



The River Round Up

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Annie Mae Burke



Annie Mae & Mabie Burke on their wedding day.

Annie Mae was born November 11th, 1914 the eighth of nine children to Abram & Harriett (Boudreau) Landry in River Bourgeois. Annie Mae attended the east end school until the age of thirteen when she left to go work as a housekeeper for Cameron & Lil Boyd of the Southside. She left the Boyd's to take care of Amable Boucher in Grand Gully as his wife had to rush to Boston to tend to a sick sister. Soon afterwards, Annie Mae went to take care of her cousin, Simon Landry's (who had been recently widowed) seven young children.

In 1937, Annie Mae became smitten with a handsome gentleman named Mabie Burke. Mabie was a widower with two young sons; Joseph, now living in San Jose, California and Carman who passed away in 2000. He was sixteen years older but that didn't deter Annie Mae in her pursuit of happiness. In 1940, Annie Mae went to work in Halifax as a housekeeper and on Thursday, November 27th, 1941 Annie Mae and Mabie were married at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in Halifax. Immediately following the wedding they motored to

River Bourgeois for a three day honeymoon. On the following Monday, Mabie left Annie Mae with her mom and returned to work in Halifax. After several months in Halifax, Mabie quit and went to work in Sydney so he could come home weekends. They moved in with his parents Phyllis & Cyprian for the next two years while they were remodelling the home they purchased from Amable Bona.

Mabie and Annie Mae would later add six more children to their family. Hattie in Little Anse, Gerald who takes care of mom, Betty who passed away in 1995, Mary Agnes in Little Dover, Phyllis in Halifax and Peter in Whiteside. Mabie sadly passed away on November 28th, 1988 one day after their forty-seventh anniversary. The family now includes thirteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Peter, Annie Mae's youngest son related this story to me about his mom. "Mom always enjoys a good game of cards (poker) and on this occasion the stakes were small (nickel and dime). Because mom has arthritis in both her hands she finds it difficult to pick up change off of the table so to compensate she just slides her winnings into the lap of her dress. On this one occasion mom had a very good poker hand and was concentrating so intently that she did not notice that her granddaughter has spilled a glass of milk on the table and it was running off the table and onto her dress that contained all of her winnings. All of the other family members that were playing could not believe that she had not noticed and we were in stitches laughing. The moral of the story is that when mom is playing cards she blocks out all that surrounding her".

Last month, Annie Mae celebrated her ninetieth birthday with her family and friends. These days she plays cards (no milk allowed at the table), watches television and never misses Mass. She also tends to her sons, Gerald and Peter's, garden. Annie Mae (my one and only great aunt) we all wish you the very best and may you celebrate many more birthdays.

Sharon Chilvers

Remembrance Day



Fabie Richard and George McPhee laying a wreath at War Memorial.

On November 11th the St. Peters Legion Branch 47 and many of RB residents gathered at our War Memorial cenotaph to lay wreaths in honour of those who fought and died for our freedom. At the Remembrance day service in St. Peters the following poem written by Joe MacPhee was recited.

Today As We Remember

Today as we remember
The past reflections of war;
We stand in stark reality
To that which is no more.

Brave young men and women
Left their lives back home on hold;
Set out upon a trek abroad,
An adventure truly bold.

They set about in earnest
To a task they knew would bring,
Democracy to other countries,
Freedom to within.

They left their homes and families
Behind them, so they chose,
To fight a cause unknown to them
That tyrants did impose.

Some of these men and women
Lay down their lives in pain
But to those of us who remember
The effort was not in vain.

These brave men and women
Who chose this act of faith
Knew all too well the horrors
For them that lay in wait.

So today as we pause to remember
And to bow our heads in respect,
Let the world know all too vividly
Lest we forget.

Anniversary Celebration

On November 21st the parish honoured couples celebrating their 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 55+ wedding anniversaries during Sunday Eucharist. They received special certificates and were served dinner at the Tara Lynne Center by the CWL.



Front row: Victor & Evelyn Burke, Bridget & Raymond Robertson, Catherine & George Boudreau. Back Row: Gervase Landry, Margaret Burke, Jane Landry, Roderick Burke, Mildred & Raymond Burke, Janice & Albert Touesnard, Bernard Sampson, Marguerite MacDonald, Lenova Sampson, George Landry, Lynn & Wayne Boudreau.

Couples celebrating were: **25th**-Maureen Cosman-Burke & Neil Burke, Marguerite MacDonald & George J Landry and Janice & Albert Touesnard; **30th**-Lynn & Wayne Boudreau, Mary & Bernard Burke, Barbara & Dwight Sampson, and Florence & Edward Touesnard; **40th**-Margaret & Roderick Burke and Judy & Melvin Carter; **50th**-Lenova & Bernard Sampson; **55th**-Bridget & Raymond Robertson, Flo & Edward Sampson, and Mildred & Raymond Burke; **57th**-Catherine & George Boudreau; **58th**-Jane & Gervase Landry; **59th**-Emilda & Alex Burke; **61th**-Margaret & Joe Bouchard; **64th**-Evelyn & Victor Burke. Congratulations to all celebrants.

Halloween



River Bourgeois residents participated in an old fashioned Halloween thanks to the talents, enthusiasm & hard work of the Youth Development Committee. This year for the first time they organized a Scarecrow contest which will be an annual event. Winner of first prize was Vincent & Maxine Kendall's graveyard of ghosts which were lit

up for night viewing. Sherry & John Grimes won second with their Wizard of OZ characters and third was won by Meagan & Robyn Merrick with the weird farmer driving their grandfather's tractor.

On Oct. 27th & 28th the basement of the TLC became a Haunted House for a second year and was host to 350 brave people. It was divided into five rooms in which ghosts, skeletons and monsters who were either props or one of the thirty costumed local moms, dads and youth who dressed up to scare their guests. Personally, we were totally spooked by a small Grim Reaper who continually followed us from room to room. It is definitely not for people with heart problems. Preparations for this event took numerous hours which started on the previous weekend and finished just before the opening. The various props created havoc with some of the CAP site volunteers who tried to access the downstairs facilities during the week.

On Oct. 30th the group also held a Halloween party for fifty local children before putting their feet up for a well deserved rest before moving on to the Christmas in November weekend.

Christmas in November



Chelsey and Brent Dakai doing some face painting.

On Nov. 13th & 14th the RB Youth Development held their first annual "Christmas in November" with much success. There were twelve tables of crafters selling their wares while five groups adorned Christmas trees. The children enjoyed decorating cookies, face painting and playing games and were very much in awe when Mr. & Mrs. Santa arrived. A Chinese auction had many people vying for the goodies and a delicious luncheon was served on both days. Tickets were sold on several items and Therese Digout was the big winner of the Christmas Quilt, Donna Marie DeWolfe won the Christmas Wreath, Mike Merrick won the Lighthouse lamp and Theresa Stone & Josephine Morrison won the crafts.

Sam(p)son Reunion

From the July 31st opening ceremony in Claire to the Grand finale concert at the Garrison grounds in Halifax on August 15th, Acadians throughout Nova

Scotia celebrated 400 years of cultural survival and growth. The Sam(p)son Reunion in Petit de Grat and Arichat, provided both son John & I the opportunity of meeting cousins dating from our origins 400 years ago in St. Gatiens-des Bois, Normandy, France.

Beginning August 13th the communities of Petit de Grat and Arichat provided three days of events which included suppers, music, concerts, memorabilia, and genealogy information booths. We made new friends and met old ones such as Dr. Herman Samson, wife Madeline and son Charles. Some will recall Herman playing baseball with the Red Caps of Petit de Grat. In later years he exchanged the baseball bat for surgical instruments becoming a heart specialist in Louisiana.

The highlights of our visit included a genealogical presentation in Arichat by Herman's son, Charles, an architect practicing in LA. He became intrigued with his ancestral roots and published a comprehensive booklet entitled 'Our Samson Ancestors', *The history and genealogy of the Acadian Samson family*. Later, during supper at Petit de Grat, I made a chance encounter with an old friend Tony Gudgin of Niagara Falls, ON, who compiled a CD entitled 'Richmond County Genealogy'. His wife Olive's great grandparents were Venant Venong Sampson & Adelaide Elizabeth Landry from RB.

The Acadian reunions throughout the province were extremely successful, leaving everyone feeling a great sense of pride with their heritage and the utmost respect for their ancestors who endured such hardships to survive.

If any readers are interested in obtaining either of the above noted publications, they may be obtained as follows: 'Our Samson Ancestors' Charles Samson Phone/fax (818) 780-1771 (cost \$10.00 US) SamsonArch@aol.co. His website is : www.samsonarchitect.com CD 'Richmond County Genealogy' Topic Genealogy - Acadian@caninet.com Cost \$40.00

.Garvie Samson

Garvie also sent us information that Sr. Annie Adele Samson, at 113 years, nine months, is officially listed as the 9th oldest person in the world. However Helena McKay just sent us an update, as of Nov. 24, 2004 on the "Validated Living Supercentenarians list", Sr. Anne is number seven as two have passed on since Garvie sent us his article. Check out the list website:

<http://www.grg.org/Adams/E.HTM>

History

Excerpt from the River Round Up Dec. 17th, 1958:

"What might have ended in tragedy, was avoided on Tuesday evening when Roderick Burke, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe P. Burke of South River Bourgeois, pulled Maynard Boyd, son of Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Boyd, from the waters of a pond near what is known as the

Brickery. Maynard, with a group of others had gone skating and on his way to shore he went through the ice. Roderick, who was ahead of him, skated to shore and threw a large stick which he found to Maynard. By holding on to the stick Maynard, whose hands were becoming numb, held on until a towing rope was pushed out to him. The rope was then attached to Roderick's truck, which was near the shore, and Maynard was hauled out. There are several places frozen over, but skating, especially at night at this time of the year, is very dangerous".

History does repeat itself as last month while Maynard was getting his boat hauled up for the winter at the St. Peters canal his "aging" knee failed and he plummeted overboard into the cold waters once again.

Births

Clow: Sophie Peyton, 6lbs. 11oz. was born Nov. 16th to Charles & Sherrie of Enfield. A sister for Avery and Ailyn. Congratulations to grand parents Dave & Ann Clow, Sandra & Willis Bartlett and great grand mom Mae McPhee.

MacDonald/Skinner: Kelton Reed, 8lbs. 6oz. was born Oct. 22nd to Elizabeth & Manual. A brother for Darren. Congratulations to mom, dad & Grandmom Shirley MacDonald.

Pelly: Amelia Grace, 6lbs. 3 oz. was born Nov. 8th to Janice & Mike of Elmsdale. She is a little sister for Abby. Congratulations to grandparents Danny & Ann Landry, Wayne & Carol Pelly & great grandparents Leo & Theresa Landry and Fred & Beatrice Bona.

Stone/Sampson: Connor Anthony, 7lbs. 7oz. was born Oct. 22nd to Chris & Cheryl of Thibeaucville. Congratulations to grandparents Charlie Stone and Shelia Felix, Arthur & Rosalie Sampson and great grand mom Susan Stone.

Deaths

Babineau: Douglas, 72 years, of Albert Bridge passed away Nov. 22nd. Our condolences to sister-in-law Anne Sampson & brother-in-law Ed Pentecost.

Landry: Hector, 91 years, of St. Peters passed away Nov. 18th. Our condolences to his wife, Adelia, their family and brother Alcantra of River Bourgeois.

Martell: Alfred Joseph, 91 years, of Halifax passed away November 10th. Our condolence to his wife Muriel (Pottie), their family and nephew Donnie Pottie.

Martell: Mary Alma, 90 years, Pondville, passed away on November 23rd. Our condolence to her daughter Maura (David) Boudreau of River Bourgeois.

Samson: Emma Marie, 83 years, of L'Ardoise passed away Nov 3rd. A former resident of RB.

Bits and Bites:

- If you know of any family that could use help with their Christmas dinners please call Sharon Digout @535- 3516 or Sharon Chilvers @ 535-2512 before Dec. 14th. This is a community project organized by the CWL so if anyone wants to make food or monetary donations please call. Don't forget your donations of gifts. This year you can drop them off at the St. Peters Tourist Bureau. Wrap and label them for a boy or girl and appropriate age. Please be generous to the less fortunate.
- **Seniors Christmas Potluck** Luncheon Dec 7th at 12pm at the Seniors 50+ Club.
- **Seniors Mini Bingo** Wed., Dec. 8th at 1:30.
- **CWL Christmas Dinner** will be held Dec. 9th at 5pm at MacBouch in St. Peters.
- **Benefit for Bobby Boucher** on Dec. 11th at MacBouch Tavern. There will also be a benefit in RB probably on the 19th. Watch for notices.
- **Merchandise/Toy Bingo** Dec 12th at 2pm at the TLC. Proceeds to the RBCSS.
- **RBCSS** will be hosting a **Community Christmas Social** at the TLC from 5-7 on Dec. 18th. Everyone welcome. Drop in for a tea & goodies and celebrate with your neighbors.
- **Birthdays** greetings Rita Landry, Jane Landry, Joan Viscount, Madeline Cook, Joe Sampson, Cletus Touesnard, Stan Digout, Obeline Burke, Emily Kendall, Anita Wymands, Alma Burke, Alcantra Landry, Mildred Burke, Valerie Boyd, Annie Mae Burke and Mae McPhee.
- The **CAP Site hours** are Mon. to Thurs. 2-4 & 6-8 pm and Friday 2-4 pm. The CAP site will be closed from Dec. 22nd until Jan. 2nd inclusive except by appointment, which can be made by calling Sherry (3182) or Sharon (3516). We still have some last minute gifts available.
- A reminder that anyone wishing to book the Tara Lynne Center should call Ann Clow at 535-2726. People requiring use of the Funeral Home should call Monica MacPhee at 535-2743 until further notice. Call Georgie or Harold Landry at 535-2939 to open the church.
- The Round Up is available at Bucky's Garage, RB Post Office or East Coast Credit Union. Subscriptions are available for \$12.00 locally, \$18.50 within Canada and \$20.00 internationally per year.
- **Merry Christmas to all!**

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