The History of the Heritage Cemetery at Cataraqui and its Associated Places of Worship

1803 - 2023

By: Richard G. Parry U.E.

The history of the land that the Heritage Cemetery occupies starts in the year 1784 with the arrival of Captain Michael Grass U.E. and the Associated Loyalists that followed him from New York to Sorel, Lower Canada and finally to land granted by the Crown in Kingston Township, Frontenac County, Upper Canada.

The Township of Kingston was divided into Lots and Concessions and the Associated Loyalist John Ferris U.E. was granted Lot 15 in the 3rd Concession.



Lot 15, Concession 3, Kingston Township

When John Ferris U.E., arrived in here in 1784 he is listed as no wife or children on the 1784 and 1785 provisioning lists. On the 1786 John is listed with a wife and no children.

The 1786 listing would show that John Ferris married Christiana Taylor late 1785 or before 1 July, 1786.

Daniel Ferris is in Kingston prior to 1810 when John writes his will, and a guess would be that he arrived about 1887 at age 20. Reverend John Stuart had been in the Province of New York in 1777 where he met Sir John Johnson and was given the chaplaincy of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of New York. In 1781 Rev. Stuart, his wife, and their three sons, George John and James, traveled to St. Johns, New Brunswick and shortly after went to Montreal. In 1785 they traveled to Kingston where he was to minister to the troops at Fort Frontenac.

There were visits from American Episcopal Methodists in the late 1780s who came to areas such as Adolphustown and Ernestown in order to spread the Methodist religion.

In 1790 Rev. Stuart reported "there were two itinerant Preachers of the Methodist Class whom he did not oppose, but called "illiterate and of infamous private character".

Rev. William Losee, an American Methodist, who had been commissioned in 1790 by Bishop Asbury of the American Methodist Episcopal Church, was in Upper Canada and attended the Meeting Houses in Ernestown and along the shore of the Bay of Quinte.

Some who attended expressed a desire to be "born again" and so Rev. Losee returned in February 1791 and formed what was called the Bay of Quinte Circuit.

The land records for Lot 15 in the 3rd Concession start with the Crown to John Ferris for all 200 acres and the entry is dated 31 Dec. 1791.

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in London, England recorded a letter from Rev. Stuart dated February 23, 1792 which reads in part "on the first Friday of every month he preaches at Capt. Everett's, five miles from Kingston, (1st Conc. East ½ Lot 7, Kingston Township) by which means a number of the poor of the neighboring township of Ernestown have the benefit of it, and it counteracts the views of the Methodists who were gaining a footing in that retired corner".



St. George's Chapel

The Parish Register of Kingston, Upper Canada 1785 - 1811. records that John Ferris and his wife Christiana Taylor attended St. George's Church as soon as it was built in 1792.

Rev. Stuart baptized their daughter Mary on the 15th of February 1795 and their daughter Jenny on the 24th of December 1797.

In 1798 John paid 10 shillings for the rental of $\frac{1}{2}$ of Pew #15 in St. George's Church and again on the 11^{th} of April 1803.

What happened next is lost to history as there is no further mention of John Ferris or his wife in connection with St. George's Church, or with Rev. Stuart.

Prior to 1803, Episcopal Methodist Missionaries were holding meetings in a building to the north of the existing Heritage Cemetery on the east side of Portland Road (now Sydenham Road).

The land records show that part of Lot 15, Conc. 3 was actually sold to the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the quantity would be sufficient for the purposes of building a Church and burial ground.

We know that this transfer of deed did not occur until 1832. We also know that permission had to have been granted by someone prior to April 20, 1803, which was the date of death of Thomas Trousdale, who is interred in plot D7 in the Methodist Burial Ground.



Thomas Trousdale 1795-1803 The Methodist Church and burial ground are located at the top of a hill at, what is now, 965 Sydenham Road, Kingston. The soil is sandy, making it ideal for a burial ground.

In 1803 this property was covered in pine trees which were cut down and the logs were used to build the first Methodist Meeting House. There are no records of what size Meeting Hall was actually built, but we do know the building was of log construction and left in a rough fashion with plank seats.

John Ferris and his wife Christiana Taylor had a daughter Ann, born 17 June 1802, and a son Cornelius born 31 October 1805. They were baptized in Kingston in 1805 by the Rev. Robert James McDowall, a Presbyterian Missionary to Upper Canada.



Log Cabin of the time period

On the 18th of January 1810 John Ferris wrote his will, and among the many bequests, he left Lot 15 in the 3rd Conc. to his wife Christiana for as long as she lived and then it would be divided equally between his two sons Daniel and Cornelius.

With no obvious reason for John to donate land to the Methodist church, I wonder if based on the proximity to a major road and close to Kingston he was asked by Capt. Michael Grass, Jacob Powley and Robert Graham etc, men he fought with during war, to donate this land?

Michael Grass Jacob Powley and Robert Graham and their wives and children are all buried here.

When he wrote his will Daniel Ferris was 43 years old and married, Mary 15, Jane 13, Elizabeth 10, Ann 8 and Cornelius (Neil) was 5 Mary married Albert McMichael on the 5thof August 1814 in a ceremony performed by the Rev. McDowall in Kingston.

In correspondence between 1811-1816 the Methodist Church is now being referred to as a large chapel, of frame construction, about 4 ¹/₂ miles from Kingston



Frame Meeting Hall of the period

It was normal that, as finances allowed, a log building would eventually be covered in horizontal siding complete with trim around the windows and doors, and would now be referred to as a frame building.

The only entry in the land registry that shows John Ferris transferring any part of this property is by his Will to his wife Christiana and eventually to his sons Daniel and Cornelius. The date of the Will is shown as the 18th of January 1810 and the registration of it is on the 23rd of March 1824.

In the summer of 1811 Bishop Francis Asbury of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who had commissioned Rev. Losee in 1790, visited Upper Canada, traveling along the St. Lawrence River, and visited Kingston, where on July 10, and Sunday the 14th1811 he preached in the chapel and baptized two children.

The War of 1812 was problematic for Ministers of the Episcopal Methodist Church due to their American affiliation. This distrust of anything American led to an even greater splintering of the Methodists in Canada.

Daniel Ferris petitioned for land as the son of a Loyalist and his petition was granted 2 March 1816.

Mary (Ferris) McMichael petitioned for land as the daughter of a Loyalist and her petition was granted 2 March 1816.

At this time in history there were two forms of Methodism. In very simple terms, there was American Episcopal Methodism and British Wesleyan Methodism. There were already those in the Kingston area who wanted Wesleyan Methodist Ministers and so on August 16, 1816 a petition was sent to the Methodist Missionary Committee in London, England by four men of Kingston, James Gardner, William Moon (who is buried in Section F Plot 9 of the Methodist Cemetery), William Denn and I.J. McLeod. The letter they wrote cast an unfavorable light on the behavior of those Methodists who attended the Episcopal Methodist Church on Sydenham Road, as well as the Episcopal Ministers themselves, and asked for assistance.

The Episcopal Methodists heard of this petition and sent a counter petition on February the 4th1817 in which they stated that none of the "Trustees" of the four chapels in this area have ever signified their wish for English Methodist Missionaries.

There were several letters back and forth between various Methodist circuits and the Methodist Missionaries in London and Montreal but, in 1816, the Missionary Society decided to send Thomas Catterick to Kingston to service the Wesleyan Methodists in this area.

They started by meeting in William Moon's schoolhouse which was soon overcrowded. A local merchant offered the use of a stone building for awhile but, in 1817, they actually built a new chapel and referred to it as the Bay Street Wesleyan Chapel. It was situated at the corner of Bay and Bagot streets.

Sometime prior to 1816 either John Ferris, or his son Daniel, on behalf of his father, set out 18 lots along Princess Street and another 10 lots on Sydenham Rd south of the Cemetery.

The first record of sale on the land records is by Daniel Ferris to Albert McMichael, who had married his sister Mary, selling the South East corner of 1/5th acre 14 July 1816 and being registered the 14 March 1817.

For reference, this lot is now the Tim Horton's at Princess Street and Sydenham Road.

This entry shows that by 1816 Daniel Ferris must have been in control his father's affairs.

By 1816 the Methodist church had established several Meeting Houses in this area. Hallowell, Adolphustown (Hay Bay), Ernestown, and this Meeting House on Sydenham Road, are some of them.



Map of Village of Waterloo

The name Waterloo was not used until after the Battle of Waterloo on the 18th of June 1815, where Wellington defeated Napoleon. This decisive battle that ended the war was the reason for naming the Village of Waterloo. We do not know the actual date that the name Waterloo was adopted, but the name first shows up on a land record dated 31 May 1822 when Daniel Ferris sold Lot 3, Waterloo, to Orange Hayes for 25 pounds.

As early as May 31, 1822 Daniel Ferris was selling building lots that were

located along the north side of Princess Street and the west side of Sydenham road. There are no records of a severance plan for these lots that I have been able to find.

There are 6 more sales of land by Daniel Ferris between February 1823 and November 1823.

John Ferris died in November1823 and his Will was registered on the 23rd day of March 1824. It is interesting to note that the actual registration says: Will of John Ferris to Daniel and Cornelius his sons. There is no mention of his wife Christiana on the Land Register for this entry.



Lan

d registration John Ferris by Will to Daniel & Cornelius Ferris At this time Daniel would have been 57 and Cornelius would have been 19.

In 1824 the old frame Meeting House was torn down and a new Church, made of Kingston limestone, was erected on the same site.

This new building was larger than the original building and was complete with a gallery that was later removed in 1867 due to the need for extensive repairs and improvements.

At this time the only other stone church in the area was St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

By the early1820's Methodism was the largest denomination in Upper Canada, largely in rural areas, and so, at the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore in 1824, a separate Canada conference was established, but still under the American parent body.

At the first Canada Conference on August 25, 1824 held in Picton, Ontario plans were made to procure an independent Canadian Church at the next Conference four years hence.

In 1826 Lot A at the south end of the Methodist Cemetery was sold to Anthony McGuin, son of Daniel McGuin U.E., one of the Associated Loyalists that had followed Capt. Michael Grass U.E..

The Lot measured 2 chains east to west and 1.30 chains north to south, and, because there is no fencing or dividing boundary, it appears to be a part of the Waterloo Methodist Cemetery.

1 link = 7.922 inches 1 rod = 16.5 feet 1 chain = 66 feet (22 yards)

The lot actually contains .26 acres of land.



Anthony McGuin Burial Plot

On March 4, 1828 letters were sent to the American parent body at the General Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. On 1 May 1828, the Conference agreed to a separate Canadian Church and made provision for an American Bishop to assist in ordaining a Canadian Bishop.

Five months later on October 2, 1828 the Canada Conference met at Switzer's Chapel in Ernestown and the election of a Canadian Bishop was attempted. The first candidate, an American, Dr. Fisk, refused the appointment. Over the next four years three other men were approached but all refused. With a separation from the American body and the non appointment of a Bishop, the Wesleyan Methodists believed the best solution would be an amalgamation of the Wesleyan and Episcopal Methodists.

This was not an easy topic, but the attempt was made in 1830 at the annual Methodist Episcopal Conference in Kingston where, in part, the following was recorded. "Our Wesleyan brethren at this place voluntarily opened their chapel for our religious services, and received us in the arms of brotherly love."

Terms of the Union were drafted and sent to the courts of the respective church bodies.

On the 9thday of August 1832 a Memorial was registered under the Act for the Relief of the Religious Societies therein named (which carries on for several pages, outlines how a religious entity could elect Trustees that would be the actual registered owners of a church and or its cemetery as well as how to handle succession of Trustees, which would now allow for ownership in perpetuity.) whereby it is enacted that whenever any religious Congregation or Society of Presbyterians, Lutherans, Calvinists, Methodists, Congregationalists, Independents, Anabaptists, Quakers, Mennonites, Tunkers or Moravians shall have occasion to take a conveyance of land for the site of a church, Meeting House or Chapel, or a Burying ground, it shall and may be lawful for them to appoint Trustees, to whom and their successors, to be appointed in such manner as shall be specified in the deed, the requisite land for all or any of the purpose aforesaid (not exceeding five acres for any one congregation) may be conveyed, and such Trustees and their successors in perpetual succession, by name expressed in such deed, shall be all or any of the purpose aforesaid (not exceeding five acres for any one congregation) may be conveyed, and such Trustees and their successors in perpetual succession, by name expressed in such deed, shall be capable of taking, holding and possessing such land, and of commencing and maintaining any action or actions in law or equity for the protection thereof and the rights thereto: and whereas Religious Congregation or Society of Methodists have occasion to take such a deed of a tract or parcel of land situate in the Township of Kingston in the County of Frontenac in the Midland District in the said Province, for the site of a Church and burying ground and have appointed Trustees, by the name of the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Township of Kingston;

Now this indenture, made at Kingston aforesaid, in the District aforesaid, in the Province of Upper Canada, this ninth day of August in the year of our lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, between Daniel Ferris the Younger, Yeoman, of the Township of Kingston aforesaid, in the District aforesaid, in the Province aforesaid of the one part and John Grass of the said Township, Yeoman, James Powley of the said Township, Yeoman, Barnabas Wartman of said Township, Yeoman, Gilbert Purdy of said Township, Yeoman, Lambert Vanalstine of the said Township, Yeoman, Joseph Orser of said Township, Yeoman, Micajah Purdy of the said Township, Yeoman, Francis Lattimore Senior, of the Township of Loughborough in the said District, Yeoman and Robert Abernethy of the Township of Portland in the said District, being the Trustees, aforesaid of the other part;

Witnesseth that the said Daniel Ferris, for and in consideration of the sum of 3 pounds to him in hand paid by the said Trustees, before the sealing and delivery hereof, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath given, granted, bargained, sold, assigned, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents doth give, grant, bargain, sell, assign, release, convey and confirm unto them, the said John Grass, James Powley, Barnabas Wartman, Gilbert Purdy, Lambert Vanalstine, Joseph Orser, Micajah Purdy, Francis Lattimore Senior and Robert Anbernathy, by the name aforesaid of the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Township of Kingston, and their successors to be appointed in the manner herein specified, all that certain tract or parcel of land situate in the said Township of Kingston in the District and Province aforesaid, containing by measurement one acre, be the same more or less, which said tract or parcel of land is abutted, bounded, or may otherwise be known as follows, that is to say.

The same registration is stated for Cornelius Ferris and his mother Christiana where they sell a parcel of land for 1 pound. The text then goes on for another 2 pages and discusses how the Trustees are to be replaced when necessary, and finally states:

Which deed is witnessed by Horace Yeoman, of the Township of Kingston, Physician, and Isaac Knight of the Township of Kingston. The memorial then proceeds to describe the lot according to the official survey which is as follows.

Beginning where the post formerly stood between Lots 15 and 16 (the corner of Princess Street and Portland Road), in the third Concession of the Township of Kingston, thence running north on the line between said lots, fourteen chains and 66 links = 967.57 feet; thence west two chains = 132 feet, thence north five chains = 330 feet; thence east two chains = 132 feet thence 5 chains = 330 feet to the place of the beginning; on which tract of land a stone church is standing.

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The measurements mentioned on the deed have been checked and match the land currently contained by fencing, the Sydenham Road and the McGuin plot corner stones.

The Waterloo Methodist Church and Cemetery Survey The land board records show both entries for the transaction and records the 3 pound and 1 pound amounts.

The title shows that the land has been sold to and now held by the Trustees of the Waterloo Methodist Church.

I believe that the two different sales of land to the Church, show that the

original parcel of land given to the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1803 only included the section north of the McGuin property and south of J. Dunlop's property and only extended to the west as far as the north south line that is shown to bisect the property.

If we take into account that Cornelius Ferris did not sell any burial lots prior to the transfer of title, and that all burials prior to the transfer of title were in the 1803 section of the property, it would be logical to assume an agreement was made prior to the sale that would have said something along the lines of I will sell you this parcel of land that adjoins the existing cemetery for 1 pound if you will grant me the right to sell the burial plots.



The 120 burial plot map.

Cornelius (Neil) Ferris started selling burial plots in the Methodist Cemetery as early as 16 Aug 1833 and sold one as late as October 5, 1881.

The actual location of the burial plots that he sold are well labeled and show the 120 plots. The plots were two square rods which is equal to a 16 foot x 32 foot rectangle each, which would equate to almost an acre of land for the 200. He sold these plots for 2 lbs 10 shillings 0 pence and eventually \$10.00 when the currency was changed.

Each plot could contain up to 15 graves. One sale on 16 September 1850 that was registered on the 14th of February 1852 was to John Grist who is buried in the Heritage Cemetery in the west ½ of Lot 14 between Alley A

and B.

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Cornelius (Neil) Ferris sold/registered burial plots to the following:

- 1. To Jane Johnston w/o Wm. Johnston 16 Aug 1833.
- 2. To Samuel Smyth(Smith) 15 Dec 1848.
- 3. To William Allan 11 Dec 1848
- 4. To William Lattemore 16 Jan 1849
- 5. To Thomas McCutcheon 14 Jul 1849
- 6. To John Flannigan 23 Jun 1849
- 7. To James Gibson 24 Nov 1849
- 8. To George Hart 14 Dec 1849
- 9. To John Grist 16 Sep 1850
- 10. To Gabriel Belwa 18 Jun 1852
- 11. To John W. Dunlop 4 Jun 1854
- 12. To Isaac Davis 15 Aug 1854
- 13. To Thomas and Ann Moore 27 May 1864
- 14. To William Jackson 16 Dec 1864
- 15. To Barcliffe Atkinson 4 Sep 1867
- 16. To Robert Gibson Jr. 8 Jul 1869
- 17. To Alexander Bell 10 Jun 1872
- Plan of Cataraqui filed 25 Sep 1875
- 18. To Edward Boyd 6 Sep 1879
- 19. To William Steegue??? 17 Sep 1881
- 20. To George S. White 14 Jan 1884

21. To Jennie Graham 1 Mar 1888

22. To Joseph Sproule 2 Apl 1890

23. To James W. Smith 1? 1890

The Union of Wesleyans and Episcopalians that was discussed at the 1830 Conference was now the topic for the Quadrennial General Conference which met at Hallowell (Picton) on August 13, 1832, which was actually 4 days after Deed of Sale.

The terms of the union stated that Episcopacy was to be relinquished in favor of an annual presidency sent out from England. The three orders of Ministers, Bishops, Elders and Deacons were to be replaced by a single order of Elders.

The new Discipline, a revision of that of 1829 was published in 1834 and produced another division within the Waterloo church. A few months after the union, Trustee James Powley withdrew from the Wesleyan connection and by 1834 Trustee John Grass Sr. refused to conform to the regulations of the New Discipline and he renounced the Church and was removed from the roll. John Grass Sr. is buried in the Heritage Cemetery Area A plot 32.

This union of the Episcopal and Wesleyan Boards was now being tested as the Wesleyan board nominated four Members of the Wesleyan group to replace Powley, Grass, Mr. Wartman and Gilbert Purdy.

This inability to work together started the struggle for the control of the Waterloo Chapel. At one point, the Episcopal Methodist group replaced the locks on the chapel door as well as the organ to deny the Wesleyan group entry.

Another tale relates how one group was in the church holding a funeral service when the other group climbed onto the roof and blocked the chimney,

causing smoke to fill the building and ousting those inside. The validity of the claim has not been proven, but describes the frustration between the two groups.

The argument then escalated to court on the 9th of September 1836 where the judge ruled in favor of the Episcopal Methodists. This decision was appealed by the Wesleyan group and a series of precedent changing court cases bandied back an forth, until finally a decision came down based on several similar cases that determined that the Wesleyan Methodists were to gain control.

This legal decision was not challenged, partly due to Trustees such as James Powley having died 25 February 1838 and others, such as John Grass having been ousted.

This battle through the years 1833 to 1842 split the congregation and they never did regain the number of members that were once present. The end result after years of legal battles was that the Wesleyan Methodists would now legally control the Waterloo Methodist Church and Cemetery.

Daniel Ferris b. June 10, 1767 died March 21, 1837 and his wife Weighty b. April 17, 1766 d. July 30, 1827 are listed in J. William Lamb's dissertation as being buried across the road in the Quaker Cemetery that is now part of the Cataraqui Cemetery.

On the 31st of March 1851 Wm. Jackson, a local blacksmith, transferred the deed to Lot 4 on the Portland Road, to the Trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Church for the purpose of building a Parsonage. The seven Trustees in 1851 were James M. Scott, Samuel Rees, Calvin Day, John Ashley, George Andrews, Rueben Spooner and Isaac Simpson.

There is no value listed, so it must have been a donation.

When the Post Office in Waterloo opened in 1856 it was called Waterloo-Kingston. It was not long until difficulties arose with the Village of Waterloo located 240 miles west of Kingston.

In 1861 a second donation of land was given to the church, shown as Lot B on the Portland Road for the purpose of providing a stabling area for the horses and carriages that would come to the service.

This parcel of land was 135 ft east to west and 56 ft north to south and abutted the McGuin parcel directly to the north. A long shed was built. The deed of sale is dated June 18, 1861.

In 1868 the name of Waterloo-Kingston was changed to Cataraqui, Kingston.

In 1881 the 57 year old stone church was demolished and the current brick building was constructed. One can assume that the old Kingston limestone blocks were used to create the current foundation. The bricks came from the Johnson Day Brick yard on the south west corner of the John Ferris's original property.



In 1925 the Methodist Church became the Cataraqui United Church. In 1993 the Kingston Branch of the United Empire Association of Canada, with assistance from the Ontario Heritage Foundation placed a plaque explaining the historic significance of the Cataraqui United Cemetery.



On Heritage Day, 12thof September 2020 a dedication ceremony was held to honor the United Empire Loyalists and the Veterans of the War of 1812.



Daniel David Veteran of the War of 1812 John Grass Sr. Veteran of the War of 1812 Nathaniel Hatch Veteran of the War of 1812 Francis T. Powley Veteran of the War of 1812 Gilbert Purdy Veteran of the War of 1812 Robert Graham U.E. Capt. Michael Grass U.E. Jacob Powley U.E.

In 2022 The Cataraqui United Church and Cemetery became available and the Saint Gregory of Nyssa Orthodox Church purchased the property.

The church had been founded as a mission within the Archdiocese of Canada.