

1875 to 1888

The COBAINS

Samuel and Letitia



IN CANADA



THE COBANES/COBAINS IN CANADA

Samuel and Letitia Cobain arrived in Canada with their six children sometime in the year 1875. We know they traveled by sailing ship, however a passenger lists has not been found. Passenger list are extremely difficult to locate unless one knows the port of entry and the date of departure and arrival.

They settled in the province of Ontario in a small village on the St. Lawrence River called Osnabruck, which was about seventeen miles from the town of Cornwell and had a population of 100 people. It was while the Cobains were living in Osnabruck that their seventh child was born, a daughter whom they named Letitia Magdalen after her mother. She was born on March 2, 1878 and her baptism is recorded in the records of the Anglican Parish of Osnabruck & Moulinette. In later years when she was grown and married and had a daughter of her own, she became known as "Aunt Lettie" and my mother always spoke fondly of her.

On March 31, 1879, the Cobain's oldest son, Samuel, married Margaret Lebaine at Christ Church in Moulinette. Both gave their place of residence as Osnabruck and Samuel listed his occupation as shoemaker. Robert Scott, who later married the Cobain's oldest daughter, Ellen, was the best man at the marriage.

Samuel and Margaret were the only Cobains who remained in Canada when the others moved away in the late 1880's. Their first child was born on the 3rd of February in 1880 and was named Agnes Jennie. This daughter died of whooping cough that same year. Another child was born the following year, January 1881, a daughter who was named Francis Marion. Catherine Elizabeth was born on August 23, 1883.

Sometime between 1882 and 1891, Samuel and Margaret moved to a village of Roxborough. The census records for the year 1891 indicate that they now have six children: Francis who was 12, Catherine who was 10, Lilian age 8, Wesley age 5, Samuel age 2, and Althie a daughter age 3 months. These records show that the father, Samuel was still employed as a shoemaker.

The next record located on this family was in the 1901 census for Storemont County. They still lived in Roxborough and now had eight children. Annie, born on May 20, 1895, was five years old. Violet, born July 31, 1899, was two. There are no further records on this family that I have discovered. Family records indicate the father died in Ontario but no date is given. One family member recalls stories that Samuel and Margaret were quite musically inclined and that they had a small band that became very popular in the area. In the 1901 census, however, Samuel gave his principal profession as shoemaker.

It is quite likely that the descendents of Samuel and Margaret are living in Canada. Further research into the Canadian Census Records might possibly locate some of them. In the earlier records and at the time of his marriage to Margaret Lebaine, Samuel was using the COBAIN spelling of his last name, but in later census records, he had changed it to COBANE. Margaret was of French descent and may have been born in Quebec.

Sometime toward the end of 1879, Samuel and Letitia and their family moved to the village of Moulinette, which was just a few miles from Osnabruck and also on the shores of the St. Lawrence River. The Canadian Grand Trunks Railroad situated in the Township of Cornwall, Storemont County, Ontario, Canada. Population 150.

On April 21, 1881, the Cobain's oldest daughter, Ellen, married Robert Scott of Aultsville at Christ Church in Moulinette, Robert was also born in Ireland in February of 1858. My grandfather, John J. Cobain, was best man at their marriage. This couple moved to New York in 1885, and their oldest son, Harold, was born there in 1887.

Two years later, on December 18, the Cobain's second daughter, Mary Ann married William Love of Dickenson's Landing at Christ Church in Moulinette. My grandfather, John J. Cobain, was best man at this marriage also. Mary Ann and William had two children: Charles Arthur, born April 22, 1885, and Leda Pearl, born April 4, 1888. Both children were born in Moulinette and both were baptized at Christ Church. Some time later, this family moved to Chicago and I believe both of their children were raised there.

In 1887, My grandfather, John J. Cobain, was 23 years old. Both the Cobain and Van Alstine families were living in Moulinette at that time. My grandfather had fallen in love with the Van Alstine's only daughter, Anna. When the Van Alstine family left Canada and moved to the Territory of Washington in that year, my grandfather is said to have missed her terribly and became very depressed. Sometime in 1888 he also left Canada and came to Washington where he and Anna (my grandmother) were married on June 17, 1888, in the town of Ellensburg.

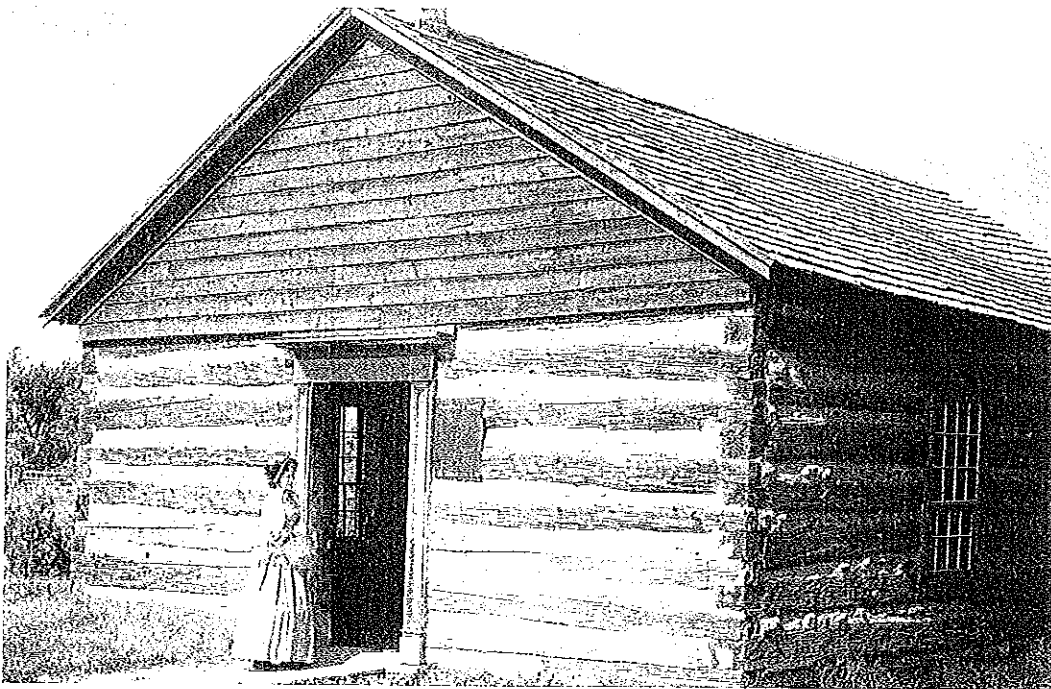
Not a great deal is known about the life of the Cobains in Canada. The villages they lived in were small and farming was the main occupation. The little villages along the river were all stations of the Grand Trunks Railroad and work on the railroad may have been the occupation for some. The oldest son, Samuel, was a shoemaker and it has been said that he was sent to England as a young boy to learn this trade. My grandfather also gave his trade as shoemaker in later years, but he was only 12 when the family moved from Ireland. He may have learned the trade from his older brother or also as a child in Northern Ireland.

Those family members remaining in Canada were my great grandparents, Samuel and Letitia, their son Thomas who was age 20, son William age 17 and daughter Letitia age 10. Census records for the year 1900 say they all entered the United States in the year 1890. Whether they all traveled together is not known, however one family member is quoted as saying that Thomas Cobane (then 22) together with John Van Alstine and another man (whose identity is unknown) walked to Washington from Canada. They came to Ellensburg where they got jobs on the railroad. Other family members came later that year.

THE PARISH OF OSNABRUCK & MOULINETTE

Approximately three year after the Cobain family arrived in Canada, a daughter whom they named Letitia Magdalen was born. She was the the seventh child born to this family. Below is a transcript from the REGISTER of the Parish of Osnabruck and Moulinette.

Born: 2 March 1878, baptized privately 24 July 1878,
Letitia Magdalen, daughter of Samuel and Letitia Cobain.
Officiating Minister: The Rev. Arthur Jarvis



Typical of the churches that served the congregations of Villages along the St. Lawrence in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries is the one-room log church shown above. This church, fully restored, now resides in Upper Canada Village.

THE TOWNSHIP OF OSNABRUCK

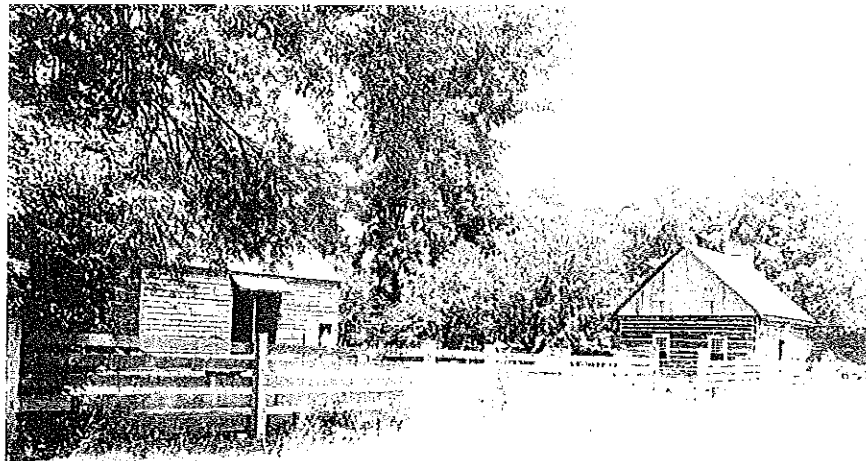
The Cobain family are believed to have lived in the Township of Osnabruock in the Province of Ontario from 1875 until 1880, at which time they moved to the Village of Moulinette.

Shown on the right and center of the page are the only two remaining buildings from 1800's. They are both located in Osnabruock Centre, the part of Osnabruock still left when most of the villages were flooded and destroyed during the building of the St. Lawrence Seaway in the 1950's.

The building at the top right was an Inn or Hotel and is now an apartment house. The building at center right was a general store with a hotel upstairs. A grocery store is still located on the main floor and the upstairs is the residence of the proprietor.

The log house and barn shown bottom right is typical of the farms that were found in the area at the time the Cobains were living there.

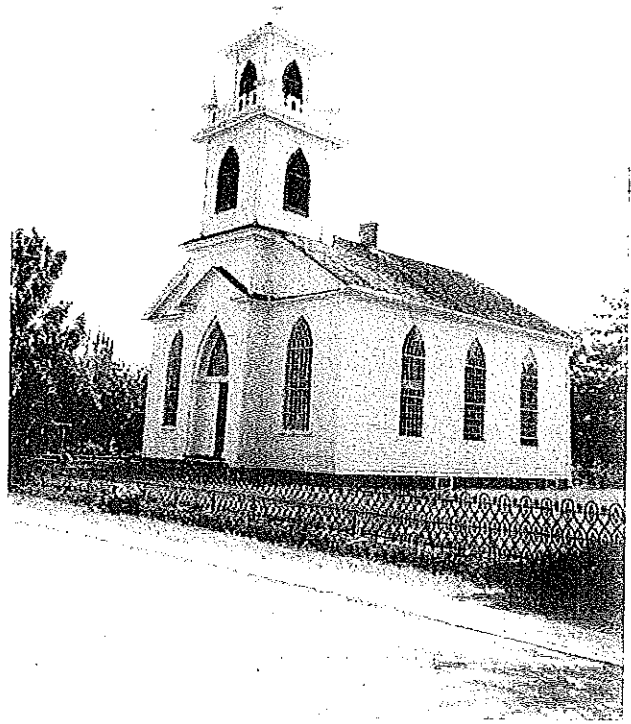
This house and barn were removed to Upper Canada Village in the mid 1950's.



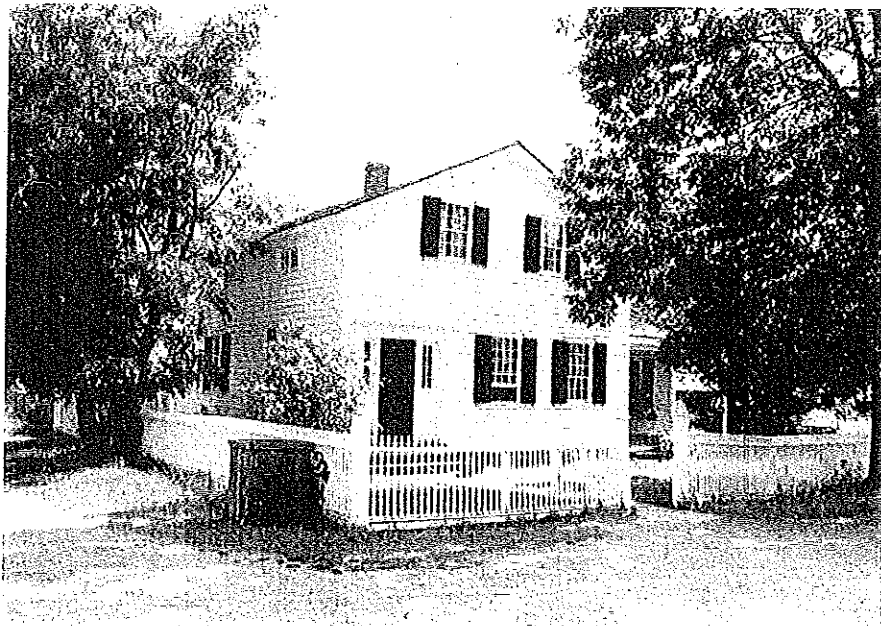
CHRIST CHURCH

Christ Church, built in the Village of Moulinette in 1837, was moved to Upper Canada Village in the mid 1950's.

The Cobain family attended this church from 1880 until 1888 when they emigrated to the United States.



The Rectory, now in Upper Canada Village.



CHRIST CHURCH

Christ Church was built in 1837 at Moulinette, Storemont County, Province of Ontario, Canada, for the Anglican Congregation. It was the church attended by the Samuel Cobain family after they had moved from Osnabruck to Moulinette. The following entries were taken from the Church Registry:

Married: 31 March 1879. By license, Samuel Cobain of the Township of Osnabruck, bachelor, and Margaret Lebaine of the same place, spinster.

Witnesses: Robert Scott and Carrie Dixson.

Officiating Minister: The Rev. Samuel Gower Poole.

Born: 16 January 1880, baptized 3 February 1880, Agnes Jennie, daughter of Samuel and Margaret Cobain, shoemaker

Sponsors: John and Mary Cobain.

Officiating Minister: The Rev. Frederick Prime.

Born: 25 November 1882, baptized 23 August 1883, Catherine Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel and Margaret Cobain, shoemaker of Moulinette.

Sponsor: Letitia Cobain, Grandmother

Officiating Minister: The Rev. Frederick Prime.

Married: 21 April 1881, Robert Scott of Aultsville, bachelor, and Ellen Cobain of Moulinette.

Witnesses: John J. Cobain and Sarah Elliot.

Officiating Minister: The Rev. Frederick Prime.

Married: 18 December 1883, William Love of Dickenson's Landing, bachelor, and Mary Anne Cobain of Moulinette, spinster.

Witnesses: John J. Cobain and Anne Forsythe.

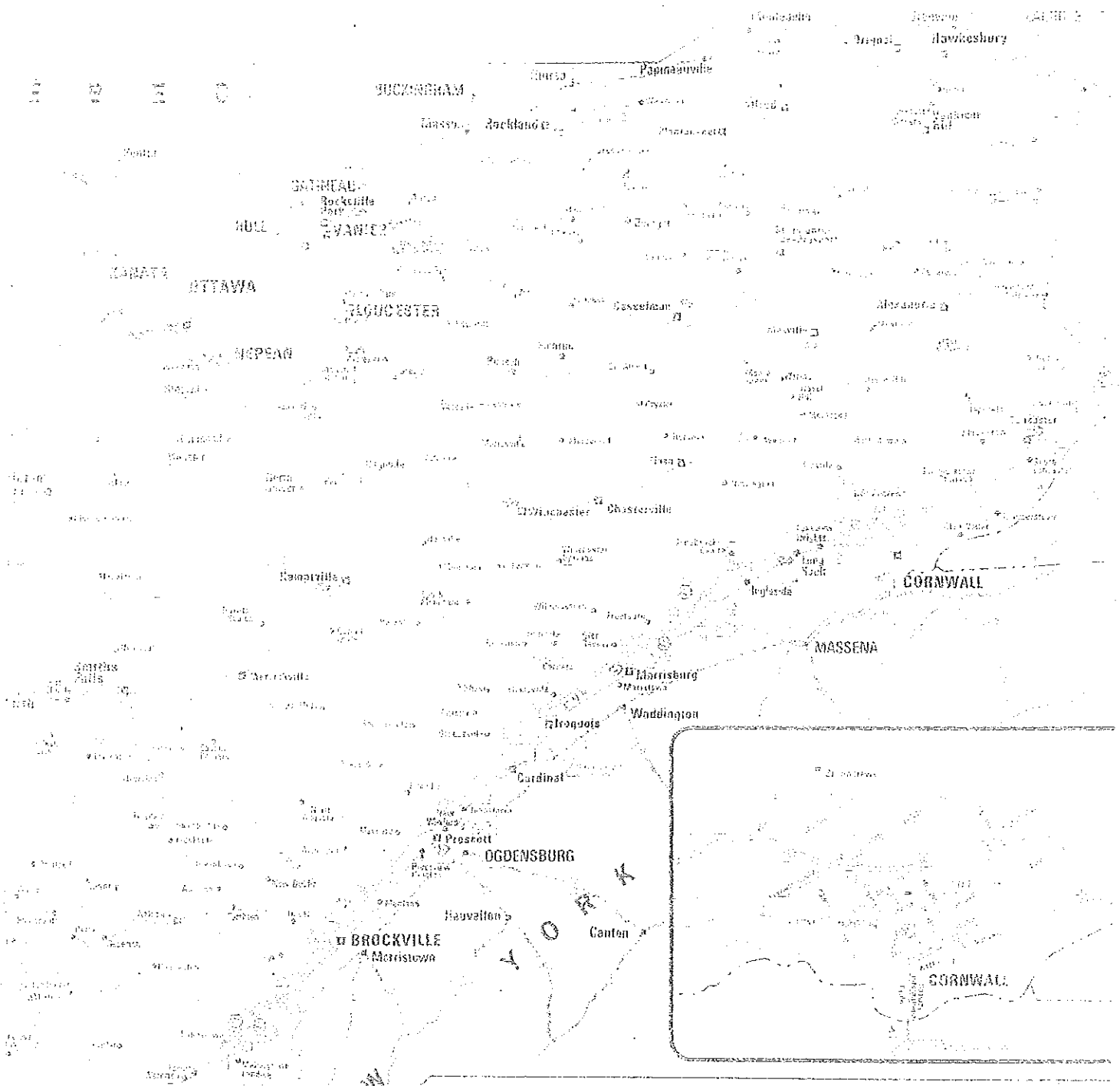
Officiating Minister: The Rev. Frederick Prime

Note: Children of the union were Charles Arthur, born 22 April 1885, and Leda Pearl, born 4 April 1888, both baptized at Christ Church, Moulinette.

Buried: 1880 (day and month not recorded). Cobain (first name not recorded). Cause of death listed whooping cough. Officiating Minister: The Rev. Frederick Prime.

This person believed to be the first born of Samuel and Margaret Cobain who died in infancy.

From the beginning the Church of England was the government supported "established" church of Upper Canada, and it enjoyed as such a privileged position. Not only was the Church of England entitled to the use of income from large land holdings, known as Clergy Reserves, but its ministers prior to 1798 were the only clergymen authorized to solemnize marriages.



SETTLEMENT INDEX - SOUTHERN ONTARIO