

Many Pioneers of District Buried in Moira Cemetery

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A recent visit to the Moira cemetery, back in Huntingdon township, reminded me of a letter received early this summer from Dr. H. C. Burleigh, of Bath, genealogist of the Bay of Quinte Branch, U.E.L. Association, who had by chance located the old Quaker Meeting House and cemetery near Moira.

Asking a cousin who accompanied me to Moira that afternoon whether he knew of this historic old spot, he thought awhile before recalling the approximate location. Well he might, for one could drive along that road many times before the ruins of that old stone House of God would be seen.

Working our way through the heavy growth of trees, brush, briars and weeds we came to the front of the old building almost covered with ivy and other vines. While most of the front wall stood as of old, the other three walls are in ruins and one could hardly venture inside what more than a century ago was a popular meeting house for members of the Society of Friends who pioneered settlement in that district.

While gazing at those ruins a flashback of remembrance bridged fifty-three years to the summer of 1905, part of which I spent holidaying with my maternal grandparents on the 7th concession of Thurlow about six or seven miles to the south. Recollection of two or three visits to the old Meeting House with my younger uncle, enabled me to view those ruins as something of the past which should have been preserved.

Keeping in mind Dr. Burleigh's letter in which he listed names from a number of tombstones in the nearby cemetery, spurred us on to work our way through the heavy undergrowth until we reached that sacred ground. As the names of those resting there are a part of the history of Canada as well as of Hastings county, I believe they should be written here.

From two of the pioneer families who early in the year 1800 left their native Bristol in Gloucestershire, England, for Canada, Jerome Swetman and William Mullett, we found:

James M. Swetman 1827-1874, son of James (grandson of Jerome) and his wife Sarah Mullett.

Margaret T. Swetman 1830-1889, wife of E. B. Swetman, and evidently their daughters Libby 1857-1882 and Mary 1860-1885.

William Mullett Jr., 1800-1865, and the wife of Arthur Mullett who was Jane Baker, 1814-1891.

Samuel Baker 1768-1861; and another Samuel Baker 1808-1878 and Sarah Jane 1836-1854, daughter of S. and B. A. Baker.

Duncan A. Wood 1833-1884 and his wife Sarah 1842-1887.

Charles Hudson 1801-1884, and his wife Margaret 1787-1869 and their son Thomas Wood 1849-1864.

Sampel Howe 1774-1856 and his wife Jane Denyke 1818-1888.

Samuel was a son of William Howe of the Loyalist refugees who came to Kingston in 1784 with the Captain Michael Grass party from New York. Jane Denyke was of a Huguenot family which came to America before the Revolutionary War and to Canada after the peace.

A daughter of Samuel and Jane Howe, who became the second wife of Nicholas Ketcheson, was Sarah B. Howe who died October 3rd, 1879, and was laid to rest beside her parents.

There is every reason to believe there are many more Friends resting in this sacred, neglected, and almost forgotten spot. It is most regrettable to have to record that the remains of those who came more than a century ago to reclaim

from the primeval forests the excellent farms of today should be so neglected by their descendants. It would take so little time and effort to clear up and make this historic spot a shrine of beauty and remembrance.

(over)

The Kuwanis Club of Belleville cleaned up this cemetery in 1980 and placed the remains of the tombstones in a cement wall on the grounds where the old Quaker church had stood. beside the graveyard.

Claude Young was a nephew of my aunt Julia Ketcheson - who lived in Winnipeg many years. When he retired he came to Prince Edward County. It was he who did most of the work on the first edition of the Ketcheson history published in 1958

The Baker Family

Wm. and Ann Baker of
Killeskuine of Queen's County
Welford Ireland and Abigail
his wife married 22/4 mo/1801

The son Samuel Baker and
Sarah Haring of Welford, Ireland
emigrated to Canada in 1819

Their children

	Born	Died
1 Abigail Baker	5/9/1802	
2 Ann Baker	28/12/1804	
3 Elizabeth Baker	20/3/1807	10/12/1897
4 Samuel Baker	13/7/1808	4/19/1895
5 William Baker	30/7/1820	
6 Thomas Baker	22/11/1812	2/5/1855
7 Jane Baker	25/7/1814	16/10/1891
8 Hannah Baker	31/5/1816	
9 Maria Baker	11/6/1818	
10 Joseph Baker	1/1/1823	

(information gained after Centennial)
from Mess Baker of Schneider Art School
Actinolite

The Quaker Church

It has been considerably difficult to obtain information about the early history of this church. However, through Arthur Mullett, whose forefathers were members of this church we have been able to contact Mrs. Henry Dale, formerly Evelyn Swetman, daughter of the late Joseph Swetman and his wife, the former Minnie Merrill. She has supplied us with these dates.

The property for a Quaker meeting house was secured in 1844 from Edith Rogers, who apparently was a relative of the Swetmans.

A log building was erected in the spring of 1845 where meetings were carried on until 1861. Then this building was replaced by a stone structure, the crumbling ruins of which may still be seen. It was apparently the custom to hold monthly and quarterly meetings as this record says the first monthly meeting was held in 1868 and the first quarterly meeting in 1869.

Some of the supporters of this church were the families of Mullett, Swetman, Merrill, Latta, Hockey, Duncan Wood, Sam Haight, Ostrom, Baker, McTaggart and some of the Hudsons from Roslin (Dr. Hudson's family). These families were mostly of English descent and had belonged to the Quaker church in England, so still adhered to this faith upon their arrival in Canada. Mrs. Merrill was well known as a preacher of her faith, besides being a skilful nurse. Her two daughters Phoebe and Minnie taught school in the Red Schoolhouse.

Gradually the original Quakers, died or moved away, so the church ceased to function.

For a short time the Holiness Movement conducted religious meetings there.

Finally the timbers, roof and furniture of the church was bought by Harry Foster who lived then on the James Foster farm owned by Ross Ketcheson now. The timbers were used for remodelling his barn, which was afterwards burnt.

There is a cemetery behind the ruins of the old church. This is in a very neglected condition at present with lilacs and other bushes, so prevalent that it is difficult to find many stones marking the graves. In visiting this historic spot we were able to decipher some of the following names: Duncan Wood, died 1884, Sarah, wife of Duncan Wood, died 1887; Chas. Hudson, died 1896, age 85 years, Margaret, wife of Chas. Hudson; Sara D. wife of Nicholas Ketcheson; Wm. Mullett, died 1865; Samuel Baker, died 1861, age 93 years; Margaret Swetman, died 1889, daughters Mary Jane, died 1885, Libby 1882.

The Vantassel Family

Ora Vantassel and his wife Phoebe Ketcheson settled on Lot 15, Con. 2, receiving the deed from the Crown. The cemetery was named after this family, the land being given off their property. Their children:—

- (1) SALYER—married Kitty Denike—a very devout Christian couple. They lived on this same lot until fifty years ago when they sold to Ed. Welsh and moved to Foxboro, where they died. They had no family although they raised several foster children.
- (2) MELISSA—married Rev. Jackson and went as missionaries to India, where she died leaving a small daughter, her sorrowing husband, and grief stricken parents. Mr. Jackson returned to America with the little girl.
- (3) WILLIAM—lived in Belleville.
- (4) MRS. CLAPP—British Columbia.

The Baker Family

Samuel Baker was born in 1769 in Bothin, Ireland. With his wife and a family of six daughters and 2 sons, he left Belfast, Ireland for Canada. He farmed first in Prince Edward County near Picton where two more sons, William and Joseph were born. Then he came to Lot 15, Con. 4, Huntingdon Township. Three Baker girls married three Mullet boys.

- (1) HANNAH BAKER—married James Clothier Mullett—the line of Mulletts later settling on Lot 10, Con. 4.
- (2) JANE BAKER—married Arthur Mullett—which is the line of Mulletts living on Lot 14, Con. 1. (W. T. Mullett and Arthur descendants).
- (3) ELIZA BAKER—married William Mullett—settled on Lot 17, Con. 3.
- (4) THOMAS—once postmaster at Moira. *5. Abigail 6 Ann. 7. Elizabeth 8 Maria 9. Samuel 10 Joseph.*
- (5) WILLIAM—married Sarah Ann Ostrom—lived on Lot 14, Con. 4. Children—Mary, Hattie, Gussie, Billie, Edward, Henry, Charlie. Later Geen farm. *Anna*

one of Thomas's sons

Later Families (1850-1900)

The following names are mentioned in our records, but we are unable to trace the families:—

- (1) 1866—BYRON DIAMOND—on Church record—Married Marjorie Wood.
- (2) WILLIAM DENIKE—married Rachel Mullet—his father first reeve of Huntingdon.
- (3) LOUIS OUTWATERS—lived on Lot 15, Con. 3 (small lot, barn still standing opposite Myrtle Emerson's — small house near road, torn down).
Myrtle Emerson's — small house near road, torn down).
- (4) J. MCGOWAN—lived on Myrtle Emerson's lot.
- (5) FULLER LAFFERTY—lived on Myrtle Emerson's lot.
- (6) CHARLIE LAFFERTY—lived where St. Clair Post's lumber mill is situated—house torn down.