

The Caboose

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LAST MEETING

Our last meeting was a public lecture held on November 3rd at the Cumberland Public Library on Tenth Line Road. The speaker was Angus Wilson, who traced his ancestors from Scotland, through five generations, to Montreal, Grenville and Cumberland Township. Angus provided a brief portrait of several of his ancestors and of his immediate family, as well as a number of anecdotes from his own life. More than thirty-five people were in attendance, a record for our Society. Angus had brought several photos, and a snack was served. It was a memorable evening.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 5th, at 7:00 p.m., at the Cumberland Public Library. The guest speaker will be Jeannie Smith, great-granddaughter of Dr. James Ferguson, who practiced medicine in Cumberland Township for some sixty years. Come along, and bring a friend!

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Ancestors of Jim Morin, of Cumberland by Bob Serré

I was twelve years old in 1956 when my father bought one and a quarter acres of land, between Highway 17 and the Ottawa River, from Jim Morin in Cumberland. Jim Morin was then 58 years old. In 1920, he had married Nellie Ryan, who had been born in Ryanville, Quebec, in the same year he had been born: 1898. They had eleven children.

James Levis Morin was a native of Cumberland, one of fourteen children born to Philippe Morin and Sarah Somers, daughter of William Somers and Margaret O'Toole. Philippe and Sarah had been married in Sainte-Félicité Catholic Church, Clarence Creek, in January 1875.

Philippe's parents, Antoine Morin and Mélie (Emily) Larivière, had been married in L'Original in August 1846, and by the time the 1861 census was taken, they were settled in Cumberland Township, Concession 1 along the river, on a fifty-acre lot, with six of the eleven children they would eventually have.

Antoine and Mélie had both been born in Lower Canada, she in Vaudreuil west of Montreal, he in the Beauce region south of Quebec City. Born in 1820, Antoine Morin was a sixth-generation North-American, for his grandfather's grandfather had been the son of Pierre Morin dit Boucher, who had left his native province of Poitou in Western France to seek a new life in Acadia (now Nova Scotia). He had married Marie Martin, a native of Port-Royal in Acadia, around 1661. Pierre and Marie had had twelve children, all born in Acadia. Their oldest son, Pierre, had been married in Beaubassin, an Acadian village, but those were troubled times, and the family was forced to leave the area a number of years before some 13,000 of their compatriots were deported by the British authorities. That is how Antoine's branch of the Morin family ended up in the Beauce region of Quebec.

Like many of the immigrants from the British Isles, Antoine Morin was looking for a better life in a promising new land when he settled in the Lower Ottawa Valley in the 1840s. He was 26 years old when he married Mélie in L'Original; she was 17.

As it turned out, their grandson, Jim Morin, settled with his family on Lot 14, Concession 1 (Old Survey) in Cumberland, in a house built in 1915 by Napoléon Foubert, the great-grandson of Amable Foubert, who around 1807 had acquired that land from the Dunning family, making the Fouberts and the Dunnings the two founding families of the Township, so to speak.

Being a carpenter, Jim Morin built a cottage for my father. It stood there, overlooking the historic Ottawa River, for thirty years, before a cozy little house was built to replace it. By then, the Morin family home had been moved to what is now the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum, where people can admire its elegant interior. It is called the Foubert House.

Jim Morin died in May 1979, and his wife Nellie died in June 1982. I remember them as gentle, kind people who let a young lad from the city borrow some planks from their old wood pile; I've been joyously puttering around the place ever since. I am very grateful to their daughter Joan, who kindly allowed me to take notes from personal papers on her family history.

BY THE WAY...

Thank you, Angus Wilson, for a most fascinating overview of your family background; I was astonished by the many positions and accomplishments ... and I hope you will grace us at another time with "the rest of the story."

Thanks to all those who made it out to our little get-together in Orleans; to those who couldn't make it this year, there is always next year, right?

Our next guest speaker will be Jeannie (Ferguson) Smith, on January 5, 1999, at the front room as you enter the library. See you there. As Jeannie has considerable knowledge of many aspects of Cumberland history as well as of her own Ferguson ancestors, I am sure we are in for a delightful evening.

I don't want to take up much space in this newsletter, so I will simply say a BIG THANKS to all of you for each and every contribution you make in time, talent and donations to make our society bigger and better with each passing year. There is always plenty to do, and as we all know, many hands make light work. Call me and we'll find a little something for your hands to be on.

Our best wishes for a blessed and happy Christmas and a fantastic, happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!!!

Ruth Parsons, President

BACK IN DECEMBER 1899...

The edition of the Ottawa newspaper *The Citizen* published on Saturday, December 23, 1899 contained the following item:

NEWS OF CUMBERLAND

Death of Mrs. Wm Deavy -- Miss G. Robson Resigns Her Position

Cumberland, Dec. 22 -- Mrs. Wm Deavy, an aged and respected lady of this township, passed away on Dec. 6th. She went to bed seemingly in good health, but awoke in the morning feeling somewhat ill, and within a very short time she passed quietly away. The deceased was 76 years of age and leaves to mourn her loss a husband, nine sons and four daughters, 60 grandchildren and a number of great grandchildren. The remains were conveyed to Dale's cemetery followed by a large number of friends, and the funeral service was conducted by Rev A.D. McIntyre. Mrs. Deavy will be missed in a wide circle.

Mrs. F. Minogue is lying dangerously ill, and all her family has been summoned to her bedside.

Miss Georgia Wilson has returned from Rockland, where she had been visiting her sister, Mrs. E. Beaton.

Miss Agnes Hodges has left for Ottawa where she will spend the winter months.

Miss Ella McCaskill has gone to visit her sister, Mrs. A. Waters, of Euclare. Both young ladies will be greatly missed by a large circle of friends.

Miss G. Robson has resigned her school here and has gone to her home in Alexandria. Miss Robson had a large circle of friends who will miss her greatly.

DID YOU KNOW?

There was no great quantity of mail [in Vankleek Hill and elsewhere on the Ottawa River in 1827] due to the great expense for postage and the availability of travellers to carry the messages for nothing. It was only in the late 1840's after a law was passed making it illegal for anyone to carry such mail that the mail began to increase to thrice a week.

(From Volume 1 of *The Story of Vankleek Hill and the surrounding area* by Alan D. MacKinnon, 1979, page 167; a copy of this book may be found at the Ottawa Public Library)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

On the evening of Tuesday, December 7, 1999, at a regular Council meeting of the City of Cumberland, Verna Cotton was awarded a heritage certificate and lapel pin at a special ceremony. Mayor Gerry Lalonde made the presentation to honour Verna's contribution to LACAC (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee) and the Women's Institute in Navan. Verna, who has been Curator of the Navan Branch of the Tweedsmuir Histories for some 15 years, is also a dedicated member of our Society.

Our President, Ruth Parsons, organized a delightful supper at the Duluth restaurant in Orleans on the evening of December 15. Some 26 members gathered around three large tables, and a smaller one, to enjoy a hearty meal and chat a while.

My wish for the coming year is that we may continue to demonstrate that striving for a better understanding of the past is an excellent means of enjoying the present and preparing for the future.

LE COIN DES CHERCHEURS

C'est à Hull, au 170 de la rue Hôtel-de-Ville (bureau S-120 au sous-sol), que se trouve le Centre régional des Archives nationales du Québec dans l'Outaouais. Établi à Hull en novembre 1977, ce centre compte une bibliothèque de référence en généalogie et en histoire régionale, y compris quelque 800 répertoires de mariages du Québec, de l'Ontario français, de la Nouvelle-Angleterre et du Manitoba, des microfilms de registres de paroisse du Québec et des greffes de notaire, notamment ceux de l'Outaouais. Cette riche documentation doit être consultée sur place. Le centre est ouvert à tous de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30 du lundi au vendredi, sauf les jours de congé, et de 19 h à 22 h les mardi et mercredi (téléphone : 772-3010).

VISAGES DU PASSÉ

Philius Raymond, né le 27 avril 1857, a été baptisé la semaine suivante, le 3 mai, dans l'église Saint-Philippe, canton de Chatham, comté d'Argenteuil au Québec.

Philius était le fils de Charles Labrosse dit Raymond, cultivateur, et d'Angèle Duchesneau. Charles et Angèle, mariés le 20 novembre 1848 à Sainte-Scholastique, dans le comté des Deux-Montagnes, ont eu au moins seize enfants entre 1849 et 1876. Philius, le septième, avait sept soeurs et huit frères.

Charles Labrosse était le petit-fils de Joachim Labrosse, qui était lui-même le petit-fils de Raymond Labrosse qui, originaire de la Bourgogne, avait quitté sa terre natale pour s'établir en Nouvelle-France, où il a épousé Marie-Louise Clément, à Ponte-Claire, le 9 mai 1724.

À l'est du village de Saint-Philippe d'Argenteuil se trouve le village de Saint-Hermas, et c'est là que demeuraient Candide Chénay (Chénier), son épouse Marcelline Lacasse et leurs huit enfants, dont une fille appelée Hermine qui est devenue l'épouse de Philius Raymond.

Philius et Hermine se sont mariés aux États-Unis, mais ils n'ont pas été les seuls à y chercher une vie plus prospère. La situation économique était devenue particulièrement difficile au Canada. Après plusieurs années de mauvaises récoltes, de nombreuses familles avaient émigré aux États-Unis, le plus souvent en Nouvelle-Angleterre, où l'essor industriel créait de nombreux emplois. Philius a épousé Hermine à l'église St. Augustine de Republic dans l'État du Maine, le 24 octobre 1881. Philius avait 24 ans et Hermine en avait 20 environ.

Philius et Hermine n'ont pas dû trouver la vie beaucoup plus facile aux États-Unis, car ils sont revenus vivre au Québec. D'après le recensement de 1901, leurs cinq premiers enfants sont nés au Québec.

Philius avait une soeur (Clothilde) et un frère (Alfred) qui s'étaient établis à Lefavre en Ontario, et c'est là que Philius et Hermine sont allés vivre avec leurs enfants vers 1893. Ils ont eu quatre autres enfants à Lefavre.

La famille Raymond est restée à Lefavre une dizaine d'années. En 1903, Philius a acheté une terre dans la troisième concession (lot 3) du canton de Cumberland. Il avait alors 46 ans. Lui et Hermine avaient six garçons et trois filles : Philius, Ermeus, Anna, Alphonse, Clorina, Alfred, Louisa, Albert et Wilfrid.

C'est Albert, né en juin 1899, qui a acheté la terre paternelle en 1925. Albert avait épousé Éléanne Lafleur le 25 février 1922 à l'église Saint-Hugues de Sarsfield, et ils ont eu dix enfants : Léo, Lucille, Gérard, Rémi, Jeannine, Yollande, Aline, Ronald, Nicole et Mario. La maison paternelle est encore là, au milieu de plusieurs autres bâtiments, et la belle terre des Raymond continue de prospérer.

Robert Serré

BONNE ET HEUREUSE ANNÉE!