

A Walk In Greenwood



Photo courtesy Pat Taylor

A collection of stories about the “residents” of Greenwood Cemetery

Written by Peggy Armstrong

Contents

Chapter 1 – The Waldie Family

Chapter 2 – The Gilbert Family

Chapter 3 – Early Burlington Doctors

Chapter 4 – The Dingle family

Chapter 5 – Tragic Accidental Deaths

Chapter 6 – Back to School

Chapter 7 – It's Harvest Season

Chapter 8 – Lest We Forget

Chapter 9 – They Died Away

Chapter 10 – Sea Captains & Sailors

Chapter 11 – Some Women Who Made a Difference

Chapter 12 – Brant Street Merchants

Chapter 13 – Men of the Cloth

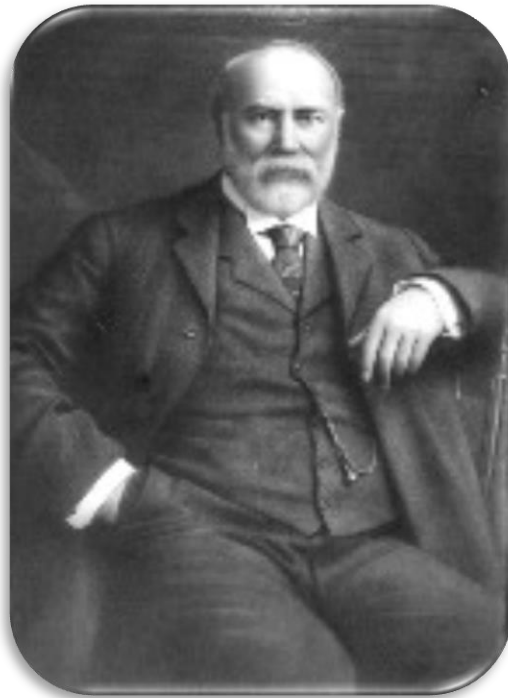
Chapter 14 – More Men of the Cloth

Chapter 15 – Men with Building Skills



A Walk in Greenwood

Chapter 1 - The Waldie Family Plot



John Waldie

This photo hangs in the Burlington Public Library, Central Branch, 2nd Floor

John Waldie purchased his large family plot in December of 1889. It is centered with the most prominent marker in Greenwood, topped with a Celtic cross, and is wrapped with a “fence” of granite posts, joined with heavy metal pipes, large corner stones and gate spaces front and back.

In addition to the main monument are 12 other markers, all in a similar tablet style.



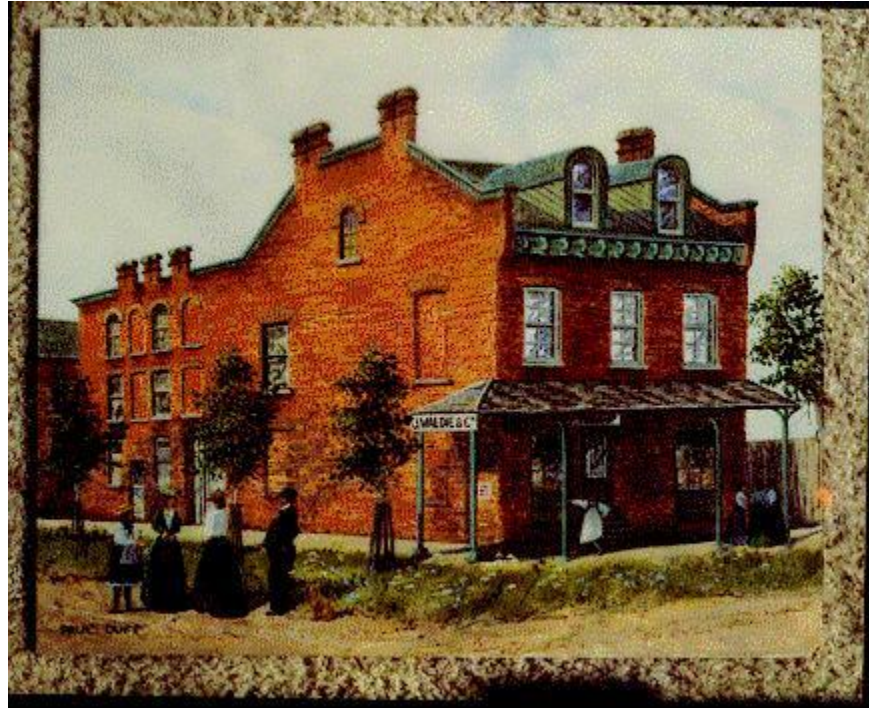
John Waldie, his two wives and youngest son Charles Percival Waldie, 2nd Lieutenant, who was killed in action in France in 1915, are remembered on the main memorial stone.

John and his first wife Mary Ann Thompson has 13 children, 6 girls and 7 boys. Nine of these children are interred in this family plot, along with a few spouses and children. The last burials took place in 1998.



The Waldie family left Scotland for Canada in 1842, when John was just nine years of age. They took up residence in Wellington Square which was later to become Burlington.

As a teenager John obtained work as a clerk in a busy general mercantile store on Water Street (now Lakeshore Road). He purchased this business in 1855 at the age of 22. John served as Reeve of Nelson Township and in 1873 he proposed the amalgamation of Wellington Square and Port Nelson which became incorporated as the Village of Burlington. John Waldie served as its first Reeve.



Twelve imported stained glass windows in Knox Presbyterian Church were a gift from John Waldie. Years later he also funded a library for Burlington.

In 1885, following the death of his wife MaryAnn, John sold his business here and moved to Toronto where he founded and became president of the Victoria Harbour Lumber Company. John Waldie died in Toronto in 1907. His funeral took place at Knox Church in Burlington.

John Edward Waldie, the 2nd son drowned in the French River at the age of 26. Another son, Walter Scott Waldie, Lieut. 1st Central Ontario Reg't, CEF, died of pneumonia in North Wales in 1919, on the eve of his embarkation for Canada. He was 40 years of age.

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A Walk in Greenwood

Chapter 2 – The Gilbert Family

In Block 37 of the old section of Greenwood Cemetery, we find what appears to be the most simplistic memorial record of a family. It is unclear at first look who these people were. In a single row are 7 almost identical flat markers, about 8 x 14 inches. On each marker is a single name only. They are: **Father, Mother, Mary, Nora, Esther, William and Margaret**. Not much to go on unless you are familiar with the family. After a little study of the plot, one is aware of a similar style but larger marker (14x24) opposite Nora, the middle of the row. On it, in larger letters is the name **Gilbert**.

The Gilbert family came to Burlington in 1899. **William Richard Gilbert** (*Father*)



was the agent for the Grand Trunk Railway station here. William had been born in Waterdown, grew up in New Hamburg, and after securing employment with the Grand Trunk Railway, was relocated a few times. He served as station master with the company for 32

A Walk in Greenwood

years. William was an active member of the Masonic Lodge, joining first at Wiarnton. Like many other men of his time, he also had membership in the Orange Lodge, the Oddfellows, and the Independent Order of Foresters. William died in 1923.

Note: That's William leaning against the corner of the building.

(Mother) **Esther Ann (nee Smith)** and William Richard Gilbert raised 6 children, 2 sons and 4 daughters. The family residence was on Burlington Avenue. Esther was an active member of St. Luke's church and died in 1935, at age 78 years.



514 Burlington Avenue

The Gilberts purchased this home in 1909 from Mr. George Allen and lived here until 1958.

(Mary), a single daughter, **Mary Hannington Gilbert** died in 1931.

A Walk in Greenwood

(*Nora*) **Fanny Leanora**, also a daughter who remained single, lived a very active and full life. She was educated in Burlington public and high schools. For over 20 years she worked with the Bell Telephone Company, but was best known as a **Newspaperwoman**. During over 30 years in that capacity she worked on the staffs of The Hamilton Herald, The Globe and Mail, The Toronto Star and The Hamilton Spectator. Nora regularly attended the council meetings of Burlington over a period of about 30 years, where her opinion was often sought and appreciated, according to former Mayor Ted Smith. Her obituary notes that she was also considered a good friend of the local fire department being in attendance at almost every fire, even in the middle of the night.

Nora also found time to serve other organizations. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the V.O.N., member of the Eastern Star, the Canadian Writers and Authors Club and the Arts and Letters Club and Women's Institute in addition to the Women's Guild and Institute of St. Luke's Anglican Church.

In addition to regular "Burlington news" reported in the Spectator, Nora's knowledge of the whole area of Burlington is left to us in the form of a series the Spectator undertook in 1951 and 1952 to profile the histories of the small communities in their coverage area. These were full page stories including many photographs. It was Nora who undertook the assignment for Burlington and Nelson Township. She wrote the stories and took the photographs for places from Appleby to Zimmerman, some more than once, about 16 in all. We have photocopies of this work in our Archives.

(*Esther*) **Esther Amelia Gilbert**, daughter, had married William T. Wodehouse but was a widow living on Princess Street when she died in January of 1959. Esther had married in 1945. Her husband died in 1957.

A Walk in Greenwood

(William) **William Maurice Gilbert**, son of Wm. R and Esther Gilbert died in February of 1964, at age 71, while on a World Tour with Mr. Paul Fisher, part of which was to have been spent addressing Rotary Clubs in Australia. William became ill at Honolulu and was advised to rest when he arrived in Australia, but became ill again on the plane and died shortly after arrival in New South Wales, Australia.

Gilbert had been a charter member of the Burlington Rotary Club, which was formed in 1951. He served as president of the club the following year. He had previously been a member of the Rotary Club in Oshawa when both he and his brother, Victor, had lived and worked there.

William Gilbert was born in Hepworth, ON. He was a long time employee for the A. S. Nicholson Company. At the time of his death he was manager of the Nicholson Building Center on New Street. William's hobby was building cruisers and sailboats.

William was past president of the Burlington Library Board. The old town bell, now at the north entrance of Central Library on New Street was preserved for the town through the efforts of William Gilbert. Initially he arranged to have the bell installed at the entrance of the former library on Elizabeth Street.

(Margaret) **Margaret E. Nicholson** was the wife of William M. Gilbert. They raised a son and daughter at their home on Caroline Street. Margaret was a sister of Mr. Allen S. Nicholson, her husband's employer.

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A Walk in Greenwood

Chapter 3 – Early Burlington Doctors

Block 9 of Greenwood Cemetery which is the first block on the east side of the old section, holds the memorial stones of 4 of Burlington's early doctors. The earliest was **Dr. William Richardson**, and in the same plot, his son **Dr. John Richardson**, who predeceased him by 2 weeks. Nearby is **Dr. Thomas Peart**, a grandson of Wm. Richardson's sister, and lastly, **Dr. Austin H. Spears**. A fifth, **Dr. W. R. Watson** is about half way down this section.

All but one of these men was the son of a farming family.





Dr. William Richardson was born in 1842, the 11th and last child of John Richardson and his wife Mary Fothergill, who, with a family of 8 children, had emigrated from Westmorland, England about 5 years earlier and settled on a farm on the Guelph Line, just above Lowville. William was baptized by Rev. Green of St. Luke's Anglican Church as John, very likely was John William, however, he always was known as William.

William went to public school in Lowville. He was later tutored by Rev. Dr. Greene of St. Luke's Church in preparation for his medical course at the University of Toronto. He added to this degree by attending a medical school in Philadelphia.

William began his practice at Nelson Village, in the old corner store – his new wife, Margaret, running the business. Three children were born to them there – a daughter survived only a few days, while a son, Harry, died at age 19. John, the eldest son followed in his father's footsteps and became a medical doctor.

In 1873, after about ten years at Nelson Village, William moved into the new "Village of Burlington". His home and practice were at the corner of Brant and Ontario Streets, where the cenotaph now stands. William continued to practice at this location for about 30 more years.

Dr. William Richardson took civic participation seriously. He served as councillor, then Reeve for 7 years. He was Medical Health Officer at the time of his death. For many years he served on the Public School Board, the Library Board and was the treasurer of Greenwood Cemetery Company. William also served in various capacities at Knox Presbyterian Church and was an active member of Burlington Lodge, No. 165, A.F. & A.M. and Wellington Square Lodge, I.O.O.F., filling the various offices until he reached the highest gift of the Subordinate Lodge.

In 1901, at a Board of Health meeting regarding smallpox, Dr. Richardson was able to get passed the requirement for all students to be vaccinated in order to attend school.

Dr. William Richardson died in March of 1904, of chronic bronchitis, at the age of 62 years.



430 Brant Street "The White House"

Dr. John Christopher Richardson, eldest child of Dr. William and Margaret Richardson, was born at Nelson Village in 1865. He attended Burlington Public School, then the Collegiate Institute in Hamilton, before taking his medical course at Trinity University, Toronto, graduating in 1893. John was married that year to Lottie May Stewart, daughter of architect, William Stewart of Burlington, formerly of Hamilton, where he was the designer of many Hamilton buildings including schools, the Main Street Library and the Right House Building. John joined his father's medical practice and lived around the corner on Locust Street.

Four young children, Harry, Stewart, Gerald and Margaret, aged 10 to 3 years, were left with the passing of Dr. J. C. Richardson from tuberculosis in February of 1904, just over 2 weeks before the death of his father. Dr. John Christopher Richardson was just 38 years old. A considerable void was left with the death of these two physicians.

Dr. Austin Hager Speers was born in 1867 on a farm in Trafalgar Township, graduated from Oakville High School in 1886 and entered Trinity College at Toronto, graduating in medicine in 1890. His obituary says he opened a practice in Burlington the next day. His home and office was on Elizabeth Street. The building, at a later date, became Burlington's Public Library.



482 Elizabeth Street

Until he could afford a horse and buggy, Dr. Speers walked to visit his patients. In the year of 1904, when the two Dr. Richardsons died, he was the only physician in town and often travelled 60 miles in a day by horse and buggy.

Dr. Speers took an active part in our community. He served on council for 4 years and helped establish our waterworks and sewage systems. He was Medical Officer of Health in 1891 and continuously after 1912 until he retired in 1945. He had been School Medical Officer for the public schools for 25 years and the high school for 15. He was Past Master of Burlington Lodge 165 and a life member. Dr. Speers served as superintendent of the Sunday School of Trinity United Church for 32 years and sang in the choir for many years.

Dr. Speers served three generations of some families and delivered over 2000 children, some, great-grandchildren of his original patients.

Dr. Speers died in 1947 in his 80th year. His wife, Mary Kentner (Minnie) whom he married in 1899, predeceased him in 1933. Dr. and Mrs. Speers had one daughter, Marjorie.



Dr. Thomas Wellesley Peart was born on the Peart homestead on Guelph Line in 1866. He was the eldest of five children of Arthur W. and Helen Peart. Thomas attended Fisher's Corner public school, then Victoria Avenue high school in Hamilton where he matriculated in 1906. He graduated in medicine from the University of Toronto in 1910 and his "medical council" at Hamilton General Hospital.

In 1911, following the death of Mrs. Dr. William Richardson, he purchased and set up his practice in the Richardson home on the corner of Brant and Ontario streets. Dr. Richardson was a great uncle. At the end of December 1910 he was married to Florence Lydia Dingle, daughter of Richard W. and Emma Dingle. Thomas and Florence had one daughter, Helen.

Thomas served patients during the flu epidemics in 1918 – 1920 often out night and day. His interest in town affairs led him to serve several years on council and a short time as mayor in 1919. He was an avid supporter of amateur sports, and had been a member of the successful Strathcona Football Club. He held the office of president of the hockey club for many years and was president of the Burlington Skating Rink Company until it was taken over by the town.



Strathcona Football Club 1908
T.W. Peart is not in this photo

In 1929 Dr. Peart sold his practice in Burlington to Dr. W. A. Weaver, and opened an office in the Medical Arts Building in Hamilton.

Dr. Thomas W. Peart died in 1937 at the age of 51, following an illness of only one week. That same month his daughter, Helen, was the recipient of a special award at McMaster for special standing in Special English and Special History. She and her mother later went to Montreal where Florence, her mother, became a librarian and Helen did further studies, becoming a librarian as well.

Dr. William Robert Watson – the memorial stone for the Watson family is in Block 27, which is about half way down the centre roadway towards the island in the middle of what is known as the Old Section of Greenwood Cemetery.

Dr. Watson was born in 1860 on his parents' farm in Nelson Township, located on the 1st Concession, north of Dundas Street, on what we know as Cedar Springs Road. He was one of nine children. Two brothers also became medical doctors, one practicing in South Africa.

Dr. Watson graduated from the University of Toronto in 1876. His obituary says he practiced for 16 years at Burgessville, prior to coming to Burlington, and his last 9 years at Elmira. Those numbers allow for several years elsewhere.

Dr. Watson's "business card" in the Burlington newspaper credits him with an L.R.C.P. degree from London, England.

Dr. Watson came to Burlington in March of 1904 and set up his office on Water Street, now Lakeshore Road, in a building just east of the bank at the Brant Street corner. By the end of the month he was appointed Assistant Coroner for Halton County and appointed Medical Officer of Health for the remainder of the year. Dr. Richardson, who had held this office, had just died.

Dr. Watson's sister, Mrs. J. W. Bridgman, a resident of Burlington may have informed her brother of the health situation of the Drs. Richardson.

After ten years in Burlington, in April of 1914, Dr. Watson moved to Waterdown and opened a practice there. He sold his medical practice in Burlington to Dr. W. A. Bodkin who was House Surgeon at the Hamilton City Hospital, with the provision that Dr. Watson reserved the right to meet any of his patients in consultation with Dr. Bodkin. At this time, we know that Dr. & Mrs. Watson still had a son attending school. The Burlington Gazette newspaper, in July, reported that son, Fred, had been successful in passing recent exams in Waterdown, "heading the list for the County of Wentworth". The Watsons raised two daughters and three sons, one of whom was a doctor practicing in Kitchener in 1927, at the time of Dr. Watson's death at the age of 66 years.

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Sources:

Burlington Gazette microfilm

Peart Family History

Diseases and Doctors: Medical Practice in Burlington, Ontario 1791-1961

By Dr. G. Patrick Sweeny & Dr. Edward Smith

Note:

Dr. Pat Sweeny is a BHS member. The book “Diseases and Doctors: Medical Practice in Burlington, Ontario 1791-1961” is available at the Burlington Public Library.





A Walk in Greenwood

Chapter 4 – The Dingle Family

Block 52 of Greenwood Cemetery is to the east side of the Waldie family plot, and next to the east side roadway. Here we find three markers belonging to Burlington's Dingle Family.

Mr. R. W. Dingle operated a butcher shop in Burlington, yet at least five of his six children obtained a "higher education", both sons and daughters.

Richard William Dingle was born on a farm located in the Cannon Street area of Hamilton in the year 1857. During his early married life he farmed near Dundas. Four of the 6 children of Richard and his wife Emma were born there.

About 1896 the family moved to Burlington where Mr. Dingle opened a butcher shop on Brant Street, operating there until January of 1935 when his employee, Howard Sheppard, bought the business.

R. W. Dingle was a lover of amateur sport and especially enthusiastic of hockey, baseball and lacrosse.

Richard William Dingle died the 5th of December 1941, at the age of 85 years. His wife, Emma, was predeceased by 2 of their children when she died at age 96 in 1963.

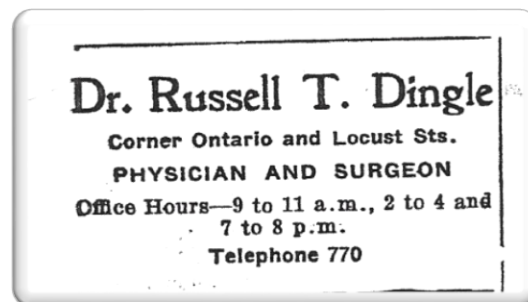




A Walk in Greenwood

Lena Maud Dingle, the second youngest child (1895-1980), is remembered on her parents' marker. We know that in 1915 she was successful in passing her Matriculation and Normal Entrance examination. When the 1921 census was taken, Lena, 23 years of age, living at home (at the time of the census) is recorded as being a teacher with an income of \$900. Lena became qualified as a Household Science teacher and taught for many years at "Franklin School" in Toronto. She was still living in Toronto when she died in 1980.

Russell Tweedie Dingle, 4th child and 2nd son was born in Dundas in 1893. His early education took place in Burlington. As did his brothers and sisters, he took a job in a local business to earn money. By 1915, Russell was in his third year at Woodstock College. At that time Russell enlisted for overseas service in WWI, signing up with the motor cycle corps. The war service delayed his graduation from the University of Western, London, Ontario until 1926. Russell then went to Schenectady, N.Y. for a few months, working on the "house surgeon" hospital staff. Shortly after returning he opened his own practice in Burlington. Dr. Russell Dingle's home and practice were for many years at 1457 Ontario Street, just west of Brant Street.





A Walk in Greenwood

Dr. Russell Dingle married Dorothy Appleford of Port Nelson in 1934. The couple had a son Bruce and a daughter, Lesley.

Dr. Dingle was appointed Medical Officer of Health for Burlington in 1946, following the retirement of Dr. Speers. He served on the high school board, was a past president of the Burlington Lion's Club and was surgeon-lieutenant attached to the Burlington Sea Cadets.

Lloyd Denham Dingle, the youngest of the Dingle children, was born in Burlington in 1899. Following his early education in Burlington, Lloyd chose to attend



McMaster University in Toronto. Lloyd graduated from Osgood Hall with an M.A. in 1923. He formed a partnership with a Mr. Schatz, in Toronto, but in January of 1924, was operating a temporary office at the family residence in Burlington on Fridays and Saturdays. In July of that year his business card in the newspaper gives his location as "over" 52 Brant Street.

Lloyd D. Dingle was elected Mayor of Burlington for the 1931-1932 term

Lloyd was also a member of the Burlington Lion's Club, serving as secretary-treasurer.

At the age of 36, Lloyd married Margaret Vining, daughter of Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Vining of Toronto. Lloyd and "Peg", as his wife was known, raised 2 children, Denham and Alison.



A Walk in Greenwood

Lloyd tried his hand in politics again in 1937, when he was chosen as the Conservative Candidate for Halton for the Provincial election. He was, however, defeated by the Liberal Candidate from Oakville.

In the spring of 1949, Lloyd D. Dingle, K.C., was appointed Crown Attorney for Halton County.

Lloyd Denham Dingle, Q.C. died in 1967, still a relatively young man. His wife, Margaret died in 2004 at the age of 96 years.

Florence Lydia Dingle was the eldest of the children of Richard W. and Emma Dingle. She was born in Dundas in 1887. Most of her early education took place in Burlington. The newspaper reports that in 1906 Miss Flossie Dingle won the Wellington scholarship in mathematics at Trinity University. The following year, Florence was a teacher at East End School but resigned in September of 1908 to resume her studies at Trinity College in Toronto.

Florence curtailed her education to marry Dr. Thomas W. Peart (Burlington Mayor, 1919) at the end of December 1910. A daughter, Helen, born in 1915, graduated from McMaster University in Hamilton in 1938 with an honours B.A. in English and History. Dr. Peart had died in June of 1937.

Florence and her daughter Helen moved to Montréal, where Florence completed her B.A. at Sir George Williams College, and two years later her librarian course at McGill University with a B.L.S. degree. She worked in the medical library at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal until she died in 1963.



A Walk in Greenwood

Her daughter Helen also took her B.L.S. degree and worked as a librarian at the Bank of Montreal, the International Labour Organization and, later, the Law Library of McGill University. She then moved to Ottawa where she worked at the C.C.F. National headquarters.

In 1947 Florence and Helen took a trip to England which resulted in an appointment for Helen at the London School of Economics.



Both Florence and Helen are remembered on the **Peart** marker in Block 9, although Helen is not interred here. Helen married in London and bore a daughter who carried on the family legacy of success.

Neither of the other two Dingle children were interred at Greenwood, however, the following tells what we know about them.

William Hugh Dingle (Hugh) was born in Dundas in 1889, the second child and eldest son of Richard and Emma. For a time he was employed at Hick's Jewelry store, then went "west". His marriage in Winnipeg, December 1915, is announced in our local Gazette newspaper, however, we have as yet not determined his occupation. Hugh died suddenly at Vancouver, B.C. in March of 1956.



A Walk in Greenwood

Della Sarah Dingle was born in Dundas in 1891. In 1910 she was awarded the prize offered by Hon. Colin Campbell, for the best 1500 word essay on the Rev. Egerton Ryerson. The complete essay was printed in the Burlington Gazette. A year later she was appointed to a teaching position at Central School, to be paid \$450. Later she taught at Drombo public school.

It seems these positions provided her with the funding necessary to attend Cornell University where, by about 1922, she had acquired a B.A. degree.



Della secured a position in the Methodist Book Room, Toronto. She resigned in 1925 to accept a position on staff at the University of Toronto with the Department of Psychology.

In 1927 Della was married to Fred W. Kemp, M.A. of Toronto.

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*Sources: The Burlington Gazette, Microfilm, Burlington Public Library
Greenwood Cemetery, OGS Transcription
Peart Family History, BHS Archives
1921 Canada Census (Lena) researched by Joan Downey
Toronto City Directories (Lena) researched by Pat Taylor, Toronto Reference Library*



A Walk in Greenwood

Chapter 5 – Tragic Accidental Deaths

Death is often a shock to family and friends, even when we have some warning of its coming. Greenwood Cemetery is the final resting place of many deaths that came suddenly, tragically and without warning. Many of these took place in the early 1900's when many worked from pay check to pay check with no financial backup or insurance to help when an accidental death took place, especially to a young father. Work place safety also was not as it is today.



I have chosen from a long list of such events in our community's past, and please, be forewarned, the details may be disturbing.

Reginald Melvin Billings, 27 years of age, was born in Burlington, the son of Mrs. Billings and the late Thomas Billings, who had died less than 3 months earlier. Reg also left a sister and 5 brothers when he died on that January day in 1921.

Reg had enlisted and served overseas during WW1, as did at least three of his brothers. A short letter printed in the *Burlington Gazette*, from the four of them, expressed thanks for the apples that had arrived overseas in excellent condition.

On the fateful day of his death, Reg had accompanied a friend on an automobile trip to Hamilton. They were on their return home, and at about four o'clock, in the vicinity of Maplehurst Public School on Plains Road, a young girl started to cross the

A Walk in Greenwood

highway. The driver of the car upon realizing the danger, applied the brakes to avoid hitting the child. The car swerved, hitting the girl enough to break her collarbone, the car finally landing in the deep ditch along the highway. *(There is no ditch there now.)*

The force of the impact threw Mr. Billings against the windshield, crushing his skull, and when assistance arrived he was found lying in the back seat. The driver who was jammed against the steering wheel, receiving internal injuries, was taken to Hamilton hospital. Reg Billings however, had breathed his last (as the paper reports) when Dr. W. A. Bodkin from Burlington arrived on the scene of the accident.

The funeral which took place from his mother's residence, was of a semi military nature. About thirty-five ex-soldiers marched to the grave, in uniform. At the conclusion of the service, a firing squad, under ex-Sergt. A. Cripps and ex-Corp. T. Waumsley fired three volleys and the last post was sounded by ex-Private C. V. Gilbert. The pallbearers named were all ex soldiers.

The Billing plot is in Block 11 of Greenwood Cemetery.

At the inquest held, the driver was relieved of any blame for the accident.



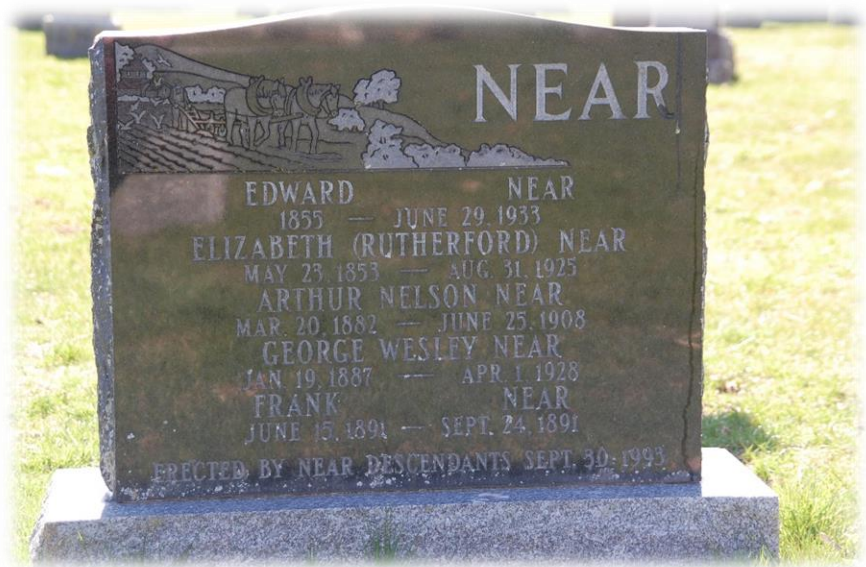
Arthur Nelson Near, 26 years of age, was born in Nelson Township and lived in Burlington for a number of years, until about age twenty when he moved to the Barton area of Hamilton and engaged in fruit farming. He too grew up in a large family, having 2 sisters and 4 brothers.

A Walk in Greenwood

On Thursday, June 25th, 1908, the day of his accident, this young married man had made a trip to the mountain to acquire a load of manure. His trip home took place in the evening, the route described in the paper as the “east end incline”, the accident happening near the reservoir. While making the turn onto the road running east, the nut on the front wheel, on the right side of the wagon worked loose, the wheel came off, causing his wagon to drop on that side. Mr. Near was unable to control his frightened horses. When they broke loose and ran off, Mr. Near was thrown off the wagon, the hind wheel running over the lower part of his body and crushing him badly. Witnesses hurried to his assistance, summoned medical help, however, surgery at the hospital could not save his life. Arthur Near died within six hours.

Arthur’s remains were taken to the home of his father-in-law in Burlington. His funeral took place to Greenwood Cemetery on Sunday afternoon.

On September 30, 1993 a new stone was erected by Near family descendants. An etched farm scene commemorates the family history.



Lloyd Kerns Starmer, lost his life Monday, 31 October 1938 in his 23rd year. Lloyd was born in Nelson Township on the farm on Brant Street, where he lived with his parents and sister. The family were members of Nelson United Church on Dundas Street.

A Walk in Greenwood

Lloyd Starmer, who was described as being bright, cheerful, industrious and ambitious, was busy building a house on the family farm, in preparation for his marriage which was to take place in the near future. He and a friend had journeyed to a gravel pit for a load of gravel, and were engaged in digging the gravel, when the wall of the pit suddenly caved in. The friend was able to jump clear when the collapse came, and escaped injury, but Lloyd was stuck heavily by the avalanche. With assistance the pile was soon removed, but life was already extinct.

Lloyd, son of Charles and Mabel (Kerns) Starmer was interred in Greenwood Cemetery on Wednesday 2nd November 1938, block 31.



Fred Sutton, was also in his 23rd year when he died in May of 1908. His wife Mildred (Cotter) had died in January of the previous year, leaving him with three young children. Fred was survived by his parents, two brothers and five sisters.

Fred Sutton was a member of a gang employed gravelling the rail line between Brantford and Ancaster. The day's work had been completed, and it was 9:30 when the train of empty cars started for Hamilton. While the cars were in motion, several of the men were engaged in throwing off the block and tackle, in preparation for the next days' work. Mr. Sutton had been assisting in this work, and was in the act of walking towards the enclosed electric car, when, in the dark, he missed his footing, and fell between two cars. A car passed over him, almost severing his right leg at the hip, and his left leg below the knee. In great agony, this young man was taken to the Hamilton City Hospital, where surgery was performed, but died of his injuries a few hours later.

A Walk in Greenwood

Fred Sutton was interred in Block 28 of Greenwood Cemetery.



Dr. Dennis M. Smith, aged almost 31, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell Smith of Water Street. Dennis and his wife Margaret, a nurse from Saskatchewan, had been married in June. His accidental and tragic death happened on Halloween night 1938.

Dennis was born in Burlington, on December 6, 1907. He attended elementary and high school in Burlington, next studying at McMaster University, and later Queens where he graduated in medicine in 1933. Dennis also graduated from the New York Post Graduate Medical School. He served professionally for two years on C.N.R. passenger boats, plying between Montreal and South American ports and then for a while practiced at Kirkland Lake. In March of the year he died, he was appointed physician at the Madsen mine in Red Lake area.

On the evening of Halloween, 1938, Dr. Dennis Smith and his wife attended a masquerade party at the Madsen Gold Mine. Dennis was wearing a Hula costume, highly inflammable, which somehow was suddenly ignited and burst into flames so rapidly, other members of the party were unable to extinguish them before his body was severely burned, although he was rushed outside and rolled in the dirt. He was rushed to hospital but died within a few hours.

A Walk in Greenwood

Margaret, accompanied her husband's remains home to Burlington, after flying out by airplane from Madsen to Kenora.

Dennis was interred in Block 51 of Greenwood Cemetery. Besides his wife and parents, Dennis left behind a brother Donald and sister, Maxine.



Harry French, was born in Nottingham, England. He was 34 years of age, and had come to Canada and settled in Burlington about eight years earlier and found employment with the Glover Basket factory at Freeman. It was while Mr. French was doing his job, on an April day in 1914 that he lost his life under frightening circumstances.

On a Tuesday morning about nine o'clock, Harry French and another employee were engaged in rolling logs into a large vat, just outside the building, used for steaming the logs before they were placed on the peeling machine. Mr. French was working with his back to the tank, which was sunk into the ground, and the "cant hook", used in rolling the logs, slipped off the log he was assisting to handle, and he fell backwards into the vat of boiling water.

His severely scalded body was taken to his home, and medical aid summoned, who held no hope of his recovery from the beginning, but did everything possible to relieve his suffering.

Mr. French was a member of the Sons of England lodge, who attended the funeral in a body, and participated in the service.

A Walk in Greenwood

Mr. French was survived by his wife and two small children. He was a member of the Canadian Order of Foresters and carried \$1000 insurance policy.

The Burlington Gazette reported July 1st, that a Hamilton barrister had issued a writ on behalf of Mrs. Annie French, against W. T. Glover Basket Co. for \$10,000.

Harry French is interred in block 23 of Greenwood Cemetery.

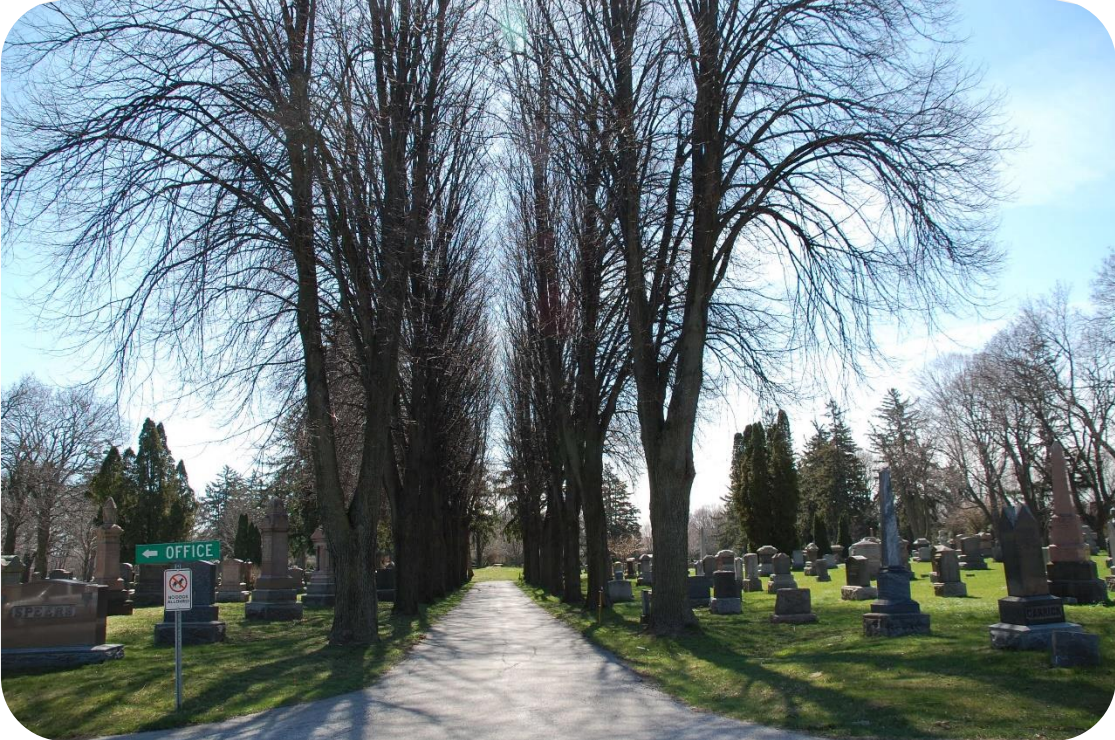


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Source: Burlington Gazette, Accident Reports/Obituaries

Photography by Pat Taylor

A Walk in Greenwood





A Walk in Greenwood

Chapter 6 - Back To School

September is the month to either start, or return to school. Students are anxious to have “school supplies”, parents shop for new fall clothes and teachers make plans for the new term.



Students have been attending school in Burlington, and the former Wellington Square for over 180 years, and Greenwood Cemetery has been the resting place, for not only many of those students, but also their teachers. For the following teacher profiles,

I have chosen two from the very earliest school in Wellington Square to more recent teachers whom you may have had the opportunity to have known, either as a student yourself, or as a parent.

Greenwood holds the memorials for unknown dozens of former teachers, many women who taught until marriage and then were required by custom to retire from the profession.

Please continue to learn some interesting facts about the lives of Burlington teachers.

Barbara Morrison, 1844 -1920 and her husband **Richard Bredin M.D., 1833 -1904**
Greenwood Cemetery, Block 15

Barbara was born in Wellington Square, her parents arriving there as newly weds in 1836. Her father died in 1854 leaving his wife with five daughters and one son, he being the youngest. That son, Barbara's brother died in 1866 the result of fatigue and exhaustion from his participation in the battle at Ridgeway. He was given a military funeral to St. Luke's cemetery.

The school that the Morrison children would have attended was built in the 1840's on the south-east corner of Brant Street at Caroline. That building still exists, although somewhat altered, at 296 Appleby Line, having been moved there many years ago.



Wellington Square Common School – Then



Wellington Square Common School - Now

Records show that Barbara taught at S.S. No. 3, the Appleby school in the 1850's before becoming the junior teacher at the "Wellington Square Common School". We know that Barbara was still teaching when the 1871 census was recorded, and that she married Dr. Bredin in 1875. The couple then lived in Michigan where his medical practice was.

Dr. Bredin's short obituary in the 1904 Burlington Gazette, makes note of the fact that he had taught school here many years ago and would be remembered by residents living in the village at the time of his death.

Barbara returned to live in Burlington after her husband died. One sister, Mrs. Wm Kerns (Ellen) lived on Water Street and another sister Harriet Lindsay lived in the area. That sister and her husband share a plot at Greenwood with Barbara and Richard.

Daniel E. Smith, B.A. 1852 -1928

Greenwood Cemetery Block 29



S.S. No. 3 Appleby

Daniel Smith was born in Wentworth County and received his early education there. Daniel taught in the S.S.No.3 school at Appleby during the year 1873, which may have been to earn funds to finish his university degree. He lived for a number of years in Chicago and then returned to Canada.

In 1912, Burlington had built a new Central School, the one that exists today. Two rooms were set aside for continuation classes, the beginning of our Central High School. Daniel Smith was hired as Principal of the continuation classes. In the summer of 1916, Mr. Smith took a summer course at the Agricultural College in Guelph to improve his science classes. After Central High School was built in 1919, Mr. Smith continued as teacher of mathematics for another 4 years, when he tendered his resignation. He was then over 70 years of age, yet after moving to Toronto, conducted a night school. Mr. Smith it seems was well loved and respected, his students achieving success under his guidance. A group of former Burlington students living in Toronto, paid a visit to his home with a gift, on the occasion of his birthday.

Walter C. Torrance, B.A. 1899 – 2003

Greenwood Cemetery, Block 64

Walter Torrance was born on a farm in Amaranth Township where he spent his youth. He attended Shelburne High School followed by the University of Toronto where he obtained his B.A. Walter was a teacher of Commercial subject at Central High School from 1939 to 1965. When asked by his principal to coach the junior football team, he agreed. Although he had no experience, he realized with a good “how to” book of instruction, he could handle the job, knowing few of the students had any experience either. He worked them hard with drills and got some extra instruction when needed from the Phys. Ed teacher. His team enjoyed success.



The Torrance family lived on New Street just west of Drury Lane. Walter used the land and his family, to operate a small market garden, selling the produce at the Kitchener market, and increasing his income during the growing season.

Years after retirement, at the age of 94, he became a published author, writing about rural life, as he knew it from his youth, and titled “A Land Called Amaranth”

Walter Torrance died in his 104th year.

Stuart Tracy Freeman, 1919 -1997 & Grace Cornell Freeman, 1920 – 1997
Greenwood Cemetery, Block N.

Stuart Freeman was a true Burlingtonian. He was born here, attended school here, and about nine years after graduating from Central High School, and having obtained his B.A. & P.& H. special degrees, came back to the school to teach. He was hired in May of 1948 to teach boy’s Health and Physical Education beginning in September. This was a natural choice for Stuart Freeman. In his high school years he and his brothers were avid athletes. In 1937 he was Shot-Put Champ and noted in the newspaper as a star of track and field. Stuart and his brothers Douglas and Robert each won the M.M. Robinson Gold Medal for Athletics and Scholarship.



The 1925 Burlington School Football Team

The 1948 sr. football team at Central won the Niagara District Championship, no doubt with some credit given to the coach, Stuart Freeman. Stuart also taught mathematics and geography. While at Central Stuart was actively involved in the cadet program for 10 years. He had served in the Canadian Army during WWII, then continued with the reserve, attaining the rank of Major. During the summer months, Stuart worked with the cadets at Camp Borden.

Stuart moved from Central to the new M.M. Robinson High School which opened in September of 1963, attaining the position of Vice Principal for his last four years there. In 1970 he was appointed principal of the new Valley Heights Secondary School, under construction, in Norfolk County, where he remained until retiring in 1980.



Grace Freeman was a kindergarten teacher. The board pressured her to return to teach at Strathcona School about 1950, by suggesting she take her 4 year old son to class with her. In 1960, Grace transferred to Maplehurst School in Aldershot where she continued as the kindergarten teacher until she retired to move to Norfolk County, with her husband Stuart.

Stuart and Grace Freeman were both killed in a traffic accident at Panama City Beach, Florida, on 15 January 1997.

Harold Arthur Harrison McCollom, BA, B. Ed, M.Ed, UE 1917 -2004

Greenwood Cemetery Urn Garden V

Harold was born in Regina and obtained his early education there. In 1938 after obtaining his B.A. at the University of Saskatchewan, Harold travelled to Toronto to take teacher training, and try living in Ontario. He was a man who loved learning and spent many future summers taking courses.

His first teaching experience was in the north at Frontier College. He then taught at Palmerston District High School and Waterford District High School, before being hired in 1950 to set up a woodworking course at Burlington Central High School, where in 1957 he became Vice Principal. In 1962 he moved to Aldershot High School, as Vice Principal and later Principal. In 1972 Harold moved on for a few years at Alderwood Collegiate Institute in Etobicoke, before retiring.



Camping was the family choice for summer vacations. Harold loved trying new ways to do things. In his garden he practiced grafting on his fruit trees, developing several varieties on one tree. Some he espaliered along wires. While a “mall walker”, it wasn’t enough just to keep track of the miles, Harold desired to make it more fun and decided he would use the miles to walk to Regina, and when he got there, went on to the coast and turned around to walk back. He threw in a bonus for himself. Every 200 miles earned him a trip to a favourite restaurant, with no limits on what he could indulge in. Harold was also very proud of his Loyalist roots, and enjoyed participating in Loyalist functions with his wife Phyllis.

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SOURCES: BHS Archives, Burlington Gazette, Family Members

Burlington High School Teachers
1955

Middle row, left is Mr. Torrance, Business Teacher and standing behind him is Stu Freeman,



Phys Ed Teacher





A Walk in Greenwood

Chapter 7 - It's Harvest Season

In the springtime of the 1930's the view from the highest windows of the historic home of Charles Davis, which still stands on Plains Road, was of thousands of acres of fruit trees in blossom, "in every direction", he said, "as far as one could see".



The Charles G. Davis Home - 1134 Plains Road East

Before another thirty years had passed, the majority of these orchards had been cleared and the land sold to developers.

This chapter of **A Walk in Greenwood** will feature three former apple growing families of Burlington and one apple buyer and exporter. As citizens of Burlington we have been left several street names as fitting reminders of the once thriving business and lifestyle.

The Colin and Lawrie Smith Orchards

An earlier generation of this family had purchased these farms about 1850, but for years had lived in Oakville. The two farms are situated on the Lakeshore, one on either side of Walker's Line. About 1902, Colin and Lawrie Smith, aged 21 & 18, were sent by their father to move onto and develop their future on their designated properties.

Colin, being the older son, was given the property on the east side of Walker's Line, complete with a home ready to move into. This home and farm were known as **Ravenswood**. Lawrie's farm on the west side of Walker's Line, later known as **Strathcona**, had no livable dwelling. Lawrie lived for a few years with his brother Colin, a sister keeping house for them, until Colin married in 1910. In time, Lawrie built his own home and also married.

The soil on this land did not suit the growing of grain but was ideal for fruit trees. A variety of fruit trees were planted, however, the apple was predominant. Strathcona Orchards in the 1940s had at least a dozen varieties of apples, with McIntosh as No. 1. The Smith brothers are known to have won yearly prizes for their apples at the Royal Winter Fair. Fruit farms, at certain times of year are labour intensive. At harvest time in the 1940s Lawrie hired 50 or more pickers, plus men on wagons and perhaps 10 packers. They are known to have packed and supplied Lowlaws with over 800, 6 quart baskets, several times a week.

Lawrie and Beatrice Smith had just two children. Their son, Tim, was killed in action in 1942, and daughter Isabel's husband Art Kemp also went overseas with the Lorne Scots, leaving Isabel and her dad Lawrie to run the farm. When Art Kemp returned home, he resumed his share of responsibility again. In 1952, Art bought the Orchards, but by the mid 1950s the developers were making offers too good to refuse when making a good living on a fruit farm was not a sure thing.

Both Colin and Lawrie Smith participated in the affairs of their community. Colin was a trustee and secretary of the Strathcona School for many years as well as serving on the township council and as deputy reeve.



Colin Smith died in 1944 in his 63rd year, having been a successful grower for 42 years and is interred in Greenwood in block 56. Colin's family carried on with the farm operation for a number of years. Unfortunately, the only street named in honour of Colin's orchards is Ravenswood.

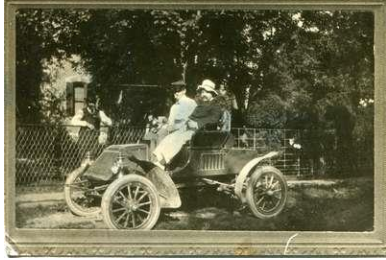
Lawrie Smith died in 1960 in his 78th year and was interred in St. Luke's Anglican Church Cemetery. Isobel (Smith) Kemp died suddenly in Portugal in 1961, and her husband Art Kemp in 2015 in his 100th year. Both were interred in block 86 of Greenwood Cemetery.

Streets in the Strathcona Orchards lands were given the names: Apple Valley, Applevale, Melba & McIntosh for apples, and Bartlett and Flemish for pears. The Lawrie Smith Public School was built on New Street near Roseland Plaza to recognize his years of service as a school trustee, but has since been demolished.

Art Kemp continued with his activities in Agriculture including serving as Chairman of the apple section of the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association. He attained the rank of Colonel with the Lorne Scots and served as Aide-de-camp to The Governor General of Canada, Roland Michener.

John Chamberlain Smith

J.C., as Mr. Smith was known, moved his young family onto a fruit farm he had purchased about 1885. He and his wife, Sara Amelia, raised 8 children, although one died at 5 years of age. Their property was also on the Lakeshore, but closer to the Village of Burlington. A substantial brick home, which still stands, had been built by William Dalton, who built several others nearby. This home, named **Apple Villa**, is on the corner of **Smith Avenue**, which, before development was just



**Max Smith, ca 1903
On Smith Lane**

Smith's Lane, as it went through the orchards on the farm. The small property went from the Lakeshore through to New Street.

J.C. Smith, it is said, travelled annually to Nova Scotia to arrange the sale of his McIntosh apples and Bartlett pears. J. C. was not only a grower but a packer and exporter, one of the first to ship apples to England.

As the sons matured they too helped in the business, later developing their own niche in the west, the Yukon and other places.

J.C. and his son, Maxwell, or M.C., later Burlington's first mayor, purchased the fruit farm of Mr. H. H. Hurd following his death in the spring of 1905 and made plans to divide a portion of it into residential lots for the village but continued to farm much of it.

Mr. Smith was keenly interested in the affairs of the town and served in several public offices. He was also a lover of sports and was a director of the skating rink when it was projected and erected.

J. C. Smith died in 1930 and is interred in block 12 of Greenwood Cemetery. The headstone has only Smith on it. There are flat foot stones for Mrs. Smith and a young daughter but not for J. C. Smith himself.



The streets **Baldwin** and **Blenheim**, in the vicinity of Central School were named as part of the Apple Park Survey and were the names of apple varieties grown on the Hurd farm.

Bell Orchards

It was the third generation of this Bell family that got seriously into apple growing. Fred Bell had farmed on the west side of Maple Avenue for some time when in 1902 he became aware that a property on Brant Street was for sale. The farm he purchased was across from Central School and ran from what is now Blairholm Avenue to Victoria Avenue. A short time later he acquired the property south of Victoria Avenue, now the No Frills Plaza. This was already a well established fruit orchard. The Bell Orchards encompassed the lands east of Brant Street to the water works, or the curling rink, butting the west boundary of the Lankester property on which is now Central Library.



In March of 1908, William Hodge Bell, 2nd son of Frederick and Harriett McMillan, aged 22 years, was married to Frances Alton, and in December of that year began the construction a brick home on Victoria Avenue. This home stood about where the entrance to Tim Horton's is now. As the other sons aged, 2 more homes were built along the street and remain there today.

It was the sons, William and Roy, who chose to work on the orchards with their father, Fred, who remained on the Brant Street farm until his death in 1939. Roy had a untimely death in 1931 at 42 years of age. About that period of time, William, who had 2 sons George and Kenneth growing up, purchased 2 farms for them in East Flamboro, on the fifth and sixth concessions (north of Waterdown), which eventually became the only Bell Orchards after the Brant Street farm was bought for development. William and Frances remained in charge of the Bell Orchards and continued to live in their Victoria Avenue home until the lands were sold in the late 1950s, when they moved to a new home on Dundas Street, closer to their dairy cattle farming brother Carmen Bell.

The younger son, Kenneth, and his family made their home on the East Flamboro Orchard. Kenneth died in 2000 and his children continued the Bell Orchard business until about 2014, then cleared the trees from the land.

George and his wife Helen had remained in Burlington in a home they had built across from Central Public School. When ready for retirement this home was sold to Dr. Langford. George and Helen then moved to a new home on Highview Drive.

In November of 1952 the Burlington Gazette reported the news that the **Loblaws Company** had purchased the Bell Cold Storage property on Brant Street on which they” proposed to erect a large supermarket in the near future”. That “supermarket is now the No Frills store.

An interesting sidebar to that story is that when the old cold storage building was demolished, the Bell’s First Nations employees cleaned the old bricks which were then taken to East Flamboro and laid on the front face of the new cold storage building on Kenneth Bell’s farm.

The Bell Orchards business survived through 4 generations. Frederick Bell who started it all would no doubt have been proud of his family’s accomplishments.



The street names in the Bell Orchard lands are Courtland, Tallman and Wagner, apple varieties and Bellwood, for the family.

Biggs Fruit and Produce Company Ltd.

The partners in this company were Alexander C. Biggs and his son William T. Biggs. As recorded in the Burlington Gazette, their business began some time before 1904. In February of that year it was reported that Biggs & Son had a “Big Day” having shipped 3 carloads of apples, a combination of cases and barrels, to the Glasgow, London and Manchester markets. These apples were wrapped in paper to help preserve the quality. This was the second lot sent that winter and 29 cars in all had been exported to Europe during the season. On the same page in the Gazette, Biggs had a “wanted” advertisement for good apples – anything from 1 to 500 barrels.

William’s obituary tells that the family had come from Preston, where he was born in 1892, to Port Nelson about 1891, and took up residence on the Guelph Line in the house next to the Port Nelson Sunday School. When William married in 1905, he and his bride moved to Freeman and resided on the Hamilton-Nelson Road, later the Queen Elizabeth Way.

A. C. Biggs, the father, for a number of years after arriving here was in the insurance business.



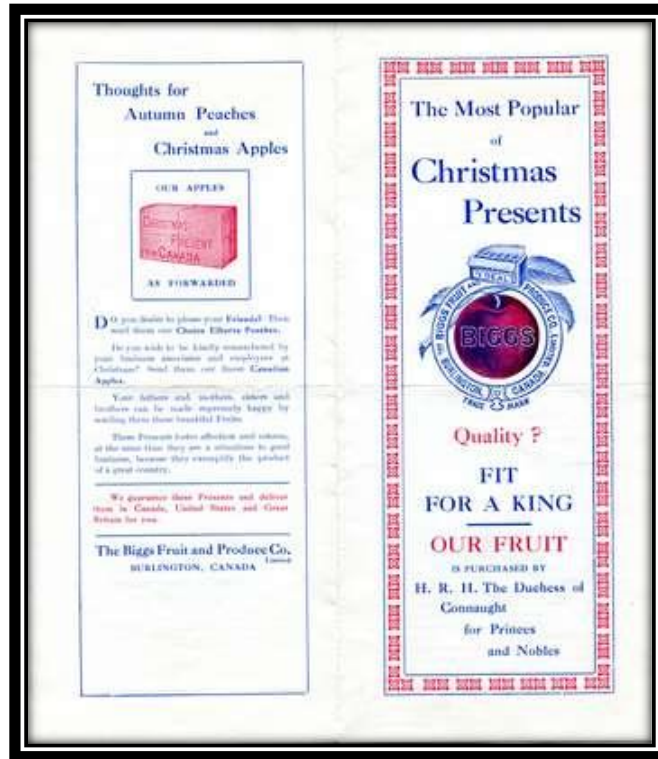
The Biggs Fruit and Produce Co. in Freeman, ca 1900

In 1905 this fruit business was incorporated under the name Biggs Fruit and Produce Company, Ltd. 1906 saw the company expand to include grain, flour and feed, and in 1908 A. C. Biggs leased a shed in Freeman and entered the coal business.

The company also had an evaporator to make cider and in September of 1908 advertised the need for 60,000 bushels of apples for the cider press.

The signage on the front of the Biggs packing house was topped with “**The Home of Christmas Apples**”. The Biggs Fruit and Produce Company specialized in

sending gift boxes of Elberta peaches in September and apples for Christmas to Great Britain and guaranteed they would arrive in good condition. The company also shipped all across Canada in boxes which Mr. Biggs had developed for the purpose.



Biggs Fruit and Produce Co. Christmas Brochure

During the winter the Biggs family flooded a space for an ice rink for the community. It was used for hockey as well as skating. They even held a Fancy Dress Carnival with prizes.

The Biggs father and son died within a year of each other - Alexander C. Biggs in December 1942, in his 88th year, at his residence on Hurd Avenue and William T. Biggs in November of 1943, aged 62 years.

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Sources:

BHS Archives, The Burlington Gazette, Al Norton's book "A Hard Day's Work", a Bell family member



A Walk in Greenwood

Chapter 8 - “Lest We Forget”

A cemetery is a place of remembrance of those citizens who once held a place in the surrounding community. Wars have had such a significant impact on not only the “soldiers” but their families, that in Greenwood Cemetery, there are over 80 memorial markers with some reference to military service in the inscription. A few remember a family member Killed in Action and buried somewhere in Europe, but most give some indication of the participation in war of a former resident.



In this chapter we highlight just a few of those who enlisted to serve their town, country, and in the case of recent immigrants, their homeland.

WILLIAMS

On the family memorial stone;

“In loving memory of **Mark W. Williams**, Lieut. P.P.C.L.I., second son of W.H. and Emma Williams. Born Oct 15 1893. Killed in Action at Passchendaele, Belgium, Oct 30 1917.”

The Henry Williams family farm was located on Maple Avenue across from the current mall.



There were 4 sons in the family, 3 of whom went overseas in WW1. Brothers Mark and Jack had been attending the University of Toronto. Mark was studying law and Jack had just graduated with an honours degree in Civil Engineering.

Both sons enlisted in the spring of 1915.

Mark Williams went overseas as a private with the 2nd University Company, attached to the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry. In June of 1917, he took out his commission as a Lieutenant.

Mark was killed in action at Passchendaele, 30 Oct 1917.

John (Jack) Williams had signed up with the 26th University Battery and served in France with the 5th C.F.A. brigade. The day after receiving the telegram of Mark's death, Mr. and Mrs. Williams received word that their son Jack had been admitted to hospital suffering from a gunshot wound in the head, also at Passchendaele, on Oct 29th, the day before his brother was killed.



Jack in the middle

Jack was able to return home in 1918. After his discharge from the army, Jack accepted a position as resident engineer with the Montreal Foundation Co. At Buckingham Quebec, he had charge of erecting a large power plant and the reconstruction of a bridge.

On Sunday August 8th 1920, 5 days after his 28th birthday, Jack and friends were enjoying swimming in the Gatineau River. While Jack was sitting on the bank, watching the others, he was overcome with the heat and fell down the embankment, drowning in the deep river.

Two members of the company he was employed with traveled to Burlington to attend his funeral.

The 3rd son **Russell H Williams** went overseas in July of 1917 with the Royal Flying Corps. He was sent to France in November of that year and in February of 1918 received several gunshot wounds in this right side. Family members have his cheque book, with a bullet hole, possibly saving his life.



An interesting side story about Russell was reported in the Burlington Gazette in June of 1917, shortly before he went overseas. One morning “Aviator” Russell Williams and a friend, each flew a small plane from Camp Borden via Toronto, to Burlington. They circled the Williams farm and the Maple Avenue School where the boys had attended, before landing in Mr. Jacob Peart’s field, north of the C.N.R. tracks. Russell went home for lunch, and his friend to an uncle’s home on Locust St.



Several hundred people made their way to view these planes during the afternoon. About 4 o’clock, both lifted off for their return flight to Camp Borden. “Both men handled their machines superbly and were given cheer by the spectators.”

COOPER

On the family memorial stone;

“ son F/O David Cooper R.C.A.F. buried in England 1915 – 1944.”

Walter David Dick Cooper attended Burlington Central Public and High Schools. He was a good student earning the M.M Robinson Gold Medal for the year 1931, given for athletics and scholarship. Following high school, David worked for a Maple Avenue market gardener, then in 1936 traveled north for employment with the International Nickle Co.





David joined the R.C.A.F. in June of 1942, and spent most of the next year and a half in western Canada training as a pilot officer (navigator). He arrived in England in March of 1944, and was assigned to a Canadian bomber squadron.

Six months later, Sept 29 1944, after a night operation, his aircraft, attempting in a dense fog to land at home base in Surrey England crashed into a hill. All the crew was killed. David was 29 years of age. He was posthumously awarded the operational wings of the R.C.A.F. for gallant service in action.

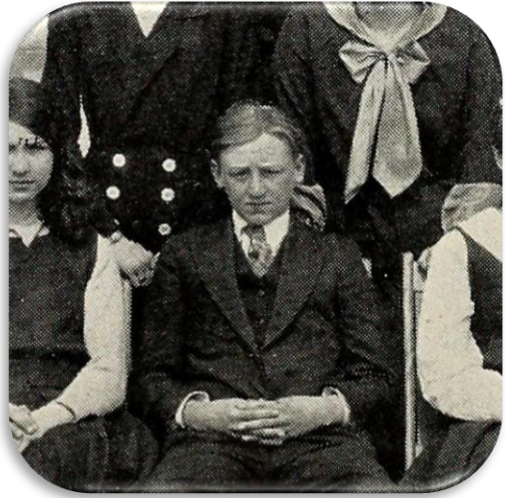
Although no reference is made on the marker in Greenwood, David Cooper's father, **Walter Francis Cooper** served in WW1 with the 164th Battalion, enlisting in April of 1916 at the age of 34 years. He left for England in April 1917, leaving behind his wife, son David aged two and a newborn daughter, Jessie. He following year, in April 1918 he arrived in France, attached to the 44th Canadian Infantry Battalion. In September Walter sustained a gun shot wound to his left leg and was sent back to England for recovery. On February 1919 he was sent back to Canada, and his home in Burlington. Walter was discharged in April of 1919, three years after enlisting. Walter had attained the rank of Sergeant.

SOVEREIGN

On the family memorial stone;

“ Lieut G. **Burt Sovereign** 1917 – 1941 interred at Bergen-op-Zoom Holland.”

Burt Sovereign was a son of David and Annie (Burt) Sovereign. He attended S.S. No. 14 School on Maple Avenue and Central High School.



Burt joined the Lorne Scots Reserve Army early in 1942. He was sent to Gordon Head B.C. for officers training. In June of 1943, Burt was married to Cpl. Helen Vandrick of the C.W.A.C. He went to England in February 1944, and in August was sent to France, attached to the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada. Burt was killed in action two months later, while leading his whole company in an effort to clear the approach to the port of Antwerp. Burt was 26 years of age.

Burt Sovereign at S.S. No. 14

Almost 20 years later, his brother Earl Sovereign, a market gardener, received notification that a small lake, about 6 miles south of Parry Sound, had been named “Sovereign Lake”, by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, in respect of Burt Sovereign’s service. The family had no prior knowledge that this honor was happening.

McCLENENHAN

On her marker on the family plot;

“ Lieut. **Evelyn Fairlie Elizabeth McClenahan** Royal Canadian Army, Medical Corps

died Jan 15 1960 age 42 years.”

Evelyn was the eldest daughter of Dr. Claude and Mary McClenahan, a member of the Black Watch Association in Toronto where she lived and died suddenly in 1960.



Evelyn had served as a nursing sister with the Royal Canadian Army, Medical Corps. Her father served the Provincial Government in his capacity as a Psychiatrist for various hospitals in Ontario for 47 years. On the voters list of 1945, Penetanguishene, he is listed as Superintendent of the Ontario Hospital. Also on the list are his wife, daughter, Miss Evelyn RCAMC and son Blair RCAF.

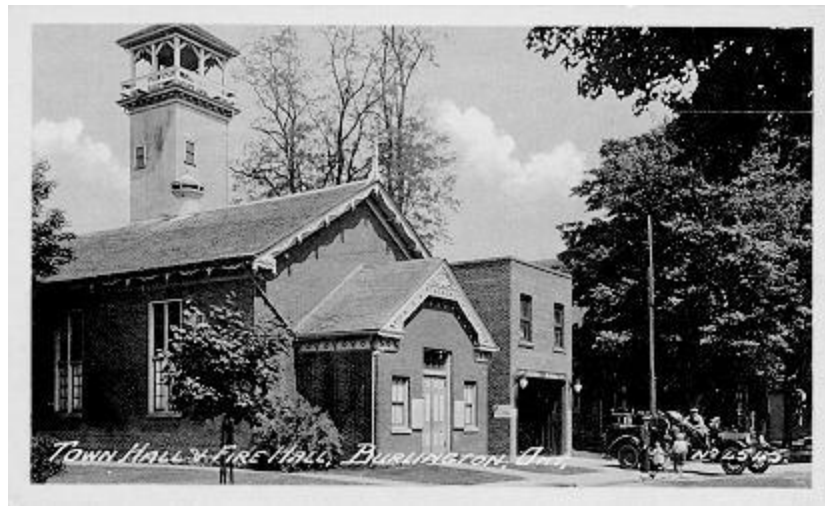
The McClenahan family lived for many years at Indian Point, in Burlington. A sister Ellen, was married to Burlington dentist, Dr. Murray Weaver.

DeLARGIE

On his memorial marker;

“Staf Sgt. Major Gordon M. DeLargie (102 Battery) Aug 5 1898 – Mar 13 1941”

Gordon Delargie lived with his wife Elsie and daughter Dorothy on Seneca Street. For a few years he had been employed on the bascule bridge at the Beach canal. He was a member of the town volunteer fire brigade and the Legion Post 60th, with a special interest in the welfare of veterans.



Firehall ca 1915

During WW1, Gordon served in France, with the 164th battalion.

A recruitment group for the 102 Field Battery in Dundas, came to Burlington in August of 1940 and Gordon with others enlisted. He subsequently was made troop Sergeant Major.

In preparation to be in the best of health to once again go overseas, Gordon elected to have a minor surgery and went into hospital about the 1st of March of 1941 resulting in his expected death two weeks later. He was 43 years of age. Gordon was given a full Military Funeral, which was described in detail in the Burlington Gazette.

© Peggy Armstrong

SOURCES: Greenwood Cemetery memorial markers

Burlington Gazette

Central High School Year Books

A Book of Remembrance, by Emerson Lavender

Family members



A Walk in Greenwood

Chapter 9 - "THEY DIED AWAY"

And Returned to Greenwood for Burial

Members of Burlington families have for various reasons, left for other places. It may have been for work. With the often large number of children born into a single household, it may have been necessary for sons, and some daughters, of either a business man or farmer to look elsewhere for their future living.

The experience of education away from home provided the opportunity of independence and may have lead to contacts with students from other places.

Parents, in their later years, also relocated to be closer to their children who had settled sometimes a long distance away.



Photo: BHS Archives

In more recent years, residents traveling have run into end of life health situations and have been returned by air to Burlington for burial, but it wasn't always that easy when the mode of transport was the railway.

In almost all of these situations, a family, and a family plot in Greenwood was awaiting their return if necessary.

The reason for leaving and the cause of death are not available for some of the following residents who died away.

1893 Jane Hilton Davidson - El Paso, Texas

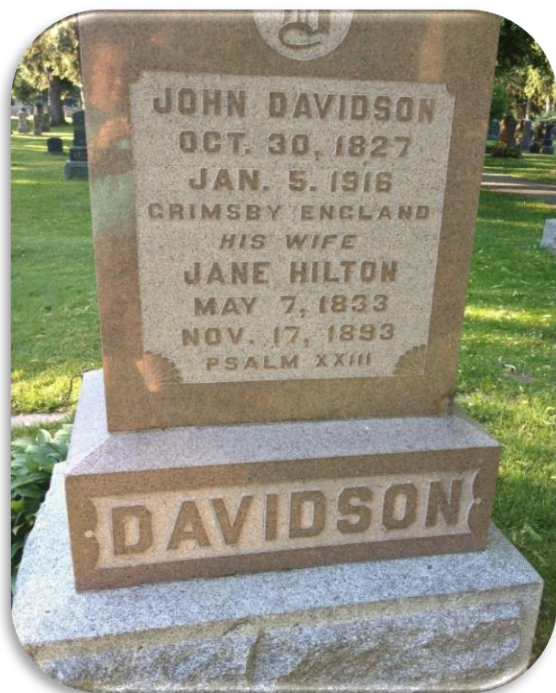


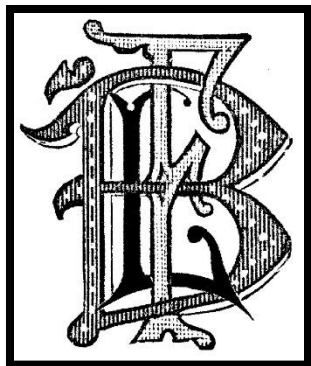
Photo: www.findagrave.com

Charles H. Davidson had left Burlington and settled in either El Paso, Texas or across the border in Mexico, where we know he was employed in the spring of 1893. For unusual circumstances, which we may relate another time, he was required to return to Burlington, leaving his wife, the former Minnie Allen, and children behind. With the knowledge that Charles was not going to be able to return soon to Mexico, his parents traveled south in May of 1893, to support their daughter-in-law. On November 17th of that year Jane Hilton Davidson, mother of Charles Davidson, died in El Paso, Texas and was returned to Burlington for interment in Block 13 of Greenwood Cemetery.

1907 Victor Leslie Dynes - Winnipeg

Victor was the youngest son of Charles and Mary Dynes. For a number of years he had been employed as a locomotive fireman on the C.P. R. He was 24 years of age when he became ill with an attack of typhoid fever. Friends with whom he boarded obtained the best hospital and medical attention they could procure however he died in St. Boniface Hospital on March 26 1907.

Following his death the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, gave his brother Theron, who had arrived in Winnipeg a day earlier, all the assistance they could, and procured passes for himself and the remains to their parents home in Burlington.

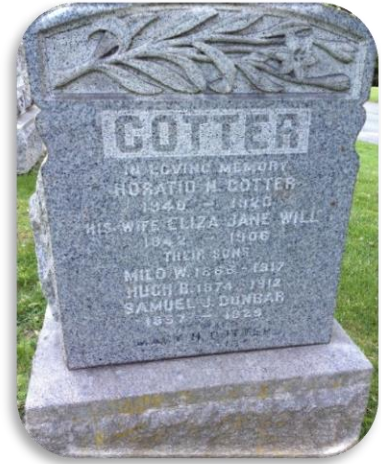


Victor was survived by his parents, 5 brothers and 3 sisters. He was interred in Block 19 of Greenwood Cemetery on Sunday March 31 1907.

Photo courtesy Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen

1912 Hugh Blake Cotter - Chicago

Hugh Blake Cotter was the second son of Horatio & Eliza Cotter. He was born in 1874 and lived in Burlington until he took up sailing, about 1900. Hugh sailed the lakes for a number of years, until he secured a permanent position in Chicago some 2 years prior to his death. No details of his death were reported in the newspaper. His father received a telegram on Friday the 8th of November, his body arrived the following Monday evening and his funeral took place to Greenwood Cemetery, Block 11, on Wednesday, 13 Nov., 1912. Hugh Blake Cotter was 38 years of age.



www.findagrave.com

1912 William H. Burns - Little Rock, Arkansas



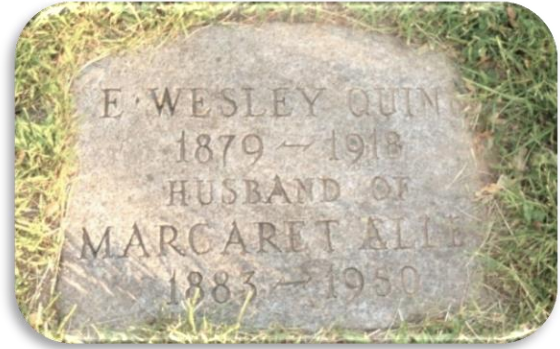
The Burlington Gazette, of 4 Dec 1912, reported the death of William H. Burns, aged 56, at Little Rock Arkansas. Funeral to take place from the home of his mother, Mr. George Burns, Brant Street, on Thursday 5 December. The family plot in Block 3 of Greenwood Cemetery, was purchased by his father George, in 1891 upon the death of another son. There is no inscription or marker for William or his parents.

1918 Ernest Wesley Quinn - Winnipeg

Ernest was not a Burlington boy but was married to a Burlington girl, the former Margaret Allen. Ernest had been born in Owen Sound with his later education at McMaster University, Toronto, and the Manitoba university. As a young graduate lawyer, he went to Winnipeg in 1913, joining a firm there. He had run as a Laurier-Liberal candidate in the recent federal election.

On April the 1st, Ernest Quinn succumbed to an attack of pneumonia. His widow and her sister accompanied the remains to Burlington, where his funeral took place

on Friday, April 5th with interment in Block 24 of Greenwood Cemetery. The Burlington Masons attended in a body, and conducted the service at the grave. Ernest Quinn was 39 years of age.



www.findagrave.com

1918 Thomas Roderick - Phoenix B.C.

Thomas was the eldest son, of the late James and Eleanor Roderick. Thomas had been born in South Wales coming to Canada with his parents in 1870 at about 3 years of age. His parents did a little farming, then soon got into the hotel business, operating for various periods of time in Waterdown, Dundas, Clappison's Corners and were owners and operators of the Burlington Hotel on Brant Street in Burlington, from 1888 to 1900. [For many years this hotel was known as The Coronation, but in 2016 is Wendel Clark's Classic Grill and Bar.]

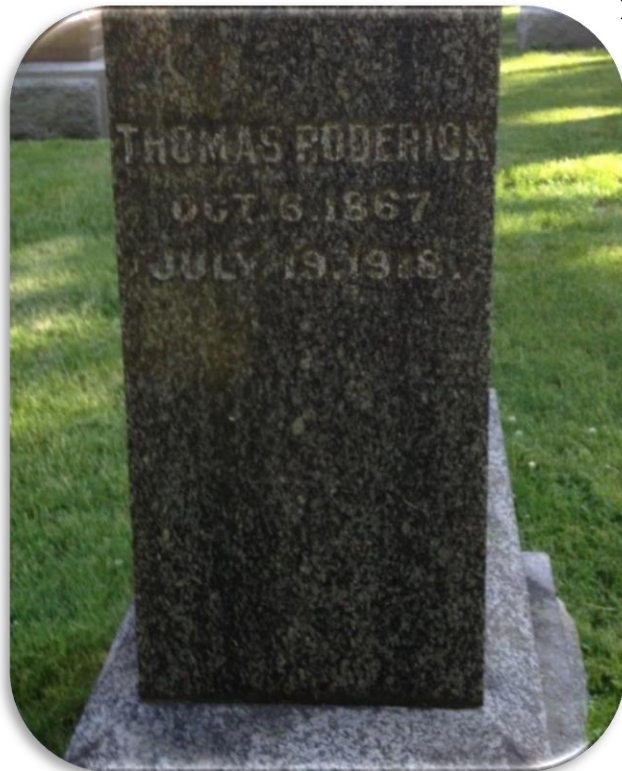


Photo: www.findagrave.com

Thomas was already living in Phoenix B.C. at the time of his father's death in 1900. On 20 July of 1918, his mother received a telegram that her son had been killed on the 19th in a mining accident. His remains were shipped to Burlington. Thomas was a member of the A.F. & A.M. in Phoenix B.C. The Burlington Lodge attended in a body and conducted their service at the grave in Greenwood Cemetery, Block 15. Thomas Roderick was about 51 years of age.

1922 Absalom Cline - Boise, Idaho

A.B. Cline, as he was known, had lived with his wife Bridget, on the lower east side of Brant Street for much of their married life. The building still shows that it clearly had been a home. You may remember it as *Watson's Jewellery* store or, a few years ago as *Tumblehome*. A family of 5 sons and a daughter all settled in western United States, in California, Washington and Utah. A.B.'s wife died in 1906. He spent his later years living with his children. Death came on March 4th of 1922, at the home of his daughter Frances, in Boise Idaho. At his expressed wish his remains were brought here for burial in Greenwood Cemetery, Block 28.



401 Brant Street
Built for Absalom & Bridget Cline 1872

Photo: BHS Archives

1927 Harry Bray - Seattle, Washington



Photo: www.findagrave.com

Harry Bray was struck and killed by a street car on 26th March 1927. He was 43 years of age. Harry had served overseas in the Great War. About 1923 he moved to Seattle Washington, where his life ended by accident. His wife returned with his remains for burial in Greenwood Cemetery, block 45. Harry had been a member of the 164th overseas battalion and was buried with military honors, members of the Canadian Legion, Post 60, forming the firing squad.

1964 William M. Gilbert - Australia

As related in Chapter 2 of *A Walk in Greenwood - The Gilbert Family*, William Gilbert died in Sydney, Australia, at the beginning of a planned world tour with fellow Rotarian Paul Fisher. He died on the 30th January 1964. William was 71. His remains were flown home for burial in the Gilbert family plot, Block 37 of Greenwood Cemetery.



1987 & 2003 Marjorie A & Charles F. Lamshead - South Africa

Marjorie and



Charles Lamshead began a life as missionaries with the African Evangelical Fellowship, in Johannesburg, South Africa, on May 13 1964.

Marjorie died there on Aug 11 1987, following about 23 years of service. She was aged 54 years. Charles continued his mission until his death on April 14, 2003. He was in his 86th year and had served in South Africa for nearly 39 years. In both cases, the remains were returned to

Burlington, for Burial in Greenwood Cemetery, Block 35.

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*Sources: Burlington Gazette
Christian Guardian
BHS Archives*

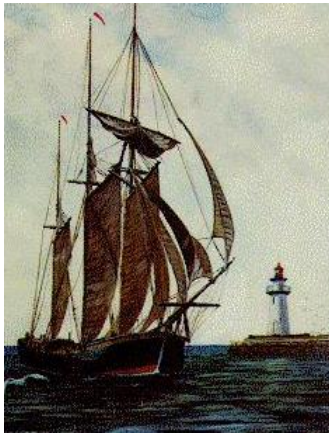


A Walk in Greenwood

Chapter 10

Sea Captains & Sailors

For many decades of the settling and growing years of Burlington and Nelson Township, the action and interest was at the waterfront. There were three wharfs at Wellington Square, and others to the east and west at Port Nelson, and what is now LaSalle Park. The waterfront was where supplies and people arrived to, and goods and passengers left from.



BHS Archives

The waterfront also became a place of employment. Ships were being built which needed men and boys to sail on them. Often these were sons from the rural area who were familiar with the ships and where they were going. They drove regularly to the docks with their produce and lumber, ready for shipping to a market elsewhere on the lakes. Some of these early residents had indeed arrived here on ships, from Britain.

Greenwood Cemetery has several markers which clearly identify former residents as “Capt”.

Captain William Partlowe - 1840-1904

William Partlowe was born in Nelson Township in 1840, and came to Burlington in 1854, residing here continuously until the time of his death in 1904 at age 64. His obituary relates that Mr. Partlowe was a sailor and had been a Captain for over thirty years, sailing the lakes in the summer season, and spending the winters at his home. Five years prior to his death he found it necessary to give up his occupation, due to poor health. William was survived by his wife Louise, (nee Green) and five children, three sons and two daughters.



National Library of Canada

William was a member of the Canadian Home Circle. A few weeks after the funeral his wife put a notice in the Burlington Gazette, of thanks and appreciation, to the Canadian Home Circle who had paid her the sum of \$2000.

Captain William Partlowe was interred in the family plot in block 5 of Greenwood Cemetery. There is no memorial marker.

Captain Daniel Henderson - 1827-1906

Daniel Henderson was born in County Armagh, Ireland in 1827. He came to Canada with his parents at the age of one-and-a-half years, and settled at Little York, now Toronto. At the age of 12 years he began life as a sailor, which occupation he followed for over fifty years. He came from Toronto first to Bronte, before settling in Burlington. Daniel sailed out of this port for many years, having had charge of the *Sultan*, *Helen M Baxter*, and barge *Mary Jane* which he owned. A story in the Burlington Gazette in June of 1902, tells that Capt. Henderson was the 1st master of the *Ella Baxter*, built in 1862 by Baxter and Galloway.

The captain took a very prominent part, in saving the lives of the crew and passengers from the *Ocean Wave*, which was burned on Lake Ontario.



Capt. Daniel Henderson's home
472 Elizabeth Street, BHS Archives

Captain Daniel Henderson and his wife Margaret (nee Reid) were survived by six daughters. He also had three brothers, Capt. Wm., of Kansas City, Missouri, Henry of Nelson Township, and J. W. of Burlington.

Captain Henderson was interred in his family plot, Block 4 of Greenwood Cemetery.

The inscription reads: Capt. D. Henderson died June 18 1906, aged 79 years.

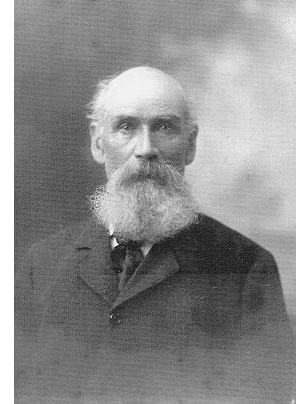
Henry Henderson - 1836-1917

Henry Henderson, a younger brother of Capt. Daniel, was born on Bay Street, in Toronto, in July of 1836. At an early age he moved to Bronte and began sailing, being master (captain?) of his own boat before he was eighteen years of age. His obituary says he was an expert sailor, and new the great lakes from end to end, and was entrusted with rich cargoes. He sailed on the first boat that carried the lumber

that spanned Niagara River with the first bridge. Henry was twice shipwrecked, once at Long Point and once at Burlington Beach. He sailed the Great Lakes continuously until he was about forty-two years of age, when he took up farming in Nelson Township, now east Burlington. He worked at this second career for over thirty-two years.

Henry and his wife Maria (nee Wilson) had eight daughters and three sons. One son predeceased them. Henderson Road is named after this family.

Henry Henderson died in February of 1917, at age eighty-two, and was interred in his family plot, Block 7, Greenwood cemetery.



BHS Archives

J. W. Henderson – 1849-1927

John Wilson Henderson (J.W.) also a brother of Capt. Daniel and Henry Henderson, was born in Bronte in 1849 and moved to Burlington at about 28 years of age- about the same time that Henry gave up sailing. J.W. sailed the lakes for John Waldie for many years, then he too, took up other occupations.



Hotel Raymond on left, Queen's Hotel down the road
BHS Archives

He kept the Freeman House at Freeman and the Hotel Raymond (later the Coronation). J.W. was also a successful auctioneer and real estate agent for many years. He even served as the village constable. J.W. served on the public school board and was a member of Burlington Lodge No. 165 and the Order of Oddfellows as well as Knox Church. With his many activities, the name of J.W. Henderson was frequently on the pages of the Burlington Gazette.

J.W. and his wife Christina (nee Filman) lived on Martha Street at the time of his death. He was survived by his wife, one daughter and three sons.

J. W. Henderson died in May of 1927 and was interred in Block 3 of Greenwood Cemetery. The Masons attended in a body and conducted their ceremony at the house and grave.

Captain Adam Sharpe – died 1928

Adam Sharpe was born in Burlington, and lived here almost continuously until he moved with his family to Vancouver about 1900. He sailed on the lakes for many years, and had charge principally of tugs.

During his funeral at St. Luke's Church, which was draped in purple, Rev. Mr. Tebbs recognized the connection of Capt. Sharpe, to the church and the excellence of his workmanship while the edifice was being renovated, which services were given gratis by him. This beautiful woodwork is still being admired today.

Mrs. Sharpe, Catherine, daughter of Robert Bell, one of Burlington's earliest shoemakers, died in 1905 while on a visit with her sister who lived in Waterdown.

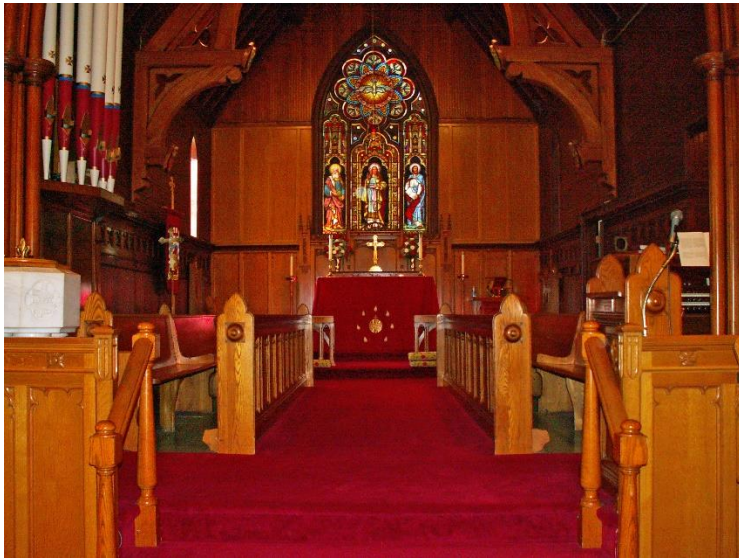


Photo Dorothy Kew

She was interred in her father's family plot and an inscription is on the marker.

Capt. Adam Sharpe died in Vancouver in June of 1928. His remains were returned by train for burial in Greenwood Cemetery.

There is no inscription on the stone for Capt. Adam Sharpe.

Captain William Skelton – 1848-1928

William Skelton was a lake navigator for fifty years, being in charge of many freighters making trips between Montreal and Fort William. After retiring from sailing, he built some sixty sailing and motor boats, largely for the Bronte fishing fleet.

In August of 1904, the Burlington Gazette reported that Captain Wm. Skelton had a contract to make an immense flag-pole for the city of Toronto.

The base of the pole measured eighty feet in height, while the top mast was sixty feet in height.

Capt. Wm Skelton died in Bronte, in his 80th year. His remains were interred in Greenwood Cemetery, Burlington, Block 117.

NOTE: There are at least 3 other markers in Greenwood for Captains, however little information is available about them.

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*Sources: Greenwood Cemetery,
Burlington Gazette*

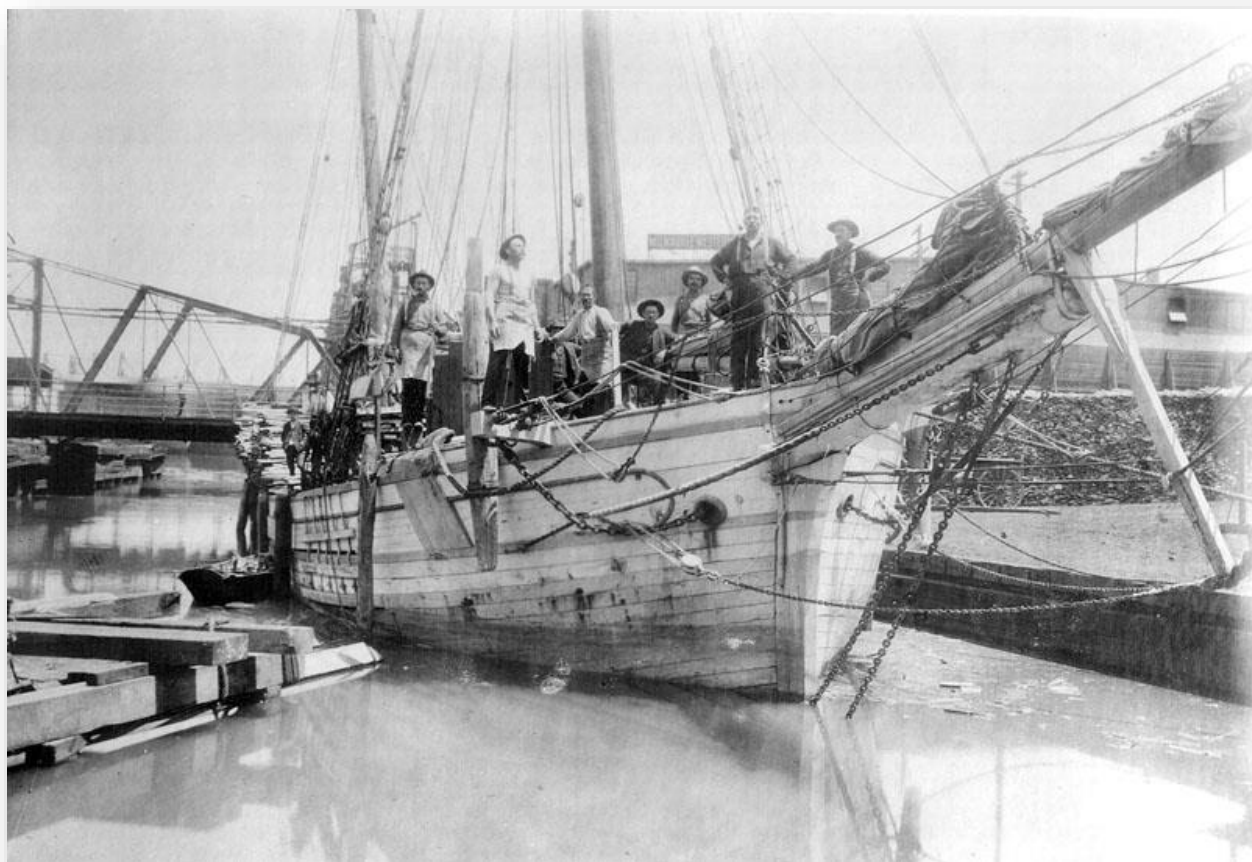


Photo – Great Lakes Collection, Bowling Green State University,
http://americanhistory.si.edu/onthewater/exhibition/4_2.html



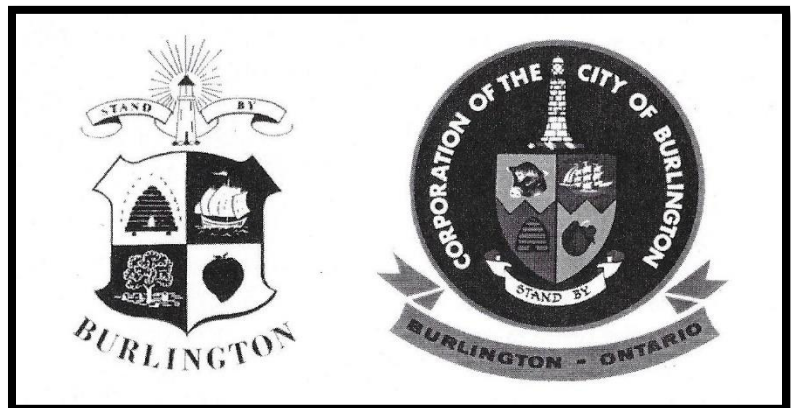
A Walk in Greenwood

Chapter 11 - Some Women Who Made a Difference

March 8th is International Women's Day. In this chapter of **A Walk In Greenwood**, we are giving recognition to a few of Burlington's women, who through their circumstances, determination, talent, intellect, and adventuresome spirit, among other individual attributes, were able to accomplish what perhaps other women could never see as a possibility. Included in this chapter are, Margaret Graham, our town Bell Ringer;

Emily Williamson, first female lawyer in Burlington; Alice Peck, artist; and Margaret Peart who pushed nursing to the limit.

Not included in detail is Ariel Shapland, later Cleaver. Ariel at age 17, entered and won a contest to design a crest for the Town of Burlington. The year was 1913 and her design stood for fifty years, when it was then somewhat modified – quite a legacy for a young woman!



Margaret Graham 1848 -1933 Bell Ringer

Margaret Graham arrived in Burlington from Scotland, about 1910. Her husband had previously died and a family decision was made to emigrate to Canada. She and a family of 12 settled in Burlington. We assume that one or more of her children was married as in her obituary, she was survived by two sons and five daughters, one son being deceased.

Initially Margaret worked as a nurse. She said it was hard work.

In 1911, Margaret Graham landed the job of being the town's bell ringer at \$10 a month, this contract, awarded to her until 1933. She was then 86 years of age, and was no longer able to walk from her home on New Street, the 200-300 feet to the fire hall. A daughter Isabel Wray, who lived with her mother, had been carrying on the task for likely a few years

The bell was rung each morning at seven, at 12 noon, at 1 p.m. and at six in the evening. Margaret was required to climb the bell tower by the fire hall and pull the rope.

When WWI broke out, her three sons went overseas. Adam and George were wounded, and Thomas was Killed in Action, 2 Sept 1918.

In Margaret's memorial marker in Block 40 of Greenwood Cemetery, a brass circle is imbedded, in memory of this son. His name is in the centre and is circled by "He Died for Freedom and Honor".



Photo – Joan Downey

Margaret Graham's story was told in January of 1932, to a Toronto Star reporter. The article was then published in the Burlington Gazette. The article suggested she was the only known woman "**horologer**" in Canada.

Emily Gertrude Williamson 1876 – 1957 Lawyer

Emily Williamson was the eldest of seven children born to John and Hannah (Walker) of Nelson Township. Emily had 2 sisters and 4 brothers, her youngest sister and last child in the family being almost twenty years younger.

After her early education in Nelson Township, Emily attended Hamilton Collegiate and then Business College, from which she graduated in 1913, the gold medalist of her class. Emily used this new business knowledge for the next nine years, as secretary of the Nicholson Lumber Company and for many years following acted as auditor for them as well as other lumber firms. She continued in this capacity while attending Queens University, from which she graduated in 1929 with her B. Comm. Degree.



Emily, ca 1900 BHS Archives

In 1931 Emily started studying law at Osgood Hall, qualifying for her call to the bar in October of 1934. Emily chose to put this event off until the following June. This position had not yet been attained by any other woman in Burlington or Halton County. Emily was now almost sixty years of age and ready to take on a legal career.

Another talent attributed to Emily, was her hobby of acquiring older homes and bringing their former integrity back. Her last home and residence was on the Lakeshore, (Water Street) on the curve just beyond the Estaminet. In 1959 this home was purchased by the Peck family and became the Alice Peck Gallery.

Emily Gertrude Williamson died in December of 1957, and was interred in Greenwood Cemetery, Block 49.

Alice Peck Slavin 1928 – 2000 Artist

Alice Peck, a graduate of art school, moved from Oakville to Burlington with her parents in 1959. They had purchased an 1843 brick home on the lake, just east of Brant Street. This was the former home of lawyer Emily Williamson. The home was extensively renovated reserving two rooms on the ground floor for Alice to start her gallery. At first she concentrated on crafts, pottery, glassware and sculpture. Added to the business was custom framing, which paid the bills. Alice worked at framing in the evenings, not taking a holiday for four years. This first shop, “The Treasury of Canadian Handicrafts.” opened in June of 1960.



Photo – BHS Archives

An addition to the west end of the house in 1961, became the” Alice Peck Gallery”, which Alice claimed, never made any money. Fresh shows were featured almost every month for 30 years. Alice often took a chance and showed young local artists, who had yet to gain recognition in the art community. She was able to witness several develop and become successful. Artists Chris Bacon, Robert Bateman,

Gerard Brender a Brandis and Gery Puley are names familiar to many of us. Alice purchased a piece from each show for her own collection.



Photo – BHS Archives

Robert Bateman's show in 1967 was a centennial project with all of his paintings of Halton County. It was the first sell-out show for the gallery.

Outside of Toronto, her shop became known as the premier gallery in Southern Ontario.

The Alice Peck Gallery was closed in the spring of 1987. Alice and her husband Bernard Slavin moved to a small 1818 home in Niagara-on-the-Lake where she hoped to find time to read, travel and perhaps go back to her own art work.

Alice Peck Slavin died in August of 2000. Her remains are interred in Columbarium 2 in Greenwood Cemetery.

Margaret Louise Peart R.N. 1923 – 2001 Nurse



BHS Archives

Margaret Peart was born in Burlington to a family for whom, education beyond high school was expected. She attended Fisher's Corners Public School and Burlington Central High School, after which she enrolled in St. Josephs Hospital School of Nursing, in Hamilton, graduating in 1944. Margaret then attended the School of Nursing, at the University of Toronto, receiving a Certificate of Nursing Education. About ten years later after various nursing positions, Margaret completed the Hospital Organization and Management Certificate Extension Course, sponsored by the Canadian Hospital Association.

“The Burlington Pearts” a family history, filled 2 pages of the details of Margaret’s career as a nurse. The following are just some of her endeavors. Her first nursing position

was as General Staff Nurse at St. Michael’s Hospital, Toronto. She then returned to St. Joseph’s in Hamilton to teach for two years. She served as Charge nurse, outpost Hospitals of Ontario, was Director of Nursing and Principal of the School of Nursing at the Bellville General Hospital. From 1959 to 1967 Margaret was Director of nursing at the Doctors’ Hospital in downtown Toronto.

In 1970, Margaret returned again to St. Joseph’s Hospital in Hamilton where she worked her way from Assistant Director of Nursing to being appointed Assistant Executive Director in 1986.

Margaret held memberships in many related associations and was the recipient of several awards in recognition of her contribution to the nursing profession.

Margaret retired from nursing in September of 1989 and became actively involved with the Halton Branch V.O.N. as a Board Member , then President.

Margaret Peart died in March of 2001. Her remains were interred in the family plot, Block 9, Greenwood Cemetery.

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*Sources: B.H. S. Archives
Burlington Gazette*



A Walk in Greenwood

Chapter 12 Brant Street Merchants

Quite early in the development of the village of Wellington Square, Businesses began to open on Brant Street, especially those that catered to individual household needs. The mill and wharf activity was serviced for a long time on Water Street,



Photo: BHS Archives

however, in later years it became the site for gas stations, car dealership and repair shops.

I have chosen to profile five merchants on Brant Street this month, most of which you may have shopped at if you were a resident of Burlington during the 1950 to 1980 time. We follow the businesses of a shoe store, bakery, jeweler, hardware store and a grocer.

Graham's Shoe Home – Mel Howden Shoes

This shoe store business was operated by one family, under the two above names, for about 73 years. They must have done something right!

Henry Graham, or Harry as he was known, had been a travelling salesman for a number of years. At about 30 years of age he acted on the opportunity to purchase a well-known shoe store for sale on the east side of Brant Street, not far up from the lakeshore. He took possession on May 1st, 1906. A photograph shows the front of the store not long after with his name on a sign in the window. Three years later, Harry moved the business directly across the street to what is now 359 Brant Street. His business plan was to carry a full line of up-to-date shoes, and in every instance, keep his prices below those in the city. When the First World War broke out he announced in his advertisement that he would not raise prices because of the war as some other merchants were doing.

Harry and Mabel, his wife, had only one child, a daughter, born about the time the store moved to the east side of Brant Street. Helen, no doubt, helped her dad in the store as a teen, then married George Bell and began to raise her own family.

When Mr. Graham reached the position of needing permanent help in the business his wife Mabel's nephew in Alberta took an interest and in 1932 Mel Howden came to work for his uncle, staying until he signed up for WWII. Mel returned to Burlington and the store following his discharge and, in time, a partnership in the business was arranged.

A Monthly Reminder from
GRAHAM'S SHOE HOME
 "The Home of Good Shoes"
TRUNKS and VALISES
 Telephone 25 BURLINGTON, ONT.
 Read my Message on the Other Side

1909	NOVEMBER						1909
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30					

BHS Archives

Harry A. Graham suddenly died in 1948, in his 69th year, leaving Mel Howden to continue with the business for which he was well prepared. After an appropriate time, Mel changed the name of the business to **Mel Howden Shoes**.

In January of 1949 the latest in fitting shoes, an X-Ray machine, was installed in the store. A description of how the machine functioned and its advantages was detailed in the Burlington Gazette.

This store was well known for the gesture of giving to each new baby that was brought to the store, his or her first pair of white boots, a goodwill incentive perhaps, with the hope of a returning customer.

Mel Howden retired in 1979 and closed this successful business which had been opened by his Uncle Harry A. Graham in 1906.

The Grahams and the Howdens are interred in Greenwood Cemetery, Blocks 51 and L.

Waumsley's Home Bakery

The Waumsley family came from Lincolnshire, England to Canada in 1913, moving to Burlington a year later when the father, Mr. James M. Waumsley obtained a job with Jackson's Bakery, at that time on Brant Street. Mr. Waumsley later opened his own bakery at what is now 369 Brant Street, one store north of Pine Street.

Mr. Waumsley as quite a young boy had apprenticed in a bakery in England and had the foresight to bring to Canada with him some recipes, especially one for home made bread, which the family continued to use all the while the bakery was in business. The changes in the refining of the flour over time, however, made for some difference in the texture of the bread.



Typical 1920s bakery scene - Etsy.com

Following World War II, daughter, Flossie Waumsley, and her husband Jock Harrow took over the bakery. A major change was made with the replacement of the old brick oven to a rotary gas oven which could bake 100 loaves at a time with more even heat. The bakery was open 6 days a week, with the baking starting at 4 a.m., Monday to Friday and 2 a.m. on Saturday, when extra help was required to wait on customers. Cakes, pies, muffins and crumpets, wedding and birthday cakes were also available to their patrons and added to the sweet smells emitted from the ovens.

During the 1966 Brant Street "Spruce Up" campaign, the Harrows joined forces with Dales Hardware next door to give the front of their buildings a new tudor facelift.

Mrs. Waumsley died in 1948 and James in 1955. They were survived by 3 sons, all who lived and had businesses either on, or near Brant Street, and also 5 daughters. James, when he was younger, had found time to be part of the Volunteer Firemen's drill team and all 3 of his sons followed in his footsteps, becoming members of Burlington's Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Flossie and Jock closed Waumsley's Home Bakery about 1969 after nearly 50 years in business.

The Waumsley family plot is in Block 56 in Greenwood Cemetery.

Allan E. Watson – Watchmakers and Jewellers

Allan Watson came to Burlington in 1948, looking for a suitable place to start a new business. Mr. Watson was in his late 30's and had recently been discharged from 3½ years of service in the Navy. For about 15 years prior to the war Allan had been in business in St. Catherines. He was an experienced watch repairer. He saw possibilities for Brant Street and soon opened a new business here in a building that once was a lovely home, now 401 Brant Street.

Allan and his wife, Doris, developed a flourishing business, always making an effort to improve. They spent money to enlarge the store to accommodate a larger and varied stock and, in 1961, spent more remodeling the front and redecorating the interior. Allan attributed his success to hard work and providing plenty for people to choose from, so they had no need to shop elsewhere.



401 Brant Street, ca 2010 BHS Archives

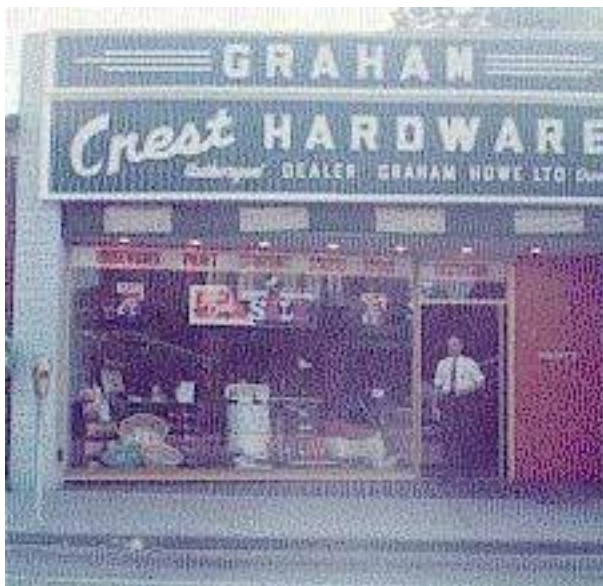
The store carried precious and semi-previous jewellery, Royal Doulton and Wedgewood china, clocks, watches and Orange Blossom and Bluebird diamonds. Mrs. Watson did the majority of the buying. In 1967 the store had a staff of 14, four of whom were watchmakers, needed for the busy repair requests. One of the watchmakers was a woman, Mrs. Kathy Fletcher, who Mr. Watson believed to be the only lady watchmaker in Ontario.

Allan E. Watson Ltd. was sold in 1969 having been in business on Brant Street for over twenty years.

Allan E. Watson died in 1989 and Doris, his wife, in 2015 in her 102nd year. They were interred in Greenwood Cemetery, Block R.

Graham's Hardware

On March 1st, 1949, Mr. Chris Graham and his wife, Dorothy, purchased the hardware store of Joseph Smith on Brant Street. Chris and his family had lived in Burlington for over fifteen years. He had past retail experience in the hardware business in both Milton and Georgetown and for the previous 21 years was a traveler for the Wood, Alexander and James wholesale hardware, so he was well qualified for success in business for himself. This location suited the business until in 1960 an opportunity resulted in the Grahams selling this store and moving to 383 Brant Street.



Chris Graham in doorway of his store, 1960 BHS Archives

In these early hardware stores, windows could get re-glazed. Screens, new wire mesh, nuts, bolts, screws and nails, as well as many other now packaged items, could be purchased by the pound or just the number needed. And – yes, much visiting of residents took place in the hardware store; a paradise for children to be allowed to browse the toys and just “stuff”.

About this time, Chris Graham's son, Paul, came into the business. Later taking it over in 1971 when his dad retired.

Christopher and Dorothy raised two sons, Paul and Donald. Both Chris and Paul were involved in community affairs. Both belonged to Burlington Central Lion's Club and both were honoured as “life” members of Lion's International. Paul coached and was a director of the Burlington Amateur Softball Association and served as Director of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce.

A new **Graham Pro Hardware** was opened at the Burlington Mall about 1979 with the Brant Street store remaining for about a year, closing about 1980. **Graham Hardware** served Burlington for over 35 years.

Chris Graham died in 1995 at 92 years of age and his son Paul in 2011, aged 80 years. Both are interred in Greenwood Cemetery: Chris & Dorothy in Block S and Paul and his wife Beverley in Block 59A.

Taylor Bros.

The Taylor brothers, Fred and Charles, were the sons of Charles, Sr. and his wife Margaret. The father was a carriage painter. Two sisters died of lung disease in 1901 and 1905. Prior to entering into business on their own, Fred had worked for a number of years in the Kerns store on Water Street and Charles was bookkeeper for a travelling firm in Hamilton, but in 1904 was given a gold watch and gold headed cane and transferred to the “Northwest”.

The Burlington Gazette reported that in October of 1905, Frederick W. Taylor had severed his connection with W. Kerns & Co. and had commenced the erection of an up-to-date general store on the corner of Elizabeth and Water Streets, near the post office. His brother Charles came home from the west in February of 1906, when the store was ready for opening. They entered into a partnership, the firm to be known as Taylor Brothers, which later was shortened to Taylor Bros.

The Burlington Gazette printed a detailed description of this new enterprise. In



addition to groceries, the store carried dress goods, general dry goods and men’s furnishings and tailoring. The store would specialize in the best teas and coffees, and featured 2 Toledo computing scales and a large National Cash Register that made a record of all transactions, making the occurrence of a mistake almost an impossibility.

Taylor Bros. horse drawn delivery wagon, ca 1905 BHS Archives

Sadly, within a year of opening this new store, the younger brother, Charles, Jr. took ill and like his sisters died of a lung condition at age 27 years. Fred's early retail experience enabled him to carry on with the store. The name remained the same and Taylor Bros. remained at this location until 1927, when Mr. Macklin of Weston came to town and made a deal for the Taylor property. With just six weeks to vacate, a new Taylor Bros store was built on Brant Street at the corner of James, now number 421. The business took just one overnight to move in.

Ten years later, Fred Taylor died suddenly, while transacting some business in a Hamilton store. His wife, Orpha, continued the business for about another 13 years, until the spring of 1950. **Taylor Bros.** served Burlington for over 40 years.

The Taylor family plots are in Blocks 21 and 34 in Greenwood Cemetery.
©Peggy Armstrong

*Sources: Burlington Gazette
BHS Archives
Vernon Directories, Central Library
Greenwood Cemetery*



Lower Brant Street - 2016



A Walk in Greenwood

Chapter 13 “Men Of The Cloth”

I have so far identified 20 ministers who have been laid to rest in Greenwood Cemetery. The majority by far, were Baptist, Methodist or United Church ministers. I did not expect to find Anglican ministers here, because of the burial grounds beside St. Luke’s Anglican Church, however, Greenwood does have one former Anglican minister, and he was a Bishop. It seems a little unusual however, that I have found no markers for Presbyterian ministers in this cemetery. Six of Greenwood’s ministers are interred in the front, east side of the old section of the cemetery, in fact, three are close to one another in block 23.

Some of these reverend gentlemen did not even serve a church in this community, but found it a desirable place in which to retire. I have chosen a mix of the faiths to profile, dependant on information found available concerning their careers, and time in Burlington.

Because of the large number of ministers in Greenwood, I will continue with them, in the next chapter of A Walk in Greenwood.



Knox Presbyterian Church Spire, BHS Archives

Rev. Charles H. Emerson, 1842-1911 (Baptist)

Charles Henry Emerson was born in Grimsby, England in 1842. He was converted at the age of 17, and immediately began some preaching. He attended the Pastor’s College in London, then served some churches in England.

At the age of 28 he came to Canada and laboured at Russell Hall, a Baptist mission in Montreal. He then had a pastorate in Algonquin, after which he returned to England because of throat trouble, and pursued his secular calling in the building trade, for which he had apprenticed as a teen.

Rev. Emerson returned to Canada in 1880 and served several churches before coming to Burlington's Calvary Baptist Church in November of 1904, where he continued until April of 1907. In 1904, his 4 children accounted a good percentage of the total membership of 15.



Calvary Baptist Church, 2008, BHS Archives

Rev. Lewis Warner Hill, 1854-1940 (Methodist)

Rev. L.W. Hill (as he always signed the register) was minister at the Burlington Methodist Church from 1909 to 1913. This was the building on Elizabeth Street, and congregation, which in 1925 became Trinity United Church. While he was minister here, his wife Margaret, aged 54 years, died and was interred in Greenwood Cemetery. Her obituary lists 12 out of town ministers, in addition to resident ministers of the village, who attended her funeral.

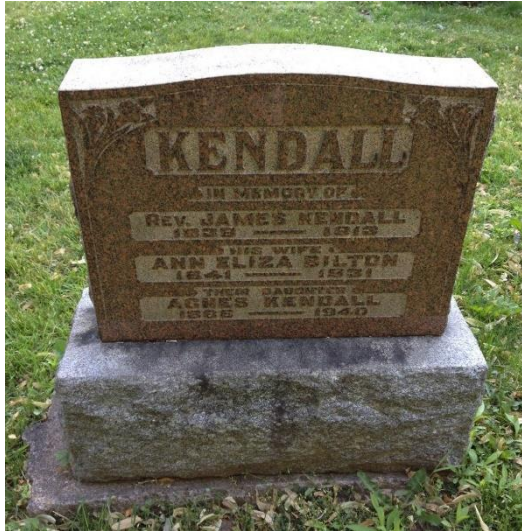
Rev. L. W. Hill was born at Cooksville, Ont. He graduated from Victoria College and was ordained at Prince Albert Sask., in 1881, in the same year marrying Margaret M. Long of Simcoe, County. Rev. Hill and his wife raised four sons, all well educated, and two daughters, who's education we are not told about.



www.findagrave.com

Rev. Hill died in May of 1940 at Parkhill. The remains were "motored" for interment in Greenwood Cemetery, where two ministers, relatives of his first wife, officiated at the graveside. Rev. Hill's second wife and one married daughter are also interred in the family plot in block 23 of Greenwood Cemetery.

Rev. James Kendall, 1839-1913 (Baptist)



www.findagrave.com

Rev. James Kendall died in January of 1913. Unfortunately our local newspaper, the Burlington Gazette, is missing for all of 1913, denying us his obituary, which at that time would likely have given details of his life and ministry. The Hamilton Spectator, did have a death notice with the information that he was a Baptist minister in his 74th year, his residence being on Pearl Street and his funeral from Knox Presbyterian Church. Another sentence under “Burlington Briefs”, relates that he was a well-known and retired.

The Burlington Gazette, however has left us more information through his activities in the community being reported, as well as those of his wife Anna Eliza, who lived here until she was 90, and their daughter Agnes until she was 72.

We know then that the Kendalls came from England to Canada and Hamilton about 1885 and then to Burlington about ten years later.

Sparse records of Calvary Baptist Church reveal that Rev. Kendall was pastor during 1897 when he increased the membership from 18 to 23 members. It appears he likely retired shortly there-after. The Kendalls although Baptist, for the most part attended Knox Presbyterian Church, Rev. Kendall participating in church work to the point of officiating at a funeral of a parishioner. Rev. Kendall was also elected as a trustee of the new high-school board in 1906.

Mrs. Kendall was given a birthday tea by the ladies of the community for both her 80th and 90th birthdays, the 80th at the Cleaver residence, and the 90th in her own home on Pearl Street because she was confined to her bed. At both parties, home made elaborate cakes bore the 80 or 90 candles, and all was detailed in the newspaper.



Agnes Kendall, daughter of Rev. James and Ann Kendall was a milliner, working for many years in Hamilton and later in Burlington. She was a member of James Street Baptist Church in Hamilton but mostly attended Knox Presbyterian Church here. Her mother's funeral refers also to her pastor as from James Street Baptist conducting the service assisted by Rev. Hornsby from Knox.

The history of James St. Baptist Church does not include Rev. James Kendall as having been a minister of that church.

The Kendall family were interred in block 10 of Greenwood Cemetery.

Rev. W. H. Rowsome, 1838-1904 (Methodist)

This minister was born near Brockville in 1840, and at the age of 28 graduated from Victoria College with a BA. His first preaching was in Quebec City, after which he served in Albany N.Y. and Vermont. In 1882 he came to Hamilton for about two and a half years. In 1884, he purchased a property in Burlington, and became a permanent resident.

Rev. Rowsome then made a career change. He began traveling for A Rubber Company in Boston. He had a son living in Boston, at the time of his tragic accidental death, at the age of 64 years.



www.findagrave.com

Mr. Rowsome was in the process of boarding an express train, at Williamstown Mass., on the evening of Sunday, Nov 20th, 1904 when he was struck by a freight train, was badly injured, causing his death. His obituary reports that he had been very successful in this employment.

On these business trips, he was usually away for several weeks. A daughter had married in June, and a son in August of that year and he was such a staunch Reformer, politically, that he traveled over 450 miles to get home to cast his vote for the Laurier Government, on November 3rd, and had not been home since.

Rev. Rowsome, and his family, had been residents of our community for twenty years. He was survived by his wife Jane Elizabeth, two sons, one of them living in Boston, and the other in Burlington, also three daughters.

The remains of Rev. Rowsome were returned to Burlington, where the family gathered for a private funeral, with interment in Greenwood Cemetery.

The Rowsome plot is in Block 12 of Greenwood. [daughter Muriel (known as Jo) is interred with her husband's family in Block 10, just a few feet away]

Rev. G. Keith McMillan, 1905-1976 (United Church of Canada)

Rev. Keith McMillan grew up on a farm, and obtained his early education at Port Perry, Ontario. His university studies took place in Toronto, at Victoria College, graduating with a BA. Then on the same campus, he attended Emanuel College and was ordained in 1934. It is written that between exams, he was a very able hockey player. Rev. McMillan was married, also in 1934.



Trinity United Church, ca 1960
BHS Archives

His first appointment took him to a railway town in northern Ontario, where he had charge of two preaching points, which were 112 miles apart. He spent eight years at Owen Sound, before coming to Trinity United Church, Burlington in 1956, where he served until the transition was made to Wellington Square United Church in 1966. Rev. McMillan served for another couple of years, in that new church, where he had been a driving force of the project.

The McMillan family resided in the Methodist Manse on Elizabeth Street while he was in service here. His three children, in 1956, when the family moved in, were young adults, aged 13 to 22 years.

Wellington Square United Church dedicated a well used event room, in memory of their much loved pastor, from 1956-1968, and who died in 1978.

Rev. McMillan and his wife Mary were inurned in Urn Garden I which is to the east, just inside the main entrance to Greenwood Cemetery.



www.findagrave.com

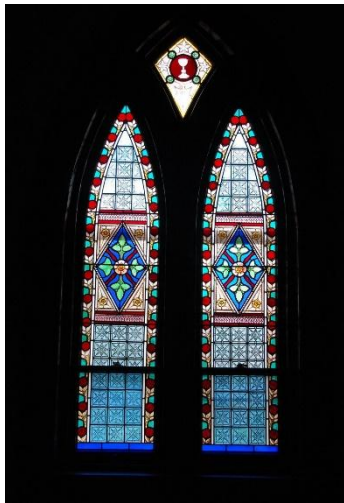
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Sources: Greenwood Cemetery, OGS transcription
Burlington Gazette & Hamilton Spectator
B.H.S. archive files



A Walk in Greenwood

Chapter 14 “More Men of the Cloth”



Stained Glass window at Knox
Presbyterian Church-BHS Archives

It is interesting to compare the memorial markers in Greenwood Cemetery, after having learned about the ministers and their service to the church of their faith. In the following group of five ministers, one has no stone at all, one with only his surname on the stone, one whose faith or occupation is not expressed on the stone, and one which proudly records his degrees, as well as details of his ministry. The difference, perhaps, reflects the nature of their relationship with their faith, for some a matter of deep humility.

As with the first group we profiled, not all of the following were ministers in Burlington churches. Only two of these five, were born in Canada. The life of the first and earliest of these ministers, devoted his life to “mission” work in China, even though his health was often compromised.

Rev. Dr. Virgil C. Hart, 1840-1904 (Methodist)

Rev. Dr. Virgil C. Hart was born in Jefferson County, N.Y. in 1840. At about 15 years of age, through reading about the lives of Livingston and other missionaries, he was seized with the zeal to become himself, a missionary. His academic studies took place at the Northwestern University and Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill.

Following graduation, he was married to Adeline, who he later referred to as “one of the best women living” and started on a voyage to China which took five months, from New York to Hong Kong, via the Cape of Good Hope. They then made their way about 500 miles inland to Central China, where he established his first mission, the beginning of a life of 34 years of missionary work in many areas of China.

By 1888 he returned to a little farm in Burlington, in order to rest, but three years later accepted the offer by the Methodist body of Canada to be superintendent of mission work they wished to undertake in West China. Rev. Hart next returned to Canada in 1895, following riots during

the Japanese War .He was again in poor health, yet he returned two years later to China, taking with him this time printing presses which became important in promoting his work. When the Boxer troubles occurred in 1900, he left China for the last time, broken in health with an attack of malaria, spending the winter in California before returning to Burlington in 1901. During his last years here, he devoted much time to writing and occasionally speaking.



Photo: http://library.vicu.utoronto.ca/exhibitions/vic_in_china/sections/

Dr. Hart is remembered for founding the mission in West China, for the United Church of Canada, it growing to engage eleven missionaries during his time, and for introducing the first printing presses into West China.

Rev. Dr. Hart was survived by his widow Adeline and five children, at least several of them born in China. His sons were a doctor serving at a hospital in China, a professor of St. Louis, and two Rev.s, one being Ross Hart of Burlington, and a married daughter living in Halifax.

Several ministers participated in his funeral service at Rev. Williamson's home and then the Methodist church, which was suitably draped. A large number of ministers, many from out of town, attended the services and proceeded to Greenwood Cemetery, for his burial.

The only marker in his memory, is a small foot stone, in the Allen family plot, Block 14, which is simply inscribed HART.

Rev. James Chapman, 1866-1938 (Baptist)



Formerly Calvary Baptist Church, Ontario Street
BHS Archives

Rev. James Chapman, who was born in England, came to Canada about 1875, at nine years of age, the family settling at Bronte. As a young adult Mr. Chapman held student charges in several Baptist churches, before undertaking his formal education in theology, graduating from McMaster University, Toronto in 1899.

Rev. Chapman then served churches as pastor, in Barrie, Villa Nova and Brantford. He was the pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, here in Burlington, for 1917 and 1918.

Rev. Chapman began his retirement about 1933. He and his family chose at that time to return to Burlington, a place they must have enjoyed while at Calvary Baptist Church. Several of the family of five sons and a daughter raised by Rev. Chapman and his wife Edith were living in Hamilton or Toronto, perhaps making Burlington central to being near them.

Rev. James Chapman died in May of 1938, his younger wife living another 27 years. Rev. and Mrs. Chapman were interred in Block 125 of Greenwood cemetery.

Rev. John James Roberts, c.1888-1969 (Baptist)

The early life of Rev. J. J. Roberts, was spent in Liverpool, England, where he was born and raised. As a young adult he came to Canada, spending a number of years in Montreal working at his trade of electromoulding. Following the end of World War I, during which he served in the Canadian Medical Corps, he attended the Toronto (now Ontario) Bible School and began his ministry in the Baptist Church. His move to Burlington and Calvary Baptist Church, took place in the spring of 1926.

He was very much assisted in the work of the church by his wife Joyce, who was born in China, of a missionary family, and had also graduated from the Toronto Bible School. Joyce died in 1943 in her forty-sixth year, leaving her husband to finish raising their five children, four of whom later entered the ministerial or missionary field.

Rev. J. J. Roberts was minister of Calvary Baptist Church for 38 years, retiring in 1965. Four years later he died, at the age of 81 years. During his time here, the church managed to build a basement auditorium beneath the



Young grandchildren of the Pastor, the Rev. John J. Roberts-BHS Archives

church, and at the same time extended the front entrance of the church, increasing its capacity to about 150. This would seem quite an accomplishment, as all the revenue of this church was from private givings, of its members, with no record ever kept of these “free-will” offerings. There is no memorial marker in Block 116 of Greenwood Cemetery where Rev. Roberts was interred, nor in Block 17 where his wife and mother were laid to rest.

Rt. Rev. C. R. Heber Wilkinson, M.A., DD, K.I.H., 1900-1979 (Anglican)

Rev. Wilkinson was born in Nova Scotia, but grew up in Toronto, and attended the University of Toronto schools. On graduation he joined the Kangra mission in Punjab, India. The information concerning his degrees and ministry, is detailed on his memorial stone in Greenwood Cemetery.



Photo: www.niagaraanglican.ca

He was consecrated Bishop in 1950 and served as missionary and First Bishop of Amritsar, East Punjab, India, 1953 to 1959, followed by serving as Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Niagara, for ten years from 1960 to 1970.



Rev. Wilkinson’s wife Rowena the daughter of the Arch Bishop of the Yukon, also served as a missionary in India.

Bishop Wilkinson, had been a leader in the care and treatment of people suffering from leprosy, and had been a director of the Canadian Leprosy Mission.

While living in Burlington, Bishop Wilkinson was a member of St. Christopher’s Anglican Church. His funeral service however, took place at Christ’s Church Cathedral in Hamilton, then to Greenwood Cemetery for interment in Block N.

Rev. Dr. Neil Kenneth Campbell, 1915-2000 (United Church of Canada)

One would not know from reading the memorial marker in Greenwood Cemetery, that Rev. Dr. Campbell was a minister. Only his given names are inscribed on the stone.

Rev. Campbell, known as “Ken” spent forty years in the ministry of the United Church of Canada, serving charges in The Pas, Manitoba, in Winnipeg and Thunder Bay, before coming to Aldershot, to serve fifteen years as minister of East Plains United Church, where he was named Minister Emeritus.

His last ten years in the ministry were as pastoral visitor at Wellington Square United Church in Burlington.



Dr. Campbell also served as Superintendent of missions for Manitoba, Northwestern Ontario for six years and received his doctorate during that time at Winnipeg.

Rev. Dr. Campbell passed away in April of 2000, in his 85th year. He was interred in block 74 of Greenwood Cemetery.

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Sources: Greenwood Cemetery Transcription, OGS
Burlington Gazette



A Walk in Greenwood

Chapter 15 - Men with Building Skills

A new growing community, as were Wellington Square & Burlington, always had a need and therefore an opportunity for residents with building skills. Carpenters, brick layers, men to transport materials such as gravel and limestone, men to excavate, and painters, were some of the tradesmen need to build any structure.



BHS Archives

A building of almost any size was seldom built by one person, yet it was often one individual who was given the credit as “the Builder”. That person likely had, himself, one or more of the building trade skills, but in addition, he often was the person with the ability to arrange for the funding to support the job, and would have knowledge of blueprints, architectural drawings and connections with good available tradesmen, as well as suppliers of needed materials. He would supervise and be responsible for the work.

At the time of any major enterprise in town, like a school or church, at least some of the tradesmen given a contract were named, but as time passed, the “builder” is the one remembered for the work.

The men we have chosen for this chapter come from a variety of time periods and were different from each other in their approach to the industry of building.

George Blair, 1852-1935



It is not known at what age George Blair came to Burlington. He was however married to his first wife, Lorinthia Parkin in 1879, when both were aged 26 years. In his early adult years George was known to be a carpenter, then later a “builder”. About 1886, George had a brick home built for his own family at what is now 472 Burlington Avenue. His wife Lorinthia, mother of 3 children, died later that year.

BHS Archives

In 1889 George remarried a widow, Hannah Smith nee Shepherd who had 2 children of her own to add to the household. George and Hannah then produced 4 more children together.



472 Burlington Ave. -BHS Archives

George was a member and treasurer for many years, of Knox Presbyterian Church. Dr. William Richardson was also a member of that church, and the two, in partnership, purchased about half of the Bunton Survey located between the lakeshore and Ontario Street. George Blair was the builder of many homes in that area.



On Christmas Day of 1892, the Methodist Church, built just 6 years earlier was destroyed by fire. It was George Blair who contracted the building of the new church on Elizabeth Street, later known as Trinity United Church. In the Blair files of the Historical Society Archives are many details of that job, including some architectural drawings of the tower with circular window placements. Also in the collection are lists of materials ordered and accounts with tradesmen who were contracted to work on the project. George, likely with assistance would have been responsible for the carpentry work.

Trinity United Church – BHS Archives

In 1906, when two classrooms were added to the public school, in order to provide space for continuation classes. It was George Blair who drew up the plans and the list of materials needed.



During his lifetime George had served on council and on the boards of both the public and high schools.

George Blair died in September of 1935, aged 83 years and was interred in Greenwood Cemetery, Block 18.

www.findagrave.com

Alfred Brigham (A.B.) Coleman, 1865-1938

In Burlington, A.B. Coleman is most remembered for the “Gingerbread House” on Ontario Street, which he built in 1893 as a show case of his building talents. Mr. Coleman was born in England and as a child of about 8 years came, with his parents, Richard and Elizabeth and five other siblings, to Canada. The family lived first in Hamilton before settling in Burlington. Another two children were born in Canada, making this a large family. Richard, the father, was an iron moulder as was his eldest son.



Gingerbread House, Ontario Street - BHS Archives

A .B. was always keen to learn. As a young man he taught himself how to read and make blueprints and by the time he was 21 he owned a planing mill. Soon after he began building homes in Burlington. The two small houses on Nelson Avenue across from the Art Gallery of Burlington were built by Mr. Coleman.



In 1899 he purchased the Brant House property on the lakeshore and built the modern, luxury Hotel Brant, which after WWI was taken over by our government to be used as a veteran's hospital.

BHS Archives

A. B. Coleman's brothers James and George were excellent carpenters, and his brother Charles was a painter. They are known to have worked on his building projects. A.B. was the business man of the family. It was he who made the deals and supervised the work. The family built about 24 homes in Burlington, including 3 for family members.

With the hotel done, A.B. moved on to Toronto buying a home on Dowling Avenue. Our newspaper reported that, in 1902, A. B. was awarded the contract for the carpentry work on a new main building for the exhibition. The next year, his brother Charles F. Coleman, was hired to paint the music pavilion within the large manufacturers' building. Mr. Coleman is given credit for three buildings at the exhibition, the Hippodrome Theatre, later torn down for the new City Hall, Convocation Hall at the University of Toronto and some apartment buildings.



CNE 1911?
City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1244, f1244_j1876

#1876

Visitors to the CNE, ca 1911 – www.theex.com

Domes and columns became his signature in Toronto.



Much of this activity he had accomplished prior to getting married. However, in October of 1905, at 40 years of age, A.B. Coleman was married to Samena DeWitt of Hamilton, aged 24 years.

For the next few years, the family spent the summer months, living in the Brant House or the Hotel Brant. Several of their children were born in Burlington, but because the hotel had no heat for winter, they returned to Toronto at the end of the summer season.

In 1909 the Colemans once again, took up residence in Burlington living in a building beside the hotel. A. B. was frugal in this respect, he couldn't see paying for other accommodation when he owned the hotel property.

During this period A.B. built the Country Club, by the lake which in time became the Brant Inn.

The Country Club – BHS Archives



He also built several up-scale homes at Indian Point, to lease out to wealthy Americans. A. B. and his family lived at Indian Point from 1917 until his death in 1938.



AB Coleman's home at Indian Point – BHS Archives

During the last decade or two of his life, A.B. Coleman and his brother James H. developed a large settlement called Palm Harbour, in Florida.

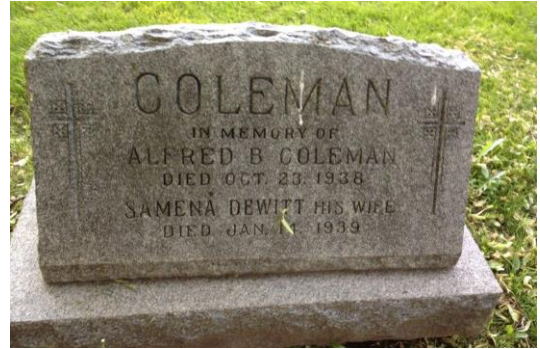


There was more to Mr. A. B. Coleman than building. His daughter recorded that he owned the second car in Burlington, he was an active member of the Lawn Bowling Club, a strong swimmer and was a very good dancer.

Lawn Bowling on the green at Brant House, ca 1912 – BHS Archives

A. B. Coleman died suddenly on the 23rd of October 1938, at his home at Indian Point. He was planning to leave within a few days to spend the winter, as usual, in Florida.

The A. B. Coleman plot is in Block 36 of Greenwood cemetery.



Jacob (Jake) Cooke, 1908-1976
William Jacob Cooke, 1931- 2005

Jacob Cooke was born in England and came to Canada in 1927. After trying out other communities he settled down in Burlington. His early employment was with the Piggott Constuction Company, as a carpenter's helper laying hardwood floors. One of those jobs was at The Pig and Whistle on Lakeshore Road.



The beginning, New Street – BHS Archives

In 1935 he moved toward working independently, when he purchased a hand-operated block-making machine, using it mainly at night, in a shed behind his home on New Street. This was the beginning of J. Cooke Concrete Blocks, which by 1953 was the largest producer of concrete blocks in Canada.



BHS Archives

With the demand for concrete blocks continually growing, Jake searched and found an ideal property for his business, on St. Matthew's Ave. in Aldershot. Next to it was a 55 acre gravel pit providing his raw material. The company kept improving it's equipment and in the early 1950s was producing enough cement blocks each day to build 30 houses.



BHS Archives

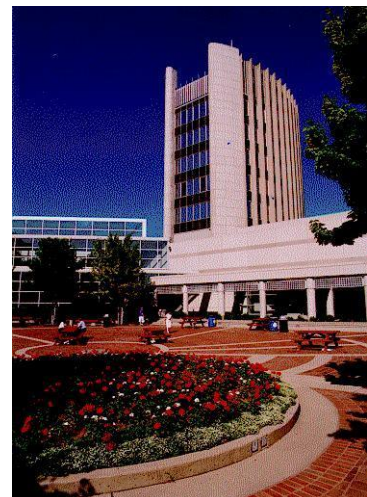
homes were built on Cooke's Lane for employees. There was also a large bunk house with a restaurant open 24 hours a day.

Brant Coleman, the son of A.B. Coleman, worked with Mr. Cooke from 1947-1972. The company developed the system of buying property for development, then subdividing it. They offered serviced lots to builders, in turn providing them with basements, concrete and the blocks and other materials needed in their construction.

J. Cooke Concrete Blocks, mapped out much of Aldershot south of Plains Road. Although he had no engineering degree, it was Brant Coleman who did this work, relying on his intuition as to which way the "water" ran naturally.

Cooke's pre-stressed concrete was used in the construction of the athletic building of McMaster University and for Burlington's City Hall. They also provided the panels on the outside of the city hall. In later years under the management of Wm. J.(Bill) Cooke, eldest son of Jake, a large development was taken on in Carlisle, and more in Aldershot, where the names of the Cooke family members as well as Brant Coleman and Isabel Boyd, an employee for 45 years, were honored when naming the streets.

BHS Archives





In 1970, Jake Cooke retired. He wanted to visit a cousin in Australia who left for that country at the same time as Jake came to Canada.

He was impressed with the possibilities that Australia offered. He bought 25,000 acres of bush and scrub land in Western Australia cleared 14,000 acres of it, and by 1976 had planted 11,000 acres of grain. Jake's younger son Barry had been convinced to join him and participate in the venture.

Jacob Cooke died suddenly in November of 1976 at age 68. His remains were returned to Burlington and were interred in Greenwood cemetery, Block 58.

www.findagrave.com



William White, 1846-1914

William White came to Burlington to live about 1896.

His experience as a contractor, differs from the other men in this profile. He was a "general contractor", who had received many contracts from the Dominion Government, among them being the timber work for the Sault Ste. Marie locks.



www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/railwayhistory

He also constructed trestles for the C.P.R. and built many bridges throughout Ontario. He built piers at Colborne, Southampton, Meaford, Rondeau and several places.

In August of 1903, our newspaper reported that Mr. Wm. White had returned from Owen Sound, where he had just completed the building of a large dock for one of the cement companies. The year before he died, Mr. White, was appointed inspector over Burlington's revetment wall work.



From Helen Langford's manuscript, "Growing up in Burlington 1928 - 1947" (1990): "The Revetment Wall ... with Canadian Cannery buildings in center background. Lifeguard Fred Ross teasing a youngster and Don Wiley [left] who lived in a home on the canning factory property." "Swimming in Burlington was another summer social occasion. The revetment wall ... extended from Brant Street to the Brant Inn. We swam behind it and hung out on the wall." BHS Archives

Ernest White, a son of William, also made Burlington his home. Ernest was a Civil Engineer, and at the time of his marriage in 1909, he and his bride went on to Lethbridge, where "he was engaged in the engineering work for a large railway undertaking." The couple would be away for four or five months before they could return to Burlington.

The White family plot is in block 10 of Greenwood Cemetery.



www.findagrave.com

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Sources:

The Historical Society Archives

Burlington Gazette

Hamilton Spectator

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Burlington, The Growing Years, by Dorothy Turcotte

A Family's History by Mary E Coburn [nee Coleman]