

# THE CABOOSE

Newsletter of the Cumberland Township Historical Society (CTHS)



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Fall 2017

## 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*

*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  
Our World Wide Web  
address*

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



## President's message

The website is up and running. It's a little sparse at this time but it does work. We will add more to it. The best part is that all past issues of The Caboose are accessible there, except of course our very latest issues. Although it's not time yet, we have established direct deposit for members who wish to use it instead of writing a cheque or giving cash. Renewals will begin again after our next issue of The Caboose.

We wish to thank Tom McNeely, Ivan Tanner and Gilles Chartrand for their November presentation on Cumberland Township aerial photographs from the 1950's. Our

intent is to combine the information that we gathered this past summer and some historical research in order to publish a picture book matching the farms, a bit of their history and who was living there in 1950. We'll keep you posted.

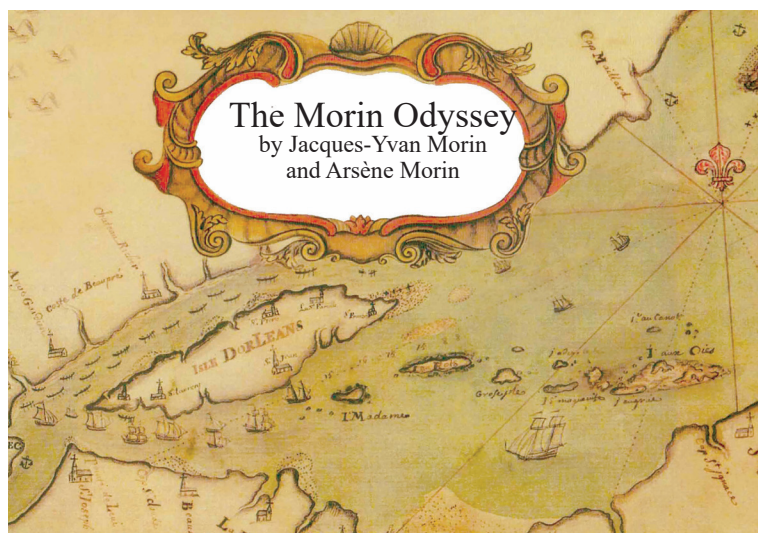
The Early History of Cumberland Township to 1840 publication is currently being edited for publication. The first seven chapters have been put together and we expect it will include fifteen chapters and the complete family trees of about sixty families. Expect details for the full publication to be ready in the next Caboose.

I met with two significant organizations during the fall: The Cumberland Community Association and the Ottawa Public Library. Hopefully we can work with the first to establish historical markers of significance in Cumberland Village. And we hope that the Ottawa Public Library will help us manage our History Reading room at its Cumberland Branch in Orléans.

By the time you get this newsletter, it will be appropriate to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Gérard Boyer*

## Morin ancestors back in Caboose news



As many of our readers probably know, a group of Morin descendants went on a genealogical trek in 2010 from Cumberland to Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia. One of the precious discoveries during that trek was a French genealogical history of the Morin family covering the separate arrivals and eventual marriage of our first ancestors to Canada, Pierre Morin dit Boucher and Marie Martin, and the development of one branch of the Morin family up to modern

day Montréal. The book's title is *L'Odyssée des Morin* written by Jacques-Yvan Morin and his father Arsène Morin.

This history covers the first two generations of the ancestors of Cumberland Morins, which includes McNeelys and Moffatts, to name a few. *L'Odyssée des Morin* has been translated into English and will soon be available for purchase. It will cost in the neighborhood of \$50.00 and we are now accepting non-binding

pre-orders to determine the quantity of copies to publish. This book does not cover any of the history of the Ontario descendants of Pierre Morin dit Boucher and Marie Martin. It's almost 300 pages, soft cover, with many illustrations. It's a fascinating family-based history of Acadia and Québec up to the 1960's.

If any one is interested in reserving a copy of *The Morin Odyssey*, contact Gérard Boyer at (807) 355-4898 or email [gboyer@hotmail.com](mailto:gboyer@hotmail.com).

## Logging in Cumberland Township

7:00 p.m., March 7

Lori Nash room,  
Cumberland Branch,  
Ottawa Public Library.  
Presenters Tom McNeely  
and Gérard Boyer.

# Crime as newsworthy material

By Dorothy Smith

Crime certainly existed in rural places and I have read about it in the newspaper. My cousin (Mary Wilkie)'s aunts were the two McGonigle children murdered in Cumberland Village in 1890 (but here we have a divide as the anglophone community was instantly certain Larocque was the murderer and the francophone community was equally sure the anglos were so sure because he was French-speaking and Catholic). The Larocques come back into the news when a year or two later an uncle gets involved in a common assault against some other man. We have the doctor in Vars. We have the 2 men who started murdering people for insurance money in the 1920's I think. I have also seen a report of a man killed with a fork to the chest (I assume a hay fork and not a dinner fork although some family dinners can get like that). There was a running feud in Cumberland Village between two

neighbours which ended up in crime. Running a still was also common but I have found very few newspaper records of blind pigs in our area and the OPP records on liquor convictions are closed as I discovered when I tried in the past to follow this up. My grandfather's store was broken into one January night and he dealt with it by shooting the guy who then took off across the river to Buckingham where he was tracked by the blood stains on the snow and caught. And we have the question - did the Roman Catholic chapel in Cumberland Village just burn in the 1850s (as so many wood buildings did at the time) or was it burnt as said by the French and Catholic population and as was actually happening up around Lanark, particularly on November 5 when the Orange Men remembered Guy Faulks.

But one of the problems with talking about crime is a theme that we can see above - it tends to cause

people to go into tribal thinking (us against them) particularly in a place like Cumberland with two language populations. And there are personal issues in that the descendants are still here - for example my cousin David Chamberlin was spitting angry about a write-up in the Ottawa Citizen a few years ago on the insurance murders because it basically said our grandfather Harvey Cameron was a greedy yokel of a general store owner who was selling insurance on the side to anybody with no questions asked. Certainly I would not attend a meeting if I thought the speaker would slam my grandfather! And yet it is fascinating how small communities deal with crime and violence. There were no police until the OPP and even then they were a long ways away at times. My grandfather was very ready to go it alone in defending himself, his family and his property - he used his rifle both to deal with the burglar but also

to deal with a local drunk who decided to have it out with him late one night because he blamed the Camerons for the village being dry - but the drunk didn't bother getting out of his wagon and staggering up to the house. No. He drove his team and wagon over the picket fence and up to the front of the store. My mother remembered how terrified she was as he kept whipping his horses forward causing them to scream and crash their hooves against the door leading to their apartment above the store. The only good thing about that story is that I don't know the name of the drunk so no-one can be upset about their grandfather being maligned and it was all within the same tribe so to speak - so no anti-French and anti-English sentiments entered into it.

## Alexander Findlay petition (continued from last Caboose)

When we last left this petition, H.W. McCann, crown land agent for the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, had not resolved the issue of land requested for an Anglican church by Alexander Findlay. So Denis Benjamin Papineau, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, responded to McCann with the following:

"J.W. McCann

May 47

*With reference to your letter of the 27th Ulto I beg to enquire whether you called upon*

*Hugh Fullerton to substantiate what he states, namely that he has 'made a considerable*

*clearance and built a house and made other improvements' and whether you*

*ascertained upon which part of the lot his improvements are situated, as required by my*

*letter of the tenth of November last. Upon these ? you will please get definite information*

*with as little delay as possible & should Fullerton neglected to supply it within a limited period*

*you will report accordingly for the information of this."*

McCann responded with the following letter, again in his beautiful script.

Source: Upper Canada Land Petitions (1763-1865), Mikan # 205131, Microform c-1736, Pages 399, 401 and 403, Library and Archives Canada.

Mr. Tarbutt ? 2366

Trunk Hill 12<sup>th</sup> June 1847

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> ultimo, I beg to inform you that I wrote without delay to Hugh Fullerton calling upon him to substantiate what he stated namely that he had "made a considerable clearance and built a house and made other improvements on Lot D in the 8<sup>th</sup> concession of Cumberland, I also requested him to inform me upon which part of the Lot his improvements are situated, Mr. Fullerton up to this date has failed to furnish me with the necessary information required,

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most ob<sup>d</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>

H.W. McCann

The Honble  
D.B. Papineau  
Comptroller of Crown Lands  
Montreal



# Latest News ... from Yesteryear

## Canaan December 10, 1888 p. 4

*The marriage bells are still ringing. Mr. Henry Watson and Miss Maggie Sullivan were married at Duncanville by the Rev. Mr. Quinn last week. They took dinner at Mr. Buckley's hotel and afterwards received a very large number of guests. Not caring for farming they intend moving to Owen Sound in the spring.*

*Miss Lizzie Kinsella, late of Richmond, has been spending a few weeks among her many friends in this part. She returned this week after spending a good time here.*

*A sad accident occurred here this week. Mr. Geo. Brownrigg, his sister and mother, were coming Ottawa, when Mrs. Brownrigg fell from the rig and was fatally injured. She was buried on Sunday, leaving her bereaved family to mourn her death.*

## Cumberland December 31, 1888 p. 4

*On Thursday evening, December 27, under the auspicious of the Ladies' Aid Society, the good people of Cumberland were treated to one of the socials and concerts of sacred music for which we doubt not the choir of the Presbyterian church here will soon become noted. It is not too much to say, that the programme of music rendered would have very heavily taxed many of our city choirs. The accuracy and precision of attack, smoothness and care paid to light and shade were most commendable. One of the features of the evening was a male quartette rendered with great spirit, also a duet for ladies voices with chorus was marked by much sweetness and pathos.*

*The children of the Sunday school contributed to the evening's entertainment with recitations and songs all most pleasingly given especially a motto song "God id love". The speakers were Mr. Reid of the Baptist church, the Rev. James Myles Crombie, the paster, and his father who is always welcomed by a Cumberland audience.*

*The climes of the Ladies' Aid were well [enforced?] and much good is expected as a result of this social.*

## Bearbrook January 14, 1889 p. 4

*The appearance of the "Lowe-Chamberlin" Dramatic Society attracted a fair audience to the Bearbrook Hall on the evening of the 1st. A very interesting and varied programme was placed in the hands of the chairman, Rev. A.T. Brown, B.A. [performers were Misses Emma and Edith Lowe, Miss Clara Chamberlin, Mr. G.G. Chamberlin; stage manager was Miss J. Wilson]*

## Bearbrook Station (Vars) February 14, 1889 p. 4

*Despite the recent storms our lumbermen did not allow the roads to get blocked. A large quantity of logs, ties and cordwood is being hauled to this place.*

## Charles Waters and the Rebellions of 1837

*By Dorothy Smith*

Charles Waters was the Prescott County representative to the Assembly in 1837. He was one of the many American loyalist families in Vankleek Hill whom the government viewed with deep suspicion. They were so suspicious that when the government sent arms to the militia under the command of William Hamilton in Hawkesbury, Hamilton told them to make sure there was an armed guard as they travelled through the Vankleek Hill to prevent the locals from arming themselves against the government. The situation was tense in the Hawkesbury area due to their closeness to the fighting going on just across the river. On the night of December 14, 1837 the people of Vankleek Hill, from their height above the surrounding countryside, could see the flames going up as the British troops and militia fired first the church and then the town of St. Eustache. The next night Hamilton brought sixty militia men into Vankleek Hill, ordered them to fix their bayonets and then deployed them around the town so as to shut everyone up,

*Mr. Geo. E. Lancaster is building a sawmill and Mr. James McNally has purchased site and machinery for a factory which is to be built in the coming spring.*

*Our prominent merchant, Mr. S.T. Cheney, is doing a very large business. Mr. Cheney is getting in a large quantity of cordwood, ties and [...] logs. In fact he is buying everything farmers have to dispose of, thus making this place a market for farmers and saving them the trouble of hauling their produce to Ottawa or other markets.*

*Mr. Dickinson, of Ottawa, has charge of Mr. W.F. Campbell's stock, who recently made an assignment to Mr. Alex. Mutchmor, of Mutchmor, Gordon & Co., Ottawa. Mr. Dickinson is disposing of the stock.*

*Mr. G.C. Ronan, one of our lumberman, has secured a nice residence from Mr. W.A. Lang, and has taken up his residence in our village.*

*Clark Enterprise Lodge, I.O.G.T., had a fine turn out Saturday night as a junior lodge. It is having great success and the young people of the vicinity look forward to the amusements of Saturday night.*

*Professor Holmes has a fine singing class here, and is making good progress.*

## Eastman Springs (re. Cumberland Township) February 18, 1889 p. 4

*The school in S.S. No 12 Cumberland [on lot 17 in concession 11 – djs] was the scene of a lively occurrence Thursday morning. The children were badly scared and they had good reason to be; for the stovepipe had fallen down, the flames were bursting out of the pipehole and the schoolroom was literally filled with smoke. The teacher, Mr. L. E. Pement, was just coming to school. Seeing the smoke issuing from the door and windows which had been thrown open by some of the pupils; and thinking the school on fire he hurried to the place. The scholars in the meantime had gone to Mr. Collins, as the morning was cold. They [...] returned at 10 o'clock the regular work was [begun]. The pipes fell on Alex. Cameron who was, however, not hurt.*

## Canaan February 25, 1889 p. 4

*In spite of the stormy state of the weather the school house of S.S. No. 4 Clarence was filled on the evening of Tuesday last by a thoroughly appreciative audience, it being the occasion of the appearance of the Canaan Amateur Dramatic Society. The society, although in its infancy, carried out a very near and interesting programme, each item calling forth hearty applause, and the repeated [encores] showed that the efforts of the several performers were thoroughly enjoyed. The Rev. Morris Taylor commenced the proceedings of the evening by giving a financial account of the building fund of St. Paul's Church, which the entertainment was in aid of ...*

prisoners in their own houses. He then entered Waters' house and went through Waters' papers looking for evidence of treason. He did not find it even though Waters later said there was not a scrap of paper Hamilton did not read.

All of this came from letters Waters wrote to William Lyon Mackenzie when Mackenzie was hiding in the United States. Waters was conducting business on Mackenzie's behalf with regards to property in Bytown. But the letters show that Hamilton was not mistaken. Waters expressed opinions which showed he was one of the reformers opposing the family clique. I also think from his remarks that he had been in sympathy, at the very least, with the rebellion. Evidence that the Charles Waters of Cumberland is the same man as the VKH Waters comes from an obituary written for one of his descendants which carefully traces the family line. There is also a Foubert connection as Charles Waters' son (also a Charles) married Pauline Foubert, the oldest child of Amable 2.

# The Old Forced Road is getting longer

By Gérard Boyer

I was invited out to Russell by Reverend Harry Baker of the Russell Township Historical Society to share our research into the Old Forced Road. While preparing the material for the upcoming Early History of Cumberland Township we had discovered that the Old Forced Road had been originally opened from the Ottawa River by early Bearbrook settlers and had reached just past Bearbrook in 1840. Vars did not exist at that time. As far as we know, it was eventually linked to settlers in the Russell area who came in from the St. Lawrence or the South Nation.

I shared that information with a gathering of about 20 people in the Keith M. Boyd museum in Russel Village. Many of the attendees from the Russell end actually lived or still live on the Old Forced Road in Russell Township. One person showed me an old lot plan indicating where the Old Forced Road met up with the Castor River just west of downtown Russell.

Some more research from the Russell end of the Old Forced Road needs to be done to establish more specific dates for the settlers indicated on the attached map, provided to me by Reverend Baker. My guess is that the link from Cumberland Township to Russell Township came after 1840. Our research to 1840 indicates that the most remote farmer on the trail that was called the Old Forced Road in Cumberland Township was Charles Armstrong who was located on Lot 24, Concession 6 (New Survey). He was part of a settlement group that all came in from the Ottawa River beginning in about 1834. To our knowledge, almost all settlers to Cumberland Township up to 1840 came in from the Ottawa River. The only exceptions would be some of the precursors of Navan who came in from an early road from Bytown (probably today's Navan Road). Their names were Malcolm McDiarmid and Malcolm McKinnon.

Thanks to our own members Ivan Tanner and Bob Walsh for coming out to the meeting.

## The Story of a Historical Publication (so that you don't make the same mistakes)

My story begins in 2010, while leading a group of Morin descendants from Cumberland, Ontario to Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia.

We were mostly descendants of one Pierre Morin dit Boucher who married one Marie Martin in 1661 in what used to be Port-Royal, today's Annapolis Royal.

Along the way, I discovered a wonderful book written in French entitled *L'odyssée des Morin* (The Morin Odyssey in English). This loosely translates into the Morin Journey, in this case a genealogy and history of the Morin family in North America from the mid sixteen hundreds to today in Montreal. About half of the book, up to page 110, was about our group's ancestors and then the rest branched away (as genealogical trees do).

I was so taken with the whole book that I decided to translate it into English and received permission from the author, Jacques-Yvan Morin, to do so.

So I began. I use Microsoft Word and so I gingerly started translating using this program (some of you may be already starting to groan, but it could have worked). I started scanning images from the original so as to make my copy resemble the original as much as possible. By about the 30th page, things started to unravel. Images were doing crazy things to text. As an amateur I was having all kinds of problems formatting anything, visual or textual.

First band-aid. My sister came to my aid and suggested that I leave the images aside and just concentrate on text. She advised me to complete the translation in text only and we would integrate the images later. That's what I did. After about three years, I had managed to translate the document to my satisfaction, complete with 186 endnotes.

My sister imported the Word text into "In-design" as we went along and all seemed well. We had some difficulty inserting all of the images and captions with

the text, and that took some additional time.

So at this point I had my original Word version (with no visuals) and she had the more sophisticated "In-design" version which was slowly incorporating the images and captions. At that point it was suggested that I have an editor go over the English version. When one translates from French to English, it takes some editing afterwards to make the text more flowing and less clumsy in the new language.

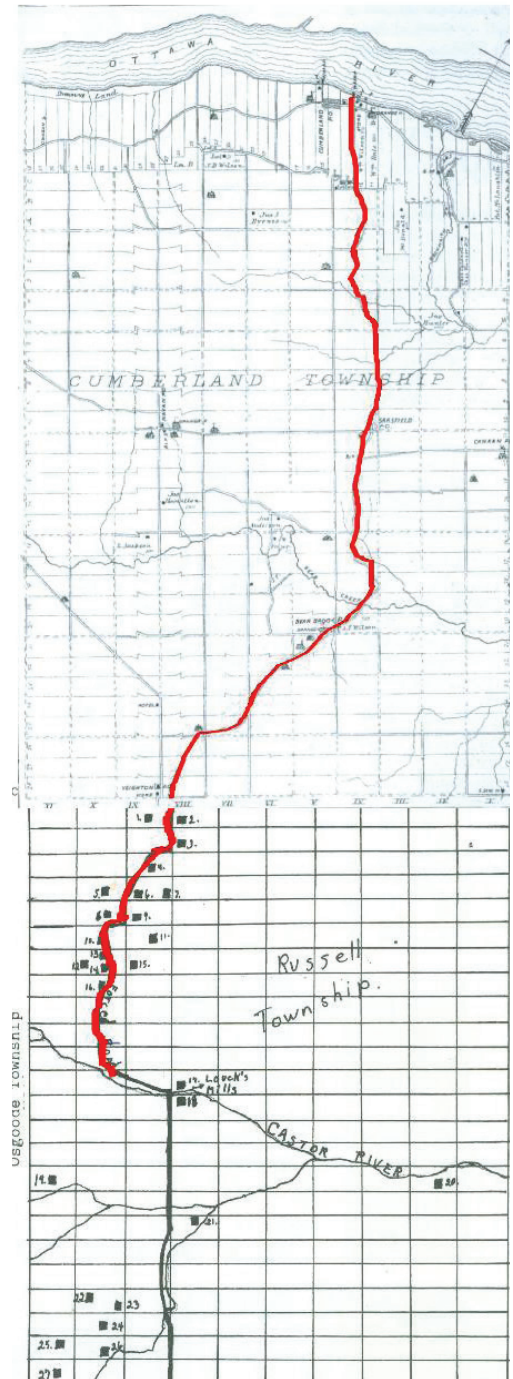
For example, the French language often uses long complex sentences to explain, whereas English uses a group of shorter sentences to say the same thing. French words may have a variety of English equivalents, and some don't have any at all. An editor fixes most of that.

In order to speed things up, I provided the editor with the Word document with no visuals and no specific instructions as to what could or could not be changed (more groans, right?). I did not anticipate that an editor could change the order of parts of a book or the order of certain chapters so as to clarify the meaning. So what I ended up with was a much better English edition of my original translation that no longer matched the document that my sister was integrating with all of the visuals. Furthermore, although all the references showed up in the text and in the endnote section, they were no longer linked to each other as in my original Word document.

So a word to the wise. Print text-only documents at first and leave images aside. Don't have anything edited until your final draft, complete with images, is ready for a final edit. Work closely with your editor to know what he or she is anticipating changing as the changes are being considered. OR do not use end notes for the whole book, but endnotes by chapter, which are much easier to change if such is required.

Some of our readers may have other suggestions

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to make, or may even have an ideal set of steps to follow when one decides to put their histories into print.

Submitted by Gérard Boyer

## Contact

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 [gboyer@hotmail.com](mailto:gboyer@hotmail.com)

Jean-François Beaulieu, Past President (841-0424) [jeanfb@sympatico.ca](mailto:jeanfb@sympatico.ca)

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