

Memorials in Trinity Anglican Church Cemetery

Introduction

The cemetery in the churchyard of the Trinity Anglican Church in Colborne contains several memorials for people who lived in Colborne and attended Trinity during the 1800's. This document contains a summary of the information available for some of these people. Full details are contained in accompanying PDF files.

The detailed information for these people and their families can also be found on www.treesbydan.com – after the next time publishing is done which should be soon.

John Davidson, Rector of Trinity Anglican Church

There is a pretty white memorial with a cross on top sitting by itself in the front yard of Trinity Anglican Church. This is the memorial for John Davidson, who was Rector of Trinity when he died February 13, 1892. It says right on the memorial that he died "... while attending the Convention of The Brotherhood of St. Andrew". His Death Registration (right) says he died in Toronto.

John Davidson was born in Dumfries Parish, York County, New Brunswick which is in the western interior of the province, on the Saint John River. The 1851 Census shows him living there at age 20 with his parents, John and Margaret Davidson.



Location of Dumfries, New Brunswick

County of York No. 879	
Name and Title	Rev. John Davidson
When Died	February 13 th 1892
Age	Male
Place of Birth	Irish 081328
When Born	Clayman
Cause of Death	Dumfries N.B.
Place of Burial	Anglican Burial
Signature of Registrar	a far less completing a few days
Signature of Minister	Dr. Cameron
Signature of Registrar	J. W. Cameron M.B.
Signature of Minister	Toronto
Signature of Registrar	February 17 th 1892
Signature of Minister	Episcopalian
Signature of Registrar	W. J. Brown

In 1858 John Davidson was married to Susanna Ferrar Cheyne in Fredericton. At the time of her marriage she was living in Fredericton but she can be found in Dumfries Parish, York County in the 1851 Census, age 19, living with her parents, George and Maria Cheyne.

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John and Susanna appear to have come to Ontario very soon after their marriage as their first child, John Cheyne Davidson, was born in Peterborough, February 10, 1861. By April 1861, at the time the 1861 Census was taken, the family was living in North Crosby Township, Leeds County. Then, in 1863, they are living in Woodbridge where their daughter, Margaret Jane Davidson was born. The Davidson's were then located in Tecumseh Township, Simcoe County, which contains the towns of Allison and Beeton and the 1881 Census shows them in Uxbridge. The 1891 Census tells us that they were living in Colborne.

Susanna Ferrar Davidson was 71 years of age when she died in 1909 while living at 30 Charles Street, Toronto. On her memorial we see the words "His Wife and Co Worker".

None of John and Susanna Davidson's children were born in Colborne and most were married to people from outside the area. The one exception is their eldest daughter, Margaret Jane Davidson who married Jay Ketchum in 1892. He was a widower with three children at that point and was, according to the Marriage Registration, a "Jr. Judge, County Court". The family lived in Cobourg where Jay Ketchum was a Judge until his death in 1909.

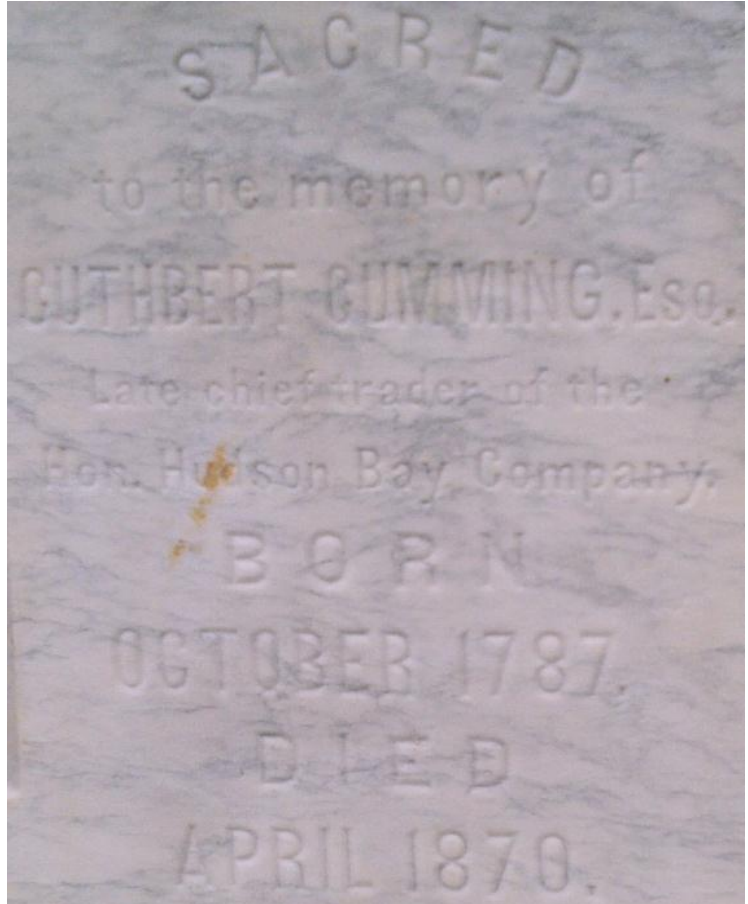
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Cuthbert Cumming

One of the most interesting characters buried in the Trinity cemetery is Cuthbert Cumming who was a Hudson Bay Trader. The memorial makes it very clear when it says “Cuthbert Cumming, Esq., Late chief trader of the Hon. Hudson Bay Company”.

Cuthbert Cumming was born in 1787 in Tomsutral, Banffshire, Scotland and came to Canada to work for The Hudson Bay Company in 1804, age 17. It was a terrific opportunity for a young Scot because “The Bay” was the prestige employer of the time. If you could stand the seclusion and the rough trader world, a fellow could make a good living and maybe a fortune.

The Hudson Bay Archives are extensive and provide a lot of information about the people who were involved in the trading across Canada during the 1700 and 1800's. An “Information Sheet” is available online for Cuthbert Cumming which shows that he began as a Clerk with the North West Company at Fort Dauphin in 1804. In 1821 he is with the Hudson Bay Company (HBC) at Swan River, which is some distance north and west of Winnipeg. In those days this whole area was called The North West Territories.



In 1827 he is listed as a “Chief Trader” and then in 1828 he had moved to a place called Chats in the Montreal Department. From 1831 to 1837 he was located at Mangan in Quebec and then in 1841 he transferred to Pic on Lake Superior. Soon afterward, he was back in the Swan River area of Manitoba, at Fort Pelly. Cuthbert Cumming resigned from the Hudson Bay Company in 1844 and settled in Colborne.

Cuthbert Cumming was obviously a successful trader because he was taken on by the Hudson Bay Company in 1821 after it merged with its main rival in the fur trade, The North West Company. A biography by Elizabeth Arthur, University of Toronto, quotes an associate as saying he was “open, friendly and consistant”, all characteristics that were needed to survive and succeed in the dangerous and complex world of the fur trade.

The records also show that Cuthbert Cumming followed the very common practice we see in the trader community in the early 1800's by taking a native woman as his wife while living in the wilderness and then marrying a white woman later in life. Cuthbert Cumming was apparently very conscientious in this

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regard as he accounted for all of his living children, from both marriages, in his will when he died in Colborne in 1870. His first wife is thought be named Suzette Mackie and they had five children in the Swan River area between 1812 and 1825. His second wife was Jane McMurray, the daughter of Thomas McMurray who was a fellow trader. Records for both men show that they worked at Fort Pic, Lake Superior in the early 1840's and had probably known each other earlier in The North West Territories.

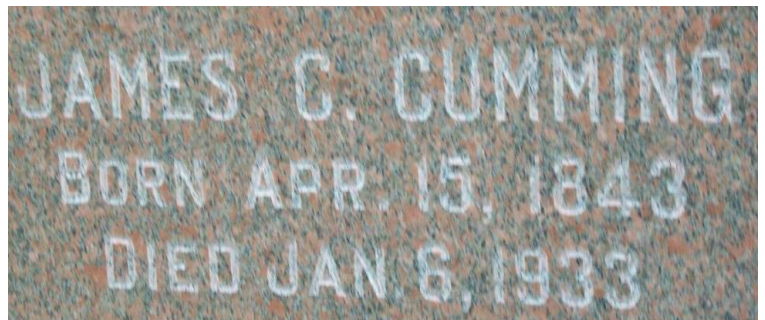
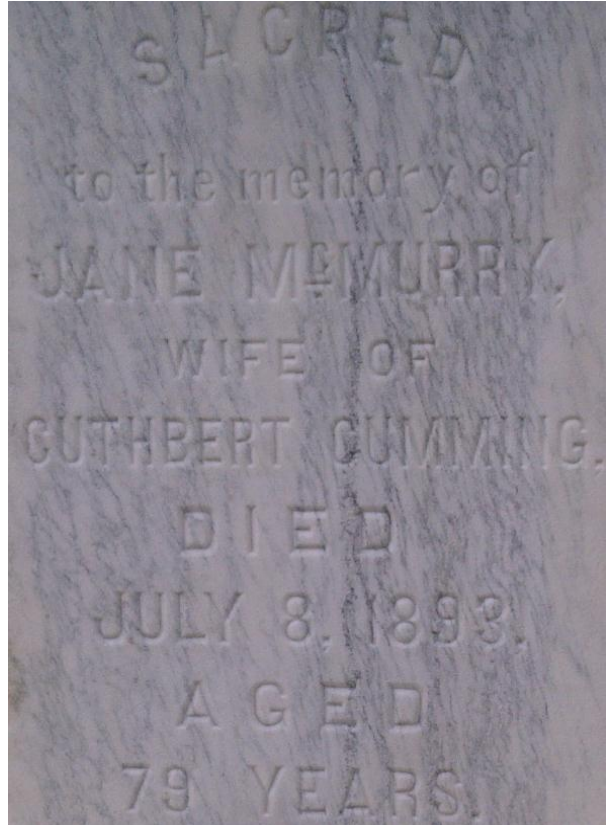
Cuthbert Cumming and Jane McMurray were married at Fort Pic in 1842 and they would have five children from 1843 to 1856. The family moved to Colborne soon after the birth of their first son, James Cuthbert Cumming on April 15, 1843, who is shown to have been born at Lake Superior.

The Cumming family was likely in Colborne as early as 1844 and are shown to be living on Concession 1, Lot 32 in the 1848 and 1850 Census records. This is south of King Street and between Ontario and Divisions Streets.

The decision to leave his lifelong work in the fur trade was apparently well considered and timely. His biography says "His journal expresses his dissatisfaction with limitations on the prairie fur trade and concern for the decreasing numbers of buffalo, which brought famine to the Indians. He was seeing the end of an era."

There is an amusing description of the old retired trader after he was settled in Colborne,. "We found Cumming the 'Noble Burgundy', seated in all his breadth and Majesty, on the Hall Bench, a perfect picture of ease and contentment. As soon as we entered, with great agility, he squared up to John George [McTavish], and set himself in Boxing attitude, seemingly jealous of the honor of rotundity being contested with him. You would have laughed to have witnessed the graceful movements of these sparring Birds of a feather." (George Barnston to Hargrave in 1846, per Elizabeth Arthur's biography)

Several of the Cumming children from the second family lived around Colborne all their lives. James Cuthbert Cumming, eldest son of Cuthbert Cumming and Jane McMurray, married Catherine Strong of Cobourg. There is no mention of an affiliation with The Hudson Bay Company on his memorial but we can see by his family history information that he spent much of his life in as a trader.

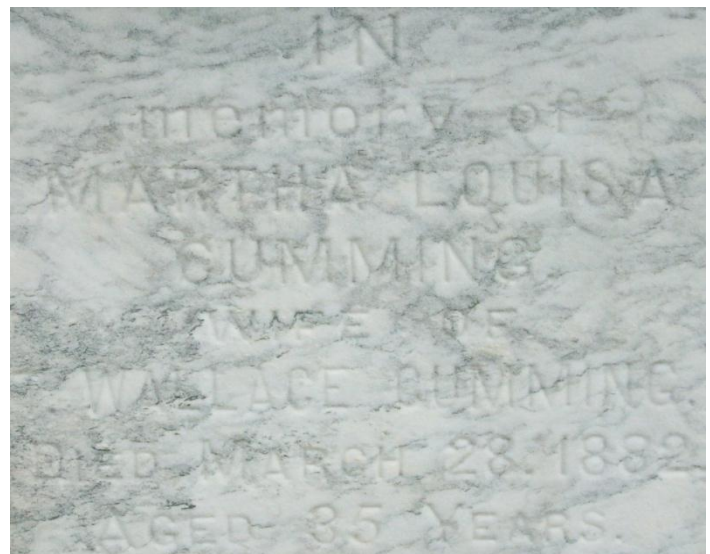


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His marriage to Catherine Strong took place at Trinity in 1877 and the Marriage Registration shows his occupation as “Hudson Bay Trader”. Also, his two children are shown to have been born on Hudson Bay. By 1891 he is in Toronto and in 1901 his is back in Colborne. He died in 1933 and is buried in the Trinity Cemetery.

Thomas Wallace Cumming is shown as T. Wallace on his memorial and is said to be the “third son of the late Cuthbert Cumming, of the Hon. Hudson Bay Co.” As the research shows, this fellow would have been the third son of Cuthbert Cumming’s second family, not his third son overall. He married Martha Louisa Maybee in 1873 and had two children and then died age 33 in 1880.

There is a memorial for Martha Louisa who died in 1882 age 35.



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Mary (McMurray) Matheson

There is a very interesting memorial in the cemetery which has a link to Cuthbert Cumming. A very tall and slim pedestal stone shows the following inscription “In Memory of Mary, Eldest Daughter of Thos. McMurray, Esq., Late of The Hon. Hudson Bay Co. and Wife of John Matheson of Murray Who Died Aug. 14, 1847, Aged 35 Years”. Mary was a sister of Jane McMurray, second wife of Cuthbert Cumming.

It is a very unusual memorial, in particular regarding the extensive inscription. Not often do we see memorials from before 1850 that tell us the names of both the father and the husband of a woman who died age 33.



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James D. Goslee

James D. Goslee holds a special place in the history of Trinity Anglican Church as he donated the property on which the church was built.

"These visits by missionaries encouraged Anglicans in Colborne to plan the erection of a place of worship. Fifty acres of glebe land was donated by Mr. J.P. Goslee. Construction was begun and the Rev. John Wilson (first rector) reported the exterior complete in February, 1846. The church was officially opened by the Bishop Strachan of Toronto on August 31, 1846." (from "Faith of Our Fathers", article, Colborne Chronicle Special 125th Anniversary Edition, Published Wednesday, Jun 27, 1984, by Walter Luedtke)

The following text is interesting and instructive regarding the Goslee family. It is from the book "Homesteads: Early buildings and families from Kingston to Toronto" by Margaret McBurney & Mary Byers (1979, pg. 50)

"The land and lumber used in the construction of Trinity Anglican Church were given by J. D. Goslee in 1843 and the church opened in 1846; Bishop Strachan attended the ceremony. Goslee's daughter, Elizabeth Goslee Grover, told the story of her family in memoirs that were written in 1896, her eighty-first year. Elizabeth's grandmother, born Ann Schuyler, was a niece of Philip Schuyler, one of George Washington's most respected generals; Ann's father was himself a member of Washington's army and Washington was her godfather and a frequent visitor in the Schuyler house. Matthew Goslee, Elizabeth's grandfather, was the son of a

wealthy American family who supported the King's cause and forfeited all his property in the new United States. They often told her, when she was a child, of their first meeting. On 27 August 1776, Ann was alone in the family home near Albany listening to the distant sounds of battle. Her mother was dead; and by the end of the day she learned her father and brother had both been killed as well. There was a chance the British troops would burn the house. With her father's servant as companion, she rode off to seek her uncle. But the army tents they finally found were the enemy's. 'I was in the Jersey woods.' Ann would tell the young Elizabeth, 'and before me stood a tall handsome soldier in a red coat, one sleeve gone but the arm wrapped in a bloody bandage..' The tall handsome redcoat was of course Matthew Goslee. He escorted Ann to a spot near her uncle's camp, and Ann stayed with General Schuyler in Albany until the end of the war. One night the general returned home escorting Matthew Goslee as his personal prisoner. In time Ann and Matthew were married and left with the Loyalists. In the Colborne area they built a large log house. They always kept the saddle which Ann had used on the day they met."



Census records show that Matthew Goslee was in Cramahe Township as early as 1806 but his son, James D. Goslee, is clearly shown to have been born in Upper Canada in 1794. Later on, in the 1848 and 1850

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Census records, we see James D. Goslee located at Concession 1, Lots 31 and 32, Cramahe Township, which is Colborne, in the area where Trinity Anglican Church was built.

George Goslee was a son of James D. Goslee and Pheobe Wood. He was born in 1823 and died in 1882. He was shown in census records over the years to be a merchant, storekeeper, and in 1857 “agent for Equitable Fire and International Life Assurance Companies”. His Death Registration says he was an Accountant.

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Francis Brockell Spilsbury

There is a memorial in the cemetery for Francis Brockell Spilsbury. The pedestal stone is legible on his side but the side for his wife, Martha Selena Marks is very difficult to read. There is also an older stone, lying on the ground, for their daughter Fanny Ann Spilsbury.

Francis Brockell Spilsbury is from a line of several generations with the same name. He was born in Newark, Nottinghamshire, England in 1818 and came to Kingston, Upper Canada as a boy with the family of John Bennett Marks. His father was Captain F. B. Spilsbury, commander of a Royal Navy Frigate during the War of 1812.

An interesting letter which Francis Brockell Spilsbury, age 12, wrote to his parents while he was living with the John Bennett Marks family in Kingston is available, along with a picture of The Captain, on ancestry.com (tree of Joanne Sholes). The letter is dated at Kingston, Ontario, June 27 1830:

Dear Father and Mother:

I hope you are well. Mr. Marks says it would be better for Henry to have my cap and John to have Henry's hat and for me to have a new one. Mrs. Marks has been to Mr. Terns about the Satinet boots but he has none, he expects to get some next week, the stockings weaver says he will have the stockings done next week. Henry and I want some more shirts if you please, Henry has but three good ones. Mrs. Stevenson got me a couple pair of drill trousers. Mrs. Marks wishes to hear from you very much, we're both quite well. I am in the rule of three. Henry is in long division. In Latin we are in Delectus, when I was out in the Schooner, I was up to the head of the lake, I was at York, Niagara, Tunston and I was on the American side. We had very cold weather. Mr. Marks thinks that the commodore will be out in the beginning of August. Mrs. Jones has returned. Mrs. Stevenson is very ill. Mr. and Mrs. Marks wend their kind love to you. Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson sends their kind love to you. Give my love to my brothers and sisters and to Mrs. Whites and all my cousins. Mr. Marks had a letter to last night and we were glad to hear of the birth of our little brother. Mrs. Marks has brought two gown pieces for my mother which will be sent up with the twine and other things. Did the mangle arrive safe? I don't know when the holidays are to begin or how many days they are to last, but I will inquire and let you know next week. I hope my cousins have arrived safe and that my Uncle and Aunt are well. I will endeavor to write a better letter next time.

I remain

My Dear Father and Mother

Your affectionate son

Francis Brockell Spilsbury

To Captain FB Spilsbury, Royal Navy



Captain Francis Brockell Spilsbury

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In 1853 Francis Brockell Spilsbury went back to England and married Martha Selena Marks, a daughter of John Bennett Marks and Mary Rendle. They took up residence in Cramahe Township, near Colborne. The County Atlas Map of 1878 shows F. B. Spilsbury located on Lots 21 and 22, Concession 1 which is the south side of Salem, from No. 2 Highway to Lake Ontario.

Francis Brockell Spilsbury died in 1901 at age 83 and his wife Martha passed away in 1914 while living on King Street, Colborne.

Their eldest child, Fanny Anne, died as a child and there is memorial for her in Trinity Cemetery, although it has fallen over. Their second child, Mary Frances Spilsbury married Rev. Ralph William Hinds who was an Anglican minister. I wonder if he at any time was Rector at Trinity?



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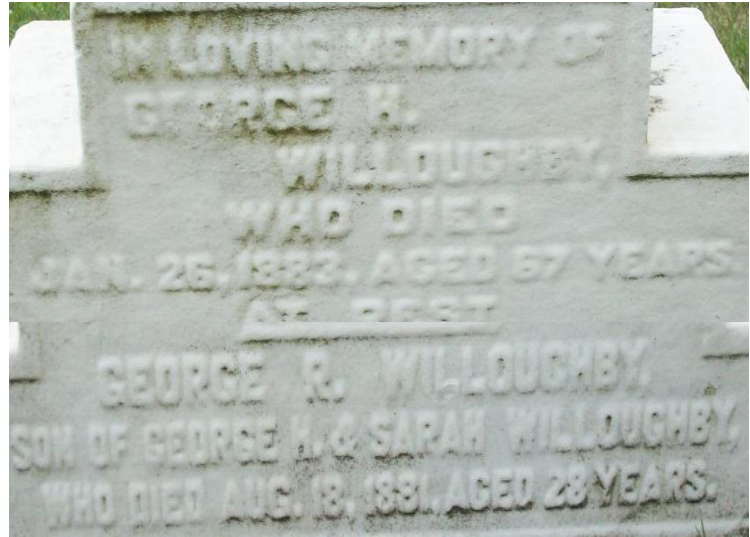
George H. Willoughby

George Henthorne Willoughby was born in Ireland in 1816 and was married to Sarah Armson in 1840 in West Gwillimbury Township, Simcoe County. All their children were born in Simcoe County.

The family was living in Haldimand Township for the 1871 Census and George died at Colborne in 1883.

The memorial contains a second inscription, this one for a son, George R. Willoughby who died age 28 in 1881.

A well-known person of this family was eldest son Dr. William Armson Willoughby who remained unmarried and was a doctor in Colborne until his death in 1908. We see his name in many Birth and Death Registrations in the area during that time.

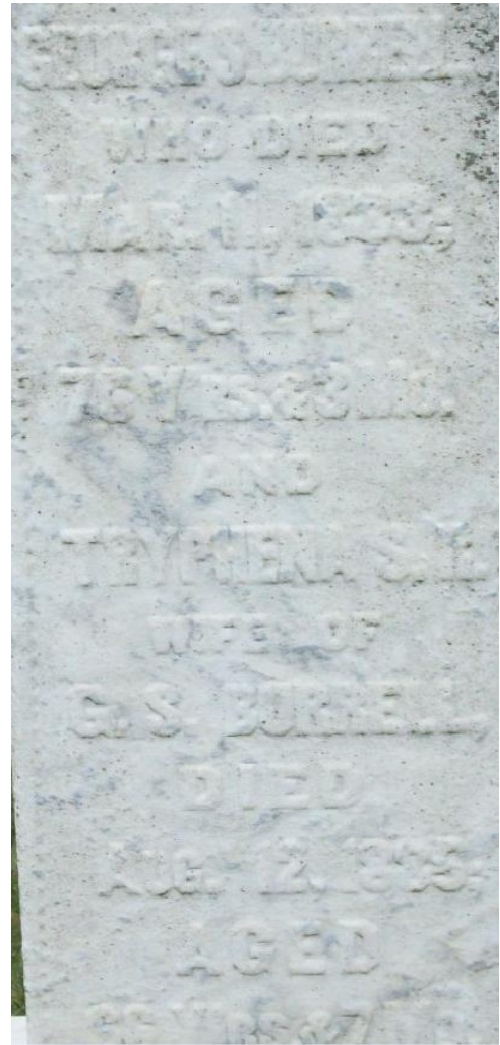
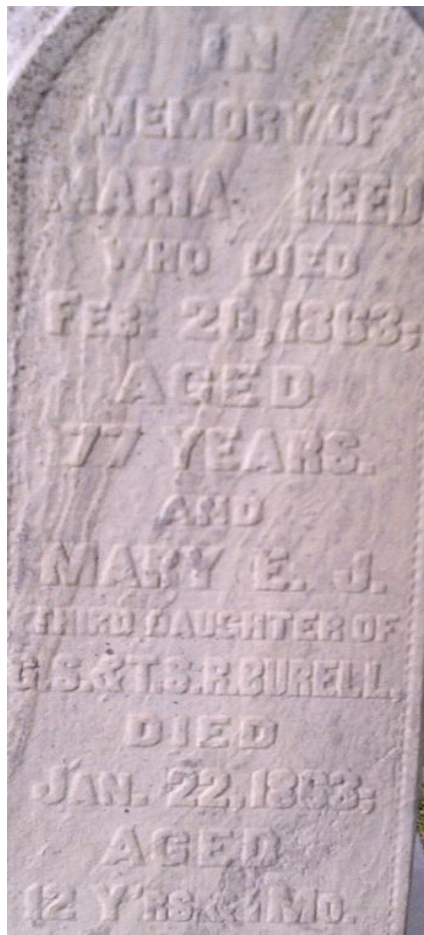


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George Simmons Burrell

There is a memorial in the cemetery for George S. Burrell and his wife Tryphena S. L Reed. Tryphena's mother was Maria Spilsbury, a daughter of Francis Brockell Spilsbury (1761-1823) and Maria Taylor, who were also the parents of Captain Francis Brockell Spilsbury (1784-1830), father of the Francis Brockell Spilsbury who is buried in Trinity Cemetery. This may seem like mindless trivia but it does indicate that these families were connected to each other before they settled in Canada.

An interesting connection for this family is that the first two daughters of this family married brothers of James G. Rogers & Maria Burnham. Eleanor Maud "Ellen" Burrell married James Charles Rogers and Maria Georgina Burrell married Edmond James Armstrong Rogers.



The other side of this stone shows a memorial for Maria (Spilsbury) Reed who was living with her son-in-law George S. Burrell according to the 1861 Census. Below her inscription is one for Mary E. J., "Third Daughter of G. S. & T. S. R. Burrell", a child who died age 12 just a few weeks before her grandmother, Maria.

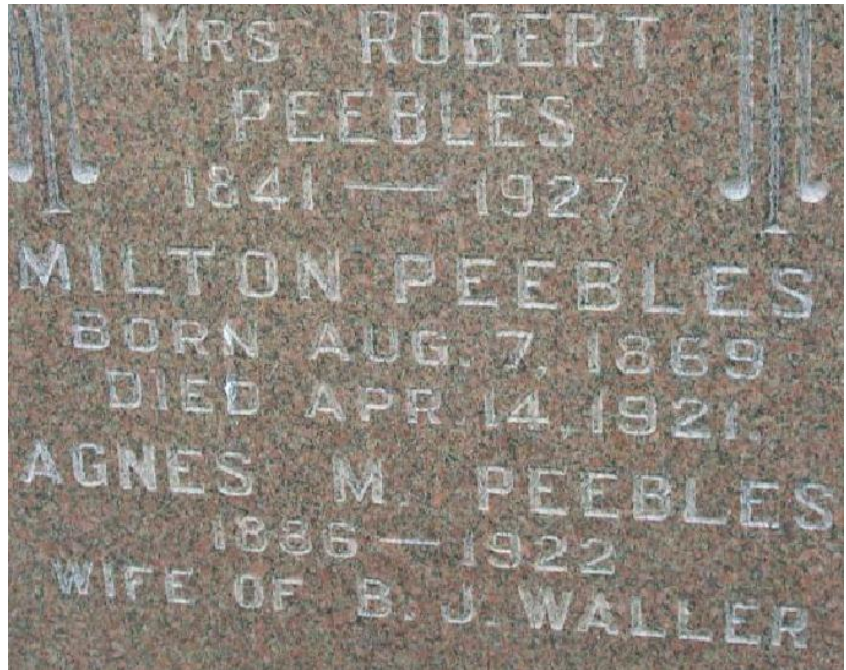
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George Milton Peebles & Agnes May Peebles

One of the relatively newer memorials in the Trinity Cemetery contains inscriptions for three people of the Peebles family. At the top we see “Mrs. Robert Peebles 1841 – 1927. This was Elizabeth Ann Hanna, wife of Robert James Peebles. This family had lived in Kitley Township, Leeds & Grenville County until moving to Colborne in 1897; Elizabeth’s Death Registration shows that she had been there for about 30 years.

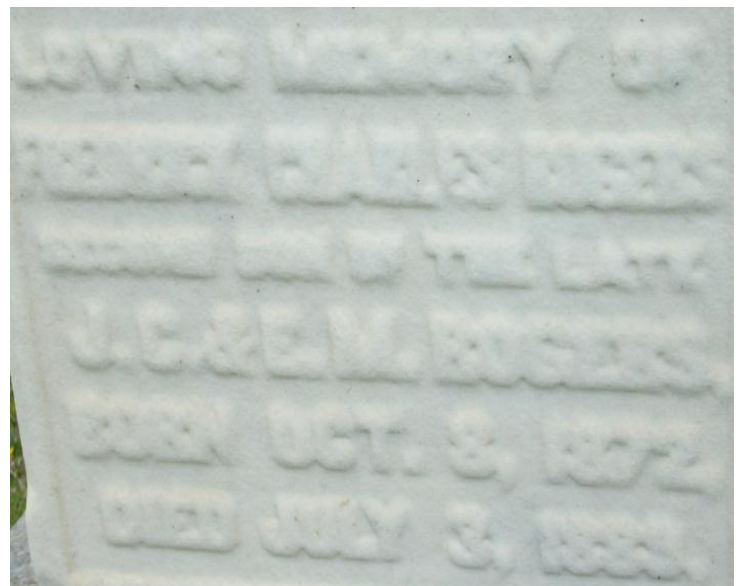
The next inscription is for “Milton Peebles”, full name George Milton Peebles, who was a son of Robert and Elizabeth. He remained unmarried and died in 1921. His Death Registration says his occupation was “Owner of an Electric Distribution Service”.

The bottom inscription on this memorial is for Agnes M. Peebles and it says she was the “Wife of B. J. Waller”. Agnes was a younger sister of Milton Peebles and she married Bertie John Waller, who was born in London, England, in 1908.



Frederick Charles Rogers

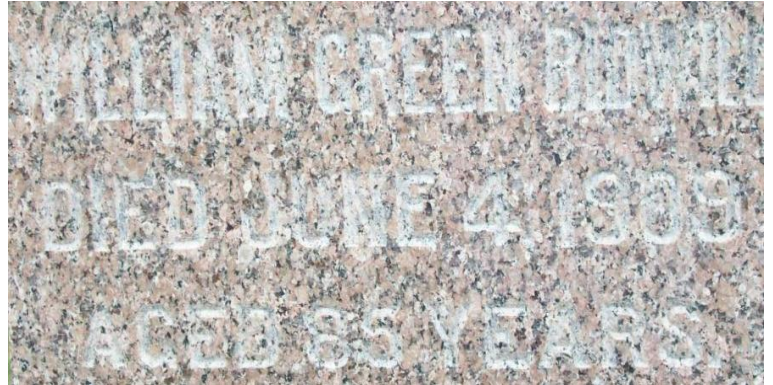
There is a memorial for Frederick Charles Rogers, a son of James Charles Rogers and Ellen Burrell. He died in 1889 age 16. See information regarding the Burrell and Rogers connections in the section above about George Simmons Burrell.



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William Green Bidwill

There is a memorial in the cemetery for one William Green Bidwill. Yes, that is the correct spelling – not Bidwell. This fellow was born in Exeter, England in 1824 and immigrated to Canada in 1830. He married Anne Stewart in Ontario and their first child, Harry was born in Cramahe Township in 1852. Harry married Marie Adele Smith of Brighton and they moved to Manitoba.



Another son, George M. Bidwill, married Anna Maria Strong, a daughter of Ozem Strong and Anna Elizabeth Merriam. This family appears to have moved to Port Huron, Michigan.

Alma Ann Errington

There is a pedestal stone that is very unclear but on close inspection we can see that it contains the following inscription:

"Alma Ann, Daughter of William and Mary Errington, 1845 – 1942"

There is no reference to this Errington family in my genealogy database although there are numerous folks by that name in Percy Township from early settlement times.

Census records for Colborne for 1881, 1891 and 1901 show three adult Errington siblings living together. They are William, born in the US in 1842, Emily C., born in the US in 1850 and Ann, born in Ontario in 1858. Although dates appear a little muddle, this memorial would appear to be for the youngest of these three siblings.

