

---

---

# THE CABOOSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CTHS)

ISSN 1203-147X

Volume XVI Number 3

January 2004

## Editor's ramblings (by Jeannie Smith)

Greetings for 2004! The Caboose has had an impressive 2003 thanks to the guidance of Randall Ash and contributions from local writers. Our membership is growing. Spread the stories, encourage friends and family to join. Let's see if we can reach 100+ members! Make this your year to volunteer at the Cumberland Museum. Winter in Eastern Ontario has always presented a wonderland of weather with wind, blowing snow, cold freezing ice and vibrant fresh air. People welcomed this season by participating in outdoor activities for work and pleasure. Farmers often had to cling to a rope tied from the house to the barn to avoid getting lost in a blustery blizzard while doing chores. Cold trips in horse-drawn sleighs were made warmer as folk, wrapped in buffalo rugs, sang and breathed in the crisp air. Hockey, lacrosse, skating on the river, sleigh rides and snowshoeing made winter days endurable. Long cold nights were made tolerable as families gathered around a warm wood stove to chat, sing, dance, play the fiddle and entertain neighbors. The winter months were a time for renewal. Machinery got fixed, plans for spring syrup making and crop plantings were laid out and people took time to socialize.

### **Our Society**

The Cumberland Township Historical Society (CTHS) was founded in 1986. We are a non-profit, volunteer and community-based organization whose goal is to preserve Cumberland Township history.

### **Our newsletter**

*The Caboose* is published six times each year by the Cumberland Township Historical Society.

### **Our Executive**

- Jean-François Beaulieu, President
- Randall Ash, Vice-president
- Robert Serré, Treasurer
- Jeannie Smith, Secretary and Newsletter Editor
- Verna Cotton, Director
- Dan Brazeau, Director
- Martin Rocque, Director

### **Our address and local history room**

Cumberland Branch  
Ottawa Public Library  
Local History Room  
1599 Tenth Line Road  
Ottawa, ON K1E 3E8

### **Our World Wide Web address**

[www.cths.ca](http://www.cths.ca)



Find time to experience the Canadian outdoors. Once you're warm and cozy indoors, take time to fix scrap books, write family histories and search your roots. Best wishes for health, happiness and peace.



William Helmer and his grandsons Fred and Doug Ferguson, Chestnut Cottage, 1919

### **Next meeting of the CTHS**

Our next meeting will be held on January 7<sup>th</sup> at the Cumberland Library on Tenth Line Road (at the Ray Friel Centre). Eric Smith will join us to talk about "Navan in the 1940s." Be sure to bring a friend along. Light refreshments, as always, will be served.



### Society calendar...

For more information on these and other upcoming 2004 events, please contact a member of the executive committee.

- January 7<sup>th</sup> | CTHS general meeting; 7pm at the Cumberland Public Library. Eric Smith will present "Navan in the 1940s."
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> | CTHS general meeting; 7pm at the Cumberland Public Library. Dorothy Jane Smith will present the "Cameron Family in Cumberland."
- May 8<sup>th</sup> | CTHS AGM; 1:30pm at the Cumberland Public Library. Our guest speaker will be Elizabeth Alexander.

### What's on at the Heritage Village Museum...



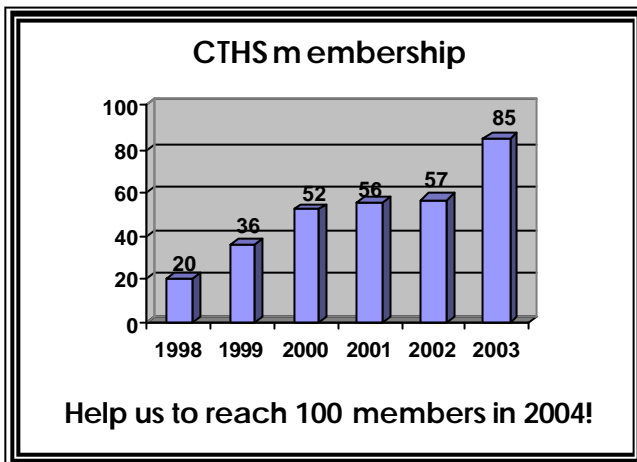
After one of its most successful seasons ever, the museum is now closed until the spring. We hope to see you in 2004! However, due to the City's budget constraints **the Museum is in danger of being closed, or at the very least having its staff / services reduced.** Please voice your concern over cuts to our Museum with your local city councilor, Mayor Bob Chiarelli or with Gilles Seguin, Manager of Heritage Development, Office of Cultural Affairs 580-2424 (#23165) or by email at Gilles.L.Seguin@ottawa.ca.

For more information call 613-833-3059 or visit the museum website at [www.musecumberland.com](http://www.musecumberland.com).

#### Visited our local history room lately?

Have you visited our history room, yet? We have histories of local families including Coburn, Colborne, Cotton, Craig, Dale, Deavy, Deevy, Delorme, Devine, Dunning, Faubert, Ferguson, Findlay, Galloway and many others. You'll also find information on Cumberland churches, groups, maps, clubs, sports, businesses as well as scrap books, newsletters, newspaper clippings and other historical references.

By the way, Bonnie Cole is searching for her Deavy family roots. She is a cousin of Cecil and Edith Deavy whose ancestors were William Deavy (Deevy) and Ann Scharf, and their twins George and Alfred. Please let Jeannie Smith know if you have any photos or information that might help Bonnie.



### Contact us

If you have questions or suggestions regarding any aspect of the Society including The Caboose, our local history room, or anything else of interest to you or to the Society, you may contact any member of the executive by phone or by email:

- Jean-François Beaulieu, President (833-2245) [jeanf@storm.ca](mailto:jeanf@storm.ca)
- Randall Ash, Vice-president (833-3207) [randall2620@rogers.com](mailto:randall2620@rogers.com)
- Robert Serré, Treasurer (749-0607) [belser@magma.ca](mailto:belser@magma.ca)
- Jeannie Smith, Secretary and Newsletter Editor (833-2877) [gsmith2877@rogers.com](mailto:gsmith2877@rogers.com)
- Verna Cotton, Director (835-2490)
- Dan Brazeau, Director (834-8336) [danbrazeau@rogers.com](mailto:danbrazeau@rogers.com)
- Martin Rocque, Director ((819)776-3890) [martin.rocque@sympatico.ca](mailto:martin.rocque@sympatico.ca)



#### Kyla Ubbink

**Book and Paper Conservator**

#### Preserve Your Treasured Tales & Memories

Through tested and researched procedures that will stabilize and prolong the life of Books, Prints, Drawings, Maps, Architectural Plans, and Periodicals while maintaining their integrity.

- Dirt, dust, stain & tape removal
- Tear and loss repair
- Small-scale de-acidification
- Flattening and crease removal
- Sewing and Binding repair
- Advice and aid for pest infestations, disaster recovery, preservation and exhibition
- Design & construction of custom boxes, wraps, and mounts

613-830-4968

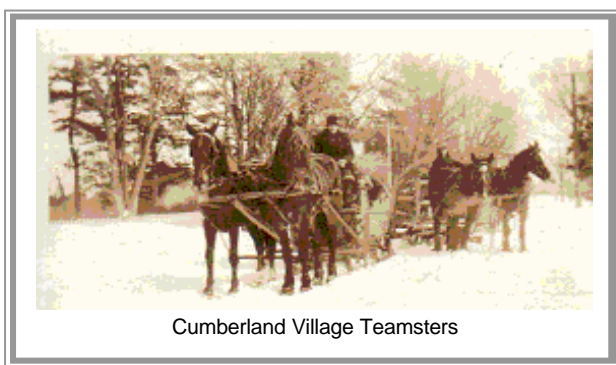
By Appointment

[kyla.ubbink@sympatico.ca](mailto:kyla.ubbink@sympatico.ca)

## Ice Making in Cumberland Township

*Sydney Cotton, Navan 1988*

During the 1914-18 war, ice was being made for use in the summer. Some farmers built large buildings along the riverbanks to store ice cut in the river in the winter. This ice was cut in small blocks and sold to the people in the city the same as milk and bread. The ice was delivered in small covered wagons drawn by a horse at first but was soon sold out of delivery trucks.



Cumberland Village Teamsters

Until this time, most farmers just milked their cows in the summer and let them go dry for the winter. The milk was taken to the cheese factory to be made into cheese and very few factories kept operating in the winter. As the population of Ottawa was increasing very fast it was not long before a couple of dairies were built and they were soon looking for milk. Farmers then started to increase their herds and produce more milk.

Before the farmer could send milk to the dairy he had to obey certain rules and regulations set out by the Health authority. They had to install insulated water tanks and use ice to cool the milk. They then had to build an ice house to store the ice for the summer and haul sawdust to cover the ice which took a lot of sawdust. Getting ice and storing it was quite a job for at least two or three weeks every winter as it had to be drawn by horses from the Ottawa River, a distance of 12 miles.

There was a man from Orleans who with four men cut the ice for people to draw away. The boss kept an account of each man who got ice as he charged so much a block. The blocks of ice were cut 14 inches x 28 inches and if they were around 20 inches thick, each block would weigh around 175 pounds. For a number of years the ice was cut by hand by a specially made saw. When the blocks were sawed off they dropped into the water and were pulled out with a large pair of tongs and then loaded onto the sleigh.

As already stated it was twelve miles to the river (from Navan) and it did not take very long to get to the river, but when you got a load of ice on the sleigh it was a long slow trip home. The return trip usually took four hours if you had no problems.

Before you started to draw ice you had to take the sawdust out of the ice house so as to store the ice. If there was time and one had enough help the ice was stored right off the sleigh. Once you had one row of ice you put a layer of sawdust on top so it would not freeze to the next row. You just kept piling the ice until you thought you had enough ice to do you for the summer. When you had the ice in, you had to use sawdust to store the ice. There was a space of nearly 18 inches between the ice and the wall of the ice house and you put about 18 inches on top of the ice. Sometimes it would be a hard job to find enough sawdust. There were not very many farmers in the Navan vicinity that did not draw ice from the Ottawa River.

The ice would not be in the ice house very long until you had to start using it. You would have to dig out a block and set it upon the ground. You would pull it to the milk house door and wash the sawdust off it and then drop it in the milk tank. Ice was cut to fit the ice box that was in use in the house at this time. In the warm weather, you usually used a block in the morning and then one in the evening. When electricity became available many changes took place immediately. To me the invention of the electric lights, milking machine and bulk tanks did away with much hard and very cold work.

## Rural Ramblings

*by Bob Edwards*

Back in the 1930s and 40s it was quite a challenge for farmers to keep their milk produce cold during the hot summer months. Most had a milk house with a cement tank where the milk cans were submerged in spring-fed running water or water kept cold with blocks of ice. There were no refrigerated tanks like there are today.



Ottawa Winter Carnival, 1922

During the winter, ice was cut into blocks from the Ottawa River. These blocks were about 16 or 18 inches wide, by about 24 or 30 inches long, by whatever thickness the ice was that winter. A homemade circular saw mechanism driven by an old car engine was used to make the first cuts and the finished cuts were made with a long steel ice saw, or broken off with a long chisel. The blocks were then pulled from the water using large steel ice tongs. This was a cold and dangerous job. One slip or mistake and the person could end in the freezing water with the blocks of ice.

The ice was loaded on sleighs and hauled home by horses. Sometimes, if there were any large hills, a second team of horses would be hitched in tandem to get the heavy loads to the top. This work would be undertaken by a group of farmers working together to bring home their summer supply of ice. In our area this was a community effort by families like the Russells, Findlays, Taylors, Frasers, Charbonneaus, Edwards, Farleys, Deavys, Scharfs, Hodges, Roncours, Minogues, Wrights and others.

Once the loads were home they were unloaded into a building called an ice house, which was usually constructed of cedar logs. Sawdust was put around the outside of and between the blocks of ice as well as between each row. A final layer of sawdust was put over the top of the ice to keep the heat out.

Each spring the ice house was opened up and blocks of ice were removed as required. The ice was used to keep the milk cold until it was delivered to the local cheese factory or creamery or picked up by truck for delivery to the dairies in Ottawa.

Each farmer had his own eight gallon cans with his name stamped or painted on them so that he would always have his own cans returned. There were also individuals like Fred Ferguson who kept private ice houses and sold ice to homes and businesses during the summer. Fred kept ice in the cement basement remains of the Plymouth Brethren Gospel Hall built by his grandfather Dr. James Ferguson about 1880. This burned in a grass fire in 1932. The stone outline can still



Hockey players at Cumberland School, 1926

be seen on the property now owned by Mrs. Charlie Murray (Glenda Barnett) on the corner of Old Montreal Road and Faubert Street.

All of this effort seems rather complex. There was a lot of effort and hard work which has been simplified by modern milking machines which take the milk from the cow directly to the refrigerated bulk cooling tanks. The milk is then pumped into bulk milk transport trucks for final delivery to modern milk processing plants. This method is much more efficient, cleaner and safer; however the community spirit is missing since not so much team work is required between the farmers.

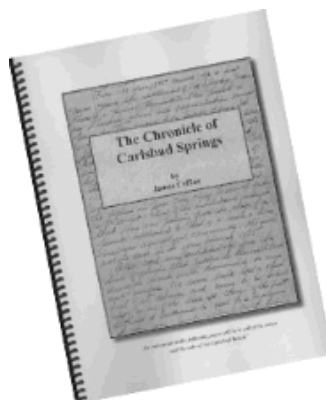
## Chronicles of Carlsbad

by James Collins; published by Kevin Collins

It was in the fall of 1893 that the first attempt was made to have wells which would supply water for stock the entire winter. Of course springs had been struck by boring in the early days at the Village, but as yet none of the farmers thought of drilling wells at

home. Up to this time the people had to drive their horses and cattle to some water hole that kept water all winter.

This was generally a shallow well dug at the foot of a sand hill or in some low place. Those living near the brook would cut a hole in the ice so that the cattle could drink.



This mode of watering animals in winter was rather primitive, and William Ball was the first in the settlement to attempt to improve conditions in this respect. In the fall of 1893 he had his two new wells drilled down to the depth of about seventy feet. The man who did the work was Felix Illiere of Embrun, then known as the 'French Village'. He had a small outfit which he worked by hand. It consisted of a hollow drill and a force-pump. The drill was pushed down into the blue clay inside an inch and a quarter pipe; the pump forced the water down through the drill through several small holes in the point. This water softened the clay and brought it up through the pipe. This simple contrivance was very satisfactory and cheap, as a hole could be sunk fifty feet in about two hours. By its aid many wells in the settlement were made to give a never failing supply of water. At Ball's, however, the well drilling was only a partial success. A vein was struck in each well but the water supply was weak. Nevertheless Mr. Ball's example was soon followed by many others in the settlement.

## Quatre hommes broyés à mort

*The Citizen, mardi, 21 mars 1899*

L'effondrement d'un échafaud provoque un horrible accident au moulin à scie W.C. Edwards hier à Rockland. Cinq hommes ensevelis sous des tonnes de briques à l'intérieur d'un brûleur à bran de scie. Un d'entre eux échappe miraculeusement à la mort. Les cadavres n'ont pas encore été retirés des décombres.

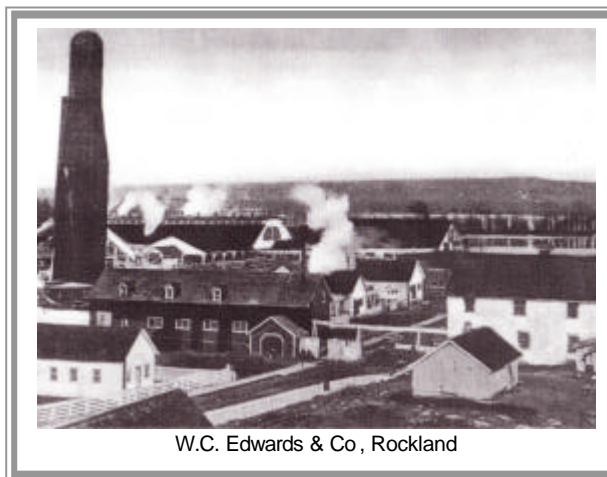
Cinq malheureux ouvriers ont perdu la vie hier après-midi à Rockland au moment où ils s'affairaient à réparer le brûleur à bran de scie du moulin W. C. Edwards à la suite de l'effondrement d'un échafaud chargé de briques. Les victimes sont: Louis Rochon, Henry Dalrymple, Eugène Deschamps et Archie Stewart. Un autre ouvrier,

Xavier Frappier, a été retiré vivant des décombres après y avoir été enseveli pendant quatre heures. Il ne semble avoir subi aucune blessure grave et il peut parler. Ces ouvriers travaillaient à l'intérieur d'un énorme brûleur à bran de scie semblable à celui de la W. C. Edwards Company à New Edinburgh. Depuis quelques jours, on s'affairait à enlever le vieux revêtement de briques à l'aide d'échafauds sur lesquels les vieilles briques étaient entassées. Les hommes venaient juste de rentrer à l'intérieur du brûleur après dîner lorsque les échafaudages ont cédé sous le poids de plusieurs tonnes de briques et d'autres matériaux de construction qui devaient les ensevelir. Peu après avoir secouru Frappier, qui était toujours vivant, l'équipe de secours a découvert le corps de Archie Stewart. À 8h30 hier soir, les corps des trois autres victimes n'avaient pas encore été retirés des décombres, et les secouristes poursuivaient vaillamment leurs recherches. Selon le docteur William Ferguson de Rockland, qui a soigné M. Frappier, ce dernier est hors de danger.

Le chagrin et la tristesse sont venus accabler quatre familles dans le petit village de Rockland, mais la catastrophe aurait pu être pire. En effet, deux minutes plus tard, de quinze à vingt ouvriers se seraient trouvés à l'intérieur de la cheminée pour reprendre le travail. Il semblerait que l'on ait entassé trop de matériaux sur les échafaudages et que les légères vibrations des entretoises au bas de ceux-ci, provoquées par l'arrivée des hommes, auraient entraîné l'écroulement

de toute la structure.

Toutes les victimes étaient mariées. Dalrymple laisse sa femme et quatre enfants; outre sa femme, Stewart laisse trois enfants; quant à Deschamps, il laisse sa femme et un enfant. Rochon laisse sa femme et quatre enfants. Toute la population du village a été très affectée par cette tragédie, car les malheureux ouvriers étaient tous bien connus et fort respectés.



W.C. Edwards & Co, Rockland

Les cadavres de Louis Rochon, Henry Dalrymple et Eugène Deschamps ont été retirés des décombres à 10h30 hier soir. Les corps avaient été horriblement broyés et étaient presque méconnaissables. Il semble que l'échafaudage était constitué de neuf sections superposées qui atteignaient presque le haut de la cheminée, et l'on croit maintenant que les ouvriers étaient déjà rendus à une certaine hauteur. Les échafaudages ne devaient servir qu'à supporter les ouvriers, mais non les

matériaux de construction eux-mêmes. Dans le cas de Frappier, seule sa tête n'était pas ensevelie sous les décombres qui l'immobilisaient complètement.

"Sortez-moi d'ici au plus vite", a-t-il dit aux sauveteurs qui commençaient à le dégager, "C'est pas très confortable et j'ai mal aux jambes". Il n'était que légèrement blessé.

## The Ottawa Evening Journal

*Tuesday, March 21, 1899*

Four men were killed and three injured by the collapse of nine scaffolds loaded with bricks in W.C. Edwards & Co.'s sawdust burner in Rockland yesterday afternoon. The accident happened about a minute after 1 o'clock. The men had just entered the burner to finish the work of removing the brick lining, when the scaffold gave way. Eight men entered the burner through two small windows, and when the crash came four were killed, three injured and one escaped unhurt.

The dead are: Archie Stewart, Louis Rochon, Henry Dalrymple, Eugene Deschamps. Xavier Frappier had his hip dislocated; Joseph Levesque and Archie Beaton were bruised about the legs, and Alex Lavolette escaped. Jos. Beausejour, the foreman,

had not entered the burner. The sawdust burner in which the accident happened is a similar one to that at New Edinburgh. The brick lining is renewed every year, and for that purpose scaffolds are erected, and the bricks piled upon these to be carried out. The place where the accident occurred is a regular death trap. The entrances are about twenty-four inches wide and thirty inches high, practically small oven doors. Nine scaffolds were erected. The topmost scaffold was about fifty feet. The flooring is made of iron. Thousands of bricks were piled upon these scaffolds, and when the top one became loose, the whole lot descended with a crash. The warning was too brief to be of much value. Stewart, Rochon, Dalrymple, Deschamps and Frappier were crushed beneath the great mass.

Lavolette escaped through one of the windows, and Beaton and Levesque had their legs crushed as they endeavored to climb through the window. None of the men who were caught in the burner made any sound.

The work of rescue was exceedingly difficult. The small windows made it necessary for the work to be done piecemeal. A few bricks or a few pieces of broken wood were taken out at a time by the few men who could be set to work. Frappier was the first man found. He was conscious, but pinioned between some beams. He was lifted from his position, and it was found his hips were dislocated, and he was slightly crushed internally. Frappier was taken out after five o'clock. Shortly afterwards the mangled remains of Stewart were found. He was terribly crushed, and was almost unrecognizable. About three hours afterwards Rochon was found. His injuries were not very apparent, but death resulted from internal crushing and from shock.

At 10 o'clock Deschamps was taken out. He probably died of shock. Dalrymple was the last man found. He was crushed on the iron floor and his body was badly mangled. It was half-past ten before the awful work was through, and the bodies were then taken to the undertakers. Dr. James Ferguson (1838-1921) of Cumberland, the coroner, came here at 11 o'clock this morning and has been making enquiries among the men as to the cause of the accident and the necessity for an inquest. Speaking to The Journal, Dr. Ferguson said he would not hold an inquest unless some persons demanded one. Dr. W. D.T. Ferguson (William Dunlop Turner 1864-1912, son of James) of Rockland was early on the scene of the accident and attended to the three wounded men. He waited until the last man was moved from the burner. Stewart leaves a wife and three children; Rochon leaves a widow and four children; Dalrymple leaves his wife and four children: Daisy (married Rene Chaput), Georgina (married Joseph Chaput) James (married Eugenie Farrell) and Oscar (married Lea Giroux).

Deschamps also leaves a wife and one child.

Xavier Frappier was seen at his home today, where he lies in bed unable to move. Frappier says he had no time to escape when the warning came. The windows were too small for more than one man at a time. Stewart was crushed to death about a yard from Frappier and the latter says his own escape was marvelous. He says the scaffolds were piled too heavily with bricks. Engineer James Tweedie, who had charge of the work, says the wind caused the accident. The scaffolds, he says, were strongly built. His theory is that the high wind entering the small doors loosened the lower part of the scaffolds and as the top was loaded with bricks, the scaffold collapsed.



Tobogganing onto the Ottawa River  
from Dunning's Hill, 1923

## AN INQUEST TO BE HELD

*Wednesday, March 22, 1899*

Coroner Dr. James Ferguson of Cumberland opened an investigation this morning into the circumstances of the death of the four men in Edwards' sawdust burner Monday afternoon.

The inquest was demanded by Mrs. Rochon and Mrs. Dalrymple, two of the widows. They told the coroner the affair should be investigated as they believed the scaffolds were improperly constructed, and the deaths due to negligence.

Some difficulty was experienced securing a jury. The statute requires that any individual who acts on any jury must be assessed for at least \$400 and must be entered on the voters' lists as a qualified juror. Under this statute four persons in Rockland could qualify and two of them were exempt by reason of their connection with the case. The coroner was compelled to resort to the township list and the following jury was chosen.

Messrs. Issac Woodley, P. Badore, Wm. Canning, Alex Edwards, James Hunter, John McClurg, John Mahoney, Timothy Ryan, Daniel H. Way, Chas. Lafontaine, Malcolm Rose and J.E. Smith.

The jury visited the late homes of the four victims, and after viewing the remains, permits for burial were issued and the taking of evidence commenced.

Mr. W.C. Edwards has assumed all expenses for the funerals of the victims although he disclaims any liability on the part of any of his employees for the accident.

An impression is general throughout the village that the scaffolding in the burner was overloaded and collapsed as a result. Xavier Frappier, who was badly injured by the collapse of the scaffolding, inclines to this opinion and says he believed the scaffolding was unsafe. Most of the men hold this view and will testify to that effect when called by the coroner.

Engineer James Tweedie, who has had charge of the work at Edwards' mill for years, says the scaffolding was the best he ever put up and he considers it was secure. He says he used the best of lumber, and made a good job, but that the wind caused the collapse. While a large quantity of bricks and mortar was piled upon the scaffolding, Mr. Tweedie says the weight of these would never have broken the scaffolds. The wind, however, swayed the burner which is about 140 feet high, and when the wind entered the open doors at the bottom of the burner it caused the scaffold to sway and the bricks above overtopped and the whole framework fell.

The circumstances of the accident as related by Mr. Thos. McLean jr., who was with the two men after dinner on Monday, are as follows. The high wind during the storm on Monday had shaken the burner and also the scaffold in the interior. The men for a time were anxious, but decided to go on with their work. At noon Dalrymple and Rochon walked home to dinner together and after dinner met near their homes. McLean joined them. As the three walked along, Dalrymple said to Rochon: "I don't think the burner is safe. If you will stay with me we won't go to work this afternoon." Rochon shrugged his shoulders and replied: "It may be dangerous, but I'm not afraid" and so the two returned to work. Within ten minutes they were crushed to death beneath tons of debris, and their bodies were not removed for some hours afterwards. To-day both men are lying in their coffins side by side in the same room in Dalrymple's house.

The Journal reporter called yesterday on Mrs. Rochon and Mrs. Dalrymple. Both of the widows believe the work was dangerous, but work was scarce and food had to be purchased.

Mrs. Rochon said her husband thought the work was dangerous, but he did not fear. He told her the wind

was very strong, and it might blow the scaffold down. Speaking of the pay he received for such risky work, Mrs. Rochon said: "He was to get 90 cents a day," adding bitterly, "to get killed for that."

Mrs. Rochon and Mrs. Dalrymple will be better circumstanced than the two other widows, as both Rochon and Dalrymple were insured in St. Joseph's Union for \$1,000 each. It is probable they will get lawyers to look after their interests at the coroner's inquest.

*Thank you to Therese Dalrymple from Rockland for this story. Her father was Oscar, her grandfather was Henry Dalrymple.*



*Back in the September issue we asked for help in gathering more information on S.S.#2 in Vars. Thanks to Verna Kinsella who provided the following poem and other information that will be included in future issues of The Caboose.*

### **Vars Public School 1889-1966**

On a corner of land, just outside Vars,  
A school house was built, long before folks had cars.  
It was built by the neighbours – then trustees elected.  
The year 1889 when this school was erected.

It served the folks well 'round this small valley town  
With teachers recruited from the country-side 'round.  
Many boys carried wood to the school from the shed,  
As a penance for fighting, or bad words they had said.

But time stands not still, and the little school closed  
No doubt 'twas a move many neighbours opposed.  
The students were bused to schools far way  
And bused home again at the end of their day.  
The school bell is silent, no more will it call  
The children from tag or their game of soft-ball.

No more will the laughter of children be heard.  
No more trees will be climbed in search of a bird.  
The school is still standing on that corner near Vars  
Facing a new modern highway, moving thousands of cars.

No teacher stands smiling, as she calls out the roll  
At the little Vars School, time has taken its toll.

*Nicol Mackie August 1998*

## Trinity Anglican Church,

### Bearbrook *(from the booklet prepared for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church)*

Trinity Bear Brook was officially 'born' on September 16th, 1848 according to the official deed "...heirs and assigns for ever, ALL that PARCEL or TRACT of LAND, situated in the Township of Cumberland in the County of Russell in the District of Ottawa in Our said Province, containing by admeasurement ten acres ..."



It is believed that the first Trinity Bear Brook, a wooden church with a steeple, was built in the late 1850's on the hill in the north western corner of the cemetery, facing the west. It was served by traveling ministers Richard L. Stephenson 1854-1857, and Charles Forest 1859-1863 who covered the area of Osgoode, Russell and Cumberland. Families came from Vars and Canaan for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

At the Parish Vestry Meeting on April 29th, 1889, John Lowe and John Walsh proposed "that a professional be interviewed to estimate how much it would cost to move the present church to a site near the road." This

building is still being used as it is the farm house at the Mount farm on Dunning Road. Plans for the present stone building were begun in 1890 and the cornerstone for Holy Trinity church was laid July 4th, 1900. The church was built from stone that was quarried at Shaw's pit in Navan and drawn by sleigh during the winter months. The first service was held January 13th, 1901 and babies Blanche Lowe, daughter of George and Annie Lowe, and Warren Hayes, son of John and Isabel Hayes, were baptized. On December 18th, 1905, fire destroyed the rectory and parish records were lost. The home of Frank Hayes was purchased to serve as the parsonage for \$2000 on May 16th, 1908 and additional property was purchased from Evelyn Gladys Heney. This brick house served as the rectory for Trinity Anglican Church until it was sold to Kelly (Lowe) and Alex Corry. In October 1983 the Parish of St. Andrews-Vars and Trinity-Bear Brook joined with St. Mary's-Navan. The minister who served this three point charge resided at the rectory in Navan.

The Bell Tower, added in 1924, gives distinction and prominence to Trinity Anglican Church. Gas lamps were installed in 1925. Electricity provided light in 1932. New pews and a wood furnace commemorated the 50th Anniversary in 1945. In 1962 electric heaters were added. Music resounded as the congregation sang hymns played on a new organ in 1976. A new entrance was built in 1986. On August 1st, 1987, the Parish was re-established by a new alignment of congregations from Trinity-Bearbrook, St. Andrew's-Vars and St. Mary's-Navan. The church basement was completed in 1992 and murals were painted on its walls with the theme "Bring the Bible to Life" in 1999.

*You will find the 100th Anniversary Booklet in the 'Church' binder on the shelf of the CTHS History Room. It was compiled by Eileen Corry, Ruth Armstrong, Cam Larocque, Marilyn Lowe, Rae Lowe, Gloria Moffatt, Tim Mount and Sharon Wright.*