

The Caboose

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NEXT MEETING

Our next* meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6th, at 7:00 p.m., in Room 5 of the Queenswood Heights Community Centre, 1485 Duford Drive at the corner of Amiens Street. Our speaker will be Susan Flemming, who will talk about Home Children, a subject that was dramatized in a recent play produced by Vintage Stock Theatre. This will be a public event, so come along and bring a friend!

LAST MEETING

Our last meeting was held on September 4th, at 7:00 p.m., in Room 5 of the Queenswood Heights Community Centre. Our guest speaker was Ross Bradley of Navan, who outlined the history of the Bradley family in Upper Canada, and in Cumberland Township. Ross provided details about the family store, showed some family photographs, and went on to describe seventeen memorable events that occurred between 1939 and 1953. Over twenty people attended this first public lecture of the 2002-2003 season. Questions were asked, comments were made, and there was time to chat and enjoy a small snack. It was a thoroughly enjoyable event.

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Life and Times of Amable Foubert by Bob Serré

Amable Foubert was born on March 30th, 1782, and was baptized the same day in Vaudreuil, west of the island of Montreal. He was the second child of Gabriel Foubert and Marie Houde, and the grandson of Jean-Baptiste Faubert, a native of Paris who had married Geneviève Durocher in November 1753 in the Catholic church at Oka, across the river from Vaudreuil.

Amable grew up with several brothers and sisters: Gabriel, Geneviève, Véronique, Marguerite, Marie-Anne, Michel and Antoine. According to local tradition, Amable settled in the Township of Cumberland around 1807, and opened a fur trading post on the Ottawa River. He married Matilda Dunning, eldest daughter of Zalmon Dunning and Deborah Royce, and they had at least eight children, but no record of their marriage has been found. Perhaps they were married before a Justice of the Peace in Upper Canada. Be that as it may, Matilda was baptized in the Catholic church in Rigaud, northwest of Vaudreuil, on February 19th, 1811. That same day, two daughters of Matilda and Amable were also baptized in Rigaud: Marie Marguerite, born in October 1808, and Marie Sara, born in November 1809. Similarly, Amable and Matilda had two children baptized in Rigaud on March 8th, 1814: Amable, born in

December 1811, and Alexandre, born in December 1813. The other children were Gabriel, born in September 1815, Véronique, born in December 1817, Mathilde, born in November 1819, and Émélie, born in September 1823. Amable and Matilda raised their family in a one-storey dwelling of hewn timber on lot 14 of concession 1, Old Survey.

According to the register of the Catholic parish in Montebello, Amable was a widower when his son, Amable Junior, married Paulite Morin in June 1832. Amable Senior had turned 50 in March of that year. I have been told on more than one occasion that Amable had other children with a Native woman. Indeed, the parish registers of Montebello, Buckingham and Gracefield refer to six children born between 1827 and 1839 to a man by the name of Amable Foubert and a woman whose name varies somewhat: Marie Agathe Kaoutachikawaahi, Agathe Kathachksach, Agathe Koantaskawatch, Agathe Kawastakawate, Agathe Asthach8ach.

In June 2001, I discovered a compilation of Catholic marriages and deaths recorded in Maniwaki, subtitled *Paroisse Notre-Dame de l'Assomption. Mariages et sépultures 1843-1875*. It shows that Agathe Foubert, with the consent of her father Amable (her mother Agathe Kawastakawate being dead), married Antoine St-Denys in February 1852. That's when I seriously thought that Amable Foubert of Cumberland might indeed have had an Algonquin wife. But I found another reference, in the same compilation, indicating that a man named Amable Foubert was present when Cornalie Foubert married Joseph Mayrand in Maniwaki in November 1864. So I had to change my mind again, because Amable Foubert, widower of Matilda Dunning, died on Christmas Day in 1862 in Cumberland. Amable was buried two days later in the Catholic cemetery in the village, as recorded in the parish register by Father Onésime Boucher.

There were several individuals named Amable Foubert in the Ottawa Valley at the end of the 18th century and early in the 19th century. Amable Senior of Cumberland had a son Amable and a grandson Amable. He also had an uncle Amable, born in 1866 in Oka, about whom I have found but little information, but who may well have had a son Amable also. As things now stand, I no longer think that Amable Senior of Cumberland had other children besides those he raised with Matilda Dunning.

There is simply too little information about Amable Foubert, who lived from 1782 to 1862, to get a much clearer picture of the circumstances of his life. The same is true for several other very early settlers in the township. Amable's father, Gabriel, had been an important fur trader in the 1790s and early 1800s, and had tried his hand at lumbering. There are references in the literature that could apply to Amable or to his son. Amable Junior, known to have been a lumber dealer, had about eight children. Amable Senior seems to have led a fairly uneventful life between his father's generation and that of his children. The 1861 Census indicates that "A. Foubert," aged 78, born in Lower Canada, was at that time a non-family member of Duncan Cameron's household, on lot 18 of concession 1; Amable died less than two years later.

OLD NEWSPAPERS

A newspaper called THE ADVERTISER AND COUNTIES OF PRESCOTT AND RUSSELL ADVOCATE was published in L'Orignal beginning in 1868. The issue of that newspaper published on Thursday, November 8th, 1888 contained the following advertisement on page 2:

WANTED

Teacher for School Section No. 1, Township of Cumberland. Third Class Certificate, must teach English and French. Apply, stating salary to Trustees or Secretary of S.S. No. 1, Township of Cumberland.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Parish registers, cemetery recordings, compilations of births, marriages and deaths, old newspapers and business directories, census returns on microfilm, diaries - I still find it fascinating to reconstruct the lives of people long dead, using the traces they left of their passage. To overcome the frustration of obtaining a mere skeleton of past lives, it helps to read biographies, as well as short stories and novels in which the characters appear as fully fleshed out individuals. I have greatly enjoyed editing the last twenty-seven issues of *The Caboose* (beginning in July 1998), incorporating my research findings, many of which will be brought together in a book on the history of Cumberland Township that is to be published at the end of 2003. Our Society's January 2003 meeting will feature a talk by Laurie McBurney, who is the manager of the Cumberland History Project and one of the authors responsible for writing the book. It is now time for someone else to take over our newsletter, and Jeannie Smith, who recently joined our Society's Executive, has agreed to do just that.

LOST VILLAGES

In the 1850s, people travelling south from Foubertville (Cumberland) followed the Forced Road, between the 4th and 5th concession lines, as far as Bearbrook, and then turned towards the southwest. Just north of the Russell Township boundary on the 9th line was the last stopping place in the township, and it is there that the **Veighton** post office was opened in 1864. It was named for the first postmaster, John McVeigh, who lived with his family on lot 28 of concession 9. In 1869, Veighton had a tailor (John Baggs), a shingle maker (Robert Hamilton), a hotelkeeper (John McVeigh), a pumpmaker (Thomas McVeigh) and many farming families (Armstrong, Buckingham, Eady, Henderson, James, Lane, Marshall, Shaw, Wilson, and later Rowan). Then, there were blacksmiths (George McAuley and Edmund Wood), a tanner (George Sparks), a saddler (Robert Armstrong) and another pumpmaker (John Buckingham). In 1883, the name was changed to Dickenson, and by 1889, there were Presbyterian and Methodist churches, as well as a public school. In 1893, John Buckley was the hotelkeeper, and the village included a general store (Petrie & McKeown), a carriage manufacturer (Barrington Brothers), a woolen mill (Carscadden Brothers), a flour mill (Allen Loucks), a shoemaker (J. Fitzsimmons) and a physician (Dougall McDougall). By then, the village's prosperity had peaked, and future growth in the rear of the township shifted towards Vars. The Dickenson post office closed on April 21st in 1898.

Some of the first settlers near the intersection of Canaan Road and Larmour's Lane near the Clarence Township boundary line were Alexander Larmour, Joseph Watson and Margaret (Jackson), widow of George Wylie. Others who arrived later were Thomas McDonald and Jonathan Kinsella. Anglican church services were conducted as early as 1864, but the church itself, a white wood-frame building, was built in 1887. John Larmour, husband of Mary Nolan, was the first postmaster of the **Canaan** post office, which opened on December 1st in 1874. Three years later, a school was built on Canaan hill (School Section No. 7). In 1888, Joseph Dawson operated a shingle mill, and there were two general stores, one owned by William Dunning, the other by Abel Yandon. Other settlers who arrived around that time were Patrick Hunter, Thomas Thorpe and Joseph Régimbald. Six years previously, the Canada Atlantic Railway had completed a line between Coteau Junction (near Montreal) and Ottawa, and a station had been built at a place called Bearbrook Station, which became Vars. This caused a major shift in the township's economic prosperity, and Vars grew rapidly, whereas Bearbrook and Canaan declined. On May 1st, 1912, the Canaan post office was closed. The final service held at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Canaan was conducted in September 1966.

VIEUX JOURNAUX

Un journal appelé *L'interprète* a été publié à Alfred de 1886 à 1900. Dans le numéro du 20 avril 1888 de ce journal, on trouve l'annonce ci-dessous au sujet des écoles.

BREVETS DE DISTRICT

L'examen des aspirants à l'enseignement dans les écoles françaises de Prescott et de Russell aura lieu à L'Orignal, comté de Prescott, les 27, 28 et 29 de juin prochain, commençant à 9 hrs A.M.

Tout candidat sera tenu d'observer ce qui suit:-

1. Lire l'anglais et le traduire d'une manière satisfaisante.
2. Fournir à l'inspecteur un extrait de Baptême ou un certificat de moralité signés par le curé de la paroisse.
3. Payer au secrétaire la somme de deux piastres.
4. Les institutrices devront avoir atteint l'âge de 17 ans, et les instituteurs 18 ans.

Littérature du 4ème livre jusqu'à la page 73.

O. Dufort, Insp. d'E.
Curran, 14 Avril 1883.

VISAGES DU PASSÉ

D'après le recensement de 1901, Joseph Régimbald est né le 17 mars 1858 à Saint-Calixte, comté de Montcalm, au nord-ouest de Montréal. Il était le fils de François-Xavier Régimbald et de Marguerite Blondin, qui s'étaient mariés en 1850 à Sainte-Thérèse de Blainville, et il faisait partie de la cinquième génération des descendants de Gerson Régimbal, originaire de l'Auvergne dans le centre de la France, qui avait épousé Angélique Rancour en 1762 à Terrebonne au nord de Montréal.

Joseph avait 23 ans lorsqu'il a épousé Léa Chaumeau le 10 janvier 1882 à Saint-Calixte. Léa, qui avait alors 18 ans, était la fille de Joseph Chaumeau et d'Adélaïde Laroche.

Joseph et Léa sont arrivés dans le canton de Cumberland vers 1892 avec quatre enfants (Joseph, Adélar, Exilia et Napoléon), et ils en ont eu huit autres par après (Albert, Albertine, Florence, Oscar, Yvonne, Osias, Léa et Omer). La famille s'est d'abord établie à Canaan dans la première concession (lot 6). En 1903, la famille a déménagé dans la troisième concession (lot 19).

Osias, un des sept fils de Joseph et de Léa, est né en 1901. Il a épousé Louise Charbonneau à Hammond le 5 août 1936. Née en 1906, Louise était la fille d'Adolphe Charbonneau et de Joséphine Campeau. Deux ans avant de se marier, Osias avait hérité de la terre paternelle; son père était mort en 1934 et sa mère est décédée en 1938. Joseph et Léa ont été enterrés à Sarsfield.

Osias et Louise ont eu huit enfants : Huguette, Omer, Élian, Suzelle, Ghislaine, Nicole, Denis et Éliette. Louise est morte en 1973, et Osias est décédé en 1977. Ils ont été enterrés à Sarsfield. Deux de leurs fils, Omer et Élian, ont pris en main la terre paternelle.

On peut trouver trois photos de la famille Régimbald de Cumberland dans le beau livre intitulé *Histoire de la paroisse Saint-Hugues de Sarsfield* qui a été publié en 1985 pour marquer le centenaire de la paroisse.