

THE CABOOSE

Newsletter of the Cumberland Township Historical Society (CTHS)



Fall 2020

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Volume XXVIII, Number 3

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

We are really excited about the publication of The Early History of Cumberland Township. We hope that our readers find it as interesting to read as we did to research and write it.

We have never included a behind-the-scenes look at our Society's administrative side in a Caboose issue. So you will find in this issue the minutes of our

latest Annual General Meeting, your president's annual report for 2019-2020. Our feature article this time around is about the Rathwells of Navan. We wish to particularly thank Don and Joan Rathwell for editing this first of a two-part series. Finally we wish to thank Gérald Charron from Masson, Québec, who sent us a transcription of a land

sale involving ancestors of the Summers family, so we decided to publish it with a review of the Summers' history and a related obituary of Catherine Gollinger (nee Summers).

I wish to take this opportunity for wishing you all a happy and safe Christmas.

Gérard Boyer

Marilyn Seguin

After a courageous battle with cancer, Marilyn Raymonde Seguin (nee Traversy) passed away on April 15, 2020 in Orleans, Ontario at the age of 73. She leaves behind her daughter, Chantal (Eli Silverman), her son, Scott (Denise McGrath) and her seven grandchildren, Joseph, Avril, Emma, Denis, Josh, Dawson and Amber.

Marilyn was born on March 1st, 1947 in Eastview, Ontario, to father Valmor Traversy and mother Margaret Seguin, who have predeceased her. She grew up in a loving family with her sister and best friend Ann (Frank Harris) and brother Richard (Colette Proulx-deceased). She is survived by her brother and sister, nieces and nephews Donna Traversy, Danny Traversy (Sue Sauve), Shawn Traversy (Angela Budd), and Tracy Harris (Dan Meagher), special cousin Fleurette Robillard as well as many other cousins, great nieces and nephews. Marilyn will be fondly remembered by her former spouse Emory and sister in laws Debbie (Greg) and Dawn as well as her extended family and friends.

After attending Immaculata High School in Ottawa, Marilyn went on to have a very successful career in the Federal public service. Upon retiring in 2007, she followed her passion for historical research through the Cumberland historical society, while also researching her own family history.

Marilyn was immensely proud of her family, and leaves nothing but beautiful memories. Her kindness, compassion, and love will continue to shine through her children. The family would like to express their thanks to all who brought great comfort to Marilyn these last few months. A celebration of life will follow at a later date.

To plant a tree in memory of Marilyn Seguin, please visit Tribute Store.

The Cumberland Township Historical Society thanks The Heritage Funeral Home and the Seguin family for allowing us to reproduce this obituary. A copy of The Early History of Cumberland Township, acknowledging her contribution to the writing of this book, has been sent to her son Scott Seguin.

Revisiting the Summers family

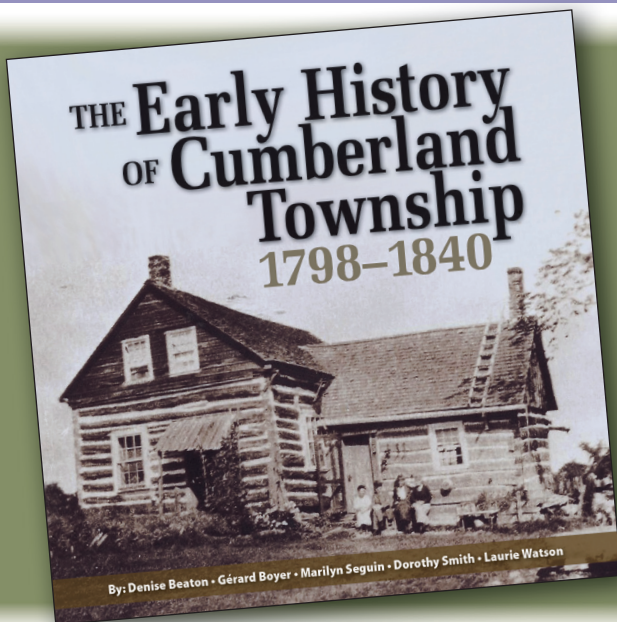
In the May 2013 issue of The Caboose, we featured the Summers family. We wish to thank Gérald Charron from Masson, Québec, for recently sending us a transcription of an 1887 land transaction by Allan Gollinger, the husband of Catherine Summers. It would seem that Allan had bought the farm when he was single in 1872. He married Catherine in 1877 and then left Buckingham Township for either Clarence Township or Cumberland Township on the other side of the river.

Submitted by Gérard Boyer

GOLLINGER—At a local hospital, on Monday, January 11, 1937, Catherine Summers, aged 63 years; widow of Allen Gollinger. Funeral from her residence, 213 Kent street, on Wednesday, the 13th inst., for requiem high mass at St. Patrick's Church at 9 o'clock. Interment at Rockland R. C. cemetery.

HESSON—At the residence of her sister, Mrs. Robert A. Miller, 652 Somerset street west, on Saturday, January 9, 1937, Isabelle G. Hesson.

Obituary for Catherine Gollinger (née Summers) in the Ottawa Journal.



THE Early History OF Cumberland Township 1798-1840

Cumberland Township, Russell County, Ontario is a place east of Ottawa where a variety of individuals came at the beginning of the 19th century to find opportunity or to settle and farm. There were no known pre-existing settlements, no large-scale intent nor a uniquely enticing attraction.

Although granted in large part on paper to United Empire Loyalists or to militia men having served in the War of 1812, none of whom ever came, it was settled by American entrepreneurs and French-Canadian, Scottish and Irish farmers seeking better opportunities in a new environment. And what a varied lot they were!

Walter Beckworth was a rough-edged capitalist who established a sawmill and then moved on, leaving his misspelled name on a creek: Beckett's Creek. Amable Foubert, a French-Canadian Roman Catholic whose extended family trapped, farmed and cut logs all over the Ottawa Valley, married Matilda Dunning, an American Protestant who converted to Catholicism in the midst of a predominantly Presbyterian, anti-papist community, interspersed with Irish and French Roman Catholics. Archibald Petrie, largely forgotten, represented English established gentry, a rare breed in the Ottawa Valley. However, his name lives on in Petrie Island. A group of Irish Anglicans cleared a road into the rear of the Township and established Bearbrook, a farming community that has stood the test of time.

This is a painstakingly detailed account of Cumberland Township's early beginnings up to 1840. It includes the family trees of every individual who left some kind of historical footprint in the township. We hope that it provides the basis for the local histories of each of the small communities that came to be: Cumberland Village, Bearbrook, Navan, Leonard, Sarsfield, Vars and St-Joseph d'Orléans.



**The Early History of
Cumberland Township
[1798-1840]**

287 pages including
72 family trees.

Published by
Burnstown Publishing House,
and retails for \$30.

(*taxes+shipping additional)

Purchase online:

- www.burnstownpublishing.com
- historicalcumberland@gmail.com

Available at the following locations:

- The Black Walnut Bakery, 979 Cameron St., Cumberland, ON
- Da Artisti Studio & Gallery, 2565 Old Montcal Rd, Cumberland, ON
- J.T. Bradley's, 1220 Colonial Rd., Navan, ON
- Le musée Clarence-Rockland Museum, 687 rue Laurier, Rockland, ON

Vente de Allan Gollinger à William Taylor

*Contrat #4547 enregistré le 2 avril 1887 et le 10 août 1901
Lot 6A et 6D, Rang 1 (ou partie Ouest du Lot 6) de 56 acres
Le 31 mars 1887*

*Devant le notaire Alphonse
Guy de Buckingham (Minute
#1545)*

Came and appeared Mr. ALLAN GOLLINGER of the Township of Buckingham in the County of Ottawa, farmer. Who did and does hereby bargain, sell, assign, transfer and make over with warranty against all gifts, dowers, mortgages, substitutions, alienations and other hindrances whatsoever, to WILLIAM TAYLOR of the aforesaid Township of Buckingham, school-teacher hereunto present and accepting purchaser for himself, his heirs and assigns forever, to wit:

All that part of the WEST HALF of LOT NUMBER 6 in the First Range of lots of said Township of Buckingham and more particularly known and distinguished on the official Plans and Book of Reference for the said Township of Buckingham as being the North parts of Lots number 6A and 6D of the aforesaid first range, containing about 56 acres in superficies, more or less, bounded to the North by the line dividing the first and second concession, to the South by a Stony Point Creek or the properties of James McPike and James Beaton, to the East by Lots numbers 6B and 6C, and to the West by Lot No. 7, in said first range, with all the buildings thereon erected and with all and every the members and appurtenances thereunto

belonging of which the said purchaser content and satisfied.

Belonging, the said hereinabove described and sold property to the said vendor for having acquired the same from THÉOPHILE MORISSETTE, by and under a certain deed of sale executed before L.O. Blondin, Notary Public on the 1st day of May 1872, duly registered in the Registry Office of the County of Ottawa on the 4 May 1872.

The present sale is thus made in consideration of the price and sum of \$1100, in deduction thereof the vendor hereby acknowledges to have received from the purchaser, the sum of \$900 whereof of so much discharge. As to the balance the purchaser does hereby oblige himself to pay the same or cause the same to be paid to the vendor or legal representatives in and by four annual and consecutive payments of \$50 each, each payment exigible on the first of April, commencing on the 1st April 1888 and thence annually till paid, without interests during delay and with interest at the rate of 7% per annum after delay. And for security of the payment of the balance remaining due on the consideration money of the present sale the track of land hereby sold will remain mortgaged and hypothecated in favour of the vendor by privilege of Bailleur de Fonds.

Also came and appeared to these presents, Dame Catherine Summers, wife of the vendor duly authorized by her said husband to the effect of these presents who has declared to

have renounced and does hereby renounce as well as for hereby than for and in the same of her children born or to be born from her marriage with the said vendor....

Done and passed in the said Village of Buckingham on the day, month and year above written under number 1545 of the original deeds kept of record by Mtre Alphonse Guy,

the undersigned Notary. And after due reading hereof, the said vendor and his wife have declared themselves unable to sign their name but have made their marks with a cross and the purchaser and the notary have signed. (Signed: William Taylor and A. Guy, NP.

*Transcription par Gérald
Charron le 9 septembre 2020*

CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Annual General Meeting September 2, 2020

The annual general meeting of the Cumberland Township Historical Society was held in the Navan Fair Agricultural Building from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. A total of 23 people were in attendance, including members of the executive.

Gérard Boyer gave his president's report covering the period from May 2019 to tonight's meeting. It is included as a separate attachment.

Ivan Tanner was then called upon to accept nominations from the floor for the positions of President, Vice-president and Treasurer. No candidates came forward. As the terms of the current executive members have expired for a few years now, a vote was called to suspend our constitutional rules about executive terms until May 2021. The vote was carried unanimously, allowing Gérard Boyer to remain as president, Tom McNeely as vice-president and Gilles Chartrand as treasurer.

Our guest speaker, Ivan Tanner, then delivered his presentation on the largely forgotten or ignored history of the murder of Constable John Morrison in the 1880's. Ivan's presentation gave us an eye-opening account of the justice system at that time and a detailed account of events leading up to the shooting of the constable. Ivan is hoping to publish a book about the event.

Gérard Boyer then retook the floor and apologized for overlooking our financial report. Gilles Chartrand gave a short summary of the following:

Opening balance on May 6th 2019	15,431.42
Total income from then to Sept 2, 2020	+ 8,775.00
Total expenses to Sept 2, 2020	- 8,364.82
Balance as of September 2, 2020	15,841.16

We acknowledge the City of Ottawa's grant for \$5,000.00, membership renewals, book sales and donations.

As for expenses, we list the Navan Fair, the Sarsfield plaque, Web page expenses, Caboose publications, Pre-publication costs of The Early History of Cumberland Township and liability insurance.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

A detailed view of a historical map of the United States, showing the letters U, M, V, B, E, R, L arranged in a row. The map includes state boundaries, major cities, and geographical features like rivers and mountains. The letters are placed over various regions: U over the Northeast, M over the Midwest, V over the South, B over the West, E over the Pacific Northwest, and L over the Southwest. The map is aged and shows signs of wear.



Before settling in Cumberland Township, he lived for a time with his cousin, or uncle, Benjamin Rothwell (The spelling of Rothwell or Rathwell was inconsistent at that time) who was settled on Lot 19, Concession 1, Ottawa Front, Gloucester Township. Today's Rothwell Heights maintains his name. This area was also called The Quarries, because of the quarries that were exploited here. We believe that Samuel Rathwell worked here for a time. This is where he met and married Mary Ann Carson, daughter of John

The original patent to the land had been registered to Alexander McDonnell in 1827 as a militia grant. Samuel Rathwell purchased the lot from Isabella McDonnell (sister or wife of Alexander?) in

All children from the 1861

(We will continue with Samuel and Mary Anne Rathwell's later years and the next generation in the next issue of The Caboose.)

The L'Orignal and Bytown Road

Part I

Land transportation has often been a problem for residents of Cumberland Township, now the Cumberland Ward of the City of Ottawa. Today's major issue is the amount of traffic going in and coming out of Ottawa on what is now Highway 174. Back in Cumberland Township's early days, the problem was that there was no land transportation at all. Over the next few issues of *The Caboose* we will tell the story of the establishment of east-west travel through Cumberland Township. And that story is part of the story of the L'Orignal and Bytown Road.

Almost every family that settled in Cumberland Township before 1840 came via the Ottawa River. We only know of two families that arrived via the Navan Road at about that time: the McKinnons and the McDiarmids. In the 1830's Bearbrook settlers had carved out the Old Forced Road from the Ottawa River to Bearbrook. We are also aware that mail came from Buckingham across the river in the early days. We know the Dunnings had a dock on the Buckingham side of the river and we believe that they had a landing on the Cumberland Township side.

Before telling the story, however, it would be best to

familiarize our readers with the place names and their significance at that time and the route that one could travel today in order to actually follow the original road way of the original L'Orignal and Bytown Road, which was finally completed by the mid-1850's.

L'Orignal was the first administrative centre of The Ottawa District, comprising the current counties of Prescott and Russell and the City of Ottawa. Its history is older than Bytown's. Bytown became Ottawa in 1855. For the longest time, there was no road link between the two places. The largest settlement between L'Orignal and Bytown was Plantagenet, which was also the safest way of bridging the South Nation River, which was and sometimes still is, notorious for its spring flooding. At that time, Plantagenet was also named Hatville. Fox's Creek was the name of a significant creek just east of today's Rockland, Ontario.

Because the oldest settlements between L'Orignal and Bytown lay along the Ottawa River, parts of an east-west route were established between some of those settlements. But the route was tortuous and required much bridging across deep

gullies. There were some that advocated for a more direct link across the middle of the counties from L'Orignal to Bytown. This delayed the completion of the Ottawa-Bytown road for close to a decade.

Before we introduce the historical information with respect to this debate, we will lay out the route that eventually prevailed so that our readers can better understand its past.

The Ottawa-front route so hotly debated in the 1840's can be travelled as follows.

Begin at Cummings Bridge linking Rideau St. to Montreal Rd. and continue east to the end of Montreal Rd.

As one approaches Orléans the road becomes St-Joseph's Boulevard, commemorating the later development of the parish and village of St-Joseph d'Orléans.

Continuing east the boulevard becomes Old Montreal Rd. One can notice some of the old roadbed to the right between Old Tenth Line and Trim Rd as it worked its way around a creek bed.

Old Montreal Rd. continues through Cumberland Village and eventually one must turn on to Highway 174 heading east. The old roadbed parallels Highway 174 for most of this stretch (now named McTeer Rd.).

As one comes close to Rockland, turn right on Laporte St., then left on Laurier St. and continue through the centre of the Village of Rockland (Rockland did not exist when the original road went through). Before Laurier St. links up again with Highway 174, turn right on Montée Outaouais (named for the Outaouais Golf Course) which turns into Tucker Road. Turn left on Landry St. and cross over Highway 174 following Route 55 (also named Old Highway 17). Continue travelling east. The road is named Main St. as you travel through Wendover. Continue east and cross over Highway 174 again, proceeding to Plantagenet. Most of the historical discussion that we will be presenting concerns the stretch of road just described. From Plantagenet, you could proceed north towards the Ottawa River to Treadwell, and then head east to L'Orignal.

In the next issue, we will transcribe two reports, one by the Deputy Post Master General in 1844 and another by James West dated August 22, 1845. He walked the whole route in order to prepare a report on the route's completion.

Russell Rural Telephone Co., Ltd.

HEAD OFFICE, NAVAN, ONT.

Commenced Operations in 1911.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1921.

ASSETS

Cash in—		
Provincial Bank, Rockland	\$ 101.90	
Provincial Bank, Clarence Creek	28.43	
Royal Bank, Vars	792.32	
	<hr/>	\$ 922.65
Accounts Receivable—		
Tolls and Stock Calls, charged on ledger, unpaid	\$ 4,015.51	
Tolls from Nov. 8th to Dec. 31st, not charged on ledger	190.75	
	<hr/>	4,206.26
Stock and equipment on hand, per inventory	\$ 388.00	
Office furniture, safe, etc.....	575.00	
	<hr/>	963.60
Telephone lines in operation		15,326.07
		<hr/>
		\$21,418.58

Shareholders who have phones, 250.

LIABILITIES.

Accounts Payable Outstanding	\$ 919.46	
Note owing to Royal Bank	3,000.00	
Note owing to Mr. J. T. Bradley, \$3,000.00; with interest accrued, \$675.13	3,675.13	
	<hr/>	\$ 7,594.59
Surplus Assets over Liabilities		13,823.99
		<hr/>
		\$21,418.58

The above statements have been prepared by me from the books and vouchers of the Company, and agree with the documents presented to me for audit. A full report is being handed to the Directors for presentation at the annual meeting.

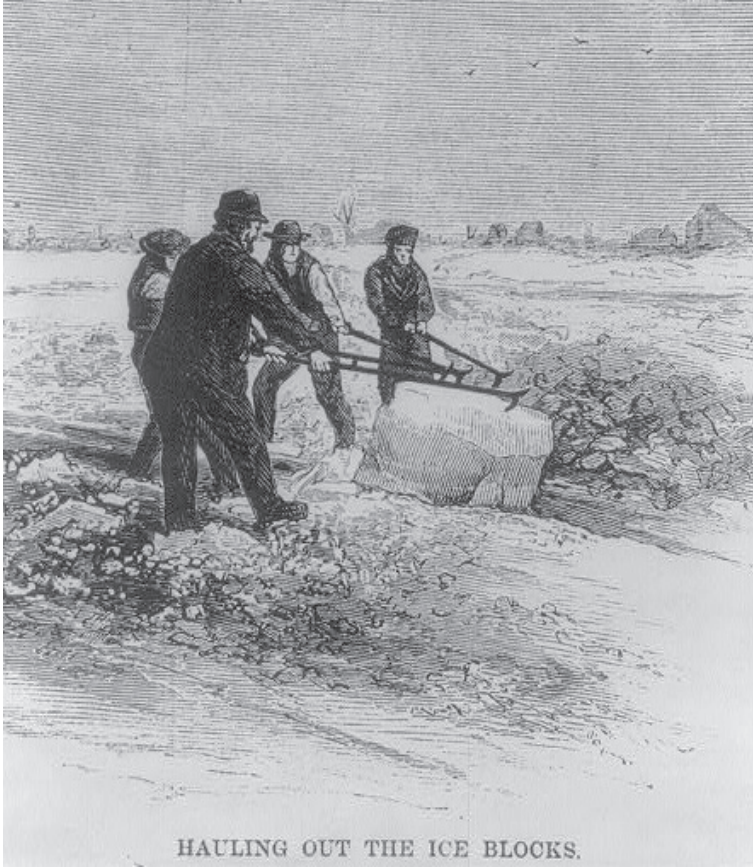
H. S. BATES, C.A.

Ottawa, January 16th, 1922.

J. C. BRADLEY,
Secretary.

MARSHALL RATHWELL,
Managing Director.

Hauling Ice



HAULING OUT THE ICE BLOCKS.



By Gladys Lillian (Tootie) Eggert (Scharfe)

This was a time before electrical power was available in our area. Electric service arrived in 1949.

Every winter, we drew ice from the Ottawa River near Petrie Island. We drew ice until our ice houses were full. This could take several weeks with team and sleigh. My brother Albert and I each had our own team and sleigh. His team of horses were named Nancy and Posie. Birdie and Barney were mine.

We made one trip per day. Two loads of ice blocks. Approximately 24 blocks per load. I am trying to recall now. The blocks each 18" by 30" long in size depending on the thickness of the ice. The sleigh being 60" wide and 12' long. 8 blocks on each side = 16 blocks. 8 blocks on top in center

= 24 blocks. 1 block weighed approximately 75 lbs. or more. 24 blocks = 1,800 lbs. plus.

We filled our icehouse and our brother Arnold's icehouse. This was an extremely cold job. Icicles hanging from the horse's noses could grow 7 to 12 inches in length. The horse blankets were folded on top of a block of ice to sit on. I wore a lot of clothes with a scarf covering my face and forehead, only my eyes were visible. I wore flight boots with lots of socks.

Dad and Albert had to pull each block off the sleighs and up into the ice houses with tongs and rope. I took care of the horses. The sawdust from our sawmill was shoveled onto a sleigh and taken to the ice houses. There it had to be shoveled off on top of each layer of blocks and between the blocks. This kept the ice from melting all summer and, also, from sticking together.

When a block was used it had to be pulled out from under the sawdust and thrown out of the icehouse unto the ground. The sawdust had to be washed off with water. The block was chopped with an axe or sawed with a cross-cut saw into large pieces. The ice was put into the water tank to keep the 30-gallon cans of mild cold until they were taken to the cheese factory, Martin's cheese factory at the corner of Innes Road and 8th Line Road (Frank Kenny). Later the 8-gallon cans of milk were shipped to a dairy in Ottawa.

Also, ice was needed for the icebox in the house. Some farmers did not ship milk, they only shipped cream.

There was a lane between two farms from Old Montreal Road to the Ottawa River. Snow was shoveled onto the pavement of the Old Montreal Road. This was done so that the heavy ice-loaded sleighs could cross more easily and proceed straight up Russell's Hill, which was quite steep. This road was named Navan road North (today's Tim Road).

The sleighs had a "dog" which dragged behind. It was attached between the rear runners. On straight and level roads, the "dog" was set on a runner. This allowed the sleigh to be maneuvered in reverse directions. The "dog" dragged behind on roads with hills. If the horses were not able to hold the sleigh from sliding backwards, the "dog" would dig into the road surface to help hold the load. This allowed the horses to regain their footing and their pulling power.

We lived and farmed between the 7th and 8th concessions North, which is now Frank Kenny Road.

The words that I wrote above, depict part of my life when I was working on the farm.

The Importance of Newspapers

Rural Living in Cumberland, Ontario

Memories of Newspapers in my home on the farm by Gladys Lillian (Tootie) Egert (Scharfe).



Newspapers were useful ever since the Press Print was invented. This is a summary of some of the many ways that newsprint was used.

As I recall in the 1930's and 1940's, the newspapers that came into the log house on the farm were not only informative but also useful. The Ottawa Farm Journal and The Family Herald were delivered by mailman. Our mailbox was approximately

one-quarter mile away near S.S. #10 Public School. The mail was retrieved from the rural box by many modes of travel. The following was used by my family: walking, by bicycle, on horseback, with horses & buggy or cutter, team & sleigh, 1925 Star, 1928 Buick, 1941 Chevrolet & a 1956 Meteor-Rideau.

One particular & important use was in the outhouse. The

glass chimneys on the coal-oil lamps & lanterns were cleaned with bunched up newspapers. A wad of newspapers with a little pork or goose grease and the stove surface would be cleaned. This was done when the fire had died down and the surface not very hot.

In the mornings, the fire in the stove was started by using newspapers and small, dry kindling wood. The wood cook stove was used to help heat the house and for cooking food. There was a box stove (heater) used mainly for keeping the house warm. This stove could accommodate larger chunks of wood that would burn for a longer time. The box stove in our log house was small, horizontal with a crack in one side. This crack provided a lot of burned spots on the hard wood floor over the years. The box stove could warm a house fast.

I remember the red-hot stove pipes and the chimney fires. Larger box stoves were used in the one-room schools and community halls.

The reservoir-tank on one end of the cook stove was kept full of water. The water was kept warm by the heat from the stove. This water was used for personal use and for washing dishes. Water was heated in a large boiler pot, oval-shaped, approximately 12" wide, 2' long, 18" deep on top of the stove. This water was used for washing clothes and, during the summer

months, to have a bath in the bathtub. The tub was in the summer kitchen. The water from the tub drained outside through a hole in the wall onto the grass. During the winter, it had to be sponge baths in a wash basin. A pail under the sink caught the dumped water (careful not to overflow the pail). The pail had to be carried outside and dumped on the snow, ready for use again.

During the summer season, rainwater was collected from the log house roof into a large wooden tank. This water was used for washing in the summer. In the winter, the water had to be pumped and carried in pails from the deep well at the cow stable.

Newspapers were also used to set wet boots on at the door. Then, if possible, would be hung on the wood-box to dry out, then burned in the stove the next day.

If shoes were too large, newspapers were crammed into the toes. Newspapers were also used in boots to help keep the feet dry and warm in the winter. On cold days in the winter, bricks were heated on the stove. These bricks were wrapped in thick layers of newspapers and put into the cutter or on the sleigh drawn by horses. This was done to help keep our feet from freezing, while travelling for hours.

Newspapers were important to have in our possession. Newspapers were a necessity.