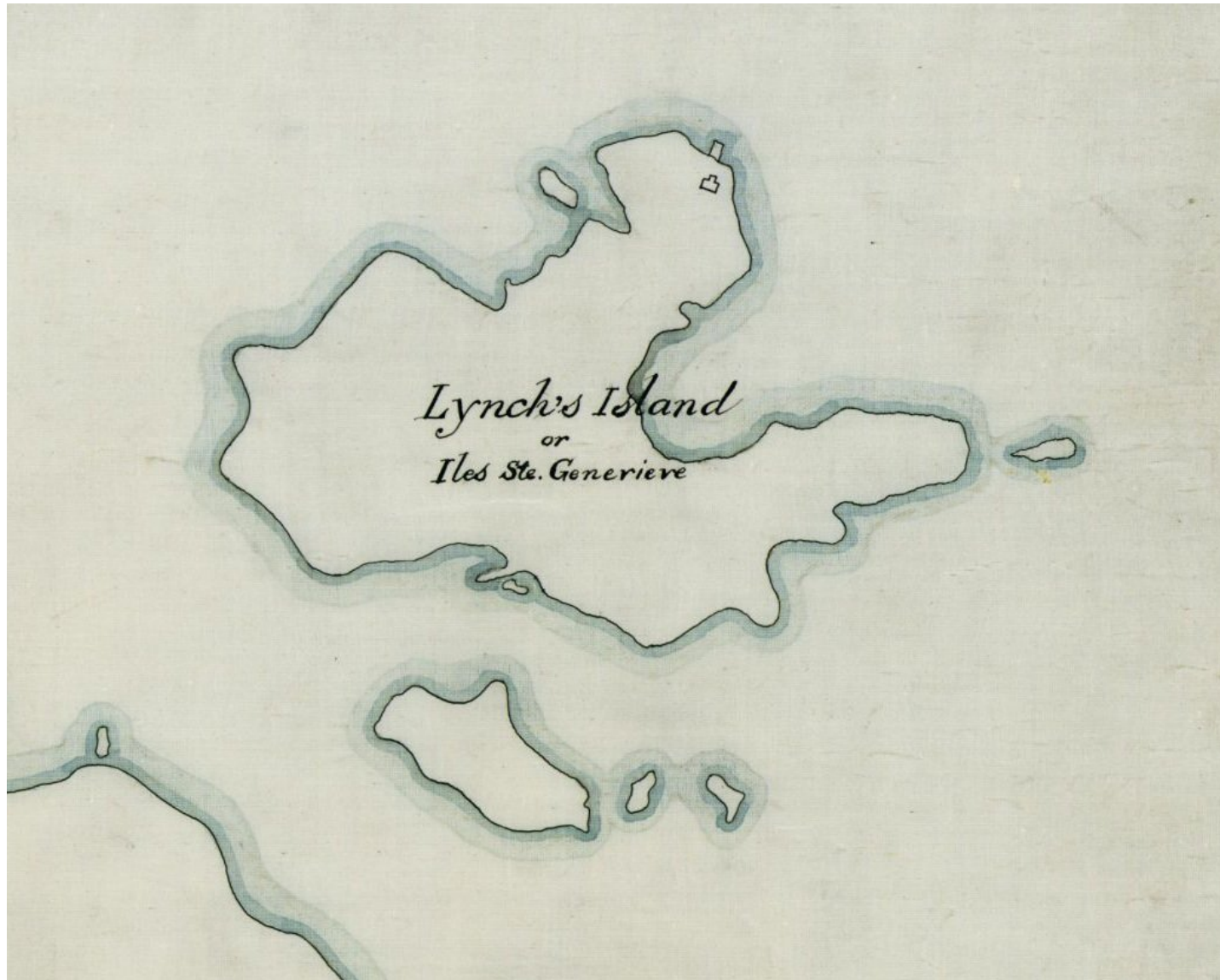


The history of Dowker Island

Jan. 2023, Guido Socher

Map by H.M. Perrault, Aug. 1884



- 1672: seigneurie François-Marie Perrot
- ...
- Iles Ste Geneviève
- ~1840: Peter Lynch
- 1854 end of seigneurie
- 1897: Dowker
- 1949: Dowker Park Inc

Peter Lynch (1802 – 1874), farmer

COTE DE LA POINTE CLAIRE. FROM LA PRÉSENTATION OR DORVAL (1) TO ST. ANNES.

FIRST GRANT.	TERRIER.	CADASTRE.	FIRST GRANTEES.	SUBSEQUENT PROPRIETORS.
1678	124	1	Pierre Montpetit dit Poitevin, 1678; Pierre Pilon, 1712.	Léon Valois, Napoléon Valois.
1678	125	2	Paul Bouchard dit Dorval; 1708, Frs. Benoit.	Michel Legros, 1799, Napoléon Valois.
1678	126	3	Pierre Bonneau dit Lajeunesse.	Félix Valois, John Angell, Napoléon Valois.
1678	127	4	Antoine Blignaux dit Sansoucy, servant man of Jean Guenet; 1685, Guillaume Daoust.	Louis Bénoni Daoust.
1678	123	5-6	<i>Pointe Anaouy.</i> —Jean Lemire; Jean Guenet, 1694; 8 x 40; Amable Curot, 1769.	Billon Valois, John Angell, Charles Shorey, Wm. Macmaster, C. P. Slater, Slack.
1678	129	7	<i>Baurepaire.</i> —Jean Guenet, 4 x 20; Amable Curot, 1769; Vallée, 1790; Hoyle, 1791; Léon St-Germain, 1801.	Le Blanc, Peter Lynch, Olivier Berthelet, James Thompson, Robert Reford, John Dillon, Fred. Birks, J. Murray Smith, Hy. Putman, N. I. Power, Walter Kavanagh, James Rendell.
1678	130	8	Henri Jarry; 1686, Etienne Cardinal.	David Volois.
1700	131	9	Pierre Ravalte dit Lafrizade; Antoine de Villeray.	J.-Bte. Lacombe, Rémi Legault, Thomas Wilson.
1699	132	10	François Lory.	Théophile Rabeau.
1699	133	11	Thomas Brunet.	Amable Pilon, Pierre Neveu, James Wiseman.
1699	134	12	Pierre Duc Ladouceur La Magdeleine.	Pierre Neveu, Wm. M. Ramsay.
1699	135	13	Louis Lory.	Michel La Magdeleine Ladouceur, F. Battlebury, Pierre Boyer.
1699	136	12 to 19	Jean Charlebois dit Jolly.	Isidore Pilon, Tréflé Brunet, Michel Lefebvre, Charles Barbeau, Guillaume Duclos.
1699	137	20	Jacques Denis dit St-Denis.	Estate Antoine Charlebois.
1685	138	21	Jean Thillard; Jean Allard.	Paschal Pilon.
1699	139	22	Nicholas Le Moyne dit Moinet.	Heirs J.-Bte. Neveu.
1685	140	22	Jean Nepveu.	Michel Lefebvre, J.-Bte. Neveu.
1685	141	23	J.-Bte. Laprairie dit Charlebois.	Michel Lefebvre, J.-Bte. Neveu.
1698	142	24	François Perrier.	Louis Legros, Michel Lefebvre, Rémi Lavigne.
1698	143	25 to 26	Jacques Chasles dit Duhamel.	Alexis Brunet, Pierre Lalonde, J.-Bte. Lacombe, Emery Brunet.
1698	144	27 to 28	Pierre Cardinal.	Paul Neveu, Joseph Pigeon, Louis Dagenais, Alfred Dagenais.
1698	145	29	Léonard Lalande dit Latreille.	<i>Montée or Road St. Charles; Beaconsfield Station.</i> —Dr Pillet, Frs. X. Goyer, Wilfrid Dagenais.

COTE DE LA POINTE CLAIRE.

251

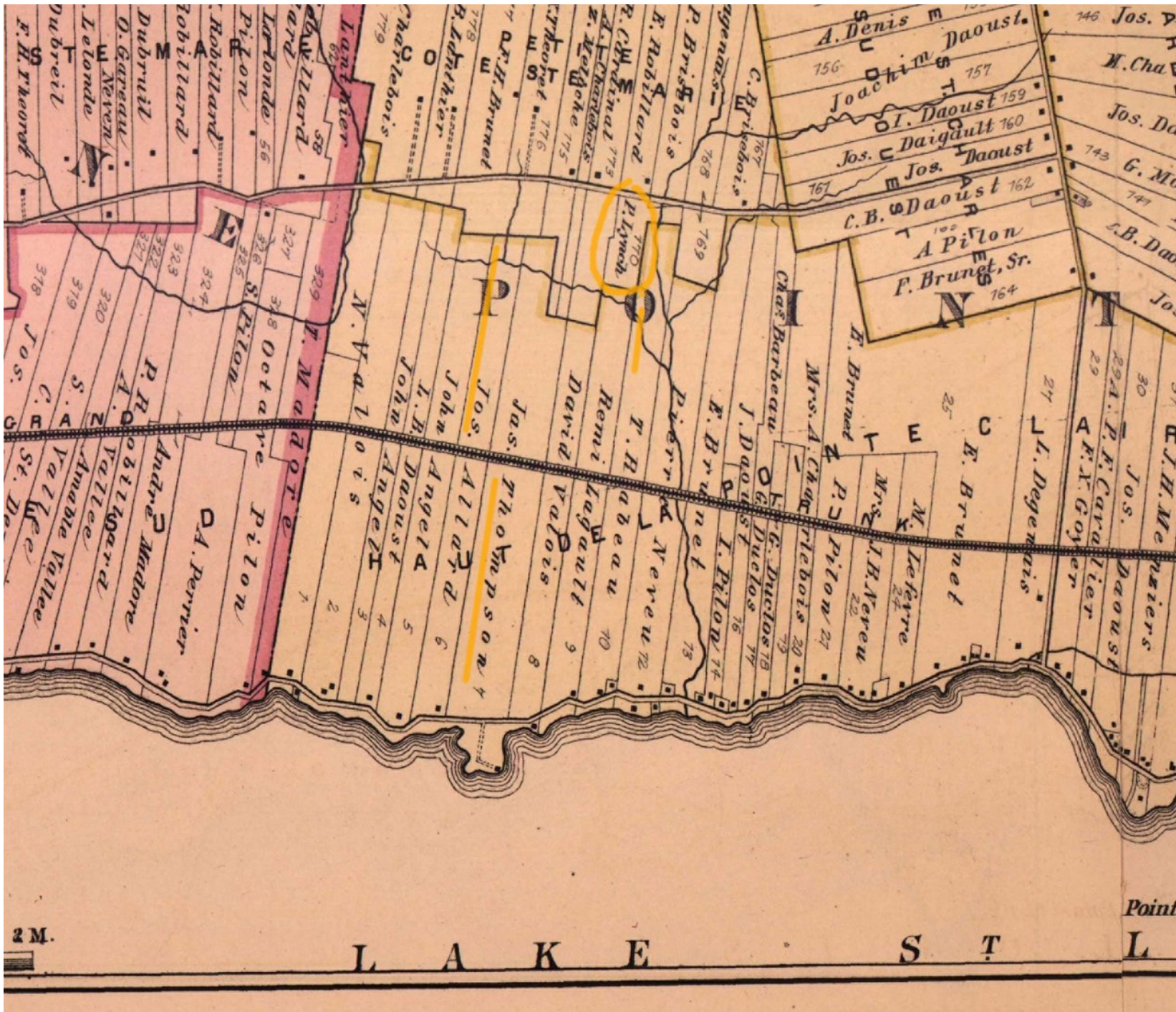
(1) The former limits of Pointe Claire extended to the farm of the estate Herron, Dorval, No. 866 of the Cadastre of the parish of Lachine. The present eastern limits on the lake are at the *Sources* road.

Source: Désiré Girouard, "Lake St. Louis, old and new", 1893

CADASTRE ABRÉGÉ DE LA SEIGNEURIE DE L'ISLE DE MONTRÉAL. 11

No. de référence.	No. du Terrain.	NOMS DES CENSITAIRES.	ÉTENDUE DE LA CONCESSION OU DU TERRAIN POSSEDE.									Emplacements ou Lots à bâtir, ou pour d'autres fins que pour des fins agricoles. VALEUR.	Montant de la Rente Constituée à être payée par le Censitaire.	Voyez référence au los.		
			FRONT.			PROFONDEUR.			SUPERFICIE.						£ s. d.	£ s. d.
			Arpents.	Persches.	Pieds.	Arpents.	Persches.	Pieds.	Arpents.	Persches.	Pieds.					
		<i>Paroisse de la Pointe Claire.</i>										£ s. d.	£ s. d.			
276	124	Léon Valois.....	3			40			120			.....	0 18 11 $\frac{1}{4}$		
277	124	Le Grand Tronc.....							11 $\frac{1}{2}$			.....	.....	
278	125, 126	Veuve Félix Valois.....	4			40			160			.....	1 1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$		
279	125, 126	Le Grand Tronc.....							1 $\frac{1}{2}$			.....	.....	
280	126, 127	Veuve W. Angel.....	1	5		36	5		54	50		.....	0 8 6 $\frac{1}{4}$		
281		Le Grand Tronc.....							2			.....	.....	
282	123-6, 127	Veuve Jos. D'Aoust.....	2	5		36			90			.....	0 13 9 $\frac{1}{2}$		
283		Le Grand Tronc.....							1			.....	.....	
284	128	Veuve W. Angel.....	5			40			120			.....	0 19 0		
285		Le Grand Tronc.....							2			.....	.....	
286	128	Gabriel Valois.....	3			40			120			.....	0 19 0		
287		Le Grand Tronc.....							2			.....	.....	
288	128	Peter Lynch.....	2			40			80			.....	0 12 8		
289	129	Do.							115			.....	0 18 2 $\frac{1}{4}$		
290		Le Grand Tronc.....							2			.....	.....	
291	129	Joseph Valois, fils de J. M....							35			.....	0 5 6 $\frac{1}{4}$		
292	130	Do.	3			30			90			.....	0 14 3		
293		Le Grand Tronc.....							3 $\frac{1}{2}$			.....	.....	
294	131	Paschal Pilon, fils de Pas....	2	5		40			100			.....	0 15 8		
295		Le Grand Tronc.....							1 $\frac{1}{2}$			.....	.....	
296	131	Peter Lynch.....	2	5		8			20			.....	0 3 2		
297		Le Grand Tronc.....							1 $\frac{1}{2}$			.....	.....	
298	132	Succession M. Brunet.....	{ 5			37			114			.....	0 17 10		
299		Le Grand Tronc.....	{			38			1 $\frac{1}{2}$			.....	.....	
300	132	Jérémie Jolivé dit Lépine....			90			90	.....	18 15 0	.....	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$		
301	132	Peter Lynch.....	5			2			6			.....	0 0 9 $\frac{3}{4}$		
302		Geneviève Pilon.....			60			60	.....	10 0 0	.....	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$		
303		Michel Lamagdelaine, père..			90			90	.....	12 10 0	.....	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$		
304		Le Grand Tronc.....							2 $\frac{1}{4}$			.....	.....	
305	134	Paschal Pilon.....	1	6		40			64			.....	0 3 8 $\frac{1}{4}$		
306	134	Michel Lamagdelaine.....	2	4		40			96			.....	0 15 2 $\frac{1}{2}$		
307	135	Scholastique St. Denis.....							1 $\frac{1}{2}$		51 0 0	.....	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$		
308	135	Michel Lamagdelaine.....	{ 1	5		20			48			.....	0 7 3 $\frac{1}{4}$		
309		Le Grand Tronc.....	{ 1	5		12			2 $\frac{1}{4}$			.....	.....	
310	135	François Pilon.....	1	5		7			10	50		.....	0 1 8 $\frac{1}{4}$		

Cadastre de la seigneurie de l'isle de Montreal, 1861,
 Peter Lynch:
 128 = 5,6
 129 = 7
 131 = 9
 132 = 10



Source:
Atlas of the
Island of
Montreal,
1879

View from Thompson Point to Dowker Island

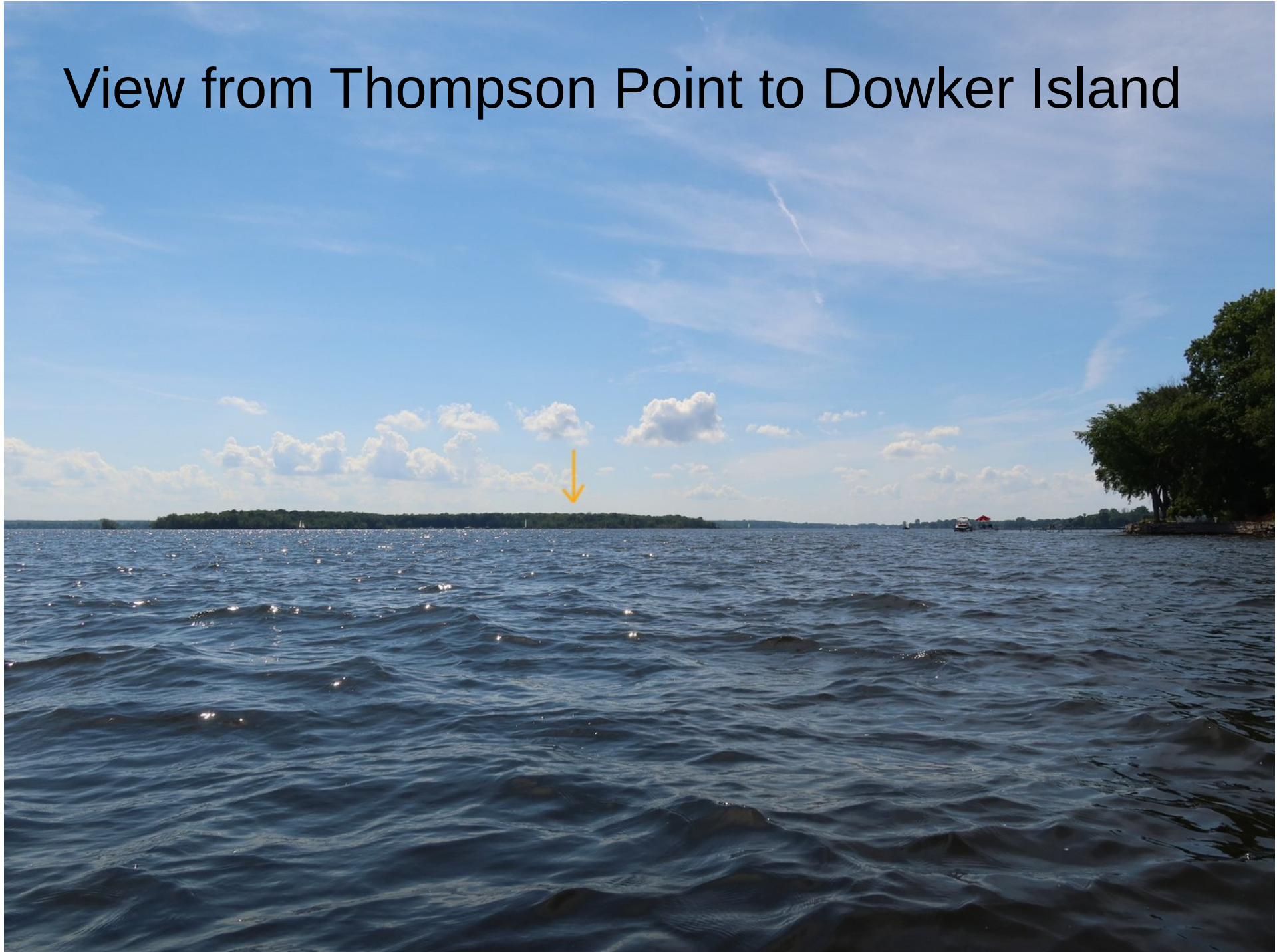




Photo: 2017

- Clear view from the west of the bay to Thompson Point
- Ottawa and St-Laurent have different water colour
- named islands:
 - 1) Dowker named after Leslie Rose Dowker (1854-1945)
 - 2) Caron,
 - 3) Madore, named after Francois Morel, dit Madore (1671-1749)
 - 4) D'Aoust, named after the family who owned it

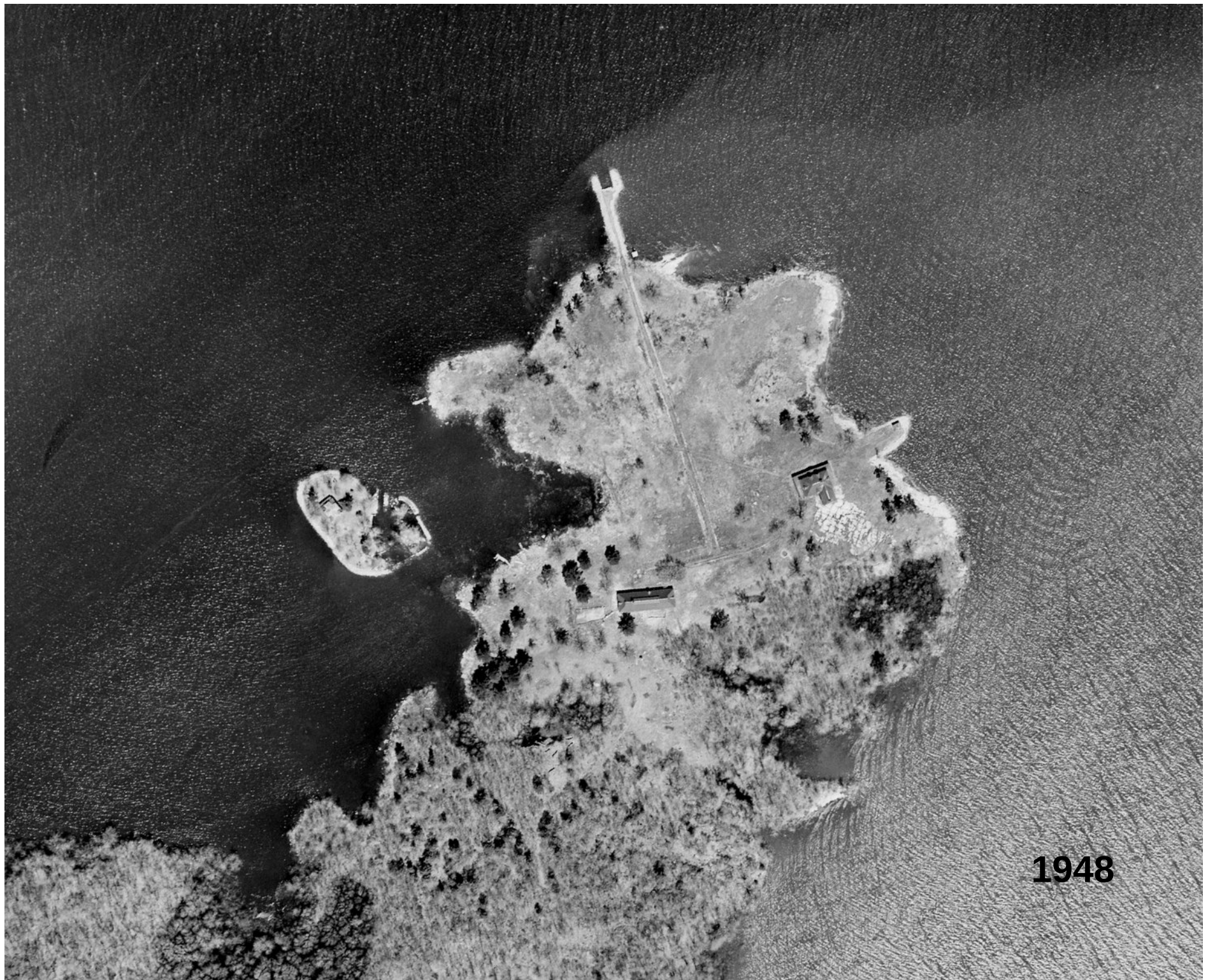
Leslie Rose Dowker purchases the island in 1887 (1897?)



Leslie (1854-1945)



The Dowkers at their island, 1897
Spencer Wilcox (1860-1912), George Newton (1883-1967)
Leslie Rose (1854-1945)



1948

The Gazette, Aug. 2, 1928

Ewing, 283 St. James Street. PLateau
3275 and 3276.

Country Property For Sale

DOWKER ISLAND—150 arpents, head of Lake St. Louis, 1,800 feet from mainland, 22 miles from city of Montreal. Solid stone house, 2 feet thick, 35 x 50. Extension also stone, 16' x 20'; electric light and water; 2 furnaces, Nos. 4 and 5 Daisy. Stone barn, man's house at west end, 4 rooms and outer kitchen, electric light in same and barn, 42 x 102 feet. Stone pump house, 14 x 14. ice, solid wood clap-boarded 24' x 24'. Ideal property for gentleman's residence, club house, or golf links. For further particulars, apply to L. R. Dowker, Beaurepaire, Que.

Ste. Agathe des Monts

CO
or
478

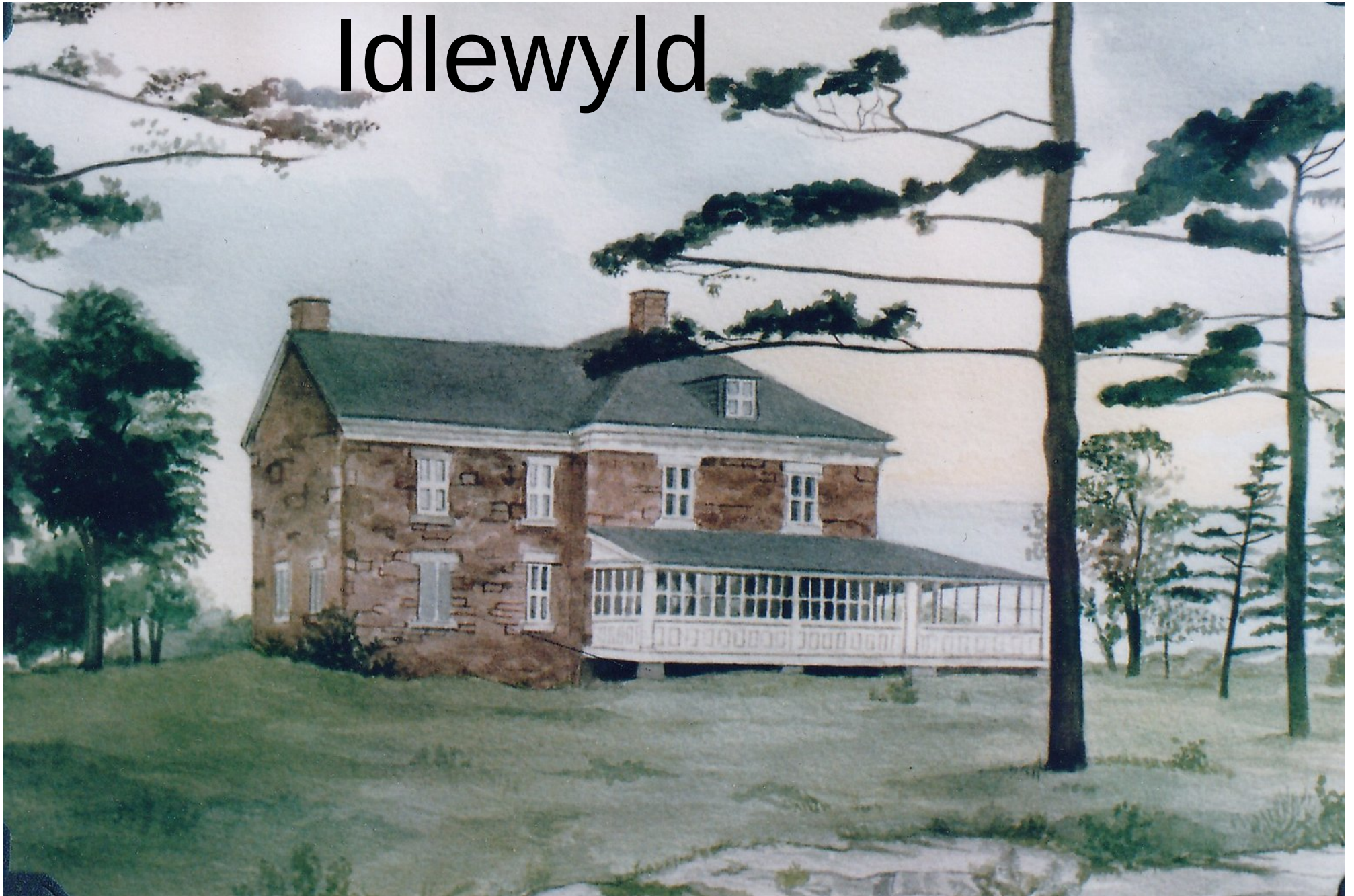
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It did not sell.

Idlewyld



Idlewyld, 2021



Idlewyld





2021



Stones from Île Perrot



Porous rock? Not 100 years ago.



2020

2021



View from the bay towards Montreal



Steps on the west side of the bay

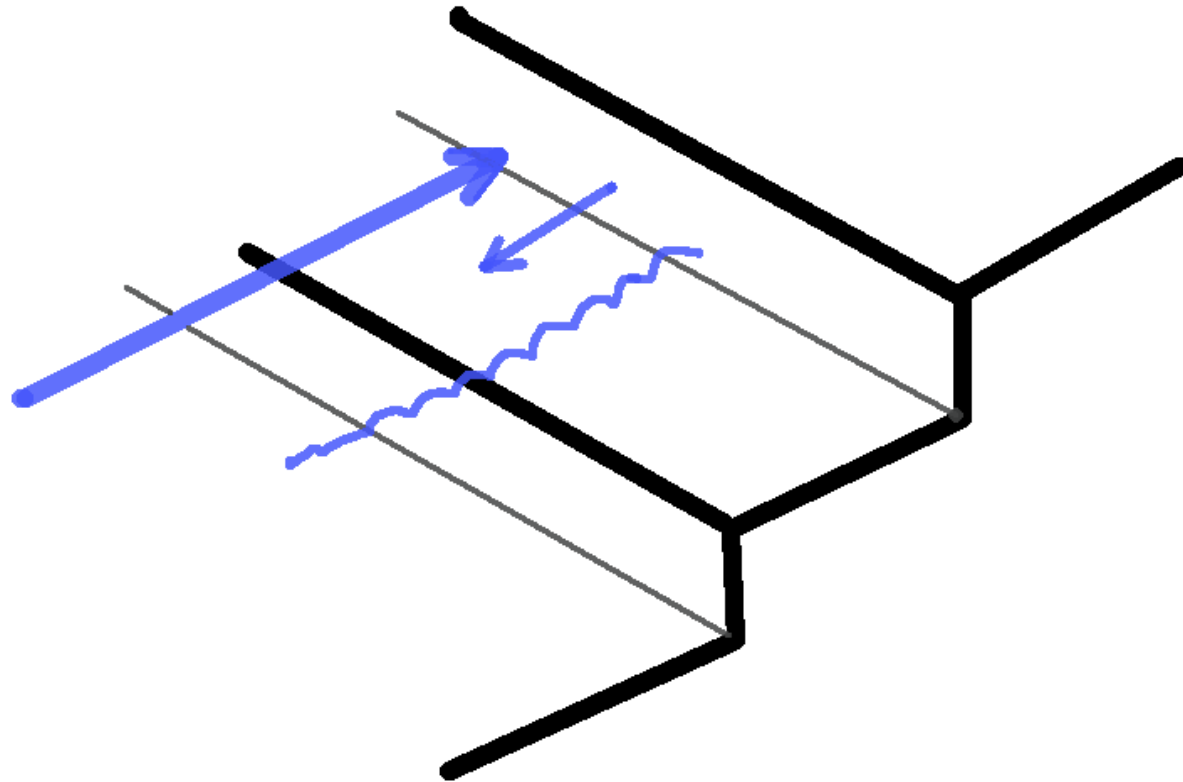


July 2020

July 2021

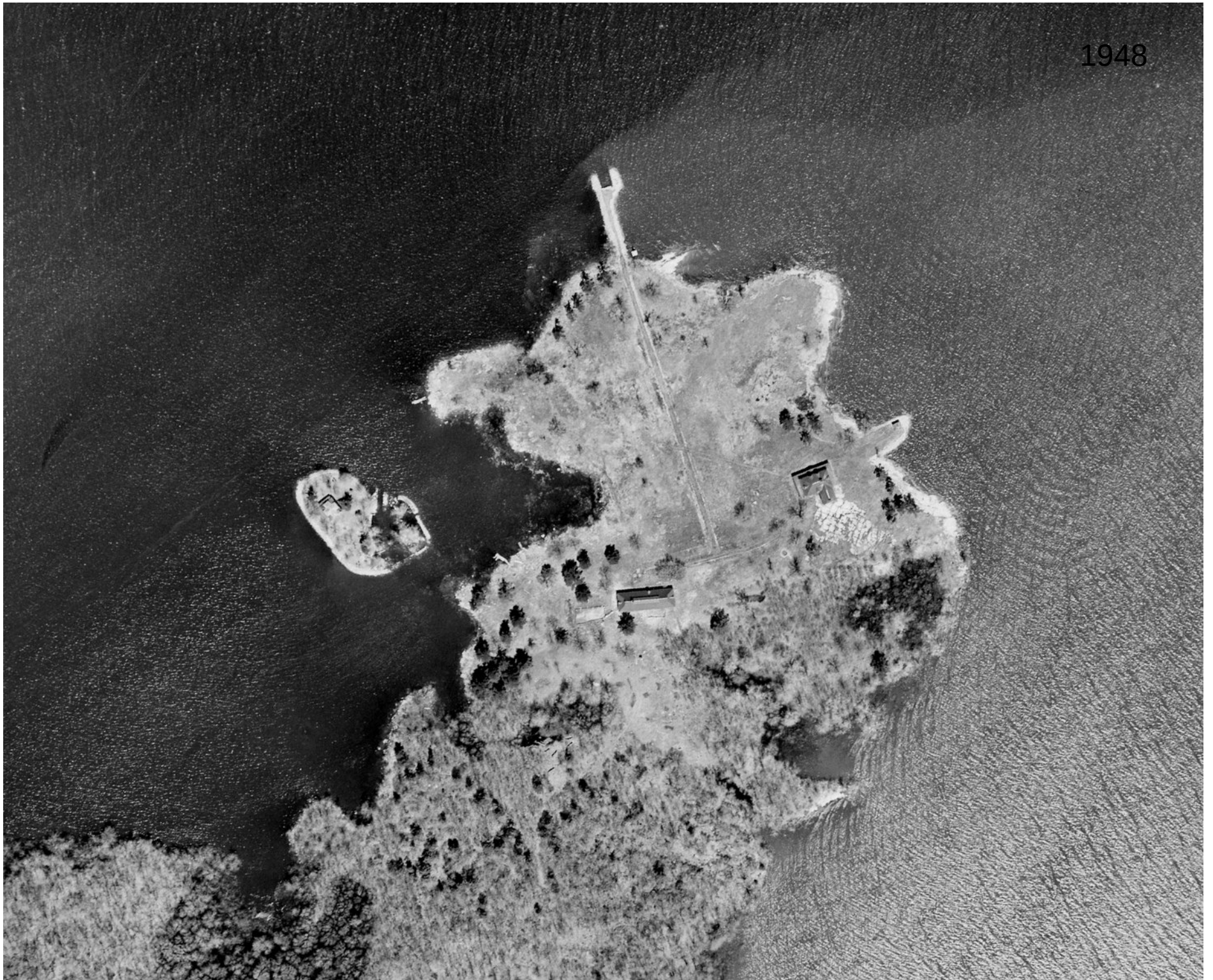


Standing waves



Waves etch wave pattern into the stone.

1948



Painting by Claire Fauteux, source: The Gazette, Oct. 1947



VIEILLES ECURIES, DOWKER ISLAND, by Claire Fauteux, of Montreal, which is included in

her exhibition of oils, watercolors and pastels at L'Art Francais, 370 Laurier avenue west.

Claire Fauteux Shows

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Art...



VIEILLES ECURIES, DOWKER ISLAND, by Claire Fauteux, of Montreal, which is included in her exhibition of oils, watercolors and pastels at L'Art Francais, 370 Laurier avenue west.

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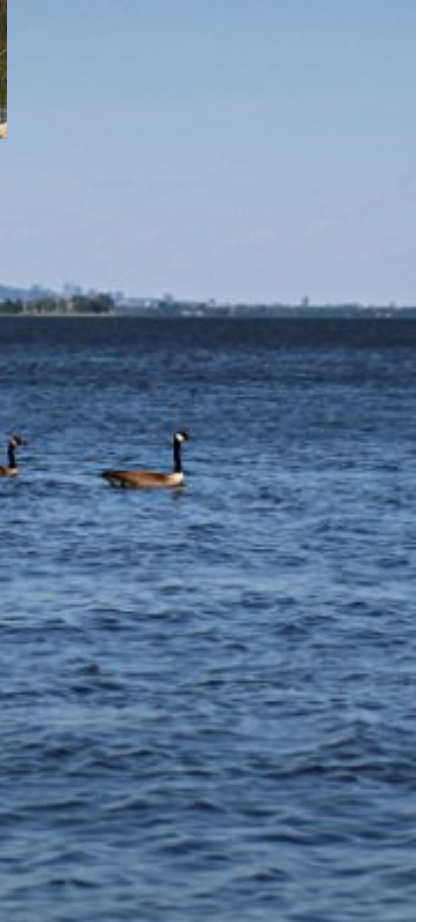
east-end

Inside the barn



Quiet and beautiful





Leslie R. Dowker (Feb. 11, 1854 to Feb. 20, 1945)



Note: the 1881 census mentions that Leslie was born in the USA (Brooklyn, NY) and not in Montreal.

LESLIE R. DOWKER DIES

Was Owner of Dowker's Island in Ottawa River

Leslie R. Dowker, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, and owner of Dowker's Island, in the Ottawa River off Baie d'Urfee, died Tuesday in his 92nd year.

Born in Montreal, son of the late Col. George Dowker and of Mrs. Dowker, he received the early part of his education at Coburg, Ont., and later attended high school in Montreal. Employed in the leather trade, he was a member of the firm of Dowker, MacIntosh and Co., which was dissolved several years ago.

A member of St. George's Church in Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Mr. Dowker, retired from business about 20 years ago and had since resided on Dowker's Island, which is still in the possession of the family.

He is survived by a sister, Mrs. F. Graham who lives in Nelson, B.C. The funeral will be held today from the Chapel of Tees and Co., St. Luke and Tower streets.

Events after Leslie's death

- 1946 - Court case against caretaker David Girard (removal of boat engines + some wood)
- March 1949 - Dowker Park Inc.
- Summer 1950 - Vacation rental
- 1956/1957, CBC TV children's series, outdoor scenes shot on Dowker Island
- 1970s - Cottage on Caron Island
- Around 1975 - Barn fire
- 1977 – Idlewyld (main house) burns down
- 1985 – The Tardif family restores the house but another fire destroys the house again in the same year

Dowker Park Inc, 1949

**Park Dowker Inc.
Dowker Park Inc.**

Avis est donné qu'en vertu de la première partie de la Loi des compagnies de Québec, il a été accordé par le Lieutenant-gouverneur de la province de Québec des lettres patentes, en date du dix-huit mars 1949, constituant en corporation: Dominique di Francesco, avocat, Simone Brodeur, secrétaire, célibataire, et Charles Paradis, comptable, tous des cité et district judiciaire de Montréal, pour les objets suivants:

Faire le commerce d'immeubles sous toutes ses formes;

Faire toutes sortes d'exploitations forestières, sous le nom de "Parc Dowker Inc." — "Dowker Park Inc.", avec un capital de \$40,000 divisé en 150 actions communes de \$100 chacune et en 250 actions privilégiées de \$100 chacune.

Le siège social de la compagnie sera à l'Ile Dowker, comté de Vaudreuil, district judiciaire de Montréal.

Daté du bureau du Procureur général, le dix-huit mars 1949.

L'Assistant-procureur général,
L. DÉSILETS.

**Park Dowker Inc.
Dowker Park Inc.**

Notice is hereby given that under Part I of the Quebec Companies Act, letters patent have been issued by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec, bearing date the eighteenth day of March, 1949, incorporating: Dominique di Francesco, advocate, Simone Brodeur, secretary, spinster, and Charles Paradis, accountant, all of the city and judicial district of Montreal, for the following purposes:

To carry on a real estate business under all the forms thereof;

To carry on all sorts of lumbering operations, under the name of "Parc Dowker Inc." — "Dowker Park Inc.", with a capital stock of \$40,000 divided into 150 common shares of \$100 each and 250 preferred shares of \$100 each.

The head office of the company will be at Dowker Island, county of Vaudreuil, judicial district of Montreal.

Dated at the office of the Attorney General, this eighteenth day of March, 1949.

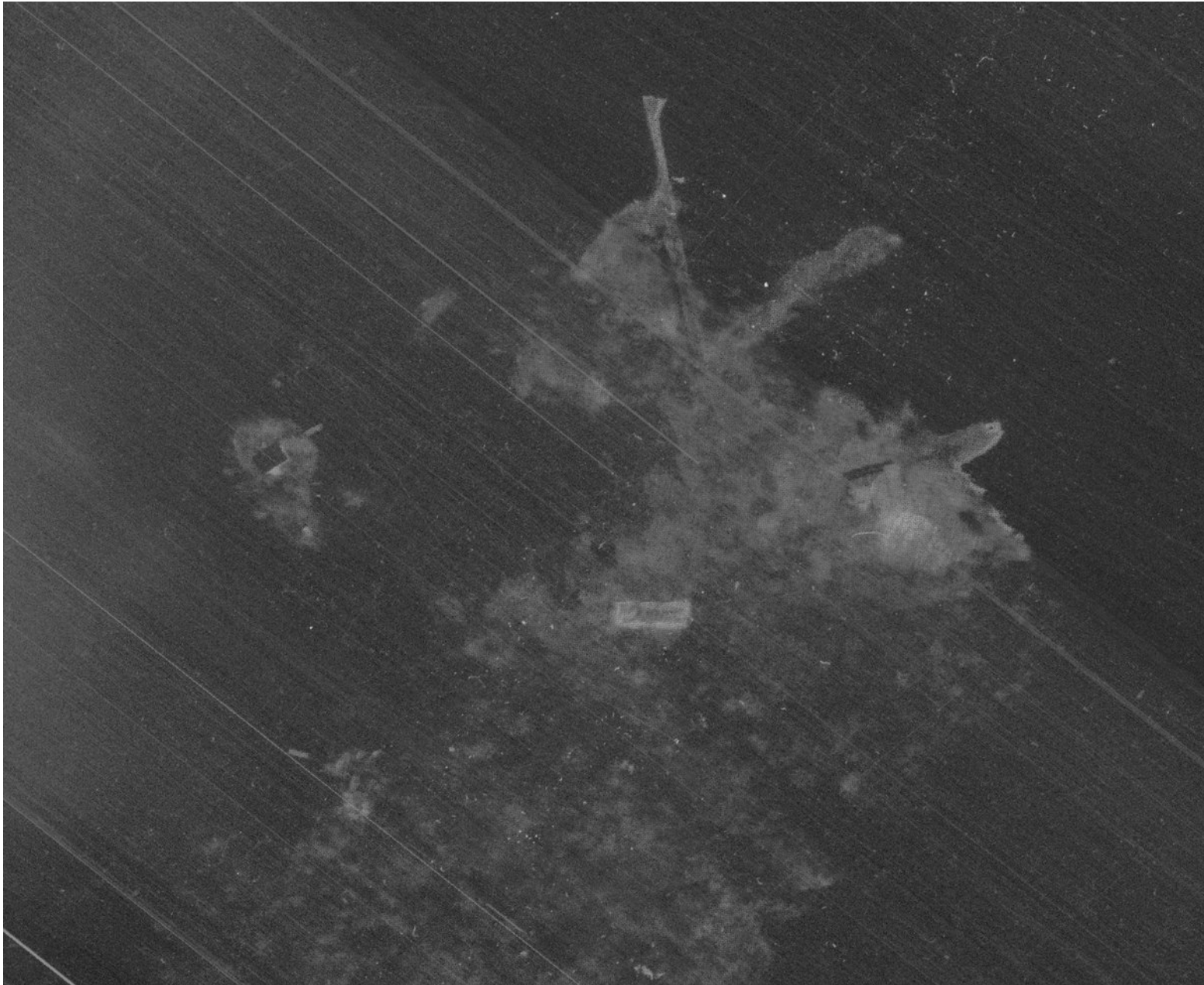
L. DÉSILETS,
Deputy Attorney General.

- Lucielle and Gerard Tardif buy Dowker Park Inc in 1956.



April 1966
Dowker Island
North end

Aerial photo, 1975



The Gazette, June 1950

Where to Go FOR YOUR **Vacation!**

Quebec

LAKESHORE

Large and comfortable rooms to let for the holidays or summer on Dowker Island, off Beurepaire and Baie d'Urfe. Ferry boat, nice swimming water, boating and fishing, easy commuting to the city. Lakeshore Realty Ltd., 278 Lakeshore Road, Pointe Claire. Tel. 3529.

Nov. 1977

DOWKER'S ISLAND

REWARD TO WHOEVER WILL SUPPLY
INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST
AND CONVICTION OF THE PERSON OR
PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FIRES
OF FEBRUARY 8TH AND MARCH 8TH 1977
AT DOWKER'S ISLAND.

QUEBEC POLICE FORCE
SERGENT ROBERGE
580 ROCHE BLVD.
VAUDREUIL.
TEL: 455-3348

Nov. 77
580 ROCHE BLVD.
VAUDREUIL

1960

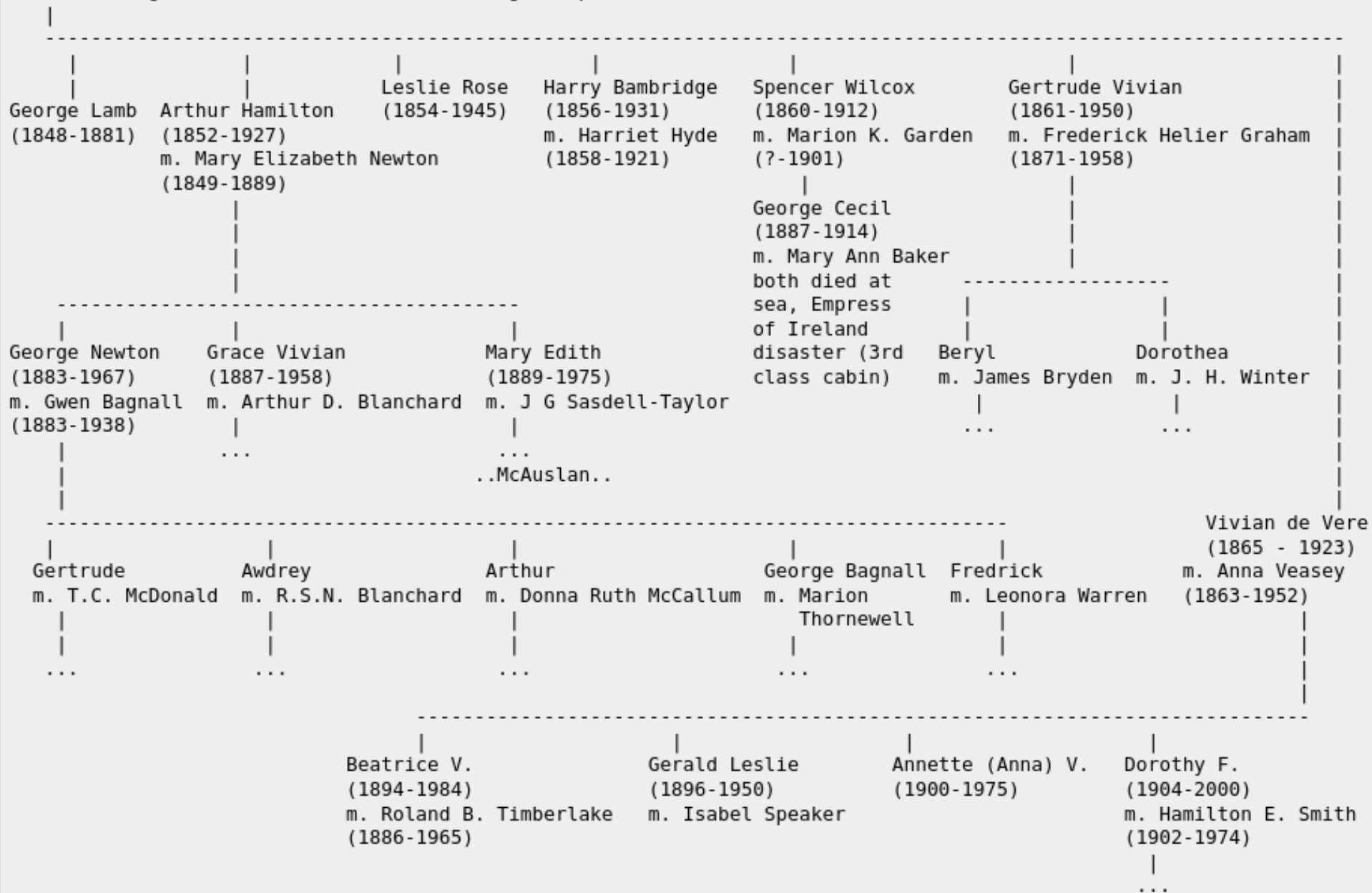


1980s



Dowker Family tree starting with George Woodcock Dowker

George Woodcock Dowker (1825-1910) immigrates from Salton, York, England to New York in 1843, to Montreal in 1847
m. Susan Wright Leslie (1822-1906) - Marriage: Sep. 21, 1848 in Montreal





Col. George Dowker and
m. Susan Wright Leslie

1848

1862



Throstle Lodge, today Tadjia Hall, 21082 Lakeshore



Throstle Lodge (now Tadjia Hall)

- March 6, 1858: Col. George Dowker and Susan Leslie sign mortgage
- House burns down, build new house in 1861 => Throstle Lodge
- Throstle is an English songbird. Sent to Col. Dowker by a cousin from England.
- Becomes house of Arthur Hamilton after the death of Col. George Dowker in 1910
- Arthur died 1927, Leslie sells it to James H. Dougall (president of Dougall Varnish, Baie-D'Urfe councillor 1931, Beaconsfield councillor in 1910).
- About 1950: house of Baie-D'Urfe Mayor William Cruikshank
- Peter N. Hickey bought it in 1964, builds extension to the east
- 1975, Dr. David Stewart donated the house to McGill, names it "Tadjia Hall", official opening as Macdonald Campus faculty club in Nov. 1978

About 1900



Throstle, songbird



Tadja the cat, portrait by Point-Claire artist Mary Milligan

