

# THE CABOOSE

Newsletter of the Cumberland Township Historical Society (CTHS)



Summer 2022

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## President's message

Thank you to all who were able to attend the May 5 AGM and thank you to Don Boudria for his very interesting historical presentation. See more in this issue.

We have ordered two identical plaques commemorating the Old Forced Road. One will be installed along Russell Rd at the community hall, which sits along The Old Forced Road. The other will be installed somewhere east of Cumberland along the Old Montreal Road between the historical Wilson house and the Cumberland Township Village Museum. We hope to have ceremonies associated with their installation, but we have not, as yet, established dates or locations. We wish to thank the City of Ottawa

for the 50/50 sharing of costs for these plaques.

In this issue we are focusing on the McKee settlers of Cumberland. Samuel McKee has the distinction of being Cumberland Village's first hotel keeper. We have also included a recent e-mail from one of his descendants, with whom we have been working closely on getting the historical facts right.

We are also focusing on the 1943 Cumberland blue quilt featured in the Summer 2021 edition of The Caboose. Jeannie Smith is spearheading research on the 700+ names stitched into this quilt. At this point we are up to 310 pages of manuscript to accompany the quilt, identifying as many of the names as possible. The quilt and

five copies of the manuscript will be on display during this year's Navan Fair. To give you a sample of a few pages from the quilt, we have included a photo of one quilt panel and its accompanying historical information as it will be written in the manuscript. The manuscript will not be finished by August, and we hope that many of you will get a chance to inspect the quilt and the manuscript to help us complete it and correct any errors.

Lastly, we wish to express our commiseration to the parish of Sarsfield for the damage caused by this spring's disastrous storm; we also wish to express the same to all farmers and residents who bore the brunt of the storm's destructive power.

*Gérard Boyer*

## 75 Years of Family Traditions August 4-7, 2022



Come and view the 1943 Cumberland blue quilt at the Cumberland Township Historical Society booth in the Curling rink building.



**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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## Images of 1943 quilt manuscript, one of 90 panels



Row 3.4

R. A. Kennedy

Irving F. Kennedy

R. J. Kennedy

R. Eva Kennedy

Laurie Kennedy

Joyce Kennedy

C.G. Kennedy

Evelyn B. Kennedy

Robert Alvin 'Al' Kennedy 1920-2008

Irving Farmer Kennedy 1922-2011

Robert James Kennedy 1892-1970

Robena Eva Farmer 1894-1978, Mrs. R.J. Kennedy

David James Laurie Kennedy 1929-2012

Joyce Kennedy PhD. 1925-

Flying Officer Carleton Gladstone Kennedy 1923-1944

Evelyn Bickerton Kennedy 1926-2000, Mrs. Joe Burdette



R. J. Kennedy went overseas with the Red Chevron, First Contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Overseas Forces in WW1. He was the son of James Kennedy and Jane Fraser. The Kennedy farm was on the border of Cumberland-Orleans, west of the Fraser and Taylor farms. Robert was a brother to Thurlow and Florence (Mrs. Norman Edwards). He married Eva Farmer in 1919 and they moved into their home 'Birdsong', across from W.W. Dunning's Store. They bought the house from J.D. Ferguson. Eva Kennedy, a nurse who had trained in New York City, established a Medical Clinic and Maternity Hospital in the house because Cumberland had no resident doctor. She delivered countless babies and cared for them

with their mothers, in her home. She treated numerous accident victims, casualties of car accidents on the Trans Canada Highway, 'Killer Strip', which opened in 1952. Eva was organist at St. Mark's Anglican Church for nearly fifty years. Their oldest son 'Al', R.A. Kennedy, served with RCAF Wireless Communication in Bomber Command in England. He was confined to ground crew because he wore glasses. Irving Kennedy, enlisted in July 1940 with the RCAF. Nicknamed 'Hap' due to his happy disposition, he was a commissioned officer by 1942 and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for his career as a war 'Ace'. After the war, 'Bus', (Buster), as he was known by his family, graduated from Toronto

University 1950 and was a Doctor in the Arctic with Northern Affairs, then in Lanark. 'Bus' opened the Clinic in Cumberland 1961 and was Cumberland's doctor until he retired in 1987. The Legion of Honour Medal was presented to Squadron Leader Kennedy by the French Government in 2004. Laurie Kennedy was named after both grandfathers, David and James but preferred to be called Laurie. He earned his PhD in Engineering and was a Professor at the University of Toronto. In 1973 he was appointed Dean of Engineering at the University of Windsor. Evelyn Kennedy helped her mother Eva in her maternity clinic. She trained to be a teacher, but decided to change course and was the first

non-American to be hired as an Airline Stewardess for Delta Air. She married Joe Burdette, moved to Georgia and they had four children. C.G. Kennedy, Flying Officer Carleton Gladwin Kennedy, fondly known as 'Tot' was with the 434 Squadron RCAF Yorkshire England. He was killed in action August 30<sup>th</sup> 1944 and is buried in Yorkshire, England. After the war, Joyce Kennedy graduated from Carleton University with Bachelor of Journalism Degree. She served as a Flying Officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Joyce taught university in Ventura California. She earned a PhD in Education from the University of California.



Robert James Kennedy 1914



Eva and Bob Kennedy

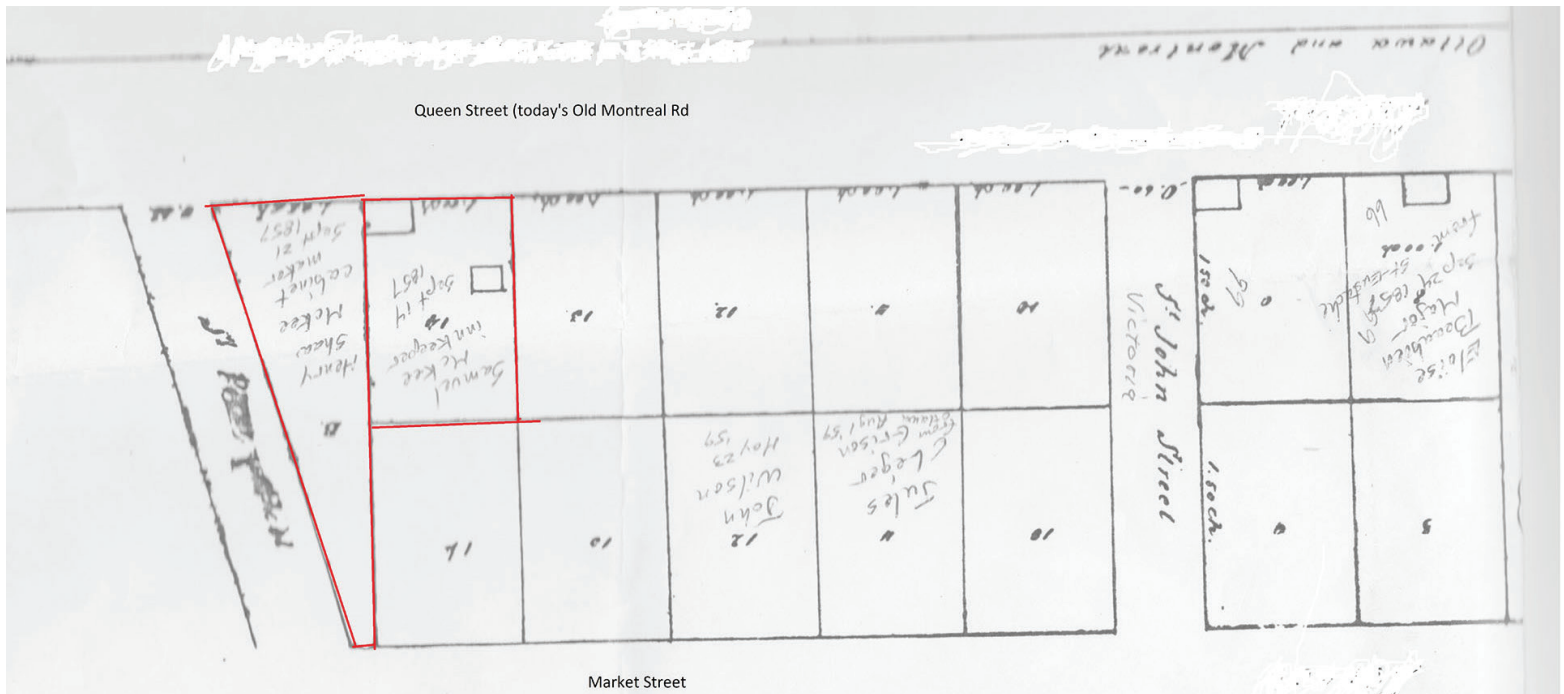


Irving Farmer 'Bus' Kennedy

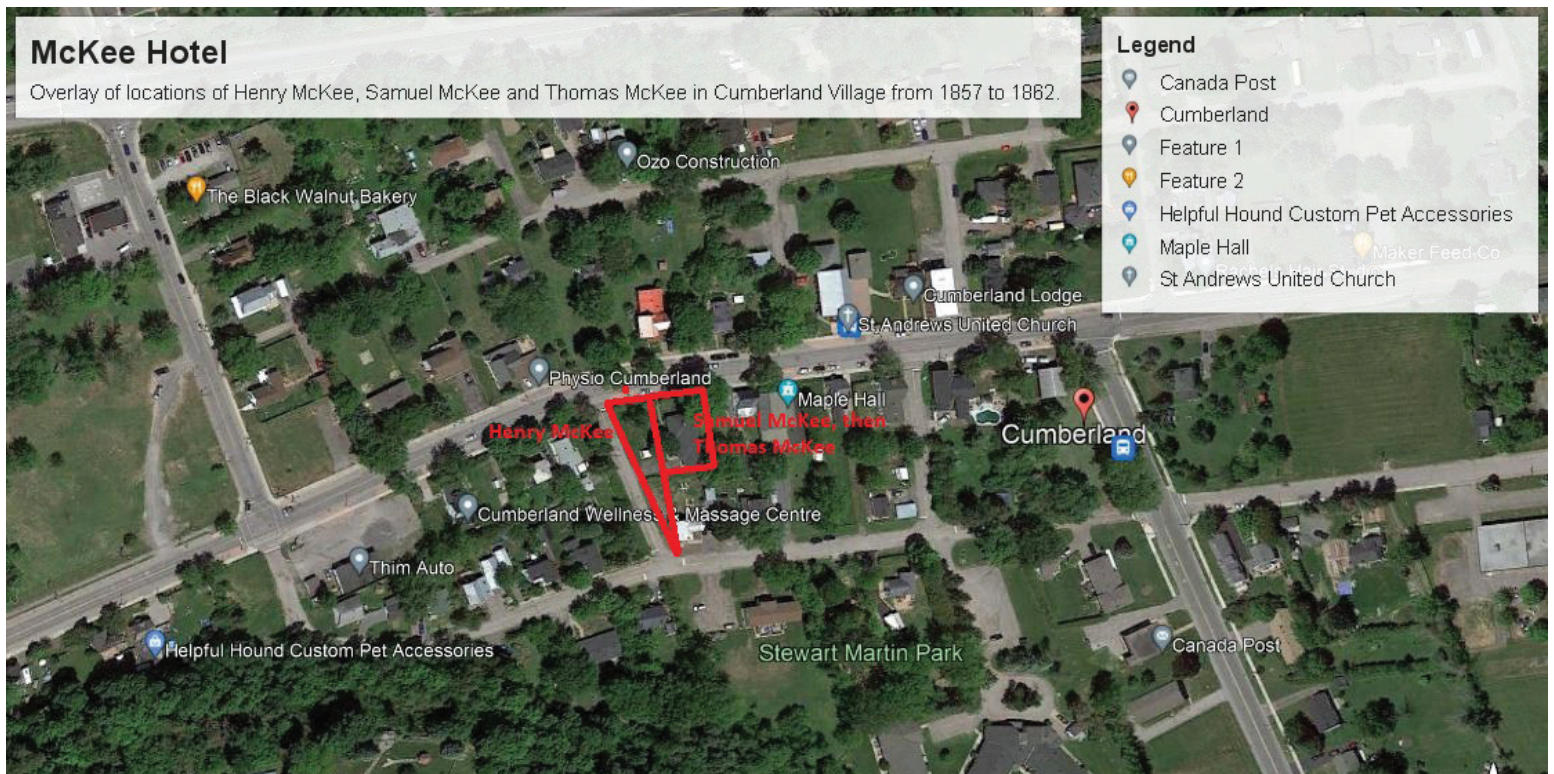


Bus, Carleton and Al Kennedy





Copied from original 1857 map of Foubertville subdivision



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# McKees in Cumberland Township

Patrick McKee arrived in Cumberland Township in 1840, after living on Lot 35, Concession 1, Old Survey, Clarence Township, from 1837 to 1839. His daughter Eleanor married Thomas Kinsella in Cumberland in 1839. Thomas had been their neighbour in Clarence Township. It is not surprising that three of Patrick & Ellen's offspring would marry into the Kinsella clan. Later records indicate that Patrick McKee and his wife Ellen Lough had immigrated from County Antrim in Ireland.

Patrick's wife, Ellen, died in 1838 and was buried in Dale's cemetery in Cumberland. Patrick started paying taxes on part of Lot B, Concession 6, New Survey, Cumberland Township in 1840. All of this lot was finally purchased by Samuel & Thomas, two of Patrick's sons, from Daniel McDougal in October 1852. Mr. McDougal was from the town of Niagara and probably never set foot in Cumberland.

By 1843 all of Patrick's children were living with him in Cumberland Township: John, Patrick Jr., Samuel, Robert, Joseph, William, Thomas, James, Henry and Paul. His daughter Eleanor was already married to Thomas Kinsella. It's hard to imagine a household that size with no woman

to manage the household.

In January 1843, Patrick McKee Sr. married Phoebe Gale from Longueil Township. The family would now have a woman in the household. His oldest son John also married that year, to Eleanor McLaughlin. She had arrived in Cumberland with her father Patrick McLaughlan sometime around 1832. John McKee and his wife Eleanor shared the north ½ of Lot A, Concession 6, New Survey, with his father. Patrick Jr. occupied all of Lot B, Concession 6, New Survey.

In 1845, Thomas McKee set himself up on Lot 23, Concession 6.

In 1847, the patriarch, Patrick McKee left Cumberland. We will come back to his story later, as it no longer relates to Cumberland. Thomas McKee was on Lot 23, Concession 5, New Survey. He married Elizabeth Kinsella that same year. Samuel McKee had taken over Lot B, Concession 6, North half, left vacant by his father; John remained where he was; and now William McKee had taken over from Samuel McKee on Lot A, Concession 6, New Survey. There is no mention of Patrick McKee Jr in the tax records: we suspect he may have

been ill, as he died in January 1848 at the age of 30. Robert McKee began paying taxes on the north half of Lot C, Concession 7, New Survey.

During the last year for which we have tax records, 1848, Thomas McKee is not listed as a taxpayer in Cumberland Township. His brothers Samuel, William, John and Robert remain as they were in 1847.

Samuel McKee married Margaret Kinsella in 1849, the third union between the two families.

Around 1850, some of the brothers left Cumberland, probably together, as we find the following in Nichol Township, Wellington County, in the 1851 census of Canada: John, a laborer, and his wife Ellen and their five children; William, a shoemaker, still single; Robert, a widowed laborer with two children; and James<sup>1</sup>.

In 1857, a plan of subdivision for the new village of Foubertville (also named Osborne and later Cumberland P.O.) was created by André Amable Foubert. Samuel McKee, innkeeper, bought Lot 14 in said subdivision and his brother Henry, cabinetmaker, bought the adjoining lot B. Oral accounts from local

historians consider Samuel McKee as Cumberland Village's first hotel keeper. However Samuel died on December 26, 1858, leaving his wife Margaret (nee Kinsella) and three children behind. It seems that his brother Thomas, married to Margaret's sister, stepped into the breach and took over the operation of the hotel, but not for long.

The widow Margaret McKee died in 1861 and we know by a later census that Thomas and Elizabeth took Margaret's three children under their care. An 1862 map would seem to indicate that Charles Waters, married to André Amable Foubert's sister, Paulite, had taken over the hotel from the McKees.

By 1871, Thomas McKee was farming Lot B, Concession 6, New Survey, Cumberland Township. With him were his wife, Elizabeth Kinsella, five children, Ellen (15), Frances (13), Jane (11), Margaret (9), Ann (7), and Susan (2), three orphaned nephews, Thomas (18), Samuel (16), and Joseph (14), and his two brothers, James (38) and Henry (36), both carpenters. Thomas McKee Sr. and his wife Elizabeth Kinsella both passed away in 1900, leaving their daughter Frances and her uncle Henry on the homestead.

1 1851 Census of Canada



Back to the patriarch Patrick McKee, who left Cumberland with his wife Phoebe Gale in 1847. They lived in Longueuil Township, Prescott County, where she died in 1858. Patrick, at the age of 70, married Mary Jane Hall, who was only 20 years old. They had three more children together, the first one named Patrick. Patrick Sr. died sometime

around 1864, and his widow married James Borden.

Another McKee arrived in Cumberland around 1861. We have not been able to link him with the McKee family above. His name was John McKee and he arrived as a widower with two children, Samuel (10) and Mary (8). He obtained a Crown patent

to Lot C, Concession 8, New Survey, Cumberland Township. He married Margaret McLelland, daughter of settlers Joseph McLelland and Mary Lough, in Ottawa, in 1861. His two older children from his previous marriage lived with them until at least 1871. John McKee and Margaret McLelland had six children: Jane, John, James, Maggie, Martha

and William. James must have died before 1881 as he does not appear in that year's census. Property records indicate that this family left Cumberland in the 1880's.

John McKee's daughter was listed as a teacher in the 1871 Census of Canada.

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## ***E-mail from Ron McKee, descendant***

*Wed, Oct 13, 2021, 3:38 PM*

*Dear Gerard.*

Let me commend you and your colleagues on the writing of this book! It is a great accomplishment, and I have much enjoyed studying it.

Much of the content that concerns my family I had gleaned from our earlier conversations and my own research, but the book nicely put things into a context and timeline that improved the understanding of my ancestors. In particular, I see how my Lough, McLaughlin, McKee, and [likely] McLean ancestors were all interconnected in Antrim and then Cumberland.

The book also solved a mystery for me. I had a death certificate indicating the wife of Patrick McKee [b. 1788] was "Nellie Law". Your explanation that Lough might be pronounced "loch" strongly suggests that Law was just the phonetic spelling of her maiden name. [You had evidently resolved similar inconsistencies in other circumstances.]

Thanks for creating this wonderful book and for all your help.  
Ron McKee

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## ***Corrections and clarifications for The Early History of Cumberland Township***

I should point out a correction that should be made on page 135. Henri Labrèche was my wife's great-grandmother's first husband. When Henri died in 1863, she married my wife's great-grandfather, Richard Kehoe (c1835-1889). Her name is actually Jane Elizabeth Snaith (1836-1894), not Smith, and she was a daughter of Robert Snaith and Elizabeth Sparrow. Jane Elizabeth's grandfather was John Sparrow, a veteran of the War of 1812-14. Knowing what most of the handwriting was like in those early records, I can see how the wrong names were arrived at.

Henri and Jane Labrèche had two sons: John Henry (1860-1879) and Henry Charles (1863-1924). I have a crazy theory about my wife's grandfather, John James Kehoe (1867-1959). He went by James Kehoe in the first census of 1871, but John Kehoe in every census afterwards. I suggested to my mother-in-law and her sister that he took on the name John after his half-brother, John Labrèche, died. After all, my wife's mother and sister knew that John Kehoe adored John Labrèche. They couldn't believe that he might have been called James Kehoe. They weren't too happy with my suggestion because they figured they knew their own father best and only knew him as John. As for me, I thought why would a mother name two sons John?

*Submitted by Robert Corrigan*



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

287 pages including  
72 family trees.

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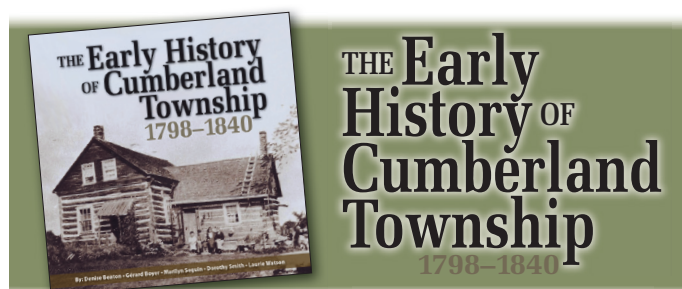
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## The Old Bearbrook church



*When we see the very picturesque and old Anglican church near the corner of Dunning Road and Russell Road, we are actually seeing Bearbrook's modern church. Thanks to Bob Walsh, I was able to take a photo of Bearbrook's old church. Readers will have to imagine the attached photo without the dormer windows and the right side porch or summer kitchen. When Bearbrook's current Anglican church was completed, the old church was moved to a new location and became someone's home.*

*Photo and article submitted by Gérard Boyer*





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## Un trésor de Don Boudria

Lors de l'assemblée générale annuelle de notre association le 5 mai, 2022, à Navan, nous avons invité Don Boudria à venir nous parler un peu de sa vie et de ses ancêtres. Quelle belle traite qu'il nous a fait. Vous savez, on ne sait jamais ce qu'un ancien politicien va nous servir. Don savait absolument qui était son auditoire et ce que l'on voulait entendre de lui. Il nous a raconté l'histoire de sa jeunesse, des défis de pauvreté relevés par ses parents avant que la famille arrive chez ses grandparents à Sarsfield. Il nous a laissé une belle impression d'un enfant qui a été aimé et qui a apprécié les plaisirs simples de la vie en campagne.

C'est alors qu'il nous a laissé son trésor. Un de ses ancêtres, Auguste Martin, avait écrit son autobiographie, complétée le « 12 Aoust 1884, Sarsfield ». Don nous a, par après, envoyé une copie de cette autobiographie pour que notre société puisse le publier dans un avenir prochain. Un grand merci, Don, pour cet aperçu de la France en guerre en 1870, de l'immigration d'un Français au Canada dans les 1870, de la vie d'un commis-voyageur d'abord au Québec et ensuite en Ontario, à Alfred et enfin à Sarsfield.

*Soumis par Gérard Boyer*

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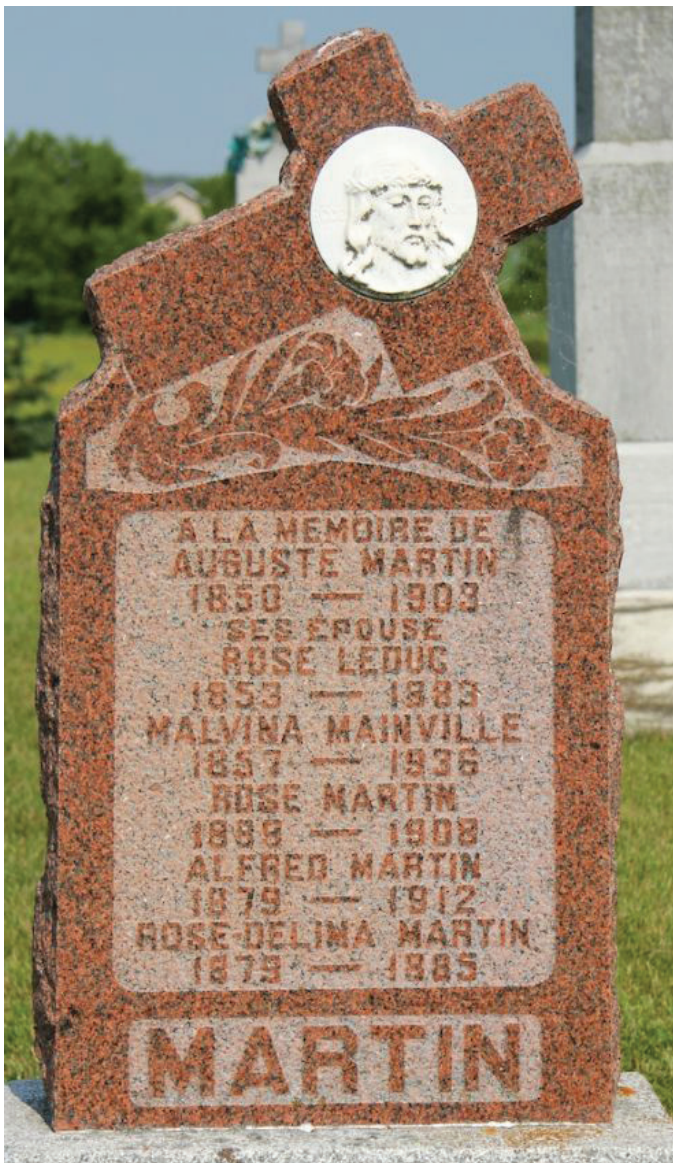
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## A Precious Gift from Don Boudria

Don was our guest speaker during our Annual General Meeting in Navan last May 5. He had been asked to talk to us about his childhood and about his genealogy. What a treat we were in for! You never know what you will be served by a retired politician. Don knew exactly who his audience was and what we wanted to hear. He told us the story of his youth: the challenges of being born in poverty in Wrightville and then his parents' move to his grandparents' in Sarsfield. He told us of the love of family that he always felt and the simple pleasures of country life.

And then he left us with this treasure. One of his ancestors, Auguste Morin, had written an autobiography, completed in Sarsfield on August 12, 1884. Don later sent us a copy of the original in order that we could publish it in the near future. Thank you, Don, for this insight into France's war of 1870, into the immigration of a Frenchman to Canada in the 1870's, and into the life of a travelling salesman trying to make ends meet in Québec province and then Ontario, in Alfred and finally in Sarsfield.

*Submitted by Gérard Boyer*



*La résidence d'Auguste Martin à Sarsfield*