

THE CABOOSE

Newsletter of the Cumberland Township Historical Society (CTHS)



Fall 2020

ISSN 1203-147X

Volume XXVIII, Number 3

President's message

Despite the heavy cloud of Covid-19 hanging over us, our Historical Association is pleased with the response to our latest book *The Early History of Cumberland Township, 1789 to 1840*. As we could not have a proper book launch, we are deeply indebted to the following local retailers for getting our books "out there": J.T. Bradley's in Navan, and The Black Walnut Bakery and Da Artisti Art Gallery in Cumberland Village. We also wish to thank the Rockland-Clarence Museum which received our shipment of books

from the publisher and also acts as a point of sale. We apologize for overlooking two important pages in Appendix 6 – Excerpts from Alexander Muir's Diary. These pages should have come just after page 281 of the *Early History* book. We have included the missing pages in this *Caboose*. We suggest you cut them out and insert them into your copy of *The Early History of Cumberland Township*. A copy of Alexander Muir's Diary is in our History Reading Room at the Cumberland branch of the Ottawa Public Library. We also wish

to thank Gilles Chartrand, our treasurer, Tom McNeely, our vice president, and Ivan Tanner, one of our directors, for getting the books to the retailers.

In this issue we continue with Part 2 of the Rathwell story and Part 2 of the history of the Bytown-L'Orignal road. We wish to thank Emmett Carr for his three school reports. We thought that you would also enjoy seeing who else is getting the *Caboose*. Please let us know of any membership errors or omissions.

Gérard Boyer

Caboose mailing list

Karly Ali	Barbara Allen	Denise Beaton	Jean-François Beaulieu
Ileen Birch	Ann Blake	Wendy Boffy	Gérard Boyer
Marlene Boyer	Ross Bradley	Wayne & Marg Bradley	Roxanne Burelle
Bob Burns	Emmet Carr	Gilles Chartrand	Francis & Bertha Coburn
	Evelyn Crook	Norma Dagenais	Sam Dagg
Mary Dashney	Bob & Rita Dessaint	David (Al) Doherty	André Duford
Pat Drew	John & Lynda Dunn	Bill Edwards	Glen Edwards
Gladys Eggert	Allan & Ethel Findlay	Brian Findlay	Elaine Findlay
Eleanor Foy	Gloria Frewin	Mary Gibbons	Margaret Goldik
Zoë Greggs	John Haddad	Clifford Hayden	Doug & Ena Hayes
Ghyslain Hotte	Meryl Jackson	Fred & Amy Jones	Joyce Kennedy
Verna Kinsella	Marva Lagimonière	Margaret Lalonde	Joy Lockyer
Helene G. Lowe	Claire Macdonald	Donna MacEachern	Nancy Elizabeth Main
Shirley Ellen McBride	Randy McConnell	Ron McKee	Tom McNeely
Wanda McWilliams	Willard McWilliams	Ingrid Millar	Diane Minogue
James Minogue	Audrey Moore		Margaret Jean Normand
Bryne Nuttall	Joan Rathwell	Wayne C Rathwell	Bonnie Rivington
Lynda Rivington	Lee Ryan	Guy J.D. St-Denis	Greta Scharff-Hill
Marilyn Seguin	Bob Serré	Dorothy Jane Smith	Doug & Mary Smith
Jeannie Smith	Gay Smith (Rev)	Ivan Tanner	Nancy Toonders
Vital Trudeau	Eileen Vaillancourt	Raymond Villeneuve	Rita Vinette
Claire Wales	Robert & Norine Walsh	Perry & Laurie Watson	Mary C. Wilkie
David Williams	Bill Woodruff	Pat Wright	
Cumberland Lions Club	Anglican Diocese archivist	Cumberland Heritage Museum	Library and Archives Canada
Ottawa Public Library	Gloucester Historical Society	Osgoode Township Historical Society	Huntley Township Historical Society

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



father came from the United States about 22 years ago, when the place was without an inhabitant, and that in consequence of his mills and that of another gentleman's, Mr Bowman, of a similar description upon the opposite side of the river, it had increased to upwards of 2,000. Mr Bigelow employs upwards of 250 labourers. He has 30 saws, which cut about 200 trees a day—chiefly into 3 inch 'plank' for the home market. The rapidity with which the large trees were transformed into these thin boards, and all of equal length was truly astonishing, and required some enquiry and inspection before it could be discovered. Great mechanical skill and ingenuity were displayed by this gentleman in taking every advantage of the natural powers of the water. He had his mill house (all of wood) and machinery so placed, and constructed, that the trees, after being floated down the river, and passing into a slip or basin which joined the mill, were, with the aid of one man, directed through a sluice, which ran them beneath the cross cut saw, and after being cut, were forwarded upon rollers attached to the machinery, and 'slabbed', from thence to the saws to be cut according to the thickness required. The slabs being of no value were dropped from the saw into the water which moved the large wheel and were carried down into the river. And the planks or boards as they were cut dropped into a sluice, and floated down a lead for nearly a mile to a place upon the banks of the river, where they could be conveniently rafted for the ports of Montreal or Quebec. Mr Bigelow has four large farms or tracts of land upon the river. The first is 23 miles distant, the next 40, another 80 and the highest 150—but these he keeps more for the lumber or timber trade, than for agricultural purposes. He has likewise about 60 yoke of oxen for drawing his lumber from the woods to the river during winter. I saw about 40 of his oxen in one field. They very much resemble the work oxen in use in this country about 40 years ago. All have large spreading horns. Mr Bigelow is an American and his wife the same from the State of New England. They have 5 young children. I was struck on observing two graves neatly enclosed in the garden in front of the house. On enquiry I was informed that it was the grave of a brother and of a child of Mr B. As I understood the country was very thinly peopled norward, being within 300 miles of the Highlands of Hudson's Bay, and

having no person with me I thought it best to retrace my steps, and before the sun went down I again found myself upon the north bank of the Ottawa, which I crossed, and steered my course the best way I could to my friends, where I arrived before it was dark. They were becoming alarmed about me, having been absent two days. The soil of the district of Buckingham is rather of a light sandy nature, and not much done in the way of agriculture. Enough for one day.

Thursday 25 September. Went over to my friend's Squire Cameron's to a 'logging bee'—I guess you will calculate that I should explain what a 'logging bee' is—this is the first of the kind I have seen, and may be briefly explained as a gathering of one's neighbours, with their horses and work oxen for the purpose of drawing the trees cut down into large piles for being burned, previously to cropping the land. The master, or 'bos' as he is termed, provides meat and drink for man and beast, but no wages or other remuneration is expected, excepting a similar return. The bee generally ends with a dance, something like our 'claiks' or 'harvest home'. Got tea and returned home with Mr Findlay.

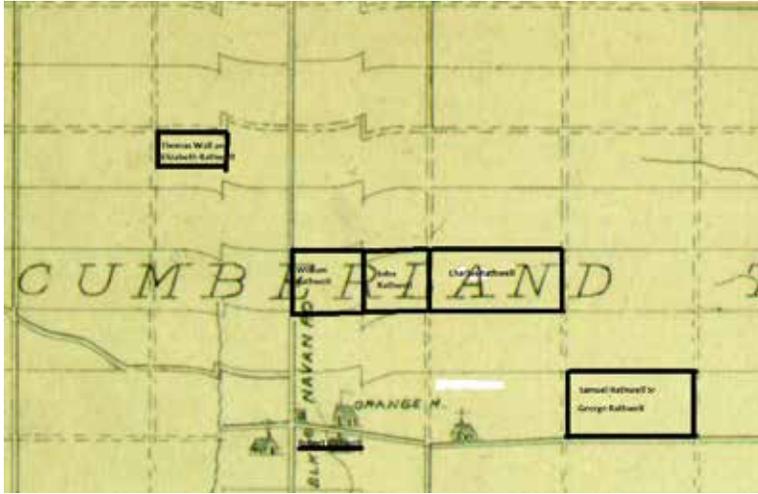
Friday 26 September. Went down to Dunnings Wharf, returned by Captain Petrie's where I drank tea, he showed me over his farm which consists of about 300 acres but not much more than the half of it cleared.

Saturday 27 September. Dined and spent the day with Captain Petrie.

Sunday 28 September. Went to hear sermon at the Church of Cumberland, where I was last Sunday along with Mr Findlay and his family. Went home, by the river, with Captain Petrie where I dined.

Monday 29 September. Left Cumberland this afternoon in order to go by the steamer to Bytown⁸² but she did not make her appearance. I had to sit up all night watching her arrival, and having nothing else to fill up the next page I shall just note down what occurs to me, and what I have learned in reference

The Rathwells of Navan (Part II)



In May 1881, John Rathwell married Joanna Lowe, daughter of Nathaniel Lowe and Mary Ann Hoyt. Nathaniel and his brother Robert Lowe farmed next to each other in the Bearbrook-Navan area; they had both arrived in Canada from Ireland in 1847 and had settled in Cumberland Township in the 1850's. Mary-Ann Hoyt was the daughter of one of Cumberland Township's first settlers, Nathan Hoyt.

As planned, John Rathwell was given the east half of Lot 8, Concession 8, New Survey, in 1884. He took out a mortgage with the Reverend Thomas Garrett, presumably to build himself a new home.

The elder son, William, opened one of Navan's first stores in the 1880's. It was located at today's 1229 Colonial Rd. William's younger brother Charles also operated a store at the same location for a few years.

Maria Rathwell, second oldest, never married. She kept house for the Reverend Thomas Garrett. In her later years, she shared a home with her niece Annie and her nephew Marshall.

Elizabeth Rathwell married Thomas Wall in 1883. We could

say that this was the last of the Wall invasion of Navan at that time. Six Wall siblings left Goulbourn Township and settled in Navan. We believe that Ellen Jane Wall and her husband, John Dagg, also from Goulbourn Township, were the first of the family to move to Navan around 1858 with three children in tow. Catherine Wall married Richard Bickerton in 1863 and their first child was born in Navan in 1864. Then William Wall married Mary Ann Bell in 1864 and Navan became their home. Lydia Wall married Robert Armstrong in South March in 1868 and their first child was born in Navan in 1869. John Benjamin Wall never married, but he also moved to Navan. In 1911 he was living with his sister Lydia and her husband Robert Armstrong. All were adherents of the Church of England, a good fit in Navan at that time.

Samuel Rathwell Jr. worked on his father's farm up until at least 1891. He then left for British Columbia and died of a terrible accident in Revelstoke in 1893 (See Kootenay Star article).

As it mentioned in the article, Mary Ann Rathwell passed away in Navan in 1892.

At this point we must backtrack

a few years to 1872, when Samuel Rathwell Sr. obtained a patent for Lot 8, Concession 7. In 1885, Samuel Sr. transferred the north part of this lot to his son Charles. Charles married Amelia Ann Clarke in 1893. Amelia Anne Clarke was also a native of Navan. Her grandparents had immigrated from Ireland in 1851 and her father, Richard Clarke, had married another Irish immigrant, Rachel Jackson. The Clarkes had been settled in Navan since at least 1856.

In 1894 Charles acquired the south half of Lot 8 Concession 7 from his father. Property records indicate that he farmed there until 1896.

Marion Rathwell married Albert Bradley from Blackburn Hamlet sometime in the late 1890's, and they had three children in Blackburn Hamlet: Lola, Edna and George.

Margaret Jane Rathwell married George Foster Carr from Cumberland in 1897. John Carr, George's father, was an Irish immigrant who married Mary Morrow sometime in the mid-1850's. John Carr and Mary Morrow purchased the West half of Lot 27, Concession 1 (Old Survey) in Cumberland Township in 1857. About one year after John Carr died in 1897, George took over his father's farm along the Ottawa River. George was one of the few Rathwell in-laws who did not worship in the Anglican church. He was Presbyterian. We will come back to this family in part 3 of our Rathwell family series.

Robert Rathwell trained in Ottawa to become a blacksmith. He must have met Ruby Obre (Aubrey) in Ottawa because she had no connection to Navan before they married sometime around 1892. She was the daughter of Irish immigrants who had settled in

the Masham area north of Ottawa. Robert plied his trade for several years in Navan and he and Ruby had three children there: Walter, Percival and Robert Jr.

George Rathwell lived on the farm with his father until Samuel Rathwell died in 1903. We will come back to George in part 3 of our narrative.

Lydia Ann Rathwell, the youngest of Samuel Rathwell Sr.'s daughters, married Thomas Alfred Edward Foster sometime around 1892. He was a policeman with the Dominion Police in Ottawa. He achieved some fame as an innovative policeman.

Edward Foster, policeman, fingerprint pioneer (b near Stittsville, Ont 14 Nov 1863; d at Ottawa 21 Jan 1956). Foster joined the DOMINION POLICE as a constable in 1890. While at the St Louis World's Fair in 1904, his interest was awakened in the controversial science of fingerprint identification. On returning to Canada, Foster advocated the advantages of fingerprinting over the Bertillon system (based upon body measurements) and pressed for a central repository of fingerprints. Promoted to inspector in 1910, his perseverance resulted in the opening of a national fingerprint bureau in Ottawa the following year. Foster continued to head the bureau after it was absorbed by the RCMP until his retirement in 1932.1

We conclude this part of the Rathwell story with a 1901 snapshot of the second generation of Rathwells who remained in Navan.

- Samuel Rathwell Sr. was living on his homestead with his son George.

- William, John, and Charles, all married with families, were

working their own farms in the Navan area.

- Elizabeth (married to Thomas Wall) lived in the Navan area.
- Margaret (married to George Carr) lived closer to Cumberland along the Ottawa River.
- Robert, also married, was the local Navan blacksmith. His shop was located at today's 1241 Colonial Rd.2

This particular generation of Rathwells were part and parcel of Navan becoming a thriving agricultural community. However, the area could no longer absorb new settlers or provide local opportunities for future generations. As we will see in the next installment, many would move to Canada's west or to the rapidly growing City of Ottawa nearby.

E-mail from Rosemary Gifford, Northern Ireland

I received the book. Thank you. I was delighted with it. My late father-in-law and his brothers would have loved the fact that Sandham's paintings are now being seen by others outside of family.

Thank you and keep safe,
Kind Regards
Rosemary Gifford

Rosemary Gifford is responsible for sending us the precious watercolours included in *The Early History of Cumberland Township*. These are among the few visual images of Cumberland township in the 1840's.

14, 1893. No. 31.

W. A. JOWETT.
MINING & REAL ESTATE BROKER.
NELSON, B.C.

LARDEAU AND SLOCAN
PROSPECTS WANTED.

Fatal Accident at Revelstoke Sawmill.

A sad fatality occurred yesterday morning shortly after nine o'clock at the new sawmill now being built to replace the one recently destroyed by fire. The building has reached the second floor, and yesterday morning ten men were engaged in placing in position two upright posts—one at each end corner—to which a cross-beam, or sill, had already been fastened. The posts were nine feet high and the cross-beam 27 feet long, all three being ten inches square. The foot of each post had to fit into a hole or socket, and the structure was raised a few feet from the floor when Samuel Rathwell placed his shoulder against one of the posts with the intention, it is thought, of guiding it into the socket. But he lifted too hard, the foot of the post going clear over the edge of the floor, and the structure of posts and beam came down with a rap, pinning Rathwell to the floor. He never spoke or moved after. The men were too shocked for a few moments to realize what had occurred. It was found that he had been struck on the forehead by the sharp edge of the cross-beam, and death was instantaneous. Deceased was a man of very pleasant address, courteous and affable, and well liked by everyone who knew him. He was about 35 years of age, and was a native of the village of Navan, Ontario. He came to British Columbia about two years and six months ago, having lived in Calgary a short time. Two or three months ago he announced his intention of going home, but receiving news of the death of his mother, he altered his mind. Deceased was a single man, but was, we understand, engaged to a young lady in Ontario. Tel-grams have been sent to his relatives at Navan and to a brother in Victoria, and until an answer is received it is not known whether the body will be interred here or sent home. All work has been suspended at the mill since the accident.

The Robbery at a Revelstoke

know the prisoner; have known him about a year, during which time he has been employed by the Revelstoke Lumber Co. Part of his leisure time he has spent in our store. He has, on several occasions, been left alone in the store. On the evening of the 1st of January the office at the back of the store was broken into by the door being forced from the outside. The till had been opened and \$25 taken. The bank notes placed in the safe were also missing.

Prisoner, who said he had nothing to say, was committed for trial at Kamloops on the charge of house-breaking.

Ringer looked the picture of misery standing there before the magistrates, the tears coursing down his cheeks as he realized his position. Among the spectators were several who had been his intimate associates, and no one could look at him without feeling pity and compassion for the poor young fellow who had so foolishly thrown himself away. But the law must be asserted, and the same evening Officer Kirkup took the prisoner to Kamloops, where he was brought before Judge Spink on the following day. The evidence taken at Revelstoke was read over, and Ringer pleaded guilty. Officer Kirkup spoke strongly in prisoner's favor, stating how he had made what reparation he could by retracing the whole of the stolen money; and mentioned the respectable character borne by Ringer ever since his arrival in Revelstoke. Taking this into consideration, the judge passed the light sentence of twelve months' imprisonment, although at first he had intended sending him to the penitentiary for three years. Ringer will be confined at Kamloops instead of being sent to New Westminster, as would have been the case had he received the longer sentence. If his conduct is good he will probably be released in about ten months. This case illustrates the speediness of Canadian justice—the prisoner was apprehended on Saturday, brought back on Sunday, examined and committed by the magistrates on Monday and sentenced by the judge on Tuesday. Things are somewhat different on the other side of the boundary.

From Lardeau City on Snow-shoes.—Serious Accident to Mr. D. A. Lamey.

Messrs. W. B. Pool, D. A. Lamey, Malcolm Beaton and Sandy McCrea arrived here on Thursday evening from the North East Arm. They

*Copy of a letter by the Deputy Post Master General,
On Mail Route between Montreal and Bytown,
3d December, 1844*

**General Post Office,
Montreal, 3d December, 1944**

Sir,

I think it my duty respectfully to solicit the attention of the Governor General to representations which I have had the honor repeatedly to address to His Excellency's Predecessors, Lord Seaton and Lord Sydenham, and, before their time, to other governors General, upon the wretched condition of the roads in the Ottawa Country, above Grenville, on the North Bank of that River, and L'Original on the South. On the latter shore, indeed, the Post communication is absolutely broken off altogether, between Plantagenet and Bytown, from the impracticability of a portion of what is called a "Road" upon the map, and the entire absence of any road, for some fifteen miles of the distance; and this upon one of the main Rivers of the Province, within about eighty mile of Montreal.

On the North Shore, the case is hardly better: a road to connect Grenville with Hull (60 miles) was opened about twenty-eight years ago, and some thousands of pounds of public money were expended upon it; but as the work was not then completed, and that no improvement upon an adequate scale has been made since, some portions of the route are, to this day, totally impracticable for wheel carriages, and many of the large streams which cross the road are without bridges. The consequence is, that during the greater part of the year, this department experiences the utmost difficulty in maintaining the Post communication upon what has become the second most important Mail-route in the Province. The Inconveniences which thereby accrue to the residents of the Ottawa Country, and to their mercantile connexions in Montreal, gives rise to complaints which it is out of my power to redress, and which are most serious and harassing.

Trusting that this appeal may be found to merit the notice of the Governor General, and that His Excellency will be pleased to take such steps as may be advisable to secure good and available roads for the transmission of the Mails upon both banks of the Ottawa, to the west of the Long Sault,

I have &c,

(Signed) T.A. Stayner, D.P.M.G.

Source: Journals of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario 1847, <http://books.google.com>

The absorption of the McLean family into Clarence and Cumberland Township Families.

I was tidying up some notes from the bulging Cumberland Historical Society notebook and came across an e-mail from September 5, 2013, from Jim McLean in Laguna Beach, California. I realized that I had made some research notes but had not responded to Mr. McLean. So I phoned him in California and he recalled that he could not trace his ancestors in Canada and had just given up. So I did a little more research.

Sometime in the early 1870's, John McLean moved his family from St-Canut, Québec, to Clarence Township.

John McLean had come to Canada from Ireland sometime in the mid-1820's with his parents Michael McLean and Mary Reilly. Like many Irish immigrants at the time, they settled in the area of Ste-Scholastique where the Irish Roman Catholic parish of St-Columban's was established. The McLeans however were Presbyterian. John married Anne Stirling in 1846 and took over his father's farm in 1855. Sometime between 1851 and 1861, the family converted to Roman Catholicism.

John McLean's oldest daughter Jane married a French-Canadian Roman Catholic, Luc Ovide David, in Ste-Scholastique in 1867. Luc Ovide David was a blacksmith and he decided to move his family to Clarence Creek, Ontario sometime in 1869. The Clarence Creek settlement had been established by a closely knit group of French-Canadian Roman Catholic settlers, mostly from the Ste-Scholastique area, between 1855 and 1860. It's likely that Luc Ovide David found opportunity in joining this growing

settlement.

John McLean's family followed. The next two eldest daughters, Anna and Elizabeth (twins) married two brothers, Alphonse Ménard in 1874 and Gédéon Ménard in 1877. The Ménard family were original Clarence Creek settlers.

We are not sure exactly where the McLean family lived at this time. Their fourth daughter, Mathilda, married Onésime Lavergne, son of Alexandre Lavergne and Julie Larocque, from French Hill in Cumberland Township. They were married in 1880.

Then their son John McLean married Anastasia Brennan, daughter of Michael Brennan and Anastasia Brophy, in 1886. The Brennans had been established in French Hill, Cumberland Township, since 1848.

Their second son George McLean never married, and he looked after his mother after John McLean Sr. passed away in 1889. John McLean Sr. was buried in the Sarsfield cemetery.

Thomas McLean married Theresa Madden in Sarsfield in 1893. The Maddens were amongst Cumberland Township's earliest pioneers, having arrived in the mid-1830's. Theresa inherited half of her father's farm in 1893, and we know that this is where the remaining McLeans lived: Thomas and his new bride, Theresa, his mother Anne McLean (maiden name Stirling), his brothers George and Daniel, the youngest.

Anne McLean passed away in 1910 and was buried next to her husband in the Sarsfield cemetery. George McLean passed away in Rockland in 1939. The youngest

family member, Daniel, also unmarried, passed away in the L'Original Refuge in 1918.

Thomas McLean and Theresa Madden had two daughters, Eva born in 1894 and Ethell born in 1896, residents of Sarsfield, Ontario.

As for the eldest son, John McLean, he managed a hotel in Gloucester for a few years and then he and his wife, Anastasia Brennan, left for the United States. Which takes us back to the purpose of this article: Jim McLean's search for his ancestors in Canada.

Submitted by Gérard Boyer

The Union School

S.S. # 16 Cumberland and S.S. #23 Clarence

East half of Lot 5, Concession 1, New Survey, Cumberland Township

The Union School section was formed in about 1896 or 1898, with 7 ratepayers from Clarence Township and about 15 ratepayers from Cumberland Township. My father, Willie Carr, was born in 1897 and he started school in 1902 in the John Morris house, where classes were held until the school lot was purchased and volunteers had made a bee to erect the building. A property search confirms that Étienne Carr and his wife sold a lot in 1904 for a school to the following trustees: Jas. A. Morris, Étienne Bertrand, and Toussaint Valade.

John Morris and Thomas Morris, twin brothers, sons of John Morris and Judy O'Brien, had each inherited half of the original 100-acre family farm on Lot 5, Concession 11, Clarence Township. Both had married and realized that 50 acres was not enough to afford a family, so John bought a farm near Rockland and sold his 50 acres to Tommy. John's house was used as a school until Tommy could move into it.

This school section was classed as public, but the

ratepayers were Roman Catholic except Arthur Miller and he was a bachelor. So the section appealed to the Ontario Board of Education to change the curriculum to bilingual, to use the separate school books and to speak mostly in French.

There were only 7 of us from the Clarence side: six of my cousins, the children of Jimmy Morris and Loretta Carr. The balance of the 30 or so students enrolled at one time were the children of three Dutrisac brothers, two other Morris families and the children of a Bertrand, a Gagnon, a Mainville and a Deschamps family.

Because I was born after Christmas, I had to wait until I was almost 7 years of age before being accepted. We had a new teacher, a recent graduate from Ottawa University's Teachers' College: Mr. Rosaire R. Rancourt. His father had a farm on Trim Road (called the 8th line back then). On the night before school was going to start, sometime after dark, a car drove in to our house and three men engaged my father and mother in an earnest

discussion. Apparently, none of the families that they had visited were prepared to rent a room to Mr. Rancourt. Mother agreed to take him in and he stayed with us for four years. When he left, it was to take up a supervisory position up north, as an inspector in a bilingual district.

The next teacher was Annette Bertrand. She lived right next to the school. She left after one year to get married.

The third teacher was Elmire Laviolette from Rockland. She worked hard to teach us some French songs and was strong on French literature.

The fourth teacher, also from Rockland, was Henriette Ménard. She boarded at our place for a couple of years. By then I had quit school to help my dad on the farm. The war was on, and hired men were scarce.

I recall that three Bigras children were refused access to the separate school on Joannis Road on the 10th Concession,

Clarence Township, because their family had left the Catholic Church. So they were sent to our public school and had to walk a mile and a half to get here.

I later served a three-year term as school trustee. That was a learning experience, but it was worth it.

The last teacher at the Union school was Mrs. Herbert Morris (née Helena McCallister). The Carleton Public School Board took over the administration of the schools in Cumberland township in 1969. The school was closed and children were bused to Sarsfield and then to Navan.

The school was sold and made into a residence. It burned a couple of years later. The property was sold to new owners and a fine house has replaced the Union school.

*Prepared by Emmett Carr,
September 2020*

The Larmour School

Lot 12, Concession 1, New Survey, Cumberland Township

Land records indicate that George McKay sold a corner lot to school trustees in 1870.

John A. Morris, born in 1862, (my godfather), went to Larmour school. Our family oral history maintains that he started there in 1868 or 1869. However, his wife, Mary Carr, my father's eldest sister, born in 1876, started school in 1882 at S.S. #3 Clarence, as did her sisters and brothers. My mother taught there from 1925 to 1929.

Nellie Morris (born in 1887), John Danny Morris (born in 1889), and Mae Morris (born in 1891), all children of Thomas Morris and Ann Sullivan, went to Larmour school at different times between 1893 and 1897, when the Union school section (a combination of SS #16 Cumberland and SS#23 Clarence) was organized and a new school erected on the corner of the Bertrand farm on the east half of Lot 5, Concession 1, New Survey, Cumberland Township (the school that I attended). The new school was also called the Ridge school. I assume the site for the Ridge school was more central and more convenient for the children who all had to walk to school.

The Larmour school is probably the school that the public school board area #1 of Cumberland Township sold to John Thorpe and W. Florence in 1963.

The only Larmour that I knew pretty well was Edgar Larmour, a man I admired, for he was quite entertaining. He could quote poetry, pages and pages of poetry, from memory, a skill that I've never acquired. And he could quote chapter and verse from the Bible to illustrate a point. We were not encouraged to read the Bible in the Roman Catholic faith, for fear of putting a wrong interpretation on the passages, but I always thought that interpretation was why we had been given the Bible.

Prepared by Emmet Carr, September 2020.

Postscript by Gérard Boyer : Land records indicate that there seems to be a strong connection between the Larmour school and St. Paul's Anglican Church. It could be that the Union school was built for a different "clientele".

The Grant Settlement School

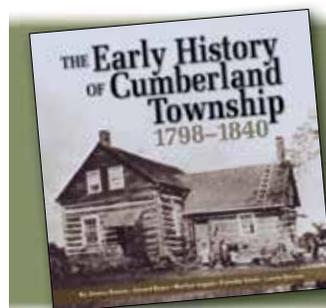
At the corner of Cumberland, Clarence and Cambridge Townships

This school was located at the far end of the Canaan Road allowance. The Grant Settlement was named after a member of Parliament at the time. There was a cheese factory, a Baptist church and cemetery.

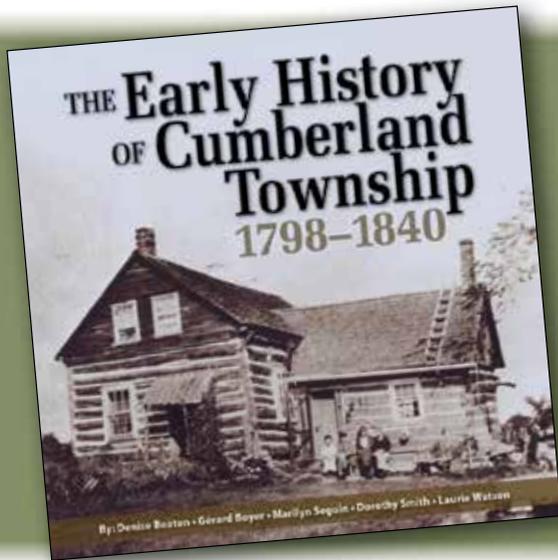
A forest fire that started near Vars swept through to Casselman. Two women and a little girl tried to outrun the flames but perished in the fire driven by high westerly winds. After the fire burned off the leaf mold, the residents moved away. The church was moved to Leonard, and Roman Catholic ratepayers moved to South Indian (today's Limoges). The land was purchased by the Province of Ontario to plant pines for the new Larose Forest around 1921.

The cheese factory burned, the school building was sold and all that's left are the headstones in the old cemetery.

Prepared by Emmet Carr, September 2020



**THE Early
History OF
Cumberland
Township**
1798-1840



THE Early History OF Cumberland Township

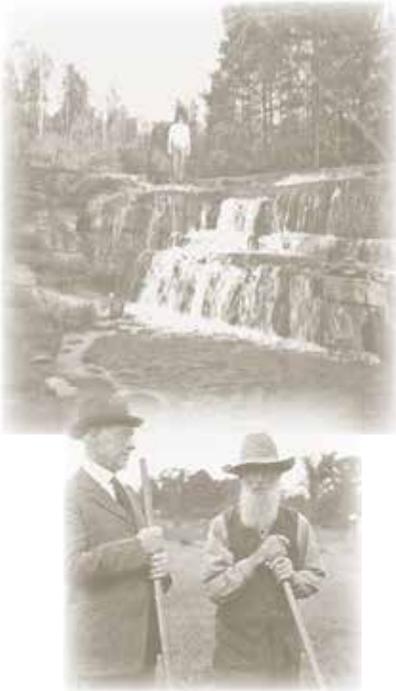
1798-1840

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 Monteval Rd, Cumberland, ON
- J.T. Bradley's, 1220 Colonial Rd., Navan, ON
- Le musée Clarence-Rockland Museum, 687 rue Laurier, Rockland, ON