

THE CABOOSE

Newsletter of the Cumberland Township Historical Society (CTHS)



Winter 2020

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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*

Lynda Rivington, Director

Ross Bradley, Director

Ivan Tanner, Director

Jeannie Smith, Director

Christine Boyer, 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



Cumberland Township History and Heritage, Ours to keep

President's message

It's been some time since the Navan Fair back in August, but we have several people to thank in this issue. My absence at this year's fair is explained by a photo taken on my Cameron ancestor's land in Scotland. In this issue we are able to give a complete description of the early Roman Catholic chapels in Cumberland Township up to 1866, so that some of our readers will have some idea of where their ancestors may have worshiped over that time period. I adapted a map from the 1870's to give a more accurate idea of the times (You will notice that Rockland still did not exist at that time).

Land series #4 focuses on Lot 19, Concession 1 (Old Survey). Do visit the historical plaque beside the community center in Sarsfield. And do visit our web page as we have loaded 44 family trees on to the site with another 30 ready to add. If you have families that you would like to add, contact any member of the executive and we will work with you to put them up. Our policy is to load one generation at a time so as not to confuse readers with lengthy trees. However there are some exceptions. And do contact us through our website. We have made it easier to get in touch with us and we are actually checking the

site every week. I hope to see many of you at the Bradley Cup!

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

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

Cumberland Township Land series #4

Lot 19, Concession 1 (Old Survey)

This property was eventually deeded to Joseph Dunning in 1846, but others had lived there before. We can't be sure who built the first dwelling or where it was built. However the photo that accompanies this article was submitted by Harold Moore, a descendant of James McMillan. James McMillan's father was Archie McMillan who married the widow of Daniel Cameron, Anne Quigley.

Archie McMillan's parents were Hugh (Ewen) Cameron and Isabella Cameron. Archie's grandparents were Alexander Cameron and Ann McMillan, whom we have just featured in the last few Cabooes (Have you had enough of them yet!). So Anne Quigley's second husband was a nephew of her first husband.

The house in this photo is likely the house that Alexander Cameron settled into when he first moved to Cumberland in 1866. This house then became Daniel Cameron's homestead, then Archie McMillan's homestead, then the James McMillan homestead. Eventually it was sold to the developers of the Camelot golf course. The house and barns no longer exist.

Although this house no longer exists, another house across the Old Montreal Road still stands, and I always knew it as the Hector McMillan homestead. What I didn't know was that Hector McMillan's father, Donald McMillan, had married Jessie Cameron, a daughter of Alexander Cameron mentioned above. And so Lot 19, Concession 1 (Old Survey) can rightfully be remembered as the McMillan farms.

Gérard Boyer (photo on back page)

Announcements

Saturday, March 28

Don't miss the annual Bradley Cup heritage hockey tournament in Navan, Ontario. It brings back old time community rivalries with lots of hockey, meals and liquid refreshments. All day Saturday.

Wednesday, May 6

Annual General Meeting of our Historical Society: 7 p.m. at the Navan Curling Club

Sunday, June 14

Dale's Cemetery annual memorial service, 2:30 p.m. Commemoration of a new monument to recognize William Dale and Mary Lough, who donated the land for the cemetery in 1836. Outdoor at the cemetery (if rain, inside St. Andrew's United church in Cumberland). Bring a lawn chair. Several relatives from the United States will also be attending this special celebration. All welcome.

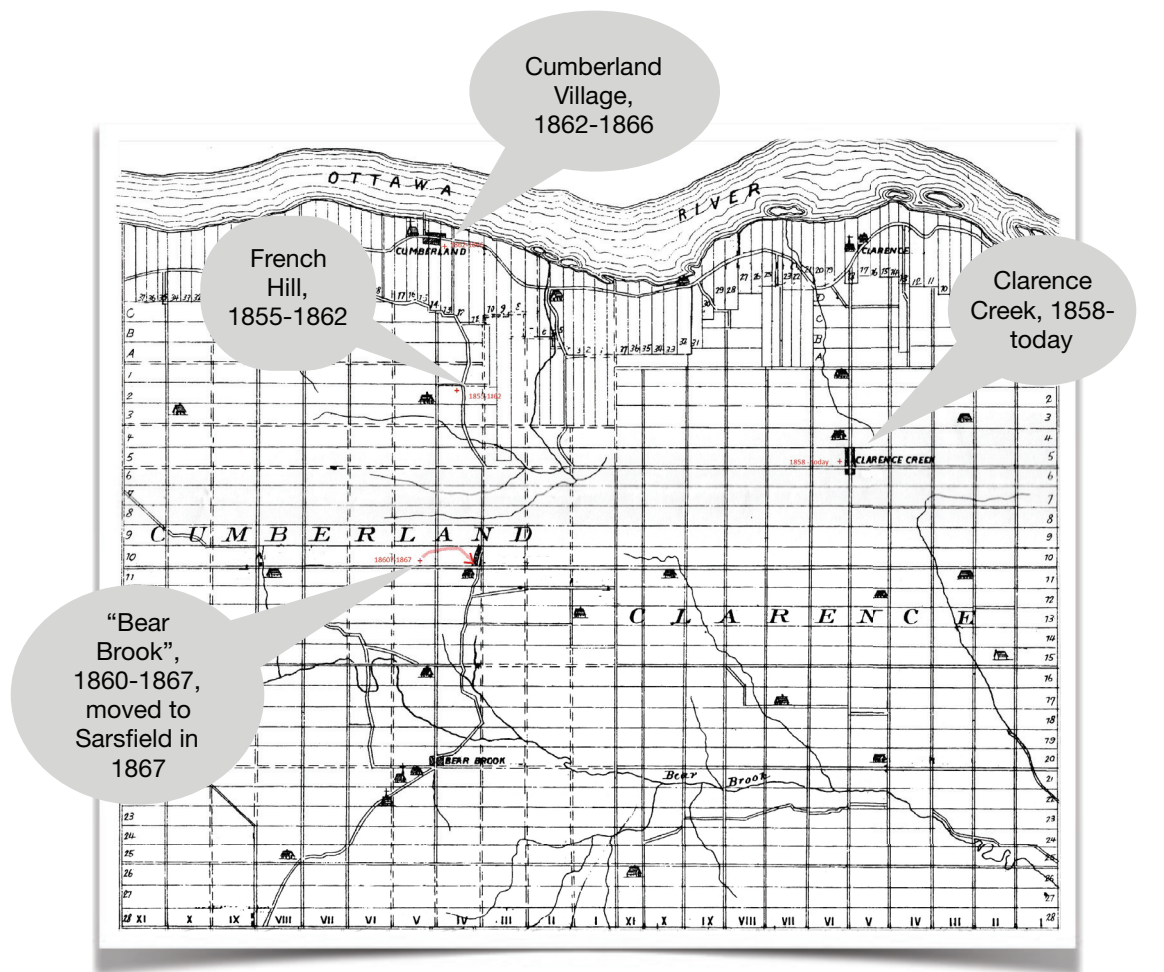
Dévoilement de la plaque historique de Sarsfield, le 7 septembre 2019.

Un grand merci à l'association communautaire du village de Sarsfield qui a abrité une quarantaine de personnes de la pluie afin de célébrer le dévoilement de la plaque historique de Sarsfield dans leur salle communautaire. Bob Dessaint a travaillé avec Gérard Boyer de la Société historique du canton de Cumberland afin de réaliser cette première plaque qui sera montée sur un piédestal à gauche de l'entrée de la salle communautaire, 3585 chemin Sarsfield. Stephen Blais, conseiller de la ville d'Ottawa, représentait alors notre plus grand bailleur de fonds, la ville d'Ottawa. Nous signalons la présence de Francis Drouin, représentant fédéral de Glengarry, Prescott et Russell, Brian Cobourn, ancien maire et conseiller du canton de Cumberland, aussi ancien député provincial, et enfin l'Honorable Donald Boudrias, ancien représentant fédéral. Nous tenons à remercier le curé de la paroisse St-Hughes, l'abbé Daniel Berniquez, pour la bénédiction qu'il a faite de cette plaque, en reconnaissance du rôle important qu'a joué l'Église catholique dans l'établissement de la communauté de Sarsfield et dans son histoire, un rôle qui continue aujourd'hui.

C'est aussi la première fois que nous avons été accueilli par les Algonquins de Pikwakanagan sur leur territoire ancestrale non-concédée. C'est Wendy Jocko qui est venue de Golden Lake, Ontario, pour nous accueillir.

By Gérard Boyer

Early Roman Catholic Chapels in Cumberland Township



Roman Catholic Places of Worship in Cumberland Township up to 1866

When we wrote the manuscript for the Early History of Cumberland Township up to 1840 and when we later prepared the Sarsfield historical plaque, we were able to establish a more detailed history of where Cumberland Township Roman Catholics worshiped at different periods.

Cumberland Township was first settled along the Ottawa River shoreline. Then settlement jumped over the swampy meadows along the Old Forced Road to Bearbrook. Some settlers established themselves on the high ground around what was eventually named French Hill.

Many early settlements in Eastern Ontario were homogeneous: the settlers often spoke the same language and shared a common faith. This was true of Bearbrook, where everyone spoke English and were members of the Church of England. Settlers along the Ottawa River were not as homogeneous. The majority spoke English and, although initially from a variety of faiths, most either were or became members of the Presbyterian church. Some of the English-speaking settlers however were devout Roman Catholics. And then a minority of settlers were French-speaking and almost unanimously Roman Catholic. Amable Foubert, a key resident of what became Cumberland Village, hosted visiting Roman Catholic missionaries at his house along the river in Cumberland. A small nucleus of French-Canadians at the west end of Cumberland Township gravitated to François Dupuis' house in Orléans for missionary services. And because of the large minority of French-Canadians settling around French Hill, that's

where a first chapel was built to serve the first Roman Catholic parish of Cumberland, St-Antoine de Padoue.

The parish was established in 1855. Cumberland's first parish priest, Father Michel, had a rectory built along what is now Old Montreal Road, on land donated by Amable Foubert Sr. (1782-1862). But a first chapel had been built at French Hill on land donated by Joseph Robitaille, Lot 2, Concession 4, New Survey. The reason for building it there was to accommodate the significant group of parishioners in that spot, those from the Ottawa River edge and those scattered out near Navan. However, many parishioners were not pleased with this location.

At about this time, a flood of French-Canadian families moved into the Clarence Creek area, which was served by the priest in Cumberland. So the diocesan bishop ordered the construction of three chapels: one in Cumberland on Old Montreal Road, one in Clarence Creek and one in what the bishop called Bearbrook, though it was located on Lot 10, Concession 5, New Survey (nowhere near Bearbrook, but closer to Navan where there were Roman Catholics at the time).

The first chapel to be completed was in Clarence Creek, in 1858. The one in "Bearbrook" was built somewhat after that, though we don't have much information about it. The Cumberland church was completed in 1862, at which time the chapel at French Hill was no longer used by Cumberland's parish priest. Father Onésime Boucher became the parish priest in 1861 and his name is on the 1862 Walling map of Cumberland Village. Four

years later, in 1866, the wooden-frame Cumberland church burned to the ground.

The Roman Catholic diocese decided to move the parish headquarters to Clarence Creek and to serve the Cumberland Village community from there. Ownership of the land and the rectory in Cumberland Village was returned to the Foubert family, as well as that of the cemetery. That had been agreed to in the earlier grant of land to the Catholic diocese in 1855.

After the church fire in Cumberland, a parishioner from the area that was to become Sarsfield, Sévère D'Aoust, donated some land that was more central than the former "Bearbrook" chapel. The "Bearbrook" chapel was dismantled in 1867 and moved to D'Aoust's Corners (today's Sarsfield). Sarsfield then became a mission of St-Joseph d'Orléans. Eventually this mission became St. Hughes parish in 1886.

St. Hughes became the place of worship for most Roman Catholics in Cumberland Township, except for those closer to Orléans on the west and Rockland on the east. It

wasn't until 1951 that a Roman Catholic church was once again built in Cumberland Village: St. Margaret Mary which has now been renamed St-Faustina.

We look forward to the publishing of The Early History of Cumberland Township which includes the family trees of every settler, permanent or transient, up to 1840. When our readers examine the sources for the family trees, one will understand the complexity of tracking down the facts surrounding our early settlement.

The Roman Catholic priest's house in Cumberland was converted into the Cumberland Hotel. Today, the land is vacant where the church had once been. As one drives along the Old Montreal Road past Dunning Road in an easterly direction (Dunning Road did not join Old Montreal Road at that time), you'll notice a large empty lot on the right between Old Montreal Road and Market Street. That's where a Roman Catholic church stood for four years in Cumberland, Ontario.

By Gérard Boyer

Navan Fair 2019

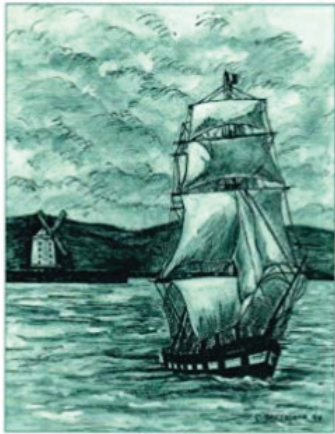
Our society celebrated another great Navan Fair in 2019, featuring "The 1800's Land Surveyors' challenges in Cumberland Township". We wish to thank Gilles Chartrand, Tom McNeely, Ivan Tanner, Ross Bradley, Dorothy-Jane Smith, Lynda Rivington, Doug Hayes, Verna Kinsella and Jeannie Smith for staffing our booth during the fair. Your president Gérard Boyer was spending time in Scotland with MacRaes, McWhirters, Macdonalds and Camerons discovering our ancestors. We also wish to thank Annis, O'Sullivan, Vollerbekk, Land Surveyors for their loan of display equipment and expertise. We are looking for a good theme for this year: please get in touch with members of the executive and give us some input. Here is a recap of what we have featured: "The one-room schoolhouse" in 2014, "Trains and Railway History" in 2015, "Hockey" in 2016, "WW I and Vimy Ridge" in 2017, "The W.C. Edwards Sawmill of Rockland" in 2018. Looking forward to seeing you in 2020.

Cameron descendants' August trip to Inverskilavulin, Scotland



*Back left to right: Douglas Cuffley, Andy Kenney, Belinda Bernard, Robert MacDonald, and Alexander MacDonald
Front, left to right: Claire MacDonald, Micheline Cuffley, Allison Schmalz, Brenda Kenney, Erin Woolley, Gérard Boyer, Margaret Foot, Cameron McWhirter, Pat Whittemore, Iain McWhirter, Charlotte MacRae-Arnott, John Crook. Lynn Crook, and our guide Mic Tieghe.*

BE AT THE WINDMILL



A NOVEL BY
Mary Tanguay

Be at the Windmill, written by Mary Tanguay, is a truly fascinating look at Irish immigrants in the early 1800's (the era of the much-anticipated Early History of Cumberland Township book). She has woven an excellent and very credible story around true facts and real characters, including Peter Robinson, Philemon Wright, Nicholas Sparks, Walter Beckwith and Peter Aylen, from the conditions

in the old country to the voyage over, travelling cross country and settlement in both pre and post Bytown times.

My grandmother's grandfather, John R. Stanley, operated the original Carleton Hotel (tavern), which was located where the Bank of Canada building now stands on Wellington St., just kitty-corners to Barrack's Hill. The Nepean township council was meeting in his tavern to elect new members when Peter Aylen (and company) "crashed" the meeting (literally) and thus began one of the more famous Bytown riots. The magistrates held an inquiry and the record was presented to the Legislative Assembly.

After reading this book, I went back and re-read the magistrate's report. It is mostly eye-witness testimony with their recommendations (largely pleading for police). It was most interesting that most of the witnesses' statements were quite similar until you come to my gr, gr grandfather: "Yes; Mr. Aylen was there but he



McMillan Farm, Lot 19, Con 1 (O.S.)

was a calming influence." (???) When you fear for your family, your own life, your business and your building it's probably not wise to anger the meanest, most dangerous man in town when there are no police. Actually there were a few constables but they had already been beaten up.

If you're interested in reading the book, the Ottawa Public Library has one copy somewhere in their system. And our president, Gérard Boyer has ordered a copy from

Amazon and will donate it to the Historical Society library in the Cumberland Branch of the Ottawa Public Library.

If anyone is interested in reading the report of the Magistrates, it begins on page 525 and the entire report is available online at Appendix to Journal of the House of Assembly of... - Canadiana Online.

By Ivan Tanner