

# THE CABOOSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CTHS)

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Spring 2016

## President's message

Thanks to Jeannie Smith and Dorothy Smith for their March presentation on early medicines and early practice in Cumberland Township. Congratulations to my nephew Charles Boyer and my brother Frank for bringing the Bradley Cup heritage back to life in Cumberland Township. Thanks also to John Bradley who allowed five Heritage teams to compete for it this year:

Cumberland, Vars, Navan, Orléans and Sarsfield. The tournament raised about \$12,000.00 to assist a local resident who is struggling with leukemia.

### **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

- 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

[www.cths.ca](http://www.cths.ca)



In my last address I referred to the upcoming publication of an "Early History of Cumberland Township up to 1840". Well it seems that there will also be a publication of a more general history of Cumberland Township which was spawned several years ago and which is likely to be published soon. It seems that the two "histories" have led to some confusion. So that our members are very clear, I thought it a good idea to distinguish these two quite separate publications.  
(cont'd page 2)



## Next meeting of the CTHS

**May 4 2016 – Annual General Meeting at the Navan Curling Club, 1305 Fairgreen Avenue. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Meeting starts 7 p.m. Gerard Boyer will speak on the Early Sawmills of Cumberland Township.**

Above photo shows the intrepid CTHS snowshoers and well-wishers at the beginning of the January special meeting retracing the Forced Road between Wilson's on the Ottawa River and Bearbrook. See inside for more.

**New CTHS year starts May 1. The cost remains at the old CTHS price of \$15.**

## Important Events

For more information on CTHS events, please contact a member of the executive committee.



CTHS meetings - Unless other stated, all meeting are at Lori Nash Room, Ray Friel Centre (beside Cumberland Library). Start time is 7:00 pm.

At the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum – 613-833-3059

[CumberlandMuseum@ottawa.ca](mailto:CumberlandMuseum@ottawa.ca)

Contact the museum for costs and times

### 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](mailto:gcboyer@hotmail.com)
- Jean-François Beaulieu, Past President (613-841-0424) [jeanfb@sympatico.ca](mailto:jeanfb@sympatico.ca)
- Dorothy-Jane Smith, Caboose editor (613-225-3554),

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## Publications

**Muder in Navan** available from Verna Cotton or other members of the Board.

**Memories of Leonard and Other Recollections** by Gerald E. Poaps available from Audrey Moore \$15 (postage included). Phone 613-728-7466 or write 532 Courtenay Av., Ottawa On K2A 3B3 or email [jdmorset@yahoo.ca](mailto:jdmorset@yahoo.ca)

## Cont'd President's Message

The "Early History of Cumberland Township up to 1840" is a volunteer initiative of five members of our historical society who started putting their research together about two years ago and who presented some of their research in Cumberland back in November 2015. The five members of this team are Denise Beaton, Dorothy Smith, Marilyn Seguin, Laurie Watson and myself. We have yet to put our information all together, but the bulk of our research is done.

The other more general history of Cumberland Township is the product of a dedicated research and publication grant to produce such a history, dating back to the year 2000 just prior to amalgamation. As many of you know some of our members gave input a few years ago which was not incorporated but we understand there is a dedicated City employee working on this history now. As president of the Cumberland Township Historical Society, I was contacted and advised that this history is almost ready for publication. I have also been advised that the current executive of the Cumberland Township Historical Society will have some input in this final publication. I expect that more clarification will be provided at our May general meeting.

I'm looking forward to our May meeting and to seeing as many members as can make it out that evening.

Gérard Boyer

## The Latest News ... from Yesteryear

From the Ottawa Semi-Weekly Journal

### February 13, 1888 Navan

DISSOLUTION NOTICE - The partnership heretofore existing between the undersign as General Merchants at Navan under the name of Clark & Visser is this day dissolved by Mutual consent. All debts due the late firm are to be paid Wm. Clark and all claims against the said firm are to be presented to Wm. Clark, by whom they will be settled. Dated at Navan the 19th day of January A.D. 1888..

### February 23, 1888 Cumberland

DIED Cameron—At Cumberland Ont., on Tuesday 21st February, 1888, Duncan Cameron, aged 87 years; a native of Lochaber, Aryleshire, Scotland

### February 27, 1888 Cumberland

DIED—At Cumberland, this (Friday) morning [February 24, 1888], Annie, wife of D.N. McDonald.

### March 5, 1888 Vars

The Good Templars of this place are making preparations for another entertainment which they intend to give shortly.

Quite a number of the residents have attended several of the evangelistic services which were recently held in Ottawa.

### March 29, 1888 Bearbrook

The saw mill here is running full speed now and a large number of logs are coming in.

William [Balgley] has left for Manitoba with William McRae, who has started with a car load of stock purchased from the town clerk of Nepean. They are beautiful short horned Durhams; he has also taken a fine stallion, [Honest] Sandy, raised by John Bain, of Nepean, which is a credit to him and will be to the country he is going to. Some others round here are going West.

### April 26, 1888 Cumberland

A large number of your readers from the township of Cumberland feel rather left out from the fact that some of them who are placed in [ ] localities] have enterprise enough to [ ] the township in the columns of [ ] interesting and successful paper.

There [ ] considerable] excitement in Navan at present [ ] an attempt on part of some of the tippling portion of this community to suppress the division of the Sons of Temperance held at that place. It seems that a few weeks ago, shortly after the lights were hung out for the evening, in the hall of the Church of England, in which the temperance people meet, some half drunken rowdies, the leaders of whom were disgraced and expelled members of the society, attempted to prevent the opening of the Division for that evening by entering the hall and misbehaving themselves, refusing to leave, and in various other ways making themselves generally obnoxious to the members of the Division. The outcome was they were forcibly ejected but managed to create such a disturbance that some of the church members, [thinking] that their Sunday-school rooms were being desecrated, and of course blaming not the recreant sons of the [ ] who had caused the fuss, but their more [ ] children who were striving to uphold their [ ] rights against insult and disgrace, brought the matter before the vestry. This [party] with the full concurrence and advice of their minister, would have denied the division the use of the hall had it not been for the resolute stand taken by Mr. Bickerton, one of the most influential members of the church, who was present, and by Mr. Joseph Clarke an equally honorable churchman, and liberal minded gentleman.

The result of their honorable action is that, as yet, the friends of cold water retain the hall.

The coming contest for parliamentary honors is viewed with very little interest in this township, but kindles more feeling in Gloucester.

Mr. W.C. Edwards addressed a large public meeting of the electors here on the evening of the 20th instant. ... Mr. G.G. Dunning and Mr. Cameron also spoke.

### May 10, 1888 Navan

To the Editor of the Journal: Sir,—Will you kindly insert this letter in the local correspondence of the JOURNAL in the next issue. The item from Navan contributed to the JOURNAL of April 26th



last is scarcely worth answering but for some statements that are not true. A champion of temperance ought also to be a champion of the truth. Your correspondent seems unable to stick to it—he must wander into falsehood—force of habit, I suppose!

The temperance division here is not connected with the church, and therefore could not expect the vestry to be particularly interested in its [disgraced] and expelled members. That concerns the division itself. But the vestry is interested in and concerned with the proper or improper use of the church buildings. And if some of the church members thought that the Sunday school rooms were being desecrated, as your correspondent said, they were quite right—especially if by a noisy crowd that does not belong to the church, and some, perhaps, not to any church. The vestry passed a resolution to discontinue the use of the church hall to the division; and the friends of the cold water do not retain the hall. The statement with regard to Mr. Bickerton and Mr. Clarke is also one of falsehood, and of vulgar impertinence too. Mr. Bickerton took a resolute stand with the vestry to discontinue the hall to the division. Mr. Clarke was not present when the resolution was passed. The vestry (with the full concurrence of the clergymen) for good reasons discontinued the use of the hall to the members of the division; and if your correspondent is one of them, his room is better than his company. ...

A.T. Brown, Navan, Ottawa May 4, 1888

### May 2, 1888 Bearbrook

Mr. A.N. Dunning, Post-master and general merchant, Bearbrook Crossing, has sold out his business to Mr. T. Cheney, of South Indian [today's Limoges]. Mr. Cheney has many wishes for his future success.

### May 2, 1888 Bearbrook

A Card from Bearbrook  
To my Customers and  
Friends

I have rented my wood shop to Munroe & McIntosh of Alexandria, and we have a large stock

of Buggies Waggon and Expresses on hand all of which are built of first-class material and of the latest style. Parties wanting anything in \_\_\_\_ line will find it to their advantage to call and examine our stock [before] buying elsewhere. ...

Cheer up old friends don't be downcast!  
A first-class carriage shop you have at last  
The time seemed long but now how sweet  
To get your carriages repaired up neat.  
For twenty years the people say  
They had to go ten miles away  
But now their town they need not [pass]  
But get their carriages made first-class  
We'll warrant them good or ask no pay  
Or make it good some other way  
Now if you want a rig this Spring  
While \_\_\_\_\_ just call in  
The best material you will find  
It will only take ten minutes time  
Our prices are so very low  
You will surely buy before you go.  
For fear that you might pass my shop  
And patronize some other spot  
You will always find me on demand  
At G.G. Chamberlin's former stand.

G. G. Chamberlin. Bear brook



## Cumberland Township Temperance and Entertainment

by Dorothy J. Smith

In this issue's "Latest News from Yesteryear" we read that the Good Templars of Vars were busy as of March 5, 1888 preparing an entertainment. The correspondence news printed in country newspapers regularly mentioned such evenings to which all in the community were invited. They served to contribute to a sense of community but also to raise money for a worthy cause. Churches, schools and voluntary organizations from Women's groups to the Good Templars were the forces behind them.

The Independent Order of Good Templars was one of many fraternal societies with which nineteenth-century people enjoyed sociability while pursuing a common goal.

The Templars's goal was to bring about the abolition of alcohol as a beverage first through personal abstinence by its members and then by agitation to prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of liquor. The first of the Templar lodges was formed in the United States in the 1850s and from its beginnings men and women were admitted on equal standing. It immediately spread across the United States and Canada as well as leaping the ocean to Britain. That these societies could bring disputes in their wake, even among the church-goers who were often their natural constituency, can be seen in the exchanges reprinted in this issue from the *Semi-Weekly Journal* of April 26, and May 10, 1888.

The concert given by the Good Templars of Vars, however, was reported in the paper of

March 29, 1888 as a grand success. Like all such social evenings, a man (and always it seemed a man) was asked to "fill the chair" at the start of the meeting. For the Vars entertainment, a local farmer and one of the early pioneers of the area, John McVeigh "ably" did the job—which was to be emcee.



"Hark! hark! in the dim, failing light I hear her."  
—*Echo and the Ferry*, page 50.

The entertainment itself consisted of various dialogues, songs, readings, recitations and a tableau, all performed by the members of the Vars Good Templars Lodge. The evening ended of course with the singing of God Save the Queen. A full list of who did what was given in the newspaper account of the entertainment. Even with a number of instrumentals and songs having only the performer named and not naming the actual piece, the newspaper article becomes a long list of titles. But while it can appear tedious to us who do not know what

the titles refer to, these pieces were drawn from popular books written specially for people putting on such entertainments and would have been known to many of the newspaper readers.

Preparation was taken very seriously. After all you stood in front of your neighbours claiming to have musical or elocution skills. Happily there were books such as *The Speaker's Ideal Entertainments: For Home, Church and School* which gave amateur entertainers something

"professional" to perform. First, one did not simply stand on the stage and speak or sing. The performer was expected to present a show. One reason to buy *The Speaker's Ideal Entertainment* was that it spelled out the proper gestures necessary to make its recitations complete and

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### GESTURE

The *Advanced* position requires one foot to be thrown forward, as shown in Figure 2, and the weight of the body to be supported by the advanced foot, the retired foot merely sustaining the body in an upright position, and sometimes resting upon the toe alone. Aggressiveness, command, and earnestness are thus expressed.

EXAMPLE.—"Sign that parchment! Sign, if the next moment the gibbet's rope is about your neck." (*The Unknown Speaker*, p. 382.)



FIGURE 3.

EXAMPLE.—"Oh, such a sight of ruin! oh, such a ghastly scene." (*Roderick Lee*, p. 56.)

### Hands.



FIGURE 4.

The *Supine* hand requires the hand to be well opened, palm upward, the fore-finger being straight and the remaining

The *Retired* position as illustrated in Figure 3, takes the same relative position of the feet, but the weight of the body is sustained by the retired foot. Arrogance, haughtiness, defence, resistance, horror, and dislike require this position.



FIGURE 5.



without which "there can be neither natural, oratorical, nor dramatical delivery."

The tips at the beginning of this book start with how one comes to the front of the stage when it was your time to perform. You were to walk forward with "dignity and grace" and then stand with one foot slightly advanced in a manner "appropriate to sentiments of an unemotional character". In emotional passages, you pushed your front foot forward and put your weight on that forward foot, effectively leaning towards the audience. When expressing "haughtiness, pride, arrogance, and defence" you shifted your weight back onto the rear foot.

At the Vars evening, the excitement began with "Sister" McVeigh and "Brothers" Lowrie, Lang and McLaughlin presenting a dialogue called "The Book Agent." A temperance song, "The Dunkard's House" was rendered by Mrs. Devine. She got an encore for which she sang "Adam was the First Man." My Internet search pointed to several versions of this song, including one called a "Darkies's Sunday School song." Sister Rowan and Brother McLaughlin performed "A Much Misunderstood Man" which was published in Beadle's *Dime Dialogues* No. 34. Beadle was a New York publishing company specializing in a huge range of popular works, including adventure stories and westerns as well as these dialogue books, all sold for ten cents. Mr. and Miss Crosbie sang a traditional Scottish song, Huntingtower, and then over to Bro. George Chamberlin who recited "Roger and I." I believe this was "The Vagabonds", another favorite temperance song in which a tramp talks about his life on the road with his dog Roger and the hard times they had had because of alcohol. But while there is pathos aplenty, Roger is a bit of a scamp as well as a game and brave little companion.

W.A. Land sang two martial songs. His first, an Irish song, "The Irish Recruit", makes references to Crimean War battles but a folklore site says it knows of four different texts with this title and three different tunes. Land's encore piece would have stirred the blood of both my family and Gérard Morin's. "The Cameron Men," also known as "The March of the Cameron Men," is a song of the Camerons going into battle behind their

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## GESTURE



DESIGNATION.



JOY.



DEFIANCE.



SURPRISE.



INDIGNATION.



VENGEANCE.

chief "sworn to support him or die by his side, for a Cameron never can yield."

I was left wondering if the Vars groups purposively staged their tableau of a wedding scene after a dialogue "Beware of the Widows" which they would have taken from Beadle's *Dime Dialogues* No. 12. Seeing the titles juxtaposed in the list of the pieces being presented, could the tableau have been the comic denouement to the dialogue?

The Vars Templar Lodge received a rave newspaper review from a neighbour (or very possibly a Lodge member). They made money for their cause, and they entertained their friends and family on an evening out. I am certain they

went home feeling it had been worth all the work and effort they had put into this big blow-out event.



## **Walking the old Forced Road, (first opened in 1825)**

**January 6, 2016**

*by Gérard Boyer*

Cumberland Township residents know the Forced Road as a short diagonal link between Vars and Bearbrook. What is not as well known is that the Forced Road was the first main link between the Ottawa River just east of today's village of Cumberland and the early settlement of Bearbrook. James McNally, an Irishman who became a Methodist circuit rider in Eastern Ontario, wrote his memoirs in 1869: he left us this record of the opening of the Forced Road.

"Sometime in October [1825], I, with 5 or 6 others, started for Cumberland to do settlement duties on our farms. We went up in a bun, slept on an island in company with Indians, got up to Ira Dunning's the 2nd night where we were kindly received. There were then about 4 families on the front of Cumberland and none back. The next day we started for Bear Brook, which was 12 miles away. Henry Orton was our pilot. We followed the blaze of the trees to every man's lot. I think we were 5 or 6 weeks building shanties, cutting roads and chopping a certain number of acres, so as to secure our deeds. I preached several times in Bill Dunning's tavern. I then returned home and we lived another winter in the smoky shanty."

Most of the Forced Road was abandoned over time, though it was a main thoroughfare at least until the 1870's. Because it was not an authorized (i.e. government approved) road, it was eventually replaced by the 5<sup>th</sup> line (now Dunning Road) and the 4<sup>th</sup> line (Sarsfield Road). These last respect the boundaries of surveyed lots, whereas the Forced Road did not. Any trace of the Forced Road on agricultural land disappeared under the farmers' plows. However

traces of it still exist, and that's what a group of local historians decided to rediscover this year.

The project was somewhat risky as the old Forced Road is now on private property (except the stretch from Bearbrook to Vars). Some local land owners were approached and they had no objection to our crossing their land. By scheduling the hike in the winter, we hoped that unsuspecting land owners would not mind. We wish to thank Denise Beaton, David Williams and Bob and Rita Dessaint for their interest and support in our project.

On January 6, 2016, a few snowshoers and their supporters gathered at the parking lot of the Cumberland Township Heritage Museum. Gérard Boyer, Maureen Edwards, Denise Beaton and Rita Dessaint strapped on the snow shoes; Tom McNeely, his wife Claire, Merle Jackson, Bob Dessaint and Gilles Chartrand were there to cheer them on. Gilles and Bob then checked up on the snowshoers all along the route wherever the old Forced Road intersected a concession Road.

The first stretch followed Angus Wilson's farm road from Montreal Road to Willhaven. The snow was powdery and about one foot deep, though someone had snowshoed and skidooed parts of that section. The day was clear and slightly below zero, ideal for a snowshoe hike. Rita had decided that Wilhaven was as far as she would go. The three others continued under Denise Beaton's leadership, as we were now on her land and she knew of the Forced Road's existence on her property. She showed us where it had gone along an old school site (dating back to 1842), where it bypassed the old Hays homestead, originally a McLelland homestead, where it crossed Beaton Road and finally where it came to French Hill. At this point the group could not locate where the road had gone up French Hill. That would have to be for a later trip. So we climbed French Hill and eventually worked our way over to Sarsfield Road with no idea of where the Forced Road might have been. There was no point of snowshoeing any further as the next stretch of the old Forced Road eventually rejoined the Sarsfield Road. We were also running out of time. We had spent about three hours coming from Montreal Road to just past French Hill and a luncheon had been planned for 1:30 in Bearbrook.

Gilles Chartrand drove us in to Sarsfield where Bob and Rita Dessaint indicated the trajectory of

the old Forced Road. The laneway to their son's farm is the old Forced Road. It ran along a path that residents of Sarsfield used to use as a short cut to get to church, and eventually curved back to Sarsfield Road, from where we had just come. So we had to decide if we would hike from Sarsfield to Magladry Road or get a lift to Magladry Road and hike from there towards the Bear Brook crossing before going in to Bearbrook. We chose the latter.

We are almost certain that a trace of the old Forced Road exists next to the first farm house on Magladry Road west of Sarsfield Road on the north side. We decided to follow its line across the field to see if we could find where the old Forced Road might have crossed a significant creek. We did find a diagonal roadway dropping along a fairly steep gully and could see that a roadway had gone up an easier grade on the other side of the creek. But there was no crossing and we could not cross as the creek was not frozen and it carried enough water to prevent us from crossing.

We walked along the bottom of the creek valley towards the east until we could cross. At this point we were tired and were not about to walk back to the point where we could pick up the old Forced Road again. We knew from old maps that after it crossed the creek, it curved its way east and crossed Bear Brook at the same point where the Sarsfield Road now crosses Bear Brook.

Our faithful companion Gilles Chartrand found us trudging towards the Sarsfield Road and Tom McNeely also showed up on his way to Bearbrook. They took us to Trinity Anglican in Bearbrook where the Anglican Church Women served a hot homemade lunch. There we asked Bob Dessaint to contact Francis Coburn to see if he could recollect if a bridge had ever crossed the creek where we thought the old Forced Road had done so.

Thanks to all who participated in the hike, in the event or in the meal at the end. Thanks to the Cumberland Township Historical Society for sponsoring the event. And thank you to the ladies of the Anglican Church for putting on a hearty and tasty lunch.



Denise Beaton and Maureen Edwards. The track of the old road is visible here in the break



### From the Editor

While this is not the last Caboose, it is my last Caboose as editor. I will continue to contribute articles as well as "The Latest News" but I am confident new editorship will bring you new insights and interests. I would like to thank all those who contributed stories and photos over the years with a special thanks to Jeannie Smith and Randall Ash without whom the Caboose would never have been possible.

Dorothy J. Smith