
THE CABOOSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CTHS)

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Editor's ramblings (by Jeannie Smith)

The Ottawa River greets me as I view its magnificence each morning. I feel the ebb and flow of its waters and I imagine the Anishinabe (Algonquin), long centuries ago, paddling their fur-laden canoes to Hochelaga (Montreal). I hear the dip, dip and swing of the Mohawk paddles in pursuit. I see the European explorers, the French voyageurs and lumberjacks, the Irish 'navies' navigators and labourers, the Scottish stonemasons and millers, and the British landowners and officials, travelling up the river to settle along its banks. The ribbon of highway once bustled with steamers from R.W. Shepherd's Ottawa River Navigation Company. The Cumberland/Mason ferries now continuously traverse the river which has spread wider since the opening of the Carillon Dam forty years ago. Pleasure-boaters race and fisherman drift on the waters of the Kitchissippi. We are still the Kitchissippi, people of the river. CTHS members are invited to a garden party, along the river at 2621 Regional Road 174 on Sunday, August 15th from 2:00-5:00 pm. Bring a lawn chair, photo albums, family trees and stories to share and let the river bring you renewal.

Our Society

The Cumberland Township Historical Society (CTHS) was founded in 1986. We are a non-profit, volunteer and community-based organization whose goal is to preserve Cumberland Township history.

Our newsletter

The Caboose is published six times each year by the Cumberland Township Historical Society.

Our Executive

- Jean-François Beaulieu, President
- Randall Ash, Vice-president
- Robert Serré, Treasurer
- Jeannie Smith, Secretary and Newsletter Editor
- Verna Cotton, Director
- Dan Brazeau, Director
- Martin Rocque, Director

Our address and local history room

Cumberland Branch
Ottawa Public Library
Local History Room
1599 Tenth Line Road
Ottawa, ON K1E 3E8

Our World Wide Web address

www.cths.ca



The Empress

The *Empress* cruised the Ottawa River from 1886 to the mid 1920's and left Ottawa at 8:00 AM, arrived at Cumberland wharf at 9:00 AM, continued downstream to Papineauville where passengers had lunch, then returned to Cumberland between 4:00 and 5:00 PM. Moonlight excursions were popular on the 24th of May.

Next meeting of the CTHS

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 1st at 7pm at the Cumberland Public Library on Tenth Line Road (at the Ray Friel Centre). Our guest speaker will be Robert Serré. Be sure to bring a friend along. Light refreshments, as always, will be served.

By the way, have you renewed your 2004-05 membership yet?



Society calendar

For more information on these and other upcoming 2004 – 2005 events, please contact a member of the executive committee or visit our website – www.cths.ca

August 5 th - 8 th	Navan Fair (www.navanfair.com)
August 15 th	CTHS Garden Party; 2:00-5:00 PM Jeannie Smith's Home; 2621 Regional Road 174
Sept 1 st	CTHS General Meeting; 7:00 pm at the Cumberland Branch of the Ottawa Public Library. Our guest speaker will be Robert Serré.

Visited our local history room lately?

Have you visited our history room, yet? We have histories of local families including Savage, Scharf, Scharfe, Shane, Simpson, Somers, Somerville, Smith, Smyth, Snaith, Summers, Thiverge, Taylor, Watchorn, Wilson and many others. You'll also find information on Cumberland churches, groups, maps, clubs, sports, businesses as well as scrap books, newsletters, newspaper clippings and other historical references.

Contact us

If you have questions or suggestions regarding any aspect of the Society including The Caboose, our local history room or anything else of interest to you or to the Society, you may contact any member of the executive by phone or by email:

- Jean-François Beaulieu, President (841-0424) jeanf@storm.ca
- Randall Ash, Vice-president (833-3207) randall2620@rogers.com
- Robert Serré, Treasurer (749-0607) belser@magma.ca
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- Martin Rocque, Director ((819)776-3890) martin.rocque@sympatico.ca



What's on at the Heritage Village Museum...



Fire Fighter Day	Learn about the technological changes the firefighting profession has undergone since the early 20th century, watch numerous demonstrations by fire fighters, and let the kids take part in fire fighting activities.	Sunday, July 18 from 10 am to 5 pm
Evening Theatre	The Politics of Murder presented by Vintage Stock Theatre.	August 21 and 28 at 6 pm. Picnic shelter.
Corny Weekend	Enjoy an old-fashioned corn roast for just \$1.00 per cob, sample some corny treats cooked in a 1930s kitchen, try your hand at de-kerneling a cob of corn as your children make a corny craft, visit the farm animals or take part in a scavenger hunt. Tell us a corny joke and you will get 2 admissions for the price of one!	September 4, 5 from 10 am to 5 pm (corn roast begins at 11am).
Harvestfest	Join us as we prepare for the long winter ahead. Learn how to make apple cider, sample fall baking in the Foubert Kitchen, paint a pumpkin, make a harvest craft, take a wagon ride, and participate in a Morse Code demonstration. Watch miniature steam trains ride the rails and enjoy sawmill demonstrations.	October 9 and 10 from 10 am to 5 pm.
An Old Fashioned Christmas	Delight in a horse-drawn sleigh ride, make a Christmas ornament in a one-room Schoolhouse, sip hot chocolate around a roaring fire, and sample a baked treat prepared in a 1930s kitchen. Enjoy live choral performances and don't forget to visit Santa Claus.	December 11, 12, 18, 19 from 11 am to 4 pm.

The Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from May 15 to August 29, 10 am to 5 pm. It's open Saturdays and Sundays from September 4 to October 31, 10 am to 5 pm.

Cumberland Heritage Village Museum Memberships

Become a member of the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum. Help preserve and interpret local heritage. Benefits and Privileges of Individual and Family Memberships include unlimited free admission to the Museum, and a 10% discount in the Museum gift shop.

Individual membership: \$20; Family membership (two adults, one household, children under 18): \$25; the membership year is good for one calendar year (January-December). For more information please call (613) 833-3059 or e-mail the City at museums@ottawa.ca.

Memories of the *Empress*

Excerpts from "The Sport and Recreational History of the Village of Cumberland" by Earl Sharkey, 1980; from a Research Paper in the CTHS History room.

"When I was a young man they used to have excursions down the river to the Thurso-Papineauville region on the big boat *Empress*. There might be two or three picnics from different places on the boat on the same day. Just go down to Thurso and turn around and come back up again, but you would have your dinner on the boat. The other boat *Victoria* went the other way, from Thurso to Ottawa and then back again, but no cruises on it because it was mainly a cargo boat."

John Sharkey

"The *Empress* ran on excursions as far as Montebello, and one year I remember the school went there. I don't recall if it was the whole school or just one room. The teachers made arrangements that we'd go down to Montebello to visit the old castle, Louis Papineau's castle. I think the passage cost us fifty cents. There were excursions which came from Ottawa to Cumberland to picnic on Cameron's hill. This was more before my time, but I've heard people talking of it. They would have excursions come down on the boat, the *Empress*, I think, but perhaps some other boat. Maybe they were church groups and they would walk from the river a way up that Cameron's hill to have a picnic."

Edwin Williams

Darius Farmer (1885-1952)

Sa vie, ses réalisations
Première de trois parties
Rédaction : famille J.-D. Farmer
Relecture : Robert Serré

La paroisse Saint-Hugues de Sarsfield (Ontario) a été fondée officiellement en 1874, lorsque monsieur Thomas Delaney a ouvert un bureau de poste qu'il a dirigé jusqu'au 5 avril 1878. Sa femme, madame Ellen Delaney, a été maîtresse de poste jusqu'à la fin de 1887. Ensuite, le maître de poste a été monsieur J.M. Philip, venu de France à Sarsfield. La paroisse a été fondée et peuplée avant le centième anniversaire de la construction de la nouvelle église Saint-Hugues. Une chapelle avait été construite avant l'église, en 1867. Le terrain a été fourni par le premier colon, monsieur Sévère Daoust, et par monsieur Onésime Daoust.

Ensuite sont venues les familles Giroux, Larocque, Dessaint, Lafrance, Poupart, St-Denis, Proulx et d'autres, puis les familles Farmer. André Farmer père, de la paroisse de Clarence Creek, s'est établi sur une ferme à Canaan. Il a visité la paroisse de Sarsfield plusieurs fois, avant de finalement s'installer avec sa famille en face de l'église. André Farmer fils est né le 24 janvier 1882 à Sarsfield, Ovila le 14 octobre 1883, Darius en juin 1885 et Philius en avril 1887.

C'était un début très humble pour les trois frères aînés, soit André fils, Ovila et Darius.

Vers 1903, avec l'aide de leur père, André, les trois «Go-Go» se sont acheté une presse à foin. À cette époque-là, tout se faisait avec des chevaux, à la campagne comme en ville. Puisqu'il n'y avait pas encore d'autos ni de camions, les acheteurs qui demeuraient en ville ou dans les gros villages voulaient du foin en balles,

car il fallait moins d'espace pour l'entreposer. Alors tous les cultivateurs des environs attendaient avec impatience que la compagnie Farmer's Hay Press vienne presser leur foin. Comme le disait monsieur Joe Murray : «Hard time to make a living!»

Ces trios hommes courageux n'avaient pas froid aux yeux. La tournée avec la presse à foin se faisait par gros contrats, car à cette époque-là la récolte de foin était très abondante. La plupart des cultivateurs gardaient seulement deux ou trois vaches pour leurs besoins familiaux. Les granges étaient remplies de foin, cent tonnes et plus, à Sarsfield, Leonard, Navan, Canaan, Hammond et Bearbrook. Les trois frères avaient fixé la modique somme de 2 \$ la tonne, avec un maximum de 12 tonnes par jour, beau temps mauvais temps, en utilisant toujours un fanal, de 6 heures le matin à 6 heures le soir. Si la presse se brisait pendant la journée, il fallait aller rapidement en sleigh chez le forgeron pour faire souder la pièce brisée, car la presse était entièrement construite en acier. Il y avait des forgerons partout pour ferrer les chevaux, réparer les waggines (charrettes), les sleighs (traîneaux) ou les bogheis. Les réparations terminées, les frères devaient quand même respecter leur contrat de 12 tonnes, peu importe l'heure. Chacun des trois frères avait son travail à faire pour presser le foin : André fils attachait, pesait et empilait les balles pour la livraison. Ovila enfoulait le foin dans le fouillon de la presse, et Darius conduisait les chevaux, qu'il avait domptés à faire virer la rame et à donner un élan si rapide, en tournant, qu'une fois Ovila s'est fait enlever sa bottine, mais il ne s'est plus jamais fait attraper.



Picnicking on Cameron's Hill

Le revenu était le suivant : 12 tonnes de foin x 6 jours = 72 tonnes par semaine x 2 \$ = 144 \$ divisés en 3 = 48 \$ par semaine pour chacun - pas si mal à l'époque qu'un journalier gagnait environ 50 cents par jour. Le propriétaire engageait les hommes requis pour fournir le foin de la tasserie à la presse à foin.

Au sujet des fanaux utilisés à la noirceur, il en fallait un pour André, qui attachait et pesait les balles, et un autre pour les hommes sur la tasserie qui fournissaient le foin. Quant à Ovila et Darius, ils comptaient sur la clarté de la lune, car ils étaient tous les deux à l'extérieur de la grange.

Le pressage du foin a continué à se faire longtemps après que les chevaux ont été remplacés par l'élevage des vaches laitières, les autos et les camions.

Darius travaillait toujours la ferme en face de l'église avec son père. André fils, qui était déjà établi sur sa propre ferme, a épousé Azilda Carrière en février 1906. Ovila, lui, s'est marié avec Anna Raymond en juillet de la même année. Puis, en mai 1913, Darius épousait Eugénie Faubert, fille de Louis Faubert et de Régina Lefebvre, de Buckingham.

Le plus jeune de la famille, Philius, a épousé Julia Dorval en 1914. Ils ont eu deux enfants, Laurent et Marcil. Philius avait une agence de moulins à coudre de la compagnie Singer Sewing Machine, dont le bureau principal était situé à Renfrew (Ontario). La grippe espagnole est survenue, et Philius en est mort en janvier 1918. Un an plus tard, au début de 1919, Darius a perdu sa femme, Eugénie, des suites de cette même maladie.

Darius était un homme de belle stature. Il était toujours vêtu proprement; il avait toujours les cheveux et la barbe bien coupés, les souliers bien frottés. C'était un très bel homme bien aimé des belles femmes. Au temps où Darius cultivait sa ferme avec son père André, et avant l'arrivée de l'automobile, ils se sont achetés deux beaux trotteurs avec de beaux attelages, qui faisaient l'envie de tout le monde, ainsi qu'un cutter double avec couverture en vison, et un boghei double pour l'été. Alors Darius n'était pas «à pied» pour se chercher une épouse!

Un beau samedi soir, au début de mars 1909, pendant qu'il traversait en sleigh la rivière Ottawa à Cumberland pour aller visiter sa future épouse, Eugénie, à Buckingham, la glace a cédé sous le poids des chevaux. Darius a sauté juste à temps pour éviter de se noyer. Ses pauvres bêtes se débattaient pour sortir de l'eau. Malheureusement, leurs pattes se sont prises dans le neck-hook et ils se sont noyés. Le traîneau, les attelages, la couverture en vison et les cadeaux qu'il apportait à sa future épouse ont disparu dans l'eau.

Après le décès de sa femme en 1919, Darius a vendu sa ferme à monsieur le curé Laflamme, de Sarsfield. Il

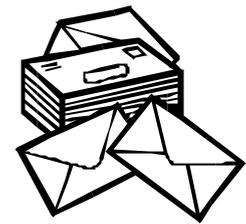
s'est alors lancé dans la vente de moulins à coudre, à l'agence qu'il a reprise de son jeune frère Philius. Comme le territoire de l'agence de la Singer s'étendait de Pembroke à Renfrew et jusqu'à Hawkesbury, Darius a acheté sa première auto, une Durand 1919. Au cours de ses voyages entre ces trois endroits, il a rencontré Marguerite Côté à Curran (Ontario). Le grand-père de celle-ci, Suzor Côté de Montréal, était un peintre réputé dont les œuvres ont une très grande valeur artistique.

(À SUIVRE)

We've got mail!

I just read the article in your newsletter concerning School #2 (Vars) Minute book. My grandfather is mentioned in minutes of 1886. He was John McVeigh, it was spelled McVey, but I am sure it was

him being as the children are mentioned in the letter to Mrs. Tanner and they are also called McVeys. I don't think there were any other McVeighs in that particular area. I was wondering if anyone knows the exact location of this school. Was it on the McVeigh property? Looking forward to hearing from you.



Gail McVeigh Hildebrandt

Yes, I'm related! I just had to write and thank you ever so much for the article Family Connections...Are you related? concerning the Lough and Dale families in the Spring 2004 issue of the Caboose.

Rebecca McClymont who married Samuel James Lough, Jr. was a daughter to my great -great -grandmother McConnell by her first husband, John McClymont! The John McClymont who Rose Lough married was an older brother to Rebecca.

Needless to say, I have been researching my McClymont "half" relatives for quite some time and the article provided me with some seven full dates I was missing from my records!!! As a fellow (or whatever the feminine term is) family genealogist, you could well imagine the excitement that erupted in my house after reading the article!

I was quite interested to note that Margaret Lough and her husband William Smyth gave their youngest daughter, Maggie, the middle given name McClymont. Was that because they had an affection for the McClymont family or were they related to them in another way unknown to me?

Please continue this feature of tracing Cumberland families. I am not only tracing Lough as well as Dunning, but Golightly and Grier, among others.

Sincerely... Randy McConnell

Engine, engine #9 Running on the Cumberland Line!

1909, December 3 - The Canadian Northern Ontario Railway line from Hawkesbury to Ottawa passes inspection and through service between Montreal and Ottawa commences December 5. The official first train ran on 12 Dec 1909. It was hauled by locomotive No. 180. A temporary station at Henderson Avenue, adjacent to the Ottawa and New York Railway depot, had to be built because the company was unable to obtain agreement to cross Hurdman Road and run into Central Depot. This line was originally incorporated as the James Bay Railway in 1895. It became the Canadian Northern Ontario Railway in 1906. Hawkesbury was reached from Montréal via the Carillon and Grenville Railway and a bridge over the Ottawa River at Hawkesbury. The line was opened in sections as follows:

Hawkesbury to South Nation River - June 8, 1909, (following an inspection by special train on 31May).

South Nation River to Rockland - July 10, 1909.
Rockland to Ottawa, Hurdman's Bridge - December 3, 1909, (following an inspection 30 November).

There was a delay in bridging the South Nation River because the contractor used inferior concrete. The original piers had to be removed and new piers constructed on a slightly different location.



Doug Ferguson saying 'goodbye' to brother Fred and Art Watson. Leaving for the West to cut hay (1922)

Tracing Family History

You've heard that 'blood is thicker than water' and 'you can choose your friends but not your family!' Why is the quest for family roots growing? The Oracle at

Delphi, over 4,000 years ago, professed 'know thyself' and 'to thine own self be true'. By investigating our gene pool and in discovering the trials and tribulations of our ancestors, we gain insight into our own being. Heredity deals the cards and environment plays them. The nature / nurture controversy will continually be debated but it is interesting to note that similarities are more common than differences within families. Tracing your family can be difficult when so many members have the same name! I visited several cemeteries recently and found:

St. Andrew's Cemetery Buckingham

Samuel A. Lough (1815 – 1885)

His wife **Rebecca McClymont** (1823 – 1893)

Their family:

Catherine (1852 – 1860)

George (1848 – 1869)

Wm. Herbert (1855 – 1916)

Eva (1857 – 1940)

John M. (1860 – 1950)

Hillside Cemetery Hawkesbury East

William Lough, died Oct. 12, 1882, 76 yrs. (1806)

His wife **Elizabeth Miller** died April 6, 1880, 77 Yrs. (1803)

Natives of Co. Antrim, Ireland

Samuel Lough only son of William & Elizabeth drowned Hawkesbury Mills June 11, 1837, aged 6 yrs.

Hugh Lough died Feb. 14, 1871, 73 yrs. (1798)

His wife **Martha Dale** died July 21, 1876, aged 89 yrs. (1787)

Miss **Nancy Dale** died Oct. 6, 1853, aged 69 yrs. (1784)

Natives of Co. Antrim, Ireland

Hugh Lough died Jan 2, 1900, 72 yrs. (1828)

His wife **Jane Kirby** died Feb. 6, 1901, 71 yrs. (1831)

Martha Jane Lough, 1866-1955

Samuel Lough died June 19th, 1846, 25 yrs. (1821)

Eliza Lough died Oct. 29th, 1825, 1 yr & 9 mths.

Vankleek Hill Protestant Cemetery

Hugh Lough died Jan. 1894 aged 87 yrs. (1807)

His wife **Penelope McDonald Lough** died Feb. 1891, 87 yrs. (1804)

William Lough died June 1849 aged 46 yrs (1803)

His wife **Mary Hughes** died Apr 4, 1893, aged 73 (1820)

Samuel Lough died Feb. 10, 1868, 92 yrs. (1876)

Cruising Down the River

In 1856 the Ottawa River Mail Steamers ran from Montreal, past Cumberland, to Bytown every day, except Sunday. They were the Lady Simpson (Capt. R.W. Shepherd), from Lachine to Carillon, and the Phoenix, from Grenville to Bytown. They steamed up the river by daylight to provide the cheapest, best and most convenient route. Parties leaving Montreal by the 7 a.m. train (for Lachine), from the depot in Bonaventure street, reached Bytown the same evening. The steamers stopped to deliver mail or freight at all major settlements along the river. Tourists enjoyed cruising the river on return trips. The steamers comprising the Ottawa River Navigation Company's fleet in 1893 were the Empress, Sovereign, (passenger vessels) Maude, Prince of Wales and Princess (market boats or freighters).

The Empress, (Captain A. Bowie), was an iron side wheel vessel of 410 tons. She was built at Montreal in 1875 and was formerly known as the Peerless. She was rebuilt in 1886 and besides being able to accommodate nearly eight hundred passengers was considered one of the fastest river steamers afloat. Her bell now rests in the belfry of St. Andrew's United Church, Cumberland.



Aboard the Empress (1921)

The Sovereign, (Captain Robert Ward Shepherd), was also a side wheel steamer, constructed of steel throughout, and was three hundred and three tons burthen. She was built by White, of Montreal, in 1889, on the model of the boats which ply on the Hudson River between New York and Albany. She accommodated seven hundred passengers, her state rooms, saloon and dining rooms being furnished most comfortably, and finished in natural woods. Her commanding officer, Captain Shepherd, was the oldest and most experienced captain navigating the Ottawa River. His first vessel was the Lady Simpson, (1846) which he commanded for many years. The Lady Simpson was succeeded by the Prince of Wales in 1860, and she by the Sovereign in 1889. The Prince

of Wales was built by Cantin, of Montreal, early in 1860, was of 3,044 tons burthen. The Princess was built at Carillon in 1872. The Maude was built by Cantin, of Montreal, in 1869, had a capacity of one hundred and seventy-two tons, was used as a tug.

The officers of the Ottawa River Navigation Company were: President: Mr. R. W. Shepherd; vice-president, Mr. J. Gibb; secretary and manager, Mr. R. W. Shepherd, junior.

(From: Robertson's "Landmarks of Toronto" Chapter 258, *The Ottawa Steamers, 1864-93 Their History - The Earlier Vessels - Well Known and Respected Officials.*)

A Family Saga

By Jeannie Smith

The ship Destiny, bound for freedom, left England in 1633 and arrived in Massachusetts where Deacon Edmond Hobart settled his family. Deacon Edmond Rice and his family landed at Shrewsbury, Massachusetts in 1638. These pilgrims were part of the second wave to flee religious persecution under the reign of King Charles I. Down through succeeding decades these British settlers infiltrated the indigenous families through marriage or as a result of being captured, taken prisoner and raised by the natives. The Colonials were a hardy breed who felt at home in the wilderness as well as in their spiritual communities in New England.

John Hobart (1738-1777) was a British Indian Agent whose wife Mary Allen died without leaving a child. Records of births, deaths, marriages and wills were quite accurately recorded and can be viewed in the archives of The Church of Later Day Saints. John's children by "Sphere" are John (also married to "Sphere"), Jacob and (Mary) Polly. Native women were not recognized as legal spouses, and therefore their names were not recorded.

On April 27th, 1794, Col. Asa Rice's (1741-1823) and Meriam Wheeler's (1742-1797) son, Dr. Abner Rice (1769-1854) married Polly Hobart (died 1821) in Worcester, Massachusetts. Abner's sister, Sarah (Sally) (1771-1830) and her husband, Job Cushing Jr. (1765-1821), left Massachusetts to settle at St. Andrew's East (Argenteuil) and later Trois Rivieres in the early 1790s. Their son Lemuel Cushing (1806-1875) established lumber mills at Cushing-Chatham, Quebec, and another son Emery (1796-1837) was the first forwarder on the Ottawa River, using large bateaux and later was Captain of the St. Andrews.

One of Abner and Polly's daughters, Amelia (1807-1860) married Peter Francis Christian Delesderniers (1793-1854) in 1824 and they lived in Greenwood Cottage at Hudson. Their only child, Mary Cecilia (1826-1901) married Robert Ward Shepherd I (1819-1895) who established The Ottawa River Navigation

Company. Dr. and Mrs. Rice's 13th and youngest daughter, Maria, was born in Vermont (1813-1862) and the family moved to St. Andrew's East about 1815.

Maria Rice married Peter McLaurin (1804-1890), a Scot living in Breadalbane, south of Vankleek Hill, on November 7, 1837 at St. Andrew's East. Abner Rice and W.E. Blanchard were witnesses. Peter McLaurin graduated from school in Quebec City and became a Public Land Surveyor who established the post office at Riceville and was later Reeve of North Plantagenet. The McLaurins' children were: Susannah (1841-1918), Abner (1844-?), John (1846-1874) and Margaret (Maria) (1849-1929). On Maria Rice's tombstone in the Riceville Baptist Cemetery, the following epitaph is written:

In memory of Maria Rice, wife of Peter McLaurin Esq., died Sept. 21, 1862, aged 49 years. In this lonely sacred spot Maria sweetly does repose, calmly she with sealed assurance slept to rise as Jesus rose. She was the person after whom this place was called Riceville, on account of which her name will not be forgotten as well as being engraved on the hearts of those who esteemed her.

Her son Abner left for the gold rush in Pike's Peak, Colorado, never to be heard from again. John, a promising young lawyer, died of typhoid. Maria married William Nelson Dunning (1840-1925) on December 27, 1869 at St. Andrew's Church, Cumberland. Their children were Maude (Heat h), Peter Rice and George Percival (1879-1919), Doctor in Navan. Wm. Nelson, a store merchant, built 'Clearview', the stone house in Cumberland but his sister-in-law, Susannah Rice McLaurin Ferguson took over the mortgage after he filed bankruptcy circa

1883.

Susannah studied music in Montreal, where her grandfather Dr. Abner Rice lived. There, at a boarding house, she met James Ferguson (1838-1921) and they were married March 17, 1863 and lived at Chestnut Cottage in Cumberland. Of their nine children, five survived to adulthood. Dr. William Dunlop



Susannah Rice McLaurin Ferguson (1841 – 1918)

Turner Ferguson (1864-1912), Maria Rice (Minnie) Hook Ferguson, (1866-1890), Adelbert Percival Cecil Ferguson (1868-1944), John Nelson Darby Ferguson (1875-1958) and Susie Rice Ferguson Kennedy (1883-1986). Susannah was a tiny, but feisty woman who had a keen mind for business. She kept the books for her husband's medical practice and owned a lot of real estate in Cumberland. Her father, Peter McLaurin died at Cameron's Point, by the wharf in Cumberland in 1890. Her father-in-law, William Ferguson, who had emigrated from Scotland to Caledonia Springs in

1836, then to Vankleek Hill in 1845, lived with the Peter McLaren Family in Cumberland and died there in 1886. Susannah and James moved to 'Clearview' in 1897 when their son John moved his bride, Annetta Rachel Helmer (Nettie) (1875-1957) into Chestnut Cottage. John Watson, who grew up across from Clearview, recalled seeing Susannah, bundled in a warm fur coat, pacing the upper verandah "in her cups!!", waiting the return of her beloved husband who was tending his patients in Cumberland Township. When their oldest son, Willie, the doctor in Rockland suddenly died in 1912, Dr. and Mrs. James Ferguson moved to Inglehyrst, a red brick house just east of the RC church in Rockland.

Susannah was always searching for news of her brother Abner, so asked that her first grandchild be named



Grand Ma Ferguson with Bessie, James, Fred, William and Doug Ferguson (1909)

James Abner Ferguson (1898-1990, Doctor in Lancaster, New Hampshire, from 1927-1987)). Her youngest child, Susie, was the last one in the family to carry the Rice name. My name is Jean (1950), derivative of John. My Father was John Douglas Ferguson (1904-1965). His father, John Darby Ferguson, Susannah's brother, was John Rice McLaurin, her uncle John Hobart Rice (1812 died Jan. 23, 1829) at St. Andrew's East, and her great uncle and great grandfather Hobart were named John. What will destiny bring for my son Brett John Smith? Que sera sera!

The following letter was in a little picture frame of Susannah and James.

Cumberland, March 4th, 1863
My Dear Susie,

A month seems to have rolled round since I have left you in Riceville. I write this at 2 o'clock in the morning which is the first leisure moment I have had since my return.. I & cousin reached home early on Sunday and a great many of my patients were waiting for me, so many that it will be as much as I can do to overtake my practice within a few weeks. I am traveling night & day and fear that I will be unable to go down as soon as I said however I am very anxious to see you again and to have you ever near me for cannot imagine My Dear Susie what real pleasure & real happiness I have felt since I received your gracious promise to be mine. Be assured that I shall study hard to make your choice a happy one. But I will not be settled or as contented in mind as I should like until our marriage is consummated, and I have accordingly determined to ask your consent to our being married on an early day. If you have nothing to prevent I should wish it as soon as the week after next, say Tuesday in so much as I do not expect to have my sister Elizabeth with me much longer & I am much opposed to being alone with strangers again. My business suffers, my mind is unnecessarily troubled & comfort of a domestic kind I know not. Two months after the death of my mother may seem too soon to contract marriage, but I feel if she were now able to give me her advice, it would be to marry. The sooner we are united, the sooner I will be happy indeed and the sooner we will have an opportunity of studying each other & mutually forwarding each other's happiness.

I do not see the benefit of delay, were we to put it off a year we could but still imperfectly understand each other as our almost only means of communication would

be by letter (a very imperfect mode of conveying one's feelings or in studying one's disposition). I trust therefore that you will see fit to comply with my heart's prayer in this matter. I will send a note to your father, a matter which I should have attended to when down, but I know not what hesitancy impeded me in my duty further than that I expected to be down again on Saturday. In case however, that I cannot (I will write) I trust however that you have informed him of our intentions and that he will acquiesce with yes. My sister Elizabeth & cousin McCandlish will call on you on their way to Vankleek Hill where they are going for a day or two. Be pleased to write me by return mail as I will be very anxious until I learn your conclusion. State to me fully what you would prefer and as far as is in my power I shall endeavour to render your charge in life, a happy one. For my part I should prefer that we be soon united, in a very unostentatious manner, with only our family, friends. However, be sure & write me so that I may have your letter by Saturday night & write for a certainty & believe me to be ever your sincere Lover...

Dr. James Ferguson

Miss Susie Rice McLaurin
Riceville



Dr. James Ferguson and his bride Suzannah Rice McLaurin
 (married March 17 1863, Riceville, Ontario)

St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Vars

by Jeannie Smith

The little settlement that grew up along side of the C.N.R. line to Montreal just east of Bearbrook proposed to name their village after the founding families-McVeigh, Armstrong, Rowan and Smith. They thought it would be a great idea to take the first letter of each of these families' names, but that would create Mars! So, the 'Mc' was dropped from McVeigh and the name Vars was adopted.

The residents of Vars worshipped at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Bearbrook which was the first Anglican Church built in Russell County in 1845. This church was replaced by a fine stone building in 1910. The land for a new church was donated by P. Farmer, whose only stipulation was that the church be called St. Andrew's. Reverend Morris Taylor and the men of the congregation prepared the area for construction and the building was completed. George Marshall (1826-1902) helped to build St.

Andrew's.

The wooden building displays dominant features related to the Gothic Revival style. These include a crenellated bell tower, pointed arches above the windows and doors and the steeply pitched gable roof. In contrast to its white exterior, the interior of this church is quite dark. The original pine wood panelling covers the walls and arched ceiling. The furnishings have changed greatly over the years since gifts have been donated in memory of loved ones who worshipped at St. Andrew's. The original windows have been replaced with memorial windows. The wooden arch over the walkway from Devine Road to the front entrance was erected in 1964 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of St. Andrew's Anglican Church.

Information taken from Elizabeth Alexander's research on Churches that is found in the CTHS History Room



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Each package contains 10 note cards and 10 envelopes, and includes illustrations of these Cumberland Township landmarks:

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-  Eglise Catholique Romaine Saint-Hugues - Sarsfield
-  St. Mark's Anglican Church - Cumberland
-  St. Andrew's Anglican Church - Vars
-  St. Mary' Anglican Church - Navan
-  Holy Trinity Anglican Church - Bearbrook
-  Andrew Wilson House - Bearbrook

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