

# Cemetery rededicated

PINKERTON—There have been some people in the small community of Pinkerton who have thought at one time or another over the years that the abandoned Greenwood Cemetery should be refurbished. It was just something that no one got around to—until about four weeks ago.

Elwood Pinkerton, a decendent of the founding family of the village, got thinking with his brother Gordon's 90th birthday coming up, it would be nice to see the Greenwood Cemetery restored in conjunction with his birthday.

"Gordon had said from time to time that somebody should dig in and sort things out at the abandoned cemetery site," said Elwood.

He mentioned the idea of taking on the project to the reeve of Greenock Township, Jack Riley. "Council got right on it," said Elwood.

It was through the efforts of the whole community that the project was completed and on Sunday afternoon, May 3, a small group gathered at the cemetery when it was rededicated to the pioneers of the village community.

The cemetery was abandoned because the location overlooking the Teeswater River was not suitable for a cemetery site. Elwood said an area of clay, with the rim coming to the surface at the high point overlooking the

river, prevented the moisture from draining to the river.

The recent work at the cemetery began by gathering the existing stones. The largest monument moved to the open area was that of David Pinkerton I who died on March 2, 1874 at 75 years of age.

A second large stoned pulled up the hill from close to the river's edge was engraved with the name of David's son, John Pinkerton, who died March 21, 1879. Although his exact age is unclear on the stone, it appears he was in his 20s when he died.

"In those days if people were terribly sick, even at a young age, there was nothing they could give them," said Elwood.

There were also two small grave markers of two young children dated 1888, the latest date found on any of the stones. The engraving on both was badly worn and one was broken in half. After some restoration work, they were placed on each side of the two large stones.

One of the small stones marked the grave of a young daughter of the first school teacher in the old log school in Pinkerton, SS 5, Greenock, Alec McIntosh. He continued teaching until 1901 in the new stone school which was built in 1874 at a cost of \$2,000.

The bell from the old school was put in place as the centrepiece at the new monu-

ment at Greenwood Cemetery. Sadie Fitzsimmons, speaking on behalf of the Pinkerton Women's Institute, gave a brief history of the school at the rededication. She told of the fund raising conducted in 1903 by the teacher, Stanley Sanderson, and his students to raise the \$31 to buy the bell for the school.

The Pinkerton WI, which will mark 75 years this June as part of the community, was responsible for having the bell painted and mounted at the cemetery site as part of the new monument.

The efforts of a number of people who worked to restore the Greenwood Cemetery were recognized at the rededication.

Honorary guests included Elwood and Gordon Pinkerton and their nephew Jim Connell, who spoke to the group on the behalf of the Pinkerton family.

Greenock Township Reeve Jack Riley, emcee for the ceremony, recognized the work of the township crew in restoring the cemetery and thanked the Pinkerton family for their contribution to have the project completed.

Another honorary guest, Harold Birrell, was recognized for the work he has put into the restoration of the Greenwood Cemetery. Everyone was happy to see that Harold could attend the rededication as he had been in the hospital for a few days during the

## to pioneers

week prior to the event.

In reply to Jack's remarks, Harold said he has been thinking for a long time that this work should be done.

"Like many of us here, I've often thought that this should have been done a long time ago," said Harold. "There are a lot of memories here for many of us. As a child I played here many a day. I remember stones that were here that we've been unable to locate. We know some have been moved, but we can't locate any records."

Harold was instrumental in the restoration work on the existing stones and had plaques made to mark the rededication to the pioneers of the village.

Although there is much to be learned about the history of the Greenwood Cemetery, its restoration has meant that a little bit of history has been put back in place.

"The history that we have has been handed down from generation to generation. There could be more information recorded somewhere, maybe in somebody's diary," said Reeve Riley. "History is hard to come by."

As planned, the rededication was timed in conjunction with Gordon Pinkerton's 90th birthday, which was on Monday, May 4, and friends and relatives were glad that Gor-

don's health permitted him to attend on Sunday afternoon. Gordon and Elwood's sister, Marie, also celebrated her 85th birthday on May 4, but she was unable to attend Sunday's gathering.

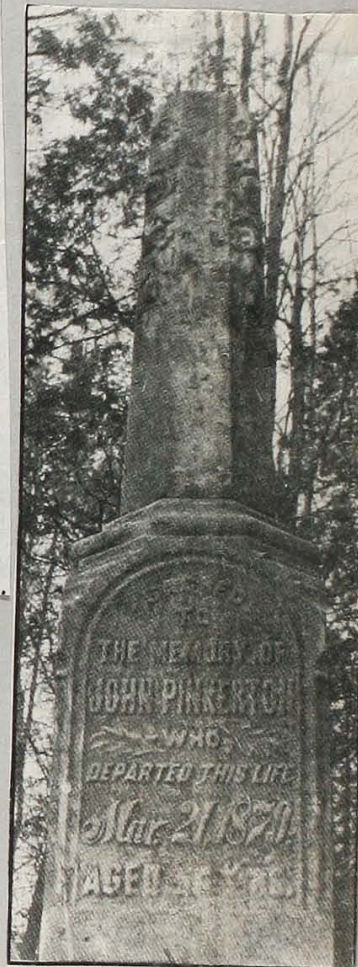
All those who attended signed their names in a guest book which will be kept at the township office. It will represent another piece of recorded history for years to come.

"Down the road future generations will be able to look in this book and read the signatures of all those present for the Greenwood Cemetery's rededication," said Reeve Riley.

Many of those in attendance are descendants of the founding Pinkerton family and have memories of when they played in the cemetery area as youngsters.

Although the children there were too young to understand the significance of the rededication, down the road they may remember standing among the trees on a sunny afternoon in an area covered in a green carpet of periwinkle or 'myrtle', which was probably planted on a grave and has spread over the years to cover the whole area.

No doubt one thing that will stand out in their minds is the sound that echoed through the trees when the huge bell from the school house was rung, signalling the completion of the rededication ceremony.



Story and photos  
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