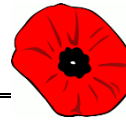


# THE CABOOSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CTHS)

ISSN 1203-147X

Volume XXIII Number 2

October 2014

## President's message (by Gérard Boyer)

One of my favourite drives from Ottawa to Cumberland is Rideau St. to Montreal Rd. to St. Joseph Blvd. and along old Highway 17 to Cumberland. This past August I made a historical connection with the new Taggart-Cardinal Creek development just east of Orléans. One hundred and seventy nine years ago, a soon-to-be prominent citizen of Cumberland Township, Archibald Petrie, selected Lot 26 fronting on the Ottawa River on which to build his residence, which he named St. Leonard's. He also purchased adjoining properties, including the islands that now bear his name. He became Cumberland Township's first reeve and he later represented Russell County as a Member of Parliament. Our historical society is a little late in integrating the memory of this

prominent settler into the Taggart-Cardinal Creek project. But I hope that we can somehow commemorate this great Cumberland Township pioneer in an appropriate fashion. He will certainly get his due in the "Early Cumberland Township History" that we are preparing. On another note, thanks to all the folks who dropped in at our booth at the Navan Fair and to those who came out to listen to the "Scotland Trip presentation" in September. We're already planning a "train" theme for next year's fair, so please contribute interesting historical information that you have on trains.

### 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 four times each year by the Cumberland Township Historical Society.

### Our Executive

- Gérard Boyer, President
- Jean-François Beaulieu, Past President
- Tom McNeely, Vice-President
- Gilles Chartrand, Treasurer
- Verna Cotton, Director
- Ross Bradley, Director
- Ivan Tanner, Director
- Ex-Officio
- Randall Ash, Caboose production
- Dorothy-J. Smith, Caboose editor
- Karly Ali, 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)



This postcard was sent to a man training at Camp Witley, in Surrey England in 1918. Many Cumberland men who served in the 2nd (Eastern Ontario) Battalion went through the camp between arriving in England and going to the Front, including some of the men named in this issue. At Camp Witley and behind the front lines, the YMCA delivered much needed relief. (from the collection of Dorothy Smith)

## Next meeting of the CTHS

The next meeting of the CTHS will take place on Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor boardroom of the Ottawa Regional Police Station, Tenth Line Road and St. Joseph Blvd. Gilles Chartrand will show items from the World War collection of the Clarence-Rockland Museum / la musée de Clarence-Rockland. Plan to arrive at **6:30 pm** as the meeting will begin at **7:00 pm**. Be sure to bring a friend along. Light refreshments, as always, will be served. **Please park on the street beside the police station (Eric Czapnik Way).**

## Society calendar



For more information on these and other upcoming 2014/15 events, please contact a member of the executive committee or visit our website at [www.cths.ca](http://www.cths.ca).

January 7 <sup>th</sup>	TBA
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	TBA
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	TBA

CTHS meetings - Unless other stated, all meeting are at 10<sup>th</sup> Line Road Police Station 2nd floor Boardroom. Doors open by 6:30 and start time is 7:00 pm.

**At the Museum** – 613-833-3059 / [CumberlandMuseum@ottawa.ca](mailto:CumberlandMuseum@ottawa.ca)

Contact the museum for costs and times

November 29<sup>th</sup> thru December 21<sup>st</sup>

Vintage Village of Lights; every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; 3 pm to 8 pm. You might not know this yet, but you don't have to drive out of Ottawa anymore to experience a village of lights! We pull out all the stops to make your visit magical with 30,000 Christmas lights, decorations everywhere, gigantic reindeer and sleigh and – of course! – a visit with Santa Claus in his work shop! Have fun sledding, playing broomball or street hockey, making a snow globe, decorating gingerbread, and sending your Christmas wish list to Santa via telegram. Cost: Regular admission

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

### Contact us

If you have questions or suggestions regarding any aspect of the Society, you may contact any member of the executive by phone or by email:

- Gérard Boyer, President  
gcboyer@hotmail.com
- Jean-François Beaulieu, Past President  
(841-0424) [jeanfb@sympatico.ca](mailto:jeanfb@sympatico.ca)
- Dorothy-Jane Smith, Caboose editor (225-3554),
- Randall Ash, Caboose production (833-3207) [randall2620@rogers.com](mailto:randall2620@rogers.com)
- Karly Ali, Website, [cths@cyberus.ca](mailto:cths@cyberus.ca)

## CTHS at the Navan Fair - A Big Thank You from Gérard Boyer, President, and all the rest of the gang

Dorothy, Tom, Gilles, Ivan, Ross, Jean-François, Karly, Verna and I want to thank all of you who visited our booth at the Navan Fair. We were given a great deal of help in setting up a rich and interesting “education” display by the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum, la Musée de Clarence-Rockland, and Verna Kinsella, all of whom provided artifacts which interested our many visitors. Many of our members who stopped by to say hello as well as others helped us fill in the blanks for the school photos that we had on display there. We also had Joy Forbes on hand to sign her book *Perseverance, Pranks and Pride: Tales of the One-Room Schoolhouse*, about schools of the past in Ontario. I think that our request with regards to personal stories about school experiences will bear fruit and I certainly found new sources for our project on Cumberland Township history to 1840. Thank you to the Navan Fair organizers for our booth location and thank you to the Curling Club for the use of their WiFi.



The Friday display was enlivened by our very own “old-time teacher”, Carolyn Crosby, who, besides being one of Gerry Boyer’s daughters, is a modern-day teacher (collection of Gérard Boyer).

## O Dieppe---Why Thy Sting?

by Jeannie Ferguson Smith

How much is a life worth? A loved one is treasured even beyond death. My Mother always displayed a deep sorrow-filled love whenever she talked about her only sibling. Twins they were, nearly: Anne born May 1, 1913, Llewellyn June 18, 1914, born in those few weeks of peace before the 'Great War' left the world in shambles. Little could my grandparents, Charlie and Maude Counsell, have imagined that their son would succumb to enemy bullets in a second World War as Lieutenant Charles Llewellyn Counsell when he crawled through the prickly barbs of wire that stretched along the pebbled Dieppe beach at sunrise, August 19, 1942.



Charles and Maude Counsell, baby Llewellyn and Anne, 1915 (collection of Jeannie Smith).

Uncle Llew did not have to enlist. After all, farmers were exempt from military service. He had just planted a pear orchard on the family



Camp Borden, c.1941, middle man, Llewellyn Counsell (collection of Jeannie Smith).

farm, on the brow of Hamilton's mountain. Duty to King and country beckoned Llew, who, along with his cousins and pals, joined the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry. He had been a cadet at Ridley College so ranked Lieutenant. He had just been elected to the Ancaster Town Council in January 1940 but left for Camp Borden training that spring and went overseas in March 1941. Eagerness for action proved touchy for Canadian soldiers. English and French got on each other's nerves as they drilled and waited for battle. The troops knew something big was planned for spring 1942 that would involve the Canadians in a combined military operation.

After three anxious delays, 'Operation Jubilee' was launched. The soldiers knew not whence nor why, they just followed orders. Llew's promise "to keep his belly to the ground" did not shield him from a bullet to his gut. Was he doomed because he was a member of the 13th Battalion of the R.H. L. I.? Did the first three letters of 'Rutter', the originally planned operation, and of 'Dieppe', leave Llew in a rut to die?

Mother got the phone call the next evening. Grandpa Counsell had received a cable at 7:00 PM. Llew—killed in action, body not retrieved. One cousin was also killed; one shot in the back, left paraplegic in an English hospital; another taken prisoner, legs in



shackles. With four year-old Suzanne, Mother sped off by train to Ancaster. Baby Charlotte was safe in Cumberland with Grandma Ferguson and Aunt Bessie. Father worked between his dental offices; Ottawa by day, Cumberland by evening and air-raid warden by night. Helmet on head, walking the blocks near their Elgin and Argyll duplex, Father checked that all outside lights were out.

Of the 5,000 Canadian troops who had been involved in that three hour bloodbath 907 had been killed and 2,000 captured. The town of Hamilton was hard hit, mourning its sons in the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry: killed 220; prisoners 174; evacuated to England 217. 'Operation Jubilee' was the 20th century 'Charge of the Light Brigade', another 'Gallipoli'.

Then, jubilation! Llew was alive! The Red Cross notified the Counsell's October 18, 1942 that Llewellyn was a prisoner of war in Morceze, France and would be moved to Oflag 7 B in Eichstatt, Bavaria. Llew's broken body had been rescued off the beach by the Dieppoises after the slaughter. German doctors saved his life but could not remove the bullet because it was lodged too close to a major artery. Llew had to wear a leg brace and therefore was not shackled like his comrades. Censored letters home were laced with Llew's sense of humour as well as longings for home-cooked meals and warm woollen socks.

May 28, 1944, Llewellyn disembarked the S.S. Gripsholm in Liverpool. He was one of 37



Canadians out of 627 British prisoners of war who had been repatriated in an exchange for Germans. Shortly after, on June 6, 1944, the allied invasion of Europe offered hope for peace.

July 20, 1944

Llewellyn Counsell, 1945  
(collection of Jeannie Smith).

Llew and his fiancé Catherine Peebles visited Cumberland, Ontario. My parents, Anne and Douglas spent part of the summer at my grandparents John and Nettie Ferguson's. Mother was awaiting the arrival of my sister Margaret, who was born September 6, and so was in no condition to travel to Ancaster to greet her 'lost' brother. Once back in Hamilton, Llew, now a Captain, supported the war effort by selling Victory Bonds and planned to run for the Liberal Party of Canada.

Life was good. Llew and Catherine were married in January 1946. Baby Llewellyn Jr. was born Dec. 26, 1946. Suddenly, May 30, 1947, my Uncle Llew was dead. His weakened immune system and his unhealed war wound could not battle the pneumonia that had set in while he was plowing his wet fields on 'Craigleith Farm'. Penicillin was not yet generally available.

Mother moved in a haze those days. Her father died the following October, then her mother in February 1949. Their hearts had been broken. Grandpa Counsell had cursed Vice Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten for planning the raid. Mother gullibly believed that it was a rehearsal for D Day-Deliverance.

Secret files were released sixty-five years later. 'Dieppe Uncovered', a 2008 television documentary and One Day in August; the Untold Story of Dieppe by David O'Keefe 2013 revealed incredible information. Allied forces had suffered severe blows in 1940/41 but British intelligence at Bletchley Park managed to crack the code of the 3 rotor encrypting machine, Enigma, that Germans installed in naval vessels. Allied convoys could thus intercept messages until, by early 1942, the Germans developed a more intricate 4 rotor model. The British Secret Service had to get their hands on this machine, fast!

In previous 'pinch' raids, specially trained soldiers had nabbed the Enigma boxes and code books, unbeknownst to the enemy. Mountbatten and his pal, Ian Fleming, a Secret Service Agent as well as author of the James Bond novels, concocted another 'pinch' raid to grab from one of the German depots housed in the Hotel Moderne, on the cliffs of Dieppe, France the new version of the Enigma, books, files...whatever...as 'official looters'. A combined navy, army, air force operation of allied forces would create a diversion to attract

the attention of the small garrison of German troops. Fleming's unit of 15 commandos was to get in and out 'in a pinch', steal the stuff, burn the building, and hand over the 'goods' to Fleming who was waiting in a boat off shore.

Everything went wrong. SNAFU! Delays, inefficiencies, disagreements etc. etc. led to the sacrifice of so many, and so many of whom were Canadians.

READ THE BOOK!! You will shake your head in disbelief as I did. Dieppe was a sting that stunk, not a pinch but a punch!

Mother lived a worthy life and died in 2003. And so life continues...and is worth the living.

## Who were the men of WWI?

by Dorothy J. Smith

One hundred years ago the first contingent of soldiers were training to fight overseas in what would in their own time be called the Great War, and today is World War I. We see on our war memorials the names of those who died but who were the others—the ones who, but for luck, would also have paid the sacrifice of their own lives?

Those who study statistics have drawn a picture of the World War I soldier. To begin with, they were predominantly urban. Farmers and farmer sons were underrepresented among World War I soldiers, whether they spoke French or English, given the pressing need for food production. They were also for the most part men, not boys, for all that they have been referred to as "our boys". Military age was set between 18 and 40, but a young soldier had to be 19 before he was legally "old enough" to go into active fighting. With the legal school-leaving age at 14, many who enlisted at age 18 or 19 might well have had four to five years of adult work behind them.

Recruits were also likely to have been born in Great Britain. This was particularly so for the "Other Ranks" who volunteered in 1914. According to *The Official History of the Canadian Forces in the Great War*, while most of the officers were Canadian-born, this could be said for less than 30% of the 34,500 rank and file soldiers. The majority of these "other ranks" had been born in Britain and immigrated to Canada. For the English-born who signed up immediately, they were joining a British Army in

response to a call from their country of birth. As well, though, many were labourers or urban workers and in the middle of an economic downturn, soldiering had the benefit of providing food, shelter, and some money as well as a visit home.

But these are statistics. Who were some of Cumberland Township's soldiers?

Jeannie Smith's 2005 review of an Orleans On-line article names three soldiers: George Muggleton, Robert Kennedy, and George Smith (Caboose, November 2005). George E. Muggleton was the perfect picture of the 1914 volunteer. To start, he was English, born in Cambridge, England and he named Emily Muggleton, also of Cambridge, as his next of kin. He had been born in November 1886 and so was approaching his 28th birthday when he signed up on September 21, 1914 in Valcartier, Quebec. Not a "boy"!

Robert Kennedy was perhaps more our idea of the young Canadian hero swept off to war. He had been born in Cumberland in 1892 and was 22 years old when he signed up on the same day as Muggleton in Valcartier. Did they go together to sign up? The next day, September 22, 1914, the Canadian Government formally created the Canadian Expeditionary Force out of the recruits training at Valcartier.

Cresswell John Allan was another Cumberland man who joined in 1914. He was born in 1891, the son of Dorothy (Dolly née Beaton) and Alexander Allan. He volunteered at age 23 and died in 1917, after four years of war.

These men were entitled to the 1914-1915 Star for having fought in the front lines before December 31, 1915.

The bulk of Cumberland recruits start to volunteer in 1915 with many more enlisting in 1916. Leonard James Bird signed up in August 1915. He was British, born in London, England in 1895. He was probably a recent immigrant for I have found him in London in his parents' household as a teenager in 1911. I believe he came to Navan to join his uncles, another Leonard James Bird and John Bird. We have his name, however, immortalized on the Navan war memorial for, like Cresswell Allan, he was killed in 1917.

Three months after Bird signed up, in November 1915, Napoleon Larocque enlisted. He was living in Cumberland at the time but had been born in Eastman's Springs (Carlsbad Springs) in 1886. He was the son of Rose (Ranger) and Olivier Larocque. He left his wife, Emilie, and six children (ages 2 to 10) in Cumberland. But unlike the earlier recruits, the C.E.F. he joined was officially, as of September 13, 1915, a Canadian Army and he and the other recruits would now serve under Canadian commanders.



Three Vars soldiers just prior to going overseas with the 207th regiment: standing l-r James Christie, Matthew Barkley, seated Joseph Nelson Morrison (collection of Verna Kinsella).

In 1916, the 207th Battalion was recruiting in the Ottawa area. It was a reinforcement battalion whose recruits would be distributed on arriving in England into various Battalions to replace men already killed. The Cumberland Heritage Village Museum holds a medal and memorabilia collection donated by the niece of Matthew Barkley who joined the 207th in May

1916. Matthew Barkley enlisted on the same day as Dougall Hugo Marshall but, while Dougall survived, Matthew died in 1918. These two were boys, for they were only 15 and 16 years old. Marshall had actually enlisted the previous March, when he was 15 and a half, for he has two separate attestation records in the World War I database. But perhaps his parents retrieved him and told him to at least complete the school year.

They were not the only local recruits taken in by the 207th in the summer of 1916. For example, William Ira Hayes enlisted in Rockland although he was already 38 years old in 1916. And other recruits from the Vars area were Dougall's brother, Charles Hardy Marshall, as well as Herb Devine, Thomas Morrison, Joseph Nelson Morrison, Wesley Simpson, and English-born James Christie.

Some Cumberland Township men enlisted far from home but still remembered friends here in writing from overseas. George Ernest Tanner was the son of Rachel (Jackson) and William Tanner. He enlisted in Saskatoon where he was



Soldiers sent sentimental, patriotic, and humorous postcards home from overseas to family and friends. George Ernest Tanner sent this card to Silas Barkley in 1916.



working on the trains. He wrote to Silas Barkley on June 28, 1916: "Well this war sure is hell, I have been in it since Jan 1916 enlisted in west. It sure is H— over here, tell the boys you heard from me and write." The other men who were just starting their training in the 207th regiment at Rockliffe would discover the same sentiment within another year.

It took a great deal of concentrated recruitment effort and finally conscription to bring the Canadian-born, both English and French-speaking, into the army. But by the end of the war, historian Jack Granatstein's research shows that the Canadian government had finally created an army that was 50% Canadian-born. I have only covered here recruitment up to 1916 and even within that, only a handful of the men from Cumberland Township who helped reached that number. Some are memorialized for the sacrifice of their lives, but many more served when called upon.

**Les plaques historiques des années 1950 et 1960 d'Orléans, c'est quelque chose à voir!!!**



Bravo à la Société franco-ontarienne du patrimoine et de l'histoire d'Orléans (SFOPHO) pour l'installation d'une trentaine de plaques historiques le long du boulevard St-Joseph à Orléans. C'est une initiative patrimoniale très louable.

### **Orléans historical plaques commemorating the 50's and 60's, something to see!!**

Congratulations to the Orléans historical and heritage society (SFOPHO) for the installation of about thirty historical plaques along St-Joseph Boulevard commemorating what Orléans looked like in the 50's and 60's. What a great contribution to part of Orléans' past.

### **The Latest News ... from Yesteryear**

From the Ottawa Semi-Weekly Journal  
December 1, 1887, p. 3

District News

News from the Correspondents in the Ottawa Valley

#### **Bearbrook**

A grand social entertainment was given by "Clark Enterprise Lodge" I.O.G.T. of this place, in their new Hall on Friday evening. The building, which is capable of seating two hundred, was filled to suffocation, and the programme, a good one, consisting of songs, readings, recitations, dialogues and farces was excellently rendered to an appreciative audience. A quartette by the "Eadir Family" and songs by the Misses Crosbie, of Cameron Enterprise Lodge, Eastman's [Carlsbad Springs – ed], were especially applauded. Some of the readings did not seem to "take" with the audience being considered inappropriate to the occasion, but on the whole the affair was a grand success.

Mr. J.B. [Duzois], station agent, left Saturday morning on a visit to his friends in Lacolle, P.Q. J.P. Smith is receiving agent until his return.

#### **Cumberland**

There is not a little excitement here at present, regarding a report, which rumor has

circulated, to the effect that we are going to have a railroad between Ottawa and Montreal, passing along the south side of the river taking in L'Original, Hawkesbury, Cumberland, and other villages on the line. Some people think it only a hoax.

Mrs. Delaney, postmistress at Sarsfield, had a sale on Monday, disposing of all her goods, and calculates giving up the post office, January 1st, and removing to the capital to reside.

Mr. John Shirkey (sic), pump-maker and tanner here, is doing a thriving business in both his lines.

People say there two things here now, about as scarce as "hen's teeth," potatoes and water [the region was suffering from a prolonged drought – ed.]

**The Markets**

Ottawa – Monday, November 28

The market square was almost deserted this morning, only a few loads of produce being offered and very little business transacted. The owners of stalls and the few farmers present formed a group and fully discussed the weather question, the low price of beef, the probability of butter commanding high figures this winter and all the local topics of the day.

**An Unusual Land Document for Cumberland Township**

by Gérard Boyer

In this day and age land transactions, in order to become legal, must be registered in a Land Registry Office in Ontario. In the case of Cumberland Township, the relevant Land Registry Office is located at the corner of Elgin and Laurier Streets in the City of Ottawa. However, land in Cumberland Township used to be registered in Russell, Ontario, whose Registry Office has now moved to Embrun, Ontario. And before that, land was registered in L'Original, Ontario. We must also realize that Ontario used to be called Upper Canada or Canada West before Confederation in 1867.

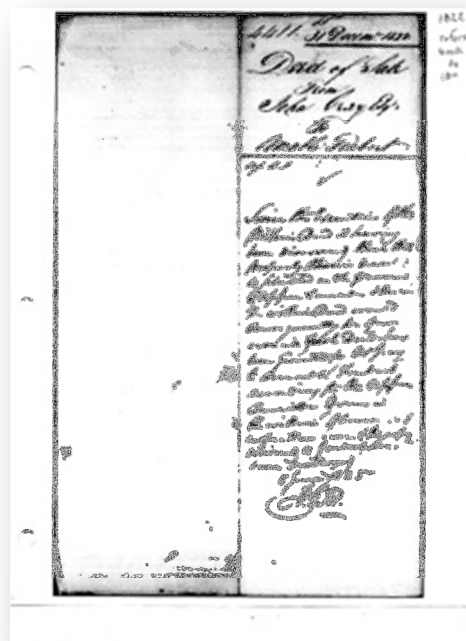
I've just discovered a Cumberland land transaction that was mistakenly registered at a notary's office in Montréal, Québec.

Henry Griffin was a notary working in Montréal. The Province of Québec was called

Lower Canada at that time. Unlike Ontario, land transactions in Lower Canada were registered with notaries, a carry-over from when Canada had been New France. Notaries also registered employment contracts in Lower Canada. I have found copies of several notarized documents involving merchants and fur traders active in the Ottawa Valley. One in particular is noteworthy for its importance in understanding Cumberland Township's early history: notarized document #4411 by Henry Griffin dated December 21, 1822 (found Greffe Henry Griffin, Archives Nationales du Québec, Montréal, Québec).

First, it demonstrates just how undeveloped and unknown Cumberland Township was in 1822. Griffin acknowledged his mistake on the cover page. He then prepared another deed of sale and registered it in Upper Canada on January 24, 1824 (Instrument #4263, Cumberland Township, Registry Office, Ottawa).

Second, this document tells us that John McKindley had promised the land to Amable Foubert in 1811. John McKindley was a Montreal merchant who had been involved in the fur trade and had, over time, purchased 14,000 acres of land scattered throughout the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Valleys. He decided to



Deed of Sale from John Gray Esq. to Amable Foubert



return to his native Scotland in 1822 and sold his holdings to John Gray, a fellow Montreal merchant. It seems that John McKindley was honouring a gentleman's agreement he made with Amable Foubert back in 1811. Unfortunately, the important detail of the 1811 promise is not mentioned in the registered copy in Upper Canada. I suspect that Amable Foubert and his father Gabriel had worked for John McKindley in the fur trade and that Amable's purchase was related to the maintenance of a probable fur trading post in Cumberland Township across from the mouth of the Lièvre River.

**Transcription by Gerry Boyer**

4411 31 Decem<sup>r</sup> 1822

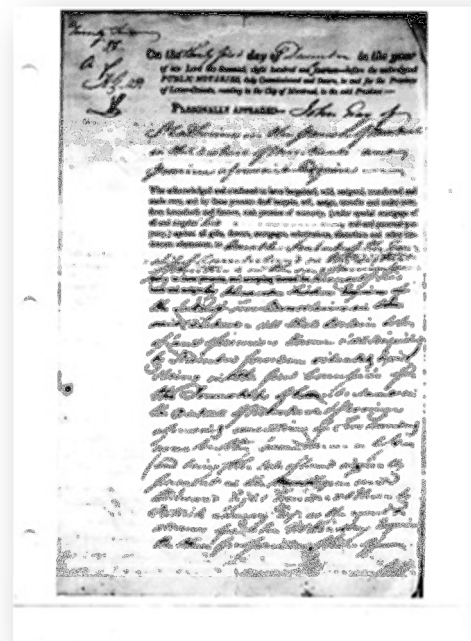
Deed of Sale From John Gray Esq. To Amable Foubert

Since the Execution of the Within Deed it having been discovered that the property therein described is situated in the province of Upper Canada and therein the within Deed would consequently be of no use – a first deed has been granted by Mr. Gray to Amable Foubert according to the Upper Canada form – The within of course is of no further use & the copy delivered to Foubert has been destroyed  
8 June 1825

H.G. N.P. [Henry Griffin Notary Public]

On the thirty first day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-two before the undersigned PUBLIC NOTARIES duly Commissioned and Sworn, in and for the Province of Lower Canada, residing in the City of Montreal, in the said Province PERSONALLY APPEARED – John Gray of St Catherine in the City of Montreal in the District of Montreal and Province aforesaid Esquire Who acknowledged and confessed to have bargained, sold, assigned, transferred and made over, and by these presents doth bargain, sell, assign, transfer and make over, from henceforth and forever, with promise of warranty, (under special mortgage of all and singular his real and personal property.) against all gifts, dowers, mortgages, substitutions, alienations and other hindrances whatsoever, to Amable Foubert of the Township of Cumberland in the District of Montreal in the

said Province farmer party to these presents, and accepting thereof for himself his heirs and assigns by Alexander Fisher Esquire of the Lake of Two Mountains in the said District – All that certain lot of land & premises Known and distinguished by Number fourteen situated lying being in the first Concession of the Township of Cumberland in the District of Montreal & Province aforesaid consisting of two hundred acres be the same more or less (and being the lot of land originally promised in the [word stroked out] year one thousand eight hundred & eleven by Patrick Langan Esq. as the agent & attorney of John McKinley Esquire the then proprietor thereof.



## Cumberland Seasons



Autumn glory at the home of Mireille and Randall Ash, Cumberland



Summer sunset from the cottage of Mary Cameron on the Ottawa River, circa 1950s

