

# THE CABOOSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CTHS)

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## Editor's message (by Jeannie Smith)

Guns were silenced 11:00am November 11, 1918 and 'the war to end all wars' stopped. Man's inhumanity continues and aggression has become a way of life for most of the world. "Where have all the soldiers gone?" "When will they ever learn?" Shall we ever overcome? Let us pay tribute to the men and women of Cumberland who died so that we could live in a free Canada. We must live in a manner that demonstrates love and acceptance and celebrate human diversity. Only then will ignorance and hate cease to brew wars, and peace, tolerance and understanding will reign supreme. As historians we strive to preserve stories so that people may recognize mistakes and become more inclusive and less judgmental. We must continue to develop positive social interactions and make our communities safe havens. Take time to celebrate life with your families.

*The Caboose: November 2003*

### **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
- Randall Ash, Past President, Newsletter production
- Jeannie Smith, Director, Newsletter Editor
- Bill Woodruff, Treasurer
- Verna Cotton, Director
- Ross Bradley, Director
- 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](http://www.cths.ca)



WW2: Albert, twins Arnold & Percy and Gladys Scharfe.  
Pay tribute to our war veterans at your local cenotaph on Remembrance Day.

## **Next meeting of the CTHS**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> in the boardroom of the Ottawa Regional Police Station, Tenth Line Road and St. Joseph Blvd. Plan to arrive at **6:30 pm** as the meeting will begin at **6:45 pm**. Speaker Max Finkelstein will talk about the heritage of the Ottawa River. Be sure to bring a friend along. Light refreshments, as always, will be served.

History with its flickering lamp stumbles along the trail of the past trying to reconstruct its themes, to revive its echoes and kindle, with pale gleams, the passion of former days.

*Winston Churchill*

## Thomas Foy: the unknown soldier

*by Jeannie Smith from archival documents supplied  
by Peter Andersen*

The war in Europe beckoned lads from Cumberland Township in the fall of 1914. This war to end all wars did little to ensure continuing peace and too many young men did not return home. On the cenotaph in Cumberland you can read:

1914-18 Charles H.  
McKenzie, Creswell  
J. Allan, Robert Leslie  
Taylor, Peter J.  
McLaren, William J.  
Spratt, John A.  
McKenzie, Thomas  
Foye.  
1939-45 Carleton G.  
Kennedy, William H.  
Lough  
1950-53 Robert Victor  
Arnott.

History with its flickering lamp stumbles along the trail of the past trying to reconstruct its themes, to revive its echoes and kindle, with pale gleams, the passion of former days. (Winston Churchill)

In Liverpool, England, at the turn of the 20th century many people lived in poverty and despair. On December 16, 1897, George and Bridget (Dowd) Foy had a son, Thomas Patrick. The certificate of Baptism reads: According to the Register of Baptisms kept at St. Sylvester's (Roman Catholic) Church Liverpool, Thomas Foy of George and Bridget Foy formerly Dowd lawfully Married, Born 16 December 1897 was Baptized at the said Church by Rev. W. Brophy on the 23rd day of December 1897, Mary Ann Doran being God-Parent. George, a carter by trade, and Bridget offered their family little support. By December 12, 1910, young Thomas was sent to the Boys' Refuge at 62 St. Anne Street, certified under the Industrial Schools Act 1866 because he was 'neglecting to attend school'. He must have been a 'street urchin' for his father was in 'delicate' health (consumption), not working and living with friends at

69 Hopwood Street. His mother was in jail. The admission form declared that his parents were 'indifferent.' Thomas' brother, James, born March 10, 1905, was admitted to this same establishment on December 9, 1911 having been 'truant through neglect.' The family now resided at 90c Latimer Street, but father George was in hospital and mother Bridget was in jail serving one month for being drunk and disorderly plus two months in default of finding bail to be of good behaviour. Thomas' younger brother James was also admitted and remained

there until April 1920.

On July 3, 1921, James Foy had been working in a tailor's but was 'out of work at present'.

At age thirteen, Thomas was 4'8" with a chest measurement of 27 ½ inches. Life must have been tough. In May 1911, application was made for Thomas to immigrate to Canada as a farm

worker. The form stated that he was strong, healthy, of

good character and that his parents had no objection to emigration. ('weakly and unhealthy children and children who suffer from incontinence of urine and the like are returned to England'). It claimed that Thomas was honest, free from sulky temper, religious, clean and tidy, obedient, willing and anxious to oblige, of good disposition, bright and intelligent. 'Does it understand that it will have to work on a farm?' By law, Thomas would be under the authority of the Emigration Association and have his wages banked until his eighteenth birthday. He would have to abstain from smoking, live in the country away from theatres and 'Does it understand that in Canada it will have to work hard or starve?' Affirmative.

Thomas Foy sailed to Canada on May 18th 1911 to work as a farm hand for Peter Larocque in Cumberland. He arrived on May 29 and worked for \$1.00 & clothes. The Catholic Emigration Association



Cumberland Cenotaph 1919

sent someone to inspect Thomas' conditions on October 14 and reported that he was in good health and appearance and was kindly treated. "He's doing very well so far," claimed Peter Larocque. Inspector E. J. Collingwood said that Thomas was 'a sharp lad, sturdy and willing, and very contented with his place. He has a good boss and should do very well."

On April 9, 1915, another report stated that Thomas was employed by farmer William Larocque since April 1, 1915 earning \$8.00 per month. According to the form Thomas claimed, "I have a good place and am well satisfied." Collingwood remarked: "Very tall and strong and a fine manly lad. He has spent all his time with Antoin Larocque but as the latter has no further need of him he has hired with his brother. He is really worth more wages but feels at home here and prefers to remain as he is."

At Ottawa on November 23rd 1915, Thomas signed T P Foy in large childish handwriting on his Attestation Paper for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force. For next of kin was Mrs. Bridget Foy (Mother) 77 Hopwood Street Liverpool, England, One month from turning nineteen years of age, blue eyed with brown hair, 5'6" with a 35" chest, the medical officer signed Thomas Foy fit to go to war in Europe.

#### OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Thomas Patrick Foy do make Oath that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty George V, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs & Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs & Successors, & of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Thomas' military career lasted less than a year. The following is recorded in the Discharge Register in relation to Thomas Foy.

*15 November 1916*

*Letter received from Canadian Record Office, London, dated 14 November 1916.*

*Madam it is my painful duty to inform you that a report has this day been received notifying the death of 145565 Pte Thomas Patrick Foy, 87th Batt Canadian which occurred on 21-24 of October 1916 and I am to express to you the sympathy and regret of the Militia Council at your loss. The cause of death was killed in action.*

*Further information regarding the personal effect and any balance of pay due to the military estate of the soldier will be communicated to you in due course by the Estates Branch Canadian Contingents, 17 Millbank, London SW. Some time must necessarily elapse before these questions can be dealt with. If you do not receive further communication in six*

*weeks time please write to Estate Branch quoting reference number above, also reg number, name and unit of deceased soldier.*

No one knows the exact date of Thomas Foy's death. His name, improperly spelled on the Cumberland cenotaph "Foye", is all that remains. Soldier boy, oh my little soldier boy...unknown but not forgotten.

## The family of Robert Scharf

*by Gladys (Scharfe) Eggert*

The family name 'Scharf', 'Scharff', 'Scharfe' is of German origin. Some Scharf families may have come to Cumberland directly from Germany; others possibly left Germany as soldiers with King William of Orange from Holland. These soldiers came to Ireland to fight with William at the infamous 'Battle of the Boyne' in 1690. Rumor has it that these soldiers arrived in Ireland via England and considered themselves 'Irish' instead of German when they immigrated to North America.

THOMAS SCHARF (born about 1790) and his wife DOROTHY REYNARD, married about 1815, emigrated from Caselcomber-Donquile, Ireland. Thomas and two of his brothers James and Joseph came to Canada as part of 'The Rideau Military Settlement' and settled in Goulbourne Township about 1818. The majority of settlers seem to have been Protestant. They claimed land grants about 1822 and then sent for their wives and children. There is some indication that Thomas' mother Ann and father James came to Canada once their sons were established. There seems to be a common link in most of the Scharf ancestry. They all were horsemen and they all loved music!

Thomas and Dorothy had several children, among whom was JOSEPH SCHARF, born in Ireland in 1818 after his father had come to Canada. According to the registration at the Anglican Archdiocese in Ottawa, Joseph married ELIZABETH DEAVY (born 1824 in Goulbourne Township) on September 5, 1853 in Bytown.

It was during the next generation that a lot of the family members began to resettle in the Ottawa area. Some moved to Wakefield, Quebec; others to Kars, Metcalfe and Cumberland. Not long after that, several of them claimed 'not to be related' to some of the other Scharf families! With rare exception, I have been able to trace the ancestry of most of the 'locals' and they share the same roots.

Joseph and Elizabeth Scharf moved from the Hazeldean area of Goulbourne Township to the west half of Lot 1 Concession 7 (now Innes Road between Frank Kenny and O'Toole) in Cumberland Township about 1860. Elizabeth had a brother, William Deavy, who married Joseph's sister Ann Scharf, (making their



children 'double first cousins) and the two couples moved to Cumberland at the same time, residing as next door neighbours. Their ancestors still live on the east half of Lot 1 Concession 7. No doubt they assisted each other in clearing the land and in getting established as farmers on their new land. There was a huge fire in the area during the time that Joseph was clearing the trees from his land and it was said by Joseph that he didn't think they would have ever gotten the land cleared were it not for the Great Fire. Years after the fire, there were still fire outbreaks in the peat bog south of Navan, which was part of the Mer Bleu. My brother Albert said he had been told that Joseph's first 'house' eventually became the pig house. It was a low log cabin with a loft and was built about a quarter of a mile from the road. The rest of the farm was built over many years and at different times consisted of a saw mill and engine room, big hen house, chicken coop, hatchery, sheep house, pig house, out house, blacksmith shop, wood shed, ice house, log house with add-on kitchen, summer kitchen, granary, grist mill and machine shed, horse stable, hay barn, stable and barn combination, pump house and milk house, all spread over 3 ½ acres of farm land. For the next 135 years, this farm supported four generations of the Scharf family. Joseph died April 18, 1905 and Elizabeth died October 14, 1911. Both are buried at Dale's Cemetery as are the majority of the Cumberland Scharf family.



Benjamin Scharf & wife Elizabeth (Millar) Scharf. Children: John James, William, Robert, Margaret Jane and Susannah.

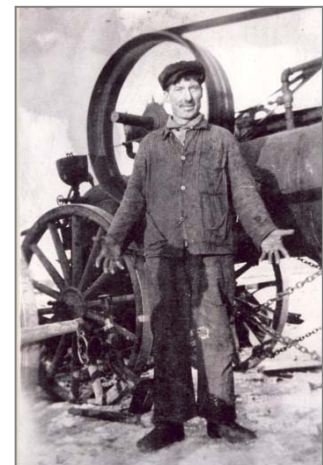
One of Joseph and Elizabeth's offspring was BENJAMIN SCHARF (born July 27, 1855, died November 21, 1939), who was my grandfather. Benjamin Scharf married ELIZABETH ANN MILLAR (born in 1846 at Poltimore, Quebec, died May 20, 1922). I remember Grandpa Ben was a very tall thin and strong man, over six feet tall and Granma Eliza was about five feet tall. Eliza had come to the area as a helper at the Cox household. They continued to improve the farm and raise their family. There was a

blacksmith shop on the home place, probably built by Joseph, and Ben made horseshoes for many of the neighbours. His granddaughter Dorothy often pumped the bellows on the forge for him. Blacksmith coal was used. Along with the blacksmith shop, the farm had a gristmill and neighbours came to have their grain ground. There was also a fanning-mill for cleaning seed, removing dirt and all unwanted seeds. Ben mended all the family shoes and harness. Ben's son Robert followed in his father's footsteps by being able to make the farm self-sufficient. Robert's son Albert followed as well. He was also a good farmer, butcher, harness mender and carpenter. Albert was also a bit of a philosopher of life!

Grandfather Benjamin built a wooden corn silo among other buildings. Ben used to spend a lot of the winter at a bush lot he purchased south east of Leonard (Ruissellet Road). I can remember his big white horse named Punch. Robert bought his first car in 1925 (a Star Touring car on which I learned to drive!) that was still able to be driven in the early 1960s when Robert sold it. Grandfather would take the Star to the bush property to run the saw he used to cut firewood. He would do this by taking off a wheel and bolting on a pulley. In later years, we also used the Star on the hayfork to pull hay up in the barn loft and mows. It was often used to pull a dump-rake in the fields. Sometimes the wooden spokes would fall out of one wheel. He loved working in the woods and he cut wood, to burn for the following winter, and logs for lumber. We believe it was Grandpa Ben and Dad (Robert) that built a sawmill attached to the hen house.

ROBERT SCHARF (born March 13, 1888 during the most severe blizzard of the year) was one of Benjamin and Elizabeth's children. He married JANET (JENNIE) FINDLAY (born December 1, 1889 in Navan) on May 1, 1912. My parents, Robert and Jennie, lived with Grandpa Ben and Granma Eliza and continued to work the farm together while raising their own family. Robert was like his father, ambitious. He was a good business man and a good mechanic. He seemed to love

machinery and what he couldn't make, he bought or repaired. Robert had a reputation for being one of the best in the area for running a steam engine. It was as though he could read the machine and as a result, he obtained the best return of power with the least amount of risk.



When Robert and Jennie inherited the farm it consisted of 100 acres on the homestead and the 50 acres of bush that Benjamin loved so much. One of Robert's brothers was William Scharf who married Edith Scharf (his third cousin) from Ottawa. Willie and Edith had purchased the 50 acre adjoining parcel of land on the southwest side of Robert's land from William Findlay. When Willie and Edith decided to move to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, they sold their 50 acres (on Frank Kenny Rd) to Robert.

Once more 'double first cousins' were created in the Scharf family. Robert's other brother was John James Scharf who married Jennie's sister, Agnes Findlay. Robert had two sisters: Margaret Jane Scharf who married James Galloway of Cumberland and Susannah Scharf who married George Albert Deavy (her second cousin).



Kathleen, Dorothy & Irene Scharfe

Robert and Jennie had eight children: James 'Albert', Dorothy, Percy & Arnold (twins), Patricia (died at one month), Irene, Kathleen and Gladys (myself).

Robert worked the land efficiently and produced excellent crops. Along with having an abundance of food for his big herd of milking cows, pigs, ducks, chickens, eight horses, etc., he was able to sell number one seed from his crops of oats, barley, timothy, red clover and alsak clover. If there were any weeds growing in the fields, Dad and my older

brothers and sisters were out there pulling the weeds out by hand. Each spring Robert would take the seed to the York Street market in Ottawa and get top dollar for the superior seed.

In 1929 Robert built a cement silo to replace the old wooden one. That silo is still in good shape. The cost was \$10.00 per foot of height, the silo being 35 feet high-\$350.00. Three men plus Robert and his three sons worked one week to put it up. One hundred bags of cement were used at 75 ¢ per bag and Robert had to supply the gravel.

Robert and his brother John James did a lot of custom work together such as threshing grain and silo filling for farmers at Blackburn and Stittsville with a steam engine pulled by horses. A steam engine at that time cost \$90.00. They silo filled with the White steam engine and Blizzard corn blower made by Massey. All those pipes had to be put together and pulled by hand with ropes to the top of the silo and lowered again when finished, taken apart, put on the corn wagon and transported to the next customer. The cost for filling silo was \$15.00. The neighbours helped each other with teams of horses and wagons and went from farm to farm. The farm ladies served wonderful meals. My aunt Margaret Jane Galloway was renowned for her excellent choke cherry and dandelion wines. Kept in the cellar, it was a cool and refreshing drink in the hot summer. I know that as a fact because I worked there with our team of horses and corn wagon! Robert and his oldest son Albert continued to do custom work with their 10-20 McCormack tractor instead of the steam engine.

When Robert had any time available, he followed his interest in machinery. This was expressed in



Sawmill. The slab-sleigh had high racks

building a sawmill attached to the hen house. A small steam engine was used as motive power. The set up proved successful and not only could he saw logs for himself, but soon neighbours brought logs for custom cutting. This work, of course, was done for a standard fee. Soon the machinery was too small and Robert and Albert, Arnold and Percy built a larger sawmill, remote to the south of the main farm buildings. A larger steam engine was used to improve speed and service other attachments. The mill components came from mowers, cars, wagons or whatever was available, and served the purpose. Bearings, teeth for the size 4 circular saw, chains, shaft pulleys, etc., were bought from Zagerman Lumber in Ottawa. Robert took good care of the equipment. Every moving part was checked and lubricated morning, noon and night. Adjustments were made as needed. Robert treated the saw like a baby constantly adjusting, sharpening and replacing teeth. A slab carrier and sawdust carrier were made from chains and pieces of wood. To keep all the machinery working, Robert and Albert fixed a lot of drive belts. The sawmill brought in approximately \$10 per day at \$3-\$5 per thousand feet of lumber, depending on the type of tree, or up to 4000 feet per day or \$20. The wage for a hired man at that time was \$1-\$2 per day.

It took four people to operate the sawmill effectively back in those days. Arnold operated the steam engine when he was a teenager, with Robert operating the saw along with Albert and Percy to roll the logs, cut the slabs and carry the lumber. Arnold and Percy left home to 'make their fortunes' and worked in differed places including tobacco picking, gold mining in Timmins, Ontario and later joining the army. Eric, Carson and Allan Scharf, Border Scharf, Fred Hodges and Carmen Deavy were hired at different times over the years to work in the sawmill. Borden and Fred gained experience from this and later both bought their own portable saw mills and performed custom work.

Work in the saw mill started at 8:00 AM until 12 noon and from 1:00 PM until 6:00 PM. Robert made sure to blow his beloved steam whistle three times daily, 'runaway horses or not'. Somehow, during this time (usually during the lunch hour), the sawdust got scraped down with the horses and scraper to make room for more sawdust at the top of the pile. I rode and drove the horse and Dad maneuvered the scraper. I can remember times when the pile was high enough to be used as a sliding hill in the winter.

This was a time before electrical power was available in the area. The highlight of our public school life was the annual Christmas concert where Dad's naphtha liquid lanterns and coal oil lanterns supplied lighting. Dad and Albert also supplied SS#10 with cut slabs of wood from the saw mill to heat the school in winter.

Albert would get the high and heavy sleigh or wagonload of slabs pulled out of its spot every day to the mountainous slab pile, by our strong team of horses, where the slabs had to be thrown off by hand. There was also a large wooden tank on a sleigh or stone boat, which had to be filled with water for the steam engine. It was then drawn by the team to the saw mill and parked beside the building which contained the steam engine. Later the water was piped underground from the barn to the mill. I was known as 'Tootsie, Tootie and Tot' and soon learned how to work at the mill as well as my older brothers. Robert operated the steam engine, Albert operated the circular saw and I rolled the logs in and set and properly aligned them on the carrier. The hired man carried the lumber away from the saw and cut the slabs (which we used for winter heat) with the beam saw. In later years, time and lifestyles changed so that only Robert, Albert and myself worked the sawmill using a 15-30 McCormack tractor. Now, being powered by the big cleat wheeled tractor, we were also aware it could be stalled quite easily and it was never as powerful as the mighty steam engine. This form of income and self-sufficiency remained until the 1960s.

The barn chores had to be done morning, noon and evening. Milking was done morning and evening with a feeding then and at noontime. Albert threw down hay from the haymow and corn from the silo and I would feed the animals when I left the mill at 4:00 PM. I would also clean the stables and water the animals. At that time, there were four sows with piglets, sixty head of dairy cattle (twenty-six were milking cows), and eight horses. There were also hens, roosters and ducks that I raised to take to the market. Aunt Agnes raised geese and sold them at the market in Ottawa every fall. She would travel there by horse and cutter, fifteen miles one way. The years that I went with her to sell my ducks, her son Allan Scharf drove us by car before the heavy snow blocked the roads for the winter. It was a very cold experience standing on the market, plus the cars did not have heaters back then. Usually, we would get too cold standing there waiting for customers and would end up selling the remaining fowl to Peter Devine, who owned a grocery store on York Street.

My mother, Janet (Jennie) was kept busy cooking on a 'wood stove' of course, to feed the family, the hired hand and often customers who came to the sawmill. She also had to help with milking the cows 'by hand' morning and evening. To get groceries, she had to travel by horse and cutter in winter, five miles away to Navan. In the summer, she often went in the buggy pulled by her horse 'Nancy' and later by 'Fred'. She shopped at both stores in Navan: J.T. Bradley & Sons, and Elsie Clark's (she and Elsie were good friends), her horse tied to the hitching rail in front of the stores. The Post Office was in Elsie's store and she managed everything herself.



A trip to Navan gave Mother a chance to visit some of her sisters, The Findlay Girls who lived in a big three storey house in the village. When Mother visited her sisters, she put her horse in their hen house. She seldom went empty handed. She always took Gertie and Marjorie something from the farm, a roast of beef or pork, eggs and milk. Dad also took them a wagonload of wood when they needed it. Mother's trip to Navan was always planned in advance—a dawn to dusk adventure. When she would arrive back home, I was always waiting to stable the horse. My number one priority was horses: riding them, driving them on the farm equipment and taking care of them. I loved all animals.

Being the youngest, I was kept at home as a hired hand. My sisters also worked with the hay and stoked the grain in the fields during the summer. Our family went to School Section #10 at the corner of Concession Road #8 (now Frank Kenny) and County Road #30, known locally as 'the 9 mile road' (Innes). Back then, children started school at seven and eight years of age in grade one. My oldest sister, Dorothy only spent five years in public school before attending Navan High School five miles away. A small bicycle had to be bought for Irene, who was only twelve when she started high school. The rest of the family went to lower school for the regular eight years. In winter, Mother drove them to Navan to our aunt's house on Sunday evening, where they boarded until she picked them up on Friday afternoon. My brothers drove to high school by horse and cutter in winter, and in spring and fall they usually traveled by bicycle or horse and buggy. Dorothy and Irene became school teachers.

DOROTHY SCHARF (1914 - 2009) married Ed Hare and lived in many places across Canada. They had five children.

IRENE SCHARFE married Bill McIntye and moved to Willowdale near Toronto. They had two children.

KATHLEEN SCHARFE (1924-1991) worked for the Civil Service and married John Holancin and lived in Elliot Lake, Ontario; Sorel, Quebec and Frankford, Ontario. They had four children.



Gladys on her horse Fred

When my sisters started to work in Ottawa, they bicycled to Martin's Corners (intersection of Frank Kenny and Old Montreal Roads) two miles away to take the Colonial Coach bus to and from the city. The bicycles were left in the barn at the Martin farm. In winter, they rented a room in the city and came home on the weekends. When the snow was gone, and if Dad had the time when it was raining, he and I would go to pick up the girls at Martin's Corners. He would let me steer our 1928 Buick, even though he was always worried someone might see that the track we left on the wet gravel was not perfectly straight. The two bicycles were put one on each running board, front wheel between the fender and the engine, the seat was tied to the parking light on the side of the windshield.

My oldest brother James "Albert" Scharf (1912-1989) married Janet McMillan (1920- 1999) from west of Cumberland (Camelot Golf Club) on

Oct. 31, 1942. Albert had always remained on the farm and for many years he and Mother did most of the chores while Dad was out doing custom work. Albert and Jennie planted roses in front, and an apple orchard on both sides, of the house. Albert and Janet built their own house just west of the farm buildings in 1951. The following year Mother was not feeling well and Janet offered to care for her. Dad, Mother and I moved out of the original log house and in with Albert, Janet and their children Greta, Ruth and Elgin. Mother (Jennie) died on Jan. 31, 1953 of complications from diabetes. I remained with Albert and Janet's family until I married in 1959. Dad (Robert) passed away Jan. 5, 1969.

My brother Arnold Scharfe (1916-1972) married Cecile Leger from Cornwall on Feb. 1, 1944. After WW2 they bought the O'Toole farm, 200 acres directly north of our homestead. We supplied them with cattle, a team of horses, a sleigh, etc. Altogether we worked 350 acres with horses and one 10-20 McCormack tractor. Later Arnold and Cecil bought a small Ford tractor and a rubber tired wagon—what an achievement! Arnold and Cecil raised a family of six children.

My brother Percy Scharf (July 14, 1916-July 15, 1952) never married.

Dad was a member of the Loyal Orange Lodge in Cumberland. He was also very musical and loved music. He played the flute and fife for the "12th of July Celebrations" and picnic which the whole family enjoyed each year. Albert remembered helping his mother milk the cows by hand out by the fence on a very hot July 12th while the rest of the family were off at the picnic and more especially how his twin brothers Arnold and Percy were born just two days later on July 14, 1916. Dorothy remembered when she was twelve years old going with Dad to Poltimore for the 12th of July picnic. Dad had been invited there to play the fife. They stayed overnight with a family of the name of Orange. He also played fiddle (violin) for dances in the community halls and for house parties. I sometimes accompanied him on piano. Every evening, Dad would play the fiddle, fife, flute or harmonica for approximately half an hour. Later, when I was not living there anymore, he sat in his bedroom and played music on his various instruments.

Electricity finally arrived in about 1949. What a big difference that made to our lives! Snow plowing of the winter roads started after that. The township had one truck with a blade and one grader.

When I left the farm, I went back to school and took a secretarial course and worked as a civilian member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. On September 19, 1959, I married Werner Eggert. I continued to work for the R.C.M.P. until my first child

was born. In January 1964, we moved to Wabush, Labrador where our other two children were born. I drove a school bus for over twenty years.

Albert Scharfe died of a stroke. Janet and her son Elgin remained on the farm. Shortly before his death, Albert sold the cows as Elgin was not interested in continuing to farm the homestead. The hay is still being cut off the farm but the buildings had to be torn down in the early 2000s. After the hard struggle and success of over 135 years to make it a productive farm, the encroaching land development creeps even closer.



Jennie Scharf with children Albert and Dorothy sitting in front of the water tank. Robert Scharf is in the background behind a horse-drawn steam engine. 1915

Joseph and Eliza brought this 'branch' of Scharf's to Cumberland but due to having unmarried sons and numerous daughters, the namesake associated with this branch will disappear in the Cumberland area over the next generation. Arnold's son John has one son named 'Robert' and he is the only offspring who will continue the Scharfe name.

The spelling of our family name was slightly changed before I was born. There were several Scharf's with the same first names and initials all living on the same postal rural route. Our postman, Mr. John A. MacMillan (nicknamed 'Sir John A' because he always stated, "The Royal Mail must get through, no matter what the weather was like."), delivered from Cumberland with his horse and cutter in winter and his 1931 Chevrolet coup in summer. 'Sir John A.' asked my Mother to find a way to distinguish our mail from another 'Robert' Scharf who lived on the next road. The only thing Jennie could think of was to add an 'e' to the end of Scharf and thus, our name was changed to 'Scharfe'. The exact date this change was made is lost to the pages of time. There are so many stories that it would properly take me to write a book to express all the history, but I hope that this has given you a 'peek' into our Scharfe history.

