

# The Caboose

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

Our Society has organized a public lecture that will be held on Wednesday, March 6, at 7:00 p.m., at the Public Library, 1599 Tenth Line Road. The guest speaker will be Gordon D. Watson, co-founder and former President of the Ottawa Chapter of the Ontario Archeological Society. Mr. Watson will use slides to describe the prehistory of our region. Do come along, and bring a friend!

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### **A Brief History of the Ferry Service Between Cumberland and Masson** by Bob Serré

In 1845, Alexander Muir, a respected lawyer of Aberdeenshire (Scotland) decided to visit Upper Canada, both for pleasure and to see his sister Margaret, who was living in Cumberland Township with her husband Alexander and their children. Having travelled up the Ottawa River by steamer, Alexander Muir disembarked at Dunning's Wharf below Buckingham, and crossed the river by canoe (see *The Caboose*, May 1998).

In 1861, a young doctor (James Ferguson) and an older physician (Thomas M. Ferguson - no close relative) left Buckingham together to go see a man with a badly infected foot in Cumberland. They crossed the river in a French bateau (see *The Caboose*, May 2001).

It is not known when the ferry service between Cumberland and Masson was started, but in his report on the forgotten wharves of the United Counties of Prescott-Russell, Jean-François Beaulieu points out that the Dunning family operated a ferry boat service between Masson and the Cameron wharf in Cumberland during the 1840s. In the very first book of Cumberland Township Council By-Laws and Minutes, there is a reference, dated 1851, to "the front Road near the Buckingham Ferry."

When the 1871 Census was taken in Cumberland Township, André Toutloffe described his occupation as "ferryman." Born around 1846, André was the son of François Toutloffe, who had married Pauline Beaune in Vaudreuil on November 25, 1834. It would appear that André's grandfather was Johann Gottlieb Dudloff, a native of Erichswalde in Saxony (Germany) who, after serving as a surgeon's mate in the regiment of Specht, was discharged in Canada in 1783 (see V.E. DeMarce's book entitled *The Settlement of Former German Auxiliary Troops in Canada after the American Revolution*, 1984).

According to a document given to our Society by Joan Lancaster, an active member, Toutloff was followed in the 1880s and 1890s by a man called MacDonald. An article entitled "I Remember ... Ferries, Memories of Vic Dunning" was prepared by Linda Dunn and published in the May 1985 issue of the *Communiqué* (Municipality of Cumberland). In it, Vic Dunning mentions that Angus MacMillan operated "a ferry which was an open wooden flat red scow moved manually by four men, two on each side, with long wooden oars." That was in the late 1800s. Vic also remembered Charlie McLeod as operating a ferry powered "by an upright steam boiler using wood for fuel," and driving a paddle wheel, in the early 1900s.

Another ferryman was Napoléon Paquette. Vic Dunning remembered that "in the 1920's, a new gasoline-powered ferry was introduced and operated by Napoleon Paquette and his two sons." Born in July 1880, Napoléon married Margaret Gleason. Joan Lancaster has told me that the house in which Napoléon lived with his family is still there at the river's edge near the wharf. Napoléon died in 1962, and was buried in Rockland's Holy Trinity cemetery.

Next came the Lamarche brothers, André and Achille, who took over the ferry service from Napoléon Paquette in 1943. The brothers skippered the *Interprovincial* ferry boat, which carried four cars. André and Achille were born in Lefavre, Ontario. The sons of Herménégilde Lamarche and Fidélia Ouellette, they were ninth-generation descendants of Jean Bricault dit Lamarche, a native of Brittany in northwestern France who had come to New-France as a soldier in the regiment of Carignan, and who had married Marie Chénier in 1674 at Montreal.

At present, the ferry service between Cumberland and Masson is operated by the Bourbonnais family. Eugène Bourbonnais and an associate took over the ferry service in 1963, and Eugène's son Maurice bought the business in 1968. With his wife Colette and sons Luc and Alain, Maurice Bourbonnais has kept improving the service. Traditionally, the ferry was operated on demand: it ran when someone wanted to cross the river, and was idle during the night and the winter months. Now, thanks to modern technology, several ferries operate round the clock, seven days a week, all year.

## SUGAR BOWL

Back in the 1950s, the long hill south of Market Street and west of Dunning Road in the village of Cumberland was a great place to go tobogganing. It had mounds that would lift a moving toboggan right off the slope and give its occupants something to scream about. After a couple of hours of this type of exhilaration, a place to warm up and have a bite to eat was much appreciated. That place was the Sugar Bowl, on the east side of the road, at the corner of Market Street, facing the back of John Watson's house. Owned by Ernie Rodney and his wife Jeannette, it opened for business on June 18, 1953. Jeannette Grégoire was Ernie's second wife; they were married on January 26, 1944 at Notre-Dame Basilica in Ottawa's Lower Town. Ernie's first wife had been Muriel Allen.

## OLD OBITUARIES

[From *The Ottawa Evening Journal* of Monday, January 20, 1908, page 8]

### MISS BRIDGET BUCKLEY

Miss Bridget Buckley, who had been an inmate of St. Patrick's Home for the last fifteen years, passed away Saturday night after a lingering illness. She was 69 years of age, and is survived by one brother, James Buckley, of Cumberland.

The funeral took place this morning from the Home to the vault of Notre Dame Cemetery.

## EARLY PIONEERS

**George Wylie** was assessed for lot 1, concession 1, in Cumberland Township in 1834 and 1835. He is listed as a Canada Company settler in Thelma Coleman's book on that topic published in 1978, which reports that on July 8, 1835, John Wallis (Wallace) and George Willey (Wylie) obtained the East half and the West half, respectively, of lot 3, concession 1 in Cumberland Township. George died around 1842, and by 1846 his widow Margaret had moved to lot 13, concession 1 (new survey). Margaret was a member of the Carmel Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, and the records of that church show that she was a native of Ireland. She died on September 5, 1860 in her 61st year. George and Margaret had had several children, including **John**, who at the time of the 1861 Census was living with his wife Catherine and two sons (George and Oliver) on lot 13, concession 1, **Margaret**, who married Robert Holmes of Cumberland in 1858, and **Robert**, who married Jane Heney, lived in Canaan, where he died in May 1908, and was buried in Dale's Cemetery, Cumberland.

**Théodore Duplanty** was assessed for lot 2, concession 1, in Cumberland Township in 1834. He was the son of Alexis Duplanty and Charlotte Grondin, who had been married in Vaudreuil, west of Montreal, in January 1782. Théodore had married Marie-Anne Séguin in 1807 in Rigaud, near Vaudreuil, and between 1809 and 1829 they had had at least 13 children, two of whom died in infancy. Théodore was living with his family in Rigaud when the 1825 Census was taken. By 1828, he was in Nouvelle-Longueuil (now L'Original) in Upper Canada. In 1839, both Théodore and his son Hyacinthe were assessed in Cumberland Township: Théodore was still on lot 2 of concession 1, and Hyacinthe was on lot 5 of concession 2. Hyacinthe had married Marguerite Roy of Buckingham in May 1836. It is interesting to note that Hyacinthe's grandmother, Charlotte Grondin, was the godmother of Amable Foubert, who was baptized in Vaudreuil in March 1782, and who later married Matilda Dunning, and established a trading post in Cumberland around 1807.

**John Grimes** (Grames) was first assessed for part of lot 8, concession 9 in Cumberland Township in 1846. He was a pathmaster in St. Andrews Ward in 1853, and a fence viewer in that ward in 1862. In 1857, during the pastoral visit of Bishop Guigues of Bytown, a list of subscribers was drawn up in preparation for the construction of a Catholic church in the village of Cumberland, and among the 33 names entered for the "back settlement" was that of John Grimes (there were 47 subscribers "on the front"). By the time the 1861 Census was taken, John Grimes, a native of Ireland, was living with his wife Mary, also a native of Ireland, and three children (John, Richard and Mary) on lot 9 of concession 9 (200 acres). The Grimes were among the early settlers of Navan.

[The above profiles were written by Bob Serré using, among other sources, the first books of Cumberland Township Council Minutes and By-Laws, the records of the Presbyterian Church in Cumberland kept at the Ottawa Archives, and the register of the Catholic Mission of Cumberland kept on microfilm at the Family History Centre, 1017 Prince of Wales Drive, in Ottawa.]

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

The congregation of the Navan-Vars United Church is to be congratulated for the well illustrated book that it has published to mark its 75th anniversary (1926-2001). The preparation of this 98-page book entitled *Witness to our Faith* was the work of many people, including the following members of the Anniversary History Book Committee: Helen Burns, Ruth Curry and Jean Hamilton.

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 2001-2002 membership year.

## VIEUX JOURNAUX

Un journal hebdomadaire appelé **Le Ralliement** a été publié à Clarence Creek d'avril 1895 à juin 1897. Deux numéros de ce journal ont parlé du traversier entre Cumberland et Buckingham.

**Jedi 30 avril 1896, page 4**

MASSON

M. D. McDonald vient d'obtenir le contrat pour faire la traverse entre Buckingham et Cumberland. Il a l'intention de faire la traversée avec un petit bateau à vapeur.

**Jedi 15 avril 1897, page 4**

CUMBERLAND

M. D. McDonald mettra son chaland à l'eau ces jours-ci pour faire le service de la traverse comme d'habitude. Il sera à la disposition du public à toutes les heures du jour et de la nuit.

## VISAGES DU PASSE

Lorsque Amable Foubert, un des premiers pionniers du canton de Cumberland, est mort en décembre 1862 à l'âge de 80 ans, un des témoins présents à l'enterrement s'appelait Félix Daoust. Félix avait épousé Louise Brazeau, fille de Toussaint Brazeau et d'Angélique Ouellette, à Beauharnois en 1841. Ils ont eu plusieurs enfants, y compris un fils Félix et une fille Louise, et ils sont arrivés dans le canton de Cumberland vers 1860.

Félix Daoust faisait partie de la sixième génération des descendants de Guillaume Daoust, originaire de la Picardie dans le nord de la France. L'ancêtre Guillaume avait épousé Marie-Madeleine Lalonde à Lachine en 1686, et ils avaient eu quatre filles et cinq garçons. C'est leur troisième fils Charles qui a été l'ancêtre de Félix Daoust, mais le frère aîné de Charles, baptisé Guillaume, a été l'ancêtre des frères Sévère et Onésime Daoust, également de la sixième génération, qui se sont eux aussi établis dans le canton de Cumberland. Sévère est arrivé en 1856 et Onésime en 1858. Ensemble ils ont acheté le lot 10 de la quatrième concession. Leur père Jean-Baptiste Daoust avait épousé Marie-Rose Vinet dit Larente en novembre 1817 à Vaudreuil, au sud-ouest de l'île de Montréal.

Né le 9 avril 1829, Sévère avait 25 ans lorsqu'il a épousé Odile St-Denis en janvier 1855 à Coteau-du-Lac au sud-ouest de Montréal. Ils ont eu quatre fils, dont Gilbert et Onésiphore, et six filles. En janvier 1896, à l'âge de 66 ans, Sévère a épousé, en deuxièmes noces, Rachel Giroux, à Sarsfield.

Onésime, lui, est né le 8 octobre 1839; il allait bientôt avoir 30 ans lorsqu'il a épousé Elmire Foubert, fille de Clément Foubert et de Sophie Ranger, le 4 octobre 1869 à Saint-Joseph d'Orléans. Ils ont eu trois filles (Rose, Odile et Amanda) et un fils (Arthur). À l'âge de 46 ans, Onésime a épousé, en deuxièmes noces, Éléonore Ranger; le mariage a été célébré en septembre 1886 à Saint-Joseph d'Orléans. Éléonore est morte l'année suivante, et Onésime a épousé, en troisièmes noces, Délima Simpson, à Notre-Dame-de-Grâces de Hull en juin 1889. Ils ont eu quatre garçons (David, Raoul, Émile et Zotique) et deux filles (Bernadette et Emma).

Sévère et Onésime Daoust ont fourni des terrains pour la première chapelle et pour le cimetière, et il ne faut pas oublier que le village s'appelait Daoust's Corners avant de prendre le nom de Sarsfield en 1874.

Robert Serré