

THE CABOOSE

Newsletter of the Cumberland Township Historical Society (CTHS)



ISSN 1203-147X

Volume XXV Number 1

Summer 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



President's message

Although I was not able to attend, all reports indicate that our booth at the Navan Fair was a tremendous success. Our key focus was Remembering Vimy Ridge in view of Canada's 150th anniversary. We wish to thank Morley Verdier who loaned us much of his personal WWI collection, and Ivan Tanner and Frank Boyer for coordinating with him. A special thanks goes to Raymond Villeneuve for donating

a box of aerial photographs of Cumberland Township farms from the 50's; Gilles Chartrand displayed some of those at the Fair and generated concentrated interest from a number of local families. We will follow up on that display at our November meeting and bring the rest of the photos then. I think that the photos with accompanying family stories might make for an interesting book in the near

future. We are in the process of revamping our Website and we encourage readers to test it out and offer us constructive criticism as to how we can improve. The key improvement is the addition of an interactive forum. Finally we wish to thank Donna MacEachern for her lovely letter of encouragement with regards to the Caboose.

Gérard Boyer

Upcoming presentation

Gilles Chartrand will have on display the hundred or so aerial photographs taken by Raymond Villeneuve's father in the 1950's. He will begin the evening by sharing the photos of those farms that were identified at the Navan Fair. He will then invite those in attendance to attempt an identification of the rest of the photos. At the end of the meeting, we will invite suggestions as to what to do with the information obtained. Do we publish another book or do we create a Web display with all of the photos and corresponding

information? Please seek out any individuals that have a good visual memory of Cumberland Township in the 50's and invite them to attend.

Website revamped

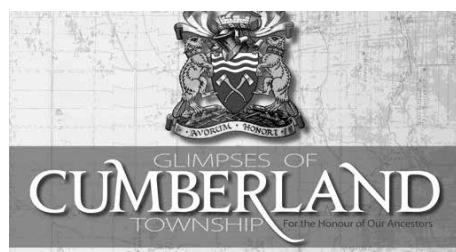
We invite our members to check out our revamped website. Individuals can now ask questions on the website such that any members or interested individuals can become involved in the answers. We are also providing better access to francophones.

Site Web amélioré

Nous avons amélioré certains aspects de notre site Web, surtout dans deux domaines: nous aurons bientôt tout traduit en français ce qui n'était qu'en anglais auparavant et nous offrons une façon plus efficace de poser des questions relevant de l'histoire du canton ou de la généalogie ou de l'histoire de certaines familles. Nous vous remercions de votre patience si tout n'est pas encore disponible en français.

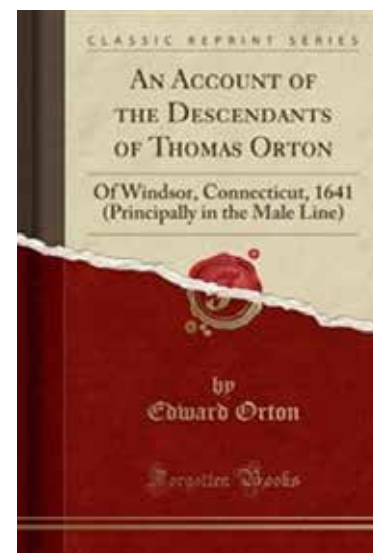
Glimpses of Cumberland Township

For the Honour Of Our Ancestors



\$30.00

Available at the Black Walnut Bakery and Café in Cumberland, Bradley's Store in Navan, Péladeau's store in Vars and the Rockland Museum.



Recently acquired by the Cumberland Township Historical Society

Alexander Findlay petition of 1846: part of Lot D, Concession 8 (New Survey)

Usually when we search the Upper Canada Land Petitions, we are looking for requests for land and for land grants. However, I encountered this interesting exchange between Alexander Findlay and Hugh Fullerton with Archibald Petrie intervening at some point. I decided to reprint the documents as closely as possible to the originals and must give our readers some background information as to the individuals involved.

The first page presented in three columns is a request from Denis Benjamin Papineau, the Commissioner of Crown Lands

from 1844 to December 1847 for the United Province of Canada, to Henry Wellesley McCann, the Crown Land agent for the United Counties of Prescott and Russell. Papineau's residence was in Montebello and McCann's in Hawkesbury.

Old land documents were often written on a form that always folded in a particular way. In this case, Denis Benjamin Papineau took the rectangular blank form (long side vertical), folded it in three columns horizontally, turned the paper so that it now looked somewhat like a tourist folder and wrote his instructions using each narrow

panel as a page. The original copy in his handwriting does not reproduce well in a publication, so I have transcribed his instructions as closely to the original as possible.

Papineau had received a request for a grant of land from Alexander Findlay, who was settled on Lot E, Concessions 7 & 8 (New Survey) since 1838. Hugh Fullerton was in the process of establishing himself in Cumberland Township and was opposed to Alexander Findlay's request. Papineau gave instructions to H.W. McCann to look into the matter.

The second page that we have included is H.W. McCann's

response to D.B. Papineau. The document is as it was written in McCann's very clear handwriting. We will continue publishing the rest of the story in upcoming Caboose. Stay tuned.

For those who wish to read ahead, go to Library and Archives website and search for the pages that follow the ones that we have sourced in this Caboose.

Source: Upper Canada Land Petitions (1763-1865), Mikan #205131, Microform c-1736, Pages 395, 396 and 397, Library and Archives Canada for the first page in three columns and page 398 as it looks on the Website.

H.W. McCann
10 th Nov 46

A petition has been attached to ? from Alex Findlay & other inhabitants of the Township of Cumberland for a grant of 10 acres on the NW angle of the East part of Lot D in 8th Con of that Town [for building a church for the use of the members of the C E] ship, as well as a counter petition from Hugh Fullerton resisting the form application on the grounds

that he is settled on the land lot (since 1843) made a considerable clearance thereon and built a house and made other improvements and is about to purchase the same of you. You will call upon Mr Fullerton to substantiate the statement made by him, as well as ascertain upon which part of the lot his improvements are situated. You will also perhaps be able to ascertain whether there are a sufficient number of members of the Church of

England to justify a grant in the neighbourhood of the lot to justify such a grant.

236 d

Van Mookhill 27th April 1847

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 10th of November 1846 I beg to inform you that I scathel upon Mr Fiddler and he statet to me that he was not prepared to purchase the land at present

I beg also to inform you that I have made the strictest enquiries respecting A Fendall's Deed and find that there is not a sufficient number of members of the Church of England in the neighbourhood of the Lot to justify such a grant

I have the honor to be
your most obt servt
H W Macfarlane

The Hon^{ble}
D B Papineau
Compt of Crown Lands
Montreal

2017 Vimy Ridge display at the Navan Fair



March 13/17

I have wanted to say many times, of how much I'm enjoying "The Caboose". Although Don & I left Cumberland in 1957 to go West to St. Joseph NT. My heart still has a piece of Cumberland locked inside. Don & I were only 24, and now I'm 83, Don passed in 2003, but I am of course after all these years "a Northerner". Growing up in Cumberland was great and I have so many memories of that time. I do hope the Caboose stays in print, because I enjoy your family history on many families. Being of a curious nature for most of my life, is the inspiration that keeps me this way. Thank you once more for keeping history alive!

Regards
Don Macfarlane

John Rogers and Mercy Blasdell, residents of Bearbrook, 1862(?) to mid-1880's

We were contacted by a descendant to find out more about the above couple. Here is what we found.

John Rogers' father was also named John Rogers. John Rogers Sr was born in Newlyn, Cornwall, England in 1794 (Parish St Keverne, Cornwall). On December 10, 1813, he joined the Royal Sappers and Miners serving until December 31, 1833. He had worked on the Rideau canal, was discharged in Québec and received a 100 acre parcel of land, later sold by his wife¹. A second source verifies his membership in the Miners and Sappers². This latter source indicates that he was appointed lock master at Long Island and that he died in May 1856. Another source indicates that he was appointed postmaster at Long Island on 6 February 1853, and served until 11 May 1856³.

The 1851 census records the John Rogers family in Gloucester Township indicating that John Rogers Sr was the lockmaster. Interestingly enough, his son John

Rogers Jr is recorded twice in that same census. He is listed with his family in Gloucester, and then again he is listed in Bytown as a school boy boarding with the family of J.F. Playter, an accountant (see census page attached). He was 13 years old at the time. It is not unusual to find individuals listed twice in older census data.

The 1861 census records indicate that John Rogers Sr is no longer living and that his widow Mary is supporting her three children in Carleton County. Maybe they were all still living at Long Island. John Rogers Jr is listed as a bookkeeper and his brother Francis as a confectioner.

The 1871 census records list John Rogers as a store clerk in Cumberland Township⁴. By then he had married Mercy Hodge Blasdell, daughter of Nathaniel Blasdell and Harriet Cobb. Two of Mercy's uncles, Julius and Marshall, were early settlers of the Bearbrook community, so she may have been familiar with the area.

This connection may have lead her husband to establish himself there. It's interesting to note that Lena Blasdell (31 years old) was also living with them.

The 1881 census records indicate that John was a merchant with five more children under his roof, bringing the total number of his children to nine.

Sometime between 1881 and 1891 the Rogers family left Bearbrook and we find John Rogers as a homestead inspector in the Moosejaw area of what was then the North West Territories. His wife and six of his children are listed in the same census.

As I was doing the research for this family, two interesting connections emerged.

The first one is that my ancestor John McNeely established himself on the Rideau River on the southern fringe of today's Manotick in the early 1850's. He probably knew John Rogers Sr.

The second connection has to do with the Playter family with whom John Rogers Jr boarded in

1851. It's the same family with whom Hannah Barnard boarded. She was a daughter of Samuel Barnard who we featured in the winter 2017 edition of the Caboose.

If any of our readers have any more information with regards to this family, please let us know.

Prepared 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
gcboyer@hotmail.com

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

The Caboose is made possible in part through a grant from the City of Ottawa.



Your membership includes four issues of our Society newsletter, the Caboose. Send your membership dues of \$15.00 (cheque or money order) payable to CTHS (Cumberland Township Historical Society) to:

**Gilles Chartrand, treasurer CTHS, Clarence-Rockland Museum,
1157 Laurier St, Rockland, Ontario, K4K 1J5**

Name:

Address:

Postal Code:

Phone # :
(Include area code)

Email address:

I prefer to receive The Caboose by: Mail or Email