

The Eliot Cosby Cemetery (Abandoned) - OGS# 8497

The Eliot Cosby Cemetery (Abandoned) (OGS #8497), Concession 3, Lot 3, Caistor Township, is located near the back of private property located at 7500 R.R. #2 (Concession 3 Road). The cemetery is not visible from the road. Its existence was mostly unknown, except to members of the Cosby family. Those interested in visiting the site should ask permission from its current owners.

All that remains of the cemetery are a few children's stones. Broken fragments are all that remain of several tombstones, now lost. Jean Robbins, a Cosby descendant who grew up nearby, remembered the cemetery as larger. Much damage to the site occurred sometime after the property left the Cosby family. Eventually the Town of West Lincoln assumed responsibility for the site, but upkeep was minimal. Concerned family members gathered up the surviving stones, and placed them on a concrete pad surrounded by a small fence. Family members tell me that vandalism at the site still occurs.

The cemetery was used by the family of Eliot Cosby, a son of United Empire Loyalist settler George Cosby, who had been granted land in Pelham. A surviving marker commemorates a daughter of Eliot Cosby and wife Anna (Annie) **DILTS**. The land was in turn sold to Eliot and Anna's son Robert James Cosby.

The site now known as The Eliot Cosby Cemetery (Abandoned) was not officially registered with the province, nor did it appear on any lists of Niagara's known burial places. The site itself was often confused with nearby Cosby Cemetery (OGS #3366), which is located at Concession 4, Lot 2, Caistor Township.

In October 2007, Jean Robbins accompanied me to inspect the site. Once it became apparent there were indeed *two* Cosby family burial grounds, some important first steps had to be taken to ensure registration. After discussion with the OGS, it was assigned the Cemetery Designation number 8497. At the suggestion of Wendy Cosby, one of the family members who were most active in advocating for the site, it was assigned the title "Eliot Cosby Cemetery (Abandoned)". The registration was completed, and I am happy to report that it is now listed on the government list of registered cemeteries.



There are only two stones at the site which are still intact:

Wm. Wallace / son of / John & (Fanny?) / **MARTINDALE** / died / Feb 16, 1855 / ae 2 y'rs & 10 mo's [Note: There is a deep scratch across the face of the stone which makes the name of the child's mother difficult to read.]

Nancy M. / Daur of / (Eliot?) & Annie / **COSBY** / died Oct 11, 1832 [Note: This flat stone is broken at the bottom, so the child's age is missing.]

The lower half of a broken stone has been mounted in concrete, and contains a verse in memory of a young girl:

She was given to show / How sweet a flower / In paradise would bloom

The pieces of broken stones contain fragments from inscriptions now lost, such as: "3 y(?) / 11 M's &...", and "...ly 29, / (18?)53 / (?) yrs 12 ds."

Some Cosby family researchers believe that it is the last resting place for other family members. Two daughters-in-law of Eliot Cosby, namely Elsy, first wife of William Henry Cosby, and Nancy Catharine **ROSZELL**, William's second wife, as well as William and Elsy's young daughter Emmeline M. are thought to be buried at the site. The exact number of burials at the Eliot Cosby Cemetery (Abandoned) will probably never be known.

-Submitted by Tim Lowrey, Cemetery Co-ordinator