

The Caboose

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Editor: Bob Serré
1057 Riviera Dr., Ottawa ON K1K 0N7
Phone: (613) 749-0607

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Cumberland Hotel

by Bob Serré

Antoine Foubert was the son of Amable Foubert and Paulite Morin, and the grandson of Amable Foubert and Matilda Dunning, who had settled in Cumberland Township around 1807. Antoine was just under 19 when he married Zoé Dionne on November 9, 1868, in St. Joseph's Church, Orleans. Zoé was the daughter of Louis Dionne and Tharsile Branchaud, of Cumberland. Antoine and Zoé had a son Joseph, but Zoé died soon afterwards, and Antoine married Olive Raby on November 4, 1871, in Thurso. Olive was the daughter of Antoine Raby and Julie Lefebvre. She and Antoine had two children, Eugénie and Antoinette, but Olive lost her husband before the decade was over: Antoine Foubert died at Cumberland on February 21, 1878; he was barely 29. When the 1881 Census was taken, Olive was a 30-year-old widow living with three children: Joseph, Eugénie, and Antoinette; her occupation: hotel keeper; she operated the Antoine Foubert Hotel.

Lovell's Business and Professional Directory of the Province of Ontario for 1882 contains the following entry on page 547, under Cumberland: "Foubert Olive, hotel and real estate agent." The Ontario Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1888-89 contains a similar entry on page 294: "Foubert Olive, hotel and real estate," and the next line reads "Winsor John, hotel." Back in 1869, the Province of Ontario Gazetteer and Directory for that year had listed John Windsor as the only hotel keeper in the village. Born around 1833 in Upper Canada, John Windsor was the son of an English father and an American mother, and his wife Joanna was born around 1843 in Canada East.

Be that as it may, Olive married Marius Philip on November 29, 1890, in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Orleans, and soon afterwards she stopped being a hotel keeper. When the 1895 Province of Ontario Gazetteer and Directory was published, it listed two hotels in the village: "Menard Bros (Alphonse and Théophile), hotel and livery; Winsor John, hotel and livery." The former Antoine Foubert Hotel was being run by Alphonse and Théophile Ménard, two nephews of Olive; their father, Louis Ménard, had married Olive's sister, Henriette Raby, in 1863, at Buckingham.

When the 1901 Census was taken, the former Antoine Foubert Hotel was being operated by Séraphin Laviolette, and it was known as the Laviolette Hotel. Born in December, 1843, Séraphin was the son of Joseph Laviolette and Marie-Louise Villeneuve. He had married Louise Mondoux on August 23, 1866 in Thurso. As for the Windsor Hotel, it was being operated by Francis McNeely and his second wife Mary Elizabeth Lafontaine.

In July 1907, Mathias Watson, the son of Robert Watson and Christine Ann Harley, moved from Sarsfield to Cumberland, and bought the hotel that was still being run by Séraphin Laviolette and his wife Louise. Mathias, born on August 27, 1860, had married Lillias Watson at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Canaan on November 21, 1894. When he took over the hotel, Mathias was about to turn 47. The hotel was then called the Cumberland Hotel.

A number of years went by, and on Friday, April 22, 1932, in the afternoon, a fire broke out on the north side of the road in the village of Cumberland, and soon destroyed a garage, the Gospel Hall and two dwellings. The next day, *The Evening Citizen*, an Ottawa newspaper, ran a news item on page 4 about the previous day's fire, reporting that "sparks carried by the high wind several times set fire to the Cumberland Hotel owned by Mathias Watson, and to a garage and livery next door, owned by John Watson. Men were stationed on the roofs of these structures, however, and succeeded in preventing the small blazes from making any headway."

A typescript prepared by Joan Lancaster, an active member of our Society, explains that in the late 1930s Mathias Watson moved to the Windsor Hotel, which his oldest son John had bought. John took over the Cumberland Hotel, and eventually had it torn down, replacing it with a home, garage, dance hall and ice cream stand.

I remember John Watson's garage, which people can now see at the Cumberland Museum east of the village. The Watson house is still there on the southeast corner of Dunning Road and Queen Street. I also remember the Windsor Hotel, or what was left of it in the late 1950s: an old, abandoned place on the southwest corner of Dunning Road and Queen Street. It was also torn down, and a new building was put up, called Barrett's Shop. It's still there.

FAMILY PROFILE

Francis McNeely was born in Canada West in 1847. He was the son of John and Mary McNeely. John McNeely had been born in County Down, Ireland, in 1799, and his wife Mary was four years younger than him. They had emigrated to Upper Canada around 1828, settling near Manotick, and their seven children were born in Canada. Francis married Mary Elizabeth McEvoy, but she died young; he was 42 when he took a second wife, marrying Mary Elizabeth Lafontaine, the daughter of Francis Lafontaine and Mary Ann Annable, on November 4, 1889 in Rockland. When the 1901 Census was taken, they had three children (Gordon, Mary and Thomas) and Francis' younger brother James, a carpenter, was living with them. Francis was a hotel keeper. He and Mary Elizabeth were operating the Windsor Hotel in the village of Cumberland. Francis was about 77 years old when he died on November 18, 1924. Mary Elizabeth was about 87 when she died on March 31, 1947.

[The above profile is based on an article published by Pat Wright in *The Courier* of April 30, 1975]

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

As yet another New Year approaches, it is comforting to note that our Society remains financially stable and secure, that its collection of books, periodicals, scrapbooks, miscellaneous binders and card files continues to grow within the Local History Room of the Cumberland Branch of the Ottawa Public Library on Tenth Line Road, and that this issue of the newsletter is going out to 56 members.

May a better understanding of the past help us deal with the present and encourage us to work towards a peaceful and happy future. SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL!

BACK IN 1895

On Thursday, January 24, 1895, *The Evening Journal*, an Ottawa newspaper, carried the following news item about Cumberland on page 7.

CUMBERLAND

January 23.—Friends will learn with regret of the demise of Hermance Lanthier, beloved wife of Charles Moreau, who died at Cumberland village Thursday the 17th inst. Deceased was a native of Ripon, Quebec, and was aged 23 years and 7 months. She had been married two years and two months and died after 18 days' illness suffered with a resignation seldom seen in one so young. Her friends have the consolation to know that she received all the last rites of her church before she left them to go to a better place. She leaves to mourn her loss a devoted husband and a dear little baby boy four days old, besides many friends who will remember her kind disposition for many years. The funeral was largely attended.

Many of our citizens have gone to the carnival and others will go up on Friday.

The councillors met yesterday and business was very brisk. This was the first meeting of the new council.

Our local market of wood is being well supplied by farmers.

The past few days have been extremely cold.

Mr. A.N. Dunning, merchant, accompanied by Mrs. Dunning, have gone to Duncanville for a short visit.

Mr. Frank McNeely gave another enjoyable ball recently which was well patronized by Ottawa, Buckingham, Rockland and local citizens. Everything passed off very satisfactorily and all expressed themselves as well pleased with the evening's entertainment. The music was supplied by the local string band.

SOMERVILLE-WILLIAMS

In 1884, **John Somerville** and his wife Isabella boarded a steamer that took them up the Ottawa River to the Township of Cumberland, where they had bought a farm some four miles southeast of the village of Cumberland. John was the son of John Somerville, a native of Scotland, and Elizabeth Young; he was 26 years old, having been born in Lower Canada in December 1857. His wife, the former Isabella Lockerby, was 24 years old. They had three children: Elizabeth, Ellen Jane and John Alexander, and an adopted son, Norman. Theirs was an Ayrshire farm. John became an elder of Mount Carmel Church (now St. Andrews United Church) in Cumberland. Isabella died in 1929, and John in 1943; they were buried in Dale's Cemetery.

Their daughter, Elizabeth Somerville, married **Arthur Williams**, who had been sent from England to Canada as a 12-year-old orphan around 1893. Elizabeth and Arthur had two children: Edwin and Ann. They moved to Ottawa for a few years, but Elizabeth wanted to get back to the country, so in 1915 they moved to a 32-acre farm on the east side of the Fifth Line (now Dunning Road), about one mile south of the village of Cumberland. Arthur cleared new acreage in the summer, and hauled logs with his team of horses in the shanty during the winter. He found work in Ottawa in 1926, and retired around 1950, living his remaining years on the farm; he died in 1962 at the age of 82. Elizabeth lived to be 98; she died in October 1981. Arthur Williams and Elizabeth Somerville were buried in Dale's Cemetery.

(The above account is based on two typescripts prepared in 1980-81 by Edwin Williams and kept in our Society's collection.)

VIEUX JOURNAUX

Un journal hebdomadaire appelé **Le Ralliement** a été publié à Clarence Creek d'avril 1895 à juin 1897. Le numéro du jeudi 18 février 1897 de ce journal contient à la page 4 des nouvelles sur Cumberland.

CUMBERLAND

M. John McLaren, agent de la fonderie de Lanark, est à Cumberland, à l'hôtel Laviolette; il doit demeurer ici une partie de l'hiver.

VISAGES DU PASSE

Olive Raby est née le 14 septembre 1850 dans la province du Bas-Canada. Elle était la fille d'Antoine Raby et de Julie Lefebvre, qui s'étaient mariés le 24 septembre 1827 à Saint-Eustache dans le comté des Deux-Montagnes au nord-ouest de Montréal. Antoine Raby était le petit-fils de Pierre Payan, qui était originaire du diocèse de Die, Dauphiné, en France, et qui avait épousé Marie-Joseph Roussel le 2 mars 1767 à Montréal.

Olive avait 21 ans lorsqu'elle a épousé Antoine Foubert le 4 novembre 1871. Antoine, âgé de 22 ans, était le fils d'Amable Foubert et de Paulite Morin, de Cumberland, mais la famille d'Olive demeurait à Thurso dans le canton de Lochaber, et c'est à l'église Saint-Jean l'Évangéliste de Thurso que le mariage a été célébré.

Antoine était veuf lorsqu'il a épousé Olive. Il avait marié Zoé Dionne le 9 novembre 1868 à Saint-Joseph d'Orléans, et ils avaient eu un fils, Joseph, mais Zoé était morte jeune. Olive et Antoine ont vécu dans le village de Cumberland. Ils ont eu deux filles : Eugénie et Antoinette, mais Olive a perdu son mari en 1878. Antoine avait à peine 29 ans lorsqu'il est mort le 21 février 1878. Il a été enterré à Saint-Joseph d'Orléans. Lors du recensement de 1881, Olive était veuve, avec trois enfants : Joseph (11 ans), Eugénie (6 ans) et Antoinette (3 ans); son gagne-pain : hôtelière. Elle tenait l'Hôtel Antoine Foubert. Pendant plusieurs années, elle a été à la fois hôtelière et agente immobilière. L'Hôtel Antoine Foubert était situé dans le village de Cumberland, où John Watson a eu plus tard son garage, à l'angle sud-est du chemin Dunning et de la rue Queen.

Olive a épousé Marius Philip, le 29 novembre 1890, à Saint-Joseph d'Orléans. Elle avait alors 40 ans. Marius, né en France le 25 septembre 1852, était le fils de Victor Philip et de Pauline Baudol; il a émigré vers le Canada en 1883, puis il a ouvert un magasin général à Sarsfield, où il a également été maître de poste. Olive et Marius ont eu un fils Victor, né le 23 mars 1894.

Olive est morte à l'âge de 80 ans le 11 mars 1931. Elle a été enterrée dans le cimetière de Sarsfield. Sa fille Antoinette Foubert, née en 1878, avait épousé Frédéric Paquette le 27 septembre 1902 à Sarsfield. Son autre fille, Eugénie Foubert, née en 1874, avait épousé Darius Farmer, frère d'Ovila, le 15 octobre 1914 à Sarsfield. Son fils Victor Philip, qui avait épousé Dorothy Maranda, n'avait que 28 ans lorsqu'il est mort en novembre 1922.

Robert Serré

BONNE ET HEUREUSE ANNEE!