

# NEWSLETTER

Volume II, NO. 1, March 17,  
1980

## Officers & Directors:

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Tres. Mgr. Gilman Chaloult  
Sec. Darlene Coltart

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Fernand Dube  
Rolande Levesque  
2 yrs.: Geraldine Chasse  
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3 yrs.: Warrenna Morin  
Ben Talbot

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Editor: Darlene Coltart



La Traversée des Acadian's à St. David, 1785.  
Symbol of the Second Acadian Festival, 1979. Drawing  
by David Wylie.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES

The Madawaska Historical Society has held nine meetings in this year, 1979. Six Board of Directors Meetings and three Special Meetings. Given are the highlights of those minutes:

January 19th

Revised and updated the Society's Bylaws into a more efficient formate. Decided to investigate insurance policy options. Organized committees.

May 1st

Prepared program of events for the Second Acadian Festival in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. Scheduled Kick-Off Dinner with civic organizations. Designated Ox-eye Daisy and Acadian Flag as official flower and flag of the Madawaska Acadian Days.

June 16th

Permitted to reprint L. Violette's book. Released information brochure on Schoolhouse. Gave support for the "Foire Brayonne" of the "Republic of Madawaska". Contracted to finish the Society's road.

August 6th

Organized Small Museum Workshop on artifact cataloging and demonstrated spinning and weaving.

September 9th

Special Membership Meeting to recognize Real and Simone Hebert, the Society's sponsored contestants for "M. & Mm. Sourire"

September 24th

Launched a pictorial history project depicting the development of the town of Madawaska and the St. John. Transcribing the St. David Parish Cemetary to preserve information.

October 21st

11th Annual Membership Meeting. Elected Officers and Directors, and gave annual reports.

November 2nd

Organized celebration for Madawaska's centenarian, Mrs. Dan Cyr. Launched Membership Drive. Discussed loss of Acadian Cross.

November 29th

Special Meeting in recognition of the American Legion's generous donation toward the Acadian Cross Historic Shrine.

THE MADAWASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
TOWN REPORT

Once again, the citizens of Madawaska can be proud of the progress made and the activities of its own "Historical Society" during the past year.

The long, awaited move of the old Albert Homestead was made during the latter part of September. Despite the numerous details involved, the move was accomplished with hardly a problem. Our sincere thanks are deserved by the personnel of the local public utilities, the police department, the town manager, the highway department, Albert Farms and the Madawaska Welding Shop. As funds permit, restoration of the old house will be made as an on-going project by the Society.

The celebration of Acadian Day, June 28, during the second Acadian Festival was a most commemorative event as were all the other events of the festival. Of particular note were the St. Thomas Parish Jubilee Mass and the colorful performances by the United States Army's Official Ceremonial Unit and Escort to the President of the U.S. from Washington, D.C.; namely, The Continental Color Guard, The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps and the U.S. Army Drill Team. The units were totally funded by the local Thomas O. Cyr American Legion, Post #147. Of course, the beloved "Troupe Folklorique", the enchanting symbolic and ceremonial river crossing, the young "Balladins" singers, and all the other activities were enjoyed by friends, neighbors and strangers alike. Each citizen should be proud to fly the Acadian banner during that entire week! Madawaska is fast achieving cultural and historical fame.

Of significance are two other projects accomplished by the Society during the year. One is additional work on the road to the Cross which made it possible for all to use it for the first time. The other is a reprinting of "How the Acadians Came to Maine" by Mr. Lawrence Violette that continues to be ever-so popular and always highly in demand.

A new project was started this year which was long overdue. With the generous financial assistance of Fraser Paper Company, the Society is now in the process of compiling a pictorial history of the town. Old photographs are being carefully reproduced and filed chronologically in albums for preservation and for the benefit of future generations. Obviously, Fraser Paper Company has our deepest gratitude for the assistance as our funds just did not permit us to contemplate starting such a project at all.

Of course, the most historical and cherished project is the building of the permanent Acadian Cross Historic Shrine by 1985, the bicentennial of the first landing of the Acadians on the shores of the St. John River in the St. David village of Madawaska. We fondly refer to it as the "Plymouth Rock" of the valley, as indeed, it is. It is with deep pride and gratitude to let all citizens know that Madawaska's own Legionnaires took a tremendous lead in getting this project accomplished. The Thomas O. Cyr American Legion Post #147, on their initiative, awarded the Society a \$5,000 grant for the historic shrine. The action speaks for itself in recognizing the importance of the project as well as in promoting leadership in the community. It is the first organization to contribute to the Shrine Fund and it will occupy the top line of The Shrine Honor Roll for organizations. The Fund presently stands at \$6,475.00 with the other contributions being individual ones. Each citizen should make it a duty to follow their lead and to contribute to this most historical project since it symbolizes each of our own lives directly and personally.

In the meantime, normal operations were maintained at the Tante Blanche Museum throughout the summer. Visitors expressed numerous complimentary comments about the renovated one-room schoolhouse that was opened this year for the first time. For some visitors, it was pure nostalgia, and so expressed with moist eyes. A workshop on cataloging was also held at the museum which was attended by representatives of several of our sister historical societies. After the workshop was completed, the Stockholm Historical Society honored us by holding their annual meeting at the museum. It was an enjoyable day.

The year was closed by a sad occurrence however. Our beloved Acadian Cross, erected for the town centennial was blown down by strong winds in late October. Not knowing what to do about it, deep consternation ensued for awhile. The problem was soon solved, however, by our brothers across the river in St. Basil who came to the rescue by bringing the Society a beautiful cross already cut and ready to erect. In fact, it is worthy to note that our friends across the river knew the old cross was down before we did! The raising of the new cross is being planned for Acadian Day, 1980. Everyone should attend this ceremony.

Claude L. Cyr  
President

GOALS

- Raise funds for the Acadian Cross Historic Shrine Drive to erect a permanent monument at the Acadian Historic Landing Site by the 200th Anniversary year, 1985.
- Proceed with restoration of the old Albert Homestead recently relocated at the Historic Complex.
- Make payments towards the incurred expense of the construction of the Society's completed road to the Historic Cross.
- Create an encompassing representation of the history and development of the St. John and the town of Madawaska, through reproductions of old photographs.
- Make the annual celebration of the Acadian Festivities more successful, more enjoyable, and more fully integrated as a tradition with the Valley and Aroostook.

Many of the goals now set before the Society are continous, on-going efforts which we will probably be unable to see finalized within the year, 1980. Our present goals were launched in years past and are now mid-stream. Our commitment in these endeavors becomes greater with time, as we attempt to complete the works already put forth.

NEW MEMBERS

Contributing:

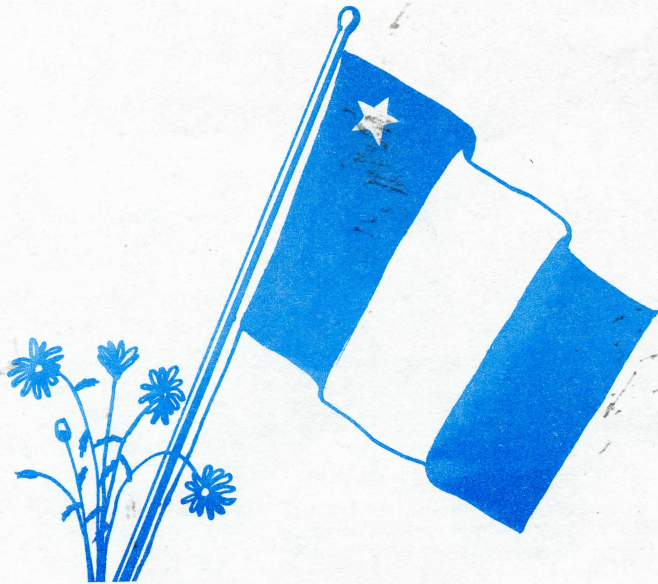
- Darlene Coltart
- Reginald Cote
- Claudette Cyr
- Roderick Cyr
- Albert W. Daigle
- Mr., Mrs. Daniel Levesque
- Gerard L. Pelletier
- Eldon R. Rossignol
- Philip A. Rossignol

Honorary:

- Thomas O. Cyr Post #147
- American Legion
- Sophis LeVesseur

Life:

- Mr., Mrs. Claude L. Cyr
- Mr., Mrs. Guy Dubay
- Fraser Employees Federal Credit Union
- Madeline Giguere
- Roger Grindle
- Rita Gwyer
- C. Mary Long
- Jeanette Long
- Mr., Mrs. Clifford Madore
- Albert Martin
- Armand Martin
- Northern National Bank
- Mr., Mrs. George Pozzuto
- Regina Plourd
- David Wylie



#### Acadian Flag and Ox-eye Daisy

The ox-eye daisy is the official flower of our Madawaska Acadian Days. Reflection upon it, the choice of the daisy is quite appropriate. It is easy to associate the attractive, simple flower with the Acadians. Their histories reveal how they have quietly made their distinct presences. And their separate histories go back a long way.

Daisy comes from the Anglo-Saxon "daeges eage" or day's eye". This refers to the ox-eye daisy's relative, the English daisy, and its habit of opening during the daylight hours. The two can be differentiated by the crimson tips on the white petals of the English daisy.

The ox-eye daisy stands one to two feet high, growing in clumps, and is topped by white-rayed, yellow centered flowerheads. This wildflower remains open around the clock. Native to Europe and Asia, its hardy and abundant in the fields and roadsides of the Eastern United States. Other names for the ox-eye daisy are the "field daisy" or "American daisy". It is also known as "whiteweed" because it is the bane of any cultivated field where it gains a foothold.

The rayed petals surrounding the bright yellow disk probably suggested the sun to many ancient people. It is known to have been used in medicinal remedies and for several other purposes beginning far back in written history. The Minoans of Crete used daisies as designs on ornaments. The Assyrians used daisies 3500 years ago in a formula to turn gray hair to black. They also brewed a medicine for eye troubles from the wildflower. In the Middle Ages, Wales used daisies in treating insanity, smallpox, warts, tumors, jaundice, boils and skin diseases. In England itself, treatments for bruises and broken bones used the flower. Thus the old folk name for daisy "bruisewort" or "banewort". A fifteenth-century recipe even lists daisies among the ingredients.

ACADIAN FESTIVAL

Acadian Day June 28, 1979

Angelus

P: The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary  
R: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary etc.  
P: Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
R: Be it done according to your word. Hail Mary etc.  
P: And the Word was made flesh.  
R: And dwelt among us. Hail Mary etc.  
P: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.  
R: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.  
P: Let us pray. Pour forth we beseech you O Lord, your  
grace into our hearts, that we to whom the incarnation  
of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an  
angel; may by His passion and cross be brought to the  
glory of His resurrection, through the same Christ,  
our Lord. Amen.

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L'Angelus

P: L'ange du Seigneur annonca a Marie.  
R: Et elle concut par l'operation du Saint-Esprit.  
Je vous salue Marie, etc.  
P: Voici la servante du Seigneur.  
R: Qu'il me soit fait selon votre parole.  
Je vous salue, etc.  
P: Et le Verbe se fait chair.  
R: Et il a habite parmi nous.  
Je vous salue Marie. etc.  
P: Priez pour nous, Sainte Mere de Dieu  
R: Afin que nous devenions dignes des promesses de  
Jesus-Christ.  
P: Prions le Seigneur. Daignez, Seigneur, repandre  
votre grace dans nos ames afin qu'ayant connu par  
le message de l'ange l'incarnation du Christ votre  
Fils, nous arrivions a sa passion et par sa croix  
a la gloire de sa resurrection, par le Christ  
notre Seigneur. Amen.

Often used in nobleman's coat of arms, Margaret of Anjou, Queen of England (1430 - 82) had three in hers. Raised in France she she called herself by the French version of her name, "Marguerite". Interestingly that is the word in French for daisy. No one seems to remember if the daisy was named after the queen or if she used it in her coat of arms because it already shared her name. All forms of the name Margaret or Marguerite are derived from a Greek word meaning "pearl".

Daisy became a popular slang in 1890, meaning something first rate: "A new hat? Isn't it a daisy!" And Daisy as a once popular name is well remembered in the song about a bicycle built for two. Daisy is sometimes used as a nickname for Candice or Margaret (shades of Queen Margaret of Anjou?).

Everyone remembers the game of "she-loves-me-she-loves-me-not". The daisy the symbol of innocence and fidelity, has been used to measure the affliction of almost every youth. But the daisy usually has an odd number of petals. In other words, all the time the game was rigged.

Remembering all those daisies picked as a child it is interesting to note that the abundant ox-eye daisy most probably was not a native to America. Most likely it made its inconspicuous transit with the colonists, riding as seeds in the hay used to pack their goods in chests. As the land was cleared the daisy slipped right in to a ready made home. It flourished so successfully that it became considered as a weed. Hated by farmers as it gave their cows bitter tasting milk. Although it gained its foothold in the fat of the land, characteristically strong it will also take in the poorest soils where it grows as a small balm to our eyes.

Especially in these last traits, the daisy seems most appropriate to help celebrate the Madawaska Acadian Days. It uncomplainingly set down its roots and has flourished over a shore it quietly crossed an ocean to get to. The Acadians too, immigrated to this continent becoming a distinct people. Although at one time their existence was threatened and they were forced to scatter outward, a mere 10 to 15,000 Acadians have grown to over 250,000 today. As the daisy will brighten any soil, the Acadians have earned a name for willingly accepting their lot and improving upon it. The Acadians who for 375 years have held to their religion and customs are not unlike the emblem of fidelity, the daisy. And today, it is just as hard to separate one as the other from the soil.



Acquisitions 1979

I. Artifacts:

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Cast Iron Stove, c. 1880  | Mr. Elmo Albert        |
| 2. White satin Wedding Dress, 1932<br>(Pearl Embroidery, Made by<br>Mrs. Zelis Albert) | Mrs. Victor Albert     |
| 3. White Kid Leather Shoes   | Mrs. Victor Albert     |
| 4. Wooden Straight Chair w/ Cushion  | Mrs. Ernest Chasse     |
| 5. Wooden Children's Chairs (2)  | Ms. Bernette Albert    |
| 6. Woolen Blanket, c. 1890<br>(Woven by Loom by Mrs. Denis<br>Morneault)               | Mrs. Eddie Daigle      |
| 7. Priest's Chasuble (St. David)   | Mrs. Rollande Levesque |
| 8. Mannequin (Small Boy)   | Mr. Real Gendreau      |
| 9. U.S. Flag   | Mr. Real Gendreau      |
| 10. Bicentennial Float Uniform   | Mr. Claude Gendreau    |
| 11. Bicentennial Float Uniform<br>(Small Boy)  | Mrs. Rollande Gervais  |
| 12. Wooden Sled (2)  | Mr. Roger C. Albert    |
| 13. Wooden Sled for Water Barrels  | Mr. Roger C. Albert    |
| 14. Hand Knitting Machine  | Mrs. Wilfred Dube      |
| 15. Acadian Day Church Banners (2)   | Mrs. Agnes Daigle      |
| 16. Acadian Festival '79 Lions<br>Club Pin   | Mr. Gerard Beaulieu    |
| 17. Bronze Wall School Bell  | Mr. Camelle Morin      |
| 18. Schoolhouse Teacher's Chair  | Mrs. Cecile Pozzuto    |
| 19. Guardian Angel w/ Oval Frame   | Mrs. George Pelletier  |

II. Books, Papers, and Documents:

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Mother Goose Pictorial Cards (8)<br>(18" by 18")  | St. Thomas<br>Elementary School |
| 2. The Winston Simplified Dictionary, 1929   | Mr. Leonide Albert              |
| 3. Epitres et Evangiles des Dimanches, 1912  | Mr. Leonide Albert              |
| 4. Exercices de Calculs, 1943  | Mr. Leonide Albert              |
| 5. Pictured Knowledge Children's<br>Encyclopedias. 1929 (Vols. 1 through<br>10, Marshall Hughes Co.)         | Mrs. Aline Bouchard             |
| 6. The New World - Wide Children's<br>Cyclopedia, 1928 (Vols. 1 through<br>11, Consolidated Book Publishers) | Mrs. Aline Bouchard             |
| 7. Photographs of Acadian Day '79 (14)   | Mrs. Marie Blanche<br>Savoy     |
| 8. Personal Papers   | Roger Paradis                   |

III. Other Donations:

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Mailing Envelopes   | Fraser Paper Co.     |
| 2. Childrens Books   | Mrs. Neal Martin     |
| 3. Remington Rand Adding, 1930<br>(Machine 71 - 68 - 7100)             | Mrs. Aline Bouchard  |
| 4. World Wide Encyclopedia, 1950, (Vols.<br>1 through 10, Books, Inc.) | Mrs. Aline Bouchard  |
| 5. Radio Announcements   | WSJR - Ben Talbot    |
| 6. Printing  | Title VII, Madawaska |
| 7. Miscellaneous paperbacks  | Mrs. Elmo Albert     |
| 8. Miscellaneous paperbacks  | Mrs. Claude L. Cyr   |
| 9. Miscellaneous Pictures Frames (5)                                   | Mrs. Elmo Albert     |
| 10. Miscellaneous paperbacks   | Mrs. Louise Gendreau |
| 11. Miscellaneous paperbacks   | Ms. Bernette Albert  |
| 12. Use of Equipment   | Mr. Elmo Albert      |



Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. Drawing by David Wylie

The United States Army's Official Ceremonial Unit and Escort to the President from Washington D.C. was only one of many groups that helped us celebrate our Second Acadian Festival in 1979, the 375th Anniversary of the Acadian arrival on the North American Continent. It was a year of growing awareness for more and more people of the Acadians and their heritage.

We are looking forward in our growing tradition of "a people celebrating themselves" to the coming years of festivities. Each year will "feature" the great Acadian Families where all descendants of the founding families can indeed join together to celebrate themselves and enjoy.