

CASTOR REVIEW

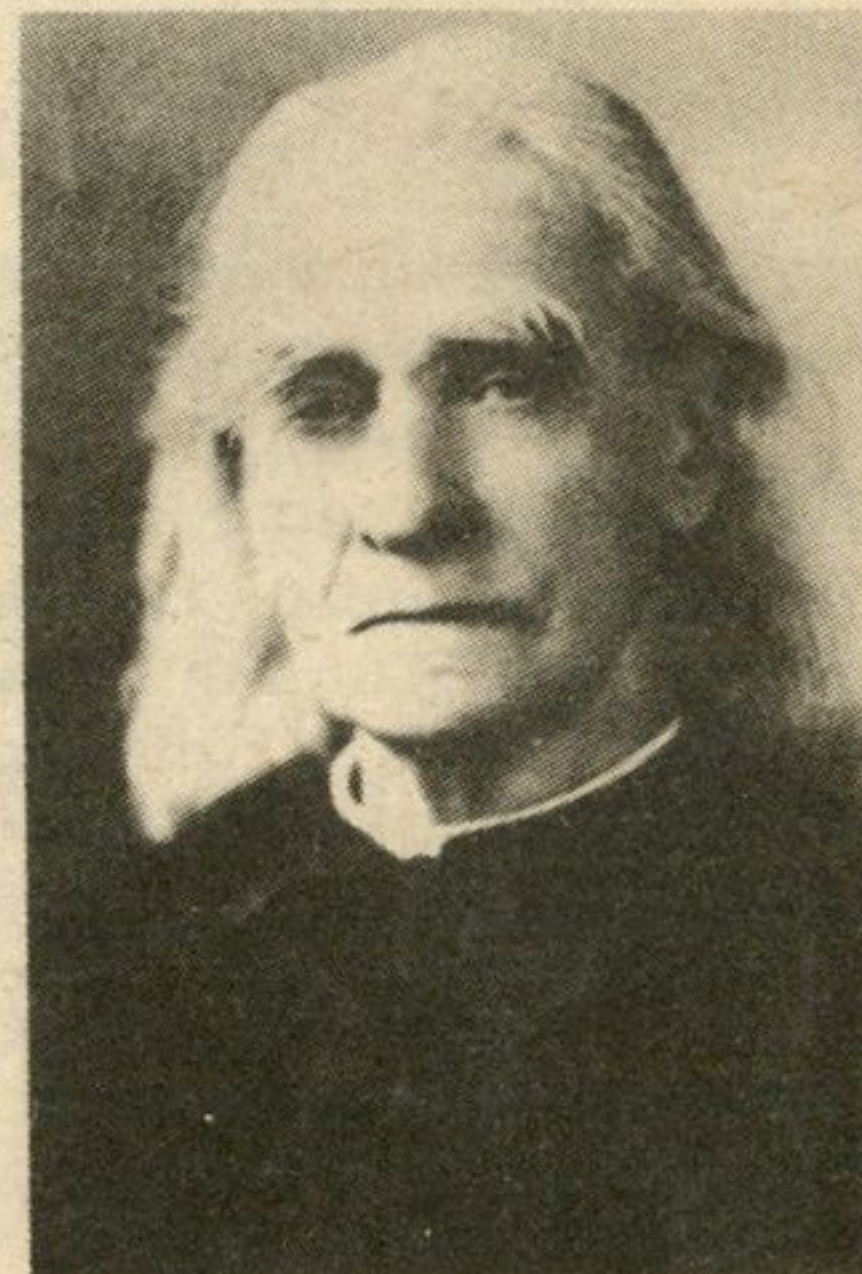
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Fighting Father Forget



By Ann Davelaar

A visit to a graveyard can be a thought-provoking experience. As we pass row on row of headstones gripped in cold embrace, we come to the poignant realization that life is all too frail and brief. Yet a cemetery is also a repository of local history and a record of human fortitude which transcends time and space.

One of the most impressive memorials to a well-spent existence is found in the Cimetière d'Embrun, which lies on a hillside sloping gently down to the Castor River. In the centre of the graveyard, a tall grey-cement cross guards the tomb of Monsieur le Chanoine Jean Urgel Forget.

The black marble headstone indicates Father Forget was born in St. Janvier, Quebec, in 1862, five years before Confederation. According to Father Robert Huneault, the present parish priest of Embrun, the only fact known about Father Forget's family is that he had a brother who was an Oblate priest.

Father Forget spent fifty of his eighty-four years, from 1896 to 1946, as parish priest of Embrun. This lengthy period of service has left its mark on the community in both spiritual and physical terms.

continued on page 15



Photo: Dennis McGann

ALSO INSIDE:

- Castor vote call
- Fire fighting's finest
- The Tyo style
- A wolf lover replies