

THE CULLEN SAGA¹
Lawrence Cullen, Christmas 1988

The first Cullens (John and Elizabeth) came to Canada in 1826. This date is based upon an 1842 Lower Canada census which showed residency in Canada for 15 years.

The earliest record of the Cullens noted after 1827 was a request for land grants in 1829 by the original John and his eldest son Anthony. It would appear that settled on Lot 8 Range 2 of Templeton Township (200 acres). At the present time, this lot would be about 2 miles N.E. of the village of Ste. Rose de Lima and first lot the Petite Blanche River.

Very little information is available until the 1842 Lower Canada census. By that time both John and Anthony were farming and each had cleared land, built homes and out-buildings. Daughter Mary had married Thomas Kennedy a farmer in Templeton. Anthony had married Ursula Macdonell in St. André d'Argenteuil (opposite Pointe Fortune on the Ottawa River).

The remaining children of the original John were married during the next ten year period. Bernard (our direct line) married Mary Ann Kennedy in Bytown and in the beginning farmed in an unknown area. In 1866 the family bought 200 acres, Lot 5 Range 5, which is a few miles N.E. of his father's property. Catherine married James Hagan, a merchant in Templeton, in 1846. Michael married Mary Barrett in 1850. It is believed that he also farmed in the area, but the location is not known. He died at age 44.

The remaining children, John Jr., Mary (Ann?) and Thomas present many problems re birthday, marriage and even direct descendancy of the original John.²

- a) John Jr was born in 1825 would make his mother 45 at birth. He married Anne Jane Crosby in 1848. Records show him as son of the original John and Elizabeth. His wife (a convert) was baptized, confirmed, first communion and married all on the same day by Bishop Guigues of Bytown. Their son Hugh is unconfirmed.
- b) The second Mary (Ann?) presents the biggest identity problem. One reference to a Mary Ann in the 1851 census would make her birthday in 1830 and her mother Elizabeth 54 years old. There is an incomplete record of a marriage to John Kearney in 1854. No record of children.

¹ Lawrence Cullen completed this review of his family history in 1988; it incorporates much of his genealogy research over the 1975-1988 period.

² Subsequent research by Mark Cullen, Lawrence's son, has confirmed John Jr. as the youngest child of John and Elizabeth. The Mary cited in (b) was not confirmed and is assumed not to be a child of theirs. The Thomas in (c) is in fact Thomas Tully who married Mary Barrett after Michael's death. He was not related to our Cullens. At this time in Lawrence's research, he had also not identified daughter Elizabeth, who was Bernard's twin. She married Michael Ryan of Plantagenet Mills, Upper Canada in 1835. Michael operated a hotel and later was a farmer in Curran.

- c) Thomas' existence is confirmed. He was godfather to Michael's son Michael Thomas (named after an uncle ?) When Michael died in 1857, Thomas married his widow, Mary Barrett, in 1863; timeframe fits for Thomas as a son of John.

There is no doubt that Anthony was the entrepreneur of the Cullen family in the early days. He is referred to as "Lumberman" and "Timber Merchant". Between 1847 and 1864 there is confirmed information that he owned 1,373 acres in Templeton Township not all one parcel but spread over a wide area presumably dictated by timber stands. Subsequent information indicates his holdings were actually greater than indicated above.

He obviously was a "pillar" of the Church since he was instrumental in the opening of the "Chapelle sur La Blanche" in 1857 on the site of the present church at Perkins, St. Anthony of Padua. He was also a donor of a bell for the St. Francis de Sales church at Gatineau.

There is no record of a sawmill so it is likely that his business was in logs. It would appear he made trips down the Ottawa River probably for contacts for his business. It is surmised this is how he met Ursula Macdonell from Pointe Fortune. She was a daughter of a retired trader of the North West Company and judge and Colonel who fought in the War of 1812-14 as well against the Lower Canada rebellion in 1837. That Anthony was accepted in this level of society in those days was obviously a reflection of his standing as a business man.

John Jr. in both the 1841 and 1851 Lower Canada census is a farmer. All the sons are now settled in their own homes. Their father and mother are living with Michael. Each family has domestic help, an indication they were prospering.

The 1861 census was most revealing as to the status of each family. John Jr. was now in the lumber business. Statistics indicate a capital investment of \$10,000, 25 employees and production of 6,000 feet of squared timber valued at \$8,000. In contrast, Anthony invested \$16,000, had 50 employees and produced 20,000 feet of squared timber valued at \$20,000. Anthony appeared to maintain his farm as further data for 1861 indicated he had 17 horses, 4 cows, 51 sheep and 7 pigs at estimated value of \$1,600. In addition, he owned 3 carriages for pleasure valued at \$81.

Bernard, for unknown reasons, continued to farm rather than join his brothers in the lumber business. He had one of the largest farming operations in Templeton Township. His sons carried on as farmers and the daughters all married farmers.

The final story to the lumber business is unknown. Anthony and his wife died in 1870. His two sons had predeceased him. Only his daughter, who married Patrick Ryan, remained. There is no indication that his son-in-law carried on. Anthony and Ursula and their two sons are buried in the Ryan plot in Ottawa's Notre Dame Cemetery.

It is interesting to speculate what might have been if Michael and Bernard had joined their brothers Anthony and John in the lumber business instead of farming. It is unfortunate that Michael's family (two sons) died out. Little is known about John's son Hugh.

The market for their squared logs was likely down the Ottawa River. It would appear that they were one of the first to use the River for transport long before the later barons such as J.R. Booth, W.C. Edwards, etc.

The status of the family in Ireland at the time of their emigration to Canada is unknown. Nor is it known where they came from within Cavan County. It is obvious the children had sufficient education to found a business. It is also possible that the family had some financial resources as the timber venture was underway within 15 years of their arrival in Canada.

Nothing is known about John Jr.'s business after the 1861 census though at that time his wife was alive and he had one son Hugh born in 1855. One further reference to Hugh was as godfather to one of his Uncle Bernard's twins, Andrew. The date of John's death is unknown.³

One possible beneficiary of Anthony or John is their brother's son John. The 1891 census lists him as a farmer but with 30 employees. There are numerous land transactions in this period by John and his brother Michael Thomas.

Bernard (our direct line) and Mary Ann Kennedy had 13 children though 3 died in infancy. Information re births, deaths, marriages is on the attached charts. His eldest son John Bernard (our direct line) inherited the family farm. He married Mary Powers in 1881 and they had 8 children. While all were born on the farm none stayed to carry on. Bernard or Barney (direct line) and his two brothers James and Anthony married and moved to Ottawa. Another brother, Martin, married and settled in Buckingham, Quebec. Final disposition of the farm is unknown but was likely sold in the early 1900s when the sons left and John's wife died. He subsequently remarried Anne O'Brien in 1916 in St. Brigid's church in Ottawa. He was killed by a falling tree and is buried in Perkins cemetery.⁴

Barney (direct line), eldest son of John, married Lucy McClements in St. Joseph's church in Ottawa on June 17, 1908. His job was in the warehouse of H.N. Bates & Sons, wholesale grocers and fruit importers. The last location is interesting in that it was located on the present site of the National Arts centre on the Rideau Canal.

³ At some time in the 1860s, John Jr. and Ann Jane moved to Millbrook in central Michigan. Perhaps he had suffered a business setback in Templeton. In the 1870 and 1880 U.S. census, he is listed as a laborer. He died on August 19, 1885 by suicide while "temporarily deranged". Ann Jane died in 1896 in Pointe Fortune, Quebec.

⁴ John died on November 7, 1916 at Boston Creek, Ontario, near Kirkland Lake. He was a labourer clearing a mining site and was killed when "struck by a falling tree". See "Boston Creek, Golden echoes of an Ontario mining camp", Peter Fancy, 2002, pages 10 and 14.

He became a salesman and developed new business for the company on the Quebec side from Hull to Lachute and Buckingham to Notre Dame du Laus. He was bilingual – no doubt learning French at school in Angers as well as from the neighbourhood he grew up in.

The company supplied the cars and he had some of the earliest built. There was a 1918 licence plate on the garage wall at home. He went from Model T Fords to his last, a 1952 Chevrolet. During winter, he travelled by train and hired horse and sleigh.

Barney and Lucy lived in several areas of Ottawa until in 1920 they bought a new home in New Edinburgh at 124 Noel Street, an area bordering Lindenlea and Rockcliffe Village. The house is still there.

There were four children and following are brief sketches of their lives:

- a. Llewellyn was born in 1909. He left home at 18 after high school as worked as time-keeper with a CPR section gang on the North Shore line (Hull to Lachute). He went to work for the Foundation Company of Canada in new Brunswick and Cornwall, Ontario. In 1932 he joined the Ottawa Police Force and during that year married Vivian Connolly. There were three children – Bernard, Ann and Trevor. Vivian died in 1950 and he remarried Geraldine Ireland in 1953 and moved to Southern Ontario. They had one son, Alan. Lew died in 1986.
- b. Emmett (he preferred Patrick) was born in 1916. After high school he worked for Equitable Insurance Company. When war arrived he went to Montreal and worked for Canada Air. From the late Forties he was associated with Investors Syndicate Group and lived in the Eastern Townships, Cowansville and Lennoxville, until moving to Montreal. He had married Molly Burke in 1936 and they had four children – Dianne, Judy, Patrick and Susan.
- c. Lawrence was born in 1920 and after high school worked for a year in External Affairs and then joined the Canadian Army in 1941. At the end of the war he was a Lieutenant in the Canadian Intelligence Corps. In 1946 he joined the Communications Branch of the National Research Council. Except for the period 1969-73 as a Liaison Officer in Washington, he remained in Ottawa until retirement in December 1974. In 1942 he married Pauline Turner and they had 8 children: Mark, carol Ann, Lawrence, Elizabeth, Stephen, John, Teresa and Julia.
- d. Rita's birthday was September 8, 1926. After high school and during the war worked at Navy Headquarters of National Defence. In 1950 she married Lorne Cox and they had 6 children: Colleen, Leo, Larrain, Patrick, Shawn and Debbie. Lorne died in 1974.

Sources & Items of Interest

Sources for this Cullen “history” were many and varied:

- a. St. Francois de Sales Church at Gatineau (the only one in Templeton Township in the early 1800s) revealed much information on baptisms, marriages and deaths. Records were in hand-written French. All names were in French spelling e.g. Antoine, Jean, Ursule, etc.; even Cullen was spelled Collin, Collins and Cullens.
- b. Lower Canada Census of 1842, 1851 and 1861
- c. First Canadian census of 1871
- d. Cemetery records
- e. Microfilm tapes in the National Archives and Quebec Provincial Archives for the Outaouais area
- f. Published church records for Buckingham and L’Ange Gardien (Angers)
- g. Notary records (Only touched on)
- h. Land grants records

Some items of interest from these resources were:

- a. 1861 census indicated that Anthony, Bernard and John lived in “1 ½ storey block houses”. Type of construction was shown in French as “pièce sur pièce”
- b. Required information for the 1841 census was less useful than later ones e.g. only head of household; other categories were e.g. livestock & crops – Anthony grew 100 bushels of oats, 100 of potatoes, had 1 cow and 6 horses.
- c. In 1841 Anthony had 3 Catholics in his house; John Sr. had 6 Catholics
- d. In 1841 John Sr. and Anthony each had “one female domestic”
- e. James Hagan, husband of Catherine Cullen, was the 1851 and 1861 census enumerator for Templeton Township

- f. Church records revealed that Anne Jane Crosby, wife of John Jr., was baptized, confirmed, had her First Communion and married all on the same day by Bishop Guigues, the first bishop of Ottawa

- g. Michael Thomas Cullen (son of Michael) was living in Montreal at 3591 St. Urbain Street in 1834; Emmett said that a Catherine Cullen owned an Irish Woollen store on St. Catherine Street in downtown Montreal. Catherine was a common name in each generation.

- h. The only Cullens appearing in Templeton in the 1871 census was Bernard's family (our direct line).

MARY ①
B. 1807 CTY CAVAN
M. THOMAS KENNEDY
B. 1804 D/1862

ANTHONY ②
B. 1809 CTY CAVAN D. 24/11/1870
M. URSULA McDONNELL 27/11/1839
B. 1821 D. 24/7/1870

BERNARD ③
B. 1818 CTY CAVAN D. 9/12/1883
M. MARY ANN KENNEDY 15/2/1847
B. 1832

CATHERINE ④
B. 1820 CTY CAVAN D. 13/12/1856
M. JAMES HOGAN 4/11/1846

MICHAEL ⑤
B. 1813 CTY CAVAN P. MAY 1857
M. ANN MARY BARRETT 4/9/1850
B. 1832

JOHN ⑥
B. 1825 CTY CAVAN
M. ANNE JANE CROSBY 19/9/1848
B. 1831

MARY ANN (i) ⑦
B. 1830 (?)
M. JOHN KEARNEY 10/1/1834
B. 1825

THOMAS ⑧ (ii)
B. (?) D. (?)
M. ANN MARY BARRETT 5/10/1863

(i) TENUOUS
CONNECTION
MOTHER WOULD
BE 50

(ii) MARRIED
MICHAEL'S
WIDOW

JOHN CULLEN

B. 1778 CTY CAVAN IRELAND D. 25/8/1858
M. ELIZABETH CARLON 1805 (i)
B. 1780 CTY CAVAN D. 7/3/1862

THEY ARRIVED IN CANADA IN 1826

(i) SURNAME UNCERTAIN. ALSO
APPEARED AS CARLIN, CAROLAN
CARALON

①

MARY CULLEN & THOMAS KENNEDY

BERNARD
B. 1836 D. 1898

②

ANTHONY CULLEN & URSULA McDONALD

MARY ELIZABETH URSULA
B. 1840 D. 24/9/1906
M. PATRICK RYAN 1864. 1 AUG.

JOHN
B. 1842 D. 27/12/1867

ANTHONY
~~B. 1845 D. 1862~~ B. 7/8/1845 D. 23/1/1862

(20)

BERNARD JOHN

B. 7 OCT 1881 D. 14 SEP 1956 (~~BERNARD JOHN MCCLEMMENTS~~)
M. LUCY MCCLEMMENTS 17 JUNE 1908 (~~BERNARD JOHN MCCLEMMENTS~~)
D. 14 FEB 1968 B. 4 APR 1883

(21)

ANN

B. 1884 D. 1920 ~~ANN MCCLEMMENTS~~

(22)

MARTIN

~~20/5/1885~~
B. 7 ~~1885~~ D. 3 NOV 1941
M. MONA COSGROVE 30 AUG 1914

(23)

JAMES

~~12/7/1890~~
B. 7 ~~1890~~ D. 1962
M. LAURA MILKS 29 JUNE 1913
B. 1843 D. 1974

~~ANNA~~

(26) ELIZABETH HELEN
B. 1/10/92 D. 29/10/96

~~ANNA REXFORDS~~

(25)

MARY CATHERINE MARY

B. 1894 D. 1955 B. 19 JUNE 1895
M. PETER MALONEY 9 JUNE 1912
B. 1886 D. 1958

(27)

MARY ANNE
B. 14/1/1893 D. 1890

(25)

ANTHONY JOHN

D. 31 AUG 1968 B. 14 SEP 1898
M. LAURA MALONEY 27/4/1931

~~ANN REXFORDS~~
~~ANN REXFORDS~~
~~ANN REXFORDS~~
~~ANN REXFORDS~~

(12)

JOHN BERNARD CULLEN & MARY POWERS

(20)

BERNARD JOHN CULLEN & LUCY McCLEMENTS

(30)

LLEWELLYN

B. 6 MAY 1909 D. 1986
M. VIVIAN CONNOLLY 18/3/1932
D. 1950
M. GERALDINE IRELAND 1953
D. 1987

(31)

EMMETT

B. 27 APR. 1916 D. 1980
M. MOLLY BURKE 1936
D. 1956

(32)

LAWRENCE

B. 13 JUNE 1920
M. PAULINE TURNER 2 MAY 1942
B. 26 MAY 1921

(33)

RITA

B. 8 SEP 1926
M. LORNE COX 1950
D. 8 DEC 1974

MARK

B. 15 FEB 1943

M. BARBARA MORSE 23 AUG 1969

CAROL ANN

B. 2 MAR 1944

M. EUGENE ROSS 21 AUG 1965

D. 19/12/1980

LAWRENCE

B. 27 OCT 1945

M. DELINE GRATTON 16 AUG 1969

MARY ELIZABETH

B. 26 OCT 1949

M. WILLIAM WASHINGTON 2 JAN 1973

M. KARL STRAUB 24 MAR 1979

STEPHEN

B. 13 APR 1951

M. JANA VALENTA 2 JUNE 1973

M. DEBORAH RIVERS 6 JUNE 1982

JOHN

B. 22 FEB 1953

M. PATRICIA McBANE 29 NOV 1974

TERESA

B. 5 OCT 1954

M. ROBERT MARCHESSAULT 20 AUG 1977

JULIA

B. 21 MAR 1961

LAWRENCE CULLEN & PAULINE TURNER

(32)

THE McCLEMENTS STORY

It is unknown when the first McClements (Patrick and Sarah Lynch) came to Canada. They were both born in Ireland, possibly in County Cork.

They settled on a farm in Buckingham Township at the end of a concession road leading from the road between Buckingham and Mayo. This concession road is the one where the Buckingham Airport/Glider Club is now located.

There were 4 children, all are believed born in Canada. Mary married John Stone, a British engineer from Bristol, England, and possibly left Canada. Michael married Ellen Sheehan in 1874 and settled on a farm at the mouth of Priest's Creek where it empties into the Lièvre River opposite Notre de la Salette. James (our direct line) married Julia Carroll who was born on a farm across the Gatineau River near Farrellton. Sarah died young from influenza.

James and Julia settled on an adjacent farm next to his father Patrick. They had 10 children, 5 boys and 5 girls, one of whom, Lucy, is our direct line.

As the family grew in age, the farm prospered. There were two barns, a stable for 8 horses, a granary and a building to house farm implements. The farm also contained a quartz, spar and lead mine. The latter was in demand during the two world wars and was operated on a concession basis to outsiders. Worthy of note was the purchase of an early threshing machine operated by a belt to a gasoline motor.

The original farm occupied by Patrick and Sarah had been sold and later re-purchased for James' son Joseph. The two farms together totaled 600 acres but were never operated as one entity. Each farm contained valuable wood but resources were limited for harvesting. By the time Joseph began farming on his own, only the eldest son Patrick remained on the farm. The other brothers and sisters had left home and married, Beatrice and Wilfrid to Buckingham, and others to Ottawa.

When one considers what could have been, there is a sad story to the final disposition of the two farms. In the late 1930s and early 1940s. Patrick was in poor health and unable to operate his farm. His wife had died and his two children had left home. There was an offer of purchase made by people from Buckingham who wished to build a golf course. The farm layout was ideal for this purpose with available water from a creek. Patrick refused this offer.

When Patrick died in 1947, his 350 acre farm was sold for \$4,000 by his executor. The purchaser obviously knew it was a bargain. The first thing he did was harvest a 50 acre stand of white pine planted by Patrick's grandfather about 75 years before. the main field leading up to the house and out-buildings became one huge gravel pit. It was not long before all the buildings disappeared. The remainder of the farm is now owned by the MacLaren Company.

This writer has many good memories of visits and stays to Joseph's farm. Farm people retire early and it's an experience to lie in bed at dusk and only hear the whippoorwills singing. Many days were spent roaming the farm and bush with only the dog as company. Countless brook trout were caught in the creek – some 12 to 15 inches in deep pools – with about 8 ft of line wound a cut sapling. Each fall brought a collection of butternuts for Mother's Christmas cake. There were occasional hunts with Dad for partridge. I fired that old double-barreled shotgun of Uncle Joe's only once and the kick knocked me over. Dad showed me the place where grandfather shot a bear. Speaking of bears, one joined Dad and I in a wild raspberry patch. Needless to say we let him have it to himself. Every year there berry-picking expeditions as much preserving was done in those days. They were usually on Sundays and ended with picnic suppers.

Aunt Florence was my favourite aunt and let me do pretty much as I pleased (mostly creek fishing). She and Uncle Joe worked very hard for very little return. In the early 1930s they suffered the loss of 3 of their 4 children in one week due to diphtheria.

1

MARY

B. 5/12/1836

M. JOHN STONE (ENGINEER OF BRISTOL, ENGLAND)
17/5/1874.

2

MICKREL

B. ~~1843~~ 1843 D. 24/1/1920, ST. ANDRE AVELLIN
M. ELLEN SHEEHAN 16/2/1874
B. 1851

3

JAMES

B. 25/4/1841 D. 10/10/1919

M. JULIA CARROLL
B. 1849 D. 28/10/1917

4

SARRAH ANN

B. 4/7/1847 DIED OF FLU
NOT WED.

~~1~~

PATRICK McCLEMENTS

B. 1810 IN IRELAND D. 24/2/1874 IN BUCKINGHAM

M. SARAH (SALLY) LYNCH

B. 1810 IN IRELAND

10

JAMES WILLIAM (1)

B. 14/6/1874

LIVED IN NORANDA

M. ELISABETH TRUDEL

11

PATRICK ALBERT (1)

B. 31/12/1876

12

DANIEL FREDERICK (1)

B. 7/12/1879

13

MARY EDITH (1)

B. 28/12/1880

14

ELEANOR MAY (1)

B. 4/5/1882

15

MICHAEL GERALD (1)

B. 21/3/1884 D 1901 DROWNED IN LIEVRE RIVER

(1) ALL WERE BORN ON FARM AT MOUTH
OF PRIEST CREEK ENTRY TO LIEVRE
RIVER.

~~13~~ 2

MICHAEL McCLEMENTS & ELLEN SHEEHAN

MARY ELLEN

B. 19/5/1874 D. 25/3/1882

BEATRICE SARAH

B. 15/11/1875 D. 1964

M. THOMAS POWERS 5/9/1900

ELLEN THERESA

B. 1888 D. 6/1/1946

M. ARTHUR DALY

PATRICK KERIN

B. 9/7/1882 D. 15/8/1947

M. MARY RYAN

JAMES WILFRED

B. 7/5/1881 D. 17/1/1955

M. GERTRUDE COOPER 27/6/1905

LUCY AGNES

B. 4/4/1883 D. 14/3/1968

M. BERNARD JOHN CULLEN 7/6/1908

JOSEPH MICHAEL

D. 29/12/1957

M. FLORENCE STOREY 21/6/1916

JOHN THOMAS

B. 1887 D. 8/3/1957

M. ROSY FILIATREAU 15/6/1915

MARY ETHEL

B. 1896?

M. JOHN DOLMAN D. ~~1881~~ 1979

ALBERT AMBROSE

B. 4/9/1897 D. 26/2/1970

M. ANNETTE LITTLE

JAMES McCLEMENTS & JULIA CARROLL

3