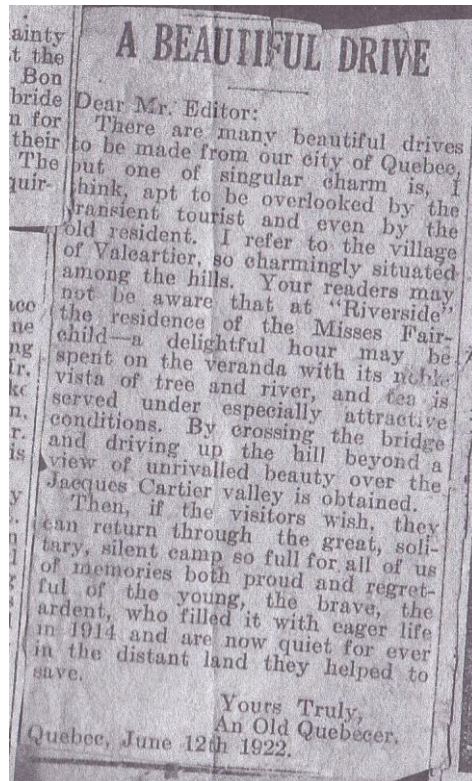


WHERE EXACTLY WAS RIVERSIDE, THE HOUSE OF THE FAIRCHILD FAMILY?

New Information added March 22, 2022:

Newspaper articles have recently been found that most likely confirm that Riverside was the property owned by the Fairchild family, first by George Moore Fairchild, Jr. and after his death, inherited by his daughters, Queenie and Constance Fairchild. (See more detailed information about the location of the property in the body of this paper). The first article occurred in a newspaper (possibly the Quebec chronicle) in 1922.



The second article, undated, seems to have been written after George Moore Fairchild, Jr's death in 1912 as it only refers to his wife.



It is also likely that George died on the property as an article in the Quebec Chronicle on September 19, 1912, regarding his death indicates he was hunting on his property on the banks of the Jacques Cartier River.

Body of Famous Writer Is Found on Banks of Jacques Cartier River.

Lying dead near his residence at Valcartier, on the banks of the Jacques Cartier River, which he had loved so well and of which he had so many times written, the body of Geo. M. Fairchild, Jr., was found yesterday afternoon.

A brief message to Coroner Jolicoeur last evening brought news of the accidental death of the well-known writer and publicist, and the doctor will leave this morning for the scene of the accident to hold an inquest.

Killed While Hunting.

According to the news received by the coroner, Mr. Fairchild had left in the morning with his gun for a trip over the territory surrounding his home, seeking some sport. Later in the afternoon he was found with a gunshot wound in his body, but how the accident occurred is so far unknown.

The Chronicle last evening made every effort to find out further details about the accident, but owing to the difficulties in telephone connection, it was almost impossible to secure any further news of the accident.

(article continued on next page)

Well Known in Quebec.

The figure of Geo. M. Fairchild, Jr., was a well-known one in Quebec. He was one of the best-known literary men in this city, and he had contributed freely to the different papers of the city, as well as to many outside, both in Canada and the United States. He was a man who knew his Quebec and its history thoroughly, and he never failed to point out its great attractions to the many thousands who yearly come to this great Mecca of the North American Continent. He wrote many articles in regard to the winter attractions of the Ancient Capital, and he never failed to impress upon the world that the great northern climate was the best in the world.

An ardent follower of sport, he was a fisherman and hunter, and whether he toyed with the fly in summer or went off on snowshoes in the winter after big game, he was always the same genial sportsman. He was a friend of all who met and became acquainted with him, and the news of his death will cause the deepest sorrow among a circle of friends almost continent wide.

And finally, a notice in the Quebec Chronicle on December 6, 1923 states: "The Misses Constance and Queenie Fairchild have sold their estate at River View, Valcartier, and will spend the winter months at Lorette." Although the article states that the property is called River View, it is likely that this refers to the "Riverside" property.

By Patricia Balkcom 2016; revised by Debbie Chakour, Clark McIntosh, and Patricia Balkcom, July 2019

In 1903, Sir James McPherson LeMoine, wrote an essay entitled "A July Outing in the Laurentides" (published as part of a collection in the book Maple Leaves by LeMoine, in 1906, Frank Carrel, publisher). In this particular essay, he describes a trip he took with George Moore Fairchild, Jr. through Valcartier on Dominion Day, 1903. Of interest to me is discovering the location of the house, named *Riverside*, that belonged to the Fairchild family.

LeMoine starts out his trip by saying:

"As we approached what is known as the settlement (the village proper), we passed the site of the Wolff homestead, which is only indicated now by a clump of lilacs."

This is in reference to Alexander J. Wolff's residence which was on the west side of Valcartier Blvd (in the 3rd Concession) near the road to the Valcartier Military Base at the southern end of

Valcartier. Alexander J. Wolff died in 1863 and his farm was subdivided between his son Jacob George Alexander (often listed as George J.) Wolff who died in 1892, and Arthur Alexander Wolff who died in 1897. The farm was then taken over by Arthur's son, George. It is not clear why LeMoine states that all that was left was a clump of lilacs unless he was describing the original site of the homestead and George Wolff was perhaps living in a newer home by 1903.

"The settlement can yet hardly be called a village. It straggles along a mile of wide road. We were much pleased with the appearance of the little Episcopal Church, which is built of stone, and old Gothic in Architecture. On a commanding hillock is the Presbyterian church, a substantial structure in cut stone, surmounted by a belfry. Some little distance further on we came to the Roman Catholic Church, a fine stone structure erected in 1852."

From this description, we can tell the direction of travel – from southeast to northwest.

LeMoine continues:

"We stopped at the residence of Col. Charles Wolff for a short chat with its owner."

Charles Stuart Wolff who was a Colonel in the local Militia. The Wolff home was just after the Catholic Church. The original fireplace/chimney is still standing and used as an outdoor fireplace. There are many stories of this home, especially as a stopping place for people coming from or going to Pine River. The post office was located here as well for many years (1862-1885) as it was located between the communities of Valcartier West and Valcartier East.

"a sweep of the road brought us within sight of the Jacques Cartier river, far famed for its beautiful scenes, large trout, and goodly salmon near its mouth. Below wound the Jacques Cartier through many channels among dozens of green islands covered with great elms, and the background, mountains and more mountains for miles and miles."

As the islands are upstream from the bridge and are many in number, I believe he was standing somewhere before where the little parkette is located today looking over the River.

"On a well cleared point nestled the old-time great house of the late William Neilson."

We know of at least two Neilson Houses in Valcartier that at one time belonged to William Neilson. The first was located near the Fairchild House and reportedly was built in 1843 (according to the *Reperatoire du Patrimoine Culturel de Quebec*) – this house has been renovated and is now white with a yellow trim. William lived in this house from at least the mid-1860s until possibly his death in 1895. The other house was across the river on a point of the river – known locally as the Clark/Montgomery House. William Neilson transferred this house to his son-in-law, Hopper Ireland, in 1866 a couple of years after Hopper had married William's daughter, Maria Ursula Hubert Neilson. This house was sold to Mrs. L.E. Gauvreau in 1881. The house is still standing but is in an advanced state of decay. A little further upstream to this are several islands that LeMoine was referring to. According to Debbie Chakour, it would have been visible from the road and there is a photo of the house from this perspective with no trees blocking the view. Since LeMoine mentioned that the house sat on a point, it appears he was referring to the "Clark/Montgomery House". He also calls it the "old-time great house of William Neilson" and does not refer to it here as Riverside.

"A fine steel bridge spans the river here, and on a commanding wooded terrace above the river we come to the lovely summer home of Mr. G.M. Fairchild, senior. It is our humble opinion, one of the most picturesque homesteads about Quebec."

This sounds like he was standing near the bridge, then the commanding wooded terrace would have been near that location. The house is described as one that would have stood out amongst all the others in the region, including that of William Neilson.

"It is appropriately named Riverside, for the river almost encircles it, and along the latter's wooded shores are well trimmed paths, rustic seats, log camps and summer houses large enough to be lived in, a boat house and camping grounds and picnic spots, for the owner is never so happy as when others are enjoying the fruits of his well-planned property."

The description of the grounds surrounding the house seems to indicate there was a fair bit of property around Riverside as well as a beach front.

"Alas! The lengthening shadows round the green Tsononthuan mountain in rear of Riverside, bid me prepare to leave..."

Locals referred to this mountain as Pinkney Mountain and it was located on NW side of the Jacques Cartier River.

In his book From My Quebec Scrapbook, written by George Moore Fairchild, Jr. in 1907, there is the following picture on page 36. No mention of the house occurs in the text of the book.



"Riverside", Valcartier, P.Q.

And the photo below is from the LeMoine book:

It appears to me that the first picture may



be a sketch and the second picture may be a photograph. Notice though the different types of roofs, however, the gallery roof and chimneys are the same.

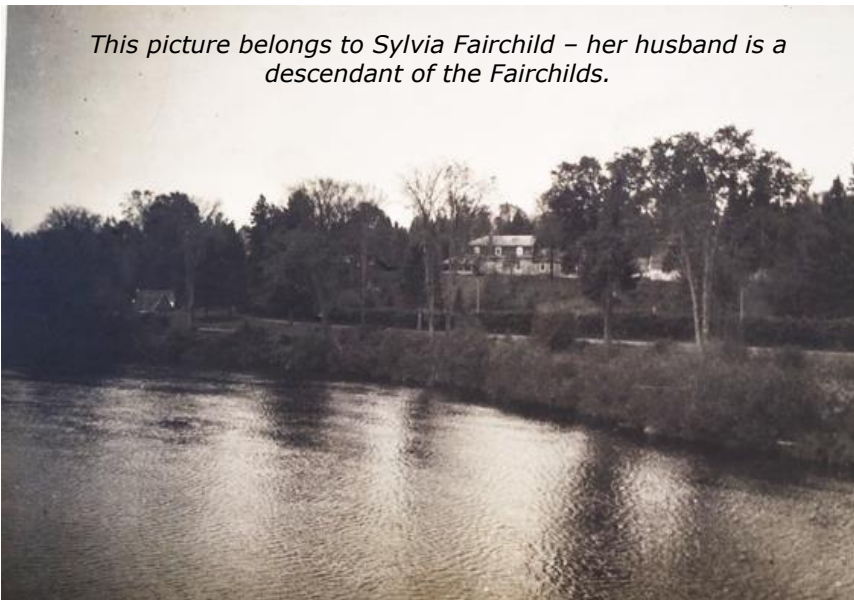


The photograph below is of the Riverside house from across the Jacques Cartier River. The house is located on a terrace overlooking the River. There is a road that passes parallel to the river. The question

remains, where was it located? If the Clark Bridge is to the left, then this house was probably once located where the Price Guest House is located. If the bridge is to the right, then it was most likely located where the Price Gate House or Bigman House was.

On the back of the photo at the below, it says, "*Riverside, residence of GM Fairchild, your great grandfather (this was written to Stuart Fairchild II) and before him of your great-great-grandfather William Neilson.*"

If this inscription is accurate, it appears this house was originally owned by William Neilson. The estate was called Riverside which included the property that this house was located. The house



This picture belongs to Sylvia Fairchild – her husband is a descendant of the Fairchilds.

on the ridge is the same house as the photo on the previous page at the top right. Sadly, this house was torn down, date unknown. I have not been able to determine if William Neilson ever lived in the house before the Fairchild's took possession of it.

Due to the angle of the photo, it appears likely that it was taken from the Clark Bridge, thus adding to the likelihood it was located around the site of the Bigman House.

According to Debbie Chakour, she has not seen anything that says William lived in this house called Riverside. From what she's seen, William moved from the big house across the river to the yellow and white house which would be located to the right of the house in this picture. Clark Montgomery remembers visiting this house. He was showed the photo, and on the map he pointed to the place the Bigman house was located. He also described it as "on the road to the school Joli-Bois." Clark Montgomery was born in 1927, so this would indicate that the house

was still standing into the 1930s. Allen Rourke remembers that when they put in this road, they dug up a foundation. This leads to the likelihood that the house called *Riverside* was pulled down to build the Bigman House. Connie Fairchild lived in this house before she moved away sometime after 1921.

It is possible that *Riverside* was an old house and either burned or was pulled down to put up a more modern house - called the gatehouse before the Bigmans moved in. However, it could very well have been destroyed one way or another before the Price family moved there. The document received from the Marist Brothers never mentions *Riverside* or Fairchild.

The following implies that *Riverside* first belonged to William Neilson and then was sold to George Moore Fairchild, Sr. The following reference may support this - In a report from the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa, School Report of Trustees to John Neilson, Sr. - the end of the report is signed "Mr. William Neilson, *Riverside*, Valcartier; November 21, 1833". (from Bernie Monaghan's Writings, 1980s, Section 3, p. 72).

Clark McIntosh believes this is in reference to the estate owned by the Neilson family which at least included lots #129, 131, 132, 133, 134 and 273. In the document from the Marist Brothers, the land in those lots changed ownership back and forth between the Neilsons and Fairchilds quite often.

Interestingly, in 1821 an accounting of most of the residents of Valcartier was made and it states that John Neilson, lived on Concession III in "River side". It is beginning to sound like John was the original owner of the property and then gave it to his son, William. One would think that the implication is that there were some kind of living quarters on the property as early as the 1820s.

This is the listing for the 1824 "Census" that has John living on *Riverside*: (From p. 186 in the book entitled, *A Political and Historical Account of Lower Canada: With Remarks on the Present Situation of the People, as Regards Their Manners, Character, Religion, etc.* by Pierre de Sales La Terriere in 1830.)

3rd CONCESSION.

Francis Barnard,
 — Clement,
 Edward Hunt,
 John Johnson,
 Pierre Renaud,
 W. & B. O'Hara,
 Wm. Brown,
 M. Campbell,
 J. O'Hara, } Occupied by
 } 4 Emigrant
 } Families.
 A. Buchanan,
 Henry Patten,
 John Mather,
 Andrew Kerr,
 Robert Goodfellow,
 Mr. Neilson, River side,
 Wm. White,
 Wm. White,
 Joseph Pierce,
 John O'Hara,
 Peter Dawsey,

2												1
2												1
2												1
1												1
2	4	2	2							1		1
5	3	1	2	2	1	1	2	4	8	6		80
1	7	3	4				1	4	3	2		62
2	4	3	1	2	2		2	1	3	5		50
7	4		4									40
												10
3	3	2	1	2	2		1		4	3		30
2	3		3						2	1		20
2	2		2									1
3												1
1							1	2	7	2		35
2				2	2		1	2	4	5		20
												4
												4
												4
												4
37	30	11	19	8	7	1	8	13	31	26		370



On this very early map of Valcartier at the left, there were two houses marked: Stuart's House on the NW bank and John Neilson's House on the SE bank of the Jacques Cartier River, located in the area later known as Riverside.

The Two Neilson Houses:

It is fairly well-known that William Neilson owned two houses – both houses still stand. One is located on the current property of the Marist Brothers (I would describe this as being on the southside of the River, before you cross the Iron Bridge when leaving the Village of Valcartier).

This house dates back to at least 1860, because they found a newspaper of that date in a wall while renovating. On the *Repertoire du Patrimoine Culturel de Quebec website*, it indicates that this house was built in 1843. However, no source for this date is given.

At the right is a picture of that house.



The other house is on the opposite side of the river, after crossing the Iron Bridge and making a right turn onto Chemin Lewis. Interestingly, as you enter this property, there is a sign that says "Riverside Farms". (The current owner, Brent Montgomery, was asked about this and he did not know the history of the sign. The sign was there when *Couvoir Quebec* became owners of the property.) The house is currently in a state of deterioration. It was once known locally as the Clark/Montgomery House but most call it the Montgomery House as they are of the age to remember Norm and Mamie (Clark) Montgomery who lived in it up until the 1970s.



It is possible that it was built by John Neilson around 1830 for his son, William. Deb Chakour has seen somewhere in her research, that John established his son in this house, and may have paid to have the house built. In the 1831 censuses, William is named as the owner of a house on the 4th range. There is one child that would be the right age for his first born. There is also one Catholic woman, plus 6-7 others living there. As it was listed on the 4th Concession, it sounds like William was living in this house in 1831, or at least living on the lot. The Catholic woman would be referring to William's wife, Margaret Cassin, who he married in 1830.

Architecturally, the houses look very similar as they have the same type of roof, same window and chimney placements, etc., possibly indicating they may have been built by the same person. Neither house looks like the house that was called *Riverside* and owned by G. M. Fairchild – thus the mystery. No one seems to remember another large house, such as the size of *Riverside*, being located near the river. Debbie Chakour also agrees that *Riverside* was neither of the Neilson Houses, but as mentioned earlier, was no longer standing in the Price time, 1929. It was torn down to build the gatehouse to the Price Estate which became the Bigman house.



Wm. Neilson - Fairchild Home, Valcartier

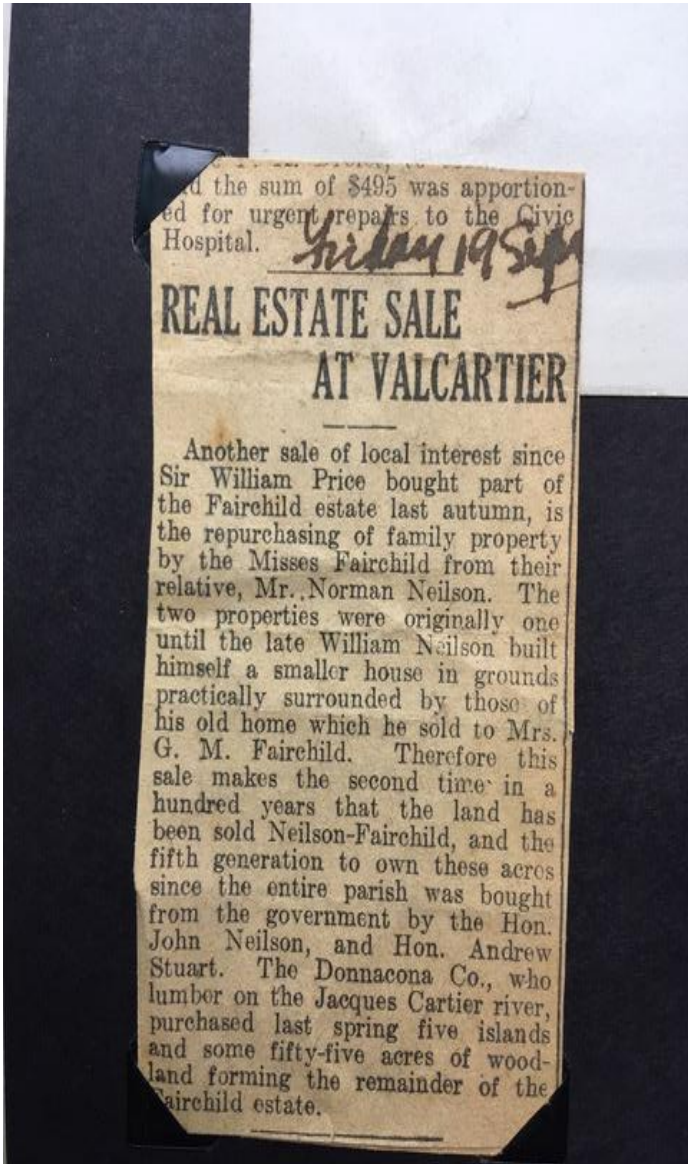
We also have a lovely little story in June Raybould's book, [A Homespun Valcartier Story 1737-1994](#), about her mother, Ethel Ford, who had one set of grandparents within easy reach – Col. Charles Stuart Wolff and his wife, Isabelle Neilson living in the house with her mother, and William Neilson living a short distance down the road. Just to complicate the issue, in her book she included a house she identified as the William Neilson – Fairchild house. As you can see from the photograph, it was a modest, small house. Did William build a smaller house for him and his second wife, Elizabeth McAdams, to live in? (Margaret Cassin had died in 1853 and William remarried sometime in the 1860s). Where was it located? What happened to it? This house was built before William Neilson's death in 1895. Why was the home called the Neilson-Fairchild home in the caption at the bottom of the photo? Did one of the Fairchild children occupy this home as well?

Information from Wayne & Sylvia Fairchild

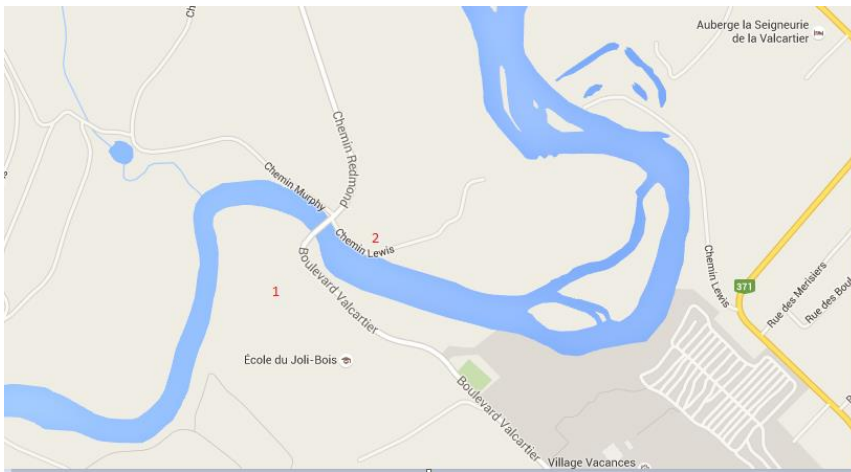
From family stories/sources, Wayne Fairchild's (who currently lives in New Brunswick) understanding was that the Fairchild property once belonged to William Neilson and is now part of the Frere Maristes property located in the bend of the Jacques Cartier River, on the south side, below Clark Bridge. There were a number of land changes between Wolff and Fairchild relatives. He believes the Fairchild home burned down and Price built another house on the same foundation, called "the Gatehouse".

His great Aunt Constance "Connie" lived at the gate house to the property for a while, some years after it had been sold to Price Brothers in 1929. At one time, the Fairchild Property was so well known that public notices were posted there for people to see (like at the Post Office, possibly also because it was beside the bridge access).

The year of the article is one year after Price Brothers bought part of property. Sir William Price died in October of 1924, so the date of sale was either just before he died, or the fall of 1923.



For location purposes, here is a current-day map of the area. I have inserted a # 1 where the first house (belonging to the Brothers – the white house with the yellow trim) is approximately located and a # 2 where the second house (the Clark/Montgomery House) is on the other side of the Iron Bridge.



So, reviewing the clues that LeMoine gave us while on his trip in 1903:

1. on a commanding wooded terrace above the river
2. for the river almost encircles it
3. the green Tsononthuan mountain in rear of Riverside

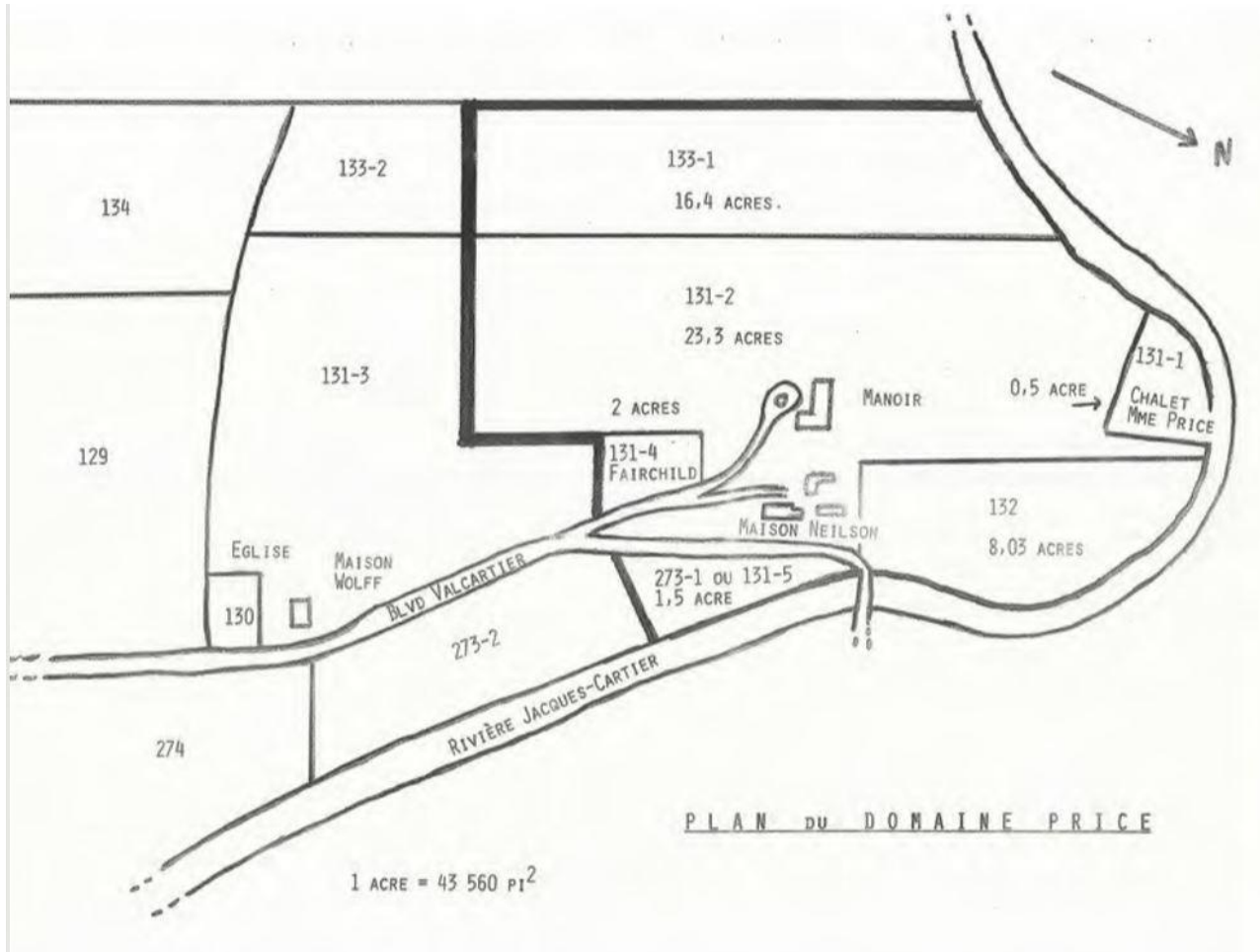
From the map, we can see that there are two curves in the river, that might mean the “river almost encircles it” – the curve above where the #1 is, and the curve below where the #2 is. However, I think that “above the river” could mean on the far side of the river after crossing the bridge or it could mean on the northside of the river. Remember that when he was describing it, he was located approximately on the road just by the current “Ecole du Joli-Bois” on the map. I wouldn’t think that from that location, one would say a house was above the river if it was located where the #1 is situated. The Nielson house at #2, would be described as below the river and would have been visible as you approached the bridge. Also, the mountain is visible behind the location 1, not location 2.

This map, although not very clear, was found in the BANQ and is dated about 1920. It shows the river and the surrounding lots, although not a clear image. Interestingly, there appears to be a semi-circular road located in the area of the Guest House and the Joli-Bois School. It most likely was the road leading to what was the Fairchild estate.



This is a map that found indicating Lot numbers in the area I have labelled #1 on the colored map presented earlier. This map and article can be found at http://www.freresmaristes.qc.ca/maison_formation/scolasticat_valcartier/levis_1945-1990-1.pdf.

The Neilson house (the picture above of the house with the yellow paint around the windows) is located on the map marked "Maison Neilson" at the end of the dead-end road. This is a summary of the history of the different lots from that article. (Clark Montgomery put his finger on lot 131-4 on the "ild" of Fairchild. The road is not exactly like this now. The Catholic Church is located on Lot #274



Source: from a Presentation by F. Gabriel Bolduc given to the Freres Maristes on 19 Mar 1990 on the 45th Anniversary of the Brothers having occupied the land.

History of Ownership of Significant Lots Related to Riverside

The information on the accompanying lots was provided by Clark McIntosh and a Deed Search by the St. Gabriel-de-Valcartier Historical Society.

According to the Lot Ownership Descriptions compiled by Majella Murphy, the lots were owned by the following (Note: the list only provides the owners from about 1870):

Lot #127 and 128 were vacant.

Lot #129 was owned by Carl Wolff

Lot #130 was donated for the Catholic Church

Lot #131 was owned by Wolff and then Fairchild

Lot #132 and 133 were owned by Wolff, Fairchild and then Neilson

Lot #134 was owned by Carl Wolff and part owned by Andrew McCartney.

Lot #273 was owned by Carl Wolff

Lot #274 was donated from Andrew Stuart and owned by the Fabrique of St Gabriel of Valcartier.

Concession III, Lot #131:

It appears that this lot was originally held onto by John Neilson and made up part of the Neilson estate located on the 3rd Concession SE of the Jacques Cartier River. According to the Cadastre Abrege, John Neilson held 260 acres and his son, William had a lot of 90 acres. The Catholic Church was 5 acres (Lot #130, and later Lot #274), and there was another lot of 90 acres held by a Neilson. There was no Wolff family living around this area in the mid-1860s.

1. In a notary act of 1874, it stated that William Neilson had purchased for \$200, part of Lot 131 on August 22, 1857, for his daughter, Isabel, born c1830, and married to Charles Stuart Wolff in January 1857.
2. Margaret Neilson gave the church, part of Lot 131 on July 26, 1877. (Notary Cyprien Labreque, #1976)
3. It is known that the "Maison Neilson" house was built on the land that William had purchased in 1857. The building of the house is thought to have occurred about 1843 and over the years has been known by the different names – Maison Neilson, Club House and Villa St. Leon. (it is pictured above – the house with the yellow paint around the windows and is marked on the map as Maison Neilson).
4. On the 10th August 1888, William, at the age of 84 stated in his Will: "give and bequeath to his said wife Elizabeth MacAdams a part of the land one hundred and thirty one of the cadastral plan of the Parish of St. Gabriel of Valcartier, County of Quebec, in the Third Concession North East of the River Jacques Cartier, containing two acres in superficies, bounded as follows: on the North East and North West by the said lot one hundred and thirty one occupied by Mrs. K. Temple Fairchild, and on the South East and South West by the lot one hundred and thirty two occupied by Charles Stuart Wolff with the buildings thereon erected, circumstances and dependencies, together with the household furniture, goods, moveable effects, instruments of agriculture, horses, cows, sheep, and poultry, and all and everything appertaining and belonging to the said Testator by her freely to be possessed and enjoyed en pleine et entière propriété from the day of his decease and forever."
5. After his stepmother died in January 1911, Cornelius Neilson (*son of William and Margaret*) inherited part of Lot 131. As he had moved to the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area he sold it to Norman R. Neilson (*who was his first cousin, son of John Neilson and Laura Moorhead*).
6. In 1924, Norman Neilson sold to Constance Fairchild, that part of Lot 131 that he owned for \$3000.
7. According to Eric Corrigan, it was three years later, in 1927, that John Herbert Price bought the lot 131 and the house that belonged to William Neilson, and other neighbouring properties. He built the "Manor" situated on the higher ground in the years 1929-1930. He bettered the place by planting 20 large elm trees. He also built a chalet (possibly a summer residence) situated near the river, called the Price Guest House.

Majella Murphy once told Eric that they dug the earth from around the perimeter of the trees in the Fall and let it freeze and during the winter hauled the trees from the grounds which had been expropriated for the Valcartier camp to the site of the Neilson grounds for planting.

8. In 1929, John Herbert Price bought Lot 131-4 from Constance Fairchild.
9. According to Eric Corrigan, during the depression, around 1933 or 1934, the Donnacona Company bought the majority of the properties owned by the Price Brothers and sold the Valcartier property, which was valued at \$400,000 to Celestin Simard, a merchant in Quebec City, in a liquidation sale for only \$15,000 in 1941. Simard in turn resold it the same year on November 4th, to Joseph Bastien who turned it over in the same month to a firm called "Valcartier Furniture".
10. On 26 January 1945, the Freres Maristes (Marist Brothers) bought the property and named it Villa St. Leon in honor of one of the first Brothers who lived there.
11. William Neilson split the lot into separate sections and gave Lot #131-3 to his daughter Isabel (1831-1895) when she married Charles S. Wolff (1831-1909). I believe William also gave her Lot #129, #134 as well as #273. Charles and Isabel had a daughter, Margaret Alice Wolff (1857- ?) who married in 1879 to George Moore Fairchild Jr (1854-1912). George Fairchild Jr. was the son of George Fairchild Sr. and Kezia Temple Fuller. Margaret Alice Wolff was a sister to Carl. George Jr. and Margaret had four children born between 1880 and 1886. George was a well-known author.

This is a picture of the Manor that Price built and that is now owned by the Marists. Of special note: In this extensive history of the lots that now belong to the Marist Brothers, there is never any mention of a "Riverside" house.



Concession III, Lot 132 –

1. In 1885, William Neilson sold to Mrs. George Fairchild, lot 132. Later, this lot was exchanged for lot 131-4, and more recently was known by the owner Bigman, who was a female friend of Jack Price.
2. In 1912, Mrs. George Fairchild gave lots 132, 273 and part of 131 to her younger daughter, Constance.
3. In 1923, the Quebec Investment Company bought lots 132, 273 and part of 131 from Constance Fairchild.
4. In 1924, Norman Neilson, sold to Constance, part of Lot 131.
5. On December 20, 1927, John Herbert Price bought part of Lot 131 and the house that had belonged to William Neilson for \$18,607. Two months later, in February, 1928, he

bought from Carl Nathaniel Wolff a large lot by Lake Ferre and the Jacques Cartier River for \$8,000. He built the Manor situated up the hill in 1929 and 1930. He also built a chalet situated by the river in 1935.

Concession III, Lot 134 –

Andrew McCartney (1845-1892), a son of James McCartney and Margaret Kerr, married Janet Wolff (1846-1927) and they owned this Lot.

Concession IV, Lot #258, North West of the Jacques Cartier River

William Neilson was born 2 December 1805 in Quebec City to John Neilson and Marie Ursule Hubert. William married in the Anglican Holy Trinity Cathedral in Quebec City on 15 Feb 1830 to Margaret Cassin. Margaret was born 31 Oct 1814 in County Laois, Ireland, to Michael Cassin and Margaret Kelly. According to the 1852 Agricultural Census, they lived on 400 acres in Valcartier West. Margaret died 22 May 1853. The 1861 census shows William and his son, Samuel, both living in Valcartier West, that is, north west of the Jacques Cartier River.

Sometime between 1861 and 1871, William had remarried to Elizabeth MacAdams, and were listed as living in Valcartier East in 1871 and thereafter. Interestingly, he had no occupation listed for those censuses.

William Neilson and Margaret Cassin had a son by the name of Samuel Neilson. He was born 10 Apr 1840. Listed in the Wesleyan Methodist Church records is the marriage dated 26 Feb 1859, to Elizabeth Brown. Elizabeth was born about 1841 to William Brown and Agnes Clark. Samuel and Elizabeth moved to Huron County sometime in the mid-1860s. Elizabeth died 25 Apr 1881 in Howick, Huron County, Ontario. Samuel is believed to have moved with his three children to Grand Forks, North Dakota about 1885.

There is a deed dated 27 Oct 1866, for the sale of land from Samuel Neilson to his father, William Neilson. The lot was fronted by Hopper Ireland; in the rear was Henry Rourke; SE was the Jacques Cartier River and in the West by Samuel Neilson. The deed may have been for Lot #289, but in the document states that Samuel also owned the lot to the west of it, so that being Lot #288.

William married his second wife, Elizabeth MacAdams (McAdams) sometime after the 1861 census. Elizabeth was born about 1833 in Ireland and died in Quebec City in January 1911. William was listed as a widower in the 1861 census and Elizabeth was living with the family – no occupation given so it is unknown in what capacity she was residing there. They were living in Valcartier West for that census.

By the 1871 census, William and Elizabeth were married and now living in Valcartier East.

The land then went to James Burns. Clark McIntosh believes that James Burns was either born out of wedlock to Bridget McCabe or that his father had died. They arrived in Valcartier about 1838. It is believed that he was either born at sea or soon after Bridget arrived. Bridget married 28 Sep 1841 to Samuel Clark who was born c1799 in Carrick, Scotland and came over to work on the estate of John Neilson, Esq. Samuel and Bridget had two more children. James Burns married Martha McPherson (1840-1906) on the 29 Mar 1864. She was the daughter of William McPherson and Rachel McKinley. They had two daughters: Rachel 1868 and Bridget 1874.

Rachel Burns was born 31 Jan 1868 in Valcartier West and died 28 Apr 1945 in Valcartier. She married 31 Dec 1888 in Valcartier to James 'Yellow Jim' Clark who was born 22 Aug 1865 and died 24 Aug 1942 in Valcartier West. They lived on the farm by the bridge which was called the "Clark Bridge". Yellow Jim and

Rachel had a family of five born between 1890 and 1900. The farm was inherited by their oldest son, Augustas Temple Clark (1890-1981) then his son, Raymond Clark (1927-1996).

Concession IV, Lot #259 & #260, North West of the Jacques Cartier River

This lot was originally owned by John Neilson Esq., then his son, William Neilson. William passed it on to Hopper Ireland, born 26 Mar 1840 and died 31 Mar 1882 in Valcartier. He was the son of Hopper Ireland and Mary Watt. Hopper married 30 Jun 1863 to Maria Ursule Hubert Neilson (1844-1929), a daughter of William Neilson and Margaret Cassin. They had three children born between 1864 and 1873.

William Neilson sold lot #259 to his son-in-law Hopper Ireland Jr on 22 May 1866. The lot was 134 arpents and bounded in front towards the SE by the Jacques Cartier River; rear towards NW by property of Henry Rourke and Samuel Neilson; west by James Burns and east by William Neilson. William sold Lot #260 to Hopper Ireland on 24 Jun 1876.

Hopper Jr was born 26 Mar 1840 in Valcartier and died 31 Mar 1882. He was the son of Hopper Sr and Mary Watt. He married 30 Jun 1863 in the Presbyterian Church in Valcartier to Maria Ursule Hubert Neilson, the daughter of William Neilson and Margaret Cassin. She was born 24 May 1844 in Valcartier and died 17 Dec 1929 in Valcartier. By the 1891 census, Maria was living in Beauport with her son Grant and daughter Elizabeth Hannah.

At the death of Hopper Ireland, he still owed money for the two lots. In order to settle the debt, the lots were sold to Marie Anna Legare, the wife of Louis Edmond Gauvreau, a physician, on 16 Nov 1881. In turn, Mrs. Gauvreau sold the lots to Samuel Clark on 10 Jul 1885.

Next owner was Samuel Clark. He was born 28 Jul 1842 in Valcartier to Samuel Clark and Bridget McCabe, and he died 12 Nov 1932 in Valcartier. On 20 Feb 1865, he married Helen McBain in the Presbyterian Church in Valcartier. Helen was born 5 Apr 1841 to James McBain and Catherine Kerr and she died 1 Oct 1906. They had two children: Sarah Helen Clark 1866-1964; and James Clark 1867-1930. Sarah married Carl Nathaniel Wolff and James married Janet Jack. James and Janet had a daughter by the name of Marion Irene 'Mamie' Clark 1894-1972. She married in 1926 to Norman Joseph Montgomery 1898-1981, and they had a son by the name of Clark Montgomery. When the Montgomery's moved to London, Ontario, the farm was sold to Valcartier Poultry. The original Neilson House remains on the lot although is in derelict condition.

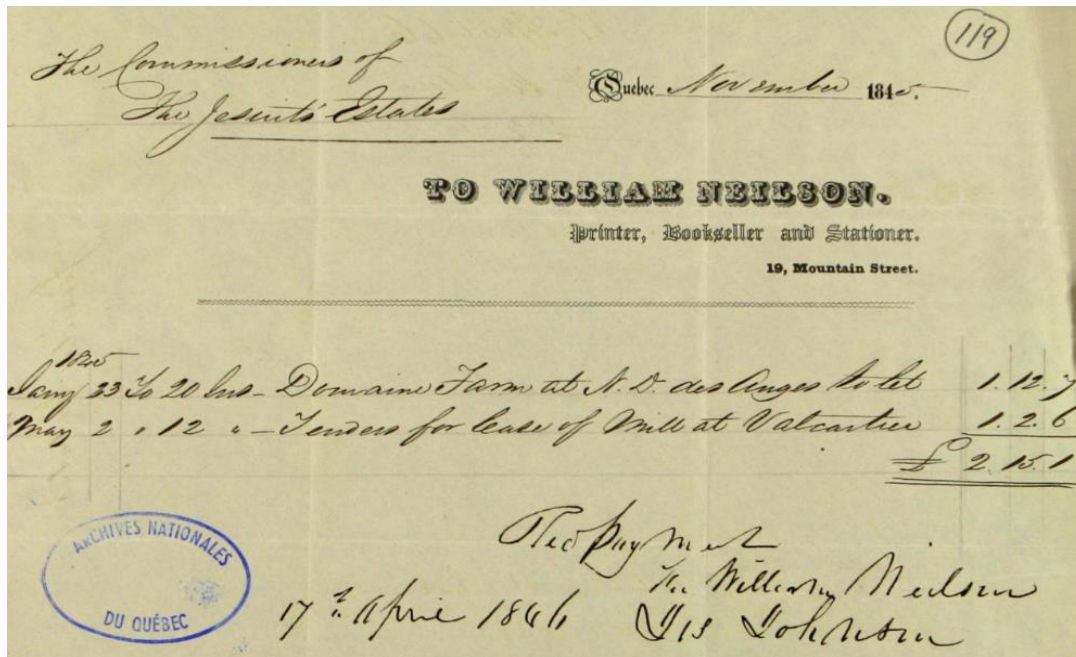


During the early settlement of Valcartier, John Neilson kept a large tract of land, (see red circle on map), about 400 arpents, North West of the Jacques Cartier River in the 4th Concession. The

area was later sub-divided into three lots: 258, 259 and 260. Lot #256 was owned by Henry Rourke.



When the settlement was first surveyed, the land nearest the river was reserved for a Mill. William Neilson represented his father's interests in Valcartier and acted as a Seignior of the many lots that had been sold by his father. At that time the landowners paid for their lots by paying an annual rent. William would do the bookkeeping required.

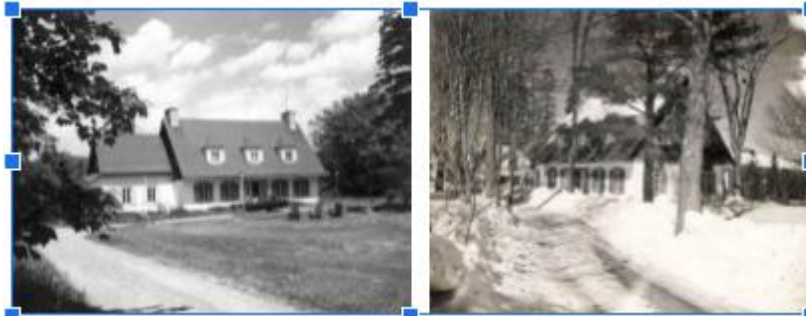


History of Some of the Heritage Houses

Neilson House

The heritage value given to this property lies mainly in its age, its architecture, its state of authenticity and its history. The two-story elevation, the steeply pitched right-angled roof, the hipped dormers, the stone chimneys at each end, the casement windows, the wooden paneled main door, are typical elements of the traditional Quebec house built in the first half of the 19th century.

This house is one of two houses owned by William Neilson. It is now owned and managed by a religious order of Brothers. It is located just northwest of the St. Gabriel Catholic Church. This house is called the William Neilson House or Maison Neilson. It was thought to have been built in 1860, as an old newspaper was found in the walls of the house found during a renovation. However, the heritage website – Répertoire du Patrimoine Culturel de Québec, indicates the house may have been built closer to 1843. Because it appears from the 1851 and 1861 census that he was living in Valcartier West, it is not clear as to who would have been living in it prior to William and Elizabeth moving into it in the mid-1860s.



Price House

The heritage value of this house lies in its historical interest and architecture. The elevation on two floors, the roof with two very steep slopes, the chimneys at the ends of the roof, the

dormers with rump, are typical elements of the Quebec regionalism of the years 1920 and 1930.



In the aerial photograph below, it shows the property now belonging to the Freres Maristes. Notice the location of the estate in the middle of the photo. It is not along the waters' edge, but is built on a terrace overlooking the Jacques Cartier River. You can see the Clark Bridge at the right of the photo. You can also make out the roof of a house located along the river which was called the Price House or La Villa Price which was bought by the brothers after 1945 and renamed Villa des Pins. From the photo of the house below, you can see that the Price House is located close to the water's edge. The Fairchild home was located on higher ground, and most likely on ground that would be at the right of the photo.



Clark/Montgomery House

Efforts underway to save the Neilson House in Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier

POSTED BY PIERRE D. LITTLE, PUBLISHED: NOVEMBER 27, 2010

The Neilson House, in Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier, Quebec, has been chosen as one of the five finalists in the Historia TV contest, "Sauvez un bâtiment de chez vous." The public is invited to vote on-line at www.historiatv.com from Tuesday, November 16 through Friday, December 10, 2010. At stake is "La Bourse Historia pour le Patrimoine," a \$20,000 grant toward the restoration of a heritage building.

The Neilson House, also known locally as the Clark/Montgomery House, is a mid-19th century house constructed in the neo-classical style. The Honorable John Neilson most likely built it in 1830, but some evidence suggests that his son, William, built it closer to 1850. In either case, it remains the oldest house in Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier and dates back to the origins of this village. In fact, it was John Neilson, along with his three partners, who opened up the region around the Jacques-Cartier River for settlement in 1816. Known for years simply as "The Settlement," this community grew to become the municipality of Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier.

John Neilson, politician and journalist, was an extraordinary man for his times. He believed fully in the harmonious cohabitation of the French and the English. In fact, shortly after immigrating

from Scotland to Quebec in 1791, he married Marie-Ursule Hubert and raised ten children; the boys brought up in the Presbyterian Church and the girls raised Catholic like their mother. He was the owner and publisher of the Quebec Gazette, which is still published today as the Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph, and served as a Deputy in the Canadian Party under the leadership of Louis-Joseph Papineau. John Neilson died in 1848 in Cap-Rouge and is buried in the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church cemetery in Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier. His wife, Marie-Ursule, is buried beneath the Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier Catholic Church. Almost 200 years after the founding of "The Settlement," this municipality continues John Neilson's vision of living in harmony and welcomes all with the motto "Together, in the Heart of Nature."



Though there is no evidence that John Neilson ever lived in the Neilson House, we do know that his son William lived here. A couple of different families lived in the house before Samuel Clark purchased it in 1870. Samuel lived here with his son and daughter-in-law, James Clark and Janet (Jack) Clark. When James and Janet's daughter, Mamie, married Norman Montgomery in 1926, the house entered its best-known years. Local residents still recall the parties of the late 1940's and early 1950's at the Montgomery's with the music of local "musicianers" such as Basil and David Banning. An exceptionally large house for its day, the north side was closed off most of the time. The big empty rooms, however, were the perfect place for a square dance.

Mamie, Norman and their son, Clark Montgomery, moved away in 1966, eventually settling in Ontario where Clark, now age 83, still lives. Although the house has been abandoned since then, there are still many Clark-Montgomery cousins, nieces, nephews and friends living in the area who remember the warmth of this home and have hopes of seeing the building restored.

The project to save the Neilson House was instigated by Mont-Saint-Sacrement Secondary School student, Charles Breton-Demeule, resident of Lac-Delage. Passionate about local history, Charles has been learning about this area through the MSS Archaeology Club as well as through research for his Secondary V personal project, "Mettre en valeur le patrimoine de Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier." When he learned of the Historia Contest, saving the Neilson House became front and center of his activities. Working with Debbie Chakour, cultural activities coordinator for Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier, he rallied the MSS students and the Valcartier community to nominate the Neilson House for this contest. So many people went on-line to nominate the Neilson House, attach a photo and explain why they thought the building should be saved, that Historia had to take notice. Take notice they did and chose the Neilson House as one of five finalists from across the province.

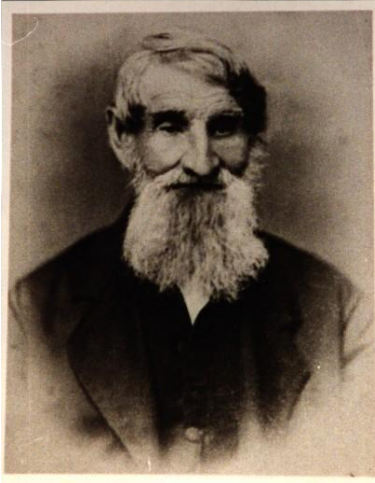
Now it is up to the public. The building receiving the most votes from Tuesday, November 16 to Friday, December 10, 2010 will be awarded the \$20,000 grant. Everyone is invited to participate, whether living in Quebec or anywhere that has access to the Historia website.

The Neilson House is currently owned by Couvoir Quebec - Quebec Turkey Hatchery, but will be open to the public when it is restored. What does the future have in store for the Neilson House? Possibilities include an exhibition room for heritage artifacts, space for historical archives, a hall for cultural events and a big empty room for a square dance.



Neilson/Clark/Montgomery House - 1926

Genealogical Notes



William Neilson

William Neilson was the fifth child of John and Marie and the second oldest son. He was born 2 Dec 1805 in Quebec City and died in Valcartier 7 July 1895. His baptism took place 23 Dec 1805 in the St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Quebec City. He was the only child of John Neilson that lived in Valcartier. He represented his father's interest there and acted in the role of Seigneur of the settlement.

After his brother Samuel died in Staten Island in 1837, he assumed the responsibility of the Valcartier Properties. He married 15 Feb 1830 in Valcartier to Margaret Cassin, the daughter of Michael Cassin and Margaret Kelly. The wedding was recorded in the Aubigny Anglican Church. Margaret was born 31 Oct 1813 in Shanderry, Queen's County in Ireland and baptised on 2 Nov 1814. She died 22 May 1853 in Valcartier. William and Margaret had 10 children, of which were born between 1831 and 1850. Margaret is buried in the Catholic Cemetery beside her father in Valcartier.

William married his second wife, Elizabeth MacAdams in about 1865. Elizabeth was born about 1833 in Ireland and died in Quebec City in 1911. William was listed as a widower in the 1861 census.

The children of William Neilson and Margaret Cassin:

1. Isabel was born 8 Jan 1831 and died in Valcartier on 21 Jan 1895. She married 5 Jan 1857 to Charles Stuart Wolff (1831-1909) the son of Alexander J. Wolff and Hannah Ehler (Alert). Charles was in the 11th Militia Battalion. They had five children between 1857 and 1864: Margaret Alice 1857 (who married George Fairchild, Jr.); William Alexander 1859-1859; Carl Nathaniel 1860; Herbert Levison 1863; and Isabel 1864. Isabel was living at home in 1851, and then recorded with her husband and children for the 1861 through to the 1891 census. They lived on Concession III Lot #131 which was given to them by William Neilson, probably as a wedding gift.
2. William John was born in 23 July 1833 and died in 1 Aug 1834. He was buried in the St Andrew Presbyterian Cemetery in Valcartier.
3. Cornelius Brown was born 12 Aug 1835 and died 12 Aug 1918 in Granville, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He married Margaret Ireland (1838-1917) the daughter of Hopper Ireland and Mary Watt in Valcartier on 17 Nov 1856. They married in 1856 and had two children before immigrating to Wisconsin on 18 Nov 1860. They had seven more children born in Wisconsin beginning in 1862. Cornelius was given Lot #260 in the IV Concession NW of the Jacques Cartier River, again probably as a wedding gift. The Lot was transferred back to his father when he left for Wisconsin.
4. Agnes Janet Neilson was born 26 Feb 1838 and died in Valcartier 5 May 1918. She married in the St Andrew's Presbyterian Church on the 13th Jun 1858 to John Abraham Billing (1828-1904) the son of Curtis Billing and Mary Ann Abraham. They had seven children born between 1859 and 1876. John was a lieutenant in the Canadian Militia. Agnes and John lived their lives in Valcartier on Concession IV Lot #286. Agnes was recorded in the 1911 census in Valcartier.
5. Samuel was born 10 Apr 1840. He married Elizabeth Brown on 26 Feb 1859 in the Wesleyan Church and had three children before leaving Valcartier in the mid-1860s.

Elizabeth was born in 1841 to William Brown and Agnes Clark and she died in 1881 in Howick Township, Huron County, Ontario. Samuel moved away from Huron County sometime after the death of Elizabeth and is believed to have settled near Grand Forks, North Dakota. Samuel was given Lot #258 in the III Concession NW of the Jacques Cartier River by his father.

6. Margaret was born 3 May 1842 and died 22 Feb 1913 in Lincoln, Nebraska. She followed her brother Cornelius to the US where she met her husband, John Reynolds (1827-1902). Their marriage was recorded in 1865 in the St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Valcartier. They had at least five children and immigrated to Nebraska in 1892.
7. Maria Ursule Hubert Neilson was born 24 May 1844 and died in Valcartier 17 Dec 1929. She married 30 Jun 1863 to Hopper Ireland (1840-1882) the son of Hopper Sr and Mary Watt. Hopper was born 26 Mar 1840 in Valcartier and died there 31 Mar 1882. They had three children between 1864 and 1873. They had received Lot #259 in the IV Concession North West of the Jacques Cartier River. Maria left Valcartier after her husband died.
8. Elizabeth Laura Neilson was born 27 Aug 1846 and died at the age of 27 on 12 Dec 1873 in Valcartier. Elizabeth was buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Valcartier. She had married in 1864 to Robert Ross (1838-1885) who also died in Valcartier. They had three children between 1865 and 1868.
9. William was born in Valcartier on 22 Oct 1848. It is believed he died young.
10. John was born 10 Nov 1850 and died 9 Jun 1855 in Valcartier at the age of 4 years and 7 months. His mother had predeceased him.

The only Neilson left in Valcartier by 1921 was Norman R. Neilson, born in 1852 to John Neilson and Laura Moorhead.

George Moore Fairchild Sr.



George M. Fairchild Sr was born 27 Jan 1828 in Devonshire, England. He immigrated to the United States where he married Kezia Temple Fuller on 3 Jan 1852 in New York City. They moved to Quebec City where George worked as a Dry Goods Storekeeper. They had their three children all born in Quebec City: William Fuller in 1853; George Moore Jr 1854 and Grace Buckingham Machin in 1855. There is a George Fairchild living in New York City that was listed in the NY City Directory for 1857, who was selling 'shirts'. occupation listed was a 'merchant'.

There is a Notarial Record in the records of Charles Marcotte, for the sale of land in Deschambault in the County of Portneuf to George Moore Fairchild Jr., a 'marchant a commission', in the City of New York, dated 31 Aug 1883.

There are a couple of Notarial Records dated 17 Jul 1885 for his wife, Kezia Temple Fuller, with William Neilson and Charles Stuart Wolff of Valcartier, purchasing land in the Third Concession, SE of the Jacques Cartier River for parts of Lot#131 and Lot#133. The 1891 census lists George and Kezia as living near William Neilson as they are next to each other in the census listing. The 1901 census lists them as living in St-Ambroise. This census lists George's year of immigration as being 1846 from England, and Kezia's as 1896 from the US. George died from pleurisy and capillary bronchitis, respiratory ailments, in Valcartier on 19 Jul 1903 and was buried in Mount Hermon Cemetery in Sillery. The Fairchild home in Valcartier was always described as their

summer home. Perhaps George had ongoing breathing issues and wanted a summer residence to get away from the City. Kezia had moved to Quebec City by the 1911 census. She was living with her son, George, and his family in Banlieue Ward, in the centre of Quebec City. Kezia died 4 Jan 1914 in Quebec City and was also buried in the Mount Hermon Cemetery.

**G. M. FAIRCHILD, SR., DEAD
AT VALCARTIER.**

It is with much regret that we announce to-day the death of Mr. G. M. Fairchild, sr., of Valcartier. The deceased gentleman, who had attained his 76th year, was extremely well-known here, both for his fine personal qualities and also as father of our esteemed friend Mr. G. M. Fairchild, of Cap Rouge.

Mr. Fairchild was a gentleman of the old school and was generally and deservedly held in the very highest esteem. In his own parish, of which he was one of the oldest and most influential inhabitants he was looked up to as representing all that was best and progressive, and the void created by his death will long be felt.

The funeral takes place to-morrow from the late residence of the deceased, and the service at the parish church will be followed by the interment in Mount Hermon Cemetery here.

To all the bereaved relatives the "Mercury" tenders its most sincere sympathy.

George Moore Fairchild Jr.



George Jr was born 6 Nov 1854 (15 Dec 1854 was the date stated on the 1901 Census) in Quebec City. He was an author, was educated at the University of New York, and went into business in New York. George was listed in the 1870 US Census as living in Washington, Bergen, New Jersey with his parents and sister. The 1880 Census, he is listed with his parents and his wife, Alice. His occupation at this time was a clerk in a store. He married 15 Sep 1879 in the Anglican Christ Church in Valcartier, to Margaret Alice Wolff, the daughter of the William Neilson and Margaret Cassin. He had retired from business with a competency in 1880, and settled in Cap-

Rouge, Quebec. He devoted himself to literary and historical pursuits, and to the collection of a library of "Canadiana". I have not been able to find him in the 1891 census, but he was listed in the 1901 census as living in Cap-Rouge, Quebec County, Quebec. In LeMoine's "A July Outing in the Laurentides", written in 1903 of his visit to Valcartier on Dominion Day, he indicates that George Jr. was living in Cap-Rouge. Lemoine must have been visiting his 'friend', George Moore Fairchild Sr, who may have been ill at the time of his visit, as he died 19 Jul 1903.

The 1911 Canadian Census lists George M. Fairchild living with his family in Banlieue Ward in Quebec City. They were also listed in the Census for Valcartier East, but it was crossed out. The census states that he was born in Quebec, his wife Alice born in Valcartier, and his daughter

Frances born in 1880 in Valcartier with Constance being born in 1882 in New Jersey as well as his son, Temple, born in 1884. George was working as an Editor. The census indicated that his daughter Connie, she had immigrated to Canada in 1888.

From an article written by Emmanuel Rioux and published in the newsletter of the Societe Historique of Cap Rouge:

"Son of George Fairchild Moore, George Moore Jr. was born in Fairfield (cannot find this place) Quebec in 1854. As a boy, he moved with his family to New York where he had a solid business education at the University of the American metropolis (due to translation, I believe it's the University of New York). Then he went into business with such application and competence as "local capitalists" the notice and placed within the firm F & K Schoff. At age 36, he already had a substantial fortune. It was then that he returned to Quebec. There he married Alice Wolfe in 1880 (actually 1879), the granddaughter of John Neilson which would give him four children.

Returning to Quebec, he lived first at the manor Stuart Riches (Stuart mansion in Deschambault), before acquiring the manor Atkinson Cap-Rouge (located on heights of Cap-Rouge), which he renames Ravenscliff. There he "cultivates his passions: the arts, literature, hunting, fishing and good company." He is "dedicated to literature and historical research and collection of a Canadiana library. He received his friends, artists like writers, sometimes with him, sometimes at the Chateau Frontenac. Ravenscliffe became the rendezvous of writers and artists of the era, among other highly regarded artists of the time.

Mr G. Fairchild was involved in the municipal council of Cap-Rouge. He served on the council in 1896, and was elected mayor of Cap-Rouge twice: in 1900 and 1903. But in August 1905, he announced his resignation as mayor and councillor, he no longer owns property in Cap-Rouge, but rather now located in Valcartier. This was a dark period of his life. He lost his fortune and his extensive library specializing in Canadiana was auctioned. He left his mansion for a modest house in Valcartier.

G. Mr. Fairchild is a writer, the author of a substantial number of articles published in major newspapers or magazines in the U.S., and books on the Quebec reality. Among his titles, we may retain the following:

- *Canadian Leaves (Quebec, 1887);*
- *Notes on Two Jesuit Manuscripts;*
- *Oritani Souvenir New York, 1888;*
- *Snow Shoe Club Remembrance (New York, 1888);*
- *A Short Account of Ye Quebec Winter Carnival (Quebec 1994);*
- *Rod and Canoe, Rifle and Snowshoe in Q's Adirondacks (Quebec, 1896);*
- *Quebec, The Sportsman's Land Plenty (Quebec, 1899);*
- *A Ridiculous Counting and Other Stories of French Canada (Chicago, 1900);*
- *From My Scrap Book (Quebec, 1907): a chapter titled "Romantic Red Cap, The First French colony in Canada," p. 67-79 for us;*
- *The Journal of an American prisoner of Fort Malden and Quebec in the War of 1812 (Quebec, 1909, at the author).*

Mr. Fairchild deteriorated significantly. On 18 September 1912, he was found dead on the banks of the Jacques Cartier River, killed by a bullet from his shotgun. The investigation concluded an accident!" His funeral took place in the St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Valcartier. Near the church are a tombstone bearing the inscription, FAIRCHILD, beside a plaque inscribed with the names of George Moore Fairchild, his wife Alice Margaret Wolfe and two of their children, only one name is readable: Frances Isabel. Thus ended the life of a lover of literature and art, patron of writers and artists, the sixth mayor of Cap-Rouge."

The Coroner's report states that he died on the 18 September 1912 in Valcartier and that cause of death was suicide by gunshot wound to the head.

There was a street named after him called 'Rue George-M-Fairchild in Cap-Rouge. It is a residential street near Rue Saint-Felix and the Cap-Rouge golf course. He is pictured on signage in what is now the Cartier-Roberval Park in Cap Rouge, as they were the last tenants of the house where it is now known that Cartier-Roberval had their initial French fortification and settlement. The railroad squashed the house when the trestle was built near turn of century. Area is now an archaeological site. There is an active historical society in Cap Rouge that has info and articles published.

By the 1921 Census for Valcartier, Margaret Alice (Wolff) Fairchild was listed with her daughters: Frances and Constance, listed living next to Carl N. Wolff, the son of Charles S. Wolff.

Norman J.R. Neilson died 25 Apr 1925 in St-Foy, Quebec. Fannie Fairchild died 20 Jul 1925 in Quebec City. By the 1940 Voters List, Connie was renting along Chemin St-Louis in Quebec City. Connie died in 1950 I believe in Quebec City. She was buried in the Presbyterian cemetery in Valcartier with her sister and her parents.