
THE CABOOSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CTHS)

ISSN 1203-147X

Volume XVIII Number 3

January 2007

Editor's ramblings (by Jeannie Smith)

The Cumberland Township Historical Society extends best wishes to you all for 2007.

The roots of our township were laid down by families from diverse backgrounds. The original families established the settlements but it is the incoming families who continue to provide 'new blood' and energy to this area of Ottawa. Please keep working on your family history and do share it with our society. Thanks to John Kenny for donating more information on the Larmour, Morris, Moloughney, Nolan and Wylie family trees. These are added to the shelves of the CTHS History room. The annual membership of \$15 is due in March. Please return the form that is included with this newsletter (see page 9) so that you will continue to receive the six annual issues of *The Caboose* in 2007/08. We hope to increase our membership from 186 to 200 this year!

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

- Randall Ash, President and newsletter production
- Jeannie Smith, Secretary-Treasurer and Newsletter Editor
- Verna Cotton, Director
- Dan Brazeau, Director
- Jean-François Beaulieu, Director
- Dorothy-Jane Smith, Director
- Bob Kendall, 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



Over 400 copies of 'Memories of Cumberland Township' have been sold. Thanks to Haddad's and Bradley's stores and to Verna Kinsella and Verna Cotton for selling so many books. Check out the ad on page 2 to order your copy of the Society's 20th anniversary book.

The Cumberland Knights: 1972/3 at the new R.J. Kennedy Arena



Left to right back row: George Winegarden, Glen Smith, Ken Minogue, Jack Sloan, Real Julien, Mike McNeely, Clayton Minogue, Len McNeely, John Van den Hanenberg, Tom Goss, Sonny Hidlebaugh, Grant Moyse, Gord Labaree. Front row: Doug Hill, Brian Burgess, Brian Findlay, Rich Lagimoniere, Gilles Gauthier, Bernie Lafrance, Jim Hill

Next meeting of the CTHS

The next General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 7th, 7:00 pm at the Ottawa Regional Police Station on St. Joseph Blvd & Tenth Line. Be sure to bring a friend along. Light refreshments, as always, will be served.

Letters from the past

by Jeannie Smith

Verna Cotton is an amazing historian. When I stopped by her place to pick up some CTHS book money and pictures for The Caboose, she handed me the following letters written by my Grandfather John Ferguson to her father William Henry Coburn.

Cumberland, Ont. 30 Jan. 1952
Mr. W. H. Coburn
Leonard Ont.



Dear Sir: I have found that my father (Dr. James Ferguson) attended families of both John and Frank Coburn in 1881. John died did he not in 1881 too?

I think you are Frank Coburn's son. Am I right? And can you tell me the month and day of the month of your birthday? I see a birth in 1881, July, I think it was but by knowing all you can tell me about your family, it will help in making out my certificates of your birth etc.

Had you older brothers & sisters? Or younger brothers & sisters? When I get a little more information I will send you the certificate for \$1.00.

Yours sincerely, J.D. Ferguson,
Evangelist

Leonard, Ont.
Mr. J.D. Ferguson

Dear Sir:

I have a sister (Mary) 19 months older than I am born Dec 26th 1879. There are just two of us in our family. I was born July 10th 1881. My Father, William Henry Coburn, son of Frank Coburn, died Feb. 23, 1881. My mother's name was Esther Melvin.

W.H. Coburn

The March 2006 issue of The Caboose contains Verna Cotton's story of her family. Her grandfather William Henry Coburn died of smallpox before her father was born. My grandfather died in 1958, my Aunt Bessie in 1963, my father Doug in 1965 and my Uncle Fred in 1966 and all of the records of my great-grandfather Dr. James Ferguson kept in their family home, Chestnut Cottage, in Cumberland were unfortunately destroyed. Cumberland Township residents wrote the Ferguson family for birth records in order to collect the old age pension before such dates were better documented.

"Memories of Cumberland Township" is on sale now.

Copies are \$20 (\$25 if mailed) and are available from Jeannie Smith at 613.833.2877 or via email at gsmith2877@rogers.com, or contact any member of the Executive.

Support your Society by purchasing a copy (or two).



Congratulations and thanks...

Congratulations to John and Afifa Haddad for being top sellers of "Memories of Cumberland Township". The Haddad Family have been proprietors of the old Dunning Family store in Cumberland Village since 1975.

Diocesan Archives Christ Church Cathedral

Records for Anglican congregations in Eastern Ontario and West Quebec. Open to the public Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8:30-12:00 1:00-4:30; 240 Sparks St., Ottawa
Internet: <http://ottawa.anglican.ca/archives.html>
Email: archives@ottawa.anglican.ca
Mail: Anglican Diocese of Ottawa Archives, 71 Bronson Avenue, Ottawa ON K1R 6G6

The Ottawa Room

The Ottawa Room provides a centralized information resource on Ottawa and the surrounding area including maps, newspapers, high school year books.

Phone 613-580-2424 ext. 32159
Ottawa Public Library, Metcalfe Street

A History of St. Mary's Cemetery-Navan, Ontario

Contact Eileen Vaillancourt
4052 Trim Road
Navan, ON K4B 1H8
Phone 613-835-2370
Cheque or money order payable to St. Mary's Anglican Cemetery
\$25.00 add \$3.00 for mailing

The Dunning Family

by Randy McConnell

Our history of the Dunning family begins with a Theophilus Dunning of Devonshire, England, who was born about 1618 and arrived in Salem, Massachusetts some time in the early 1640s. He and his wife, Hannah Lindell, had born to them two sons and one daughter, namely: Theophilus, Benjamin and Hannah. No further information is known concerning Theophilus; Hannah married an Isaac Hurd and they had no descendants; Benjamin married a woman by the name of Mary and they became the American progenitors of the Cumberland Dunning family.

Benjamin and Mary had at least one daughter and three sons, one of whom was Benjamin who married a Mary Seeley. One of their sons, David married a Hannah Shepard and they had several children. One of their sons named Abijah married an Elizabeth Gregory. Abijah and Elizabeth became the Canadian progenitors of the Cumberland Dunning family.

Even after having served under General George Washington in the Revolutionary War, Abijah Dunning, who was a 2nd great-grandson of Theophilus, came to believe so strongly in the British form of government that he and Elizabeth, ("Betsey"), and their four sons, Zalmon, Abijah Jr, Ithamar, William and one daughter, Chloe, left their native United States of America and arrived at St. Jean, Quebec about 1791. From there, the family made their way to Montreal and resided in that city for about the next 10 years establishing themselves notably in business and social circles.

In March of 1801, Abijah, Betsey and their family, with Zalmon and Abijah Jr. being married, made the decision to leave Montreal and head up river (literally) to that eastern part of Upper Canada known as Cumberland Township in the County of Russell, having been encouraged by the government to do so as the result of promising to develop and open-up the area with such amenities and conveniences as roads and bridges.

The Dunning family established themselves on four lots (or 800 acres) of land on the bank of the Ottawa River where today is situated the village of Cumberland. They cleared the forest and built their homes and other dwellings (such as out-houses) and in a very short time acquired the ownership of some 3,000 acres. Abijah Sr. also acquired land on the Quebec side of the river, some 1,200 acres in the Township of Buckingham and the same amount of acreage in the Township of Onslow.

In 1807, Abijah and his family welcomed their first neighbours, the Foubert family. These two families

built up the settlement that would become Cumberland village.

However, after expending a great deal of money and physical labour on improving the land, and having to pay outrageous prices to purchase supplies from Montreal and have such transported to them and the government failing to keep its promise to build roads, bridges and other means of assistance, the Dunning family sold their land holdings at great sacrifice and removed themselves to an area just south of L'Orignal called Cassburn in the Township of Longueuil, Prescott County. They purchased 200 acres of land which was equally divided between Abijah Jr. and William with William taking responsibility for the care of the parents. When Abijah Sr. died in 1809 and Betsey in 1820, William erected a gravestone for each of them. These stones are still readable in Cassburn Protestant Cemetery.

Ithamar did not locate at L'Orignal, but continued on to Chateaugay, Quebec where he and his wife, Lucy Bodsford Beach, settled and raised their family. Speculation suggests that Zalmon and his wife, Deborah Royce, remained in Cumberland as his eldest daughter, Matilda, married Amable Foubert about 1808 and settled in Cumberland.

William, eldest son of Zalmon and Deborah, returned about 1817 to Cumberland with most of his siblings. William, involved in lumbering and fur trading, moved into the Township of Buckingham in Quebec and opened a general store. Many of the children of Zalmon and Deborah married members of other families moving into the area.

Another daughter of Zalmon and Deborah was Eliza who married William Grier and had a family of at least seven sons and four daughters. Son William and his wife Mary Orten had four daughters and one son.

One of the younger sons of Zalmon and Deborah was George Gibb (right) who married his cousin, Lucy Dunning. George contributed greatly to Cumberland by serving as its



postmaster for many years, as well as Justice of the Peace and Reeve. He also operated what would be considered the first general store as well as a telegraph office. Even worship services were held in his home. G. G., as he is referred to in various references, was responsible for the construction of the first school house in Cumberland. Some time in the 1830s or early 1840s, the Dunning family established a cemetery on their property and, although ploughed under many years ago, a couple of gravestones are still visible in the ground, one of which is that of Zalmon, himself, who died 8 February 1845. Other members of the immediate family were also buried in this family cemetery but, apparently, their gravestones were pushed down the embankment. Members of other families who married into the Dunning family include Armstrong, Golightly, Lowe, Orton, Russell, Stackhouse and MacLaurin, to name only a few.

A younger son of Zalmon and Deborah was Hiram who chose to move with his wife and family over to the Quebec side of the Ottawa River and locate in Six Portages where he was mayor for several years. He died at the age of 69 through the malpractice of a medical doctor.

In his MEMOIR OF THE DUNNING FAMILY, George Gibb Dunning states that his father, Zalmon, had received a fair degree of education while growing up in Massachusetts and made quite a study of world geography and the cultures of many countries. G. G. describes his father as a man of "sound judgment and calculation". At the time of the building of the Rideau Canal, in 1828, Zalmon is reported to have drawn a diagram of Canada and predicted that the several provinces from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean would eventually become united under one central government and Bytown be designated the seat of the Federal Government. What a prophetic prediction!

Abijah Dunning, Jr, second son of Abijah and Betsey, and his wife, Mary Henderson, decided to leave Prescott County sometime in the late 1820s and settle in what was at that time called East Templeton in the province of Quebec. There, Abijah Jr. became

involved in the lumbering business and served as a Justice of the Peace. He died about 1846 and is buried in the Dunning Cemetery, along with some of his descendants, including one of his sons, Lewis, from whom Randy McConnell (author of this story) descends through, not one, but two of his daughters, Mercy who married George Frederick Giles and Diana who married Donald Duncan Dewar.

Ithamar Dunning, third son of Abijah and Betsey, married a Lucy Beach 7 August 1805 in St. Gabriel Presbyterian Church near Montreal. Ithamar and Lucy settled in Chateaugay, Quebec where they raised their family of 8 daughters and 3 sons, some of whom returned to Cumberland. Ithamar became very interested in and contributed to the educational

system in Chateaugay. All his children were educated in both English and French. Ithamar was very enterprising and, as a result, established the first ferry system from Lachine to Chateaugay by utilizing large boats propelled by oars. He also entered into business with others by replacing the large boats with a small steamboat eventually building a large steamer named "None Such" which made two trips daily from Lachine to Chateaugay on to Beauharnois and then back to Lachine. As you can readily discern, the creativity and ingenuity of the Dunning family extended well beyond Cumberland. Both Ithamar and Lucy are buried in Chateaugay and, presumably, some of their descendants. However, upon a visit to the Dale's Cemetery, one will discover that there are approximately 13 descendants of Ithamar and Lucy buried there, along with some 23 descendants of Zalmon and Deborah.



Chloe Dunning, the only daughter of Abijah and Betsey, married a John Westover and they elected to move back to the United States to raise their family. However, before doing so two of their daughters married in Ontario, one of them settling in Pembroke with her husband and family, the other in Newboro located in Leeds County.

William, the youngest son of Abijah Sr. and Betsey, along with his wife, Lucy Brush, remained at Cassburn. They are buried in Cassburn Cemetery.

The Dunnings



Dunnings 1947: left to right: ?, Ralph, Uncle Leslie, Aunt Jennie, Anne, Charles Lough, Lawrence, John, Aunt Hattie, Eleanor Dunning Ross



Vic Dunning, circa 1920

Ralph Dunning and Lawrence Barnett, 1929



Pearl Dunning and Annie Watson Barnett



Ralph, John and Lloyd Dunning and Art Watson



Fred Ferguson, Art Watson, Jack Sharkey, Lloyd Dunning, Tom McNeely, 1938

Memories of Victor Dunning

by Jeannie Smith with information from Linda Dunn's article in The Communique, January 1985

Vic Dunning (1899-1991) was the great-great-great grandchild of Zalmon Dunning. His great-great grandfather was George Gibb Dunning. Vic married Pearl Brennan in 1920. They had four children: Jean (Harkness), Lloyd, Evelyn (Harris) and Ross.

Vic often talked about life in Cumberland Village, on the Ottawa River. He recalled that there were three long narrow farms, leading south from the river: two belonged to Fouberts and the other to the Camerons. When he was a boy, the river became the highway for numerous tugboats that transported log booms east to the W.C. Edwards lumber mill in Rockland. Back then, there were two docks in Cumberland, one for boats and one for loading logs and timbers. Steamers and ferry boats traveled up and down the river carrying supplies and equipment for the towns. There were two wharves, Cameron's and Dunning's. Vic and his pal James Abner Ferguson (1898-1988), boarded the Empress Steamer every Monday morning to travel to Ottawa to attend Lisgar Collegiate Institute for Grades 9-13, then returned to Cumberland on Friday evening.

Vic was the ice maker and manager of the Cumberland Rink on Market Street in the village. When this covered rink was torn down and sold to be rebuilt near Buckingham, Quebec in the late 1960s, Vic spent many a cold winter's night flooding the outdoor rink on the hill south east of Cumberland on Orme Dunning's property. When the R. J. Kennedy Arena was opened in 1972, Vic continued to make ice for the great hockey matches between the Cumberland Knights (named by Vaughan Paquette) and teams from Navan, Sarsfield, Notre Dame des Champs, Carlsbad Springs and Orleans. Artificial ice was installed in the late 1970s and Vic became the official 'bean maker' and champion euchre player for the Cumberland hockey team.

For many years, Vic was the Reeve of Cumberland Village and he claimed that the children of the village got their parents to vote him in! Vic always had time to help tie skates, fix a broken hockey stick or mend the boards on

the rink in the winter. In the summer, village children made a few pennies picking berries for Vic, who checked to see that berries went into pails, rather than mouths!

Linda Dunn recorded Vic saying "Over in Masson, a round above-the-ground tressel, extending three miles south of Buckingham, shot logs downhill to the McLaren Lumber Company on the river. The 'whooshing' sound of the logs and water could be heard from Cumberland daily. Ferries, tugboats, steamers, and private rowboats shared the river with huge log booms, which came from plants in Gatineau and Masson and Cumberland. The logs were brought to the Cumberland wharf by sled during the winter, stockpiled on the natural incline on the riverbank, and rolled to the docking area in the spring. The wharf was built to extend over the river, so the boom could go completely under the wharf to catch all the falling logs. Tugboats carried the booms downstream to the W. C. Edwards Mills in Rockland (closed in 1926). The thrill of being at the mill at noon when the whistle blew and hundreds of men walked home for lunch, of seeing acres of stockpiled lumber is hard to forget.

Sometimes, the large booms could be seen anchored at Cumberland and often these would break. Tugboats would string a length of logs together, often almost as wide as the river itself, to catch drifters, and tugboat operators would walk across the flat-top logs to re-gather the stray logs in new booms. Mills on the Gatineau side were notorious for throwing massive scrap lumber into the river, and on a windy day, Ontario residents took advantage of this to stock up on lumber for building and firewood. As children, we brought in more than our share of heating fuel for our families. After the spring thaw, when the river receded, logs were often left high and dry on the shore, and had to be pulled by horse to the water's edge. A man by the name of Prevost from Rockland had the contract of gathering these logs from Ottawa to Hawkesbury."



Dunning-Foubert links

Photos provided by Elaine O'Neill
who wrote:

My husband is a great-grandson of Napoleon Foubert and Ellen Swain, whose home is part of the Cumberland Museum. We used to live in Detroit, where Napoleon Foubert's daughter Flora settled, but 4 years ago we moved to Missouri near Branson. Hugh Swain's first wife's mother was a Dunning.



Napoleon and Ellen (Swain) Foubert 1905



Foubert Family 1907

R to L standing: Rupert Foubert, Dorothy Foubert, Ellen Swain Foubert, Napoleon Foubert; R to L sitting: Blanche Foubert born 1895, Lyla Foubert, Flora Foubert born 1898, Wilfred Foubert

*Jean-Francois Beaulieu's **La Famille Foubert** was printed in the July 2005 to January 2006 editions of The Caboose.*



Foubert Home in Cumberland Village.



The Taylor Family: left to right; Laura, Ernie, Ethel, Annie Garvock, Lulu (Louise Coburn), Leslie, Mabel

In 2007, look for stories on Cumberland Township families. The Taylor family (above) will be featured in March, the Edwards family (below left) in May, and the Smith family (below right) in July. Get your family history ready to publish in future issues of *The Caboose*.



Edwards home on Frank Kenny Road near Wilhaven (circa 1900)



Robert Smyth, Nellie (Sell) with Edward, Norman, Walter, Elsie (Hewens), Williard,?

2007 – 2008 membership form (membership runs from April to March)

 Please complete this form to renew your CTHS membership for 2007 through to March 2008. Your membership includes all six issues of our bi-monthly Society newsletter – The Caboose. Send your membership dues of \$15 (cheque or money order) payable to the Cumberland Township Historical Society (CTHS) to:

Jeannie Smith, CTHS Secretary, Box #27, Cumberland, ON K4C 1E5.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal code: _____ Phone number _____
(and area code): _____

E-mail address: _____

I prefer to receive **The Caboose** by (please indicate your preference): mail or e-mail

 La cotisation donne droit à six numéros de notre bulletin The Caboose. Il suffit de remplir le formulaire de renouvellement (2007 à mars 2008), et d'établir un chèque ou mandat à l'ordre de CTHS (Cumberland Township Historical Society), puis d'envoyer le tout à:

Jeannie Smith, secrétaire-CTHS, C.P. 27, Cumberland ON K4C 1E5

Nom: _____

Adresse: _____

Code postal: _____ telephone _____
(et code régional): _____

Adresse électronique: _____

Je préfère recevoir The Caboose : par la poste ou par voie électronique

Navan Branch Women's Institute 75th Anniversary

by Jean Hamilton

We're here to celebrate today
 The Navan Women's Institute, come what may
 For seventy-five years our hands and heart
 For Home and Country had a part
 With Mary Rathwell who was so sharp
 The Navan Women's Institute to start.
 In Thirty-one W. I began
 With high hopes and lots of plans.
 Travelling by sleighs with bells a-ringing
 In the wagons mud a flinging
 In the old cars really pining
 To repeat the ode, their voices singing.
 In wartime years we suffered through
 With peace in mind for me and you.
 We carried on but not with much
 Knit the mittens, socks and such
 Helping the Red Cross very much
 The Navan ladies with their loving touch.

The years rolled on with dedication
 Helping the needy and lame in our nation
 The fund raising bake sales and some games
 There were too many helpers to name names.

It's recorded for you to have a look
 By Verna Cotton in the history book.
 Our charter members we would praise
 To living ones a cheer we'll raise.
 The future now is on the scene
 We'll carry on with eyes a gleam
 Andrea Peters now heads the team
 Guiding Navan's Institute supreme.
 We remember with love those who have gone
 The contributions that they made will live on.
 Then let us dedicate today
 To further set our world this way
 And live for God and truth we pray
 As we celebrate this milestone here today.



St. Mary's Hall, Navan Oct. 28: Doreen Hardiman, Mildred Wall, Mary Dashney, Betty Deavy, Pierre Lemieux MP, Joyce Bradley, Verna Cotton, Helen Burns, Dorothy Poirier

Anne-Marie
 Potvin, Verna
 Cotton, Sheila
 Minogue-Calver,
 Paulette MacNeil

