

THE CABOOSE

Newsletter of the Cumberland Township Historical Society (CTHS)



Fall 2021

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President's message

We wish to thank all of you who were able to get out to our Annual General Meeting in September. Your current executive will continue to serve you for another year. We congratulate Ivan Tanner on his latest book, *The Secret Murder of County Constable James Morrison*, a nifty piece of historical detective work. We also look forward to an upcoming book by Jeannie Smith on her great-grandfather Dr. James Ferguson. This particular

Caboose issue deals with Death in Cumberland Village and Cumberland Township in 1878, a sad episode as a result of scarlet fever primarily, though not exclusively. We include a third insert with regards to the construction of the Bytown-L'Orignal Road and responses to two reader inquiries, one with respect to the Winsor (Windsor) family in Cumberland Village and the other to do with a fateful drowning in the Ottawa River. We've included a copy

of our Annual General Meeting which highlighted a WWII fund-raising quilt. That same quilt is expected to be the centre piece of our booth at next August's Navan Fair. We pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the soldiers and citizens of past conflicts, we hope to see reconciliation amongst our constituent nations as we discover the lost or forgotten or overlooked histories of our past and we wish you all a joyous holiday season in December.

Gérard Boyer

CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

September 6, 2021

The annual general meeting of the Cumberland Township Historical Society was held in the Navan Fair Agricultural Building from 7 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. A total of 24 people were in attendance, including members of the executive. We also noted the presence of our City councillor, Catherine Kitts, at the meeting.

Gérard Boyer gave his president's report covering the period from September 2020 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 2022. The vote was carried unanimously, allowing Gérard Boyer to remain as president, Tom McNeely as vice-president and Gilles Chartrand as treasurer.

The executive then sought out approval for our society to support the commemoration of local health care pioneers as part of a fund-raising campaign for the new Orléans Health Hub. The main names to be commemorated are: Dr. Major, Dr. Bus Kennedy, his mother Eva Kennedy, Dr Irwin, Dr Ferguson, Dr. Tweedie and Dr. Powers. Other doctors would be mentioned also. We then considered how much money our Society could contribute to the Health Hub. The amount of \$1500.00 was supported by about 5-6 members, an amount of \$3,000.00 by 10-12 members. This empowers our executive to devote somewhere between \$1500.00 and \$3,000.00 to the Orléans Health Hub fund-raising.

Our guest speaker, Jeannie Smith, then delivered her presentation on a recently rediscovered WWII quilt with 700 names of Cumberland and area residents who had their names stitched in back in the 1940's, as a fund-raising effort for the Red Cross. We were fortunate to have the assistance of Glenn Charron from the City of Ottawa Shared Museum Resources, who mounted the quilt for public display on the evening of our AGM. Jeannie's presentation was warmly anticipated and well received. She is currently working on a project to identify all of the names on the quilt. Our society expects to share the results with the Ottawa museum as an accompaniment to the quilt. We are also considering options to put our research results on our Website and to also publish a book.

We acknowledge the City of Ottawa's grant of \$2,500.00, membership renewals, book sales and donations. As for expenses, we list the Web page expenses, Caboose publications, publication costs of *The Early History* of Cumberland Township and liability insurance.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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



1878 a Year of Illness and Death in Cumberland Village

Death came suddenly to several neighbouring Cumberland Village families in 1878.

In 1822 Amable Foubert was granted Lot 14 Conc. 1 OS. André Amable Foubert, born to Amable Foubert and Matilda Dunning Dec. 30, 1811, died in November 1878. His wife Pauline Morin Foubert died Sept. 21, 1877. Old Amable had sold part of Lot 14 Conc. 1 OS to his son, André Amable in 1851. In 1857 Amable Jr. planned 'Foubertville' consisting of several lots along Old Montreal Road. André Amable and Pauline's oldest child, Pauline Foubert, married Charles Watters. Their residence was on the northwest corner of Old Montreal Rd. (then known as Queen Street) and Foubert Street. Charles Watters died March 20, 1878, age 52. André Amable and Pauline's youngest son, Antoine Foubert and his wife, Olive Raby, operated the hotel which was southeast of his sister Pauline Watter's place. In 1862, André Amable Foubert donated 3 1/2 acres of Lot 5 on his plan to the Roman Catholic Diocese where the St. Antoine de Padoue manse and chapel were built. The church mysteriously burnt in 1866, and the property went back to the Fouberts in 1867. The hotel replaced the manse! Antoine Foubert died in February 1878, age 51, leaving his wife Olive Raby to run the hotel. He never got to see his daughter Antoinette, born March 2, 1878. In 1890, Olive's nephews took over and named the Foubert Hotel "The Cumberland Hotel" and by the early 1900s Mathias Watson took possession.

Physician of the area since 1861, Dr. James Ferguson, Reeve of Cumberland Township between 1874 and 1878, undertook to cut and grade the rocky bluff at French Hill to ease travel south. The 'Old Bearbrook Road' went straight south from the river between the George John Wilson and George Gibb Dunning farms for about three concessions then moved west to the 5th Line. Locals at the time called this rocky bluff 'the Doctor's hill'. The road into the village stopped at Market Street due to a large gully and creek on Lot 14. Travelers either headed east around the Antoine Foubert Hotel or west around the Foubert property, to reach Queen St. The road was connected from Market St. to Queen St. in the early 1950s when the Trans-Canada Highway was built.

To the north of the hotel, William Nelson Dunning's 3 storey stone building was under construction in 1878. His wife was Maria Rice McLaurin. They lived across from his father George Gibb Dunning on Lot 13, Concession 1, Old Survey. Their daughter, Maria Rice Dunning died March 17, 1878, age 3, of scarlet fever.

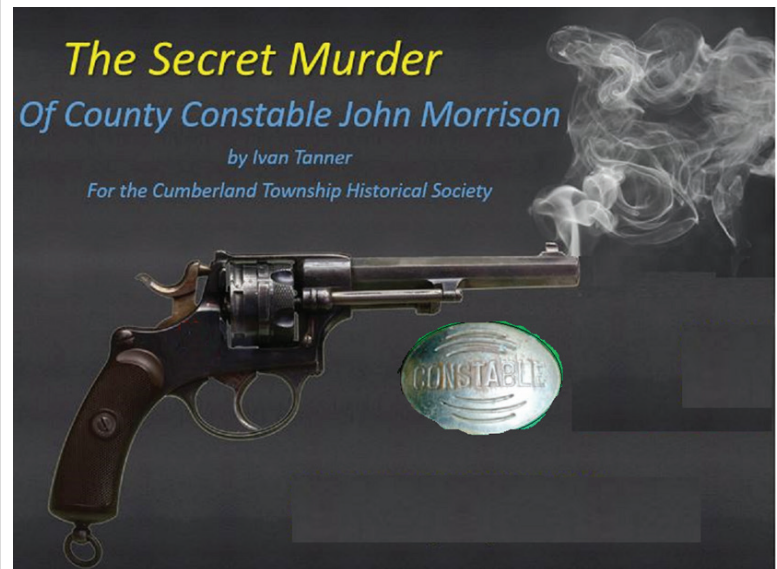
Dr. James Ferguson and his wife, Susanna Rice McLaurin, sister of Maria Dunning lived between G.G. Dunning's and the stone house on land purchased from André Amable Foubert in 1865. The doctor was unable to save two of his children from scarlet fever (malignant scarlatina); 5-year-old James Craig Baynes Ferguson died February 4, 1878, his 8-month-old brother Peter McLaurin Ferguson died February 21,

1878. Susie and James's infant son Robert Abner Ferguson died December 12, 1879, from Cholera. Nelson and Maria Dunning moved to Riceville to take over the post office and store from Maria's brother Abner Rice McLaurin, who went prospecting in Colorado. The Fergusons bought the house and completed construction. Dr. Ferguson had his drug store on the main floor.

G.G. Dunning was a brother of Matilda Dunning who married Amable Foubert Sr. His older son, Ithamar Gregory Dunning, lived beside Nelson and Maria Dunning. Ithamar Gregory Dunning was only 41 when he died July 20, 1878. His wife Mary Christina Murray died in 1872.

Did travelers bring the disease into the village as they came from the south along the newly constructed 5th Line Road? Was the Foubert Hotel a festering place for germs and a place where Dr. James Ferguson tended to patients? Did people gather at G.G. Dunning's Post Office, which was beside his house, east of Ferguson's and transmit the germs of scarlet fever? Whatever was the cause of deaths among the neighbouring families, they all suffered tragic losses that spring of 1878 in Cumberland Village.
Submitted by Jeannie Smith

Now on sale \$6.00
historicalcumberland@gmail.com.



Also available at Bradley's in Navan, at the Black Walnut Bakery in Cumberland, at Da Artisti in Cumberland and at the Clarence-Rockland museum in Rockland.

The Winsors and the Winsor Hotel of Cumberland Village, Ontario, late eighteen hundreds. Part I



John Winsor hotel, Buckingham, Québec

The first snapshot of the Winsor family is based on the 1861 census of Upper Canada (today's Ontario). The family was living in Clarence Township, probably in the vicinity of today's Rockland, Ontario.

John Winsor, born in Upper Canada, 30 years old, Church of England, is listed as a farmer living in a log cabin with logging shanties to either side of him. Living with him are:

- his wife, Johanna, also born in Upper Canada, 21 years old and Church of England,
- his daughter Sarah Ann, born in Upper Canada, 1 year-old and Church of England,
- his mother, Sarah, 62 years old and born in the U.S., Roman Catholic,
- his sister-in-law, Catharine Smith, 29 years old, born in Lower Canada, Church of England and residing in Petite-Nation at the time of the census,
- Pierre Paran (Parent), 15 years old, born in Lower Canada, Roman Catholic, residing in Plantagenet at the time of the census,
- Jake Winsor, 9 years old, born in Lower Canada, Roman Catholic
- William Winsor, 4 years old, born in Lower Canada, Roman Catholic.

We are not sure at this point how Jake Winsor and William Winsor were related to John, as there were many Winsor families in the area and each family used the same names for their children.

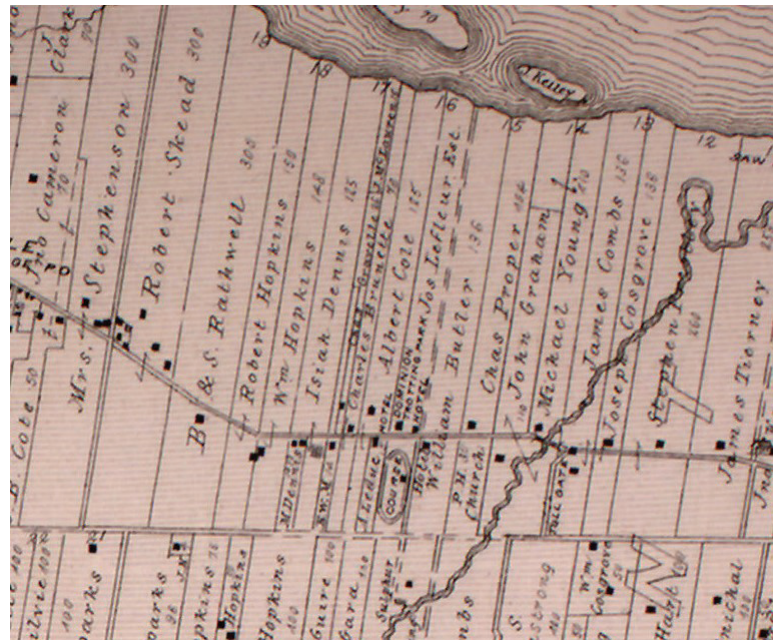
While still in Clarence Township, John and Johanna had two more children, Walter James born in 1864, and William John, born in 1866.

On August 13, 1870, John Winsor purchased Lot 6 of the Foubert subdivision in Cumberland village for \$800.00 from André Amable Foubert, the son of one of Cumberland village's founders, Antoine Amable Foubert. This lot had been the site of Cumberland's first Roman Catholic church and of the priest's house. When the church burned in 1866, the parish priest, Fr. Boucher, left the priest's house and moved the mission from Cumberland to Clarence Creek. The land reverted back to the Fouberts and the priest's house was converted into the Cumberland Hotel. In the 1871 census, John Winsor was operating this hotel. This didn't last very long; in 1872, John Winsor sold the lot including the hotel to Antoine Foubert, André Amable Foubert's son, for \$1800.00.

While in Cumberland, Joanna Winsor gave birth to a daughter, whom she named Joanna Edith Winsor, April 13 1871.

John and Johanna then moved to Buckingham, Québec, across the river from Cumberland. They owned and operated a hotel there, which still exists as a residence, 435 Buckingham Avenue.

It seems that tavern-keepers (sometimes listed as innkeepers) formed a network in those days. In 1875, my ancestor, Antoine Morin, kept an inn along the old Montreal Rd near Beckett's Creek, just east of the village of Cumberland. His daughter, Marie Morin, married Antoine Leduc, a widower and innkeeper who managed a hotel in Gloucester Township just west of Green's Creek along the old Montreal Road. One of the witnesses to the marriage was John Winsor, innkeeper from Buckingham.



Location of Antoine Leduc Hotel near Green' Creek and the Queen's Highway

While in Buckingham, it is clear that John Winsor Sr (married to Johanna Smith), operated a hotel and was a postmaster for a while. A family researcher claims that John Winsor Sr. also became involved in the forestry business. We can tell from Québec notarial records that John Winsor « wheeled and deeled » while in Buckingham. In 1878 he went into partnership with James W. Lynch and Joseph Labrèche to purchase mining rights.¹ In 1881 he was involved in some kind of sale to a Mr. Barrow². In 1884 he was involved in on-again, off-again transactions and partnerships involving J.W. Lynch, Joseph Bernardin and Joseph Labrosse.³ The 1881 census of Canada lists the family in Buckingham: John Winsor (spelled with a "d") listed as a lumberman, his wife Johanna and six children: Sarah Ann (20), Walter James (16), William John (13), Edith (10), Henrietta (5) and Henry (4), along with a labourer, James Young (23). We will continue with the return of the Winsors to Cumberland village and the establishment of their hotel in Cumberland in Part II.

1 Beaudin, Jean Baptiste Alphonse, notary, Hull, Québec

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

Source: repertoire du patrimoine culturel du Québec, 329 Avenue de Buckingham, Buckingham, Québec

More Cumberland Township Deaths in 1878



When Jeannie Ferguson submitted her article about the devastating effects of scarlet fever in Cumberland village in 1878 (see article in this issue), I immediately checked the official death records for Cumberland Township in 1878. Following is a list of others in Cumberland Township who died from scarlet fever that year.

January 9	Margaret Hodgins Larmour	3 years 6 months
January 12	Thomas Larmour	20 years old
February 20	Eliza Golightly	13 years old
March 5	Francis William Kinsley (Kinsella)	15 months
March 8	Xavier Beaulne	5 years old
March 9	Pierre Beaulne	7 years old
March 11	Mary Holmes	5 years old
	Emily Lough	8 years old
March 15	Georges Tessier	5 years old
March 17	James Barazin	7 years old
	Catherine Rivington	17 years old
March 20	James Alfred McLelland	2 years old
March 25	Amy Ethel Dunning	15 months
June 10	Grace Woods	2 years old

One can only imagine the fear and the sorrow that reigned over Cumberland Township that year. According to Wikipedia, “In the early 20th century, before antibiotics were available, it was a leading cause of death in children”. Eighteen people, mostly children, died because of scarlet fever in Cumberland Township in 1878.

Submitted by Gérard Boyer

The Lapointe family of Sarsfield (1874 – 1889).

Jean-Marie Lapointe and his second wife, Lucie Marie Bruyère, settled in the Sarsfield area of Cumberland Township sometime around 1874. They brought three children from his first marriage, Joseph, Olivier and Délima, and one from their marriage, Félix.

His eldest son, Joseph, married Marie Prévost in Ripon, Québec, in 1878. Census data from 1881 and 1891 tell us that Joseph farmed in that area next to his in-laws, the Prévosts. It seems that Marie Prévost passed away while travelling from the Cumberland area to the Québec side, during the winter of 1892, possibly even over the Christmas period. She was crossing the Ottawa River on horse and cutter when she broke through the ice. We at the historical society have not been able to find any trace of this tragedy nor have we been able to find her place of burial.

We know that Jean Marie Lapointe passed away in 1889 in Sarsfield, leaving his wife, Lucie, a widow with several children and pregnant with the last one. She later remarried and moved to Russell, Ontario.

We also know that Joseph Lapointe left Ripon and established himself and his family in Vankleek Hill, Ontario, based on the 1901 census of Canada. In that census Joseph is listed as a widower.

We would appreciate any information from our readers as to the terrible tragedy involving Marie Prévost.

Submitted by Gérard Boyer after an online request.

Fund-raising for the Orléans Health Hub/ Commemoration of healthcare pioneers

As you have read in the report of our September 2021 Annual General Meeting, the Cumberland Township Historical Society is making a donation to the new Orléans Health Hub. We have been actively involved in the historical research and wording for the commemoration of some of the better-known pioneer health practitioners who served former residents of Cumberland Township and Orléans. And we have made a one-time donation of \$3,000.00 to the community fund-raising portion of the costs of building the Health Hub. We encourage our members to get involved in this worthwhile fund-raiser.

Checks can be made out to Montfort Foundation, 713 Montreal Road, Ottawa, Ont., K1K 0T2. Please indicate that your donation is part of the funds for the Commemoration, Health Pioneers in the Orléans Health Hub. This way charitable receipts can be issued and all funds go to the Orléans Health Hub and the donations/pledges help the commemoration group reach their objective.

We understood that pledges/donations can also be made over time. One of the donations/pledges that families can make is \$200 a year for five years, a modest yearly sum that becomes a major donation. The local group leading this commemoration reports a total of \$29,000 has been pledged to date. In order that we recognize the contribution that Eva Kennedy and doctors Major, Kennedy, Tweedie, Irwin, Powers and Ferguson made to our communities from 1861 to the present, the funding needs to reach \$50,000. The commemoration will hang in the wonderful waiting room of our new Orléans Health Hub.

For more information contact: <https://donateohh.com/>.