

The Caboose

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LAST MEETING

Our last meeting was a public lecture held on January 5th at the Cumberland Public Library on Tenth Line Road. The speaker was Jeannie Smith, who described how her own ancestors, as well as those of her husband, are deeply rooted in Eastern Ontario. Jeannie provided tantalizing excerpts from her father's notes, read a letter from her great-grandfather to his wife, and circulated photographs of buildings and family groups. Twenty-three participants enjoyed the talk and the snack that was served afterwards. It felt good to mingle with other people interested in local history.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, the 1st of March, at 7:00 p.m., at the Cumberland Public Library on Tenth Line Road. The guest speaker will be Jean-Noël Dessaint, whose grandfather Théophile arrived in the Township before 1861, and in 1876 acquired from the Crown a parcel of land that is still being farmed by the Dessaint family in Sarsfield. This will be a public lecture, and everyone is welcome!

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Early History of the Anglican Church in Cumberland Township by Bob Serré

The early settlers of Cumberland Township who looked to the Church of England for spiritual nourishment had to rely for several years on the ministrations of travelling missionaries.

The first of these was the Rev. Amos Ansley, a missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (SPG), which was funded by the state as well as privately. The SPG helped support the work of the Church of England in the Canadas. As the Dictionary of Canadian Biography (volume VII, page 20) explains, Amos Ansley was born in Kingston, Upper Canada, in 1801, of Loyalist parents. He was educated in Scotland, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1826 by Bishop Stewart of Quebec. He then took charge of St. James parish in Hull, which covered a vast territory that included the congregations in March, Goulburn, Clarence, Lochaber, Buckingham and Cumberland.

When Mr. Ansley left Hull in 1832, he was replaced by the Rev. Adam Hood Burwell, who also travelled as a missionary, visiting the settlements on the Ottawa River. The opening of the Rideau canal in 1832

helped promote new growth in the region, and in the mid-1840s, the Anglican congregation of St. Stephen was organized in Buckingham.

Meanwhile settlers had been arriving in the southern part of Cumberland Township, along the Bear Brook, as a direct result of lumbering operations. The Bear Brook was a tributary of the South Nation River, and it could be used to float logs to nearby markets, as water levels were much higher than they are today.

In 1839, the Venerable John Strachan was appointed to the new See of Toronto as its first bishop. Five years later, Holy Trinity parish was organized in Hawkesbury, and in 1846 Bishop Strachan appointed the Rev. Francis Tremayne to the charge of that parish. As a travelling missionary, Mr. Tremayne served the Mission of Cumberland, centred in the village of Bearbrook, where a wooden church was built.

Then, in 1862, the Diocese of Ontario was carved out of the Diocese of Toronto, with Kingston as its See City. Bearbrook became part of the Mission of Osgoode, Russell and Cumberland, and the resident minister lived in Metcalfe.

In 1863, the Parish of Bearbrook was formed, and the first incumbent was the Rev. F.L. Stephenson. In 1871, Rev. Thomas Garrett was the resident minister, according to Lovell's Canadian Dominion Directory for that year. In 1888, the parish was divided, and the Parish of Navan was organized. The Parish of Bearbrook included Holy Trinity Church in Bearbrook, as well as St. Paul's Church in Canaan and St. Andrew's Church in Vars, while the Parish of Navan included St. Mary's in Navan, St. Mark's in Cumberland and St. Mary the Virgin in Blackburn.

By then, the days of the pioneers were fading memories, and the daunting forests of old had largely given way to productive farmland. Within the township, eight villages had a post office, and the Canada Atlantic Railway train station in Vars was an impressive new landmark. Cumberland Township had come a long way.

Readers who would like to know more about the development of the Anglican Church in our region will find much of interest in *Faith of Our Fathers*, published in Ottawa in 1957, and in *Come Celebrate! St. Mary's, Navan*, published in 1998. Both are available in the Local History Room at the Cumberland Public Library.

BACK IN MARCH 1900...

Readers of *The Ottawa Evening Journal* had two opportunities, in March 1900, to get some news about Cumberland:

Saturday, March 3, 1900

CUMBERLAND [page 12]

Mr. Rankin of Renfrew is visiting friends here.

A number of people from here drove to the social in Rockland on Friday, 23rd.

Miss Emma Barrens has just returned home from visiting friends at the Capital.

Miss Ella Dunning is visiting her sister, Mrs. A.L. Stackhouse, of Ottawa.

Thursday, March 29, 1900

CUMBERLAND [page 7]

Mr. Martin and his family have moved to Malakoff. On Monday evening a large number of the young folks gathered at their home to bid them adieu. The evening was whiled away in games. Part of the programme was a dainty lunch. At a late hour the party broke up, wishing all the members of the family prosperity in their new home.

Miss Minnie Mahon is visiting her aunt, Mrs. McNeily.

Mr. and Mrs. Cullens of Templeton spent last Sunday with her mother in Cumberland.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

The Ontario Genealogical Society will be holding its OGS SEMINAR 2000 in the Ottawa Congress Centre on May 12-14, 2000. The schedule of activities is most impressive. A complete information kit on this event can be found in the Local History Room of the Cumberland Public Library.

The issue of Canada's History Magazine *The Beaver* for December 1999/January 2000 contains an insert which describes the Scottish Studies Foundation, dedicated to active support of the Scottish Studies Programme at the University of Guelph, which has "the finest collection of Scottish books, manuscripts, journals and microfilm outside Scotland." The address is: Scottish Studies Foundation, P.O. Box 45069, 2482 Yonge Street, Toronto M4P 3E3 (Web site www.scottishstudies.ca).

The Freedom to Read Week this year extends from February 27 to March 4. This is an opportunity to be thankful for the intellectual freedom to read, embodied in our libraries, our media and our institutions, a freedom that it is important to uphold if we are to maintain democratic societies.

WEB MASTER'S CORNER

Since the Web site was launched on April 21, 1999, the number of hits has steadily increased. On February 2, 2000, the total was 930 hits less 285 (for the Web master) = 645 visitors. Since last October 12, 386 more people had visited our page. The statistics on the number of visitors coming to our site vary between one and twelve a day, i.e. a steady flow of people learning about the Cumberland Township Historical Society. The Web site is continuously being upgraded with new information about activities and events. The Web master recently added an image to the site, and attached a few more links to the Web page. Come visit our Web site at <http://www.storm.ca/~jeanf>

Sincerely,

Jean-François Beaulieu

RESEARCH TIPS

Many people find it intimidating to go to a place they don't know to do research on their family, or someone else's family, for the first time. The following account might make it easier to use the very rich resources of the Family History Centre (The "Mormons") at 1017 Prince of Wales Drive in Ottawa.

"I arrived around 9:45 on a Saturday morning, and parked behind the building. I entered by the rear entrance, and found a research room at the first door on the right. I wrote my name down in the guest book, and a gentleman asked me if I had a reservation. I replied that I didn't need a microfilm reader, that I simply wanted to use the computer to find the American ancestor of a pioneer in Cumberland Township. I was accompanied to a side room, where two computer systems were available. I was shown how to use the user-friendly search strategy and how to place the compact disks in the CD-ROM unit, and within minutes, I had found the parents of my pioneer settler, and much more. I was curious about some other information, and was given a thorough answer. I said thank you and left; no need to sign out. Outside the room, in the corridor, I picked up a leaflet indicating the hours: Tuesday to Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (call 224-2231 to reserve a microfilm reader)."

VIEUX REGISTRES

Amable Foubert, un des premiers pionniers du canton de Cumberland, avait un frère nommé Michel qui est né le 21 août 1797 à Vaudreuil. L'acte ci-dessous est tiré du registre de la paroisse Sainte-Madeleine de Rigaud, comté de Vaudreuil, dans le Bas-Canada (Archives nationales du Canada, microfilm C-2885).

« Le onze Décembre, mil huit cent-quinze, par nous prêtre soussigné a été inhumé dans le cimetière de cette paroisse le corps de Michel, décédé du trente Novembre dernier par accident en haut du Long Sault, âgé de dix-sept ans, fils de Gabriel Foubert, entrepreneur de bois et de Marie Houde, ses père et mère, résidant en haut du Long Sault. Présens Michel Foubert, oncle du défunt, Amable et Gabriel Foubert, ses frères et François Beaudry qui ne savent signer. A.C. Labroquerie, Ptre. »

VISAGES DU PASSÉ

Éléanne Lafleur est née en 1901 à Saint-Pascal Baylon en Ontario. Elle était la treizième des quatorze enfants d'Emmanuel Lafleur et d'Évelina Richer, qui s'étaient mariés à Clarence Creek le 7 janvier 1880.

Emmanuel Lafleur était le fils d'Octave Lafleur, dont le grand-père Michel était le petit-fils de Pierre Biroleau dit Lafleur, originaire de la Saintonge en France. Né vers 1670, Pierre a quitté son pays natal pour se rendre en Nouvelle-France comme soldat de la compagnie de Duluth. Il s'est établi à Rivière-des-Prairies, dans le nord-est de l'île de Montréal, et il a épousé Anne Marsan le 19 avril 1700.

Emmanuel Lafleur faisait donc partie de la sixième génération des descendants de l'ancêtre Pierre. Lui et Évelina ont vécu à Bourget, où leurs neuf premiers enfants sont nés. Quatre autres enfants sont nés à Saint-Pascal sur la terre paternelle. Emmanuel et Évelina et leurs enfants sont arrivés à Sarsfield en 1902, où leur dernier enfant est né. Emmanuel a acheté une terre (lot n° 8) dans la deuxième concession.

Éléanne Lafleur a épousé Albert Raymond à l'église Saint-Hugues de Sarsfield le 25 février 1922. Né en 1899, Albert était le fils de Philius Raymond et d'Hermine Chénier, arrivés à Sarsfield en 1903 avec leurs neuf enfants. Albert a acheté la terre paternelle (lot n° 3, troisième concession) en 1925. Lui et Éléanne ont eu dix enfants.

Quand Albert a vendu la terre à son fils Gérard en 1957, il s'est établi à Ottawa avec Éléanne et leurs quatre plus jeunes enfants (Aline, Ronald, Nicole et Mario). Albert et Nicole ont trouvé un emploi à l'Université d'Ottawa, et la famille demeurait au 632 de la rue Cumberland dans le quartier de la Côte-de-Sable.

Je les ai bien connus. Ma famille demeurait au 82 de la rue Osgoode et je voyais le devant de leur maison de ma chambre à coucher. Mario et moi sommes devenus de bons amis. Avec le temps, j'ai connu les autres frères et soeurs de Mario : Léo, Lucille, Gérard, Rémi, Jeannine et Yollande. J'allais visiter la ferme à Sarsfield, pour aider aux travaux des champs ou chasser le lièvre, et parfois le samedi je travaillais avec Ronald, qui était électricien.

Je me rappelle des bons repas qu'Éléanne préparait. Je me souviens aussi qu'à sept heures moins quart, après le souper sur semaine, tout le monde se mettait à genoux pour réciter le chapelet en écoutant la radio. On jouait aux cartes, surtout au cinq-cents. On riait de bon coeur et on s'amusait.

Plus tard, la famille a demeuré à Orléans. Éléanne et Albert ont perdu deux de leurs enfants dans de tristes circonstances. Ronald est mort dans un accident du travail en 1967. Mario est mort à l'âge de 29 ans seulement en 1975. Éléanne avait 76 ans lorsqu'elle est morte en 1977 et Albert est mort en 1991. Ils ont tous été inhumés dans le cimetière de Sarsfield.

Robert Serré