the Moulin Wakefield Mill Museum when the Society was the custodian of the Mill and MacLaren House. Ernie congratulated Bob Milling and Lynne Berthiaume for their efforts in reviving the important landmark and for commemorating its historic role in shaping the local community.



Society members were entertained by guest speaker, Phil Jenkins, "Maker and Seller of Fine English Stories and Songs". The award winning author of *An Acre of Time* and *Riversong* shared his wry humour and his passion for writing history. His presentation included discussion about the writing process and he answered questions about non-fiction writing and his current projects.

More on the GVHS Annual Dinner—Page 2

Annual Dinner (Awards)



AWARD OF HONOUR

Major John Vass, Commanding Officer, Para Company, Royal Canadian Regiment, Petawawa, with Major Warrant Officer Wayne Bartlette is presented with an Award of Honour by Ernie Mahoney, President of the Gatineau Valley Historical Society.

The award was made *"in appreciation of the Regiment's dedication in attending for nearly 20 years, the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the grave of private Richard Rowland Thompson, Queen's Scarf, in the Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery"*.

A brief history of the Royal Canadian Regiment—the early years.

The Royal Canadian Regiment was formed on 21 December 1883 for the purpose of instructing the Canadian Militia. Shortly thereafter, it saw action for the first time during the campaign in North-West Canada in 1885 where it took part in the suppression of the rebellion at Batoche and Cut Knife Creek. In 1898, the Regiment provided part of the force sent to police the Yukon Territory during the Gold Rush.

In late 1899, with the outbreak of the Boer War, the Canadian Government offered Great Britain the services of 1,000 troops. Mobilization occurred rapidly and on 29 November the 2nd (Special Service) Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry, under the command of LCol W.D. Otter arrived in Capetown, South Africa. After completing familiarization training at Belmont, it saw its first action at Sunnyside Kopjes on 1 January 1900. The most notable battle in which the Battalion was involved in was that at Paardeberg Drift where, with the British, it fought a numerically superior Boer force.

On 27 February 1900 General Cronje - the Boer Commander - surrendered to the Battalion, exactly 19 years after the disastrous British defeat at Majuba Hill. Of note, Pte R.R. Thompson was awarded *The Queen's Scarf of Honour* for his actions during the Battle of Paardeberg. Upon the completion of the one-year term of engagement, the



ARTHUR DAVISON PRIZE FOR THE YEAR 2002

Carol Martin, with Society Archivist Jay Atherton, was presented with the Arthur Davison prize for 2002 in recognition of her article, *"Private Richard Rowland Thompson's 'Chelsea Connection': Bertha Alexander and the Alexanders of Chelsea."*, the outstanding contribution of the year to Volume 28 of *Up The Gatineau!*

The citation read, *"This original article adds to our knowledge and image of Private Richard Thompson and the Alexanders, and makes the human connection between the war hero and his burial site in the Pioneer Cemetery in Chelsea. A well researched, well written, interesting, and inspirational contribution, the article serves to highlight the value of the Society's role in pre-*

(the RCR — continued)

Battalion returned home to Canada and was disbanded.

During this same period, the 3rd (Special Service) Battalion was formed and tasked with garrisoning the Halifax Fortress from March 1900 to September 1902.

The Queen's Scarf of Honour
Private Richard Rowland Thompson, RCR

Extract from the Certificate accompanying the Award dated 24 December 1908:

"In July 1900, official notification was received by Colonel W.D. Otter, C.B., A.D.C., Commanding the 2 Royal Canadian Regiment, that Her Majesty the late Queen proposed awarding to a non-commissioned officer or man in each of the Colonial Contingents, who might be nominated as having performed the bravest act during the War, a scarf worked, or made, by herself. The Regiment was then stationed at Springs and Colonel Otter at once had the Staff and Officers Commanding Companies brought together for the selection of the non-commissioned officer or man to represent the Royal Canadian Regiment. After considerable discussion the decision was made in favour of Private R.R. Thompson, late of B Company, 2 Royal Canadian Regiment, and his name was forwarded accordingly. The scarf was in due time received and given to Private Thompson. The particular acts upon which Private Thompson was selected were as under:

First, having on the night of the eighteenth-nineteenth February 1900, kept Private Bradshaw, who was left dangerously wounded at Paardeberg, alive by care and attendance bestowed upon him, until he could be properly attended to.

Second, having twice left the trenches on the morning of the capture of the Boer Laager at Paardeberg, the twenty-seventh February 1900, at imminent risk of his own life, for the purpose of assisting wounded comrades lying some distance in front of the trenches."

(Source: Department of National Defense web site http://www.army.dnd.ca/RCR_RHQ/English/History/History_e.shtm)

(continued from page 1)

The Pontiac Archives holds material for Pontiac County, Quebec. The archive's resources include:

- cemetery transcriptions
- census records (1851-1901)
- Crown land grants book (1763-1890)
- history of a number of Pontiac families
- information on townships, farms, fairs, social events, churches, schools, and rescinded place names
- newspaper clippings of obituaries
- Orange Lodge records
- photograph collection (indexed)
- Women's Institute minutes books and archives
- retired municipal records
- Protestant and Roman Catholic marriage records
- residents list (20,000 names)

The archivist is Elsie Sparrow (819) 647-7013

Correspondence - Image Bank Updates

From Sheila McGoldrick (nee Daly mother nee Farrel:

Re: Farrelton Hockey Team in October newsletter.

The names Ray Daly did not know are Alan Snow Maurice (Moe) Moreau, and Billy Farrel (Ottawa), cousin of Frank Farrel, nephew of Jim Farrel (Ottawa), coach.



Doug Cowden informs us that in the photo on page 3 of the Dec-Jan Newsletter, taken on the Cowden farm about 1935, the tall man on the left (at the front of the wagon) is Doug's brother, Edward, and the older man at the rear of the wagon is his Father, Albert Cowden



Lynott Family Photos Acquired

In the 1830s, eight *Lynott* brothers and some cousins from County Mayo in the rugged west-coast of Ireland set sail for Canada, eventually arriving in *Cantley, Quebec* where they established farms and other businesses. One of these men was *Michael Lynott*, the great-grandfather of *Marilyn Liddiard* of *Chelsea*.

Michael Lynott was born in 1804. On September 6, 1836, he married *Rose Ann (Betsy) McMannus* at *Notre Dame Cathedral* in *Ottawa*. *Peter Lynott* was the eighth of nine children born to this couple. On June 7, 1883, *Peter Lynott* married *Bridget Maloney* of *Cantley*, in *St. Elizabeth's Church* in *Cantley*. Both the *Lynott* and *Maloney* names are recorded frequently as property owners on historic maps of this area. *Peter* and *Bridget* raised a family of 5 boys and one girl. That little girl, pictured here, is *Anna Cecelia* -- *Marilyn Liddiard's* mother. Today, *Marilyn's* son, *Andrew*, lives in this area too. So the family line continues in the *Gatineau Valley*.

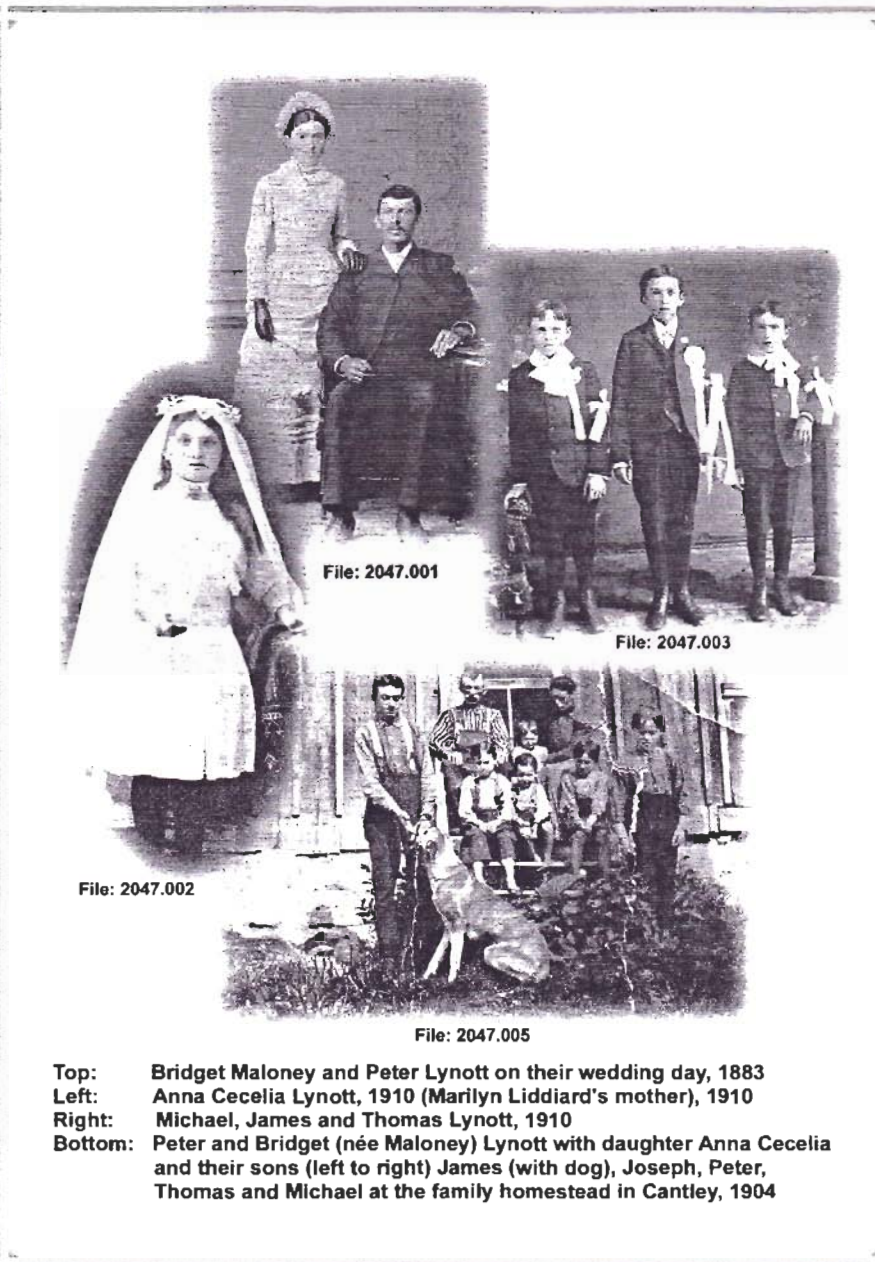
Last fall, *Marilyn* allowed copies of photos from her family album to be made by the *Gatineau Valley Historical Society* for use in the *Image Bank*. These images document this Irish family's settlement in Canada. The precious photographs were scanned and entered into the *Image Bank* and returned to *Marilyn's* albums where they belong. However, she now benefits from the knowledge that their safekeeping is ensured with the *Image Bank*. In the event *Marilyn's* photos deteriorate, become lost or are destroyed, a copy remains in the *Image Bank's* com-

puter for future generations of the *Lynott* and *Maloney* families to share and for the general public and historic researchers to access.

Four of the donated photographs are pictured here for our members to enjoy. These show *Marilyn Liddiard's* grandparents on their wedding day in 1883 and their children in both formal and casual settings. Thank you *Marilyn Liddiard* for sharing your family photos with us. We hope others in the community will be encouraged to share theirs.

The Lynott Name

The Lynotts were one of the powerful *Cambro-Norman* families that established in *Connacht, Ireland* in the 13th century. By 1585, "the lands of the *Lynotts* were of sufficient extent and importance to be mentioned in the *Composition Book of Connacht* with such well-known families as the *Burkes* and the *Barretts*." Later, at the time of the *Strafford's Inquisition of Co. Mayo*, five *Lynotts* are mentioned as landowners mainly in the barony of *Tirawley*. Source: *MacLysaght, Edward, A Guide to Irish Names. Helicon Ltd. Dublin. 1964.* (Adrienne Heron)



Top: Bridget Maloney and Peter Lynott on their wedding day, 1883
 Left: Anna Cecelia Lynott, 1910 (Marilyn Liddiard's mother), 1910
 Right: Michael, James and Thomas Lynott, 1910
 Bottom: Peter and Bridget (née Maloney) Lynott with daughter Anna Cecelia and their sons (left to right) James (with dog), Joseph, Peter, Thomas and Michael at the family homestead in Cantley, 1904

Congratulations to Society member Adrienne Heron, who was recently inducted into the Chelsea Builders Club. Adrienne was recognized for her dedication in caring for the landscape at the municipal offices and for creating the Image Bank for the Gatineau Valley Historical Society.