

THE CABOOSE

Newsletter of the Cumberland Township Historical Society (CTHS)



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President's message

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.

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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



Thanks to COVID 19, we are sending you an unprecedented (since I have been president) fifth issue of The Caboose for the period May 2020 to May 2021. It may make up for the years where we only produced two or three issues. It is renewal time, so that we ask that you send a cheque with this year's renewal form (address is on the form). In our last issue, we listed all of our members. Please let us know if any corrections need to be made to that list. We wish to thank

all those who have sent material in to The Caboose. Once again there will not be a general meeting in May due to pandemic restrictions. So our AGM is being postponed to sometime in September 2021. We ask that you indicate your support for your current executive until September 2021 on the back of your renewal form. Just print "I support the current executive for 2021" and sign.

Your executive has managed a zoom meeting in March where

we discussed our future as an organization. Your president is hoping to be replaced so that he can return to just being a member. In the short term we have begun the process of planning a plaque for The Old Forced Road near Cumberland Village and perhaps another one in Bearbrook. We know that a historical group in Russell is preparing the same thing at their end.

Stay hopeful, stay safe.
Gérard Boyer

Who was Emily Dredge?

We received a request from a Dredge descendant wondering about an Emily Dredge who had married Frank Hodges and who was included in a Hodge family tree presented in the September 2006 Caboose.

Here is what we were able to find out.

Emily Dredge was born on February 16, 1898 to Francis Dredge and Jane Anderson of Lot

8, Concession 6, Fitzroy Township (close to Kinburn, Ontario). Francis was listed as a cheesemaker there. Francis Dredge had come to Canada from England sometime in the 1880's. The 1901 census indicated that he was born on December 23, 1859 in England. He may have come from Wiltshire, England, but the source is not reliable. He may be the same Francis Dredge who worked for John Ham in Newburgh,

Addington County, in 1881.

Emily Dredge married Frank Hodges in Carp on June 27, 1917. The marriage certificate indicates that he was a farmer from Cumberland. We have no idea how they met. As for the rest of their married life, you can read about it in the September 2006 issue of the Caboose. All of our past issues are online on our Website: Cumberland Township Historical Society.

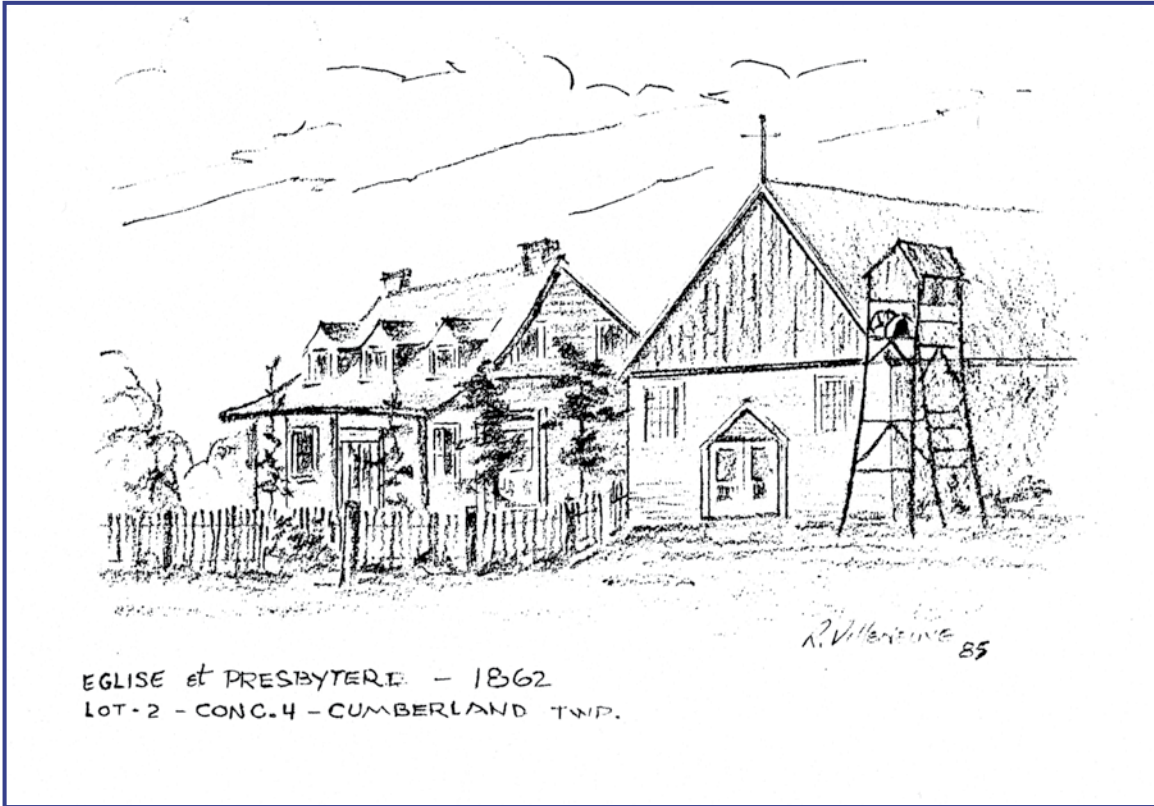
Submitted by Gérard Boyer



The CTHS is partnering with la Cité collégiale, the francophone equivalent of Algonquin College in a job placement for a student in social media. Her name is Falone St-Surin and she will attempt to broaden our base among more recently-established Canadian families and among high school students.

La société historique du canton de Cumberland collabore avec la Cité collégiale, le collège francophone d'Ottawa, dans le placement d'une de leurs étudiantes en médias sociaux. Elle s'appelle Falone St-Surin et elle tentera d'encourager plus de jeunes du secondaire et plus de familles plus récemment arrivées au Canada à partager leurs histoires patrimoniales.

The Dionne (or Yon) name in Cumberland Township (Part 1)



Members of the Yonne family would have attended this chapel at French Hill in the 1850's, until a church was completed in Cumberland in 1862.

This family provides a great example of the importance of each person's history in giving us a broader scope of what it was like to live in different parts of Cumberland township, particularly from a French-Canadian minority position in the mid-1800's

Before talking about the Dionne family, our story in Cumberland township must start with Antoine Branchaud, Mrs. Dionne's brother.

The Branchaud and Dionne families grew up in the vicinity of St-Léon-Le-Grand, north of the St-Lawrence River between Montréal and Trois-Rivières. Like many sons from French-

Canadian farms, Antoine Branchaud was looking for opportunity elsewhere and ended up in Buckingham, Québec sometime in the mid-1830's. We assume that Buckingham's thriving sawmills had drawn him there. He married Sophie Foubert, the daughter of Gabriel Foubert and Jeanne de Chantal Séguin, in 1838, and then moved over to the Cumberland side of the river to Lot 2, Concession 4, New Survey, in the area known as French Hill. Although in a predominantly English-speaking province, Antoine fit right in with the following families: Joseph Lachapelle and Lisette Morin, Paul Taillon and Marie

Lapointe, Pierre Hébert and Rosalie Morin, François Lucier and Adélaïde Damour, François Villeneuve, Pierre Thibaut and Rosalie Foubert, and Alexandre Lavergne and Julie Larocque, all close neighbours

Meanwhile, back in St-Léon-Le-Grand, Antoine Branchaud's younger sister, Tharsile, married Louis Dionne in 1831. They had three children there, and then it seems they also had to move. We find them in St-Timothée, Québec, a large island in the St-Lawrence just west of Vaudreuil, in 1839. Tharsile had a brother, François Branchaud, who had moved there earlier.

Tragedy struck the Antoine

Branchaud family in Cumberland in 1847, when Antoine's wife Sophie died, leaving him with three young children. That is the same year that his brother-in-law and sister, Louis Dionne and Tharsile Branchaud, appear in assessment records for Cumberland township, on Lot 11, Concession 7, New Survey, on land owned by Michael O'Meara. There were only two other French-speaking Roman Catholic families next to them, Lazare Marion and Xavier Turpin. None of these individuals ever owned land there. However, they appear in Roman Catholic church records associated with French Hill and later Sarsfield. The landowner, Michael O'Meara, was himself a fervent Roman Catholic. Without being able to offer any confirming records, it appears the Dionnes either rented or worked for a local landowner who provided them with a house.

When Louis Dionne and Tharsile Branchaud arrived in Cumberland township they had four children in tow: Louis Jr (15), Rosalie (13), Grégoire (11), and Pierre (5). From what we could find in tax assessments and from the 1861 census, they lived somewhere south-east of Navan along today's Frank Kenny Road. It seems that Louis Sr. must have worked part-time as a farm hand and part-time in the bush. The couple never owned any property. Their family name was pronounced and written Yon in English. The written form of their name on documents since they left Québec has been written in a variety of forms by both French

and English administrators: Yon, Yonne, Hion, Dion, Héon.

The one constant in their time in Cumberland Township was their Roman Catholic faith. The Dionnes (or Yons) already had a family member living in French Hill. So they became part of the French Hill-Sarsfield-Navan Roman Catholic community. When they first arrived, mass would have been held at Amable Foubert's house in Cumberland, which was a stretch for them. Then the Cumberland chapel moved out to French Hill for a while in the 1850's. Then the bishop decided that three chapels should be built, one in Clarence Creek, one on what is now Colonial Road, about halfway between Sarsfield and Navan and one in Cumberland village. The French Hill chapel was abandoned. The chapel nearest Navan was not being well-supported, so some parishioners dismantled it and moved it to D'Aoust's corners (today's Sarsfield). When the Roman Catholic church in Cumberland burned in 1866, the parish priest left for Clarence Creek and never returned. A parish was then created in Sarsfield, which descendants of Louis and Tharsile Dionne attended on a regular basis.

Louis Sr and Tharsile had five more children while they lived in Cumberland Township: Zoé, Antoine, Louise, Sophie and Tharsile.

Rosalie Dionne was the first to marry, in 1852. She married Charles Morin, son of a one-time settler in Cumberland Township, Guillaume Morin. Charles and

Rosalie moved to Buckingham. They had three children together when Charles died suddenly. Rosalie married Michel Gauthier and they lived in Cumberland Township where we find them in the 1861 census living close to their parents south of Navan.

Louis Dionne Jr. married Philomène Lavergne, daughter of early settlers Olivier Lavergne and Rosalie Larocque. They maintained the Dionne (or Yonne) name in the Sarsfield area until the present time.

Grégoire Dionne married Marguerite Swail in 1861. Grégoire's brother, Louis Jr, and Marguerite Swail's father were both working in a shanty together, run by Andrew Wilson in the Bearbrook area.

Pierre Dionne married Mary Kelly in 1864. By 1871, he had joined his brother Grégoire and the Swail family in a move to Midland, Ontario, hoping to find greener pastures there.

In 1868, Zoé Dionne married Antoine Foubert, the grandson of one of Cumberland village's founding settlers, Antoine Amable Foubert. Zoé and Antoine were married in Orléans and by 1871, he was managing a hotel in Lachine, Québec.

By 1881, Louis Dionne Sr, his wife Tharsile Branchaud, their children Antoine, Louise, Sophie and Tharsile, and their daughter, married to Michel Gauthier, had moved to areas north of Buckingham.

(In the next issue we will highlight the history of Louis Yonne II and Philomène Lavergne.)

Written by Gérard Boyer

DEATHS.

THORNE—On Friday, April 13, 1917, in her 90th year, Sarah Thorne, relict of the late Geo. Thorne, sr.

Funeral (private) from Rogers & Burney's Chapel at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 14, 1917. 14-1

CLARKE—Entered into rest on Friday, April 13th, Elizabeth Magee, widow of the late James Clarke, in her 87th year.

Funeral from her late residence, 271 O'Connor Street, on Monday, April 16th, at 2.30 p.m. Please omit flowers. 16-2

DUNNING—On Tuesday, March 30th, 1917, at the residence of his father, W. N. Dunning, Riceville, Ont., Dr. G. P. Dunning, of Navan, Ont. 14-1

SIMPSON—At 397 McLeod St., April 12, 1917, Dorothea Simpson, beloved wife of Wm. Simpson, aged 59 years.

Funeral from above address Saturday, April 14, at 2.30 p.m., to Beechwood cemetery. Services at 2 p.m. 13-2

MACPHAIL—At Russell, Ont., on Thursday, April 12, Alice, dearly beloved daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Macphail, age 15 years and 2 months.

A correction to be made to the death of George Gibb Dunning married to Émélie Lavergne in the Zalmon Dunning family tree, page 141 in The Early History of Cumberland Township, 1798 to 1840.

Since publishing the above-mentioned history, we have uncovered four George Gibb Dunnings. We confused the above George Gibb Dunning with his son George Gibb Dunning, who died in Maniwaki on March 21, 1974. George Gibb Dunning married to Émélie Lavergne (more often referred to as Mélina) Lavergne died in Ottawa on December 12, 1949, and is buried in Notre Dame cemetery, Ottawa. For recent corrections and additions to the Dunning family tree maintained on Ancestry by Gérard Boyer, go to Abijah Dunning Jr family tree on Ancestry.ca. The Cumberland Township Historical Society will eventually update the Zalmon Dunning tree maintained on its website.

The Matthews Story, Part I

FROM ENGLAND TO NAVAN, ONTARIO, THE MATTHEWS STORY

Hazel and Dick got married on September 28, 1946 at St Just church.



Back Row: Wilfred cousin on Osborne side, Ann (Fred's wife) Janie-step sister, Ernie (Laura's husband), John-step brother, Harry May (Annie's husband) Will Richards (Doris's husband), Clifford-brother, Fred-step brother

Front Row: David (Fred's son), Doris-step sister, Laura-Dick's sister, holding Shirley, Percy-Dick's father, Margaret-Dick's mother, Phyllis-step sister holding Michael (Doris's son), Doreen-Dick's sister, Dick and Hazel, Joan May, Florie (John's wife) Carrie-Hazel's mother, Henry-Hazel's father, cousin Betty, Annie-step sister and cousin Hartley. Missing was William Henry-step brother and his wife Jean.

Dick and Hazel set up house in a workman house in Darwen while Dick worked for a farmer near Sancreed.



Margaret and Henry were born here (front and back shots) - middle house.

They moved to lower Lower Bistrage farm, in 1949 and 1950 respectively which was east of St Just in 1951.



Our house was the white one on the left – road on right was for boxcar races

Colin was born in December but unfortunately died in January of crib death which was to have been his baptism day. Colin was buried in St Just cemetery near the road to Darwen. At Lower Bistraze, Dick continued to work for Mr. White but also rented a few acres with the house to raise potatoes and some cows. Hazel remembers going for the cows and was constantly pestered by bees. Margaret can remember a time when the family was in the fields working and Henry somehow unhooked one side of the security strap in the pram and tipped over into the small stream – “I had to pull the silly fool out” declared Margaret, who was 5 years at the time, when asked what had happened.

Margaret had a severe case of mouth ulcers from drinking the water and was in hospital for a while. Hazel could not visit but Harry May, a brother-in-law, was in hospital so he would report back on how she was doing. There was a big hill on the east side of the valley that Lower Bistraze was in and Henry built a box on wheels along with the other children and would race down the hill in the boxes.



St Just Primary School (ages 5-16) – built in 1880

Both Margaret and Henry started school at St Just Primary School which they had to walk alone 2 miles to St Just along the creek and across the fields. Laura, Ernie and Cousin Shirley lived in St Just so the children spent many hours together. Also

got into mischief putting gum around their necks as a necklace and having it scraped off with a knife, buying gob-stoppers gum (filled the whole mouth) and one time Margaret wanted on the swing and Shirley would not get off so Margaret walked in front to get her off and got kicked in the face – big gash. Laura was so worried about what Dick would say – Margaret can always remember it as the first time Dad (Dick) fed her hard-boiled eggs – forgetting the bad lip.



1979 view of the front of our house, barn and back at Mulfra



2013 front of house, barn and back of house

Dick next rented a farm at Mulfra where we raised cows, pigs, geese, chickens and potatoes. The house was not fit to live in which is where Hazel developed a shadow on her lung. Sylvia (Cindy) was born here in 1959.



Trythall School built 1877 - Henry and Margaret went to school here



Our playhouse on the moors



The Johns family – Stella – Cindy's godmother, Herbert, Michael, Ken and Roy



Cindy was christened in St Margaret's Church – first one in over one hundred and four years. One Saturday when Dick was at the market, he saw a presentation by Canadian Immigration of the land of opportunity in Canada. He came home to tell Hazel that he was going to Canada. Hazel said no way, not without the family. Dick went to London to sign the papers but no one was there so he had to stay overnight. Next day he signed the papers which required medicals of the family – Hazel's lung condition just made the pass. They were scheduled to leave in August from Scotland but had it changed to South Hampton which meant having to leave in June. In 3 weeks, everything on the farm had to be sold or disposed of which included digging up 2 fields of potatoes. Henry and Margaret would hurry home from school to work in the fields.

On the day we were to leave, a taxi came to pick up our 3 trunks and a suitcase for each person to take us to the train station. Hazel did not have time to have tea with her mother for the last time before we left.



The family the Sunday before leaving on the Ivernia ocean liner

They sailed on the “Ivernia” from Southhampton which took 9 days. By day two Hazel and Dick were so sea sick that they could not leave the cabin. The ship Steward looked after Cindy who was 13 months. Henry and Margaret had the run of the ship, went to the dining room and ordered whatever they wanted – we ordered potatoes in their jackets just to see what they were (baked potatoes), watched the “King and I” 3 times. On the 5th day Hazel and Dick were up and about.

In open seas just off the coast of Newfoundland, our ship came to the rescue of the “Sylvania” (her sister ship) because her radar had failed. Therefore, we were delayed from landing in Montreal at Pier 13 from July 1st to July 4th, 1957.



Quebec City from the St Lawrence River