

# Cogswell

*"I neither despise nor fear"*  
*December 2003*



## Cogswell Courier

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# Cogswell Courier

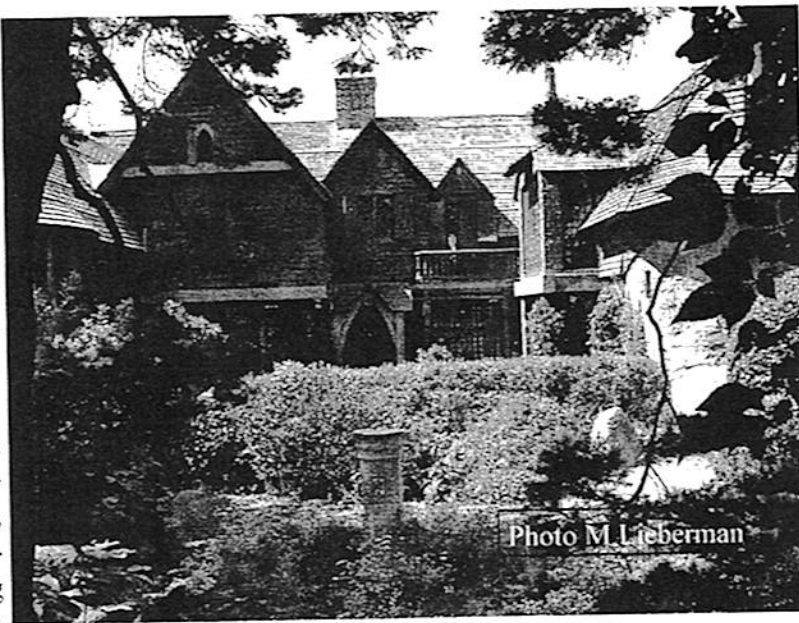
## Beauport and its Cogswell Links

This past summer we took our older daughter Kim, her daughter Alisha, and our oldest son David's son Max to the annual CFA reunion in Fredericton. We wanted to introduce them to their New England Cogswell history. On the agenda were Pemaquid, of course, and Cogswell's Grant. Unfortunately the latter was open only on weekends due to SPNEA budget cuts, so they could see only the outside of the house. So off we went to another SPNEA property with a Cogswell connection.

Henry Davis Sleeper, a Boston-born collector and designer, bought land on Eastern Point overlooking Gloucester Harbor. Here he built his summer house, "Beauport," a fantasy house to which he periodically added rooms as a literary or historical theme struck him. With more than forty rooms, the house is filled with folk art, china, colored glass, furniture and curiosities of all sorts.

It all began shortly after acquiring the land in 1907. Sleeper was driving through nearby Essex

when he came upon a dilapidated house about to be dismantled. It was a house built by William Cogswell [DJC 97] around the same time as the house at Cogswell's Grant, which was built by his first cousin Jonathan Cogswell [DJC 88]. Sleeper continued on his way, but soon returned for a second look, accompanied by Isabella Stewart Gardner, the well-known art collector and patron. [Sleeper and Gardner are in the car shown in the picture on page 8.] Sleeper decided to buy the woodwork of the Cogswell house, subsequently installing the paneling in four rooms. The original entry to Beauport is called Cogswell Hall.



*Sleeper-McCann House or Beauport on Eastern Point overlooking Gloucester Harbor*

Henry Sleeper's objective was to identify his place with America's past, although several of his rooms have foreign themes. One of Sleeper's favorite rooms was the Pembroke room, with paneling from parts of the 1628 Barker house of Pembroke, Massachusetts. This had been the homestead of his mother's ancestral family. Until it was torn down in 1917, it was the oldest framed dwelling in America. Sleeper took most of his meals in this room.

## Getting To Know You

by . . . . Pat Cogswell

Patricia Scott (Perkins) Cogswell was born on March 11, 1947, in Washington, DC, to Thomas Everett Perkins, Sr. and Claire Winthrop (Bitting) Perkins. I was a redhead, according to all the pictures, and my attending nurse nicknamed me Pinky, which stuck with me until I was 12 years old and decided that I had outgrown its use. I have an older brother, Thomas Everett Perkins, Jr., who is retired from the Navy and resides in Norfolk, Virginia, and a younger sister, Eleanor Leigh Perkins, who resides in Arnold, Maryland. My family originally lived in Northern Virginia, but soon relocated to Maryland where I spent the next 51 years of my life. My father was born in Kentucky, but grew up in Minnesota, while my mother was a native Marylander.

My childhood was just plain wonderful. At the age of 6, we lived on a tobacco farm in Mitchellville, Maryland, with my grandfather, Clayton Newton Bitting, who was of German descent. I still have very fond memories of all the things we did on that farm; the vegetable gardens (we had two), the canning, the planting and harvesting of tobacco, corn and wheat, raising pigs, the 4-H Club, the fun times swimming in the mud holes and the tomato patch fights with my big brother.

I attended Mullikin Elementary School and had the same first and third grade teacher as my mother. I started Junior High school at Frederick Sasser Junior/Senior High School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. When I was in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, we moved to Landover Hills, Maryland...and believe it or not, that's when I met Don at the Methodist Church's YMF group. My best friend, my mother, passed away when I was 15 years old, which left a very big hole in my heart. I helped my father raise my sister, Leigh, until I left home at 18. I graduated from Bladensburg Senior High School in June of 1965. In September of 1965, I married my childhood sweetheart and we setup house in Takoma Park, Maryland.

In 1966, Don and I had a wonderful, redheaded daughter, Denise Lorraine Cogswell. She is the joy of our life. When Denise was 4 years old, my father passed away. Denise turned out to be a very talented musician, she played the violin for several years and then took up singing. The very first time we heard her do a solo, we were amazed to find that she had such very lovely voice. Denise graduated from High School a year earlier than most, when she was 17 years old (guess she gets the smarts from her Dad.) Denise is now 37 years old, and lives in Monroe, Michigan, with her husband, Mike Welch and our two wonderful grandsons, James Kelsey and William Scott (also a redhead.)

I worked for 27 ½ years for Bell Atlantic, which is now called Verizon. I spent the entire time in the Directory Services Department and accomplished many things that I am proud of: the first being the testing organization I setup, that improved our new software deployment 100%, and the second being the implementation of a Help-Desk system that was very user friendly, widely appreciated and saved the company lots of money. But my biggest accomplishment in 27 1/2 years, was all the wonderful friends I made, and I still keep in touch with them today. I retired in January of 1999 and in April of 2000, Don and I moved to sunny Sebring, Florida (J.A.D.I.P. -- Just Another Day In Paradise.)

While I'm not a direct descendent of John Cogswell, I feel like I am a Cogswell. William Perkins was living in Ipswich when the Cogswells arrived, and John [1] later sold land to William's son, John Perkins. It may be true that Don and I "reunited" these pioneer families. Don and I will be married 38 years this September, and I can honestly say they have been the best 38 years of my life...I wouldn't have wanted to spend it with anyone else. I hope that more of you will send Mary Lieberman a "Getting To Know You" article for the Courier, so we can all learn more about our wonderful Cogswell family friends.

## From the "new" President's Desk . . . .by Pat Cogswell



I understand that the Reunion in Fredericton, New Brunswick was a resounding success. Thank you Malcolm, Jean and Janette for another wonderful experience with our northern neighbors in Canada. There is so much of our history to be found north of the USA border. Don and I were both disappointed that we didn't get to attend this year's CFA reunion, but look forward to seeing all of you at the 2004 reunion.

For those who did attend, thank you for electing me your new CFA President. I look forward to continuing the fine traditions of the CFA with the help of all the wonderful officers and board of directors. It all started in 1989 with just a few members who could be counted on your two hands. Look at how we have grown...I

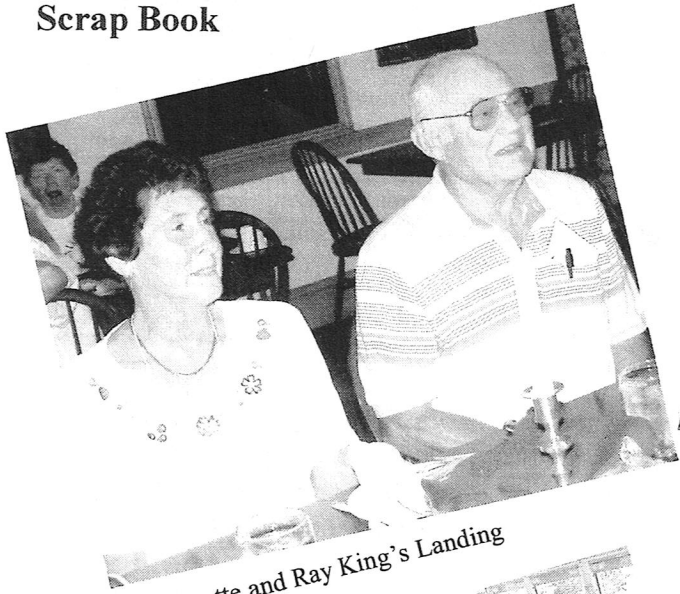
understand from our Secretary Claire Cogswell-Daigle that we have gone over the 400 members mark. What a remarkable accomplishment...we can all be proud.

In 1998, the CFA published the first historical genealogy of the Descendants of John Cogswell since Jameson's book in 1884. That was not only a major undertaking for the Association and our Historian, Don Cogswell, but turned out to be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to relate our family history for future generations of Cogswells.

In 2000, we started a scholarship program, which allowed us to help enrich the lives of a graduating senior from the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, CT, and a deserving student at the Cogswell Polytechnical College in Sunnyvale, CA. It gives me a very warm feeling to know that we, the CFA members, have already begun to help our future generation.

I hope that over the next two years we can continue to increase the size and effectiveness of our organization; continue to add more Cogswell genealogy to our database; and continue to identify deserving students for our scholarships. With your help, we can achieve these goals and continue to be a thriving, growing, and caring association. I look forward to serving as your President.

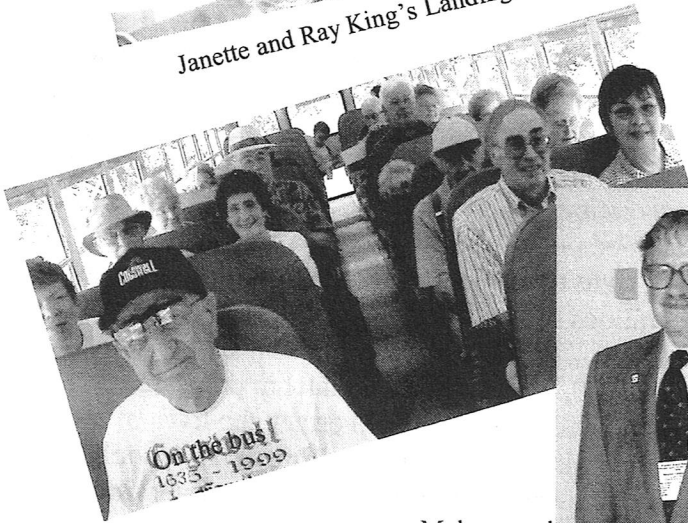
Scrap Book



Janette and Ray King's Landing



River Tour



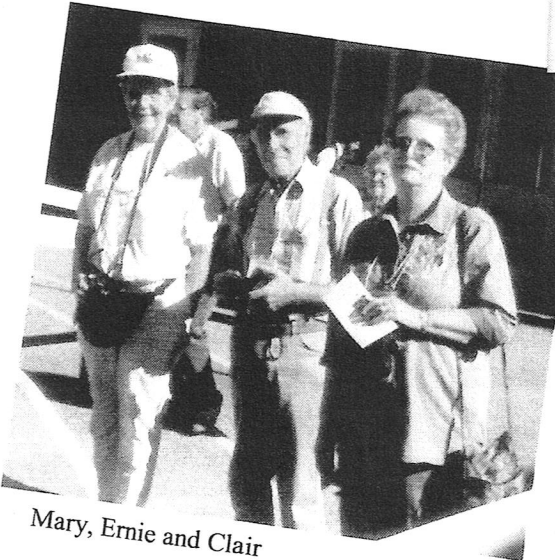
Malcom and Jean



King's Landing



Our hosts at banquet in hotel



Mary, Ernie and Clair



Alex Cogswell

Prescott and Wilma

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1st row—Claire Cogswell Daigle and Ernie Daigle  
and Alisha Su Fujita  
2nd row—Jeannette & Ray Cogswell Edmund & Poy Cogswell  
3rd row—Peg & Gordon Cogswell Prescott & Wilma Cogswell  
4th row—Amanda, Susan (Cogswell) & Dean Anderson David & Andrea Cogswell  
5th row—Alex Cogswell and father Mark Cogswell  
6th row—Malcolm & Jean (Ellis) Cogswell Phyllis J. (Cogswell) Leverton  
7th row—Charles & Gwenda Cogswell Kim Alison Lieberman  
8th row—Max Lieberman Hal & Mary Lieberman



## The Plight of Adam Cogswell

From Oscar and Lilian Handlin, *Liberty and Power, 1600-1760* (New York: Harper & Row, 1986), p. 219:

An act of 1679, effective in England, Guernsey, and Jersey made the writ of habeas corpus, in existence since the Magna Carta, a complete instrument for protecting personal liberty, prescribing the exact manner of its use, and penalizing officials who failed to act according to law. A party imprisoned without sufficient warrant could recover damages against those responsible. In 1710 Queen Anne extended the statute to the colonies.

However, the statute in itself had little consequence. Those who suffered did not easily find relief, as Adam Cogswell of Ipswich discovered when he complained unheeded of fourteen months' unjust confinement to prison (1719).

From the *Journal of the House of Representatives* of Massachusetts, November 21, 1719, pp. 192-193:

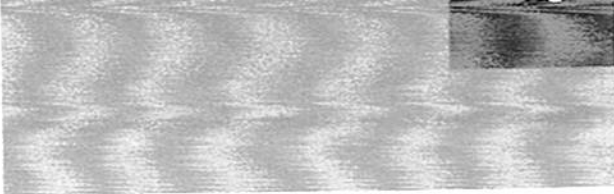
A petition of *Adam Cogswell* of *Ipswich*, was presented to the House & Read, Complaining, That he has been for the space of 14 Months unjustly and illegally Confined in the Prison there, from which he can obtain no Release, praying this Court to have consideration of his miserable Condition, and grant him Relief, for reasons in the said Petition rendered.

And the Question being put, *Whether the prayer of the said Petition be Granted?*  
It pass'd in the Negative.

- Questions: 1. Which Adam Cogswell was this--#23 [DJC], his son #109, or still another Adam?  
2. Why was Adam imprisoned and when and how did he get out?

Obviously, more research is needed.





## Two Major Genealogical Resources in Downtown Hartford, Connecticut

Peg Simons provides the following information for genealogical researchers:

### **The Connecticut Historical Society**

The library houses over 100,000 books, including many rare books, 3,000,000 manuscripts, printed genealogies, many Connecticut town and city directories, and local histories (including published vital records, church records, and cemetery inscriptions) for New England and some non-New England states. Reference materials include published passenger and immigration lists, military lists, biographical dictionaries, hereditary registers, genealogical indices and bibliographies, and 1790-1850 census indices for New England, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Genealogical manuscripts include collections compiled by professional genealogists for clients or by individuals working on their own families. Material is filed by family or town, and includes compiled family histories, data sheets, notes, copies of Bible records, abstracts of probate, land, church, and vital records. A major body of work is the manuscript archive of Donald L. Jacobus, the "Dean of American Genealogists," a prolific and authoritative family historian.

There are many early documents from various Connecticut towns, with 159 separate collections filed by the name of the town.

Microfilm, microfiche, and major genealogical periodicals are readily available.

### **The Connecticut State Library**

This library has an extensive collection of local histories and genealogies, with particular emphasis on Connecticut and New England. Here are vital records, land records, and probate records from the 1600's, church records from hundreds of Connecticut churches, transcriptions of family Bible records and cemetery inscriptions, abstracts of newspaper notices of marriages and deaths, and military records. There are also Federal census records, an index to New England naturalization petitions, and indexes to and collections of ship passenger lists and other immigration records. Connecticut atlases and maps, city directories, and newspapers are found here.

The Barbour Collection: This is a major resource, including a slip index and bound volumes for individual towns. The index is a statewide alphabetical file consisting of more than a million slips arranged by name of individual and, within that, chronologically. Each slip contains a complete abstract of an event, usually a birth, marriage, or death. Where parentage, residence, or relationship is found in the original entry, it is included in the Barbour abstract.

Records from various private sources, such as diaries, letters, account books, and sexton records are abstracted on slips and interfiled.

The library holds original or copies of the records of over 600 Connecticut churches, as well an index of Bible and family records that date back to the 1600's. There is also a collection of Connecticut cemetery inscriptions, bound in volumes for each town, and indexed on slips in a single alphabetical file.

In the History and Genealogy Reading Room there is a "Special Genealogical File" which has original material filed alphabetically by name, one name to a folder.

## Beauport and its Cogswell Links

(continued from page 1)

During World War I, Sleeper was a founder of the American Field Service and served at length in France, becoming director in 1918. Upon his return, he completed his Octagon room to honor the Franco-American relationship. Other rooms include the Strawberry Hill room, the China Trade room, and the Green dining room with Cogswell paneling.

Sleeper loved to entertain, and Beauport had many visitors. He "designed and had built a central kitchen with service pantries radiating out to five dining rooms, each with its own theme and suited for a specific type of food.... Meals at Beauport were renowned for their fresh ingredients and lavish use of lobster, wild rice, butter, and cream, as well as for their dramatic settings...." [See Jane C. Nylander, *Windows on the Past*, SPNEA.]

Sleeper's imaginative use of light, color, and space marked him as a master decorator, and his career moved in that direction. Among his clients in the early 1930's were Johnny Mack Brown, Joan Crawford, and Fredric March.

Beauport was featured in many books and magazines, was referred to in numerous decorator monographs, and helped spark a revival of interest in colonial themes. Henry Francis du Pont, after visiting Beauport, decided to build an American house at Southampton, Long Island; Sleeper was commissioned to design the interi-

ors. Later, when du Pont constructed the American wing at his Winterthur Museum in Delaware, Sleeper's influence was clearly evident.

In 1911 Sleeper became the first director of the museum of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Sleeper died in 1934,



Max Lieberman and Alisha Fujita holding the photograph of the William Cogswell house before it was demolished.

by which time the house was more than triple its original size. In 1935, just when the house was to be sold off room by room to museums and collectors, it was bought intact by Charles and Helena Woolworth McCann. They made very few changes, recognizing the house's impact in promoting things American. In 1942, Beauport (now also

known as the Sleeper-McCann House) and its contents were donated to SPNEA by the McCann children.

\* \* \* \*

Since the next CFA annual meeting will be in Boothbay, Maine, we suggest that those attending try to visit Beauport as well as Cogswell's Grant, if they have not already done so. The two sites are less than ten miles apart.

## From the Secretary's Computer

by Claire Cogswell-Daigle



Hello,

Once again I am asking the members who have changed servers for email to please notify me. We have a lot with invalid email addresses.

Also we still have some unpaid dues for 2003. If you haven't sent in your dues, please do it now. I will be starting on the dues for 2004 in another month.

Our reunion this year was very good. Weather was warm and sunny. We did lots of visiting with each other and the tours were excellent.

Thank you, Malcolm and Jean

Cogswell and Jeannette Cogswell. A job well done and enjoyed by all.

Our membership is still growing. We now have four hundred and twelve members.

Our reunion for 2004 is in works and after the holidays you will receive all the information.

Until next time have a "Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year."



## The Cogswell Family Association, Inc. welcomes the following members into the family

*Jim Rodabaugh*

*Horseheads, NY*

*Patricia Carr Lamerdin*

*San Francisco, CA*

*Robert & Beverly J. Vlcek*

*Beaver Crossing, NE*

*Arthur M. Fowler*

*Johnson City, TN*

*Megan M. Cogswell*

*New York, NY*

Jeanette Cogswell read this poem for us at the banquet in Fredericton. It was written by her mother, Mabel Smith at the age of ninety three. Her mother died a few months later.

### **My Last Poem**

**There's an old house by a meadow  
Where our parents raised us nine  
In the beautiful surroundings  
Of maple, elms and pine.**

**There we shared our lives together  
With good parents as our guide  
Trying always to be obedient  
And enjoy our sense of pride.**

**Our father, who loved music  
Would sit in his rocking chair  
With his voice both loud and clear  
Would sing the old songs we all held so dear.**

**Like, The Little Old Church in the Wildwood  
And the Sweet Bye and Bye  
Often a catchy one  
Like Coming Through the Rye.**

**But those days are long gone  
I'm the only one left to sigh  
But maybe we'll meet again  
By our meadow in the sky  
In the Sweet Bye and Bye.**

**Mabel Smith**

# Cogswell Family Association, Inc.

## Treasurer's Report

January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002

INFLOWS	
Book	\$ 1,663.64
Contributions	5.45
Dues	6,051.15
Interest	135.15
Reunion	449.39
Intinc	2,234.31
Total Inflows	10,539.09
OUTFLOWS	
Assoc	481.49
Donations	500.00
Member (incl. newsletter, postage, telephone)	3,498.30
Print	216.60
Total Outflows	4,696.39
OVERALL TOTAL	\$5,842.70

CFA NET WORTH as of December 31, 2002 (includes unrealized gains)

ASSETS: Cash and Bank Accounts--CFA Finance	\$ 664.40
--Savings	<u>14,278.60</u>
Total	14,943.00
Investments--CDs	<u>57,383.07</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	72,326.07
LIABILITIES	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	\$72,326.07

## Canadian Connections by Malcolm Cogswell



About 1866, a number of Irish Americans, wishing to aid the cause of Irish Independence from Britain, formed themselves into the Fenian Society, and decided to further their cause by attacking the British Colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

It is part of the history of one of the churches I serve (at Philipsburg, Quebec) that militia were stationed in the balcony of the church to watch out a window for invading Fenians coming up Lake Champlain. Most of the raids didn't get very far. The one at Philipsburg got stopped at a tavern in either Swanton or St. Albans, Vermont, whiskey serving as an effective British ally.

I didn't think there was any Cogswell connection to that, but have just found one. Between March 27th and April 14th, 1866, an attack was expected at Ferguson's Cove, I believe in Nova Scotia. (This place no longer appears on N. S. maps.) It must have been near Halifax, because the Halifax Militia Auxiliary was sent to guard the expected attack site. It was under the command of Lt. Colonel H. Dewar, and one of his officers was **Capt. Robert H. Cogswell**, 3rd Bde, G. A. (Sorry - I don't know what G. A. stands for. I assume that Bde is Brigade.)

The name appears in a list prepared for a belated awarding of medals, although most of the names (including Robert H. Cogswell) have nothing to indicate that a medal was due. However, those still surviving were contacted - the

date 15 8 1900 appears, along with the "present address," which for Mr. Cogswell is given as 175 Barrington St., Halifax.

Who was he? This Robert H. Cogswell is not listed in *Descendants of John Cogswell*, and he could be a descendant of another Cogswell family who came to Nova Scotia from Britain in the late 18th century. Or he could be one we have so far missed?

According to the 1881 census, he was born about 1841 in Nova Scotia, and was a married merchant, head of the household of English origin, and Church of England religion. He had a son Robert born in December 1880. (The child was 4 months old at the time of the census.)

A list of "Atlantic Canadians 1600-1900" has four references which might or might not all be the same man:

1871: Robert Cogswell, watchmaker, living in Halifax.

1878: Robert H. Cogswell, businessman, living in Halifax County.

1896: R. H. Cogswell, jeweler & watchmaker, living in Halifax.

1908: R. H. Cogswell, ship's chronometers for Hire, living in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Although it's a long shot - if anyone knows anything about this Robert H. Cogswell, I'd like to hear about it.

(Malcolm Cogswell, 51 River St., Bedford, Quebec, J0J 1A0)

## From the Editor's Den

...By Mary Lieberman



With eight inches of new snow on the ground it is hard to believe that just a few months ago we were enjoying summer in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Though there were not as many members at the reunion as we usually have, those who attended had a great time. Those who got there early had a lovely river cruise. Hal and I were able to bring our daughter and two grandchildren to meet all our Cogswell cousins. It was a real treat for us as well as for them. Friday evening we were able to do a little sightseeing. We luckily caught *The Changing of the Guard* with their bagpipes, as well as having dinner with old friends (cousins).

Saturday we took a bus to King's Landing. It is a living history museum situated along the St. John River about 20 miles west of Fredericton. Here costumed residents live and work in more than 70 homes, shops, farms and factories. Visitors can see how lifestyles changed between 1790 and 1910..

Our banquet was exceptionally nice. Alex Cogswell played his classical guitar for us. He is a very talented young man. As mentioned before, Jeanette Cogswell read her mother's poem. Several people read some of the poems of Fred Cogswell. Sadly he was unable to be with us. I was so looking forward to meeting him. There were other speakers as well.

Sunday we were given a guided tour of the University of New Brunswick campus. The tour was excellent. It is a very large campus on a very long hill and it was a very cold day for August. Nevertheless it was very worthwhile. Malcolm, Jean, and Jeanette outdid themselves. All their effort was very much appreciated by all.

Now I want to wish you all a very happy holiday season as well as a healthy and prosperous new year. And I wish to thank all of you who have helped make the *Courier* possible with your contributions and suggestions. Please keep up the good work.



### Our New Cogswell Descendant

James Edward and Heather Elizabeth (Winnie) Petrowicz  
announce the birth on July 17, 2003 of their daughter

Emma Elizabeth Petrowicz

**Cogswell Family Association  
Incorporated Massachusetts  
February 17, 1989  
Cyril Gray Cogswell**

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**First Class**

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