

## The John Cullen Road

In the 1850s, John Cullen was involved in road construction in Templeton Township. The lack of roads was a constant complaint of settlers. There were regular petitions to the authorities for grants to build roads as a means of improving the economy and opening up more areas to settlers. One such road became known as "the John Cullen Road" and was intended to link Perkins Mills westward to Wilson's Corners, then on to the Gatineau River across from Wakefield at Range 1 Lot 7.

In 1854 Thomas Kennedy, John's son-in-law, was appointed surveyor of this 23¾ mile route and £150 was appropriated for the survey. Kennedy reported that there would not be much difficulty traversing the land, that the soil was "well adapted for settlement" and the road would be useful in developing the north part of the Township.

After completion of the survey, John was appointed Overseer of the project and commenced construction in 1855. Estimated cost was £285 exclusive of three bridges needed. By 1858, 12½ miles were open and John estimated that a further \$1,000 would be required for completion.

There is no evidence the project was ever completed. The timing also coincides with John's death which suggests the project may thereafter have been abandoned or assumed by others. Stanislaus Drapeau, in his book "Étude sur le développement de la Colonisation dans le Bas-Canada depuis 10 ans, 1851-1861", noted "that a road started from the Perkins mill in Templeton and went northwest to lot 7 of the 9th range of Wakefield Township. There are in the vicinity of this road a lot of lime stone according to the report of John Cullen, the works manager of this road". Drapeau assumes that the Cullen route was extended by other contractors to Wilson's Corners then north to Range 9 in Wakefield.

Starting from the Perkins mill, did chemin Cullen take the direction of Lac Letourneau? Drapeau assumes this is likely since the mill served as a bridge to span La Blanche River. He also supposes that a transverse road linked this road to Hurd Road and to Brûlé Road (Montée D'Amours). From there the road joined the Tempenny farm, near Wilson's Corners, and on to lot 7 in the 9th range of Wakefield.

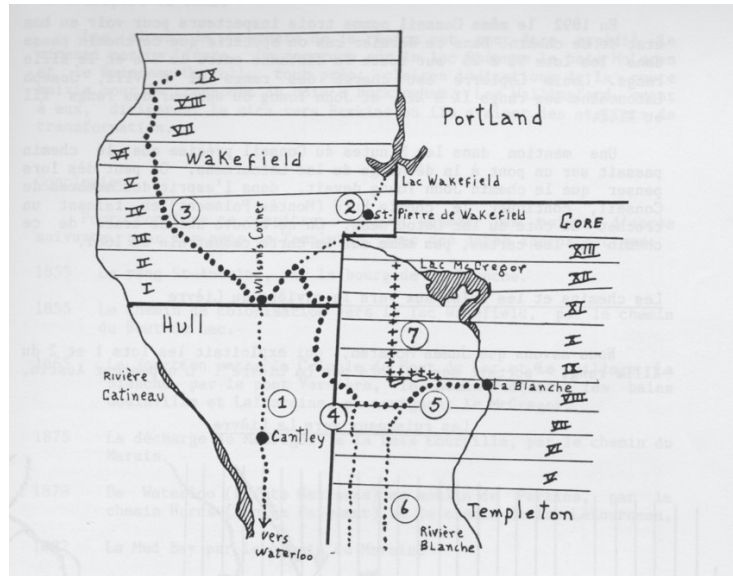
According to Drapeau, the Cullen Road may well have been nothing more than roads linking lumber camps and centres of colonization in the area.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> L-P Pigeon, o.m.i, La Blanche de Templeton, 1989, pages 110-111

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Map of the roads John Cullen and John Young in Templeton



1. Road between Waterloo (Pointe Gatineau) and Wilson's Corners well before 1861.
2. Colonisation road between Wilson's Corners and Lake Wakefield, a little before 1861.
3. Road between Wilson's Corners and Range 9 of Wakefield Township.
4. Chemin Brûlé (now Montée d'Amours) which continued to Tempenny farm situated on the road between Wilson's Corners to St-Pierre-de-Wakefield.
5. Connection between Lac Letourneau and Montée d'Amours.
6. Chemin Hurde (now Montée Paiement) which reached village La Blanche.
7. The John Young road between lots 23 & 24 through Ranges 6 and 13.