

THE CABOOSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CTHS)

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Editor's ramblings (by Jeannie Smith)

School days, school days, dear old golden rule days; reading and writing and 'rithmetic t aught... The new 3'Rs are Reduce, Recycle, and Reuse, and the 3'Cs - Communication, Collaboration and Computers - are the current buzzwords in schools. Change is constant but has education progressed since the days of the little red schoolhouse? Clientele and family structure is different. Whose values are universally accepted? History is taught as a subject in Grades 7 & 8, Social Studies in Grades 1 through 6, but there is no time for teachers to give depth and breadth to a topic. History is an optional subject in Secondary School. As a Historical Society we must excite youth about studying past events. Involve younger family members as you work on family trees. Inspire children with your life's stories and help them create a history project. Investigate the possibility of speaking to students at your local school. Give books on history to your family. Set a good example and become models of positive interactions, following the golden rule, so that teachers won't long to teach to the *tune of a hickory stick!* May this 'Back to School' issue of The Caboose bring back memories of your own school days and encourage you to reminisce with school chums, family and friends.

Our Society

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

Our newsletter

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

Our Executive

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

Our address and local history room

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

Our World Wide Web address

www.cths.ca



School notes...

Those who can't do...teach! Parents are a child's first teacher. Once children enter the classroom, it is hoped that teachers will provide a positive influence and encourage students to become life-long learners. My Father Douglas, attended SS#5 and taught school there and at SS#1 before going to Toronto to study dentistry. My Grandfather J.D. Ferguson visited the schools to preach the gospel. I attended school in Ottawa, but taught for 33 years in Cumberland Township Schools (Meadowview, Riverview and Queenswood).



The following notes were gathered from CTHS materials and interviews with people who attended these schools.

Cont'd on page 3

Next meeting of the CTHS

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 3rd at the Cumberland Branch of the Ottawa Public Library (at the Ray Friel Centre). Come see an informative video of the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum. Kevin Collins will speak on the book entitled "The Chronicles of Carlsbad Springs!" And be sure to bring a friend along. Light refreshments, as always, will be served.

Society calendar...

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

September 3 rd	CTHS general meeting; 7pm at the Cumberland Public Library (in the Ray Friel Centre). Come see an informative video of the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum. And Kevin Collins will speak on the book entitled "The Chronicles of Carlsbad Springs."
September 21 st	St. Andrew's Church 175 th anniversary celebration
November 5 th	CTHS general meeting; 7pm at the Cumberland Public Library. Guest speaker is John Kenny. Mr. Kenny, nephew of Frank Kenny, will share some fascinating stories of local history.

Visited our local history room lately?

Have you ever spent time looking through the shelves of material in the CTHS room at the Library? Be prepared to spend a good part of the day researching. Time flies quickly when you become absorbed in history! Over the years, dedicated volunteers have documented, written and organized material. You will find information on Cumberland families, churches, groups, maps, clubs, sports, businesses as well as scrap books, newsletters, newspaper clippings and various historical references.

Contact us

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

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



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

The Cumberland Heritage Village Museum is located just east of Cumberland Village at 2940 Old Montreal Road (Queen Street), Cumberland, Ontario. If you plan to visit the museum more than once you can get a yearly family membership for only \$25. Regular admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors.



Oct. 11 to 13	Harvestfest
Dec. 13, 14, 20, 21	An Old Fashioned Christmas

For more information call 613-833-3059 or visit the museum website at www.musecumberland.com.

CTHS Membership

It's not too late to add your name to the CTHS membership list.
Send a \$10 cheque to CTHS
c/o Jeannie Smith
Box 27, Cumberland ON K4C 1E5
A membership form is available from our website.

Preservation Quest!

Sunday, September 14, 1pm to 5pm
Library and Archives of Canada
395 Wellington St. Ottawa

Hosted by the Canadian Conservation Institute, the Library and Archives of Canada, and the Canadian Heritage Information Network, this special event is designed to raise public awareness about the preservation of personal electronic records such as home movies and videos, sound recordings (vinyl records, cassettes, audio CDs), digital photographs, and data files (diskettes and CDs).

The afternoon promises to be both fun and informative. Come join us and make sure your own electronic treasures are not lost forever! **Free Admission! Free Parking!** The Master of Ceremony will be Ken "The General" Grant.

Visit www.cci-icc.gc.ca/PID/index_shtml for details, or call 613.998.3721.



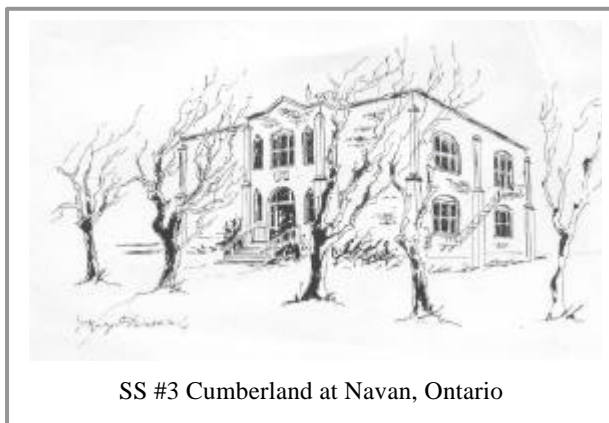
School notes (cont'd)

Education Committee for Cumberland, Feb. 11, 1842: Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Macdonnell, Mr. Steward and Mr. MacMaster. On Feb. 14, 1844, Benjamin Cozens became superintendent of elementary schools for the Township of Cumberland and Cambridge. In 1851 Russell County was divided into four townships and Cumberland Township elected its first council. School sections and their boundaries were established to meet the needs of the growing population. Nov. 8, 1864, the Council of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell authorized the formation of a secondary school (Grammar school) which was to be built in the village of Osborne (Cumberland) for the students from the four townships of Russell County.

SS #1 French Hill: clapboard one room schoolhouse built in 1900, Greig Garvock traveled to school by sleigh with his teacher, Doug Ferguson who boarded at Garvock's the winter of 1924. Germaine (Lafrance) Dessaint attended school there until a French school opened across the road in 1932. The school closed in 1936. The building is now at Cumberland Heritage Village Museum.

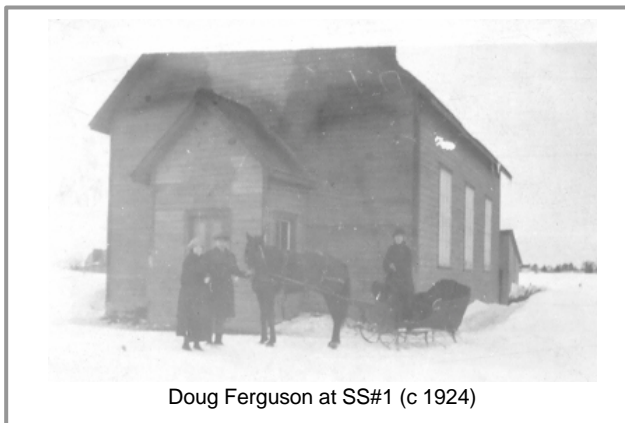
SS#2: Contact Jeannie Smith if you have information on this school.

SS#3 Navan A log school built in 1861 was replaced in 1896 by a frame building with two rooms. In 1915, Navan got a new four room, two-storey brick school. Electric lights were installed in 1931. Manual training was begun by Elmer Fennell in 1937. In 1952 the Continuation School closed and pupils went to high



SS #3 Cumberland at Navan, Ontario

school in Ottawa. In 1960 an addition was made to the rear of the school, a well drilled, flush toilets, basins and drinking fountains installed. The Cumberland Township Agricultural Society took over the building in 1966 when Meadowview PS was built east of the village.



Doug Ferguson at SS#1 (c 1924)

SS#4 Bear Brook: The first school was built in 1834 on the forced road by the United Church cemetery. 1/2 cord of wood was supplied by each family for the year. The teacher received \$200 annually. The property was valued at \$300 with library and equipment \$26. 1862 Teacher Robert Walsh received \$210 a year. In 1872 T.K. Delaney got the contract to build a new school. Lancelot Jackson was one of the teachers.

1903 building divided into two rooms, two teachers, 39 students; 1935 piano and music teacher; 1937 electricity. 1956 new brick building was built, this closed in 1966 and pupils were bused to Meadowview PS in Navan. The school is now the Bearbrook Centennial Centre.

SS#5 Cumberland Village: The first log school built by G.G. Dunning on Gamble property (Fire Hall), Miss Murray teacher. Became overcrowded so classes met in Lawyer Wilson's house (now Maple Hall). Next school was held in Town Hall east of the



The MacMillan twins, Janet and Lillian (c 1925) in front of SS#5

village, opposite Angus Wilson's house. Students came from Templeton, Thurso, Clarence. 1852 a one-room stone school was built on the present school site, 80-100 pupils. 1897 a new two story brick school was built and the upper story was split into three rooms; this school burned down in Winter 1912. Students met in

Maple Hall (built 1902) until new school was opened in 1915. This brick building had three rooms on one floor with a full basement divided into three play rooms. On the roof was a belfry (bell now at Cumberland Museum). In 1927 the west room was divided and a fourth teacher was hired to teach grades 11 & 12. 1932 electricity and indoor plumbing. In 1952 high school pupils were bused to Ottawa. In 1952 two rooms and a washroom were built on the west side. In 1963 two more rooms added to west side, and in 1965 the old school was replaced by Riverview PS.

SS#6 West of Cumberland: This one-room frame structure, once a log schoolhouse, was built opposite Minogue's laneway on Old Montreal Road west of Cumberland Village. In 1907 the old log building was sold to Mr. Cardinal. George Adams and George Golightly were contracted to build a new school. In the front porch, wood was stored for the stove.

Pupils sat at desks that had wrought-iron sides. Kay Minogue was the caretaker in the 1950s. Red Cross Meetings were held on Fridays. Madelaine (Eastman) Findlay, Letitia (McCulloch) Russell and Maysie (Edwards) Rivington taught there. John Minogue and Elaine (Russell) Findlay were the last students to graduate from Grade 8 in 1962 when this school closed. Students were then bused to Riverview PS.

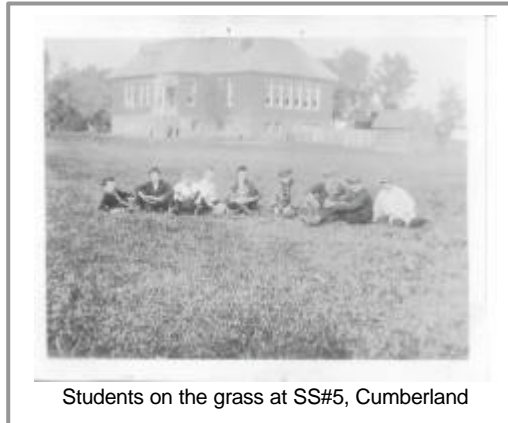
SS#7 Canaan: Prior to 1876, SS #7 and SS# 3 were operated as a Union School on the Cumberland side of the boundary line between Cumberland and Clarence. Trustees Ben Watson, Alexander Seed and John Smiley opened a new English school on Jan. 1877 on land donated by Patrick Hunter to appease the French Roman Catholics. Samuel Cheney was the teacher. There were four pupils: Sarah Watson, Elizabeth Watson, Robert Birch and Lizzie Ann Sullivan. The school was closed in 1962 and students were bused to Navan.

SS#8 Leonard: In 1863 a log building was built across the road from Hayden Coburn's gate. Younger pupils sat on benches along the wall and wrote on slates while older students sat at home-made desks facing wood painted black upon which lessons were printed. In 1884 the school was moved to Lot No. 16 in the 5th concession. In 1896 slate blackboards and new desks were installed. In 1898 the railroad passed through this part of the country and the station was put up and named Leonard after the railway superintendent. The school was moved due south in 1905. In 1928 a new cement block school was built. The contract was given to Mr. Robert Cummings of Navan for \$4000. In 1947 a radio and new piano were

purchased!

SS#9 Beckett's Creek: The first school was located on the north side of Old Montreal Road just west of Beckett's Creek. Then in 1875 a new log school on the east side of the creek, ½ mile south was built on land owned by Sam Lough. The foundation consisted of posts driven in the ground extending two or three feet above the surface, leaving space for a play area. Before winter the building was banked with earth, and the walls were chinked and plastered inside and out.

Water came from a nearby spring, heat from a pot-bellied stove, and pupils shared the double-seated desks. Miss MacDonald was the first teacher and Mr. Garrett the inspector. In 1901 the school was sheathed with lumber on the inside, clapboard on the outside, a foundation was built and the school was painted. In 1910 a well was drilled. In 1901 there were 57 pupils, but by 1930 only seven remained. The school closed in 1952 and students were bused to SS#5 in Cumberland.



Students on the grass at SS#5, Cumberland

SS#10 Innes Road: The first log one-room school was moved across from the farm now owned by John Cox to the north-west corner of Innes & Frank Kenny, beside Martin's cheese factory. Pupils attended school there until 1964 when they were bused to Riverview (SS#5) which became part of the Carleton Board of Education in 1969, then the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board in 2001. The logs from this school were dismantled, numbered and rebuilt and now are part of a log house on Market Street in Cumberland Village.

Diary Dialogues (From the diaries of J.D. Ferguson, Jeannie Smith's Grandfather)

Mon. Sept. 2, 1940: Douglas, Mr. Lawson and I work on Stonehouse verandah. Abel Waters goes to Leonard with W. Foubert. Cousin Maude (Dunning) Heath and Percival come for supper. Percival plays well for a lad of ten years old. Read 19th Psalm & pray. Bessie plays piano, (her husband) Ross (Fraser) violin.

Tues. Sept. 3, 1940: Go to Mrs. Fred Barnetts. She buys tea 60 cents cash sale. Help Lawson move ladder. Go up for pm mail, order more black tea from W.D. Stroud & Sons, Montreal. About 15 people come from Ottawa for corn feed, three cars. Douglas and nurse Miss Pelletier at office in Stonehouse till 11pm.

Wed. Sept. 4th, 1940 Carry water from Spratts. Dig potatoes west of Stonehouse. Miss Hattie Dunning orders chickens from Fred. I watch the cows feed on alfalfa on our clay hill (behind school). I go up to see the Greer House. Lawson painted the roof grey. Alfred Moreau moves down to hill at river (from white house, now McRae's to little shack with hub caps covering outside walls on lane to Ferguson's shore.)

Fri. Oct. 25, 1940: I go afoot to V. Burch's, J. Somerville and Robinson Burch's (Wilhaven and Lough Dr.) to see Mrs. Chapman who is sick. Have dinner there. Three Chapman boys are home to see their mother. We read Bible & prayed. I walk most of way home. Leonard Stackhouse drove me last mile home. We have prayer meeting at Alex Garvock's house. Present were Mrs. J.E. Hayes, Kenneth Hayes, Muriel Edwards, Mrs. J.A. Cameron, Mr. & Mrs. J. MacCormick, J. Larocque, Eunice McKeen, Margaret McKeen, Mrs. A. Garvock. Lovely hymns and prayers. Fred working driving a truck.

Tues. Oct. 29th 1940: After breakfast I walk to John Sharkey's to get him to fix our pump, he comes in pm. I pay him 75 cents. I take some wood to Mrs. A.E. Walsh expecting a load from Mr. J. Somerville today but it did not come. Fred still working driving John Watson's truck.

Thurs. Oct. 31st, 1940: A very fine day, real Indian Summer. After dinner I walk calling at homes of Mrs. Thomas Brennan Sr., Bennie Scharff, Irene Paquette, Mrs. Charles Fraser, Arthur Scharff, Alex Garvock. Halloween boys and girls call, we treat them.

Sat. Oct. 19th, 1941: Fred busy with beans, puts cows out in pasture near Dale's for afternoon. Several van loads of soldiers pass here this am en route to Lachute. Nap Moreau (son of Alfred) is with them. We shake hands. Fred and Alfred Moreau go to Ottawa in car. Edith Anderson calls for eggs. After supper, dear Nettie and I go for walk to Dale's Cemetery, wind cool but we enjoyed it. It begins to snow about 3 PM.

Oct. 5th 1945: Rise about 5:30 AM put on fire. Saw wood, go to river to get more wood. Take dog Churn also. Deliver milk to 4 customers, feed calf, carry corn for pigs. Fred, Alex Garvock and myself work at corn in fields. Alex ties corn in bundles.

Thurs. Oct. 23rd, 1945: Call on Mrs. William McGuire. Walk to Beckett's Creek School, speak to children, come home by bus.

Mon. Oct. 29th, 1945: Temp. 30 F above. A lovely day. Rise 20 to 6 AM Put on fire, do chores, then breakfast. Go with Fred on mail route. Speak to children at No. 10 school. Clean hen house in pm and Fred and Alex Garvock and I put hay in hayloft. Go to the Post Office again in pm. After supper we read part of 3rd Luke & pray. Retire early as tired. End of a perfect day!

Oct. 20, 1955: Mr. M. T. Watson died today at 95 years of age at 15 minutes to 9 AM. I go to give sympathy at Arthur Watson's.

Fri. Sept 7th, 1956: I visit the Cumberland Public School, 4 rooms, read the word of God, speak to the children and pray.

Thurs. Oct. 4th, 1956 Lackner calls to buy lot for Fire Hall and Park. I go to Lancaster's Store with him to buy groceries then to J. Hayes' house to buy 4lb can of honey \$1.10

Mon. Oct. 15th, 1956: Mr. Thomas Rankin and Mr. Lackner call in reference to lot on corner of Queen & Foubert. Fred gets a television.

Taro

C'est quoi son histoire? On parle ici d'histoire et non pas de légende ou de conte. Il nous faut reculer très loin en arrière afin d'en avoir une idée plus complète. Des 1840, le service des Postes entre l'Original et Bytown utilisait un sentier, la «Post Road 17». En 1843, cette voie fut améliorée pour y permettre le passage de voitures à chevaux. En 1852 cette route fut officiellement inaugurée comme «La grande route L'Original-Bytown.» Son tracé était semblable à la vieille route 17 avant qu'elle devienne la Route Transcanadienne vers 1950. Cette route passait par Rockland et cette section était connue comme «Main Street» pour devenir la rue Principale. Vers 1900, lors de la visite de Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on nomma cette rue «la rue Laurier», en son honneur.

Avec le développement de Rockland, la rue Laurier fut pavée mais pas la section est, connue sous le nom de la rue du Cimetière. Cette section de terre et gravier dégagait des nuages de poussière au passage des voitures. Du goudron était épandu pour éviter la poussière. En anglais, ce mot est «tar» et certains Anglophones de Rockland commencèrent à appeler les gens de Rockland-Est «Tar Road People» qui fut traduit par Taraud ou Taro par les résidents de Rockland. Bien entendu, ce terme ne plaisant pas aux gens de l'Est. Pour taquiner leurs voisins de Rockland, ils les appelaient les «Pitons». Une grande partie de la population de Rockland travaillait aux scieries Edwards et était payée avec des jetons ou «Pitons» qui servaient d'argent au Magasin Général Edwards au coin des rues Edwards et Laurier. Bien entendu, il peut avoir d'autres sources, mais cette origine historique est assez plausible.

L'Histoire de l'École oubliée

Il était, il ya bien longtemps, un édifice situé du coté sud-est des rues Laurier et Caron à Rockland-Est. C'est

l'ancêtre de l'École La Sainte-Famille. C'était une école de 2 classes avec une moyenne de 66 élèves par classe. M. Thomas Girard en est un ancien élève. De 1900 à 1909, elle porta plusieurs noms... «École de la rue Cimetière» «succursale de l'École Séparée Catholique de Rockland» ou «École séparée no 2 du Township de Clarence». À sa fermeture, en juin 1909, elle devint la demeure de la famille de M. Willie Lalonde. Cette bâtisse existe encore, située à l'ouest du Centre culturel!

Merci Gilles Chartrand et Therese Dalrymple pour ces histoires.

Tales of 'Bearbrook'

Bear Brook is named after the numerous bears that prowled the Brook area. Oak trees were plentiful along the banks and acorns were probably the bait for the bears. The village was built on a hill with low-lying marshy land on each side. The McRaes, Armstrongs, Hayes, Walshs', Magladrys and Lowes were some of the first settlers in the area. They had been forced out of Ireland because of the potato famine. In Canada, they came up the St. Lawrence River to Hawkesbury and Vankleek Hill. Using the South Nation River some arrived in the flat, densely forested Bear Brook area. The red and white pine provided excellent material for homes, industry and trade. The establishment of the settlement resulted from the lumber industry. The brook, larger then, was used to transport logs to Bytown.

Bear Brook was a Mill Town with a sawmill run by water power, built by Mr. Blandell in 1846 and sold to George Dunning (later owned by Orme Dunning, father of Mary Dashney and later still by Regimbalds.) Potash and pearl ash industry resulted from lumbering. A number of houses were formed into a settlement known as 'Eureka' (Cecil Walsh's land). A wooden bridge was built over the brook and the road was extended northward. For a considerable time, life revolved around the lumber mill and the ashery. The demand for lumber came from the USA and England. With the advent of the steamboats on the Ottawa River, business boomed.

With prosperity came leisure time for social activities, hence the building of the Orange Hall (Harold Birch's house). The Olmstead House was once a hotel owned by Jerry Buck (later Ron Best). The Hayes Farm was purchased from the crown by Mr. Powell, sold to Andrew Wilson a lumber merchant, then to Fishers, Shanes, Hayes and Charbonneau.

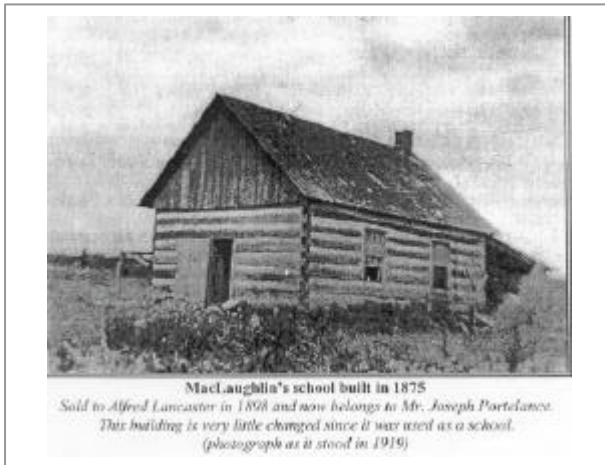
Though much of the mill and farm equipment came from Rockland, smaller tools were made in the blacksmith shop as well as the horse-shoeing and harness repairs. Blacksmiths were Nathaniel Blaidell,

Robert Craig, Mr. McRae and his son David (shop taken down in fall, 1954).

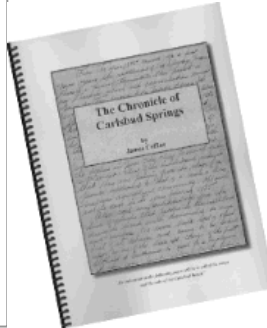
A cheese factory was built by Bennett and Munroe on the north side of Spring Creek. In 1900 it was taken over by William Olmstead who established 'Morning Star Factory' on the south side. Mr. Olmstead's son sold to Mr. Sicotte and the cheese factory later closed because of the development of larger factories. The first church was a wooden structure built in the upper west end of the cemetery 1846. Early Baptism records name Watson, Code, Hall, Larmour, Kinshila, Grier, Wilkinson, Richards, Walsh, Forgie, Birch and Jackson. Gladys Fitzsimmons and Bessie Hayes were the last babies baptized in that church. Blanche (Lowe) Young and Warren Hayes were the first to be baptized in the new church built 1901. The stone was drawn by the parish people from Shaw's quarry in Navan (Garret Rivington's property). The rectory was built in 1878 by Alfred Hill. The stone for the foundation was brought by Sam Moffatt from Canaan. The lumber was hauled from Ottawa by farmers who had taken their produce to the city. The bricks were made a few miles from Bear Brook in the Nelson settlement by an Englishman named Mr. Seals who worked by day and played for dances at night! A Montreal painter painted the walls white. Fancy figures called graining was done on the doors. In 1905, fire destroyed the rectory and in 1908 the parish bought the brick building from Frank Hayes for the new minister Rev. Garrett.

J.B. Green and A. W. Hicks operated the general stores. Mr. Rogers built the brick store later owned by Alfred Hill, Frank Hayes, Mr. Arbuthnot, Tom Olmstead, Mr. Sicotte, Miles Allison and Larry Simpson. Until 1919, the mail was delivered daily from Vars. John Walsh was postmaster. Bear Brook had wooden sidewalks to cover the marshy surroundings. The depression of the 1930's saw a standstill in the development of industry. Farmers turned their attention to subsidiary crops. Electricity came in 1931. WW2 caused rapid economic growth and with the demand for farm products and price increases came the introduction of mechanized farm equipment. More land was tilled and large granaries appeared on the landscape. With the improvement of roads for heavy trucks, large gravel deposits were exploited. With the dwindling lumber industry Bear Brook village lost its importance. Vars with its railway and a growing city of Ottawa attracted settlement. The brook was dredged to make marshland available for farming. The cemetery retains its importance as a historical record for Bear Brook's past.

Written by Grace (Dashney) Lowe in 1980, made available for The Caboose by Gladys Sharkey.



MacLaughlin's school built in 1875
 Sold to Alfred Lancaster in 1898 and now belongs to Mr. Joseph Portelance.
 This building is very little changed since it was used as a school.
 (photograph as it stood in 1919)



Pictures from **The Chronicle of Carlsbad Springs** by James Collins. Kevin Collins, a relative of James Collins, will present this book at the September 3rd CTHS meeting. Visit Kevin's website for more details on The Chronicle: www.web.net/~kcollins/Collins/Chronicle.htm.



The Separate School (1907)

Yesterday's scholars



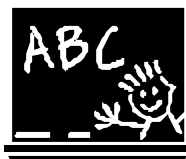
Back row: Milton Galloway, Norman Hudson, Lorne Deavy, Miss Poitras, Fred Jones, Willard Minogue, Melvin Minogue;
Middle row: Rita Turner, Amy (Dale) Jones, Franklin Hayes, Florence MacGregor, Olive (Farmer) Robertson, Jerry Hackett, Jeannine Lacasse, Florence (Beaton) Edwards, Lala Scharf, Marion (Galloway) Wylie; Front row: Ronald Ackles, Horace Deavy, Mac (Charles) Deavy, Peter Anderson, Laurie Kennedy



Back row: Phil McNeely, Irma (Scharf) Findlay, Glenda (Barnett) Murray, Mary (Dunning) Dashney; Middle row: Ross Dunning, Billy MacMillan, Cecile MacEachern, Frank Mc Neely, Joyce Kennedy, Wayne Barnett; Front row: Ardyth Elliott, Mabel Elliott, Elizabeth Dunfield, Wheltha Constance, Dorothy Fitzpatrick, Ella Hayes



Harold Edwards, Arla Barnett, Earl Hudson, Dorothy (Minogue) Scissons, Creswell Jones, Claire Barnett, Jim Moffatt, Audrey Minogue



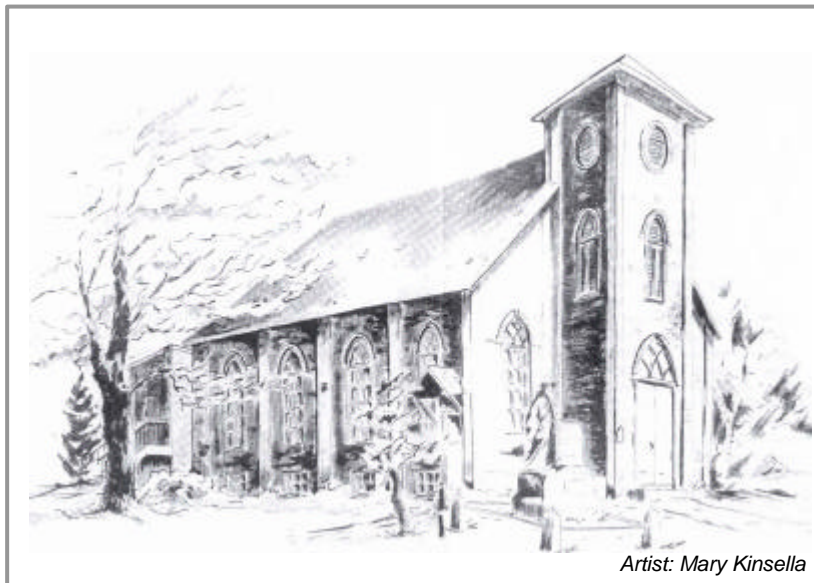
St. Andrew's United Church Cumberland 1828-2003

Records tell us that the first Auld Kirk, a stone building, was erected in 1828, just east of Dunning's Wharf on property presently owned by Angus Wilson on the edge of Highway 174. This church burned down in 1844 and prior records were lost in the fire. The area was initially served by a Methodist saddlebag preacher. Records indicate Rev. George Bell was inducted into the pulpits of Cumberland and Buckingham. While the new stone church was under construction in 1845 the congregation met in parishioner's homes. The majority of initial settlers had immigrated from Scotland and Northern Ireland and were Presbyterian.

The second stone church by the river was destroyed by fire, along with a lumber mill in the fall of 1878. The congregation then met in the old Free Church which soon became too small. The corner stone of the present brick church in the centre of the village was laid Mon. Oct. 6, 1879 by Mrs. William Wilson. School was closed for the day so that pupils might attend the service. The first church services in the present building were held while scaffolding was still in place around the outside walls. The congregation sat on planks arranged on nail kegs. The dedication of the new brick church took place in the summer of 1880 with services morning, afternoon and evening conducted by Rev. D.H. McVicar C.C. of Montreal Presbyterian College. There was a special appeal for funds to pay off any indebtedness that existed on the church building in 1881. There is no further reference to debt thereafter. That same summer the ground around the new building was leveled and a large drive shed was built at the rear of the church. This drive shed was used to accommodate the horses of parishioners coming to church; however, it became a community asset. Horses were tied up there to facilitate people coming from outside the village for just about every social

event: skating, dances, bean suppers. With the advent of motor cars, the drive sheds were no longer needed and were sold at auction in 1946. On Jan. 1, 1846, the Auld Kirk was known as Carmel Presbyterian Church, then in Nov. 1882, Mount Carmel. In February 1885, it was duly moved and seconded "that this congregation be known as Cumberland congregation." The annual report of 1920 refers to Cumberland Presbyterian Church and upon church Union of the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian churches in 1925 it became St. Andrew's United Church.

The Auld Kirk and Free Church properties and the Free Church building were sold. The pews and pulpit were retained. A new manse built in the village (corner of Cameron & Sparkle) was completed in Dec. 1885. In the spring of 1886, a stable and shed were built. The



old manse, which remained down by the river, was rented for \$4 a month and was later sold. The first furnace was installed in 1896. Hardwoods were laid downstairs. In 1948 a water system and bathroom were installed. The exterior of the frame building was covered with insul-stone siding in 1952. In 1954 the interior was completely renovated by the

Women's Association. In the Fall of 1955, an automatic oil heating system was installed, and April 1957 the attached woodshed was removed and a new garage was erected. Repairs were made and it was decorated again in 1977. A new manse was built on property owned by Angus Wilson (Old Montreal Rd & Barnett Dr.) in 1981. Today, the old manse and property having been sold. The new manse continues to be well maintained and updated and is in excellent condition.

Written for the 175th Anniversary of St. Andrew's United Church by Ethel Findlay. More excerpts from Mrs. Allan Findlay's article will appear in future issues of The Caboose.

