
THE CABOOSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CTHS)

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President's message (Dorothy-Jane Smith)

This is my last Caboose as President as, with Jeannie Smith and Bill Woodruff, I will be stepping down in May. But even without a formal position of Director, we can continue to contribute. Jeannie plans to keep on maintaining the CTHS History Room at the Ray Friel Cumberland Library while I will be staying on as editor of the Caboose. We do, though, need new Directors if the Society is to continue to thrive.

This month, the Caboose is starting the first of several profiles of Cumberland Township's Pastkeepers. These are the people who have kept the past alive in many different ways. The pastkeepers who have kept the Township's history alive in the public sphere are

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

- Dorothy-Jane Smith, President
- Jean-François Beaulieu, Vice President
- Bill Woodruff, Treasurer
- Ross Bradley, Director
- Verna Cotton, Director
- Jeannie Smith, Director

Ex-officio

- Randall Ash, Newsletter production
- Dan Brazeau, Website

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



Get ready for this year's Power Show! See back page.

those who founded our local history societies, were part of founding the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum, wrote about their community and, in every case, linked their family genealogy to their love of history. Jeannie has written the first profile and she and I will be splitting the pleasurable duty of profiling our local Pastkeepers.

Next meeting of the CTHS

The next General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 4th at the Navan Curling Club, 1305 Fairgreen Ave in Navan. Dr. David Grattan of the Conservation Institute will speak on his experience conserving the artifacts of the past. Doors open at 6:30 for a start-time of 7 P.M. Come out for a great speaker but also for the business meeting. Treat it as a time of opportunity; an opportunity for members to grow the Society through new blood and new ideas. Be sure to bring a friend along. Light refreshments, as always, will be served.

Society calendar



For more information on these and other upcoming 2010/11 events, please contact a member of the executive committee or visit our website at www.cths.ca.

May 1 st	Navan is celebrating years 150. An anniversary cookbook will be available after May 1st for \$15 (plus shipping if required). You can buy it at Chile Chillies or The New Oak Tree in Navan or you can order one by emailing annewaeburton@hotmail.com .
May 4 th	Dr. David Grattan of the Conservation Institute; Navan Curling Club 1305 Fairgreen Ave, Navan (this meeting only).
May 15 th	Cumberland Heritage Village Museum: Re-opening for the new season. Share your talents and passion while contributing to the community of Cumberland as a volunteer. We are now recruiting for the 2011 spring and summer season. Please contact Lisa Powell, Supervisor of Volunteer Programs at CHVM at 613-833-3059 ext. 233 or lisa.powell@ottawa.ca .
CTHS meetings	Unless other stated, all meeting are at 10 th Line Road Police Station 2 nd floor Boardroom. Doors open by 6:30 and start time 7:00 pm.

The Caboose is made possible in part through a grant from the City of Ottawa.



Calling volunteers!! Two directors will be stepping down at the May 2011 AGM so we have openings if you want to help grow the history of Cumberland.

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:

- Dorothy-Jane Smith, President (225-3554)
- Jean-François Beaulieu, Vice-President (841-0424) jeanfb@sympatico.ca
- Bill Woodruff, Treasurer, b.woodruff@videotron.ca
- Ross Bradley, Director
- Verna Cotton, Director (835-2490)
- Jeannie Smith, Director (833-2877)
- Randall Ash, Newsletter Production (833-3207) randall2620@rogers.com
- Dan Brazeau, Website

Did you know?



Library and Archives Canada has a new database of particular interest to anyone researching Francophone communities or their French-Canadian ancestors. It is entitled "French-Canadian Newspapers: An Essential Historical Source (1808-1919)" and its search page can be found at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canadian-newspapers-french/001094-100.01-e.php>. Or, you can just Google "LAC French-Canadian newspapers."

Searching is straightforward. You can search by keyword and you can limit your search to specific places and dates. I first tried searching on a name from my own family where there is a French-Canadian connection, the Dalrymples of Montreal and Rockland but unfortunately there were no hits. I then searched on "Cumberland Ontario" which returned far too many hits from the Maritimes but there were a few for our own area. I clicked on one of the titles listed and was taken to a page where I clicked "full screen" to see the actual newspaper. Alas, all I found were references to Cumberland Street. I tried "Sarsfield" and had no luck. But "Rockland" did well and since many of us have links to Rockland, I decided all was not lost.

The database also allows you to browse by title or by place of publication. This can be an interesting exercise if you simply want to see what French languages newspapers may have been printed in a particular place and time.

New Society Projects Under Construction

The Navan Fair Domes: A New Biography & a Tour of Cumberland Village

The CTHS is working on two projects this year. Jeannie Smith is going back to basics in researching the Cumberland Village streets and houses. Her goal is to write as good a publication as Verna Cotton did for Navan and we know that Jeannie always does a good job, whatever she takes on. At the same time, the executive is working on a biography of the Navan Fair Domes and we need your help.

We want to tell the Domes' story starting on LeBreton Flats when they served for a day as a centre of spiritual community for the region's Roman Catholics. We want to tell how the Cumberland Township Agricultural Society adopted the Domes and flew them to the Navan Fairgrounds and we want to tell how, since that day in 1984, they have served as a centre for community entertainment. We plan to publish a booklet that combines the facts of

the Domes' biography with up to twelve stories of personal memories of the Domes.

Verna Cotton and Ross Bradley have been searching the newspaper record and talking to the men and women who were part of bringing the Domes to Ottawa. We are now taking our research on to its final stages. We are seeking photographs of the Domes taken by individuals, particularly of their assembly and use on the Navan Fairgrounds. As well, we welcome your memories of the Domes, whether you attended the mass at LeBreton Flats, or saw them flown to Navan, or enjoyed time by them with friends at the Fair. Stories can be 200 to a maximum of 300 words, or about two to three paragraphs in length. We welcome your stories in the language of your choice and will publish them in your words. If you prefer to call and tell your story we will write it up for you for your final review.

You can mail your story to or telephone any one of Verna Cotton, 3292 Trim Rd. Navan ON K4B 1M8 (tel. 613-835-2490), Ross Bradley, 3387 Trim Rd. Navan ON K4B 1M8 (tel. 613-835-2199 e-mail rbradley@rogers.com), or Dorothy Smith, (tel. 613-225-3554 e-mail djsmith@connect.carleton.ca).

The Domes are important, not as structures of metal, but as tangible reminders of our history. For history is not just the stories of long ago but our generation's stories as well.

Amable Foubert and Mathilde Dunning: When and Where were They Married?

Response from Robert Serré.

In the March 2011 Caboose, Gérard Boyer raised a question for CTHS members following on an exchange of question and replies in the 2010 French Canadian Genealogical Society's newsletter, Mémoires. The exchange concerned the marriage of Amable Foubert and Mathilde Dunning with the replies giving Matilda the dite name of McDONALD and asking whether they had been married in the Catholic Church. Robert Serré, an authority on a number of local pioneer families, has responded.

I have spent several years trying to find an answer to the above question and have gathered several interesting details on the subject. Amable and Matilda had a son named Gabriel. He was not baptized in Rigaud, but in Montebello on 20 September 1815. The parish register states that the infant was 18 days old, and had been "né du mariage légitime de amable (sic) Foubert absent habitant en deça des Chaudières sur ladite rivière

des Outaouais et de Rose Matilde Dunning" ("born of the lawful marriage of Amable Foubert absent residing below the Chaudière Falls on the said Ottawa River and of Rose Matilde Dunning").



Shanly School about 1918. Shanly is an Eastern Ontario agricultural community near Spencerville in Leeds and Grenville County (from the collection of Lori Nash)

Two daughters of Amable and Matilda were baptized in Rigaud on 19 February 1811, but few people have looked carefully enough at the parish register to notice that on the morning of that same day, 19 February 1811, Matilda herself was baptized. The parish register gives her date of birth correctly, as well as the first name of her father ("Salomon" for Zalmon), got the family name wrong (McDonald instead of Dunning), but caught the mother's name somewhat better (Phébé Boys, which is phonetically close to Debora Royce).

It is my opinion that Matilda married Amable in the presence of a justice of the peace. I have read that "Sleigh Bay," the entrance to the first eight locks of the Rideau Canal in Bytown, got its name in 1818 to commemorate the wedding of Philemon Wright's son. The wedding had taken place there because the justice of the peace, who came from Perth, had no authority to perform a marriage in Lower Canada. Sleighs had been used to reach the sheltered bay on the south shore of the river (source, Robert Haig, Ottawa, the City of the Big Ears, 1975). Surely, several other young lovers in the early 1800s must have found it expedient to use the services of a justice of the peace when so few missionaries visited the pioneers of the Lower Ottawa Valley.



A True Story

by Jeannie Smith

The door of the Shanly schoolhouse burst open from Creswell Johnson's shove. Immediately, schoolmaster Frederick Holmes sprung away from his desk in anticipation of retribution.

Geneva Johnson had managed to keep her tears at bay until she was within the sanctity of her family. She revealed how Mr. Holmes had whipped her in front of her classmates. She couldn't understand why. Had she stood up defiantly, displaying her precocious seven year old mind, or had she merely intercepted to rescue a fellow student from the wrath of Holmes? Creswell, her older brother by fifteen years, unhesitatingly determined to confront the abusive teacher.

The desk in the Dawson City, Yukon classroom remained empty for most of Geneva's grand-daughter's elementary school years. Bursts of rheumatic fever had whipped Lori yet she was a highly motivated independent learner. Sporadically attending Canadian schools coast to coast due to father George Chresswell Siteman's military postings, Lori persevered to graduate cum laude from Hillcrest High School in Ottawa. Driven to take on three years of hard work, Lori earned her Honours Diploma in Biochemistry from Algonquin College and became a researcher and student at Ottawa University.

Geneva's determination empowered Lori to become a vibrant force in Cumberland Township when Queenswood Heights was in its infancy. Queenswood Public School, became her alma mater replacing schools she had missed. Lori gifted it with her volunteer hours in the 1970s and 80s during her children Marcia's and Christopher's attendance. Lori served on Queenswood's school council at that time, then again from 1998 to 2008. When Queenswood PS closed in 2008, Lori collated pictures to depict the school's history.

Lori Nash gave back to her community by researching its history, documenting its events and telling its tales in her contributions to local papers L'Express 1986-1988, The Orleans Star 1988-1991, The Weekly Journal 1999-2008, The Communique 1989-1991 as well as Letters to the Editor and Op Ed articles in The Ottawa Citizen. Lori advocated the value of public education, promoting literacy and life long learning by serving on the Cumberland Library Board from 1991 onwards. Lori's research was published and she wrote for various magazines and newsletters and provided chapters for several books. To

recognize a dedicated contribution to lifelong independent learning, a gold placard over a door in the Cumberland Library signifies that you are entering the "Lori Nash Meeting Room."

For one hundred years the story of Creswell George Johnson, a.k.a. Chresswell Johnston, lay hidden within the pages of a bible until his great-niece Lori Nash discovered the details. Lori now understood the source of her father's name, as well as that of two of her four siblings - Geneva Marie Siteman and Cyril Chresswell Johnson Siteman.

Reckoning has come full circle. Genevieve Johnson Siteman, through her grand-daughter Lorena Siteman Nash, has truly whipped the bonds of death and burst into the gates of everlasting life.



Genealogy can bring people to unexpected answers about the past. This month's pastkeeper, Lori Nash, found a story that opened up answers to many other questions about the family. Shanly School students circa 1910 (from the collection of Lori Nash)

Trouble in Spencerville

by Lorena (Lori) Nash

Looking

My father's mother, Geneva Johnson, the daughter of Thomas Briggs Johnson, came from Shanly, Ontario. When I went to the area seeking information about the family, I started with the usual genealogical channels: the Grenville Historical Society, a living family member in Victoria, British Columbia (my Aunt Anne Gauvreau a.k.a. Anne Hammer née Anne Siteman), the Web and so on. But I am a researcher and a newspaper person and I wasn't satisfied with just the basics.

Asking

Wanting to get a feel for the place the family was from, I visited the town and photographed the graves. I spoke to the lady behind the counter at the small grocery store. "What is the most popular community newspaper here?" I asked.

"The EMC," she replied.

"Do people read it?"

"They sure do. From cover to cover. Take a copy on your way out."



On Friday June 24, 2005, an ad ran in the St. Lawrence EMC, which circulates in the Spencerville, Prescott areas.

Finding

June 25, 2005 Saturday morning, 9:45 a.m., an email arrived from an address starting "OldbikerHen". The handle was enough to warn me that here was a crackpot who was going to jerk me around. Well, you never can tell. I went ahead and replied, asking for more details.

WOW. Jackpot! The reply came within the hour and included a listing of my great-grandfather's grave in Shanly. I had photographed the site the week before. But there was something too about my great-uncle, Creswell Johnson. I had never dreamed of getting information about him.

Again an exchange of e-mails and this time the old biker hen's phone number. I could scarcely read the message I was so excited. I immediately dialled the number to make personal contact.

Responding

Breathlessly I tried to talk. Ask questions. Read the email, Thank the lady, who turned out to be Dorothy Bush. And tried to take in what she was saying. It was 4:55. We were having a dinner party at 5:00. My husband, Lorne, hovered at the office door. What was I doing on the phone with guests on the way? The dog howled to go out for a pee, and I was barely through the howdy do's with Dorothy when the door bell rang.

The last words from Dorothy before I had to leave the phone were that Mary Lou had a newspaper

clipping in the family Bible about Creswell's court appearance due to being in a fight because of his sister Geneva.

Who was Mary Lou? I was just getting to know the family names of the Johnson family and Creswell was still very much a mystery to me. I had only come across the family history in the past week and at this stage I still didn't even have a firm grip on the birth dates of the children of Thomas Briggs Johnson.

Mystery

The mystery and excitement were volcanic. I couldn't get rid of my dinner guests fast enough. In fact I slipped away to my office a few times for a quick look at the e-mail. At last our guests went intrepidly out into the 32-degree smog-infested air for a smoke. Perfect timing for me. I got into the e-mail and realized that Dorothy whom I had known as old biker hen but now calling herself Dot, had provided a wealth of information about the Johnson family from Shanly. She had the graves for Creswell and his wife Myrtle and a number of the other Johnson members. Some of them I had already collected in my visit to Shanly the previous week but my \$60 ad had brought me a wealth of new information.

More e-mail communications and another phone call. This time I had composed myself and was able to talk without panting or trying to swallow Dot whole. She explained to me that her husband's family, the Bush's, had lived in the Spencerville area for over a hundred years. Grandpa John Gordon (Jack) Bush knew Creswell Johnson because Creswell had run a hotel in Spencerville. Jack loved his "sup" or liquor and visited often. Because he knew Creswell, someone had clipped an article for him about Creswell and the fight over his younger sister Genevieve, whom we called Geneva. The article had stayed in the family Bible all that time and was now in the hands of Mary Lou, Dorothy's sister-in-law.

Mary Lou did not want to part with the clipping but, in the end, Dorothy got it long enough to scan it and email it to me. The birth date I have for my grandmother Genevieve is 1898 (confirmed from her death certificate) and in the article she is described as seven years old. So the newspaper must have been published in 1905, making it over 100 years old. Quite a long time for a newspaper clipping. Creswell would have been about 22 years old when the incident referred to in the article occurred.

Why was the newspaper clipping kept so long? Was it because they knew Creswell Johnson? Or was it because of the interest of the story?

It certainly has value today.

The Court Drama

The story takes place in 1905 in Shanly, Ontario just east of Brockville. Cresswell Johnson has been sued by Frederick Holmes, the Shanly schoolmaster. Holmes charged that Johnson had attacked and struck him for whipping Cresswell's seven-year old sister in school. The schoolmaster claimed he had beaten her for her own good and was seeking maximum damages of \$60, not for suffering or damage, but for the indignity he had suffered as the schoolmaster.

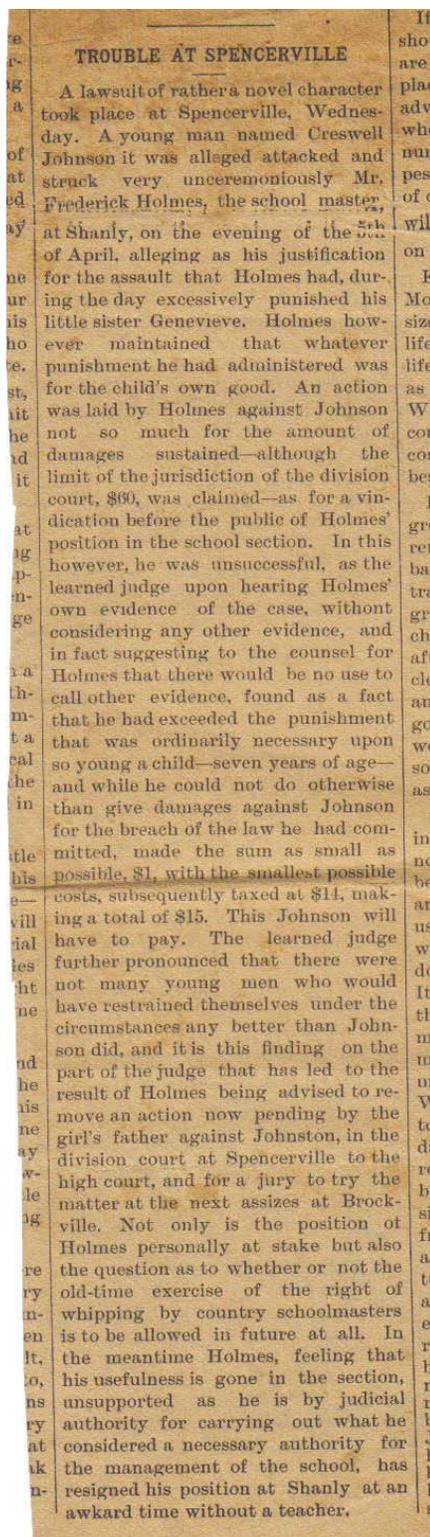


Detail of 1910 Shanly school students showing Geneva Johnson (centre child), five years after the Holmes incident and no worse for the wear. A new teacher was able to manage her class without whipping.

But the judge, after hearing only Holmes' testimony, found that the schoolmaster's punishment of young Geneva had far exceeded what was necessary and considered that Johnson had shown laudable restraint under the circumstances. He had no choice, though, but to award \$1 in damages and court costs of \$14 against Johnson. Holmes was advised against pursuing the case further in divisional court in Brockville. There the case would be heard with a jury and raise the wider concern of whether the old-time practice of schoolmasters whipping children should be allowed at all. Schoolmaster Holmes, feeling unsupported by the judicial system, resigned leaving Shanly without a teacher in mid-term.

Ending

I was touched by the story, having been involved in elementary schools for many years – and of course, this little girl was my grandmother.



The 100+ year clipping. Lori will be doing more work to trace its source. It should be from a Brockville, Prescott or Kemptville area paper.

How Common were Schoolmasters like Holmes?

by Dorothy J. Smith

Lori's article reminds us of the days when the strap was an awe-inspiring part of a visit to the principal's office. But was whipping a common punishment in the early days of Ontario's schools? Certainly, there are stories from pioneer days of whipping schoolmasters. But long before Holmes was displaying his lack of pedagogical skills in Shanly, corporal punishment was controlled and limited, at least officially. Egerton Ryerson, as Chief Superintendent of Ontario's school system from 1844 to 1876, wrote into the laws he drafted that teachers had a legal duty to maintain discipline. This did not mean teachers had a free hand to inflict whatever harm they wished.

Both the 1853 Act for the Common Schools and the 1865 Act for Grammar Schools (or high schools) laid a duty on teachers to "maintain proper order and discipline ... according to the forms and regulations which shall be provided according to law." The 1858 regulations for Ontario's model high school divided breaches of discipline into two categories; ordinary offences not intended to cause disorder, and extraordinary where there was such intent. The ordinary offences were only to attract demerit points, though with enough demerit points suspension could follow. Violent misconduct or willful authority to authority resulted in immediate suspension. Corporal punishment was to be used only when absolutely necessary.

In the 1885 regulations for all schools, teachers were told to practise the discipline of a "kind, firm and judicious parent" with the ideal being to appeal to students through "their affection and reason rather than by force." The 1875 regulations defined improper discipline as "contemptuous language, reproof administered in passion, personal indignity or torture and violation of the laws of health." Teachers' disciplinary methods, at least according to the law as it came out of Toronto, were expected to result in a disciplined environment in which children could learn. School discipline was not supposed to be about breaking their spirit.

The difficulty lay with defining what a judicious parent would do to discipline a child. With many parents taking the Bible's Book of Proverbs as their parenting guide, it was not unnatural for a teacher to also believe that to spare the rod was to spoil the child. But always, any debate over corporal punishment came back to the question of how did good parents discipline their children. The controversy in Ontario in the late twentieth century over the use of the strap hinged on just this question. This was equally true in 1905 when the judge in the

Holmes-Johnson case suggested that a jury would have questioned whipping a child.

In 1938, J. H. Putnam, after a teaching career of 50 years, argued that corporal punishment was a sign of weakness on the part of the teacher. At the same time, she reported (although without telling us her sources) that, in the entire Ottawa school system in the 1930s, corporal punishment was inflicted an average of once a day. This, she clearly felt, showed an improving trend for she claimed that 25 years previous corporal punishment had been inflicted on average three times a day.

Putnam was convinced that corporal punishment was dying. "Our great-grandchildren will talk of it as a relic of barbarism." Indeed, the case today is that children cannot imagine such behaviour. While visiting the schoolhouse at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum last year, we observed a child point to the strap to ask what it was. When told, he asked what "a strap" was used for.

Sources

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— *General Regulations for the Organization, Government and Discipline of Public Schools, 1875.*

— *Regulations of the Education Department Respecting Public and High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, 1885.*

J. H. Putnam. Fifty Years at School: An Educationalist Looks at Life. Toronto: Clarke, Irwin & Co, 1938.

Lori Nash at the celebratory naming of the "Lori Nash Meeting Room" (photo by Rheal Doucette, OPL; Lori Nash collection)



Heritage Power and Country Festival Cumberland Heritage Village Museum

Saturday, May 28 9 am to 6:30 pm / Sunday, May 29 9 am to 5 pm

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Information: 613-833-3059

Cumberland Heritage Village Museum, 2490 Old Montreal Rd.,

Fees: \$25/Family, \$12/Adult, \$10/Student or Senior Special rates available for groups

ottawa.ca/museums

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Patrimoine de l'énergie et festival country Musée-village du patrimoine de Cumberland

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Renseignements : 613-833-3059

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