

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT

A membership in the Argyle Municipality Historical & Genealogical Society makes an attractive Christmas gift for anyone with Argyle connections and an interest in local history. \$25 covers an individual membership for one year and \$30 buys a membership for a couple or family. This means they will receive four issues of *The Argus* in 2007. For anyone wishing to purchase a membership as a Christmas gift, they may do so by sending a cheque to AMHGS PO Box 101 Tusket, NS B0W 3M0 Canada, by dropping by in person, or by phoning (902-648-2493) and using MasterCard or VISA. We will send a Christmas card, along with a membership card, indicating who has given the gift, and will also include a copy of the last issue of *The Argus* for 2006 (vol.18 no.4). US members should remit cheques in US funds to help defray our mailing costs.

OBITUARIES FOR SOCIETY MEMBERS

We regret to have to report the deaths of three of our members, Brendan Fay of Little Brook, Digby County and Ernest Raynard of Glenwood, Yarmouth County and Darrell Roberts of Argyle, Yarmouth County. All three have been members of our Society for many years. We extend our condolences to their family and friends and reprint their obituaries as they appeared in Nova Scotia newspapers.

From *The Chronicle Herald*, Halifax, NS, Wednesday 21 June 2006:-

FAY, Thomas Brendan - 91, Little Brook, formerly of Massachusetts, passed away June 19, 2006, in Yarmouth Regional Health Centre. He was a son of the late Charles J. Fay and Alice McArdle, and stepson of Marie J. Maguire. He is survived by his wife, Rose Marie Saulnier. He was predeceased by brothers, Kevin J. Fay, Charles David Fay, and James Gerard Fay. His most enthusiastic effort, during his retirement years, was to research the history and record genealogical information on Acadian families. There will be no visitation by request. The funeral mass will be held in Saint Mary's Catholic Church, Church Point, at 10 a.m. Friday, June 23, Rev. Edgar Mvubu, F.D., officiating. Interment in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

From:- *The Chronicle Herald*, Halifax, NS, Tuesday 7 November 2006

RAYNARD, Ernest Alfred - 83, 46 Robert's Island Rd., Glenwood, Yarmouth Co., passed away November 4, 2006, in Yarmouth. He was born on August 6, 1923, in Glenwood to George and Bertha (Hurlburt) Raynard. He was a member of the Argyle Pubnico United Baptist Church. He was a member of the Masons and New Horizons. He owned and operated V & E Raynards. He was also a farmer who loved camping and hunting. He is survived by his wife, Willetta J. Roberts; son, Warren (Sharon), Glenwood, Yarmouth Co.; daughters, Donna (Ken) Spinney, Central Argyle; Wanda (Roger) D'Entremont, Glenwood; Brenda (Jerome) D'Eon, Lower West Pubnico; brother, Vernon (Lillian), Glenwood, Yarmouth Co.; sister, Avis Wheeler, Glenwood, Yarmouth Co.; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by brothers, Elmer and Lloyd; sisters, Evelyn Roberts and Ruth. Visitation will be held today from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m., and funeral service will be held Tuesday at 2 p.m. with Rev. Raymond Pitcher officiating, both in Argyle Pubnico United Baptist Church. Burial will take place in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations may be made to the charity of your choice. E-mail condolences may be sent to: sweenys@ns.aliantzinc.ca or you may sign the guest book on-line at: www.sweenysfuneralhome.net

From the *Chronicle-Herald*, Halifax, NS, Monday, 4 December 2006:-

ROBERTS, Albert "Darrell" - 83, Argyle, Yarmouth Co., passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 2, 2006, in Yarmouth Regional Hospital. Born June 11, 1923, in Argyle, he was the son of the late Ivan and Margaret (Randall) Roberts. He was a member of R.C.A.F. during the Second World War, he was a fire patrol for the CNR, and he was a lobsterman and fire ranger with the Department of Lands and Forests. Darrell was an avid woodsman and was most content spending time at the house at the end of the road in Kemptville, Yarmouth Co. He leaves behind his loving wife of 64 years, Verna (Spinney); daughter Ardyth (Randy) Dukeshire, Argyle; grandchildren, Jason (Amy) Dukeshire, Kentville; Jillian (Mariner Smith), Clark's Harbour; great-grandchildren Molly and Sarah; brothers Clive (Marie) , Fredericton, N.B.; Harry (Inez), Halifax; sister Lillian (Vernon) Raynard, Glenwood. He was predeceased by sister, Margaret; brothers, Conrad and Donald. Visitation will be held Tuesday, December 5, from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. with funeral services on Wednesday at 2 p.m. both in Sweeny's Funeral Chapel, Yarmouth, Rev. A.D. "Bill" Newell officiating. Burial in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Argyle. Family flowers only. Donations may be made to Tri-County Branch of Victorian Order of Nurses. On-line condolences to:- sweenys@ns.aliantzinc.ca or sign the guestbook at: www.sweenys-funeralhome.net



FAMILY BIBLE RECORDS

In this issue of *The Argus* we offer the record from the family Bible of Albert Hilton and Maria Miller, who were married on 21 March 1862. This couple lived in the community of Carleton, Yarmouth County, and are found living there with their family in the 1871 census return. This edition of the Bible was published by Case, Tiffany and Company in Hartford in 1857. We thank Society member Lucille White of Richfield, NS for bringing this original Bible to the archives for copying. The original Bible is held by the Durkee Memorial Library in Carleton.

[1st page of records]

FAMILY RECORD

Marriages

Albert Hilton
Born Nov. 28th 1829

Maria Miller
Born March 21st 1842

Married Jan. 18th 1862

[2nd page of records]

Births

Smith Hilton
Born Oct. 14th 1862

Eudora Lee Hilton
Born Sep 11th 1864

Carlos Flanders Hilton
Born June 27th 1866

Don Carlos Flanders Hilton
Born March 23rd 1872

Agnes Cecilia Hilton
Born August 28th 1875

Winifred Hilton
Born May 2nd 1877

Ivan Royden Hilton
Born Aug. 5th 1881

Alena Weston Hilton
Born July 9th 1885

[3rd page of records]

Deaths

Carlos Flanders Hilton
Died May 19th 1870

Smith Hilton
Died January 5th 1872

Eudora Lee Hilton
Died December 26th 1873

Winifred Hilton
Died Jan. 6th 1898



HISTORY SECTION

In this last issue of *The Argus* for 2006 we offer three articles of historical interest. Society member Claire T. Pothier of Wedgeport has written an article on the "Wedgeport Inn", an important landmark in Wedgeport that was demolished around 1988. This was a handsome two-storey house that was originally built as a home in the 1880's and later became an inn during the decades when the Wedgeport Tuna Tournaments took place.

The second article in this issue is an interesting history of Glenwood, written by the late Charlotte (Ricker) Killam. She was a daughter of Jackson Ricker, the author of *Historical Sketches of Glenwood and the Argyles* (1940). The sketch published here was written in 1909, we believe as a part of course requirements at the Normal College, Truro, NS. It is believed that Charlotte Ricker attended the college. She taught school in the Argyle area during her early years.

The third article is the final installment of the diary kept by Annie Louisa Barclay while living in Tusket from 1869 to 1873. This is the only portion of the diary that we hold in our archives. Annie Louisa Barclay left Tusket in 1873 and eventually married Caleb Scott, a native of Chebogue, and they settled in California. These events happened after the years covered by the portion of the diary we hold at our archives. So sadly, the courtship with Tusket's Smith Harding did not lead to marriage. Thanks to Society member Gwen Trask, we have been put in touch with some people with connections to the Barclay family. We hope to be able to acquire some photographs and other images related to the Barclays. If this becomes possible we will revisit the Barclay diary in a different manner in future issues of *The Argus*.

We are always looking for articles for upcoming issues, and would be pleased to hear from any of the members who might be inclined to take up their pen. We hope you have enjoyed the 2006 issues of *The Argus*. Best wishes for the holidays and for 2007.

I thank all of you again for the all the ways you have supported our organization over the past years. Every member supports us through their membership in the Society, and in many other ways. Your generous support of our "Future for Our Past" fundraising campaign for the New Archives has been particularly inspiring. Thank you all again and again!

Peter Crowell
Editor

THE WEDGEPORT INN

by
Claire T. Pothier

Note:- The author wishes to thank Alcide LeBlanc of Yarmouth for information and photographs that enabled her to complete this article; Bernice (Pothier) Doucette for the loan of photographs; and Peter Crowell for editorial assistance.

On several occasions, Peter Crowell has asked me to write an article to be published in *The Argus* as I have done in the past. Thus, I decided to do some research on the history of the Wedgeport Inn. I have been unable to find out exactly when the house was built, but I believe it was around 1887. It was owned by J r mie H. Pothier, (1841-1934), of the firm J. H. Pothier & Co.

I must give a brief history of this family and its enterprises. J r mie's father was Cyrille Pothier, (1801-1875), son of Charles Amand Pothier, (1758-1816), who was one of the two Pothier brothers (sons of Dominique of Eel Brook), to settle in Wedgeport.

Cyrille Pothier married Euphrosyne Babin, (1801-1897), in 1826, and they had eight children. According to an article written in *Wedgeport and its Islands* a book compiled under the direction of Blair Boudreau in 1980, Cyrille established a mercantile marine business around the year 1845, carrying on trade with foreign countries such as the West Indies. This business was called Cyrille Pothier & Son. Dried salt fish was the main product transported to the West Indies and on the return trips they would carry molasses, sugar, rum, etc.

After the death of Cyrille in 1845, three of his sons, namely J r mie, Anselme O. and Andr  continued to operate the business which became known as J. H. Pothier & Co., and was also sometimes referred to as J. H. Porter & Co. This became a very prosperous business, owning a large fleet of ships and a general store. (This general store later became the site of the Wedgeport Service Station in Upper Wedgeport).

Each of the three brothers owned a house across from the general store. The middle house was the one that belonged to J r mie and eventually became the Wedgeport Inn.



Photo supplied by Bernice (Pothier) Doucette. The old J r mie Pothier house, which became the "Wedgeport Inn". ATCHA Photo #P2006:376

For many years the Pothier mercantile firm prospered, but eventually some of their ships and crews were lost at sea during severe storms. These disasters dealt a severe financial blow to the company. In 1888 new trade restrictions with the United States affecting the fisheries in Nova Scotia also became a factor in the decline of this large business.

J. H. Pothier & Co. eventually ceased operations and on 12 February 1913, Robert S. Mc Kay, a Yarmouth County lawyer, was named as the official assignee to represent the company and

oversee its liquidation. On 1 December 1915 an indenture was drawn up, and as assignee, R. S. McKay, sold the house and land of Jérémie Pothier to Jérémie's wife, Eulalie (LeBlanc) Pothier, (1840-1929), for the sum of \$420.

It appears that Jérémie and his wife Eulalie continued to occupy the house after this. They had seven children - one son, and six daughters. I believe it is important to note here that their only son, Narcisse, was captain of one of the company vessels, the *Saint Michel*. This ship left for the West Indies on 21 March 1898 with a cargo of salt. Neither he nor the crew nor the ship were ever heard from again. Narcisse was 31 years old, and married to Françoise "Anty" Boudreau, (1874-1968). They were expecting their first child who was born in October of that year. This child died in infancy.

Eulalie Pothier died in 1929, and Jérémie in 1934. In a deed dated 27 October 1932, all the heirs of Eulalie signed the house and property to one of the daughters, namely Marie Anne "Minnie" who was married to Jean Magloire Doucet (1878-1948). "Minnie" took care of her father in her home until his death on 13 February 1934.

In a deed dated 4 November 1936, "Minnie" signed over her father's (Jérémie's) house to her son, Pius Doucet, (1910-2005). According to records at the Registry of Deeds, this house, owned by Pius Doucet, was sold by him on 19 April 1938 and the deed was recorded on 30 August 1938. It was at this time that the house and property became known as the Wedgeport Hotel Ltd., with Willard O'Brien, (1892-1981), as president, and



Alcide & Agnes (Saulnier) LeBlanc, managers of the Wedgeport Inn from 1946 to 1966. Photo loaned for copying by Alcide LeBlanc. ATCHA Photo #P2006:374

E.M. Padmore as secretary. The late Israel Pothier, (1903-1994), was also involved in some manner in the establishment of the business. (It appears to have been known as the Wedgeport Inn according to a picture taken in 1938). During this time, tuna were being caught by rod and reel on Soldiers' Rip, off the Tusket Islands. Anglers started coming to fish for these tuna so the Wedgeport Inn was a place to stay.

Mathurin Pothier, (1887-1980), was the manager of the inn and some employees during those days were Bernice (Pothier) Doucette, (1917-); Mary Le Blanc, (1916-); Florence Deveau; Annabelle (Boudreau) LeBlanc, (1907-1995); and Pius Doucet. The Wedgeport Inn ceased operation for some of the war years, but reopened at the end of World War II. The Pius Doucet mentioned above, was the father of the late Jerry P. Doucet, Municipal Clerk for the Municipality of Argyle from 1976 until his death in 1990.

Alcide LeBlanc, (1920-), bought the hotel in 1945 and restarted operations in 1946. He and his wife Agnes (Saulnier) Le Blanc, (1924-2005), developed the property into a profitable business, adding four cottages to the property in 1949. This was a busy time as many people came for the International Tuna Cup Matches. These Tuna Tournaments were very exciting and the Wedgeport Inn was host to many teams from Mexico, France, Germany, Britain, Cuba and USA. There were also Intercollegiate Tuna

Tournaments so many of those teams stayed at the Wedgeport Inn as well. Members of the New York Athletic



Shown left to right - Mathurin Pothier (maternal uncle of the author), manager of the Wedgeport Inn, with employees, Florence Deveau, Pius Doucet, Bernice (Pothier) Doucette (first cousin of the author) and Mary LeBlanc. ATCHA Photo #P2006:378

Club were guests of the hotel at one time. Employees were needed and some of those that worked during this period were Marion Le Blanc, Wallace Doucet, Armance LeBlanc, Alice Boudreau, Lawrence Pothier, Leona Pothier, Alice Cottreau, Alice Jacquard, Pauline and Cecilia Boudreau.

Wedgeport and its Islands, a book compiled by Blair Boudreau in 1980, contains an interview with Alcide LeBlanc in regard to the operations of the inn during his time. He offers the following information:-

"After the war ended in 1945, upon returning from overseas my brother Stanley and I (Alcide LeBlanc) drove to Liverpool to meet lawyer Burns with hopes of purchasing the hotel. We were successful in our endeavours and we ended up buying the hotel for sum of \$3300 - \$1,000 down and the remainder to be paid at a later date. This deal was closed in the fall of 1945, so my brother, Eldric, and I began to fix the property for opening July 1st 1946. Our only transportation between the hotel and home at this time was a standard shift two-wheel bicycle. Only four years later we upgraded to a four-wheel Willis Jeep station wagon.

I also got married that year of 1949 to Agnes Saulnier of Little Brook, Digby County, who became the most important part of my successful business life. We also built four double cottages that year.

We ran the hotel's summer operations for twenty years, throughout which we enjoyed catering to anglers from the four corners of the world. Eight dollars a day entitled a person to room and board which included an early breakfast, lunch baskets and late dinners. The hotel's capacity was thirty-one guests while the dining-room sat twenty-six people. At times other anglers from the old Grand Hotel enjoyed our delicious cuisine."

In 1966, a man from Alabama, named William Coombs, came with a party of 15 people. He wanted to buy the hotel. He did so, but being elderly, he did not operate the hotel. When he died, Stanley LeBlanc bought the property.

Later Richard Ludlow, his wife Noella, and their two daughters lived there for a while. On 12 December 1980, it was sold to George Pothier. The following is a quote from an article written by reporter Michael R. LeBlanc for the *Vanguard* in 1980: "Much interest was shown to restore the over 100 year old Wedgeport Inn and transform it into a cultural centre for Wedgeport and possibly Plymouth and Comeau's Hill. George Pothier, a resident of Halifax, but a native of Wedgeport, bought the Wedgeport Inn in February 1980 through his company Chez Holdings Ltd. A Wedgeport Cultural Centre Committee was formed consisting of president Blair Boudreau, secretary Donnie Jacquard, vice-president Harold Pothier, George Pothier and Peter



The Wedgeport Inn, shortly after 1946. Photo supplied by Claire T. Pothier.
 ATCHA Photo #P2006:513

convenience store was built on the site. It still operates today under the name Wedgeport Quik Mart.

Although the Wedgeport Inn is now gone, the building played an important role in the history of the community. First as the home of one of Wedgeport's leading businessmen, and then as a hotel that played an important part in the local tourism industry during the years when the Wedgeport Tuna Tournaments were such a vital part of the economy of this part of Nova Scotia.

Mettam, Halifax, architect for the proposed restoration. The reason for this centre is to honor sea captains, doctors, priests, educators, groups and clubs".

For a variety of reasons this cultural centre did not materialize and George Pothier later sold the former hotel to Gary Hansen in November 1987. The hotel was demolished a short time later and a con-



Season's Greetings
 From our Inn
 To You and Yours



Mr. and Mrs. Alcide LeBlanc
 Wedgeport Inn - - - Nova Scotia



A Christmas card from "the inn", sent to the author and her first husband, the late Richard LeBlanc. Note the cottages that have been added to the property by this time. ATCHA Photo #P2006:508

HISTORY OF GLENWOOD, YARMOUTH COUNTY

by
Charlotte Ricker
1909

*Note:- Charlotte Eleanora Ricker was born at Glenwood, NS, 14 September 1889, the daughter of A. Jackson & Fannie S. (Doane) Ricker of Glenwood, NS. Many readers will be familiar with the name of Jackson Ricker, author of **Historical Sketches of Glenwood and the Argyles** (1940). This is an excellent local history, and we still sell copies of the reprint in our gift shop. Jackson Ricker was assisted in his writing of this book by at least two of his daughters, Helen S. and Charlotte. Almost all members of this family maintained a life-long interest in the history of the Argyle area. It is worthy of note that this history was written in 1909, some 30 years before her father's history would be published.*

This original copy was recently donated to our archives by Society member Doreen Goudey of Ontario. She found this and several similar short community histories in her old family home at Lower Argyle, NS. We are not certain why members of her family held these histories. A "stamp" on one of the histories from the "Normal College, Truro, NS" suggests that these histories were compiled as part of a course requirement for teacher's attending the college at that time. On first glance, some of the histories appear to have been written by school children, when in fact they are probably compiled by adults and directed at various age levels. Charlotte Ricker would have been 20 years old in 1909. It is known that she worked as a school teacher in her younger years.

The history is hand-written, has a total of 43 pages, 38 of which are hand-written text. Also included are two fold-out maps; three illustrative line drawings; and two photographs. We publish a typed transcript of the history in this issue, and have done our best to include the illustrative material as well. We hope the members will enjoy reading this piece.

To My
Old School Mates
This Book is
Lovingly Dedicated



The Ricker sisters - left to right - Charlotte Eleanor Ricker, 1889-1982; Helen Sophia Ricker, 1891-1990; and Annie Louise Ricker, 1894-1942 - all daughters of A. Jackson & Fannie S. (Doane) Ricker of Roberts Island, NS. Charlotte eventually married Uhlman Killam. Helen and Annie Ricker both remained single. This photograph shows Charlotte Ricker close to the time when she would have written this history. ATCHA Photo#P1991:490