

THE CABOOSE

Newsletter of the Cumberland Township Historical Society (CTHS)



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President's message

Another general meeting come and gone. Thank you to the many who were able to attend and keep last year's executive in place for another extended year. We welcome the addition of Jeannie Smith and Lynda Rivington to the board of directors. Thank you to Ivan Tanner who brought some historical maps that we are preparing for the Navan fair; historical maps and surveying will be the focus of our booth at the Fair this year. Thank

you to members of the Cumberland Community Association who shared with us their storyboard project for "Cumberland Village".

In this issue of the Caboose, you'll find the follow-up article on the planned trip to Scotland by descendants of Alexander Cameron. This article deals with the circumstances around the immigration of our common ancestor John Cameron of Inverskilavulin and some details

of other related families of Scottish origin: MacRaes, a different Cameron than our common one, McWhirters and MacDonalds.

We offer a tribute to two passionate recorders of history, Joan Lancaster and Verna Cotton, who both passed away shortly after our general meeting. And we continue with our land series: Lot 8, Concession 8, New Survey.

by Gérard Boyer

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*



Thank you, Verna



I had just finished writing a tribute to Joan Lancaster's contributions to the preservation of local history when I learned of the passing of Verna Cotton. When I looked for a photo of Verna in our past historical publications, up popped the September 2006 edition of *The Caboose*. There on page 2, which we have reproduced, is a congratulatory note about Verna and just above it an entry by Joan Lancaster about Rockland's Doctor Tweedie.

As a teenager living on my grandparents' farm in Cumberland (the McNeelys) I came to know both Billy Coburn and Lyall Coburn, two of Verna's nephews. It wasn't until decades later that I came to

know Verna and her nephew Brian because of my involvement with the Cumberland Township Historical Society. Ross Bradley would ensure that Verna had transportation to our meetings in Navan and he would ensure that she got copies of our e-mails, as Verna never did take to new technologies. Verna shared her extensive and precise knowledge of history willingly and frequently and she was a very pleasant person to work with.

Thank you, Joan



Joan (Barnett) Lancaster passed away this past May. In the March 2012 *Caboose*, an article was written about her mother, Annie (Watson) Barnett, and her

passion for preserving history. Joan preserved and extended her mother's historical memories and passed them on to members of the Cumberland Township Historical Society.

As we work with the Cumberland Village Community Association to prepare storyboards telling some of Cumberland's history, hundreds of historic photos taken by Annie Barnett and stored and recorded by Joan have been made available to us for the storyboard project.

In the March 2006 *Caboose*, Joan wrote an article about a 1937 pageant held in Cumberland celebrating George VI's coronation with accompanying photographs. Not only did she write a thorough and interesting article, she was considerate of all the people who provided her with information to write her article.

May Joan's care for our local history live on and allow present and future generations to remember how life used to be in order to better understand how to appreciate life today.

OUR UPCOMING TRIP TO SCOTLAND – part II (descendants of Alexander Cameron of Inveruskavuline)

In the last Caboose I explained how our Cameron ancestor, Alexander Cameron, came to settle in Cumberland and how his children and some of his grandchildren interacted with other Cumberland settler families. In this article I will explain the Scottish part of our Cameron ancestor's story and the Scottish part of some other Scottish immigrant families whose children married into the family from other Cameron branches and from McCraes, McWhirters and Macdonalds.

In 1800, Alexander Cameron's grandfather, John Cameron, held a lease on a property named Inveruskavuline in the Scottish Highlands (see map attached). This property had been in the hands of his family for several generations. However the Highlands were undergoing a major transition in the latter part of the 18th century and John Cameron's tenure on Inveruskavuline was coming quickly to an end.

"In order to understand the bitterness of feeling engendered amongst the small tenants and cottars, it is necessary to understand the conditions upon which they held their land.

Under the patriarchal clan system, they held their land under a system of tenure called 'kindness'. Kindness implied recognized tenure by possession over a long period by the tenant or his ancestors. Lands or holdings were generally held of a tacksman or sometimes direct from a chief. These tenants were called 'kindly tenants'; their rent was negligible, but onerous services were demanded whether military, agricultural, laboring, or personal.

For generations these kindly tenants had held their land undisturbed unless they transgressed against the orders or interest of their chief, who was at the same time their protector and judge. They had no knowledge

of any other type of tenure or the necessity for legal rights.

Unknown to these people their 'kindly' rights had disappeared with the passing of the clan system after the '45, and the Government, during the thirty-eight years during which they administered the Forfeited Estates, had taken no steps whatever to replace the system of 'kindness' by any form of legal right by lease or by tenancy. In other words, clan tenure was allowed to continue after the clan system had been abolished.

...

Legal proceedings had to be taken by the landlord before any tenant could be evicted, but as the tenant had no legal rights the result of the action was a foregone conclusion; removal notices were served, and eviction carried out by the Sheriff's officers."¹

In 1802, three vessels of his countrymen carrying over four hundred Scots left the lands of Lochiel for Canada, led by a friend of his, Archibald McMillan. John Cameron's brother and a sister had already left for Canada. John Cameron's eviction was served in 1804 by the Cameron laird and he reluctantly left for Canada with his wife, some of his sons and the grandson, Alexander Cameron, who eventually found his way to Cumberland.

Inveruskavulin is the focus of our ancestral trip. But we have added some genealogical visits related to the Scottish ancestors of other members of our group.

Farquhar MacRae, from Muniell in Knoydart, Inverness, Scotland married one Hannah Bahn McDonald, either in Scotland or in Upper Canada. Both were part of a large group of immigrants who came to Canada in 1786. Much earlier than John Cameron above, they

¹ Stewart, John, *The Camerons, A History of Clan Cameron*, published by the Clan Cameron Association, printed by Jamieson & Munro Ltd., Stirling, 1974.

didn't wait to be evicted from their lands. In her very detailed research into the people of Glengarry, Marianne McLean² wrote that Farquhar MacRae was a son-in-law of Angus Ban MacDonnell, one of the three key leaders of this massive immigration. One of Farquhar's great-grandchildren, Archie MacRae, married Gert Morin, a descendant of John Cameron above. So on our trip we will visit Eileen Donan castle and drive through Knoydart. We were not able to determine where Farquhar MacRae was married, but we will drive through the neighborhood, as it were. Archie MacRae's mother was a Cameron, so we endeavored to find out whether those Camerons were related to the ones above.

Archie MacRae's Cameron ancestor was another John Cameron, this one from Rannock in Perthshire. He was born in Campferny, Scotland, in 1730 and his baptism is recorded in the parish of Dull, just east of Blair Atholl. Oral legend has it that he fought at Culloden in 1745 (he would have been 15 years old) and survived. He married Catherine Seaton in 1768 but she died giving birth to his first child, Donald. He then married Elizabeth Ferguson in 1772, in Dull, and their marriage entry indicates that he came from Blair Atholl parish. This John Cameron left in 1773 for the state of New York as part of a large-scale emigration led by MacDonnells. Once settled in New York state, they became caught up in the American Revolution and, as Royalists, they ended up on the losing side. Forced to immigrate again, this time to British North America after the end of the Revolution in 1783, John Cameron was part of the first Loyalist settlement in Glengarry County, Upper Canada. He is remembered as John Cameron "The

² McLean, Marianne, *The People of Glengarry, Highlanders in Transition, 1745-1820*, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1991

Wise".

Therefore we will spend one day of our trip visiting the parish of Dull and Blair Atholl castle.

Thomas McCargo McWhirter was born in 1793 in the parish of Dailey, Ayrshire, Scotland. His great grandson John (Jack) McWhirter married Muriel Morin, formerly from Cumberland, in Ottawa, in 1940. We are not sure why Thomas McWhirter left Scotland, but he and his wife, Mary Campbell, came to Canada in 1845 and settled in Bristol, Québec. In the 1852 census of Canada East, Thomas is listed as a weaver and his son, William, as a carpenter.

So on our trip we will travel into Ayrshire and see the church in Dailey, where the McWhirters came from.

John Lachlan MacDonald (born 1806) from Skye married Janet MacLeod in Glasgow just before emigrating to Cape Breton in 1835. Janet MacLeod died in Cape Breton Feb. 19, 1872. John Lachlan MacDonald died July 1889 in Cape Breton. One of their descendants married my sister, Claire, so we will have the opportunity to drive through a part of the Isle of Skye even though we know very little about my brother-in-law's ancestry in Skye.

This concludes the description of our anticipated Scottish ancestry trip. It helps us understand the magnitude and the variety of Scottish immigration to Canada and the mixed feelings that Scottish immigrants must have experienced: they left reluctantly but found a better future in Canada for themselves and their descendants.

Cumberland Township Land Series #3



When this photo was taken in the 1950's, this was known as the Rathwell farm.

Lot 8, Concession 8, New Survey

A property search indicated that John Speers obtained the Crown patent on this lot in 1857. We haven't researched the Speers family much, so perhaps some of our readers will contribute more information after reading this article. We do know that a John Speers first settled on Lot A, Concession 7, New Survey in 1848. He shows up on assessment records on the same lot as John Walker. We assume he then moved to Lot 8, Concession 8, getting a patent for it in 1857.

In 1862 he deeded the East ½ to William Speers, who in turn deeded the South East ¼ to George Speers. Then in 1866 John Speers sold the North ½ to Samuel Rathwell for 140 pounds. Both Thomas and Samuel Rathwell first appear on assessment records on Lot 10 Concession 6, New Survey, Thomas owning the East ½ in 1848 and Samuel the West ½.

Back to the Speers family again. In 1868, George Speers sold his South East ¼ to William Wilson, who eventually sold it to Samuel Rathwell in 1884.

Joan Lancaster and Verna Cotton in the September 2006 issue of the Caboose

Letter from Joan (Barnett) Lancaster

Dr. Tweedie was also practising in the time before the government made sure doctors were paid for all their services. I know I came from a family of 10. He had delivered each one of us. He also delivered our 3 children. I'm sure there were many times throughout his years of practice that he was never paid for his calls and he never pressed people for payment. It also seemed like most babies were born in the middle of the night. I know when I was at Mrs. Kennedy's for the birth of one of our children, there was one night he sat by the bed waiting on this baby to be born. He never gave you the impression that he would like to get home and finish his night's sleep as the patients would be arriving in his waiting room before long. Can you see this happening today?

During the winter months, before the roads were paved or ploughed, he used an old Model T that he had modified to run in the narrow sleigh tracks of horse drawn sleighs, to reach the homes of some of his patients. I think this had to be the forerunner of the snowmobile! Many babies were delivered and tonsils were removed in farmhouses before hospitals were the norm. This was a time when doctors made house calls. I'm sure many of you do not remember house calls.

CTHS 20th anniversary books will be available for sale soon!

Congratulations!!

Our own Verna Cotton has received a 2005 Certificate of Achievement from Ontario's Heritage Community Recognition Programme.



We need help at the Navan Fair!

The historical society executive has another exciting display ready for this year's Navan Fair. We have reproduced a number of historical maps dating from the beginning in the 1820's for display at the fair. Ivan Tanner has also approached the survey company of Annis, O'Sullivan, Vollebeck to add to our display and talk about surveying in general. Copies of the survey notes of Cumberland Township's 1820 surveyor, Duncan MacDonnell will also be available to read.

Several members of our executive will be unable to attend, largely for family reasons. We therefore ask members of our society or supportive volunteers to contact Gilles Chartrand or Ivan Tanner to indicate availability to cover our booth for periods of time.

Breaking news:

The official unveiling of Sarsfield's historical plaque will take place on Family day in Sarsfield on Saturday, September 7th, at the Sarsfield community centre. More details will be announced as we get closer to this date.

Le dévoilement officiel de la plaque historique de Sarsfield aura lieu au centre communautaire de Sarsfield samedi le 7 septembre, lors de la Célébration de la Famille de Sarsfield. Les détails suivront en avance de cette date.

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