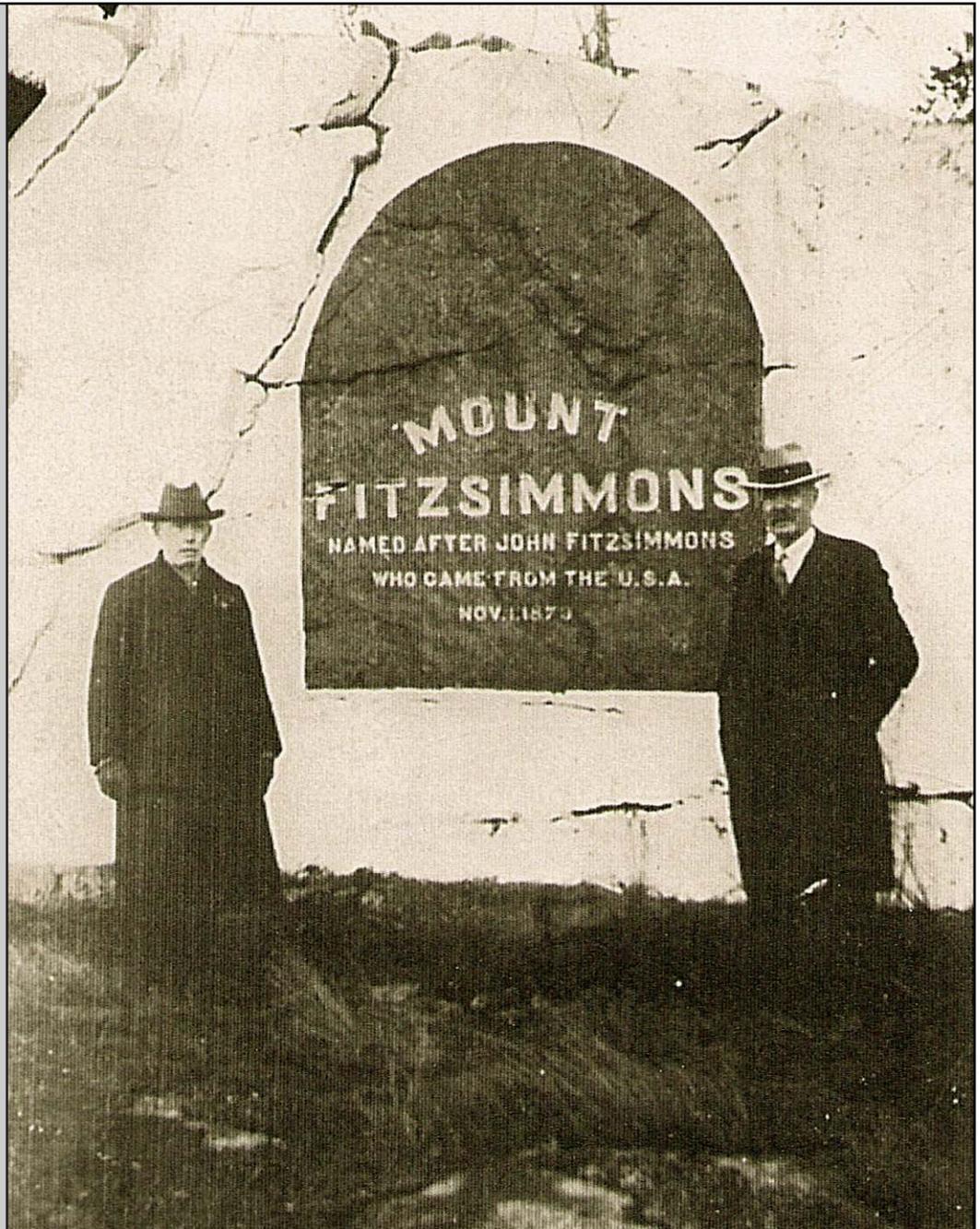




**Mount Fitzsimmons**

Charles and Frank Fitzsimmons at the memorial to their father on Fitzsimmons Mountain

Photo courtesy Brian R. Phillips



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## **WEBSTER REUNION**

**The 2012 Webster reunion, celebrating 200 years since the first Websters came to Canada, Will be held at Oak Leaf Church on Saturday, June 23rd, 2012.**

**This will be extra special because this will be the first time some of our Irish relatives will be in Canada to attend.**

**If you are on Facebook, search for “Webster 200th Year Reunion” and check it out.  
For the Webster clan, watch your mail for more information.**

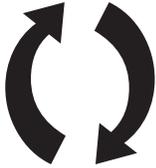
## **SOUL HAVENS**

Shirley Gibson-Langille invites you to her exhibition  
of 98 churches in Kingston and 14 surrounding townships.

**Opening Sunday April 1st, 1pm to 5pm, and continuing thru Friday April 27th  
Wilson Room, Kingston Public Library, 130 Johnson Street.**

A percentage of sales go to the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation

More Information At: <http://shirleygibsonlangille.homestead.com>



## **MEMBERSHIP FEES** (Canadian Funds Please)

General (Family) - \$12.00 Association - \$15.00 Corporate - \$25.00

Our membership term is Sept. 1 to Aug. 31

Memberships available at any meeting or by cheque to:

**LTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Box 332 Lansdowne, Ont. K0E 1L0**

## **RESEARCH and REPRINT FEES**

**Because of the number of requests for information and reprints,  
The Society has had to institute a policy.**

**Research is done by volunteers. Inquiries will be answered in the order they  
are submitted as time permits.**

**Schedule of fees: research \$10.00 per hour. Photocopies: text \$0.25 per copy; pictures, print  
or digital \$1.00 each. Postage will be added**

Visit our Web Site: [www.ltihistoricalsociety.org](http://www.ltihistoricalsociety.org)

## **NEWSLETTERS**

**As our newsletter binder was growing large, we have decided to split it into two.**

Back copies of our newsletters are available for \$2.50 each

Copies 1 through 20 are now available in a three ring binder. Cost \$62.00

Copies 21 through 34 - Cost \$49.50 - Binders with all copies 1-35 are still available. Ask for price.

Due to the weight and high cost of postage, if these have to be mailed, postage will have to be added.

Also available now is a binder with a coloured cover insert or the coloured cover insert alone.

Ask the Executive for prices.



### FARM TO RENT.

The undersigned desires to rent his farm lot W. 1/2 22, 1st con. Lansdowne for a term of five years. The farm is within forty rods of a cheese factory and fifty rods of School House. A church is built on the same land. On this farm there is an orchard of forty trees, all bearing. The stock of 20 head of cattle will be let or sold, to suit the tenant. For further particulars apply on the farm to  
**THOS. GILROY.**

#### THEN

Advertisement in The Gananoque Journal October 24, 1884

#### NOW

131 Reynolds Road. Home of Claudette Westrate and Gerry Gustar



(Photo by Bill Boulton)

### LTI Historical Society Executive 2011 – 2012

**Back Row – L-R:** Pierre Mercier, Tyler Deshamps, Anne Graham, Bill Boulton, Maron McKay, Rebecca Webster.

**Front Row – L-R:** Mary Robertson, Freda White, Connie Burns, Debbie Desloges.

**Absent:** Willie Lacelle

*Photo by Peter Christie*



## **CONDOLENCES**

We regret to report the deaths of two long time members since our last newsletter:

**Lynn Tedford and John Zimmer.**

John drove up from Theresa, NY for all of our meetings.

To their families and friends, our deepest sympathy

## Heritage Organization Grant

The Historical Society made an application to the Provincial Ministry of Culture for a Heritage Organization Development Grant.

Our application was approved, and we received \$1,545.00.

This grant will be used to cover the cost of preparation and distribution of our Newsletters.

**We wish to thank the Ministry of Culture for this assistance.**



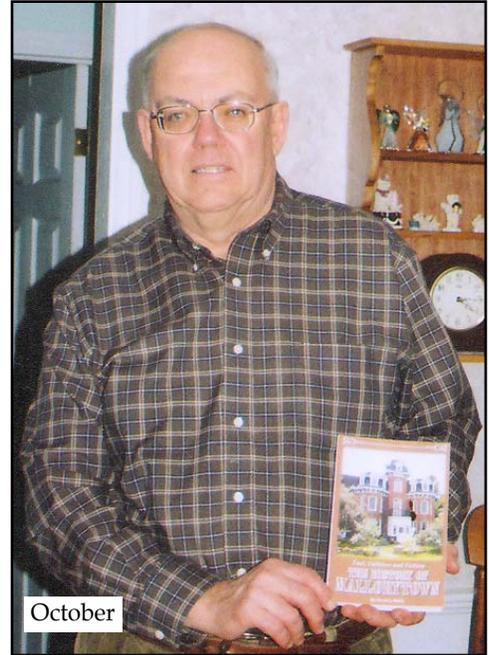
## ***YEAR IN REVIEW 2010-2011***

### ***FROM THE SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT***



September  
Photo by Bill Boulton

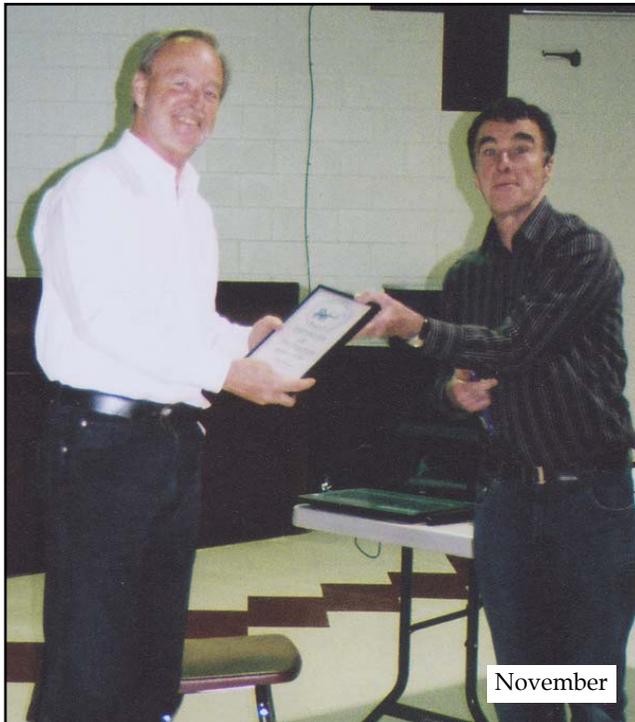
**September 20, 2010** – Jeff Lackie reviewed the history of J.W. Lackie and Sons Feed Business



October

**October 18, 2010**  
David J. Wells spoke about his new book  
Facts, Fokelore and Fiction  
The History of Mallorytown

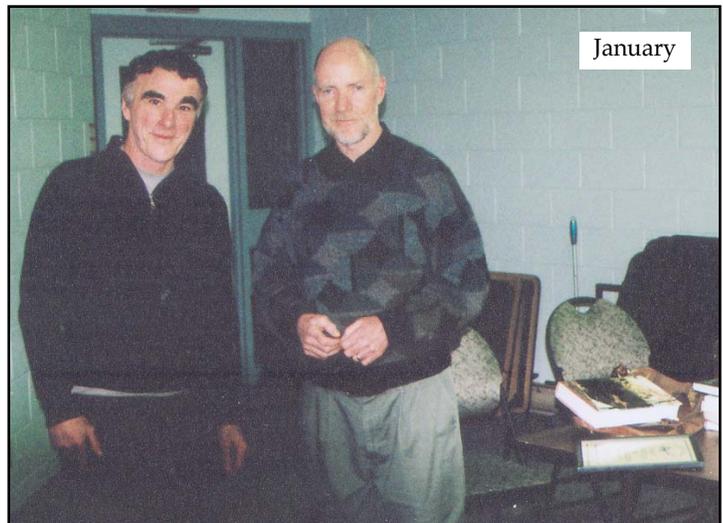
*Photo by Bill Boulton*



November

**November 15, 2010** – Brian Phillips took us on a pictorial tour of LaRue Mills.

*Photo by Bill Boulton*



January

**January 17, 2011** – Noted author Larry Scanlan gave readings and notes on some of his writings.

*Photo by Bruce Foley*



# YEAR IN REVIEW 2010-2011

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

February



February 21, 2011 – Show and Tell evening featuring Old Toys.

Photo by Bill Boulton

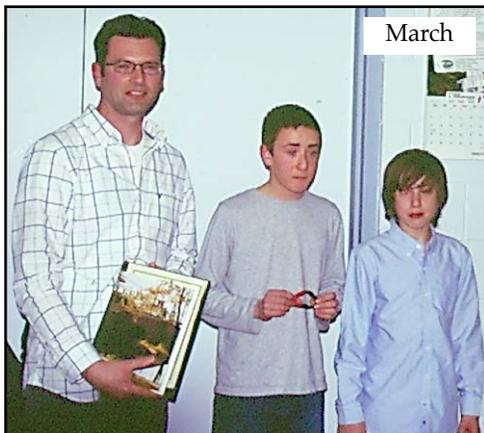


March

March 21, 2011 – Erika Heeson outlined the Managing of Your Home Archives

Photo by Bill Boulton

March



March 21, 2011

Rich Tambllyn brought two of his students, Isaac Howe and Josh Sharpe, from TIES to outline their "Plan a Town project." LTI had provided assistance to them.

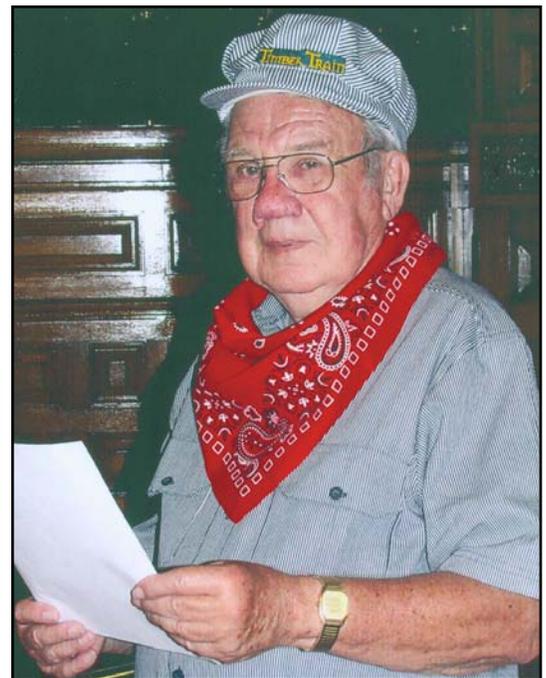
Photo by Bill Boulton

April



April 18, 2011

Stephen Heaton gave a pictorial presentation on The Demise of the Dead House



On behalf of the Society, Past-president Bill Boulton made 7 presentations of "150 Years of Railroad", 2 presentations of "Commercial Lansdowne", and assisted a class at T.I.E.S. in two projects

Photo courtesy Prescott Journal



## Leeds and the Thousand Islands ARCHIVES



Do you know this class?

Help the Leeds and Thousand Islands Archives identify these students.

Please contact LTI Archives at [ltiarchives.ca](http://ltiarchives.ca) or by phone at 613-888-1856

## MY DIARY - EDWARD LANCLEY - 1890

- June 1** Church in the morning. Our New Pastor Rev. John Fairlee preached his first sermon from 1 Chronicles 1 Chapter & first four verses. The text was "Called to be saints". Mr. Fairlee is a good preacher as I am sure that he will be liked by the people in this section as well as the other two. Dined here.
- June 2** Commenced rolling. Rolled barley on McKee Place & back fields on home. E. J. went to Gananoque to see the butcher.
- June 3** Rolled on Donevan Place finished about half past five. Ox took sick about noon, better in the evening. Planted some corn in orchard.
- June 4** Cultivated ground for Western corn and sowed half a bushel of same. Cultivated and Ploughed the garden. Joseph Shields and Mary Webster were married this evening at eight o'clock. Thundering and the lightning is very vivid in the West and South West.
- June 5** Commenced Cleaning up the Place on McKee Place for potatoes. It commenced to rain at four o'clock and continued until dark last night after writing down the days work as above, A storm came up about 10 o'clock, it rained very hard the lightning struck Patsy Lappan's old barn and it was totally destroyed with a mowing machine and reaper, they managed to save the horse rake. Insurance \$650. Provincial Elections. Dr Preston, Newboro, Conservative Member, W.J. Webster, Westport, Reform, Members for the riding.
- June 6** Ploughed today on New Potato patch wet after last night's rain. Towards evening a cloud rose in the west and we had a few light showers. Choir Practice.

(Continued on pg. #7)



## MY DIARY - EDWARD LANCLEY - 1890

( Continued from pg. #6 )

- June 7** Rigged up milk stand & fixture in the night pasture. Drew rails in the afternoon from back and put them on the lane. We had a light shower about four o'clock and afterwards it turned colder. The sheep were shorn today.
- June 8** Church in the morning. Our Pastor Preached a splendid sermon on self praise. The text was from Matt. XXVI, 33. Though all men shall be offended, because of thee, yet will I never be offended. Good attendance. Mr. and Mrs. Shields were present attended by the Bridesmaid and Groom.
- June 9** Cultivated ground for Potatoes and planted two bushel. Went to station in evening.
- June 10** Excursion to Clayton, Oddfellows have a Memorial Service there. 1000 are expected to be in the ranks. Carnegies "Island Queen" ran from Brockville, calling at Darlings wharf. Davis' Antelope was chartered to run by the Lansdowne Lodge. Leaves Cross. Planted potatoes, finished cultivating & ploughing patch. Got notice to draw hay tomorrow. Took colt to Blympton for her shoulder to be cured. Boys went out to 3rd concession to see about removing rock that runs out on the road in front of Mr. John Websters.
- June 11** Planted two bushels of potatoes. Drew two loads of hay in the morning and two in the afternoon to the station. Lodge.
- June 12** Drew a load of stove wood to J. Shields. Brought a load of 3 in. plank from McCreadys Saw mill to mend old bridge Deerlick. Two loads of hay to Lansdowne. E. Bradley came & took stone lifter away.
- June 13** Washed the wool. Built the yards at E. J's. Went fishing to the saw mill but no fish. Erastus went with a load to Sand Bay and caught 53 pike.
- June 14** Put fence around milking yard at E. J's and picked over ash and hemlock lumber into a three cornered pile. Drew one load of cheese from our factory to Lansdowne. In the afternoon I cleaned fifteen bushel of white oats, the remainder of the large bin on the barn floor. We drew them home. Lodge Scarlet Degree.
- June 15** Church in the morning. Mr. Fairlee Preached from, a splendid sermon on looking too much after worldly affairs, and spoke of the Parable of the rich man pulling down his barns to build greater. Mr. Allen and sister stayed for dinner and tea. I went to Mr. Samuel Donevans in the evening.
- June 16** Drew eleven loads from Barnyard and piled south west of the swamp hole. Erastus drew 480 feet of oak lumber to Skinner & Co. Gananoque. Received photo from Gracie.
- June 17** Drew fourteen loads from Barnyard. Erastus took ? feet of oak (culled) lumber to the Gananoque Carriage works. Wrote to Marchmont for advice & list of books to study.
- June 18** Drew five loads from the barnyard to pile. E.J. drew a load of oak lumber ? feet to Skinner & Co. Gananoque. Commenced road work, R.H. one team and two men, ourselves do. Commenced to grade in front of this place. Intend hands to turn out tomorrow and draw gravel. Mr. Oscar Landon Road Overseer.
- June 19** Commenced Road work. Drew 29 loads of gravel from P. Rapes' pit. Two teams scraped & ploughed. Made over the Deerlick bridge & culbert on the Kidd Road. Erastus drew a load of oak to Skinner & Co.
- June 20** Erastus and I drew a load a piece to Gananoque. Went on the road and worked until 6:30. Drew 32 loads of gravel.
- June 21** Drew two loads of oak to Skinner & Co. Gananoque. Erastus lost his pocketbook (with 80 cents) but found it near home. Russels had a raising.
- June 22** Church in the evening. Good attendance. Our Pastor preached a good sermon from VII Luke 35 verse. The miracle of Christ making the man Segron, cured of devils. Went to Marble Rock, stayed at R. Donevans.
- June 23** Oscar and Erastus drew five loads of lumber to Gananoque. Cows broke into the fields.
- June 24** Cultivated the rest of the potato ground and planted one bushel and a half.
- June 25** Finished planting the Potatoes. It sprinkled a little during the afternoon. Practice in the Church. Received papers and letters from Marchmont.
- June 26** Drew manure from the barn yard, fifteen loads. Oscar went to Kingston Camp.
- June 27** Drew from the barnyard 17 loads. Killed the pig.
- June 28** Drew from Barnyard. Raising at Mr. Henry Bradleys. Salted and cut up the pig.
- June 29** Church in the morning. Mr. Fairlee preached from Daniel 1 chapter, 8 verse. "But Daniel proposed in his head that he would not defile himself with the King's meat, nor with wine which he drank". Orangement walked to Church, Lansdowne English Church. Mr. Young, Pastor, preached to them.
- June 30** Commenced drawing manure from McKee place. Eighteen loads. Drew back to the meadow east side of the road. Practice. Wrote to Marchmont.





## **Family of Charles Shipman** by Alan Lindsay

*The Shipman family have a long history in the township settling mainly along the river near Ivy Lea.*

David Shipman 1800-1878 and his brother Charles were born near Maitland, the family having come from Vermont. The brothers came to Lansdowne apparently in the 1830's, purchased adjacent farms along the river and married Elizabeth and Anna Cross respectively. The Cross family had also come from the Maitland area.

*( For Charles' family see story on Glen House Newsletter #32 ).*

### **David and Elizabeth had a family of eleven children:**

Minerva mar. Alpheus Kyes ( went to Michigan ),  
Sarah mar. Ambrose Fredenburg,  
David mar. Sarah Hogeboom,  
Adeline,  
Elizabeth mar. Melvin Shurtliff,  
Charles,  
Charlotte mar. Colin Landon,  
George ( died at Hilton Head Island in the US Civil War ),  
Marietta mar. Norman Stevenson,  
Freeman mar. Alice Fair  
Emma mar. Jack McNeil.

*( Several of these children have family living in the township today ).*

**Sarah and Ambrose Fredenburg had four children:** Elizabeth, Charles ( grandfather of Floyd, Purvis and Kent Fredenburg ), Frank ( chn: Fern ( mar. Fred McConnell ) and Mildred ), Annie, Minnie ( grandmother of Kathleen and Rob Burtch ), and Naomi ( VanCamp ).

**David and Sarah Shipman** had a daughter Laura who married Schyler DeWolfe. Laura ran a millinery business in Lansdowne and Schyler was a baker. Having purchased the farm from his father David sold the farm to his brother Freeman and moved closer to his wife's family.

**Elizabeth and Melvin Shurtliff had three children:** George mar. Margaret Steacy, Ed mar. Sylvia Dano ( grandparents of Charlie and Paul Gray ) and Ida mar. Aaron Dano.

**Charles Shipman** who is featured in Bill's story in this newsletter was married three times.

His first wife was **Mary Simmons** and they had four children:  
Emma who features in the story,  
Durain, George and Cora.

His second wife was **Margaret Ann Kavanaugh** and they had seven children:

Thomas ( mar. Lenora Spence and Mabel Poole-11 children ),  
Alice, Annie, Leithel Belle, Charles ( mar. a Cartwright ), Edith and Bertha.

His third wife was **Catherine ?**. Later in life he lived with his daughter Emma and her husband Albert Joels near Alexandria Bay.

**Freeman and Alice Shipman had four children:** Minnie, Ethel, Clark mar. Katherine McNish ( dau. Eleanor ), Kenneth mar. Lulu Warren ( dau. Dorothy mar. Bruce Dingman ).

**Source - A History of the Shipman family by Donna Przecha**





## **The History of Rockport** *by Ricky Huck*

Rockport is hilly and rocky. There are several varieties of coniferous and deciduous trees, oak, maple, hemlock and pine. Before the white settlers came, the whole country and the islands were inhabited by Indians: Onondago, Algonquin and Oneida. On Tar Island is an Indian burial ground. The white settlers were Irish, Scotch, French, English and German. They sailed to Montreal, and then came down the river to where Rockport now stands. The reason they came to Canada was to get free land. The new settlers cleared away the forests and built homes made of logs. Since Rockport is on the river, it became a sailing port. More settlers drifted in called "squatters" and they lived in tents on the islands. During the Wars of 1775 –1783 and 1812 –1814 the United Empire Loyalists came to Canada from the United States by hundreds. Some of these people settled around Rockport, and they called it "Stoney Village". In 1797 two hundred acres of land was granted to Jacob Baker. Following came Elisha Mallory in 1801; Elija Whitney in 1802 and Caleb Seaman in 1803. At this time there were no roads, only a narrow trail. The farmer took his crops to Brockville to trade for winter supplies. This took two or three days of a ride. The settlers and Indians ate berries, grapes, nuts, and found various kinds of fruit trees. The maple tree provided a sweet sap which they made into syrup. The mail boats stopped at Rockport to buy wood while going from Montreal to Toronto.

The first post office was opened at the Cornwall store in 1857, and the postmaster was William Cornwall. Mail was brought twice a week on horseback from Mallorytown. Also in 1857 a cheese factory was built, but this later burned down. The first steam boat was built by Captain John and Robert Carnegie, the "Island Queen" in 1888. This boat carried 300 people and travelled from Brockville, Gananoque, to Kingston, and over to Alexandria Bay.  
( See *Edward Lanclley's Diary Pg. 7* )

The Methodist Church was erected in 1891 and opened Nov. 3, 1891. St. Brendans Roman Catholic Church was built in 1891. The Anglican Church was built five years later in 1896. The first telephone was brought to Rockport by David (sic) Darling in 1891. The first message received over it was by Frank Fitzsimmons over a rickety wire running on fence posts from Lansdowne, seven miles away.

In 1895 a 22 room home was built known as "Hickory Lodge". Fifty-six years later it burned to the ground. Mr. Mallory drove around Rockport blowing his horn to give the alarm. The Gananoque Fire Department was there in 40 minutes.

My great grand parents Mr. and Mrs. Fred Huck were married April 20, 1895 and on June 11 they moved to Rockport and opened a blacksmith shop. His first customer was Fred Williams, who had a shoe set on his horse. Four years later he moved to the home now occupied by Edward Huck. In 1885 Fred Huck built his first boat "Lizzie" In 1899 he built the "Leone" and in 1901 the "Ellen". The captains of these boats were Capt. John Carnegie, Capt. Richards, and Dick Cook. The late Mr. Huck built several engines still in use around Kingston.

In 1908 there were 250 people in Rockport. The late Joe Rogers was the marshal. The first ferry boat at Rockport was a scow pulled by a motor boat. It was owned by Hutchison Brothers, and ran from Rockport to Alexandria Bay, N.Y. After the Thousand Islands Bridge was built there were no ferry running.

At the beginning of the 19th century winter sports became very popular and enjoyed by all. There was horse racing on the ice. Automobiles began to appear about 1910, and by 1915 they were quite numerous. In 1936 the Scenic Highway was officially opened.

The Village Cenotaph honouring the heroes of the second world war was unveiled August 13, 1944 with a ceremony fitting the occasion. Several ministers and an M.P., and the Alexandria Bay High School Band took part.

Today Rockport has two stores, three churches, a community hall, a hotel, two motels, a summer boarding house, three restaurants, a post office, a tourist camp ground, and a boat line. Being in the heart of the Thousand Islands the people work as caretakers and domestic work. The people of Rockport are hard working and self respecting citizens.

*Written by Ricky Huck while a student at Escott Public School: 1967-68  
Used with permission.*



## **JOHN FITZSIMMONS**

*Driving west along County Road #2, about a mile west of Reynolds Road, if you look off to the left and ahead, you will see a high hill. This is known as Fitzsimmons Mountain. Near the top on the northeast side of the mountain is a solid rock face.*

*If you look carefully, perhaps you can pick out the wording of a memorial:*

*Mount Fitzsimmons*

*Named after John Fitzsimmons*

*Who came from the U.S.A.*

*Nov. 1, 1873*

*The memorial has been dulled by time. Also at one time, there was a 12 foot white cross on the top of the mountain.*

### ***Who then was John Fitzsimmons, and why the memorial?***

John Fitzsimmons was born on a farm between Theresa and Redwood N.Y. In 1873 he joined a partner who owned a saw mill in Clayton N.Y. They bought 50 acres of timber in the neighbourhood of the mountain. John came to Canada and took charge of the cutting and hauling of the timber to the St. Lawrence River. Here it was rafted and towed to Clayton where it would be sawed and readied for the market.

At some time later, the partnership was dissolved. The Clayton partner exchanged the Canadian land for full ownership of the saw mill. John purchased an additional 165 acres and continued his cutting. The mountain was heavily wooded and had some of the finest timber to be found. Some of the oak was sent down river to Quebec and shipped to England. When the lumbering was completed, the land was sold to others.

John Fitzsimmons was accompanied to Canada by his wife, the former Miss Maria (Mariah) Dailey, and his family consisting of three sons; J. Frank, John C. and Charles William (born in 1877 after their arrival).

At the time of the focus of this article, the Fitzsimmons family was living toward the west of Ivy Lea.. The house, known as "Fair Oak Summer Resort", was of medium size, situated off a narrow road leading across rough country. The house was built on a steep slope, not more than 25 feet from the river.

*A full page spread in the Brockville Recorder Thursday March 30th, 1893, was headlined:*

### ***Is It Murder?***

### ***A Dispute Over Land Leads To A Tragic Death***

### ***Charles Shipman Shoots John Fitzsimmons at Darling's Landing***

#### **Cause of Dispute**

The background of this dispute rests on the very complicated ownership of a piece of property. The property was originally owned by a Mrs. Wilbur who was formerly Mrs. Geo. Simmons. She died without a will. With claims for the estate were her husband Mr. Wilbur, sisters Mrs. Joels Sr., and Mrs. Shipman (first wife of Charles Shipman). To further complicate the situation, Mrs. Shipman had died leaving her share to her children; George, Dwane, Carla and Emma (now Mrs. Albert Joel).

John Fitzsimmons bought Mr. Wilbur's share, \$400 and Mrs. Joels Sr's of \$25. This left the share of the Shipman children for \$25. or \$6.25 each. Fitzsimmons bought the shares of George and Dwane Shipman. Carla Shipman was now living in the U.S.A. and was not of age so no transaction was made. Only one outstanding share, that of Mrs. Albert Joels, was left.

The house in question stood on the north side of the River Road, also known as Hay or Porcupine Road, just east of Knight's Creek (Flagg's). The lot comprises twenty-two acres on the north side of the road. The land slopes up from the road and immediately behind the house there is a steep cliff. The house stands about fifty feet back from the road. Just west is the home of John Wheeler. To the east, on the opposite side of the road, is the home of William Carpenter. The house is an ordinary two story house. The front door opens into the living room, which is about 14 feet square. A door to the woodshed faces the front door, and another leads to the room in the east end. The upstairs of the house was empty.

*( Continued on Pg. #11 )*



( Continued from Pg. #10 )

## **JOHN FITZSIMMONS**

### **Occupancy of House:**

John Fitzsimmons claimed the house having bought out all the heirs except Emma Joels. It appears that John Fitzsimmons Jr. had occupied the house for a short while but had vacated to move to New York state. On March 4, 1893, Mrs. Joels, finding the house empty, and being one of the heirs, took possession of the house, moving in with her husband Albert. They lived quietly for two weeks. Then John Fitzsimmons arrived with his sons and forcefully ejected them and their belongings from the house. One account mentions that Albert was beaten by John Jr.

Emma Joels laid charges of assault against them. In court, in Brockville, on March 30, 1893, the defendants admitted the ejection. John Fitzsimmons Sr. was fined \$5.00 and \$9.90 court charges, and Frank Fitzsimmons \$5.00 and \$17.70 court charges.

### **The Dispute:**

Emma and Albert Joels, thinking the house was vacant, planned to reoccupy the premises. They had been temporarily staying with Alice and Freeman Shipman, and went to Float Island to solicit the aid of her father, Charles Shipman, in transferring their belongings to the River Road house. With the aid of young Aaron Dano Jr. driving the sleigh, proceeded to transfer the Joel belongings. Charles, Emma and young Thomas walked down the road, arriving just ahead of the sleigh.

John Fitzsimmons Sr. was standing on the steps with a revolver. He warned them if they came on the property he would shoot. The sleigh was unloaded over the fence and they proceeded into the yard. John Fitzsimmons fired a shot, missing Charles. This provoked Charles to send Tommy back for his gun. Young Dano, having finished unloading the sleigh, left. Much verbal abuse was exchanged between Fitzsimmons and Shipman. John Fitzsimmons retreated inside, closing the door. Charles attempted to force his way into the wood shed through the back door. Fitzsimmons resisted and the two grappled, Charles being struck on the head with a club. Fitzsimmons retreated to the main part of the house and locked the door.

Emma and Tommy proceeded to load the Joel's furniture into the wood shed. At some point, Charles's gun fired and pierced the closed door. He claimed he didn't intend to shoot and didn't know it was cocked. The pellets passed through the door and struck Fitzsimmons. After a short spell, Charles and Tommy forced open the door and found Fitzsimmons on the floor – bloody and apparently dead.

Upon realizing the severity of his deed, Charles starts up the road, meeting a neighbour, Mr. John Wheeler.

He asks Mr. Wheeler to go and check on Fitzsimmons saying, "*I think I've killed him*".

Mr. Wheeler asked him "*Where are you going now?*"

Charles replied "*To Gananoque to give myself up*". This he does.

News seems to have travelled fast. A boy was sent to the Fitzsimmons' house to inform them that an accident had taken place. Charles, age 14, jumped on a horse and rode to the scene. R. Shaw of Lansdowne, the Coroner, heard of the shooting about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, while at the store of J.F. Fitzsimmons in Rockport. J.F. Fitzsimmons was a son of the deceased. In company with Fitzsimmons he immediately drove to the scene of the tragedy and hastily glanced over the premises. Mr. Fitzsimmons was anxious that his father's body be removed that night and accordingly Dr. Shaw at once proceeded to Lansdowne where he empanelled a jury.

Jury members were: **J.A. Bradley, Wallace McNeil, A.E. Sliter, A.R. Green, D.A. Haig, A.E. Haffie, D.G. Copeland, J.E. Heaslip, Freeman McNeil, James A. Peck, E.L. McNeil and David McLaughlin.** The jury visited the house at which the shooting took place and viewed the remains.. They then returned to Lansdowne, the body being removed to the house of the Fitzsimmons. This was about nine o'clock on Friday night.

The authorities were later criticized in the paper for "bungling" the investigation. They neglected to gather up evidence or to secure the house. A sizable crowd gathered and carted off mementos from the scene. Even the reporter, critical of others, removed the pry bar and club, and displayed them in the Brockville Recorder window. They had to be retrieved.

( Continued on Pg. #12 )



( Continued from Pg. #11 )

## **JOHN FITZSIMMONS**

When the authorities came to apprehend the remaining suspects, Tommy Shipman was found at Dano's preparing to row to Float Island where he had been living. The Joels were also found there and the three were taken to Lansdowne and locked in the Stewart House Hotel since no one could be found to post bail. Shipman was remanded for a week by Magistrate Heaslip of Gananoque. Gananoque Police Chief Ryan took him to Brockville on Saturday night on the mixed train which arrived at 10:45. There was quite a crowd at the station. Chief Ryan and Turnkey Downing marched him to the jail. It appears all four were held in custody until the court day of May 3, 1893.

### **Inquest Evidence:**

Early on Saturday morning, the jury again drove down to the home where the inquest was opened.

**David Robertson:** He heard William Ivy say that Charles Shipman had shot Fitzsimmons but could not have heard the shots being fired.

**John Wheeler:** Heard John McCrea say he saw Charles Shipman coming up the road; saw blood on Mr. Shipman. Mr. Joels and Shipman came to me and said Mr Fitzsimmons was hurt. Went over and saw he was dead. Heard shots fired about fifteen minutes before. He and Fitzsimmons were fighting through the door when his gun went off. He didn't know it was cocked.

**Mr. William Carpenter:** The first I saw was the team of Mr. Aaron Dano Jr. standing on the road in front of house. Heard four shots. I saw two persons setting things over fence. Two men and a woman went around to back door. I saw one of the men take a club and hammer on the woodshed door. He succeeded in getting door open and the three went in. Tommy Shipman came running to my place and said Mr. Fitzsimmons had been shot. When I went up to the house Mr. Fitzsimmons was dead. I went back home.

**John McCrea:** From where Mr. Wheeler and I were building a fence, I heard murmurs and a shot in the direction of the disputed place. I heard Mr. Shipman call to Mr. Joels to go for a doctor. Mr. Wheeler said to me "Charles Shipman has killed Mr. Fitzsimmons". When I first went to the house I noticed a revolver on the shelf. The door to the room in which Fitzsimmons was lying was open. Thomas Shipman and Mr. and Mrs. Joels were standing near the barn of Aaron Dano Jr. The gun was standing against the barn. The revolver was not in the same room as the body.

**Edmund B. Keating:** I was coming by the house when Mr. Fitzsimmons called me from the door to tell the neighbours to come over for they were going to kill him. I told Mr. Wheeler and McCrea I saw Charlie Shipman with blood on his face. He said "Mr Fitzsimmons is dead". I said "Did you kill him?" He replied "I fired the shot". I said "You will give yourself up?" He said "Yes I intend to give myself up".

**Joel Shepherd:** The morning of the dispute I called on Mr. Fitzsimmons. I rapped four or five times. He opened the door and said "Oh that is you. I thought it was some of those fellows coming to throw me out". He said he would have to defend himself if they came.

**Thomas Shipman:** I am the son of Charles Shipman. I went down to the place with Albert Joles, Emma Joles and Aaron Dano Jr. with a load of furniture they intended to put in the house. Fitzsimmons struck through the door with a club at Mr. Shipman. Told me to fetch the shotgun from the sleigh, I got it and gave it to him.

*( Thomas Shipman's testimony is very confused. Happenings do not seem to follow a time line )*

**Aaron Dano Jr.:** When I drove the load down, Shipman and party went down ahead. Fitzsimmons stood on the door step with a revolver forbidding them to come in. They wanted me to draw the furniture down to the place and they would carry it in. When they had the furniture placed over the fence, I went away. Shipman wanted to know where the gun was. It was up in my shed and he told Tommy to go and get it. When I left I saw the gun in Shipman's hands.

( Continued on Pg. #13 )



( Continued from Pg. #12 )

## **JOHN FITZSIMMONS**

**Albert Joels:** I didn't want to go down but Charlie Shipman and my wife requested me. Mrs. Joels said she was going down to move in. I said she had better wait until they were settled. I walked down with my children a little ahead of the sleigh. I saw Fitzsimmons standing in the door. He said "I don't want you to come on the premises". Shipman said "Tommy where is your gun? Go and get it" Tommy went and got the gun and Charles took the gun from his hands. Someone said "Come the house is open, lets get our things in". I went up to Wheelers, and while there Shipman came along and said "I guess I shot him". Then he said "Better go and get a doctor". Told Wheeler we had better go over and see. Wheeler was ahead. And when he got to the door he said "I guess he is shot". I didn't go into the room.

**Emma Joels:** I was staying at Freeman Shipman's before I started to move down. We left about half past two or three. We walked down getting there a few minutes before the sleigh. Fitzsimmons came to the door and said "If you don't get out of here I will shoot". I think he fired at father. Fitzsimmons said "If you come any farther I will shoot you". My father told Tommy to go up and get the gun. He took the gun from Tommy's hands and went towards the house. Fitzsimmons went into the house and shut the door. Father had the gun in his hand when he went around to the back door. Father said "I will get in if I have to break in". The panel in the door was broken. Father told me to take a club and break the door down. Tommy went in after my father. Father said "My God I have shot him and he is dead". When he knew Fitzsimmons was dead; father said to me "I have shot him and I will go into Gananoque and give myself up".

### **The Post Mortem:**

Dr. Webster of Lansdowne who made the post mortem examination of the body, found a number of puncture holes in the left side of the neck of the deceased. Two lead shots were found in the left breast. On the front of the left shoulder a number of penetrating wounds were found. A large number of other wounds were found. Several shot wounds were found in and around the heart.

### **The Verdict:**

We the coroner's jury empanelled by Dr. Shaw, coroner for the County of Leeds for the purpose of enquiring as to the cause of death of one John Fitzsimmons deceased. Find from evidence taken before us that the said John Fitzsimmons came to his death from a shot gun in the hands of Charles Shipman of the township of Lansdowne.

Dated the 25th of March 1893.

### **The Funeral:**

#### **Died**

**Fitzsimmons** \_\_ At Lansdowne, on

March 24th, 1893

John Fitzsimmons, aged 58 years

—  
The funeral will take place from  
St. John's Church, Lansdowne, on  
Saturday, May 7th inst., at 1 o'clock p.m.  
To Rockport cemetery.  
Rockport, May 3, 1893

The funeral of the victim of the tragedy is expected to take place this afternoon and is certain to be largely attended. The deceased seemed to have been held in universal respect and neighbours from all sections were preparing for the obsequies.

( Continued on Pg. #14 )



( Continued from Pg. #13 )

## **JOHN FITZSIMMONS**

### **The Trial:**

The original trial date was set for a special court session in early May, but the lawyer for the defence requested an adjournment as one of their main witnesses, a Mrs. Wheeler, was seriously ill. The trial was adjourned until the fall Assize Court. The defence council then requested the accused be allowed bail. The judge said bail was very unusual in cases like this, but that he would take it to the Attorney General. While nothing further is reported, it appears the accused were held in jail.

With Chief Justice Rose presiding, the fall Assize opened in Brockville on October 30 to great excitement. People lined up to get into the court room. Hotels were filled with jury men, witnesses and lawyers. There were three cases to be heard. Charles Luckey, Charles Shipman and a Mr. Little of Merrickville charged with assault. Charles Lucky of Newbliss was charged with the murder of his wife, son and daughter. After an extended trial, he was found guilty and sentenced to be hung.

The trial of Charles Shipman, his son Tommy, and Mr. and Mrs. Joels did not get under way until 3:30 pm on Monday November 6. The Jury empanelled were: Edward Purcell, James Fraser, Clinton S. Halliday, Samuel Purcival, David H. Latimer, Lansdowne, Robert McLean, James Goselin, Samuel B. Dunlop, Charles Latimer, Joseph Moorehouse, David Elliot, Lansdowne, and John Horton.

After the indictment charging Charles Shipman with murder and Emma Joels, Albert Joels and Thomas Shipman with aiding and abetting in the same was read, the prosecuting attorney, Mr. Clute, proceeded to open the case. He outlined the facts in the case and the incidents leading up to it. The jury was shown a plan of the property. Mr. D.S. Wiggins, land surveyor, was called and verified the plans which he had drawn. Aaron Dano was called next. He told of visiting the scene when Mrs. Joels asked him to move their furniture from Freeman Shipmans to the house. E.B. Keating, John Wheeler, John McCrea, Wm. Carpenter, Mrs. Aaron Dano, Charles and J.F. Fitzsimmons were examined and told what they had seen and heard before and after the shooting. The trial adjourned for the day.

On Tuesday morning the prisoners were brought in when the Court opened. A few minutes later, the counsel for the prosecution and defence went into the grand jury room. Mr. Shipman was immediately escorted in by the constables. Tommy Shipman was also escorted in. After an hour or more, the prisoners and lawyers returned.

Mr. Riddel, counsel for the defence, announced that Charles Shipman had decided to withdraw his not guilty plea and plead guilty of manslaughter. Mr. Clute, crown prosecutor said, "that with the approval of the Court, he had decided to accept the plea". Emma Joels, Albert Joels and Tommy Shipman were formerly discharged. At the request of the crown counsel they were bound over to keep the peace for five years, in the sum of \$1000. each. The jury was dismissed. Charles Shipman was sentenced to seven years in the Penitentiary. When the verdict was given, Shipman was evidently relieved, as it was less severe than he expected. The reaction caused him to burst into tears. He was taken to Kingston Penitentiary on Wednesday. Mr. and Mrs. Joels went to the Revere House for dinner, then proceeded up the river to their home in their own boat.

*No record can be found to reveal whether Charles Shipman served his whole sentence, or was released early for good behaviour.*

### **The Memorial:**

Mr. Fitzsimmons' sons considered ways of commemorating his memory. J. Frank Fitzsimmons remembered that a large, smooth block of stone lay on the north side of the "mountain" where it could be easily seen from the highway. Each year he would make trips to revisit the lumbering spot and relive his father's active years. There he placed a monument that would continue down through the years. The letters are large enough that they can be read from a distance. He had a twelve foot cross placed at the top of the mountain. It commemorates a man who in his day had much to do with the development of lumbering in the district.

**This article was prepared with assistance from:**

**Brian R. Phillips**

**Brockville Recorder and Gananoque Reporter**

**"The Story" – late Glen Dingman**

**"John Fitzsimmons 1835-1893" compiled by Jocelyne Clancy, age 13, Picton Ontario, December 2001**

**Jocelyn is the daughter of Colleen Clancy, Granddaughter of Faye (Fitzsimmons) Clancy,  
and great, great, great, great granddaughter of John Fitzsimmons.**

( Continued on Pg. #15 )



(Continued from Pg. #14)

## **JOHN FITZSIMMONS**

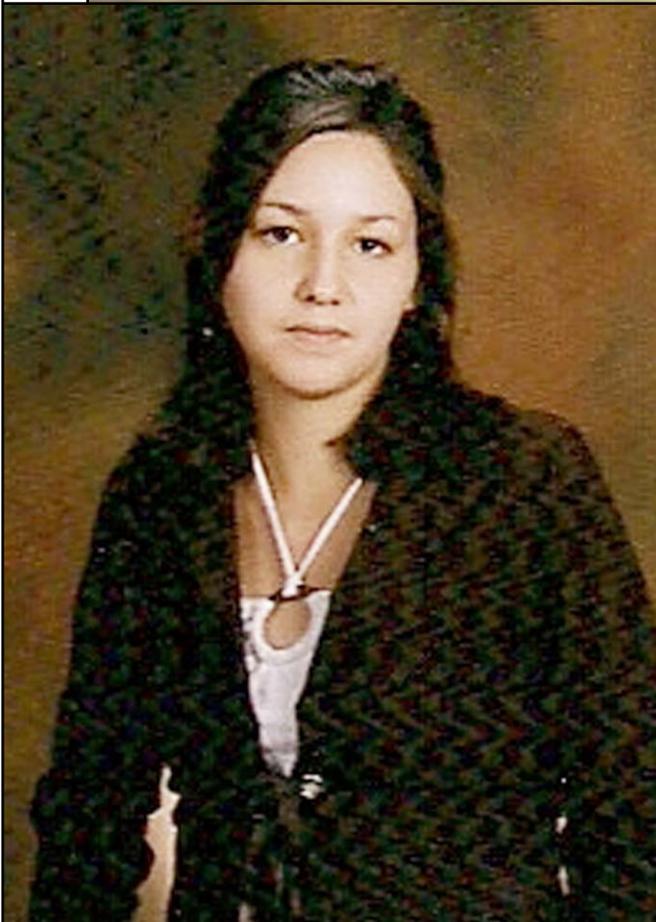


**Cross on Fitzsimmons Mountain**

*Photo courtesy Brian R. Phillips*

**Jocelyne Clancy**

*Photo courtesy Faye Clancy*



**72 Flags Creek Crescent.  
Location of the shooting as it looks to-day**

*Photo by Bill Boulton*



**Paid up MEMBERSHIPS as of FEBRUARY 29, 2012**

| <u>LAST NAME</u> <u>FIRST NAME</u>        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| AALDERS, WINNIE                    | GIBBINS, CHRIS & GINNY             | MacDONALD, ANN                     | SLY, KEITH                                |
| ABRAMS, GAIL                       | GIBSON-LANGILLE, SHIRLEY           | MACKENZIE, WANDA                   | SLY, SANDRA                               |
| ADAMS, WINSTON & WILMA             | GILBERT, DAVID                     | MACKINTOSH, DOUGLAS & BLU          | SMID, HENRY                               |
| AKENSON, PROF. D. H.               | GILBERT, DOUG & JUNE               | MACLEOD, JOHN & MARION             | SMITH, SUSAN                              |
| ANDRESS, DOUG                      | GRAHAM, ANDREW                     | MALLORY, GLENNA                    | SNETSINGER, MARY A.                       |
| ARBUCKLE, DON & GLORIA             | GRAHAM, ANNE                       | MALLORY, LINDA                     | SORENSEN, JOHN & LOUISE                   |
| ARROWSMITH, BRENDA                 | GRAHAM, KATHERINE                  | MASSEY, KAROLYN                    | STEACY, H. R.                             |
| BARR, DAVID & PENNY                | GRAY, CHARLES & ANN                | MATTHEW, MARY ELLEN                | STEACY, MARLENE                           |
| BICKERTON, DOUG & ANN              | GRIER, HAROLD & RUTH               | McCRADY, EARL                      | STEACY, PAUL                              |
| BOUCAUD, JOAN                      | GRIER, JAMIE & TRACIE              | McCREADY, BRUCE & MAXINE           | STEACY, RICHARD                           |
| BOULTON, WM.                       | GRIER, MARK                        | McDONALD, ED & SHARON              | STRUTHERS, VELMA                          |
| BOYD, JIM & ELIZABETH              | GREER, PAUL                        | McDOUGAL, MARILYN                  | SWAN, MARION                              |
| BRADLEY, BETTY                     | GRIER, ROSS & IRENE                | McELROY, MARG & GLEN               | SWARBRICK, KEITH & JANET                  |
| BROWN, DEBORAH                     | GRILLS, DIANA                      | McKAY, MARION                      | TEDFORD, ROGER & CONNIE                   |
| BROWN, JACK                        | HAFFIE, GLENN A.                   | McNAMEE, JACK                      | TIEMERSMA, ANNAH                          |
| BURNS, DON & PAT                   | HAFFIE, JOHN & DOREEN              | MERCIER, PIERRE&STRACHAN JOY       | TRUESDELL, ERIC & JACKIE                  |
| BURNS, GEORGE & CONNIE             | HAFFIE, LARRY                      | MICHIE, BOB & ROSE                 | WARREN, GEORGE & BETTE                    |
| BURNS, JOAN                        | HAIG, HAROLD                       | MOIR, RONALD                       | WEBSTER, DAWN                             |
| BURNS, KARL                        | HALL, MYRTLE                       | MONTGOMERY, CHARLES                | WEBSTER, DAVID & KAY                      |
| BURNS, KEITH & JOAN                | HASKINS, DIANE                     | MONTGOMERY, LEON                   | WEBSTER, ERIC & NANCY                     |
| CAMPBELL, JIM & NANCY              | HAELY, CINDY                       | MOORHEAD, LORNE & MARGARET         | WEBSTER, GEORGE & REBECCA                 |
| CHAMPAGNE, DAVE                    | HEATON, S. & BURCH R.              | MOREY, ELEANOR M.                  | WEBSTER, JEAN                             |
| CHASE, GERALDINE                   | HEWITT, TED & PAT                  | MORRISON, BOB & BARBARA            | WEBSTER, ROBERT & BEATRICE                |
| CHISAMORE, DON & DANNIE            | HOUSTON, WILLIAM                   | MOUG, NORMA                        | WELLS, DAVID & SANDRA                     |
| CLANCY, RAY & FAYE                 | HOUSTON, WILLIAM T.                | MULHOLLAND, PAT                    | WHITE, LARRY & CHERYL                     |
| CLARK, ED                          | HUNT, GORDON & DOREEN              | MURRAY, PETER                      | WHITE, FRED A                             |
| CLARK, JUDY                        | HUNT, MORLEY & ANNE                | NALON, JOHN & BARBARA              | WILLIAMS, HOWARD                          |
| CORNISH, JOHN                      | JACKSON, PATRICIA                  | NEAL, TOM & HELEN                  | WRIGHT, MILLARD & JUNE                    |
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| CRAWFORD, FLORENCE                 | JONES, THELMA                      | NUTTALL, BEN & HILDA               |   |
| deKROON, HENRY                     | KAISER, WILHELMINA                 | NUTTALL, JAY                       |   |
| DEMPSEY, CLARK & DONNA             | KEIR, VIVIAN J.                    | NUTTALL, LINDA & CHOJNACKI, MARK   |   |
| DESCHAMPS, TYLER                   | KELLOGG, MARK & VALERIE            | OFFORD, HOSS & SANDI               |   |
| DESJARDINS, MELANIE                | KELSEY, VIVIAN                     | O'GRADY, CHRIS                     |   |
| DESLOGES, DEBBIE                   | KITSON, VERA                       | PAGE, STEVE & JOANNE               |   |
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| DOBSON, JOYCE                      | LACELLE, WILHELMINA                | RALPH, JACK                        |   |
| DONEVAN, DOUGLASS                  | LACKIE, BOB & KAYE                 | RATCLIFFE, WALTER & GEORGINA       |   |
| DONEVAN, LOUISE                    | LAMONT, RON & DIANE                | RIDEOUT, WES & KAREN               |   |
| DOREY, GERRY & DONALDA             | LANDON, BILL & IRIS                | ROBERTSON, MARY REID               |   |
| DOREY, MARK                        | LANDON, BYRAN & MARTHA             | ROGERS, PATRICIA Q.                |   |
| DOUGHTY, ERNIE & MARY              | LANGTON, JIM & NANCY               | ROMBOUGH, DOUG                     |   |
| EDGLEY, LAWRENCE & BESSIE          | LAPOINTE, YOLANDE                  | ROMBOUGH, JOAN                     |   |
| EDWARDS, CAROL                     | LAPPAN, ANN                        | RONEY, GERALD & MARIAN             |   |
| FOLEY, BOB                         | LAWSON, RICK & SUSAN               | RUNNING, MURRAY & DIANE            |   |
| FOLEY, BRUCE & JOAN                | LEGGETT, LYNNE                     | SHAW, ART                          |   |
| FOLEY, DONNA                       | LINDSAY, ALAN & CAROLE             | SHEFFIELD, SHARYN                  |   |
| FOSTER, DONALD                     | LYNCH, CAROL                       | SHERREN, MONA                      |   |
| FUNNELL, DORTHY                    | LYNCH, DAVID & BEV                 | SHIELDS, JACQUILINE                |   |
| GAYLORD, DAN & JANET               | LYNCH, ED & PATTI                  | SHIRE, DAN                         |   |
| GEMMELL, JOHN                      | MABEE, KEITH                       | SHIRE, GEORGE                      |   |
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