

Hastings County Museum  
May 30, 1969

W.J. Therriault, Governor  
Hastings County Jail  
Belleville, Ontario

Dear Sir:

In reply to your request for information in our Archive files as to the possibility of any executed prisoners being buried in the Jail Yard.

We have carefully searched the old council records regarding the jail and the old newspaper files and can find NO record of any such burial. Those whose bodies were not claimed by their families were buried in the "Paupers Plot", an unmarked section of the old Taylor Burying Ground on Dundas Street East. You might be interested in the list of executions of which we have any record in our files, and we have reason to believe they are complete.

- 1835: - The first murder, John Watson, convicted of stabbing to death William Caldwell over a horse deal. Hanged and buried in Kingston, as we had neither court house or jail.
- 1854:- - Thomas Barnhardt of Tyendinaga convicted of shooting one "Dafoe" who tried to evict him. Barnhardt was found to be insane but was hung anyway and as he had been an employee of the Judge who had to pronounce the sentence he was buried in the family plot (in the Taylor Burying Ground)
- 1854: - Samuel Rock, Monteagle Twp., hanged for murder, June 1859. Buried in Paupers Plot.
- 1862: - Richard & Mary Aylward, Monteagle, convicted on circumstantial evidence, both hung December 1862. This was Belleville's last public hanging. They were buried in the old Roman Catholic Cemetary, Mount St. Patrick.
- 1891: - James Kane of Belleville, hanged May 21, 1891 for the murder of his wife. The Judge ordered him to be buried in Mount St. Patrick.
- 1890: - Peter E. Davis hanged for the murder of William Emory, Marmora June 20, 1890. Buried in Paupers Plot.
- 1926: - David A. Moon, Belleville given life imprisonment for the murder of Clayton McWilliams and John McGie.
- 1935: - Harold W. Vermilyea, Belleville, hanged May 1, 1935 for the murder of his mother. Body released to the family for burial.
- 1941: - Fred Thain hanged in January 1941 for the double murder of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Wellman of Rawdon. Body released to relatives for burial.

In the 1960's we have had, of course, the Williamson - McNevin and Montroy cases which were murder - suicide affairs.

Hope this will be of use to you. We will be glad to be of assistance at any time.

Sincerely,

Mary G. Plumptre, Curator,  
Hastings County Museum.