



THE ROUSSES IN WILLIAMSTOWN

Compiled by Jeanne L. Rousse, 7/11/90

Jules Rousse - a native of St. Come, Canada, he emigrated to Salem, Massachusetts in 1879 following his marriage to Albina Brodeur on July 21st. While residing in Salem they had three sons and a daughter. He was employed in a tannery.

Jules and Albina moved to Vermont in the late 1800's with their family. He found employment in the quarries. On September 12, 1901 they purchased the Amos Paine Farm on Baptist Street near

the J.K. Pirie Quarry. He acquired a small herd of cattle and his wife's parents, Theophil and Marie Louise Brodeur, made their home with them and assisted on the farm.

After a fairly passable road was built on Cogswell Street, the Rousses purchased two lots of land in the Williamstown section of town and had a two story house built. As Theophil and Marie Louise Brodeur and their daughter had died the couple saw no need for the large farm house and so they sold the house and land to Fred and Milly LaBounty January 7, 1913 and moved into their house on Cogswell Street. They lived in

the upstairs tenement and converted the downstairs into a Meat Market, selling meats and groceries.

Their son Arthur married Marie Louise Letourneau on September 10, 1906 and they purchased the Allen house where they made their home. They had eight children, Roland, Joel, Joseph, Cecile, Edmund, Philip, Simone and Leon. In 1920 they sold their home and moved to Barre where Mr. Rousse was employed in the granite industry.

The second son Adelard, married Mildred Smith August 7, 1911 and they lived in Barre Town and had eight children, Evon, Francis, Arthur, Marie Louise, Gordon, John, Margaret and Albina. He was a compressor operator.

The only son to remain in Williamstown was the youngest son Hormidas. Though he attended Holy Ghost Convent and the Seminary at St. Hyacinth, Canada he returned to Graniteville and joined his father in the meat business. The market added a delivery service and the cart read **JULES ROUSSE & SON - MEATS & GROCERIES.**

Hormidas married Laura Longchamps and they had seven children, Wilfred, Eugene, Jeanne, Agnes, Ernest, Albert and Anna. On the 16th of December 1913 Hormidas and Laura purchased the business from Jules and Albina and moved into the quarters over the Market. Jules and Albina moved into a tenement across the street in the Bailey Block and Jules returned to work on the quarries. Following the death of his wife in 1918, Jules married Manda Nora Shavanaugh. He died on July 19, 1929 at the Wetmore & Morse Quarry where he was a foreman. Manda died in 1931.

Hormidas was operating a very successful business when he was stricken with the flu in 1918. It was a very chaotic time for the Graniteville people. They were dying in great numbers and everyone pitched in to help care for the sick. Hormidas was no exception and even though folks could not pay for the food he delivered it and assisted all he could. The overwork caused him to suffer the flu twice and he died on October 11, 1921. His little daughter Anna died in 1923.

The only remaining Rousse descendant living in Williamstown is Jeanne L. Rousse. She was employed in the Rock of Ages Main Office for 23 years and was the Deputy Secretary of State for the State of Vermont from 1965 to 1969, also a supervisor in the Vermont State Treasurer's office until her retirement in 1987.

Jules Rousse became an American Citizen the 31st day of August 1894. Throughout the years he kept a keen interest in Canada reading the Presse which he subscribed to. He was proud of his citizenship and of Rousses Point which was named after Jacques Rousse who served in the Revolutionary War. He would have been proud of his grandchildren who served their country during World War II. Wilfred, a Staff Sargent who served in the Aleutians, Eugene, a Chief Pharmacist Mate who was at Pearl Harbor when it was bombed and who spent 20 years in the U.S. Navy, Ernest who served in the SeaBees in Hawaii, Arthur who served in the 352nd Fighter Squadron in England as a Staff Sergeant. John, an E4 who was in the Combat Engineers Army Battalion serving in Eastern Atlantic & Mediterranean The-

atre, Francis an E-5, Edmund Gordon, E7 who served in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Theatre, Technical Sergeant Philip M. an assistant Radio Gunner on a B-17 flew missions over Germany and became a Prisoner of War, Leon was in the U.S. Navy. Jules would have been proud of them as he told of the oppression suffered by his ancestors who were ordered out of Nova Scotia by the British and fled into Canada. He was a strong believer in Peace and Justice for all.

SAVERY

by Wendell H. Savery

At the time of the Civil War four brothers volunteered, George and Lawrence Savery for the North and Elliott and Oliver for the South. Grandfather George Savery mustered into Co. C 1st Reg't Vermont Cavalry on September 19, 1861. He mustered out of service in November 1864 with his horse, saddle and spurs. I now have the spurs. In 1865 he bought a portion of our former Savery farm, on the Northfield Road, acreage was added through the years. He married Flora Blanchard from Barre Town. They had five children — Leslie, Mable, Mary, Vernon, and Willie.

Vernon Savery married Marcia Hutchinson, who was the daughter of Amasa Hutchinson

(1846-1910) and his wife Susan Stevens (1852-1922), in 1904. They soon bought the farm from George Savery. After the death of George Savery's first wife he married Fanny Daley from Plainfield. After the children were grown up they moved to the village on the Graniteville Road in the Paul Royce house. Vernon Savery was always interested in town and local affairs. He served the Town as representative in Legislature, selectman, lister and held other offices. Vernon and Marcia had three children — Wendell, Heneretta (who died as an infant) and Alton (who died at age 7). Wendell graduated from the Vermont School of Agriculture at Randolph Center. For a time he worked as a carpenter on various C.C.C. Camp buildings. Then he returned to farm with his father, becoming a partner in 1942 and assuming full ownership in 1955. The farm was known as a breeder of registered Guernsey cattle. In 1937 a new apartment was added to the big brick farmhouse.

Wendell Savery married Gail Barrett,



Savery Homestead, built in 1791. This has been owned by the same family from 1865 to 1980.

draftsman for the U.S. Navy. Horace H. Lasell (1899 - 1978) married Esther Cheney (1907 -) of Williamstown. They lived on the South Hill farm now owned by their son, Morris. They brought up eight children, four of whom still live in Williamstown (1989). These are John, Morris and Stanley Lasell and Lenora (Mrs. Norman) Larkin. Two daughters, Maida Lasell Covey and Edah Osgood, own property in town. Two children are no longer living, Alice (Mrs. Millard Guyette) and Winston.

The youngest child of Henry and Ada Lasell was Francis (1901 - 1938), co-owner of the farm with Horace until his death at the age 37. He was unmarried.

From 1980 to 1984 Shannon Lasell, grandson of John Lasell, was the sixth generation of the Lasell family to live within four miles of the original Lasell farm on Stellar Road.

THE LONGCHAMPS IN WILLIAMSTOWN

Compiled by Jeanne L. Rouse
July 11, 1990

Frederick Longchamps born January 1, 1866.

A native of Bic, County of Rimouski, Canada, as a youth of 15 years left the family farm where he was raised and joined a work crew on the Canadian Pacific Railroad, a system which originated with the first Canadian transcontinental railroad, which was building the railroad across the continent to California. While working with the crew of older men, who, as they went along were investing their earnings in land, tried to persuade Frederick to do the same, but he refused. Looking at this barren land he

continued rather to save his money to someday start a business. In later years as he read about the developing cities along the railroad he lamented, "If I had only listened, I walked on my fortune many times."

He returned to Canada and married Eugenie Turcotte on August 30, 1892, in St. Fabien Church, Rimouski. The couple moved to Fall River, Massachusetts to make their home and Frederick learned the baker's trade.

In 1895, accompanied by their children Laura and Yvonne they moved to Vermont and lived in a tenement in the big block at the four corners of what is now known as McCarthy Road, Graniteville. Frederick accepted a job on the Jones Bros. Quarry while getting his bearings. He purchased a lot of land on what is now known as Cogswell Street and had built a three apartment house. His family moved into the middle tenement and he rented the other two tenements. Housing was in great demand.

In 1896 he had a bakery shop built at the back of his house, one wall of which was all brick and contained two large ovens and a huge fire box. He hired a fellow baker from Fall River, Massachusetts to assist him and, quitting his job on the quarry, he went into business. He ran a successful bakery specializing in French Bread for 17 years. The shop, though not very large, got hotter than Hades when baking was in progress. George B. Milne of the Boutwell, Milne & Varnum Company Quarry used to come up the short cut path from the quarry each day to pick up his bread and one day as he stood in the bakery doorway said, "Fred, if it is as hot in Hell as

this, I don't want to go there." Being the only bakery for several miles around, Frederick and his assistant worked long hours. Bread was delivered by team to Websterville, East Barre, and parts of Williamstown. One day a week a run was made to Barre city. They often ran out of bread as housewives hailed them along the way to buy their bread. After a few years the Fall River baker returned to his home and Frederick ran the bakery with the assistance of his wife and daughters, Laura and Yvonne. His four sons had the duty of chopping wood and keeping the wood box filled, a chore they did not always appreciate so they would get their friends to help out and Frederick would give them the ends he cut off the jelly rolls as a reward for their help.

Five of his children were born in the Graniteville section of Williamstown. They were: Albert Oliver born December 18, 1896. He married Ruth Stott on October 2, 1928 and they had three children: Joyce, Albert Wendell, and Arlene Longchamps.

Henry J. born June 25, 1899 and he married Bertha Theodora Bilodeau on October 29, 1928, and they had two children: Alfred and Irene Longchamps. Henry died August 6, 1956 and Bertha died September 12, 1979.

Arthur J. was born May 20, 1901 and he married Jeanette Charpentier on May 20, 1930 and they had four children: Robert, Yvonne, Jane and Julie Longchamps. Arthur died April 4, 1978 and Jeanette died March 24, 1977.

Wilfred J. was born October 16, 1903 and he married Mildred Ester LaBounty on July 13, 1931 and they had three children: Wilfred, Michael and Mary

Longchamps. Wilfred died April 27, 1969.

Agnes M. was born December 11, 1905 and she married Arthur H. Letourneau on June 30, 1930 and they had three children: Claire, Jane and Robert. Agnes died July 11, 1976 and Arthur died August 5, 1968.

Frederick's two oldest children were born in Fall River, Massachusetts: Laura was born June 13, 1893 and married Hormidas Rousse on January 20, 1913 and they had seven children: Wilfred, Eugene, Jeanne, Agnes, Ernest, Albert and Anna. Laura died September 5, 1972 and Hormidas died October 11, 1921.

Yvonne was born in Fall River, Massachusetts on February 27, 1895 and married Ernest Longchamps October 1, 1919. They had one daughter Lucille Longchamps. Ernest died December 7, 1921. She married Louis J. Prevost on June 21, 1926 and they had two children Rita and Richard Prevost. Yvonne died on October 25, 1958 and Louis died on December 1, 1985. Frederick and his wife Eugenie had, in all, a family of seven children.

On April 16, 1972 the Longchamps purchased the Soucy Candy and Tobacco Shop located in Barre Town from Joseph and Marie Soucy in order to give his four boys meaningful work. With Laura and Yvonne assisting his wife in the bakery everyone was kept busy. Later Frederick and his family moved into quarters over the shop. They then expanded the shop into a general store which in addition to groceries carried men's work clothes, overalls, gloves, socks and boots. This store was conveniently located on what is now Cogswell Street just a few houses

down from his apartment house.

In 1917 he had a two tenement house built adjacent to his former home and bakery. He was now renting five tenements.

During World War I, two of his sons were in the service, Albert was in coastal defense with the Army and Henry was in the U.S. Navy.

Henry and Wilfred Longchamps worked on the quarries, Arthur moved to New Hampshire and was a carpenter and owned and operated a diner, Albert managed his father's store, Laura operated her husband's business, Rouse's Market, after his death and Agnes reopened Longchamps store following her father's death.

Frederick died September 28, 1932 and his wife Eugenie died April 10, 1928.

Following the death of his father, Albert Longchamps (who had purchased the two tenement houses owned by his father in the Williamstown section of Graniteville) moved the contents of the Longchamps General Store to a new location. He converted one of the tenements into a store and he and his wife, the former Ruth Stott, operated the store until his death of a heart attack in the store on August 12, 1957. He had been associated with the store business nearly 40 years.

The only Longchamps descendant remaining in the Town of Williamstown is Jeanne L. Rouse, Cogswell Street, Graniteville. However the grocery store tradition is still being carried on by Alfred Longchamps, son of Henry Longchamps, in Barre Town section of Graniteville.

LUCAS-ClOUTIER

In May of 1896, Peter Lucas and Anne Cloutier Lucas came to Williamstown, Vermont from Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada. Before selling out and moving to Williamstown, Peter was a merchant in Sherbrooke.

Peter was born in Riviere Du Loup, P.Q. Canada in 1858. His parents were Joseph Victor Lucas and Appoline Morency. He married Annie Cloutier on February 1, 1893 in Sherbrooke. She was the daughter of Thomas Cloutier and Annette Felipon of Lamberton, District of Beause, P.Q.

Peter and Annie arrived at the Old Martin Place, Peter with a buckboard full of their possessions and Annie by train. The reason for Annie's journey by train was because she was expecting their first child, Laura.

Laura Mary Alice Lucas was born on May 23, 1896, just seven days after Peter and Annie arrived in Williamstown.

On May 16, 1901, Peter and Annie bought land on Cogswell Street from Mr. Alfred Phillips and in 1910 bought adjoining land from H.A. and Isabel Phelps.

On this property they erected a "camp" for their residence. At the time Mr. Lucas was a teamster, with horses and wagons to haul granite off the hill. He would make two trips a day; one to Barre in the morning and one to Williamstown in the afternoon.

Thirteen children were born to this couple, of which only four survived. The four survivors were: Laura, Jenny, Alfred (Jack), and Albert.

While living in the "camp", Peter built his store, which is now the home of