

The Caboose

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NEXT MEETING

Just a reminder that our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 2, **from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**, in the Cumberland Public Library at 1515 Tenth Line Road. Our speaker, Verna Cotton, will describe her work as Curator of the Navan Branch of the Tweedsmuir Histories. Come along and bring a friend!

FEATURE ARTICLE

An Early Circuit Rider in Cumberland

by Bob Serré

Tradition has it that Cumberland Township was settled in 1801 and 1807 by the Dunning and Faubert families, respectively. Others came, but settlement was a slow process. As late as 1842, according to Smith's Canadian Gazetteer, the population of Cumberland Township as a whole was 713, with only 1,616 acres under cultivation. During the next 15 years, many people settled in the township, and the village of Osborne alone (now called Cumberland) had a population of about 1,000 by 1857-58, according to the Canada Directory of that year.

During the first decades of the nineteenth century, the few settlers were very isolated indeed; their lives were dominated by hard work and there were few opportunities for "socializing." Religion was nevertheless an integral and deeply felt part of the lives of the pioneers, though ministering to their spiritual needs was a daunting challenge for even the hardest of clergymen.

One such person was Reverend James McNally, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada. He was a circuit rider, which means that he travelled, sometimes on horseback, sometimes on foot, over a large district, called a circuit, that could encompass several hundred square miles, on both sides of the Ottawa River. Reverend McNally's circuit included Cumberland.

James McNally was born in 1788 in County Cavan, Ireland. In 1814, he married Hannah Jones. When he and Hannah decided to emigrate to Canada in 1825, they had five children. They left on the 9th of April of that year, arriving in Quebec on the 15th of May. They were to have four more children in Canada. In all, they had three sons and six daughters. Eventually the family settled in Hawkesbury West.

Reverend James McNally took a farm and worked it, as other pioneers did, during the week; then he would preach the Word of God on Sundays. Later, he was assigned to different circuits, and he would leave his family for weeks at a time in order to cover the length and breadth of his circuit, preaching and recording baptisms and marriages in his register.

Reverend McNally lived to a ripe old age. He died around 1877, before reaching the age of 90. The last time he "travelled" as a circuit rider was in the year 1859, when he was over 70 years old.

Part of his register between 1836 and 1865 has been preserved, and compiled with explanations and biographical notes in a book entitled *Rev. James McNally partial church register 1836-1865*, published by Alex W. Fraser in 1995. It is a short but interesting book to read.

Feature Article for November: **Early Catholic Missions in the Lower Ottawa Valley**

BY THE WAY...

We extend a heartfelt welcome to new members and a grateful thanks to continuing members. Many thanks to all those who keep working on the "jobs" and those who have otherwise contributed, by way of donations and gifts of knowledge, talent, time and money - know that you are all very much appreciated. Let your relatives, friends and neighbours know there is always room for at least one more. The job jar has "something for everyone" in it.

Now to an issue of concern to many: the right of researchers to obtain information from census records is in danger of disappearing. Statistics Canada is not expected to release any more census records, after the 1901 census, under the Privacy Act. We urge anyone who has ever used a census record for research to "voice your opinion."

Ruth Parsons, President

FEATURE LISTING

Researchers have access to the assessment rolls for the Township of Cumberland for 1822, as well as for 1832 and 1834 to 1848 (reel M-7735 at the National Archives of Canada). The roll for 1822 lists six settlers (see the July 1998 issue of *The Caboose*), and the one for 1832 records fifteen settlers.

On June 24, 1998, the Editor of *The Caboose* was allowed to examine the very first minute book of the Council of Cumberland Township (1850 to 1860), and inside it was a

sheet of paper taped onto the first page of the book itself. Lo and behold, that sheet was the assessment roll for 1831, with John Edwards as Assessor, and the following inscription on the back: "Approved in open court 20th April 1831 George Hamilton Chairman."

The 1831 assessment roll for Cumberland Township lists the names of 12 settlers; all the lots are in concession 1, fronting on the Ottawa River. The details are summarized below (unc.=uncultivated acres; cult.=cultivated acres; boys=males less than 10 years of age; girls=females less than 10 years of age).

Patrick McLaughlin, lot 1, 46 unc., 4 cult., 1 cow, 1 man, 1 woman, 2 girls
William Lough Sen., lot 1, 2 oxen, 2 cows, 1 man, 3 boys, 1 woman, 2 girls
Joseph Buck, lot 2, 1 cow, 1 man, 4 boys, 1 woman, 3 girls
John Wallace, lot 3, 96 unc., 4 cult., 1 cow, 1 man, 3 boys, 1 woman, 1 girl
Walter Beckworth, lots 5 & 6, 330 unc., 70 cult., 1 framed house, 1 saw, 1 horse, 4 oxen, 1 cow, 1 male, 1 boy, 1 woman, 2 girls
Nathan Orton, lot 10, 1 man, 1 boy, 1 woman, 3 girls
William Dunning, lots 12 & 13, 320 unc., 80 cult., hewn timber house, 2 cows, 3 young cattle [no other figures]
Amiable Faubert, lot 14, 182 unc., 18 cult., hewn timber house, 1 horse, 2 oxen, 2 cows, 1 young cattle, 1 man, 3 boys, [no figure for females over 10 years of age], 3 girls
William P. Dunning, lot 17, 193 unc., 7 cult., 1 cow, 2 young cattle, 1 man, 1 boy, 1 woman, 1 girl
John Cameron, lot 18, 188 unc., 12 cult., hewn timber house, 2 horses, 2 oxen, 3 cows, 1 man, 3 boys, 1 woman, 1 girl
William Mann, lot 20, 194 unc., 6 cult., 2 oxen, 2 cows, 1 man, 3 boys, 1 woman, 1 girl
Joseph La Flamme [no other information]

NEWS AND NOTES

Sunday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Bruce Ferguson will be guest preacher at Evensong at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Navan, as part of the 100th Anniversary celebrations. Refreshments will follow the service. Information: call Verna Cotton at 835-2490.

Sunday, October 18th at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Dean Purdy will be guest preacher at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Navan, as part of the 100th Anniversary celebrations. Refreshments will follow the service. Information: Verna Cotton at 835-2490.

Sunday, October 25th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Our Society will be holding a **Genealogy Workshop for Beginners**. If you have been thinking of tracing your ancestors and could use some friendly assistance, this workshop is designed for you. It will help you get the most out of your research efforts by getting properly organized and avoiding unnecessary frustrations. Find out about major bibliographic sources, local genealogical societies and principal research locations. The workshop will be held in the Caboose at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum. The number of participants will be limited to fifteen, so you may wish to register early. The cost of \$20.00 includes bibliographic and other materials. For more information, or to register, call Ruth Parsons at 835-3252 or Bob Serré at 749-0607.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

On May 12, I was informed by Serge Barbe of the City of Ottawa Archives, at 174 Stanley Av., that the reference room will again be open to researchers on Tuesday evenings after Thanksgiving. Further details should be available at that time about the move of the Archives out of that location due to the sale of the property by the City.

This issue contains an item in French on the life of Jean-Baptiste Roupe, an early Catholic missionary in the Ottawa Valley who will figure prominently in our next Feature Article.

VISAGES DU PASSÉ

Jean-Baptiste Roupe est né le 9 janvier 1782 à Montréal. Il était le fils de Samuel Roupe et de Marie-Josephte Clocher. Son père Samuel, issu d'une famille protestante, avait quitté la Suisse pour s'établir en Nouvelle-France en 1757, se convertissant au catholicisme peu après son arrivée.

Jean-Baptiste Roupe est ordonné prêtre le 27 janvier 1805. Il est sulpicien, c'est-à-dire prêtre séculier de la Compagnie de Saint-Sulpice, fondée à Paris en 1642. Monsieur l'abbé Roupe est d'abord missionnaire à Saint-Régis, sur la rive sud du Saint-Laurent, de 1807 à 1813, et il y apprend la langue iroquoise. Ensuite il est envoyé à Oka, où les sulpiciens ont la charge de la mission du Lac des Deux-Montagnes.

En 1815, Monseigneur Plessis, évêque de Québec, nomme les sulpiciens responsables de la mission de la Petite-Nation, devenue en 1821 la paroisse Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours de Montebello. C'est M. Roupe qui prend charge de cette mission. Dès 1816, il se rend dans les cantons de Buckingham et de Cumberland. Durant une douzaine d'années, deux fois par année, en hiver et en été, l'abbé Roupe visite les pionniers qui demeurent « en haut du Long Sault ». On peut lire, dans le registre paroissial : « J. Roupe, prêtre, missionnaire des Iroquois du Lac et des autres catholiques habitant sur la rivière des Outaouais ».

Durant son ministère, l'abbé Roupe a suscité une vive controverse en se prononçant contre les mariages mixtes (entre Blancs et Autochtones). En 1826, il a refusé de bénir un tel mariage. Toujours est-il qu'en 1829 il a été rappelé à Montréal, où il s'est occupé de diverses œuvres pendant près de vingt-cinq ans; il était connu pour la qualité de ses sermons.

L'abbé Jean-Baptiste Roupe est tombé malade à l'été de 1854 et il est mort quelques semaines plus tard, le 4 septembre, à Montréal. Il a été enterré sous la cathédrale Notre-Dame.

Robert Serré