



A SOCIAL AND LEGAL HISTORY OF 518 CLARENCE STREET,
OTTAWA

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Cover photograph: 518 Clarence Street, April 2015, © Richard Briggs

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A house history is a living document...it is always evolving – author unknown

William and Jane Hall Build 518 Clarence

The story of 518 Clarence Street begins with the marriage of William Taylor Hall and Jane (Jennie) Lang in the spring of 1887. Before the wedding, William's father James Hall, living at 73 Heney Street, had bought the north half of lot 16 on the south side of Franklin (Clarence) Street (ie the present site of no 518 and no 520 Clarence) in September 1885 for \$500, and resold it to William for \$200 in January 1886.

William then built a home for his new family: a simple frame house on a timber foundation (no basement) with a pitched, shingled roof and likely with plain plank or possibly clapboard siding. The main body of the house was of one-and-a-half storeys, with a one-storey kitchen wing at the back. The interior may have been partitioned into two apartments from the start.

Though Clarence Street is in one of the original areas of Ottawa laid out by Colonel By in 1826, no 518 was still in a semi-rural neighbourhood. Three or four houses stood with it on the south side of Clarence between Charlotte and Wurtemberg, sharing their large lots with stables for the horses of the cartage businesses of the Hall family and its neighbours.

Across Clarence - no more than a beaten track, dusty in dry weather and a sea of mud when it rained - the land rose in a steep hill, pocked with sand pits that supplied the building trade in the growing city. Until recently, the hill had formed natural butts for the city rifle range. Other lots were leased to market gardeners, used to store firewood in huge stacks 5-10 feet high, or piled with garbage. The new Ste-Anne church stood with a few houses on St Patrick Street, but most of the parish actually lived across the Rideau River in New Edinburgh and Clarkstown (today part of Vanier). Children and adults came from across the City to swim and fish in the Rideau River in summer, and to slide in winter (*Journal* 1907-08-26).



An artist's impression from 1904 of what the north side of Clarence Street looked like in 1880 (*Journal* 1904-08-13)

To the south a few houses stood on Heney Street, overlooking the old city cemeteries (today's Macdonald Gardens). Since 1872, when Beechwood and Notre-Dame opened, the old cemeteries had been left untended. Scrub and overgrown shrubbery sheltered the homeless, and the cows that supplied most of the City's milk grazed among the remaining headstones. The Hôpital Ste-Anne on Heney Street served isolated cases of contagious diseases (closed-ca 1897) while the Protestant General Hospital (now the Wallis House Condominiums) stood at Rideau and Charlotte Streets (1872-1924).¹

¹ The firing line for the range was on Anglesea Square (Chapel Street) - noted in many reminiscences of the era and in Brault 1946 p 309. The description of Macdonald Gardens is from newspaper reports of the campaign to reclaim the cemeteries, e.g. *Journal* 1909-01-28 p3.

How did the Halls come to Heney Street, and how was it that a site so close to the centre of a growing city should remain so rural?

Origin of the Neighbourhood

When Lieutenant-Colonel John By of the Royal Engineers arrived at the Chaudière Falls in 1826 to begin construction of the Rideau Canal, many people were convinced that a settlement at the portage around the Chaudière would become an important commercial centre, controlling the growing trade of both the Ottawa River and the Rideau Canal. Promoters had already laid out townsites on both sides of the Ottawa River at the Falls, while the government of Upper Canada had, in 1823, bought the high land south of the river from its absentee owner (lot B in Concession B and lots B and C in Concession C, Rideau Front of Nepean Township, roughly the area bounded by the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers, and today's Bronson Avenue, Wellington Street, Rideau Street and Cathcart Street) (Elliot 1991 p 15ff).

By took ownership of the government land for the Board of Ordnance, the arm of the British Government in charge of military installations, chose a site for a fortress and laid out a townsite around it, part on the higher ground west of the route of the Canal (Uppertown) but the commercial core on the lower ground east of the Canal (Lower-town). The Board kept ownership of the land, but leased out individual building lots.

By planned the area east of King Street (today's King Edward Avenue) as a neighbourhood for senior military officers and wealthy merchants. Large lots of 1/3 to 1/2 acre faced streets and squares with elegant names, including Clarence for the King's brother William, Duke of Clarence (later King William IV); Charlotte, for the King's daughter Charlotte Augusta, Princess of Wales; Wurtemberg, for the King's eldest sister Charlotte, Queen of Wurtemberg; and Parry and Franklin for Sir William Parry and Sir John Franklin, admirals and arctic explorers. At the time, the search for the Northwest Passage was a priority for the Royal Navy, and arctic explorers were celebrities.

When the City moved in the 1870s to number houses and clear up duplicate street names in preparation for house-to-house mail delivery, Clarence, Parry and Franklin

Streets, more or less in a line, were consolidated as Clarence. Heney Street, formerly just a lane along the edge of the cemeteries, was also named for John Heney, landowner, businessman and alderman, about this time.

Prosperity and growth by-passed nascent Bytown: the proposed fortress was cancelled, and the commercial importance of the Ottawa River was already in decline when By arrived. Ottawa began to grow quickly in the 1850s, however, when a free trade agreement encouraged the export of softwood lumber to the United States, and the Provincial government voted to move the capital to Ottawa (1858, although the actual move from Quebec City did not take place until 1865).

Even so, the streets in the eastern part of Lowertown remained empty. The public blamed legal problems over the Board of Ordnance's title to the property and the confused administration of its leases. But even after 1859, when the Board transferred ownership of the Canal and the townsite to the Province of Canada and the Province moved quickly to settle the leases and put the lots up for sale, there were few takers.

In an era when walking was the only means of transport for all but the farmer and the very rich, and roads were very poor, Lowertown East was just too far away from the new mills at the Chaudière and the Rideau Falls. Further, low areas were impassable hemlock swamp, cut by streams draining the hills, while the higher pine-clad hills turned to loose blowing sand as soon as the trees were felled. Both the Board and the Province were reduced to letting the land in large 2-3 acre lots to farmers and market gardeners, and to looking the other way at squatters who simply harvested the timber and occupied the land without any legal title.

Most of the lots remained unsold when the Federal government assumed ownership at Confederation. In 1871 John Joyce bought lot 17 (on the corner of Wurtemberg Street) and in 1876 bought lot 16, the next lot west, so that he owned 132 feet, roughly 40 metres, of frontage along the south side of Clarence Street, the lots running all the way back to Heney Street.

Joyce was a long-time resident of Ottawa, having been brought from Cork, Ireland, by his parents in 1828 when John was between five and ten years old (his father may have been a relative of Mrs By, whose maiden name was Joyce). At the time of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee in 1897 he recalled the bonfires lit at the corner of Rideau and Nicholas Streets to celebrate her accession sixty years earlier.

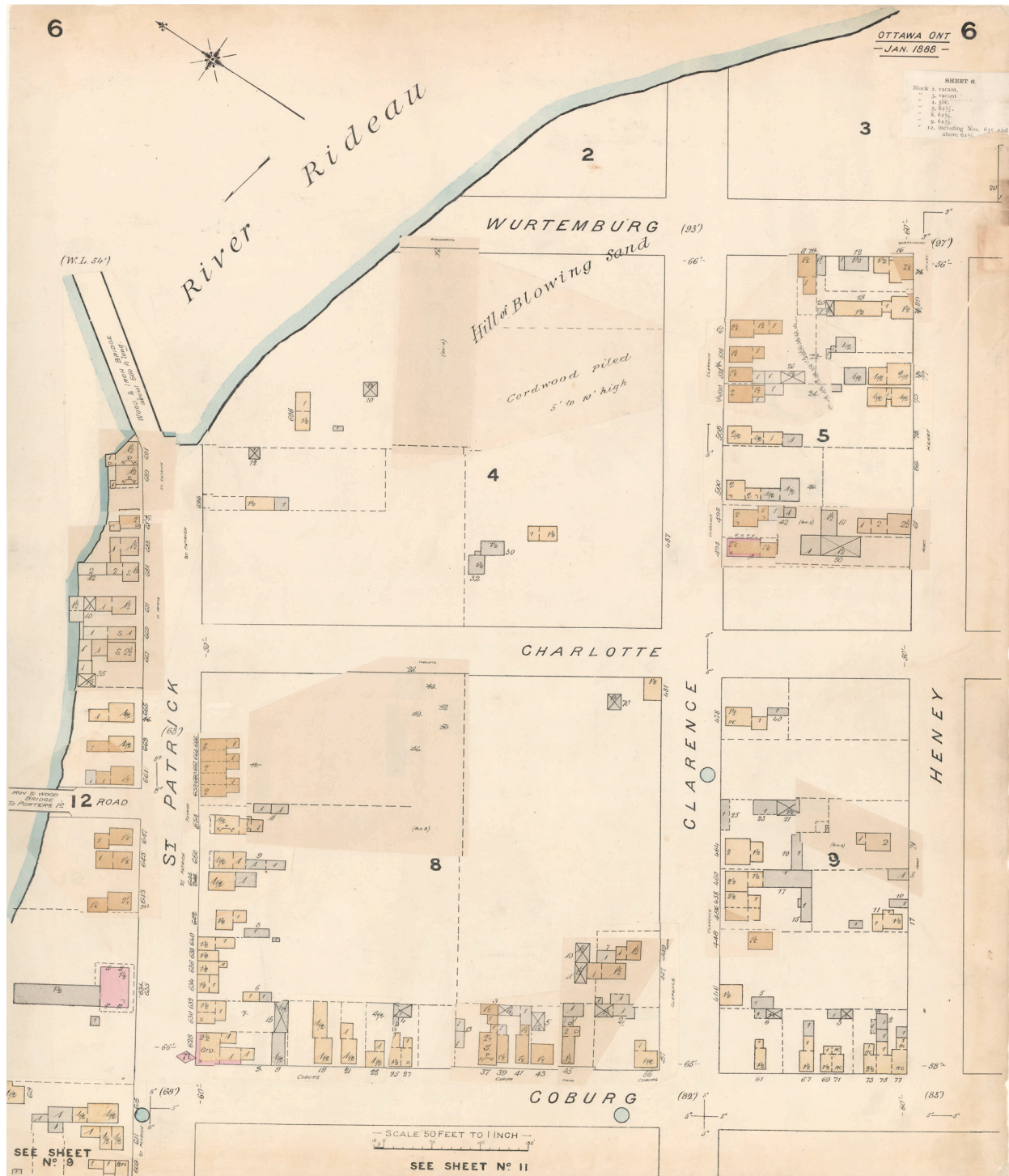
Joyce owned a lot of property in the area, but built his own house on the south side of lot 17, at 89 Heney Street (not the current house on that site), moving in 1893 to 77 Heney, where he lived until his death in 1904 or 1905.

The Halls Establish themselves on Clarence Street

James Hall was born in 1838, likely in or near the village of Milcomb, Oxfordshire, just outside the town of Banbury in England. The English census of 1871 records James and his wife Lydia as living there with their seven children, ages 1-9. The Halls must have been reasonably prosperous, but decided in the late 1870s, when they were both close to 40 years old, to emigrate. They were first recorded in Ottawa in the 1878 City Directories living at 73 Heney Street. James was first listed as a printer, then as a carter, as were his eldest sons George and William, suggesting that they arrived with sufficient capital to buy their own horses and wagons and set up a family business.

William Taylor Hall was the second child of James and Lydia, born in 1862 or 1863. He first appears in the City Directories in 1883, living with his parents and working as a carter². In 1887 he and his bride Jane moved into 518 Clarence. By 1890 they are recorded as living in the "front" of the house, while William Hazel, a printer with the Government Printing Bureau on Sussex Street, lived in the "rear" with his wife Dora. In 1890 Hall also built the larger house at 520, still on lot 16, and rented it to the Hazels. The Halls in turn moved to the "rear" of 518 and rented the "front" to Mrs Margaret

² In the 1901 Census, William stated that he came to Canada in 1880. He may have given the wrong year, or it is possible that he stayed in England after his parents left and only joined them later.



Fire Insurance Map of 1888, revised to 1901, showing 518 and 520 in their original form. The stacks of cordwood and the hill of sand are noted, as is the dead-end of Wurtemberg Street that was fenced off in 1903. The dark-coloured patch on Wurtemberg Street marks the site of the short-lived Aberdeen Swimming Pool and Skating Rink (built 1894, burnt down 1896).

Hebb or Ebbs, a widow, and her family. By 1893 the Halls, now with two children, occupied all of 518. In 1896 the Hazels moved out of 520 and the Halls and their growing family moved in.

The Halls then rented out 518, most tenants staying a year or less, including a John Sovey (perhaps Jean Sauvé?), Mrs Mary Shea and her son John and daughter Mary, Mrs Roseanne Lemieux (also a widow), William and Dora Hazel again, who this time stayed from 1904 until 1909) and William P Gardner, a coachman.

Sometime between 1901 and 1910 (according to the Fire Insurance Maps), either an extra half-storey was added to the rear wing of 518, or the wing was demolished and replaced with a new one-and-a-half storey wing. A further one-storey section was added to the back. While only speculation, the upper floor was possibly added to move the bathroom indoors or to replace an outdoor privy.

Life in the City had some of the same problems as today, but in a more extreme form. Residents complained in 1893 that the street was impassable for large loaded wagons, and argued over the installation of storm and sanitary sewers - when it rained the hills north and south of the street funnelled the water into the street and its houses, and basements were almost continuously flooded in summer. At least part of the cost of such improvements was charged to the householder, and some residents were reluctant to pay the necessary money (e.g. *Journal* 1893-10-06 p5). In 1895, and again in 1906, 518 Clarence was threatened by major fires that started near Charlotte Street and burnt down multiple houses. The fire in 1906 was started by lightning during a fierce storm that tore off roofs and took down church towers across the City.

In 1907 residents of the area petitioned the City to do something against a rendering plant located south of Beechwood Avenue and the nauseating smells it released. The City was at impasse, as the plant was in Gloucester Township, which refused to act (*Journal* 1907-09-28, p 15)

The piles of wood, the sand pits and the overgrown cemeteries attracted drunks and “toughs” who terrorized residents (at least by Victorian standards). In 1903 a group

of neighbours, including John Davis, owner of all the land between Clarence and St Patrick Streets, petitioned to have the dead end of Wurtemberg Street fenced off and complained that the Halls were opposed only because they found the untravelled roadway a convenient place to store their carriages and wagons. That same year, James Hall wrote to the *Journal* to complain of the neglect of the old cemeteries. He told a reporter that he was “bothered every night by the toughs and scallywags who congregated there”. His neighbours concurred (*Journal* 1903-08-05 p 6). The campaign continued until the Federal government agreed to reclaim the land and turned it into Macdonald Gardens.

In 1910 William’s son John, then about 13 years old, ran away. The Brockville Police found him some time later working on a farm between Smiths Falls and Brockville - he had walked the 80 km or so from Ottawa. That same year the Halls sold 518 and 520 Clarence to Chauncey T. Kirby for \$2,600 and left the City of Ottawa, possibly moving to Ottawa West or Westboro (remembering that in those days the City limits were just west of Holland Avenue). It is possible, but can’t be confirmed, that they were the William and Jane Hall who died in 1944 and 1947 respectively and are buried in Pinecrest.

The O’Neill and Peachy Era, 1919-1952

Between 1910 and 1914, 518 and 520 passed through the hands of four different property investors, Chauncey Kirby, who split 518 and 520 into separate properties, Oscar Petigorski, William E Scrivens, William Fields (a builder and resident of Heney Street) and finally James CS Wolff, who exchanged an unidentified property to Fields for 518 and 520. Wolff was unable to maintain mortgage payments in the financial crisis created by the First World War and his creditors foreclosed, eventually selling both 518 and 520 in 1919 to Mrs Jane O’Neill for \$1 and assumption of mortgages (RO instrument 174514). Jane then sold a half-interest to her husband Alexander, and in June 1924 the O’Neills sold 520 Clarence to Hervé Desmarais, a civil servant, for \$1725, severing the connection between 518 and 520. For comparison, vacant lots on the north side of Clarence were selling for \$1,100 at this time.

During this period of rapidly changing owners, tenants changed equally rapidly, and 518 was often vacant, with residents recorded only in 1911 (Samuel Champagne, a blacksmith) and 1915-16 (Jean-Baptiste Larocque, a labourer). No 520 was rented to a Mrs Annie Randall from 1911-12, and a Mr Albert Desjardins from 1915-1919, but was vacant from 1912-1915.

Alexander O'Neill was born in Fasset, on the Quebec shore of the Ottawa River, in 1863, and moved with his family to Ottawa in 1916. He worked at the Department of Militia and Defence (later the Department of National Defence) at 72 Albert Street as a packer, later a packer-inspector, until his retirement in 1934. In 1921 he was earning the comfortable, if not generous, salary of \$1300 a year. The Census of that year records



Portion of an aerial photograph of Lowertown ca 1925. 518 and 520 can be identified from the shadows on their pitched roofs. Note the many vacant lots and Rockwood Street still unsurfaced. The bulls-eye in Macdonald Gardens was an ornamental pool. Anglesea Square is to the left, with Ste-Anne Church above. The big square building to the bottom left was the Streetcar barns on Cobourg Street.

that Alex and his wife Jane or Jeannie, age 56, lived at 518 with five of their surviving seven children: Alexander jr, age 29, Cornelius, age 25, Lawrence, age 22, Elizabeth, age 19 and Rhea (sometimes called Rita), age 16. A son Charles and daughter Margaret Anne had already left home.

On the outbreak of the First World War, at least three of the five O'Neill boys

joined the army. Clifford, the youngest, was killed at the Battle of the Somme in 1916. Lawrence served with the 38th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, and returned home safely. Cornelius served with the 32nd battery, Canadian Field Artillery and was awarded the Military Medal for “conspicuous gallantry” during the battle of Passchendaele (1916). Nothing is known of Alexander jr, but the fact that he was living at home in 1921 suggests that he too was putting his life together after service in the War.

After the War, Cornelius was demobilized with the rank of Battery Sergeant-major, returned to Ottawa and joined the Sergeant-at-Arms staff at the House of Commons as a constable, where Maurice Peachy also worked - it’s quite possible that as a friend or colleague he introduced Maurice to his sister Anne. He left Ottawa in 1924 to join the Montreal police force. In 1938 Alexander jr was living in Vancouver, Charles in Oakland, California, and Lawrence in Gatineau Point.

Elizabeth, and presumably the other girls, attended the Rideau Street Convent (present site of the condo tower between Waller and Cumberland Streets), the only Catholic High School for girls at that time. She never married, but in 1938 was living in Grenville, Quebec. Later she returned to Ottawa and lived at 518 with her mother and Anne and Maurice Peachy and family, until the house was sold in 1952..

Rhea was listed in the City Directory for 1924 as a salesclerk for Freiman’s Department Store on Rideau Street (today the Hudson’s Bay Company), but starting in 1927 moved to work at the Metropolitan Stores outlet just down the street. Metropolitan was a “five and dime store”, a Canadian-owned company competing with Woolworth’s and Kresge’s. In the early 1920s they were located on the north side of Rideau Street in the present location of Chapters. At some point they sold this location to Woolworth’s and moved to a new building on the south side of Rideau Street at the corner of Mosgrove, about where the Shoppers Drug Mart is located in the Rideau Centre. She married Gordon McLaughlin, another employee of the Printing Bureau, about 1930 and they set up house at 37 Dalhousie Street.

Anne married Maurice Peachy in 1920 and moved with him to 419 Daly Avenue, which they shared with Maurice’s brother and sister-in-law. Maurice (Marie-Joseph

Maurice Paul) Peachy was born in Ottawa in 1895 and raised in Lowertown, working at the Printing Bureau and gaining local fame as an athlete. In 1916, the Ottawa Citizen described him as “the well-known turf expert and baseball star”. He also paddled for the River Park (Westboro) War Canoe team (war canoe racing being similar to today’s dragon boat races).

Peachy’s devotion to baseball (especially with the lack of players during wartime) caused trouble. In 1915 he was declared to be a professional barred from amateur play. While the ban was lifted the following year., other amateur teams protested because Peachy was travelling to Montreal every Sunday to play for Verdun.

Maurice and two of his friends at the Printing Bureau volunteered for the Navy in December 1917, but were held back by authorities while facilities were rebuilt after the Halifax Explosion. However he got there, in June 1918 Maurice was in training with the Canadian Reserve Artillery at Wisley, England, and, of course, star pitcher in the Wisley Area Baseball League. By May 1919 Maurice was expected back at the Printing Bureau and on the mound. However, he moved to the Sergeant-at-Arms department, where he made his career until retirement. Maurice continued to pitch for a few more years, but with a different set of teams.

By the end of the War the neighbourhood was also much more desirable: construction of storm drains had resolved the problem of constant flooding, and streetcar lines on St Patrick and Rideau Streets made it more accessible to other parts of the city. With the creation of Macdonald Gardens from the old cemeteries (1913) and the conversion of Anglesea Square into playground and recreation provided parkland, though the residents were unsuccessful in their quest to have Porter’s Island made into a park (1911).

The sheds and stables south of Clarence Street began to disappear in favour of houses, and in 1910, with the hills dug down and all the sand removed, the land north of Clarence was sold for development, though actually building was slow, dragging on well into the 1920s.

At some point before 1935, Anne and Maurice Peachy and their four children moved into 518 with her parents. Also in 1934 the O'Neills mortgaged their house for \$125 at 7%. Both of these moves may be related to the illness and death of the young



YOU'VE GOTTA BE A FOOTBALL HERO TO GET ALONG WITH THE BEAUTIFUL GIRLS
Gordon Peachy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Peachy, 518 Clarence street, was the hero of Friday's junior football final when he scored all the points in Tech's upset victory over the previously unbeaten St. Patrick's College. Peachy was the idol of all at a teen-agers' dance last night. The Journal cameraman tried to get a single picture of him and look what happened, left to right front row, Lilly Rattey, Mary Rattey, middle row, Irene Rochon, Gordie Peachy, Lois Wendt, back row, Collette Bernier, Irene Coty - (Photo by Little). See also Sport Pages

Photo of Gordon Peachy, student at Ottawa Tech, Journal, 1947-11-08

Maurice Clifford (Buster) Peachy, who died in October 1934 "in hospital following a lingering illness" at the age of 13. An extended illness in those days would put a family under intense financial pressure. While hospital care at the Civic Hospital was free for residents of the City, medical care was expensive and medical insurance virtually unob-

tainable. It was, in fact, experiences like the Peachys' that led the provincial government to foster private non-profit health insurance in Ontario during the later 1930s. Maurice Clifford was a pupil at St Brigid's School (now the Shepherds of Good Hope at Murray and King Edward). The body was laid out at home, and the school, with his brothers John, Robert and Gordon, walked in procession behind the coffin from the house to St Brigid's Church for the funeral. (*Journal* 1934-10-12 p 14).

To celebrate the Royal visit of May 1939, "Uncle Ray", editor of the children's page of the *Ottawa Citizen*, asked his readers to submit poems for the occasion. The winning entry came from John Peachy of 518 Clarence Street (age not given).

From a cloud of war and strife
The King will come with his wife
And gaze upon Canada, a land of beauty
Where people are asked to do their duty.

(and so on for four more stanzas) (*Citizen* 1939-16-10 p 17).

- The Second World War followed soon after. Son John Peachy joined the RCAF. The *Ottawa Journal* of 20 April 1944 (p 1) records him as one of a party of airmen returning from abroad who were welcomed at the Union Station by a band and speeches from the Mayor. That summer found him playing baseball for the Air Force team in the Interprovincial League (e.g. *Journal* 1944-08-14 p 14). Summer 1944 found him fielding for the Air Force baseball team in Ottawa and served overseas as a Leading Aircraftsman.. In a sign of the changing times, Anne returned to the workforce, taking a job as a clerk in the Wartime Trade and Prices Board (which regulated commerce to prevent the massive inflation experienced during the First World War). Jane mortgaged the house in 1943 for \$300, perhaps to pay for repairs.

Alexander died in 1936 and Jane in January 1946. Son Cornelius, now a detective Assistant Inspector with the Montreal Police, died after a long illness in 1949. Cornelius' obituary noted that Alexander jr was living in Vancouver, Lawrence in Ottawa and Charles in Oakland, California.



View of Clarence Street looking west from Wurtemburg Street in the early 1970s, before completion of the urban renewal project (note row of walk-up apartments on the north side of St Patrick Street). 518 Clarence can be identified at the bottom of the photo from the open porch at the back.

Jane's will ordered her executors to liquidate the estate and divide it equally among the three daughters (Anne, Elizabeth and Rhea). The daughters, however, agreed that Anne and Elizabeth would pay Rhea \$700 and take joint ownership of 518 Clarence as their share (giving the house a value of \$2100) (RO instrument 262291). Elizabeth and the Peachys continued to live in the house. Son Robert had left home, possibly moving to Calgary, where he was living in 1979, Gordon was still at home, enrolled at the Ottawa Technical High School, with a name as a football and baseball star. On graduation he joined the Eastview Police Force. John married in 1946, took a job in the Department of Veteran's Affairs, and also played professional football for the Rough Riders (*Journal* 1945-09-01 p 16, 1946-08-20 p 10).

The Peachys and Elizabeth moved to Eastview (today's Vanier) in 1951, buying a house on Blake Boulevard, and in 1952 sold 518 to Juliette Plouffe for \$3700. Plouffe re-sold in two months to Ernest and Eveline D'aoust of Cathcart Street for \$4500, taking back a mortgage for \$1600 at 5%. For comparison, no 520 was sold in 1955 for \$18,000.

518 Reborn: the D'aousts and After

Ernest was a truck driver for Swift Canada meats at 58 Besserer Street (today site of part of the Rideau Centre), and lived at the house with his wife Eveline and daughter Gisèle, a clerk at the Department of National Defence. A son, Robert, and daughter, Suzanne, had already left home. They were members of Ste-Anne parish.

The City of Ottawa undertook an assessment of housing stock across the City in 1958 with a follow-up review in 1962. The 1958 survey rated the overall quality of the block between Clarence and Heney as "poor" (the rating for individual houses was published only for selected areas). The 1962 review noted that the area had a high proportion of tenants (70% vs the City-wide average of 49%), but also that existing housing was being renovated and improved, and a limited amount of new housing being built. The D'aousts were certainly part of that trend.

As soon as they moved in, the D'aousts renovated the bathroom, moving the window to fit the new fixtures (April 1952) and in 1958 took out a new mortgage for \$3500 at 6% to finance major renovations. D.J. Léger, a contractor based nearby on St Andrew Street jacked the house up and moved it 2' to the east to sit on a new foundation of concrete blocks on concrete footings, with a basement. To provide adequate headroom in the new basement, the house was raised 3'9" from its former level. Léger also installed bath fittings in the basement, a new hot water tank, re-shingled the roof, covered the exterior with stucco, and demolished all or part of the one-storey section at the back and replaced it with an open verandah. A forced-air oil furnace replaced the wood or coal stoves that had previously heated the house. There must have been some dispute over the work, as Léger filed a mechanic's lien against the property, which was cleared only by the subsequent owners.

The D'aousts continued to live at 518 through the massive disruption to Ste-Anne parish and the surrounding community caused by the Lowertown urban renewal project in the 1970s.



Back view of no 518, showing the one-and-a half storey addition built between

The area east of Cobourg, however, probably benefited from some of the changes, such as the closure of Charlotte Street and renewal of infrastructure.

Gisèle married Ken Brown in 1958 and moved out. Ernest died in 1991 and was

buried at Messines near Maniwaki. Eveline con-

tinued to live at 518 until 1994 when she sold to Glenn Allen Macdonald and Philip Joseph Siscoe, property investors, for \$147,000. They resolved the outstanding mechanic's lien, and resold within a month to Rosalyn Sallenave and Judith Rostenne for \$165,000 (RO instruments 377425, NS 669533-669535).

Sallenave and Rostenne owned enough properties that they employed a property manager, and they bought 518 as an investment, planning to create a separate bachelor flat in the basement and upgrading other features, and hired the Marconne company as contractors.

The Province had just passed new laws requiring building permits, in effect municipal approval, for the creation of new flats, but grandfathering work on flats or apartments that had existed in 1993 or earlier. Neighbours noticed the work and reported it to the City. The new landlords argued that the D'aousts had rented out the basement before, but were unable to prove this. The City inspection showed that at some point the basement had been fitted out as a rec room, with a bathroom, fridge, counter and cupboard (no sink or stove), with plywood panelling on the walls and ceiling, but no enclosure around the furnace and no door at the foot of the stairs.

The City agreed to the conversion and supplied the necessary permits. In the basement the plywood was replaced with drywall, the furnace enclosed with a stud wall and a fire door, and a locking door was placed at the foot of the stairs. The electric meter was moved from the basement to the exterior, and a stove, sink and electric heating installed. The bathroom was spruced up, but not altered.

Elsewhere, the electrical supply was upgraded, central air conditioning was installed, and part of the verandah was enclosed and sided with aluminum.³ The driveway was widened to make room for two parking spots.

With the renovations complete, the house and the basement flat were rented out, with most tenants staying only one year. Kelly Harrison, who lived in the basement in 1999-2000 while a student at the University of Ottawa commented only that it was "not memorable", actually, a favourable comment, and that "Judy" was the partner more in evidence. Another notable tenant was Erin Lannon, a producer for CTV News, who lived upstairs in 2002-03.

The house was sold to the current owner, Serge Bidnyk, in 2003 for \$235,500, Sergiy Bidnyk moved to Ottawa in 2000 after completing a MS in Photonics and a PhD in Physics at Oklahoma State University. He is currently Director of Research and Devel-

³ The inspection documents are not clear - it's also possible that in 1958 only part of the one-storey wing was torn down, and this was covered with aluminum siding at a later date. Similarly, the D'aousts may have widened the parking.

opment in a high-tech company. He lived at 518 with his wife and two children from 2003 until 2014. Bidnyk still owns the property, and currently rents it out.

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List of Sources

Ancestry.com - a subscription-based online service which can be consulted at the City Archives - brings together references from the Census, registers of births, marriages and deaths and other sources contributed by families.

Pinecrest interment records - obituaries for families buried in the Cemetery. Similar records are available at Notre-Dame and Beechwood.

Brault, Lucien *Ottawa Old and New*. Ottawa: Ottawa Historical Research Institute, 1946 - First published in 1942 by the University of Ottawa as *Ottawa, la capitale du Canada*. - Based on Brault's own research, and on questionnaires sent to many community and religious groups in the City.

Citizen - articles from the Ottawa Citizen newspaper can be consulted through Google News, a subscription-based service which can be consulted at the Ottawa Public Library.

City of Ottawa, building permit records. A fee is charged to review these records, and staff remove all personal information before release. Almost all early records were lost when the City Hall burnt in 1931.

City of Ottawa Planning Branch *Urban Renewal Ottawa Canada* 1962.

City Directories - published annually (or more recently biennially), can be consulted on micro-film at the Ottawa Public Library, or in paper at Library and Archives Canada. The Directories list the names of residents house-by-house. Older volumes also indicate occupation, sometimes age and relationship, and whether the resident was an owner or renter. Especially in later years, Directory information is not always reliable.

Elliott, Bruce *Nepean: the City Beyond*. Nepean: City of Nepean, 1991 - A history of the former City of Nepean. useful because much of the former City of Ottawa was at some point within the municipality of Nepean, and much of the development of Nepean was an extension of or response to the growth of Ottawa.

Journal - *articles from the former Ottawa Journal newspaper can be searched on Newspapers.com, a subscription-based service which can be consulted at the City of Ottawa Archives.*

Newton, Michael -*Lower Town, National Capital Commission 1979 - a detailed study prepared for the NCC's own use. Volume 1 covers all of Lowertown, but Volume 2 covers for the most part only the commercial area south of St Patrick and west of King Edward.*

RO - Ontario Land Registry Office 4, Judicial district of Ottawa-Carleton. Plans and instruments (deeds, mortgages and other contracts) registered with the office before the mid-to-late 1990s can be consulted on microfilm at the Court House, without charge. More recent records are computerized, and a fee is charged for consultation. The main documents consulted for this study were:

- abstracts of the sale of lots 16 and 17, South side of Franklin (Clarence Street) plan 43586 (on microfilm reel 4 AR-131)
- selected instruments as noted in the text.

Ross, Robert *Ottawa Past and Present*. Toronto: Musson, 1927. *Largely based on reminiscences of early residents.*

Segun, Marcel et al *Ste-Anne d'Ottawa: une belle aventure humaine* self-published 2013. *A history of Ste-Anne parish that focuses on the daily life of the members of the parish - where they lived, worked and played, and the impact of urban renewal on the life of the community and the parish. Deals only peripherally with the Macdonald Gardens area, but some interesting photographs of St Patrick and Charlotte Streets. Available in the Ottawa Room, 282.71384.*

Other Ottawa house histories by Marc Lowell and partners

Available for reference in the Ottawa Public Library Main Branch, Ottawa Room

Posted online at <http://househistory.tricolour.ca/>

“Caplans in the Capital”: the Caplan family

Centretown

46 Cartier St (former Carmichael Inn and Spa)
25 Gilmour St
43 Gilmour St (Clarke House)
45 Gilmour St (Fagan House)
59 Maclaren St (Harris House)
660 Maclaren St (available online through johnkingteam.com/blog)
18 Queen Elizabeth Driveway (Haydon House)
25 Somerset St W (Addams House)
300 Somerset St W (Mamma Teresa’s Ristorante)
110 Waverley St
117 Waverley St (available online through johnkingteam.com/blog)

Lowertown

507 and 509 Clarence St
524 Clarence St / 102 Wurtemberg St
18 and 20 Rockwood Ave
78 and 80 Wurtemberg St

New Edinburgh

113 Crichton St

Sandy Hill

585 Besserer St
89 Daly Ave (Gasthaus Switzerland)
27 Goulbourn Ave (available online through johnkingteam.com/blog)
27 Sweetland Ave (available online through johnkingteam.com/blog)

McKellar

842 Byron Ave