

# The Caboose

Newsletter of the Cumberland Township Historical Society  
Bulletin de la Société historique du canton de Cumberland  
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## LAST MEETING

Our last meeting was held on January 3rd at the Cumberland Public Library. The guest speaker was Thérèse Messier, a retired teacher who has become a Creative Memories consultant. Creative Memories, founded in the United States in 1987 by Rhonda Anderson and Cheryl Lightle, is a company that specializes in direct sales of photo-preservation albums and supplies. Thérèse, who can be reached at 837-2374 (e-mail: [messier@storm.ca](mailto:messier@storm.ca)), finds that this new occupation provides an ideal outlet for her interest in family history and her love of teaching.

## NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 7, at 7:00 p.m., at the Cumberland Public Library on Tenth Line Road. Our guest speaker will be Anicet Arcand, who will take us back to the days of the railway station telegraph office. This will be a public meeting; come along and bring a friend!

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### **The First Catholic Parish in Cumberland Township** by Bob Serré

As early as 1816, the townships of Buckingham in Lower Canada and Cumberland in Upper Canada were visited by the Catholic missionary established at Montebello, halfway between Montreal and Hull. In 1840, the mission of Buckingham became a parish in its own right. It was named Saint-Grégoire-de-Naziance, and the mission of Cumberland came under its jurisdiction.

John Madden, an immigrant from Ireland, settled in Cumberland Township around 1836; in that year, his name first appeared in the assessment rolls: concession 5, lot 4, 200 acres. The Maddens were devout Catholics, and in her 1990 book entitled *Emigrant Fathers, Native Sons*, K.M. Adamson explains: "Family tradition has it that the parish priest would celebrate Mass in the Madden log cabin."

In 1848, the parish priest in Buckingham was Father John Brady, and a chapel was built in Cumberland Township. According to Lucien Brault's *Histoire des comtés unis de Prescott et de Russell* (1965), this chapel was located some three miles south of the village of Cumberland on land donated by a Mr. Robitaille. The book marking the 100th anniversary of Saint-Hugues parish in Sarsfield (1886-1986) explains that the chapel "was on lot 2, concession 4, facing concession 5," and this is confirmed by H.F. Walling's map of 1862 according to Adamson's 1990 book.

Seven years later, Father François-Joseph Michel, curate to Father Brady in Buckingham, was sent to Cumberland by Bishop Guigues of Bytown to help organize the Catholic community there. According to a book entitled *Histoire de la province ecclésiastique d'Ottawa* (Barbezieux, 1897), Father Michel arrived in August 1855, and stayed at the home of Mr. Foubert, who had donated four acres of land in the village for a cemetery, a presbytery and a chapel. Father Michel began making entries in the register on September 3, 1855. One year later, the presbytery was ready, and from it, Father Michel travelled over a vast territory that included Clarence (Creek), Le Castor (Embrun), Saint-Joseph (Orleans), Lochaber and Thurso.

Father Michel was replaced at the Mission of Cumberland by fathers Louis Alméras (1858-59), Gustave Ebrard (1859-61) and Onésime Boucher. Born in 1833 in the village of Lotbinière, on the south shore of the St. Lawrence between Three-Rivers and Quebec City, Onésime Boucher was ordained to the priesthood in June 1860, in Ottawa. He arrived in Foubertville, as the village of Cumberland was then known, in March 1861, and immediately began to restore the presbytery. He then undertook the construction of a large chapel, which was 75 feet long and 36 feet wide, and which, according to the history of the Catholic Diocese of Ottawa published in 1949, was consecrated by the Bishop on October 15, 1862, and named Saint-Antoine-de-Padoue.

It would seem that the Catholic Church in the village was located almost directly across the street from today's Heritage Restaurant east of Dunning Road. It stood there for less than five years. Barbezieux (1897), Brault (1965) and subsequent authors have stated that it was destroyed by fire in 1866. In an article entitled "The Cumberland Mission" published in the July-August 1996 issue of *Ottawa Branch News*, A. Gonneau, having stated that both the chapel at French Hill and the presbytery in the village were burned to the ground, goes on to say that "according to local history, both fires were deliberately set by members of the Loyal Orange Lodge, a protestant organization renowned for its opposition to the Catholic Church."

I have not been able to confirm the date of the fire or its cause, but in June 2000, I discovered that the parish register had been saved from the flames by Father Boucher and brought to Clarence Creek, where he continued his ministry, using the same register; the church there was called Sainte-Félicité. Many years later, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons) microfilmed the Catholic registers of Eastern Ontario. As a result, the register of the Cumberland Mission and Parish can now be examined on microfilm at the Family History Centre on Prince of Wales Drive in Ottawa, on reel FHC-474, under the title Sainte-Félicité, Clarence Creek, Ontario.

## EARLY PIONEERS

Samuel Barnard was one of the few early settlers of Cumberland Township who were Englishmen. He had married Ann Taylor, a native of Ireland, and they had had at least three children: Ann, Charles, and Benjamin, the last two born in England around 1838 and 1841 respectively. Samuel must have emigrated with his family soon after the birth of Benjamin, since his name appears on the 1843 assessment roll for Cumberland Township: concession 1, lot 16 (5 acres cultivated, 195 uncultivated).

In 1846, Samuel and Ann were admitted to the Communion of Carmel Presbyterian Church in Cumberland, but when the 1861 Census was taken, they were members of the Free Church, formed

around 1850, its frame building being erected on the corner of lot 16 in the village. Samuel was appointed Superintendent of Common Schools in 1853, to replace John Wilson, who had resigned. He is also known to have acted as Coroner, Auditor, Collector, Inspector of Taverns, and Pound Keeper. He was barely 60 years old when he died on January 24, 1866, in Cumberland. Ann lived to be 80; she died on February 13, 1890, in Aylmer, Quebec.

[The above profile was written by Bob Serré, using Township Council Minutes and By-laws, Census data (1861, 1871), *The Evening Journal* (Ottawa-microfilm), and records of the Presbyterian Church in Cumberland.]

## OLD OBITUARIES

The following obituary was published in *The Christian Guardian* of April 27, 1859, on page 67 [Source: D.A. McKenzie. *Death Notices from The Christian Guardian 1851-1860*, 1984]

RATHWELL, Benjamin was born in County Wexford, Ireland. (...) he moved to Bytown, and served as lay preacher in Gloucester and Cumberland. He died, Sunday, the 17th instant, from injuries received when he was thrown from his buggy in Cumberland township; age 74.

## BACK IN 1890

On Friday, February 14, 1890, *The Evening Journal* (Ottawa) carried the following front-page item.

### CUMBERLAND

February 12. — "La Grippe" has prevailed here pretty generally this winter, yet there has been no deaths, and but few serious cases. The farmers are now availing themselves of our good sleighing, and there is a constant and enlivening rush of teams with grain to the "Cumberland Roller Mills" (C. & J.G. Wilson). Those mills have been finished with all the latest improvements, and, under full power, can turn out one hundred barrels of flour per day. The mill and buildings also contain two sets of stones for grinding provender, buckwheat, corn, etc.

A Literary Society meets weekly in the church (village) at eight o'clock p.m. each Monday; and now numbers nineteen members. The president is Rev. Mr. Beatt, L.F. Anderson being vice-president and Miss McCallum secretary.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Congratulations to the Centennial Committee of Trinity Anglican Church of Bear Brook for the 97-page book it has published to mark the 100th Anniversary of present Trinity 1901-2001. For information, call Eileen Corry at 835-2039 or Sharon Wright at 835-4004.

Acting on a suggestion from Jean-François Beaulieu, our President, Ruth Parsons, organized a supper at the Vieux Duluth restaurant in Orleans on Wednesday, February 7th, at 6:30 p.m.; 17 members sat around one long table and enjoyed a most pleasant meal.

The first of two renewal notices is being sent to regular members with this issue of *The Caboose*. The May issue will mark the end of the 2000-2001 membership year.

## VIEUX REGISTRES

L'abbé Onésime Boucher a été curé de la paroisse Saint-Antoine de Cumberland de mars 1861 jusqu'à l'incendie qui a détruit l'église vers 1866. Voici un extrait du registre de cette paroisse [bobine de microfilm FHC-474 conservée au Family History Centre (Mormons) à Ottawa].

« Le vingt sept décembre mil huit cent soixante deux nous soussigné, curé de St-Antoine de Cumberland, avons inhumé dans le cimetière de cette paroisse le corps de Amable Foubert, veuf de Mathildée Dunning, décédé l'avant veille dans cette paroisse à l'âge de quatre vingt quatre ans. Étaient présents Antoine Damour, Guillaume St-Pierre et Félix D'Aoust.

O.J. Boucher Ptre »

## VISAGES DU PASSÉ

Mon père avait un ami qui s'appelait Cliff Barnabé. Ils étaient tous deux d'habiles joueurs de tennis, de bons joueurs de cartes et des pêcheurs adroits. Cliff a d'ailleurs aidé mon père à se construire un chalet de pêche dans le village de Cumberland, entre la route Transcanadienne et la rivière des Outaouais.

Né en 1909, Cliff Barnabé a grandi dans la Basse-Ville d'Ottawa. Il était le fils de David Barnabé et d'Ernestine Bergeron, qui s'étaient mariés à Saint-Joseph d'Orléans le 9 octobre 1900. Comme son père, Cliff était un homme bien planté et fort; sa voix puissante nous terrifiait parfois, ma soeur et moi, quand nous étions encore jeunes.

L'arrière-grand-père de Cliff s'appelait Édouard Barnabé. Né vers 1826 dans le Haut-Canada, Édouard s'est établi dans le canton de Cumberland dans les années 1840. Il a épousé Louise Malboeuf, fille de François Malboeuf et de Marie-Louise Lefebvre, à Buckingham, le 3 septembre 1843, à une époque où il n'y avait pas encore de chapelle catholique à Cumberland.

Le nom d'Édouard Barnabé apparaît pour la première fois dans le rôle d'évaluation de 1846 du canton de Cumberland. François Malboeuf est déjà établi sur le lot 36 de la première concession, donnant sur la rivière. La famille Barnabé habite le lot 35 de cette même première concession.

Le grand-père d'Édouard Barnabé, qui s'appelait François Martin dit Barnabé, était le fils d'un Acadien nommé Pierre Martin, qui avait épousé Anne Granger le 4 février 1738 à Port Royal. Pierre Martin était l'arrière-petit-fils de Robert Martin, arrivé en Acadie (aujourd'hui la Nouvelle-Écosse) en 1632 avec son frère Pierre; ils étaient originaires de la Normandie.

Cliff Barnabé a travaillé pendant 45 ans environ au ministère du Revenu national à Ottawa. Le 16 septembre 1937, il a épousé Laetitia (Louise) Bédard, originaire de Sturgeon Falls en Ontario; ils ont eu deux filles : Danielle et Andrée. Cliff et sa famille ont demeuré pendant plusieurs années à Ottawa avant de déménager dans une nouvelle maison à Eastview (aujourd'hui Vanier). La mère de Cliff, devenue veuve, demeurait chez son fils; je me souviens de la taille imposante de Madame Barnabé et surtout de ses tartes aux raisins : je n'en ai jamais mangé de meilleures.

Cliff était habile de ses mains; durant de nombreuses années, il a bricolé dans son sous-sol, cordant par exemple des raquettes de tennis. Il est mort le 11 juillet 1979, à l'âge de 70 ans. Comme son père et son grand-père avant lui, il a été enterré dans le cimetière de Saint-Joseph d'Orléans.

Robert Serré