

The Caboose

Newsletter of the Cumberland Township Historical Society
Bulletin de la Société historique du canton de Cumberland
4560 Ruissellet Rd., R.R. #3, Navan ON K4B 1J1

Vol. XII, No. 1
ISSN 1203-147X

July 1999

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

LAST MEETING

Our annual general meeting was held on Saturday afternoon, May 8, at the new Public Library on Tenth Line Road, with 14 participants in attendance. The President's report was followed by a financial report, and the members proceeded to elect a new Board for 1999-2000: Ruth Parsons, President for a second term (and Treasurer); Marjorie Hanson, Vice-President; Bob Serré, Secretary (and Editor of the newsletter); Verna Cotton, Director for a second term; Jean-François Beaulieu, Director.

NEXT MEETING

Traditionally, there has been no meeting of our Society in July. The next issue of *The Caboose* will provide details about the September meeting.

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Great Revival of 1868 and the Plymouth Brethren

by Bob Serré

It was in 1823 that John Edwards settled with his family and a few other immigrants in Clarence Township, where some thirty years previously James Fox had established himself.

John Edwards began his Baptist ministry almost at once, carrying the Word of God to surrounding settlements on both sides of the Ottawa River. In 1835, there was a strong religious revival centred in Clarence Township, and early settlers kept its memory alive for a long time. When Reverend John Edwards died in 1842, his son John Jr. continued his ministry.

Then, in 1868, another momentous revival occurred, and again the Clarence Church was deeply involved.

A religious movement called the Plymouth Brethren had been founded in 1828 by John Nelson Darby, a man of Irish descent born in London in 1800. Darby left the priesthood in the Church of Ireland to become the leader of the new movement, which took root at Trinity College in Dublin. Its followers in Ireland were called Darbyites, but the first meeting as such was held in Plymouth, England, which explains how this religious society came to be called Plymouth Brethren. Its two principal tenets were that the priestly office

is open to any man (though not to women), and that grace constitutes sufficient grounds for justification and redemption.

The revival started early in the summer of 1868. Then, a group of officers who had been prospecting along the river decided to take part. They were led by Lord Abelbert Percy Cecil, Captain James Dunlop and a Mr. Turner. The meetings extended well into harvest time, and spread to surrounding communities, in Cumberland and Ottawa, as well as in Lochaber, Buckingham and Templeton.

The officers favoured the tenets of the Plymouth Brethren; they resigned their military functions and gave themselves entirely to the task of preaching and effecting conversions throughout the region.

Lord Cecil's financial means allowed the Brethren to make good use of the print media to spread their teachings, which included some harsh criticism of established churches. The end result was a serious rift in the Clarence Baptist Church and a number of remarkable conversions.

Of particular note was the conversion to the Brethren's cause of Dr. James Ferguson, who had arrived in Cumberland in the early 1860s, and was to practice his profession in the region for some sixty years. Dr. Ferguson became a monk of the Plymouth Brethren, and helped build a gospel hall in the village of Cumberland (on the corner of present-day Queen and Faubert streets). He was also to name three of his sons William Dunlop Turner, John Darby, and Adelbert Percy Cecil.

According to the census taken three years after the great revival of 1868, there were close to 1,700 Plymouth Brethren in Ontario in 1871. The 1958 edition of the Encyclopedia Canadiana indicates that there were eight sects of the Brethren at that time, and some 6,500 members in all of Canada.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Between this issue of *The Caboose* and the last issue, there is a difference related to the font or printing type. For volume XI (1998-99), I used Geneva; now, for volume XII, I am using Helvetica (on my faithful old Macintosh).

Don McGilvray, who published *Cumberland Pioneers* in 1994, has donated to our Society a number of items, including a microfilm copy of the Ottawa District Census and Assessment Rolls (1823-1849) held by the Archives of Ontario, and a photocopy of the Personal and Agricultural Census of 1861, for the Township of Cumberland, held at the National Archives of Canada.

Jeannie Smith, a member of our Society, recently became the Curator of the Cumberland Branch of the Tweedsmuir Histories. Jeannie has also donated some items to our Society, including two area maps and Donald Johnston's *Up the Hill*, published in 1986.

DID YOU KNOW?

Until 1851, the Post Office in Canada was an adjunct to the General Post Office of Great Britain. On April 5, 1851, James Morris became Canada's first Postmaster General. He arranged for Sanford Fleming to design and engrave the first Canadian postage stamp, the Three Penny Beaver. (Source: T.A. Hillman, *Records of the Post Office Department*, 1985)

OLD REGISTERS

The following two items were copied from the Register of the Cumberland Pastoral Charge (Presbyterian, now the United Church), available on microfilm at the City of Ottawa Archives on Sussex Drive in Ottawa.

Alexander Lough, son of Joseph Lough deceased and his wife Catherine now a widow, died 15th June 1858 and was buried on the 17th day of the same month in the Presbyterian cemetery Cumberland, aged 10 years.
Peter Lindsay Minister

Jane Miller, a native of Belfast Ireland and wife of John Busby of Cumberland, died 28th October 1858 and was interred in the Protestant Cemetery on the 30th of the same month, aged 51 years, deceased cancer uteri.
Peter Lindsay Minister

BY THE WAY...

What an exciting time it is to be involved with the Historical Society! Thanks to all who joined us for the annual meeting; I think we are heading in the right direction, and was so happy to know I am not alone.

Our Local History Room at the Cumberland Public Library is definitely "looking good." Come on out and have a look! You will be amazed at what we have in the collection, and probably astonished at what we are missing (all contributions are gratefully received).

We have been blessed with a complete copy of the Navan Women's Institute Tweedsmuir Collection. Thanks to Verna Cotton (and her forerunners) for their dedication in collecting information regarding the people and places of the Navan area. Thanks so much, ladies.

Ted Foubert (yes, a descendant of the original Foubert family) has graciously donated portraits of Napoleon Amable Foubert (March 11, 1858 - May 20, 1942) and his wife Ellen J. Swain (June 10, 1858 - June 7, 1928) to the Historical Society. We will be proudly displaying them. Additional thanks to Foubert family members who have taken the time to meet with Bob Serré in his (and our) quest of family history research.

Thanks to Emmet Carr for the contributions from his collected birth, marriage and death information, maps, and the "Memories of the Grant Settlement" booklet (written in May 1991 by Evelyn L. McNabb). This booklet speaks of a community at the south-east edge of Cumberland Township that has all but disappeared. Thanks Emmet.

I also had the opportunity of meeting with Floyd & Greta Deevy, of Sault Ste. Marie who presented us with their collection on the Deevy / Deavy family (this one is of particular interest to me as my paternal ancestry is Scharf/Deavy). Thanks Floyd & Greta.

The Historical Discovery Walk of Cumberland held on May 29 and 30 was well received, despite the incredible heat. I think Jean-François Beaulieu has done a fantastic job of creating and conducting the tours. He is already piecing together details for the Navan version - no lack of enthusiasm in his bones eh?? Jean-François would be grateful for any information anyone can provide for Navan (and the remaining villages in Cumberland).

Now get busy and spread the word out there that we are looking for contributions (and always new members) to add to the collection. Keep up the good work, and my heartfelt thanks to you all. I am looking forward to an action packed year... Mark September 1 and November 3 on your calendars for starters, and stay tuned for further details.

Ruth Parsons, President

VIEUX REGISTRES

L'abbé Jean-Baptiste Roupe a été curé à Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours (Montebello) de 1815 à 1828. Voici un extrait du registre paroissial [bobine n° 314 aux Archives nationales du Québec à Hull].

« Le vingt septembre mil huit cent quinze par moi Prêtre soussigné Missionnaire des Iroquois du Lac et des autres Catholiques habitants la rivière des Outaouais a été baptisé Gabriel né depuis dix huit jours du mariage légitime de amable Foubert absent habitant en deça des Chaudières sur laditte rivière des Outaouais et de Rose Matilde Dunning; le Parein a été Gabriel Foubert et la Mareine Demoiselle Rosalie Cherrier épouse de Joseffe Papineau Esquier qui seule a su signer... »

VISAGES DU PASSÉ

Onésime-Jacob Boucher est né le 28 décembre 1833 à Lotbinière, sur la rive sud du Saint-Laurent entre Trois-Rivières et Québec. Fils de Pierre Boucher et de Julie Pagé, il faisait partie de la septième génération des descendants de Marin Boucher qui, originaire du Perche, avait épousé Julienne Baril en France en 1611, pour ensuite émigrer en Nouvelle-France.

Ordonné prêtre séculier à Ottawa le 17 juin 1860, l'abbé Boucher a d'abord été vicaire à Saint-Eugène-de-Prescott en 1860-1861. À cette époque, la mission de Cumberland était desservie par l'abbé Ebrard. Lorsque celui-ci a été envoyé à Wakefield en 1861, c'est l'abbé Boucher qui l'a remplacé. Le Père Boucher a commencé par rétablir le presbytère qui avait été bâti à Cumberland vers 1856 par l'abbé François Michel. Ensuite il a fait construire dans le village une grande chapelle en bois, que Mgr Guigues est venu bénir le 15 octobre 1862 sous le nom de Saint-Antoine-de-Padoue.

Cumberland comptait alors un tiers environ de catholiques et deux tiers de protestants. En plus d'avoir la charge des fidèles du canton de Cumberland, le Père Boucher visitait régulièrement les catholiques de Clarence Creek dans le canton de Clarence et ceux d'Embrun dans le canton de Russell.

Toujours est-il qu'un incendie a détruit la chapelle de Cumberland vers 1866; d'après la tradition, ce sont des protestants fanatiques qui auraient causé cet incendie. Le Père Boucher a décidé d'abandonner ce milieu peu accueillant pour faire de Clarence Creek le nouveau centre de son ministère. Il avait alors 33 ans. Endurci par maintes épreuves, il jouissait d'une santé de fer qui lui permettait de visiter ses paroissiens l'été comme l'hiver, malgré l'état pitoyable des chemins. Dans *l'Histoire de Saint-Jacques d'Embrun*, publiée en 1910, on raconte qu'après la messe de minuit à Clarence Creek, il chaussait ses raquettes pour aller célébrer la naissance du Christ avec les gens de Sarsfield.

Le Père Boucher a été curé de Clarence Creek jusqu'en 1875. Cette année-là, il a été envoyé à la paroisse Saint-Bernard à Fournier, où il a été curé jusqu'en 1882.

D'après le *Dictionnaire biographique du clergé canadien-français* publié en 1910, l'abbé Boucher a passé quelque temps dans une chartreuse, monastère européen de moines cloîtrés, en 1882. Ce même ouvrage indique qu'il a été curé de la paroisse Saint-Thomas à Lefavre de 1882 à 1885. Dans son *Histoire de la province ecclésiastique d'Ottawa* publiée en 1897, le Père Alexis de Barbezieux raconte que le Père Boucher s'est retiré à la chartreuse d'Angleterre en octobre 1885. Ce monastère avait été bâti quelques années auparavant à Parkminster (Sussex). C'est là que l'ancien missionnaire de Cumberland est mort, en 1890, dans la paix solitaire d'une communauté de moines chartreux, à l'âge de 57 ans environ. Il avait connu la vie ardue des missionnaires ambulants de la vallée de l'Outaouais à une période particulièrement mouvementée de son histoire, et il s'était dévoué corps et âme pour ses paroissiens.

Robert Serré