

THE CABOOSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CTHS)

ISSN 1203-147X

Volume XXII Number 4

March 2011

President's message (Dorothy-Jane Smith)

With the lengthening days and the arrival of seeds in the mail, we are closing the door on winter. Even though there is still snow on the ground, the sap will soon start to rise bringing the first harvest of the new year, the sweet sap of the maple. Celebrating harvest with festivity goes deep into the roots of all peoples but perhaps this first harvest, while so much still seems winter-dead, is the sweetest. So we have focused in this issue on sugaring off and on the sugar bush of Angus Wilson in Cumberland Village.

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

- Dorothy-Jane Smith, President
- Jean-François Beaulieu, Vice President
- Bill Woodruff, Treasurer
- Ross Bradley, Director
- Verna Cotton, Director
- Jeannie Smith, Director

Ex-officio

- Randall Ash, Newsletter production
- Dan Brazeau, Website

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



Who are They? This photo was taken somewhere near the Ottawa River in Cumberland about 1920. The two pre-teen girls are Dorothy (Cameron) Chamberlin and Mildred (Cameron) Smith. But who are the lady and the three small children? Please send your answers (and guesses) to deejaysmith@rogers.com. And if you have a photo taken in Cumberland Township with mystery people in it, let us ask the question in the next Caboose for you.

Next meeting of the CTHS

The next General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 2nd in the boardroom of the Ottawa Regional Police Station, Tenth Line Road and St. Joseph Blvd. Joy Forbes, author of *Perseverance, Pranks and Pride - Tales of the One-Room Schoolhouse*, will speak on the stories she learned as she wrote her book. As well she will have some copies to sign and sell. Doors will be open at 6:30 for a start-time of 7 P.M. Be sure to bring a friend along. Light refreshments, as always, will be served.

Society calendar

For more information on these and other upcoming 2010/11 events, please contact a member of the executive committee or visit our website at www.cths.ca.



At the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum

Feb. 23 rd	From February 23 rd , Rockland Heritage Archives and Sports Museum exhibit on Inuit and First Nations, 687 Laurier Street, Rockland.
March 10 th	Cumberland Village Vision Update, at the Lion's Maple Hall 7 to 9 (doors open 6:30).
May 4 th	Dr. David Gratton of the Conservation Institute; Navan Curling Club 1305 Fairgreen Ave, Navan (<u>this meeting only</u>)
May	Cumberland Heritage Village Museum: Reopening for the new season May 2011
CTHS meetings	Unless other stated, all meeting are at 10 th Line Road Police Station 2 nd floor Boardroom. Doors open by 6:30 and start time 7:00 pm.

Check for events at the Cumberland Museum:

www.Ottawa.ca/residents/heritage/museums/Cumberland

The Caboose is made possible in part through a grant from the City of Ottawa.



Calling volunteers!! Two directors will be stepping down at the May 2011 AGM so we have openings if you want to help grow the history of Cumberland.

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:

- Dorothy-Jane Smith, President (225-3554)
- Jean-François Beaulieu, Vice-President (841-0424) jeanfb@sympatico.ca
- Bill Woodruff, Treasurer, b.woodruff@videotron.ca
- Ross Bradley, Director
- Verna Cotton, Director (835-2490)
- Jeannie Smith, Director (833-2877)
- Randall Ash, Newsletter Production (833-3207) randall2620@rogers.com
- Dan Brazeau, Website

Did you know?

You can use Google to search issues of the Ottawa Citizen from 1853 to the 1990s as well as the Bytown Gazette and the Buckingham Post from 1895. Google's news archives has abyou to search and to read the actual text, advertisements, stories and all.



The best starting point is the advanced search page at - http://news.google.ca/archivesearch/advanced_search

On this page you can enter search terms and specify the newspaper you want to search in the box "news source". To search specifically for the Ottawa Citizen you can type in the full title or you can just type in "Ottawa" to search a number of old Ottawa newspapers at once. For the Buckingham Post, typing in the full name or Buckingham works equally well. If you want, you can open up a specific hit and then browse through the newspaper. To do this you simply click on the top left buttons to either "browse this newspaper" (that is, that particular issue) or "browse all newspapers". The last option will give you access to several issues of the newspaper all clustered around the date of the original page opened.

Unfortunately, searching is not yet a perfect science as the site software does a poor job of recognizing certain combinations of letters in newsprint. For example, searching for the Lough family gives results for "furlough" and "tough". As well, there are many missing issues and I have not yet figured out how to print from the site. So we can not say good-bye yet to the microfilm set of Citizen back issues found at the Ottawa Public Library main branch. But even though this electronic archives of old newspapers is not a perfect tool, it is a very useful tool for getting started on local and family history research.

Clarification...

Clarifications – from January 2011

The caption for the photos on page 2 missed a phrase. The trees and plaques set up by the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum was to commemorate Robert and Dr. Irving Kennedy's long service to the community as well as their war service to Canada. With the passing of Dr. Kennedy on January 6, 2011, those who wish to read more about the contribution of the full Kennedy family can go to the CTHS website to look at the November 2004 Caboose for Dr. Kennedy's own remembrances.



Sugaring Off

by Dorothy-J. Smith

Making maple sugar is an invention of the First Nations which became an important staple for European settlers as they adapted to life in the bush. While you could buy sugar for your tea from the Dunning store in Buckingham in 1845 and molasses for cooking, your own home-boiled maple sugar was the most cost effective sweetener. By 1939, though, the Ottawa Citizen described sugaring off as a nostalgic event for townspeople looking for a country outing. Even at that time, boiling in a large kettle with a piece of fat pork on a string to keep the syrup from boiling over and collecting with homemade spigots made out of cedar was hopelessly obsolete.

tapped all the maple trees down Sparkle Street which her grandfather had planted. Ferg and Kay Minogue were other neighbours who had a backyard operation for satisfying the needs of family and the closest and most favoured of friends. Newcomers to the area were also enticed into the process though not with total success. In 1947 Richard Arnott wrote a letter to "Uncle Ray's Corner" in the Ottawa Citizen in which he described his, and his brother Bob's, adventure in the maple sugar business. They had come from northern Ontario near James Bay and were intrigued by their classmates talking excitedly about the upcoming sugaring off. Based on rudimentary advice from their friends, Richard and Bob started boring holes in the trees around their home only to learn from the other boys



Tips for homemaking in April 1927 included ways to use maple syrup in everyday baking. (The Ottawa Citizen, April 22, 1927, p. 15)

According to the Citizen, the modern sap collector of 1939 looked for a hillside grove with room for the sugar house at the bottom. A temporary system of metal pipes between hilltop trees and the sugar house then allowed gravity to do the work of delivering the sap to the collecting tanks.

Life in Cumberland Township, though, may have moved a little slower. Jeannie Smith remembers that in Cumberland Village everyone who could, tapped and boiled including her uncle, Fred Ferguson. He

that they were drilling into basswoods. Irwin Paquette, who owned the service station across from the Arnott's house, pointed out a giant tree outside his station that would have lots of sap. After a lot of effort and a broken bit they succeeded in inserting some spiles. Only then did Irwin tell them that, in fact, this was an elm tree. Richard went on to say that in a place near him in Cumberland the collected sap was emptied into a great tank containing hundred of



gallons and was fed down the hill by pipes to the sugar house where the evaporators were.

The Ottawa Citizen carried articles in 1957 and 1961 on the operation of Walter Berndt just west of Cumberland Village. The Berndts had been producing sugar on their farm since they arrived in

Cumberland Township from Thurso in the 1940s. By the 1950s, their sugar bush had turned into a major operation that was as much "rural experience" for urban visitors as it was maple syrup production from about 3,500 trees. In April 1961 about 5,000 people visited his maple bush in one week and the Berndt's had produced about 385 gallons of syrup representing more than 13,000 gallons of sap. His operation employed 23 people gathering sap, two to boil, and another three making sugar and taffy and selling to customers. Their bush was located on two sides of a hill and, except for one plastic pipeline, the family was still gathering by horse and sleigh or, as the snow disappeared, by horse and wagon; all, of course, as part of the rural experience.

What Jeannie remembers though is the smaller and more intimate sugar bush and cabin of Angus Wilson. One Spring day in 1985 she led a march of her fifth-graders from Meadowview School up to his bush near Wilhaven Drive. There the children were shown each step in sugaring off. Jeannie has a strong memory still of the beautiful early spring day and the smell of the wood smoke.

Angus Wilson produced only about 400 or 500 gallons of maple syrup per year. His father, Norman Wilson, had sugared there as well starting with big iron pots. They would have several in a row and ladled the syrup from one to another. By the time Angus was a boy his father had put in a

modern evaporator. It was Angus who decided to shift over to using plastic tubing for collection. Later he brought in reverse osmosis, using a machine to strain out a lot of the water in order to save time and fuel in the boiling.

In the early years Étienne Ranger was responsible for the Wilson sugaring off. When he died, Norman brought in a new sugar maker and immediately ran into trouble. Étienne had been an old sugar maker who used traditional methods. He checked when the syrup was ready by holding up the pan and seeing how it dripped off the edge. The new man relied instead on the evaporator's thermometer; not a good idea when the thermometer is defective. When Norman took some syrup in to Moreland's, a greengrocer on Ottawa's Rideau Street, the customers complained that the cans should have "water" written on them. The company that had sold the evaporator had to be brought in but this turned into an opportunity to further improve their sugar making process.

When Angus came back from Agricultural College in Guelph, he had to learn by trial and error how to make syrup as no-one gave courses in the art at that time. He says that everyone just learned at home, handing down the techniques from one generation to the next. Angus burnt his first batch as he did not know to run in more sap when the batch was almost at the boil. And so he learned, batch by batch.



Wilson's sugar camp with visitors, the Ferguson sisters Suzanne McCord and Jeannie Smith circa spring 1960 (from the collection of Jeannie Smith)

When the Wilson's collected with buckets they employed six men in the sugar bush, their own farm crew plus a few additional men. Wood had to be cut in the winter months before and more wood was cut on spring days when the sap was not running. Another challenge came during the Second World War when they could not get cans. Instead Norman collected whiskey bottles from all his friends to bottle the syrup. Normally, though, they canned the syrup in a small cannery on their property.

Once Angus shifted to pipelines he found he could set up the whole system and run it by himself. As well, with the piping, he could collect when others who used buckets had found collection stopped. And so he discovered that piping not only saved labour but was also more efficient in extracting sap. The one big problem was the squirrels. They like to eat the plastic tubing so all the system had to be checked constantly. There was one tree where every day they had to patch the tubing.



Angus remembers that, when he started, the Beaton's and the Proulx's had a sugar bush and Carlton Farmer was selling using a sign on the verandah. City people started to come out in the 1950s for a day in a sugar bush as the car and improved rural highways made country places a prime

destination for recreation. With this change, maple sugar bushes became commercially viable as much for their tourist content as for the actual syrup. Angus visited the Proulx's one afternoon to see how they were running this new combination of a sugar bush with restaurant. He remembers that it was quite a business but that he preferred not to have visitors who were total strangers just looking for a day out. Angus considers today that maple sugaring could be profitable "but it was touch and go really. In a good year it would be all right but in some years you did not get as much."

Sources

- Angus Wilson, interview June 2010
- Conversation with Jeannie Smith, February 2010
- The Ottawa Citizen – April 22, 1927, April 1 and 3, 1939, March 28, 1947, April 9th, 1957, April 11, 1961
- W. W. Dunning account books (Joan and Doug Lancaster)

La maison Dupuis: témoin de la fondation d'Orléans

par/by Diego Elizondo

Abstract –

The Dupuis House at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum represents not only one of the earliest houses, still unchanged, from the early days of the region but also represents the founder of Orléans, François Dupuis. Having served during the War of 1812, Dupuis was able to acquire land in what is now Orléans. He was instrumental in organizing his neighbours to convince Bishop Guigues of the need for a parish church in their village.

Si nous pouvons dire qu'une maison a su traverser les différentes époques, au travers des années, c'est bien la maison Dupuis du Musée-village du patrimoine de Cumberland. Cette maison construite en bois équarri et vaste d'un étage est selon la brochure officielle du Musée-village du patrimoine de Cumberland « la plus vieille du Musée ». Le mythe entourant la maison découle directement de celui dont elle doit son nom, c'est-à-dire, celui que plusieurs considèrent à juste titre comme le fondateur d'Orléans, François Dupuis.

Pour parler de l'importance de la maison Dupuis, nous ne pouvons omettre de raconter la vie de François Dupuis, afin de bien prendre conscience de l'importance que sa demeure a aujourd'hui dans le patrimoine et folklore pour les gens d'Orléans et de l'Est de la ville d'Ottawa.

Qui était François Dupuis ?

À ce jour, les origines de François Dupuis restent nébuleuses. La plupart des sources s'entendent que Dupuis est né en 1785 à Varennes, au Québec. Dans ses jeunes années, Dupuis, célibataire à l'époque, s'enrôle (et ce, de façon volontaire) dans la guerre canado-américaine de 1812 où il aurait participé à la fameuses bataille de Châteauguay de 1813, aux côtés du célèbre colonel de Salaberry, dans le régiment des « Voltigeurs ».

C'est suite à sa participation comme soldat du contingent provincial de l'armée britannique au cours de cette guerre, que selon certains, la Couronne Britannique octroie des terres dans la province actuelle de l'Ontario à François Dupuis. Sauf l'hypothèse que Dupuis ait acheté sa terre suite à une rémunération quelconque reçue lors d'un engagement militaire, n'est pas écartée, également. François Dupuis marie Marie-Thérèse Scott, surnommée « Mary », en 1816. Le couple aura 10 enfants.

François Dupuis arrive dans la partie du Canada-Ouest (aujourd'hui l'Ontario), dans la Province du Canada, vers 1846. Dupuis est surpris de voir



The Dupuis house as it can be seen today at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum (photography by Dorothy-J. Smith)

l'abondance de terres fertiles qu'il vient d'acquérir. Il lance un vaste appel-à-tous aux canadiens-français désirant s'installer avec lui au Canada-Ouest. Plusieurs viendront s'installer auprès de lui.

Il semble que dès 1849, les paysans du coin se rencontrent chez François Dupuis. Leur but: btenir une paroisse catholique qui leur permettrait de se recueillir et de se regrouper, en français. Les gens se réunissent dans la maison de François Dupuis et choisissent ce dernier, afin d'approcher l'Évêque du diocèse d'Ottawa, Monseigneur Bruno Guigues. Mgr Guigues, est impressionné par la volonté des paysans et leur foi catholique. Vers 1855, Mgr Guigues créé la mission Saint-François-Xavier fin de desservir la communauté orléanaise et les premiers missionnaires arrivent.

François Dupuis offre même 8 acres de son terrain au diocèse afin d'y construire une chapelle, pour ceux qui désirent se recueillir. Les efforts déployés par Dupuis depuis 1849 sont enfin récompensés avec l'arrivée de la Paroisse Saint-Joseph d'Orléans en 1860.

La dernière occupante de la maison fût Mademoiselle Éva Dupuis, descendante directe de François Dupuis. Elle vécut dans la maison jusqu'à sa mort en 1983. À cette époque la Maison se retrouvait sur le boulevard Saint-Joseph, à la hauteur où se situe de nos jours le restaurant Saint-Hubert. Malgré la technologie, il est fascinant de constater que la

maison était resté telle-quelle, comme à l'époque de François Dupuis. Car même en 1983, il n'y avait ni eau courante, ni électricité! Éva Dupuis demeura dans la maison jusqu'à sa mort et dès l'année suivante en 1984, la Maison fût transportée au Musée-Village du patrimoine de Cumberland où elle s'y retrouve toujours. La maison est un bien précieux car elle a su traverser les époques et rester intacte, malgré les avances technologiques.

Si la maison Dupuis pouvait parler, elle aurait sûrement beaucoup à dire. La maison fût sûrement l'un des témoins les plus privilégiés des modestes débuts du patelin ce que nous appelons aujourd'hui Orléans et de son fondateur, nul autre que François Dupuis.

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- Serré, Robert (2009). Familles pionnières de Saint-Joseph d'Orléans dans l'Est de l'Ontario, Société d'histoire de Gloucester, Ottawa, 48 p.
- Visite de l'auteur à la maison Dupuis, le 24 juillet 2010.

Enquiries - Amable Foubert and Mathilde Dunning- when and where were they married?

from Gérard Boyer

As a member of the French Canadian Genealogical Society I receive a copy of their review, Mémoires, four times a year. This review incorporates a Question/Answer section for members to inquire about births, deaths, marriages, and general whereabouts of certain individuals whose genealogy is of interest. I wonder if there are any Cumberland historians who care to comment about the following exchange over the course of 2010. I have translated the information from French. The initial question sought documentation for the marriage of Amable Foubert and Mathilde Dunning. The final bracket in each entry indicates the surname of the person either asking the question or responding.

I know that both Foubert and Dunning names are historically the earliest pioneer families of Cumberland and wonder if the above is already well-known or whether there is more light to shed on this subject.

Volume 61, number 1, spring 2010:

Question: m of Amable FAUBERT (Gabriel & Marie-Joseph Houde) (bap. 30-03-1782 Vaudreuil and Mathilde DUNNING (Zalmon & Deborah Rice/Royce) (born 17-04-1791 St-Jean-sur-Richelieu and bap. 19-02-1811 Rigaud). Their daughter Marguerite marries Antoine NEVEU/LACROIX on the 24-01-1825 in Montebello. (Payeur)

Volume 61, number 2, summer 2010:

Answer: Amable-Antoine FAUBERT and Rose-Mathilde DUNNING. The mother's name for the children born between 1811 and 1823 is dite McDONALD and for the first two girls born in 1808 and

1809, the parents were living in upper Long Sault. When the children are baptized Catholic, it is never written "son or daughter of the legitimate marriage of..... and of....." Maybe they were never married in the Catholic Church. (Laflamme)

Volume 61, number 3, fall 2010:

Answer: In all the baptismal acts of the children of Amable-Antoine FAUBERT and Mathilde DUNNING/MCDONALD/DONELL, never do the words "legitimate marriage" appear. In Ste-Madeleine de Rigaud on the 19-02-1811, 2 girls (Marguerite and Marie-Sara) are baptized and the names of the parents are Mable FOUBERT and Rose-Mathilde MACDONALD living in Upper Canada; on the 08-03-1814, still in Rigaud, 2 sons (Alexandre and André-Amable) are baptized and the names of the parents are Amable FOUBERT and Rose-Mathilde DUNNING living in Upper Canada. The other children are Gabriel baptized in 1815 in Montebello, Véronique in 1817 in Montebello, Mathilde in 1820 in Montebello and Émilie in 1824 in Rigaud. For the last 2 children, the parents were living in Cumberland on the Outaouais River. (Gravel)

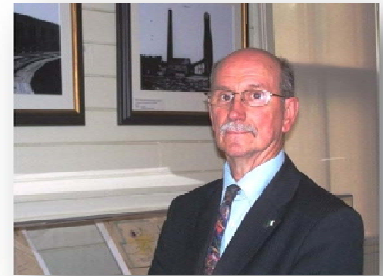
Response from the CTHS...

The January 2007 Caboose carried an article on the Dunning Family written by one of their descendents, Randy McConnell. Randy states that Matilda Dunning (daughter of Zalmon Dunning and Deborah Royce) married Amable Faubert in 1808. The Caboose article traces the Dunning family back to England and clearly shows that the Dunning family have no record that Matilda ever had an alias or "dit" name, whether MacDonald or anything else. Perhaps some of our readers have additional information that would explain the statements made in the newsletter.

Félicitations, Gilles Chartrand

Gilles Chartrand is being honoured for his work on behalf of Rockland and Franco-Ontarian history. On the 6th of February he was named Personnalité de la Semaine by Le Droit. On February 25th, he will be traveling to Toronto to receive the Lieutenant-Governor's Award for his achievements in conserving local history. Then, on March 26th, at the annual banquet of the francophonie of Prescott-Russell, he will be admitted to l'Ordre de la francophonie in recognition of his work as an amateur historian of Franco-Ontarian heritage.

If you have had the chance to visit the Rockland heritage archives and sports museum, you will agree that this is well-deserved recognition of both Gilles' dedication and his passion for local history. Our Cumberland society has also benefitted from his love of local history. Gilles has given us presentations on the Rockland Mill marquettes which he preserved when they were in need of a new home many years ago. These marquettes were the centrepiece of the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum's 2009 exhibit.



Gilles Chartrand and the Rockland Mill marquettes at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum.

