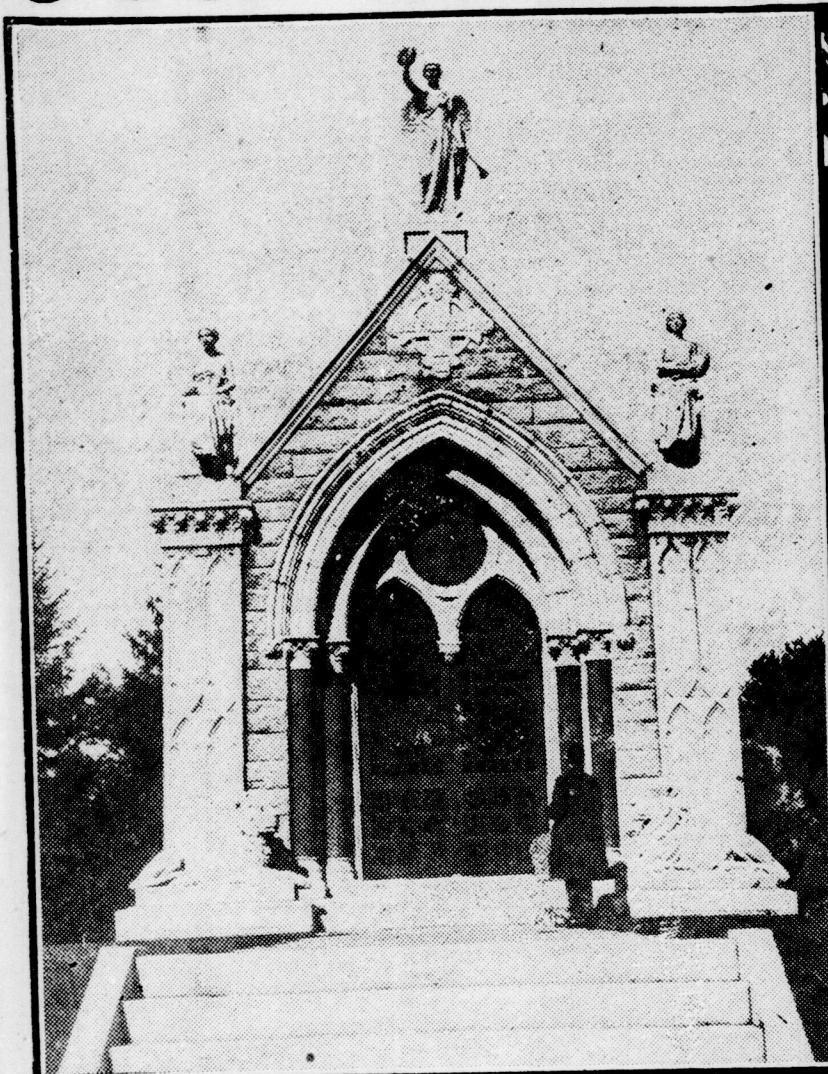


Old Graves Link London With the Past.



The famous Fulford Mausoleum at Woodland Cemetery.

Cemeteries of London With 50,000 Dead, Tell of Past Glory, Romance, Tragedy and Sacrifice in City of Past Life.

By OLAF RECHNITZER.

Illustrated by A. Dalrymple.

Beneath the soft grass and perfumed flowers of London cemeteries sleep more than 50,000 people. Woodland, Mount Pleasant and St. Peter's hold, among them, as many of the city's dead as there were Canadians killed during the war.

At Mount Pleasant alone are 21,000 graves—a veritable city of the dead—while Woodland contains but 3,000 less. St. Peter's, the oldest and smallest of the three cemeteries, holds 13,000.

From 6,000 to 8,000 died before the local burial grounds came into existence, having been exhumed from their original interment sites years ago and reburied at Mount Pleasant, Woodland and St. Peter's.

Each of these cemeteries is rich in historic interest. In them rest the ashes of men and women who have built up Western Ontario, pioneers of stream and forest to whose enterprise and high example the present generation owes so much.

Walking through this hallowed ground and observing the names of the dead on monuments cannot fail to bring a flood of memories to older citizens familiar with those remote, yet no less interesting, phases of the city's history. For on every side one sees names of men and women who, in their time, helped to lay the foundations of the great agricultural and industrial center which Canada knows as Western Ontario.

Epitaphs and tombs of much interest are to be seen in each of the three cemeteries, but the one that attracts greater attention than any is the tomb erected to the memory of Annie Pixley at Woodland. It was in the company of Frank Gilbert, veteran superintendent of Woodland, that the writer made an inspection of the graves. About 100 yards northwest of the entrance Mr. Gilbert pointed out the Fulford mausoleum.

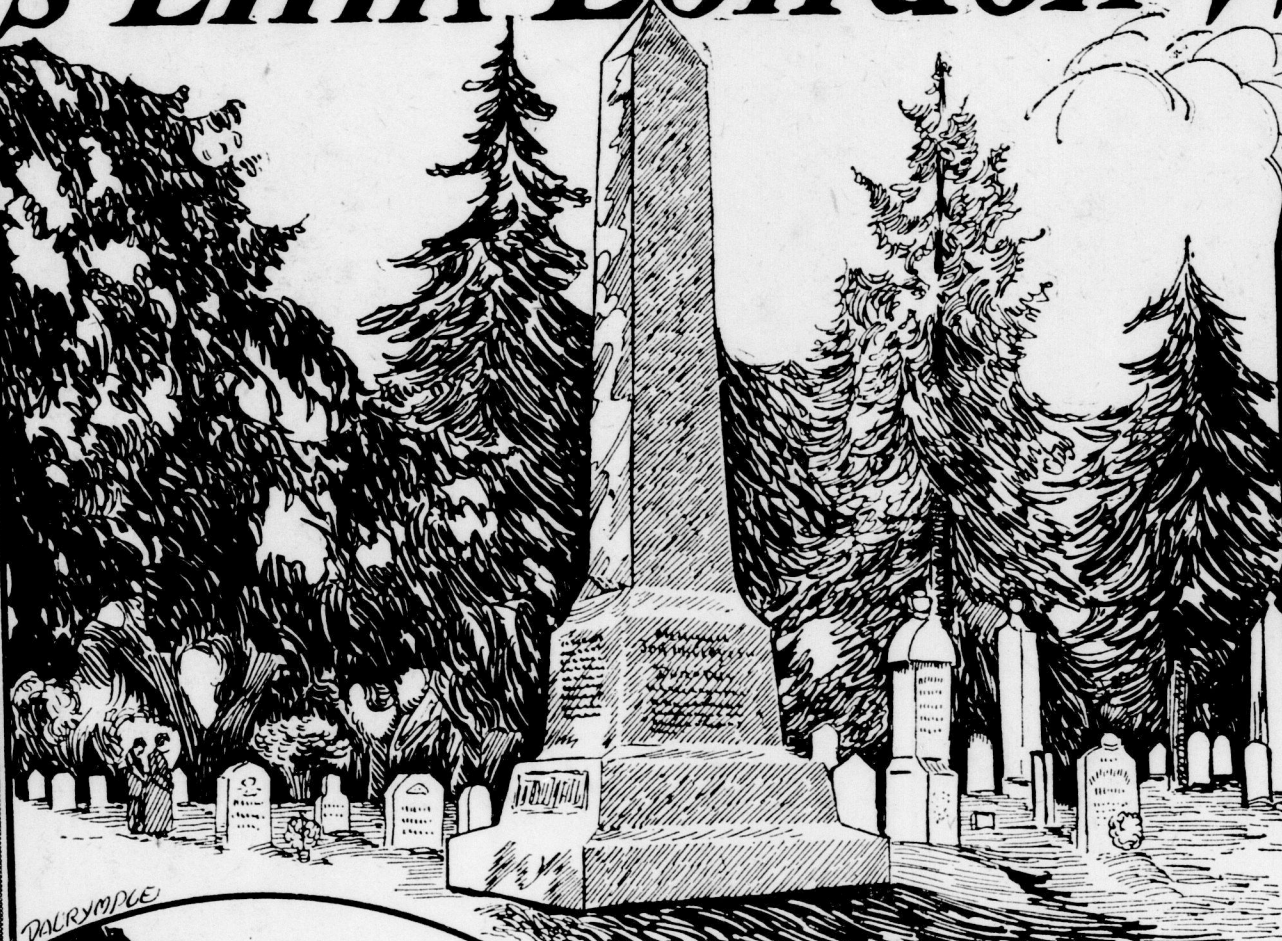
Famous Actress.

"Strangers are always interested in that," he said. "It holds the remains of the greatest actress London ever produced. She was Annie Pixley, in private life Mrs. Fulford, wife of Robert Fulford, a well-known newspaperman. In her day she was as famous in Canada as Mary Pickford is now in the United States."

"Mrs. Fulford was reared at Port Stanley and spent part of her later life at the old Fraser House on Fraser Heights. This was owned by her sister's husband. Annie was a talented girl. When she grew up she owned her own company and played all over this continent in melodrama and comedy. Her stage career brought her wealth and fame, although she died at the age of 38."

"To Robert Fulford, her husband and manager, she left her fortune and he erected this mausoleum. In 1912, seventeen years after his wife's death, Fulford passed away at Philadelphia and was cremated. Mrs. Fulford died in England and was also cremated. Their ashes rest in separate niches of the tomb."

The Fulford mausoleum is one of the finest in this province. The facade, carved in granite with marble pillars on either side, is an exceptionally artistic piece of architecture. Two stone lions guard the entrance and on top are three symbolic female figures representing Drama, Success and Music. Inside are two niches covered with metal bars, beautifully arranged. In these the dust of Mrs. Fulford and her husband has been placed. At the center is the bust of Tom Fulford, the actress' little son, who died in



The McClary Monument in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.



railway men's grave in Woodland.

Port Stanley. Those buried in the vault, in addition to the Fulfords, are Tom Fraser, Emma Fraser and William Fraser.

Firemen's Tomb.

Seventy-five yards from the Fulford mausoleum can be seen the firemen's tomb. This was erected by friends and fellow-workmen of Ireland J. Torg, age 35, and Charles Betts, age 24, who were killed in the old Great Western railroad disaster at Burlington on January 24, 1857. Torg and Betts were engineers and fireman on the line when their engine collided with another at Burlington Heights, entailing great loss of life.

The two local victims of the accident were first interred at old St. Paul's cemetery and removed to Woodland in 1880. The stone that marks their graves was manufactured by Peel & Powell, two noted memorial designers. The senior member of the firm was the father of Paul Peel, famed London artist.

Inset above the transcription is the carved image of an engine and coal car of the 1857 type with cone-shaped funnel and small wheels. Below is the following curious bit of verse written by an employee of the defunct railroad:

Our engine now is cold and still,
No water does our boiler fill.
Our wood affords its flames no more,
Our days of usefulness are o'er.
Our wheels deny their wonted speed,
No more our grinding brakes they heed,
Our whistle, too, has lost its tone,
Its shrill and thrilling sounds are gone.
Our valves are now thrown open wide,
Our flanges all refuse to guide,
Our clacks, also, though we're so strong,
Refuse to aid the busy throng;
No more we feel each urging breath,
Our steam is now condensed in death;
Life's railway's o'er, each station's past,
In death we're stopped and cease at last.
Farewell, dear friends, and cease to weep,
In Christ we're safe, in Him we sleep.

On the south side seven other employees of the railway are also buried. It is said that one of these, William Carson, was the man who wrote the verse to the two accident victims when the memorial was purchased. These names are engraved on the stone: George Morgan, John Davidson, Samuel Jackson, William Stackpole, Virgil R. King, Robert Hornsby and William Carson.

Masonic Graves.

Adjoining the firemen's plot are the Masonic graves, where penniless Masons lie. No tombstone marks the spot. The Masonic plot once

belonged to two lodges, St. George's and Kilwinning, but is now the property of all Masonic organizations of the city. The nearest stone to identify the place is that in memory of Matthew Hood, who was drowned in Detroit, 1874.

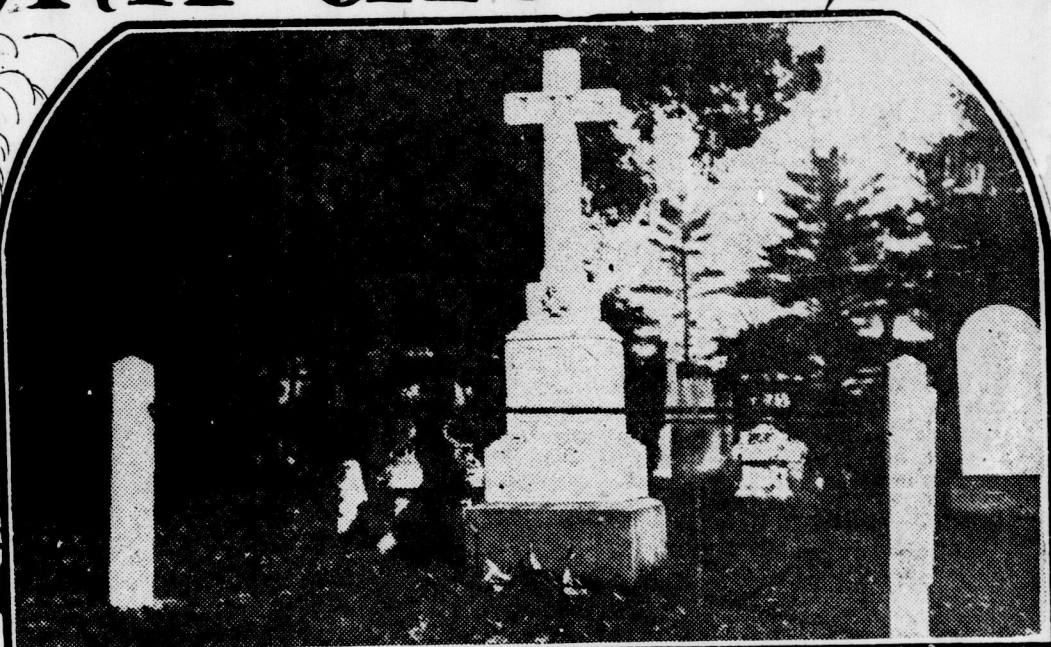
Tombstones over the graves of scions of ancient English families are quite numerous in Woodland. Many buried there were attached to local regiments when London was a garrison town. It might incidentally be noted that the remains of 72 imperials who lived here before 1838 were last month interred at Woodland. While excavating around St. Paul's cathedral late this summer workmen unearthed a skeleton and, on digging further, exhumed 72 bodies. These had evidently been left in the old St. Paul's burial grounds in 1844 when other bodies were disinterred and removed to Salter's Grove.

When the bodies were discovered they were immediately taken to Woodland and interred in what is now known as the "unknown soldiers' plot." The remains were put into six boxes and it is anticipated that a memorial will be placed over the spot in the near future.

One of Hugessens.

Those who have travelled through Kent county, England, may have seen the baronial castle and picturesque estate of the Hugessens, not many miles from old London. The Hugessens are an aristocratic British family whose men fought for their country in successive generations from as early as the thirteenth century. At Woodland lies an obscure slab of granite over the grave of one of these men. He was Richard Astley Knatchbull Hugessen, captain in the 57th Regiment, third son of the Rt. Hon. Sir E. Knatchbull Hugessen, Bart., who died in San Francisco in 1875 and was buried here by the side of his second wife, Fanny.

Lovers of Dickens who have read "Oliver Twist" will be surprised to learn that a small stone may be seen in Mount Pleasant with this inscription: "Sacred to the memory of Anne Louisa Mackner, sister of Nancy Sykes, immortalized by Charles Dickens in one of his novels." The letters are all but effaced and the year of death cannot be discerned at all. Dickensians know that Bill Sykes, the most vicious character in all Dickens' fiction, was a real underworld celebrity who, just before the writing of "Oliver Twist," terrorized a section of old London. It is not recorded whether the real Sykes ever had a sister called Nancy, in spite of the stamp of authenticity which certain chapters in "Oliver Twist" bear. Whether Nancy and Bill had a sister called Anne Louisa is still more obscure. The stone at Mount Pleasant should prove of



The grave of Henry E. Dormer in St. Peter's Cemetery.

1869 to Martin De Vereaux, contains the following naive inscription:

"If by this way you chance to stray,
Oh, stranger, stay a while,
For the prayer you say may God repay
Your charity with a smile."

Here, also, is the grave of Pte. Larkin, brother of Allen Larkin, who was hanged in Manchester, England, years ago as a Fenian spy. Pte. Larkin was involved in the trial of Allen, which was a six months sensation at the time, but managed to secure a pardon when he joined the British forces and was sent to Canada.

Other graves of more or less historical significance are those of John Wright, who built St. Peter's cathedral and died in 1886; Dennis O'Brien, who built the first brick house in London and who died in 1885, and Mrs. Annie Burns, who was murdered by "Bony" Larkin in 1847.

After murdering Mrs. Burns, Larkin was surrounded by a posse on the banks of the Thames river just north of St. Peter's cemetery and killed by a rifle bullet. He was buried where he fell.

Another citizen buried at St. Peter's who was murdered here is Michael Toohey, an officer of the London police department. He was detailed one afternoon in the year 1898 to arrest Marion "Peg-leg" Brown, a desperado wanted on a charge of assault and battery. Brown was said to be in the vicinity of St. Peter's cathedral, menacing passersby. Toohey went after him and was shot to death.

The story of Brown's escape and subsequent capture fills one of the most sensational chapters in the city's criminal history. He was finally hanged and sent to the gallows singing "Jesus, Lover of My Soul."

On Michael Toohey's tombstone is the inscription: "Michael Toohey, shot by a tramp."

Strange Epitaph.

One of the strangest epitaphs in St. Peter's is that written by a Welshman, Thomas Nelson, on the granite cross that stands over the grave of his grand-daughter, Sarah Nelson. The epitaph reads: "She was and words is wanting to say what. Think, O think of what a daughter ought to be and she was that—Our Sarah."

Scattered through the cemetery are the graves of 25 citizens who were drowned in the Victoria disaster. Nearby the Sisters of St. Joseph are buried and on the plot a beautiful monument has been erected.

At the west of the entrance are 13 stones, all similar in character and design. Under each lies an enlisted soldier of the world war. These men died while training here for overseas service. About 100 Fenian raid veterans lie at the northwest end of St. Peter's.

In the center of the cemetery is a circle of trees. Inside is the bronze figure of Christ on a huge cross with St. John and the Blessed Virgin on either side. Nearby are the graves of nine priests. The first one interred there was Rev. James McLaughlin, who died in 1867.

One of these priests was the Rev. George Northgraves, noted ecclesiastical author, who wrote, among other books, "Mistakes of Modern Infidels," which enjoyed a wide circulation during the latter years of the nineteenth century.

The Stations of the Cross always arouse the keen interest of visitors. These represent the time Christ was taken before Pontius Pilate until He was crucified. There are 14 different stations and on each one stands a statuette depicting a particular episode in Jesus' march to crucifixion. Each is worth minute inspection, being delicately molded works of art that reveal rare skill on the part of the designer.

Crucifixion of Christ.

The first station symbolizes the condemning of Jesus to death, and successive stations show Jesus leaving the cross, Jesus falling for the first time beneath the cross, Jesus meeting His mother, Simon of Cyrene helping Jesus to carry the cross, Jesus and Veronica, Jesus falling a second time, Jesus comforting the women of Jerusalem, Jesus falling the third time, Jesus stripped and drenched with gall, Jesus nailed to the cross, Jesus dying on the cross, Jesus taken from the cross and laid on Mary's bosom, and Jesus laid in the tomb.

Several of the earliest settlers of London lie in St. Peter's. They were originally interred at the One Horse Tavern cemetery on Hamilton road and exhumed in the '50s to be reburied in St. Peter's, which had then been allocated to the Roman Catholic church as an interment field. A man named Cruickshank is one of the oldest there, having died in 1823. Garret Farrell is another pioneer who rests in St. Peter's. He died in 1829. Several of the bodies were brought to their present graves from the cemetery formerly on the site now occupied by St. Peter's school.

immense interest, however, to antiquarians. Efforts of the writer to obtain further information regarding the grave were fruitless.

Pioneer Families.

Earlier pioneer Londoners are, for the most part, interred in Pond Mills cemetery, but hundreds who were latterly prominent in the affairs of this city and province are buried at Woodland. Members of three of London's best known pioneer families occupy mausoleums there. John Coote, the distinguished horse breeder, erected a mausoleum on the river bank and is buried with members of his family. C. P. Smith, wholesale hardware merchant, who died in 1880; Charles and James Priddis, wholesale dry goods merchants, and the Birrell family are interred in separate tombs with relatives.

Perhaps one of the most celebrated stones in Canada is that at Mount Pleasant in memory of Mrs. Charles Wetherbee. The words engraved on the granite read: "To the memory of Lavinia Hermione Gertrude Amanda Guelph, daughter of George IV and wife of Charles Wetherbee. Died Jan. 25, 1867, age 46 years."

The monument was erected by Charles Wetherbee, who died in Montreal within a comparatively recent date.

A stone that never fails to attract attention is one at Mount Pleasant dedicated to the memory of a boy who died on the operating table. These words appear just above the name of the deceased: "Murdered by doctors."

The largest monument at Mount Pleasant is that which marks the graves of the McClary family. It was erected to John McClary, who died in 1921 at the age of 92, and his wives, Mary Ann and Mary Jane, who died in 1862 and 1909, respectively. The handsome memorial is also in honor of John McClary, Sen., who died in 1834, and John McClary, 2nd, who "Died in 1848, came to Canada in 1817 when it was comparatively a wilderness and lived to see it converted into pleasant fields, towns and villages."

Striking Transcription.

One of the most striking transcriptions is on the east side of the marble pillar. This reads: "The family possess much of great historic value, connecting its members by close ties with the history of their country from its inception. No family of modern times has so unbroken a succession of men who have risen to the ranks of greatness."

Again there is the notation: "In memory of John McClary, Sen., who died in 1834, and Dorothy, his wife, daughter of Peter and Ruth Adams Fletcher, niece of John Adams, and cousin of John Quincy, second and sixth president of the United States."

While victims of the Victoria, city hall and Reid's crystal ball disasters are scattered throughout Woodland, Mount Pleasant and St. Peter's, several who succumbed to the big fire of London are buried at Pond Mills. Pond Mills cemetery is one of the oldest in these parts and the names of pioneers may be seen on the stones.

The first citizen interred at Woodland was Charles Dunne, a harness smith, who died in December, 1879. Before this St. Paul's was a burial ground. When the Diocese of Huron was organized under Bishop Cronyn, St. Paul's cemetery was removed to Salter's Grove, from where it was in turn removed to Woodland. The process of disintering the bodies and interring them again consumed five years.

It has always been the pride of St. Peter's officials that no other burial ground on the continent is kept in such flawless shape as the Catholic cemetery of this city. Persons visiting St. Peter's are struck with the beauty and variety of shrubs and flowers and perfect uniformity of the memorials.

City's Oldest Graves.

St. Peter's holds the oldest graves in the city. Men and women who died as far back as 1823, and whose activities in this country antedate the Napoleonic era, are interred there. At the north end and within a radius of twenty yards of one another stand four tombstones to citizens who at death had passed the century mark. They are Patrick Kenny, age 100, born in 1804; Mary Dever, age 104, born in 1809; John Mitchell, age 103, born in 1794, and Nancy Clancey, age 104, born in 1799.

What is known as the Lord Dormer grave is probably the most celebrated of any at St. Peter's. It is the resting place of the Hon. Henry E. Dormer, who, it is expected, will be canonized as a saint in the course of time. A recommendation to this effect has been made. The process terminating in canonization is a long and involved one, necessitating the approval of the pope and other less powerful dignitaries of the Catholic church.

The Hon. Henry E. Dormer was an officer in the 60th Rifles, 4th Battalion, here more than 60 years ago. He died in 1866 at the age of 22. While in London he devoted time, effort and money to the alleviation of suffering among the poor and plague-stricken. His charitable endowments became generally known and his early death created almost universal regret. In recognition of his self-sacrificing work and singularly devout life, the initial move toward canonization was made last year and will doubtless be consummated within this decade.

The ancient English family to which Henry Dormer belonged subscribed to the Catholic faith years before the reformation. Henry Dormer is buried in a brick grave and an unpretentious stone has been placed over it. On this is engraved his name and "I. H. S." which on all Catholic memorials means "Jesus, Savior of Mankind." P. F. Gleeson, superintendent of St. Peter's is now erecting a fence around the grave to insure its preservation.

Victorian Soldiers.

Near the Dormer stone can be seen the graves of several Victorian soldiers who served as regulars when the old London garrison troops maintained quarters here. One of these, erected in