

ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 51, Georgetown, Ontario, Canada L7G 4T1 www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/ehs/home.html

Vol. 26 No. 3

Sept. - Oct. 2001

A DRIVE THROUGH FAIRVIEW CEMETERY

By Frank Day Monday 7 November, 1949

"We had occasion to visit Fairview Cemetery, having buried a relative there recently, we passed the memorial to William Johnston, the founder of probably the best known and most efficient undertaking establishment in the district, now ably continued by his son-in-law, V. B. Rumley. Close together were the monuments of the Wansbroughs, Lambs and Murrays, all former residents of Crewson's Corners. John Murray, who married a Swackhamer, his sons Al and Will; Al being the benefactor who gave Acton its excellent YMCA building and other bequests; Will, who trimmed the Blue Springs Park to make an almost perfect setting for its present use by the Provincial Boy Scout authorities. Walter lamb, the mason who built his own monument with field stone; whose father built the dry stone fences on the Harris farm at Rockwood, and whose son, Orrie, continues proficient in the family art.

We glanced at the monument of Sir Donald Mann of railway fame and at those of the McNabbs and Grahams from Eramosa. Way back on the hill, we noticed the fresh grave of Mrs. Al Nicklin, mother of Guelph's city engineer, and of Mr. Holmes, brother of H. S., former CNR agent. Coming back, we saw preparation for the burial of W.R.E. Blair, well-known Acton tinsmith. In the north corner stands the monument to Jack Wilderspin, winner of the Military Cross in world War I, with whom we attended school 50 years ago in England. We have been charged with a sort of morbid sadness in our tendency to look over cemeteries; we do not find it sad, it is historically interesting, and since one usually thinks of departed friends and acquaintances in a most generous manner, we know of no place where one can meet

with so many old friends, in a sense, in a short time."



ne Robinson leads the Greenwood Cemetery tour in September 1999. EHS p11882 Esquesing Historical Society Newsletter

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

Sherry Westphal, former president and executive member of the Esquesing Historical Society will lead a walking tour of Fairview Cemetery on Wednesday 12 September, 2001. Please meet at the chapel, just inside the main gates off Cobblehill Road, Acton. The tour begins at 7 p.m., not the usual time, to allow for more daylight hours. The EHS will NOT be serving refreshments for this meeting, but rumours abound that a "de-briefing" will take place at the execellent Tim Horton's coffee shop on Queen Street, at the Georgetown end of town afterwards.

The Short Life and Times of Hugh Alexander McDonald

by Dawn Livingstone

This is the story of a young ancestor on the Livingstone side of the family tree of Jack Livingstone, of Georgetown.

Alexander McDonald was born 2 February 1865, in Esquesing. He was eight years old and had one younger brother when his widowed father, John McDonald, married the widow Sarah McCorquodale, who had five young children. All were from the Speyside area.

In 1885 when he was a young man, the Salvation Army had just arrived in Canada, and was holding gatherings at "The Rock" later known as Limehouse. An Acton Free Press of May 1885 says "Quite a sensation in our otherwise quiet Limehouse is caused by the Salvation Army. Meetings which are held on the hill near the Station.... They intend coming Tuesday and Thursday evenings of each week," and three weeks later the paper says "The Salvation army meeting held last Tuesday evening was quite a success. About two hundred people were gathered outdoors during the interesting service.... Converts at each meeting."

On June 2, 1885, at one of these rallies, Alexander McDonald, age 20, became one of these converted when "at the outpost, Limehouse, he gave God his heart by the big drum in the open air." In his three short years as an Army soldier, he rose to be a Captain, and travelled across Canada to Victoria, British Columbia, where he first contracted consumption. His brother Duncan, went to British Columbia and brought him back to Speyside, where he died 30 July 1888, aged 22 years, 5 months and 28 days. As an interesting aside, this brother Duncan married an female Salvation Army Captain who was ministering in Acton and according to the Acton Free Press, she was the third woman Captain sent to the Acton Corps who had been "captured and wed by young Acton men," and with her marriage, Army headquarters ceased sending young women to Acton.

The funeral service for Alexander was held from his Speyside home where "The remains were placed outside the house as there was no room inside only for a few..." "The funeral service was a most impressive one; and he being so well known and loved in this part of the country we expected to see large crowds, but our expectations were most gloriously realized, for upon reaching Speyside, where the body was, we found the place black with horses, buggies and rigs of every sort, and people who came to pay their last respects to our promoted comrade." "...then in the vehicles we proceeded to Fair View Cemetery at Acton. The procession was a long one indeed, one of the largest we have seen.. At the entrance of the Cemetery we dismounted and fell into line and marched to the grave, where hundreds were present..." According to our comrades last request, three volleys of victory were fired and after prayer, we formed and marched back to the barracks (in Acton) singing, "under the Army flag we'll fight our way to Glory."

His two page obituary in the Salvation Army Publication, "The War Cry" of August 1888 is an interesting story. A news story in the Acton Free Press, 16 August, 1888, refers to him as having "left a spotless record behind him in the North-West" and indicates that he was the writer of a "plaintive song, Some Built Their Hopes on the Ever Shifting Sands." About his early entry into the army, it says that he "was brought up in the vicinity of the town of Acton, and grew up to be a lively lad full of fun, and being of a kindly good natured disposition, got a large number of friends for himself. A soldier, an old companion in sin of his, says he well remembers the time when with Alex and his brother he used to drink together, dance, play cards and almost everything that was wrong. In his application for the work (in the army) in the fall of 1885, Alex himself says "My past life has been what you might call the worst kind. I spent most of my time in the bar-room and the card-table and the ball-room... but, praise God, he has saved me from all that." When the Army opened fire on Acton, Alex was in the great crowds who nightly thronged the barracks."

He is buried along with his father, John McDonald, and his step mothers first husband, John McCorquodale, all under the same stone in Fairview Cemetery, Acton. The inscription reads Capt. H.A. McDonald, S.A., died July 30, 1888, aged 22 yrs, 5 mos. & 28 days.

What a glorious ending for such a young life. I can hardly believe that he could have been as rough and tumble a young man as the Salvation Army made him out to be. After all, he was only 20 then he received the call, and only 22 when he died!!! He really didn't have a very long life. Who knows what he could have accomplished for the Army given the time????

Written for the Acton Cemetery Tour - Esquesing Historical Society, September 2001.

Rules and Regulations Governing Fairview Cemetery, Acton 1918

What follows are some interesting bits of information taken from an attachment to the deed that was given to each plot owner:

à#2 That no land shall be sold within three feet of the road.

a#6. Any proprietor may enclose his lot with a hedge not exceeding eighteen inches in height, or with an iron railing or stone wall not to exceed the height of one foot from the surface, or the boundary of the Lot may be marked by posts of cut stone or marble, not to appear more than one foot above the ground; but no description of fence other than herein stated will be permitted.

à#16 Tombs erected wholly or in part above ground must be furnished with shelves, having divisions allowing internments to be separately made and perpetually sealed, so as to prevent the escape of unpleasant effluvia.

à#19 Prices for Lots irrespective of location:

To Property Owners, tenants and all Residents: 8 cents per square foot.

To all Non Residents: 10 cents per square foot.

à#20 Single plot purchase \$3.60 for adults, \$2.40 for children under 12 years of age.

à#24 Opening of graves:

Adults Graves Summer \$4.00 Adults Graves Winter \$5.00 Children's Graves Summer \$3.00 Children's Graves Winter \$3.50

(Special Note: Today's Prices: Plot Purchase: \$815.33

Grave Opening:

Resident: \$508.27

Non-Resident: \$632.77)

à#27. No persons having refreshments of any kind will be permitted to come within the grounds; nor will any smoking be allowed in any surveyed portion.

à#34. Vehicles, during interments, shall be under the direction of the Caretaker, who shall dispose them in proper parts of the grounds, unless under exceptional circumstances, it is not intended that any other vehicle than the hearse shall enter the driveways.

(Special Thanks to Dawn Livingstone for providing this information for the newsletter.)

EHS EXECUTIVE

Stephen Blake	877-8251	President
Karen Hunter	838-2109	l or allo, mid
Dawn Livingstone	877-6506	
Doug Cole	877-3657	
Sherry Westfahl	873-7145	
J. Mark Rowe	877-9510	
Carol Wood	873-0792	

Don't forget to add 905 when dialling the above listed numbers.

ARCHIVAL NEWS

Once again the Esquesing Historical Society was fortunate to secure funding for a summer student. Emily Thompson served the Society for her second year, working principally on continuing the job she began last year. That was to scan, label and number each of the negatives from the *Acton Free Press* collection. Those negatives were donated to the Society by the *Acton Free Press / Independent*. They are a massive donation that will take years to process.

The Society executive will be organizing another Archives work day, probably in early November. If you can donate a couple hours on a Saturday morning or afternoon, please let a member of the executive know.

INTERNET CONNECTIONS

The Esquesing Historical Society has an official web site on the World Wide Web. You can visit us at

<www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/ehs/home.html>

Send your e-mail to rowem@aztecnet.com or dlvngstn@stn.net

EHS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter was prepared by John Mark Rowe with assistance from Karen Hunter, Sherry Westfahl and Dawn Livingstone.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees for 2000 are valid until February, 2001. The individual rate is \$10. The family or institution rate is \$12. Cheques payable to the Society can be mailed to our post box. Our current 2001 membership stands at 83. Marj Allen, membership secretary, will gladly accept

your fees at the next meeting.

RESEARCH REQUESTS

We are a small group of volunteers, and we do have difficulty getting the time and people to do much research. We charge \$5.00 for the initial fee, and \$1.00 per photocopied page. The request can be made by e-mail or regular mail, but we cannot guarantee a delivery time.

PHOTOGRAPH REPRINTS

The EHS has offered reprints of its' vast photographic collection for many years. The executive have decided to set new rates. Besides the cost of printing a photo, an Archives user fee of \$5 will apply for the first photo and a \$2 fee for each subsequent photo, ordered at the same time.

PAMPHLET REPRINTS

The Society has sent the Norval pamphlet and Glen Williams pamphlet to C & S Printing to be reprinted. This will be the third reprinting for Glen Williams. Don Smith, owner of C & S has been ill, so the pamphlets will be delayed. We hope Don recovers soon.

SUMMER NEWS

We regret to inform members of the death of EHS member Lloyd Bert in May. Sacre-Coeur rectory (39 Guelph Street) was torn down in July to make way for the widening of Highway Seven through Georgetown and to improve the blind corner at Guelph and John Street. It was built in 1901 by James Buck, a Georgetown butcher and merchant. It became the Roman Catholic rectory about 1956. Sacre-Coeur parish recently built a modern rectory at the rear of the church, next door.

The family bike shop in Norval was gutted by fire in August. This was once Watson's Bakery. It will be rebuilt.

CROMAR COURT

The Clerk's department of the Town of Halton Hills recently received a request to name the dead end court created by the rerouting of 15 Sideroad at Stewarttown, Cromar Court. Ms. Johnson called to tell Clerk, Charlotte Jones that the hill, which was removed was known as "Cromar Hill" by the neighbours. Since the

residents of this dead end portion have also requested a name change, Ms. Johnson's suggestion was recommended. This suggestion was forwarded to the EHS for comment. We concur completely.

LOCAL MERCHANT RESEARCH

Scott Douglas is looking for information on the following businesses:

Georgetown: J.J. Gibbens Bakery - Does anyone remember the bakery, the man, the use of the tokens?Good for 1 loaf. Location? Jackson's Department Store - location? Does anyone remember the use of tokens for 50c/

Creelman Bros. 1896 - ?

25c/ 1c?

Acton: **R.B. Scott - General Merchant**. Any information at all is welcome! He issued tokens from 1902 - 1906.

Henderson and Co., General Merchants -Any information would be welcome. He used tokens from 1902 -?

Please call Scott E. Douglas of Acton with any information at 519-853-3812.

NEW ACTON PLAQUE READY

After working closely with the Esquesing Historical Society, the Ontario Heritage Foundation will soon be ready to unveil the new heritage plaque about the founding of Acton. It will replace the former plaque in the Acton Horticultural Society garden in front of the Acton Centennial Library on River Street. The old plaque was badly faded by the sun. The new plaque has had the wording improved and translated into French on the reverse side. It will be a wonderful addition to Acton's tourist circuit! The Society is currently negotiating a home for the old plaque, rather than having it melted down.

TRILLIUM GRANT RECEIVED

In July, the EHS received a grant of \$22,000 to pay for the writing, advertising and publishing of a history of Acton. A popular history has been in great demand for years. This grant has ensured that the book will finally be published. The hard cover book will be about 96 pages long and will cover the history of Acton from 1818 up to the year 2000. Free copies will be provided for the Halton Hills libraries, Acton schools and nursing homes. The author, John Mark Rowe, raised and educated in Acton, now resides in Glen Williams. A publication date of December, 2001 is anticipated.

TOKENS HAVE A LONG HISTORY IN CANADA

Tokens served as coins during the early decades of the 19th century. Extensive quantities of low-denomination tokens were imported from England by merchants hoping to facilitate business in the colonies and make a profit on the tokens. Some of these tokens were anonymous, that is, they did not indicate the name of the merchant who had imported them, while others carried the name of the merchant, such as Lesslie & Co. of Toronto. These tokens offered customers a discount on their future purchases to entice them to return, just as Canadian Tire "money" does today.

Banks did more than simply issue paper money. In the 1830s, they began to import large numbers of tokens from England. The Bank of Montreal, for instance, imported both anonymous tokens and tokens stamped with its name. The Banque du Peuple also issued a 1-sou token in Montreal. It became known as the "rebellion sou," because the star and Phrygian cap (symbols of republicanism) that it bore were supposedly added by an employee sympathetic to the rebellions that broke out in 1837 in Lower Canada.

These bank tokens were used alongside merchants' tokens. Most of the latter were of poor quality. In the late 1830s, in order to impose some order on the issuing of tokens and to get rid of "junk" tokens, three banks in Montreal along with the Quebec Bank decided to participate in the issue of a new series of tokens. These tokens carried the image of a habitant on one side, and the coat of arms of the City of Montreal and the name of the issuing bank on the other. They were popularly known as "Papineaus."

-http://collections.ic.gc.ca/bank

ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Wed. 12 Sept, 2001 Acton Cemetery Tour - Join Sherry Westfahl as she takes us on a

walking tour of Acton's Fairview cemetery. Interesting stones and the interesting people they commemorate will be highlighted. Please note that Fairview Cemetery has several hills. Meet at the chapel just inside the front gates. There will NOT be refreshments

available after this meeting. Note the early start time!

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY, Cobblehill Road, Acton, 7:00 p.m.

Wed. 10 Oct, 2001 Ontario Merchant Tokens - Scott Douglas will talk about the use

of tokens by Ontario merchants. He will discuss the few Acton and Georgetown merchants that used these tokens and will have several

samples to share.

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Main St., Acton, 7:30 p.m.

Wed. 14 Nov, 2001 Lorne Scots - Our salute to Remembrance Day this year will be a

visual presentation on the Lorne Scots by Rev. Rick Ruggle, former military Chaplin. Rick will share some of his picture

collection with us.

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.

December There will not be a meeting in December.

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE!

Please bring your own cup for refreshments to help protect our environment.

Publications Highlight!

Collections 1, J.M.B. Rowe, Dawn Livingstone, and Elaine Robinson-Bertrand, eds.

Essays on the Georgetown Library, the first Halton Creamery, Georgetown street names, the Odd Fellows, Holy Cross School, the village of Ashgrove and the Kennedy family.

Collections 2, J.M.B. Rowe and Walter Lewis, eds.

Essays on Georgetown Scouting, Drummer's Snack, Limehouse Lime kilns, Military Tradition, Holy Cross Parish, Carriages to Cars, Plank Road Opening and Georgetown in the 1850's.

<u>Collections 3</u>, J.M.B. Rowe, Walter Lewis and Geoff Cannon, eds.

Essays on John Stewart Jr....Esquesing Rebel, 1917 Airplane Tragedy, Newspapers in Georgetown, Knox Church, Early Georgetown and Creelmans.

HISTORY IN A NUTSHELL

Explore the highways and by-ways of
Esquesing township by reading our series of
short informative pamphlets about settlements
in our township. STEWARTTOWN is the
latest pamphlet to join our collection. Read a
synopsis of the history of Georgetown, Acton,
Limehouse, BALLINAFAD, Glen Lawson,
Glen Williams, Norval, Speyside, Ashgrove,
Each pamphlet available for only 25 cents!
Complete your collection at the next meeting!

Some Halton Tokens and Medals

S. E. Douglas





J. J. Gibbens / City Bakery / Georgetown Good For / 1 / Loaf of Bread

Tokens and Medals with Scott Douglas





Halton Victory Prohibition Medal

Join Scott Douglas at Knox Church, Acton, as he discusses tokens and medals in Canada. He will focus on what he has learned about local tokens. Scott is hoping people will bring stories and even tokens of their own to share. Scott has provided examples of tokens from Halton, Georgetown and Norval for publication in our newsletter.





W. J. Barnhill / General / Merchant / Norval



circa 1902

CANADIAN CHAMPION

SUMMER OF 1871 ROUND-UP

Esquesing Edition

22 June

Dominion Day - The first of July does not seem to have so many admirers as the Queen's Birthday, judging from the paucity of celebrations in this County. Hornby is to celebrate it in good style and Oakville is thinking about it; the other towns and villages have, so far, shown no signs of doing anything to mark the day.

Bronte Stage - Marshall Bros. having purchased the interest of Mr. John Bell in the Bronte stage - leaves Milton daily at 5:45 a.m., returning at 2 p.m. - leaves Bronte when trains arrive at 9:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.

29 June

Returned - Mr. Peter McGregor of Acton, from lengthy tour of California and western states, splendid country but no place like home.

Fire at Acton - the stave and shingle factory of Moore Bros. Acton destroyed- spread to Sidney Smith's barn - destroyed.

6 July

FIRE - On Monday the shingle mill of Mr. Hood, Stewarttown, was destroyed by fire. The fire at one time threatened to destroy the whole village, but by the timely assistance of the townspeople its further progress was stayed. Several houses caught fire two or three times , and a great many families had their furniture removed from their homes for safety.

The machinery in the mill was owned by Captain Johnston, whose loss is very heavy.

Dominion Day at Hornby - sports winners were Rowland Orr, Benjamin Tuck, R. Porter, and Robert Armstrong. There were horse races as well. Howes' Great London Circus and Sangher's English Menagerie of trained animals - gas lit inside - **Georgetown** Aug. 7 Admission 50¢; 25¢ under 10 years!



27 July

Dominion Telegraph has opened a telegraph office in Acton & Georgetown.

3 August

Base Ball - At the match on Saturday the Georgetown Silver Stars were defeated by Milton. The umpire was Thomas Costigan of Georgetown.

- $10 \; August \; \text{Thomas Shortreed's saw mill on } 3^{rd} \; \text{Line, Esquesing was burnt on Friday last.}$
- 17 August Barn of Alex McKinnon, 8th Line, Esquesing was destroyed by lightning.

Georgetown in Danger - There was a narrow escape from fire on Sunday last. Sparks

from a train that passed ignited stubble, which spread to a pine woods above the tracks. Fortunately the wind blew from the town and the efforts of a large number of people put the fire out.

Shot - George Barber, son of James Barber, Nassageweya, while hunting.

31 August It takes 160 horse power to drive the Georgetown paper mills.

Orange Pic-Nic - The Orangemen of Whaley's Corners will hold their annual pic-nic on the 19th September in Thompson's grove.

7 Sept. Alfred Fry fell from the roof of a house in Georgetown last week and broke two ribs.

Camp Meeting - on 11th Sept. In the Pine Groove near Norval in connection with the

Wesleyan Methodist Church. Tents, 3¢ each from T. Foster, Norval. Conveyances from the Station at 15¢ each.

14 Sept. Base Ball - Pastimes of Acton defeated the Sycamores of Milton.

21 Sept. *Teachers Wanted* by Hornby Union School - apply R. S. Hall, Secretary-treasurer.



EHS p11201

The Short Life and Times of John Ross Livingstone Acton Mill Street Merchant, buried in Acton Cemetery

by Dawn Livingstone

This is the story of a young ancestor on the family tree of Jack Livingstone of Georgetown.

John Ross Livingstone was the fourth of ten children born to Alexander and Catherine Livingstone who farmed at Speyside. The family seemed to have more connections with Acton than with Georgetown or Milton, were members of Acton Presbyterian Church, and some of the family went to school in Acton.

He was married in October 1914¹ and that same month he purchased an Acton Mill Street grocery store that had been owned for the previous ten years by A.S. Rice.² Here he ran a very successful business, under the name "J.R.Livingstone, Groceries and Provisions" selling cakes and pastry, fresh and cured meats, pickling and canning supplies and fruits and vegetables of the season.³ One newspaper advertisement read "The Farmers' Trade is particularly solicited and to make this satisfactory, we are prepared to pay part cash for butter and eggs. Bread will be delivered to customers as heretofore."⁴ In 1916, during the height of the war, he advertised that he had fruit for Christmas, seeded raisins at 13¢ per lb., seedless raisins at 16¢ per pound and very scarce currants at 21¢ per pound. At that time he was also advertising "we want good butter, and will pay highest prices per dozen for all the strictly fresh eggs we can get, but they must be fresh!!"⁵

John and his wife Grace badly wanted a family. However, their first son born in October 1915, died the day following his birth, and a second son, born in September 1916 died at birth. A third son, Ross Alexander was born to them, in October 1917, and this child lived to be 83. Finally, they were a happy family - but only for eleven months.

The influenza epidemic during the winter of 1918-1919 infected 150,000 Torontonians, and killed at least 1,750.6 and our area was not immune to this disease. An October 1918 Georgetown Herald piece says "The influenza condition while not yet alarming, is growing and our two doctors have their hands full. We are benefitting by the experience of other places which have had it and are succeeding fairly well with the "ounce of prevention." Schools have been closed as a precautionary measure, and very few meetings are ging held. Church services on Sunday were very scantily attended, most people feeling safer at home."

Although he was a healthy young man of 33, John contracted this flu, and it developed into pneumonia and pleurisy, and after a brave fight, his sturdy constitution was overcome, and he passed away on the 29th of October 1918. According to his obituary, John had been a popular and well liked merchant, with a kind word for everybody and his business was a prosperous one. He had just become a member of Knox Presbyterian Church in Acton, and was also a member of the #204 Acton Lodge of the Independent Order of Foresters.

The funeral for John was held at the farm home of his parents on No. 15 sideroad at Speyside, and he was then buried in Fairview Cemetery, Acton. He was the first of this large family to pass away and be buried here. His father Alexander Livingstone who part owned the Livingstone family bake shop in Georgetown, was buried in the same plot in 1925, his mother in 1950 at the age of 93, a sister (Maggie Joyce) in 1970, and his only son Ross, at age 83, just this May. His wife Grace Ross, went on with her life and remarried, moved away, had a daughter, and was buried back in Acton beside her husband in 1965 at the age of 76. She had been the daughter of a Georgetown builder, but hers is another story.

When Grace purchased this plot in the Acton Cemetery in 1918, she paid \$12.40 for the six plots. It is described on the deed as "Burial Plot Number 50, in Block R, Survey Fourth, and containing 155 superficial feet⁹." The opening of the actual grave cost an extra \$4.00.¹⁰

Written for the Acton Cemetery Tour - Esquesing Historical Society,

September 2001.

References

- 1. Obituary, Georgetown Herald, 6 November 1918
- 2. Business Change Advertisement, Acton Free Press, 22 October 1914
- 3. Various business advertisements from the Acton Free Press, 1914, 1917, 1918.
- 4. Advertisement, Acton Free Press, 22 October 1914
- 5. Advertisement, Acton Free Press, 7 December 1916
- 6. Toronto Star Centennial Magazine, 1992, page 72.
- 7. Obituary, Georgetown Herald, 6 November 1918
- 8. Obituary, Georgetown Herald, 6 November 1918
- 9. Copy of Deed of Burial Plot, Dawn Livingstone.
- 10. Rules and Regulations Governing Fairview Cemetery, Acton, (1918) Dawn Livingstone