

Desjardins

and Derbshire were printers to the council in 1843.

Apart from his official printing Desbarats received the commission to reprint Samuel de Champlain's works, edited by Abbé Charles-Honoré Laverdière*. The completed works were finally published in 1870 under the imprint of his son, George-Édouard*. With his son, George-Paschal subsidized and published *Le Foyer canadien; recueil littéraire et historique* from 1863 until his death; the former carried on until 1865.

Desbarats was an astute and successful businessman. In 1847, with Derbshire, he bought the Ottawa Glass Works at Pointe-à-Cavagnal (Como-Est, Que.), the first glass factory in the province and then just in a formative stage [see François-Xavier DESJARDINS]. He invested in the St Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad and in 1849 wrote a pamphlet on its behalf, *The St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad: its position as a private undertaking, and advantages as a national work*. He is mentioned in documents as acting secretary of the Montreal Mining Company (1847) and president of the St Lawrence Mining Company (1854). At the time of his death he owned an extensive mining tract north of Lake Huron, the Desbarats Location, bought in 1847, land in the Chaudière valley where gold was being prospected, and much other property and land.

George-Paschal Desbarats held the commission of lieutenant-colonel in the militia and was a long time member of the Natural History Society of Montreal and the Horticultural Society. He was married three times: in 1836 to Henriette Dionne, daughter of Amable Dionne*, legislative councillor, by whom he had one son, George-Édouard; in 1841 to Charlotte Selby, daughter of Dr William D. Selby, by whom he had another son; in 1849 to Jessie-Louise Pothier, daughter of Jean-Baptiste-Toussaint Pothier*, legislative councillor, by whom he had two daughters.

AILEEN DESBARATS

G.-P. Desbarats, *The St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad: its position as a private undertaking, and advantages as a national work* (Montreal, 1849).

Desbarats family papers are in the possession of the Desbarats family in Montreal. Can., Prov. of, Legislative Assembly, *Journals*, 1841-64. "Canadian Illustrated News": a commemorative portfolio, ed. Peter Desbarats (Toronto, [1970]). St Lawrence Mining Company, *Report of the president and directors* . . . ([Quebec, 1854]). *Globe*, 12 Nov. 1864. *Le Journal de Québec*, 14 nov. 1864. *La Minerve*, 14 nov. 1864. *Montreal Gazette*, 14 Nov. 1864. *Morning Chronicle*

(Quebec). 12 Nov. 1864. *Quebec Daily Mercury*, 12 Nov. 1864. *Union* (Ottawa), 17 Nov. 1864. Beaulieu et Hamelin. *Lapresse québécoise*, I, 19, 23. O. B. Bishop, *Publications of the government of the Province of Canada, 1841-1867* (Ottawa, 1963), 49-62. Le Jeune, *Dictionnaire*, I, 499. G. F. Stevens, *Canadian glass, 1825-1925* (Toronto, 1967). "Les disparus," *BRH*, XXXIV (1928), 241. Réjean Robidoux, "Les Soirées canadiennes et le Foyer canadien dans le mouvement littéraire québécois de 1860, étude d'histoire littéraire," *Revue de l'université d'Ottawa*, XXVIII (1958), 411.

DESJARDINS, FRANÇOIS-XAVIER, merchant and Patriote; b. c. 1802, probably at Saint-Benoît, Lower Canada, son of Joseph Desjardins and Marie-Josephte Prévost; d. 14 Nov. 1867 at Saint-Michel-de-Vaudreuil (Vaudreuil), Que.

François-Xavier Desjardins's activities remain little known until his participation in the disturbances of 1837-38. On 17 Dec. 1823 Desjardins, identified as "a merchant of upper Vaudreuil," married Mary Delesderniers, daughter of John Mark Crank Delesderniers of Vaudreuil, in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church (St Andrew and St Paul) in Montreal. Three girls and a boy were born of this union. Apparently Desjardins's commercial activities were flourishing at the time of his marriage, since he owned five pieces of land at Pointe-à-Cavagnal (called Como by about 1860, and today Como-Est).

When the 1837-38 insurrection broke out Desjardins joined the ranks of the Patriotes of Vaudreuil and Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes. His participation in the patriotic movement even led to two confinements in prison (from 16 Dec. 1837 to 28 Feb. 1838 and from 4 Nov. to 17 Dec. 1838), as a result of denunciations made by John Augustus MATHISON, leader of the local British loyalists, a justice of the peace, and a long-standing rival of Desjardins. According to these detailed denunciations, Desjardins and his brother Fabien were local Patriote leaders. He held meetings at his house and allegedly helped to recruit and arm about 150 habitants to defend the village of Saint-Benoît. The arms and ammunition may have been supplied to them by his cousin Alsème Desjardins, owner of a foundry at Rigaud who provided ammunition to Dr Jean-Olivier Chénier* of Saint-Eustache. In addition, Desjardins was accused of giving financial support to William Whitlock, an American sympathizer, who roused the local British to revolt by his numerous writings. Although he denied these accusations, Desjardins was probably one of the organizers of the insurrectional movement in its initial stages. He may have taken part in the

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foundation, 1841-1941 (Kingston, Ont., 1941). Campbell, *History of Scotch Presbyterian Church*, 746ff. James Croil, *Life of the Rev. Alex. Mathieson, D.D., minister of St. Andrew's Church, Montreal, with a funeral sermon, by the Rev. John Jenkins* . . . (Montreal, 1870). W. J. Rattray, *The Scot in British North America* (4v., Toronto, 1880-84), III, 851-54.

MATHISON, JOHN AUGUSTUS, soldier; b. 25 Dec. 1781 in London, England; m. in Saint-André-Est, Lower Canada, Harriet Vandenburg; d. 5 Nov. 1868 at Hudson, Que.

A veteran of the Peninsular campaign, John Augustus Mathison retired on half pay as lieutenant of the 77th Foot in 1817. Three years later he came to Canada and purchased a farm in the seigneurie of Vaudreuil, at Pointe-à-Cavagnal (Hudson), where impoverished farmers from northern England had begun to buy farms. Compared to the folk of his community, Mathison was both well educated and, with a modest but steady income from his army pension, quite wealthy. In 1826 he was appointed commissioner of small causes and justice of the peace, and he began to assume the role of squire of the district, being "constantly applied to in matters of difficulty and doubt."

Virtually every activity in this pioneer community was stimulated by Mathison's organizational ability. In 1829 he built a schoolhouse and appointed a teacher at his own expense to serve "the children of very poor parents." In 1832 he organized a campaign to collect money to construct an Anglican church. In 1846 he was the founder and first president of the Vaudreuil Agricultural Society. Mathison also held the ranks of major (1831) and lieutenant-colonel (1846) in the Vaudreuil militia and was the president of the British American League in the county in 1849.

Mathison's local leadership was most clearly shown in 1837-38. Vaudreuil had many Patriote sympathizers and was represented in the assembly by Charles-Ovide Perrault*, killed in the battle of Saint-Denis in November 1837. Late in that same month when Patriote agitation seemed to threaten the security of the English speaking minority in Vaudreuil, Mathison formed "a refuge in the woods of Canada" for the women and children of the area and organized the men to meet an expected Patriote assault. Although the attack did not occur, in early December Sir John COLBORNE authorized Mathison to transform his *ad hoc* guard into an active unit of volunteer militia. Following the battle of Saint-Eustache, the Vaudreuil Loyal Volunteers under Mathison's command disarmed the French inhabitants of the seigneurie of Vaudreuil and patrolled it [see

François-Xavier DESJARDINS]; "they . . . were fortunate," noted bishop George Jehoshaphat MOUNTAIN, "to have such an officer to head them as Major Mathison."

Others had a less flattering view of Mathison's leadership. One critic, William Whitlock, in 1838 called him "a petty tyrant"; another, Robert Unwin HARWOOD, seigneur of Vaudreuil, in the same year claimed he was "unjust, partial and arbitrary." Autocratic Tory though he was, Mathison seems to have served his community well and was adept at obtaining governmental assistance for local needs such as in education and agriculture. No believer in democracy, Mathison was nevertheless popularly elected to several positions he held. Thus when his political adversaries caused him to lose his position as justice of the peace in 1847 because of a dispute about a new school law, the people of his community (about 100 English speaking families) responded by petitioning for his reappointment, and during the election of that year chose him as "a worthy and capable person to represent the county." As in the election of 1831, when he was defeated, and in the election of 1841, when he was suggested as a candidate to Lord Sydenham [Thomson*] but was finally passed over, Mathison was luckless in 1847 and withdrew before the vote was held.

With the advent of responsible government and of the dominance of commercial men over the gentleman farmers, the power of Mathison - and other Tories like him - waned and eventually vanished. Changing times brought younger leaders with more sophisticated techniques of control.

JOHN BESWARICK THOMPSON

ANQ-Q, QBC 25. Événements de 1837-1838, nos. 1064, 3895. PAC, RG 4, A1, S-215, p. 152; B30, 80; RG 8, I (C series), 1039, pp. 106, 175; 1044, pp. 3, 55, 175; RG 9, I, C2, 3; RG 19, E5, 3797, pp. 1067-127. Private archives, Miss Ethel Kyte (Darien, Conn.), Mathison papers. PRO, WO 31/322. Can., Prov. of, Legislative Assembly, *Journals*, 1843, II, app. J.J.; 1850, I, app. J. *Journal d'agriculture et transactions de la Société d'agriculture du Bas-Canada* (Montréal), janvier 1848, mai 1849. *La Minerve*, 9 août, 27, 30 déc. 1847; 3 janv. 1848. *Montreal Gazette*, 10 Dec. 1831. *Montreal Transcript*, 28 Dec. 1837, 3 Jan. 1848. E. C. Royle, *An historical study of the Anglican parish of Vaudreuil* (Hudson Heights, Que., 1952). J. B. Thompson, *Cavagnal, 1820-1867* (2nd ed., [Hudson, Que.], 1970).

MAURALT, JOSEPH-PIERRE-ANSELME, priest, missionary, and historian; b. 27 Dec. 1819 at Saint-Louis-de-Kamouraska (Kamouraska, Que.), son of Cyriac Maurault, militia captain

and merchant, and É. d. 4 July 1870 at Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière (Pierreville, Que.).

Joseph-Pierre-Anselme descended from a Poitou family that came to Quebec in 1656. He studied at the Petit Séminaire de Québec, teaching natural sciences from 1811 to 1814 as the secretary of the Turgeon, coadjutor of the bishop of Quebec. Ordained by the bishop on 10 Feb. 1842, Maurault was assigned to Saint-François-du-Lac de-Boules, Indians of the district, 1844, 1845, and 1846.

In 1848 Maurault was assigned to the parish of Saint-François-du-Lac de-Boules. He opened a new church in 1848, which was larger than the old one on the Saint-François Fort had so strongly opposed. The new church, decided by the affair had gone to the islanders, Maurault parish. In 1852 he bought the east bank of the Saint-François, he built a church to make the centre for the parish. COOKE, the bishop of the parish, displeased with this in precedent in the history of the parish, however, he viewed the view, and entrusted to him. He was named Saint-Thomé to the initiative of the brothers, Thomas and Joseph, brought from Kamouraska around the new church. shipping, this village parish.

From 1841, Maurault was the Abenaki mission (Odanak) near Saint-François-du-Lac. He quickly mastered the Abenaki language, tried, without complete success, the efforts of Osun (Pierre-Paul Masta) to convert the Indians. Maurault also and 1865, that are arranged in the Abenaki mission. In 1856 he presented himself as a commissioner appointed to settle the affairs [see Richard]. In it he proposed that the mission be taken from government tutelage.