

The two sons came to Canada during the 1830s as half-pay officers, settling in Upper Canada. The land donated for a church, cemetery, and rectory was originally purchased from Absolom Griffin and his wife Harriet Smith.

The Anglican Church in Waterdown had a magnificent beginning under the inspiration and leadership of Rev. George Noel Higgison who was ordained to take care of the parish in the early years of



Grace Anglican Church — Waterdown, 1908

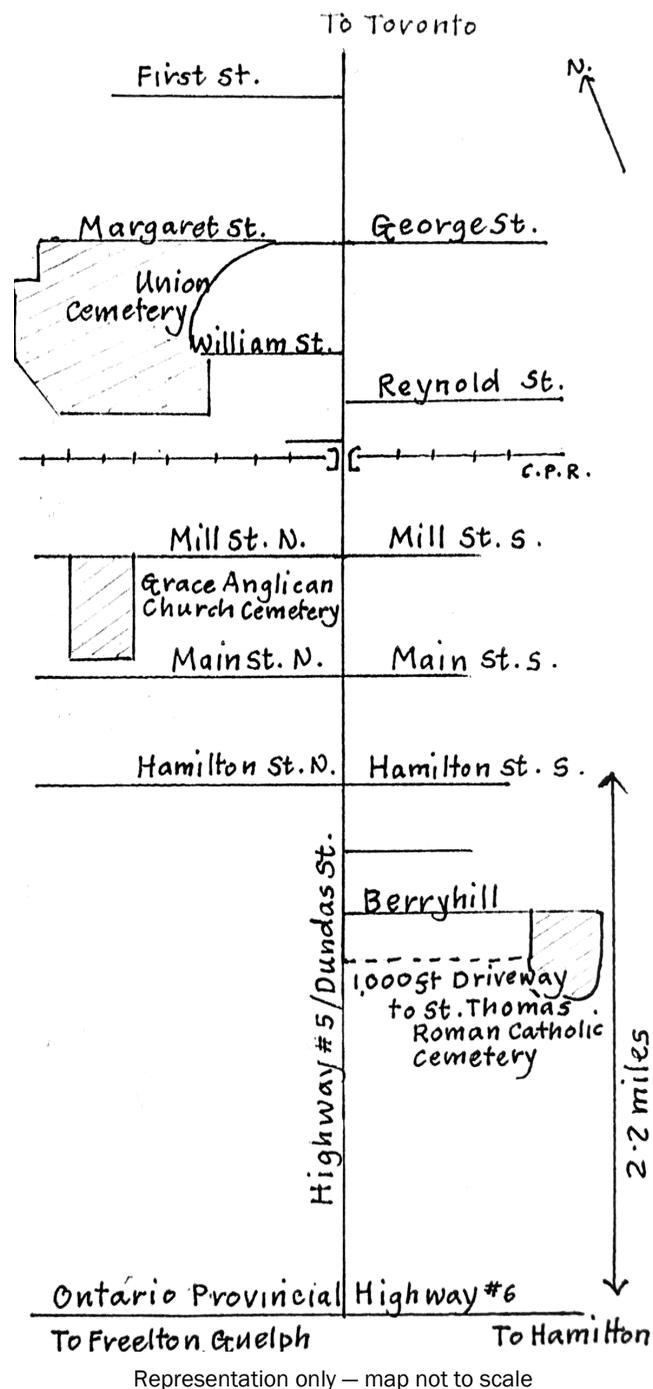
the church. Even though land was available for a church in 1847, funds were not sufficient enough to erect a church building until 1860. Prior to this, services were held by Rev. A.P. Morris in the Township Hall. Only five years after the church was completed, an expansion was necessary due to a growing congregation.

Among the over 300 headstones in the Anglican Cemetery lie many well known men and women who took an active role in the undertakings of the early church. John Nicholson and James E. Eager, were both delegates of the Synod and active promoters of the building operations and Mrs. Annie E. Vance, the first President of the Grace Anglican Church lie interred here. The earliest recorded burial on a monument is that of Alexina C. Feilde, a child buried 10 September 1847. The Church record books hold numerous other dates including the first baptism on 20 June 1858, and the first marriage on 14 August 1859.

Today, the cemetery is under the management of the Grace Anglican Cemetery Board. A plan of the cemetery and records of baptisms, marriages, and confirmations dating from 1858 are kept in the Church office. The parchment deed of the generous Feilde donation is held in the vault of the Synod office in Hamilton. The cemetery is still in use as a peaceful resting place for past family and friends.

Veterans of all wars are buried in these cemeteries and we hope that someday there will be recognition of their lives and final resting places.

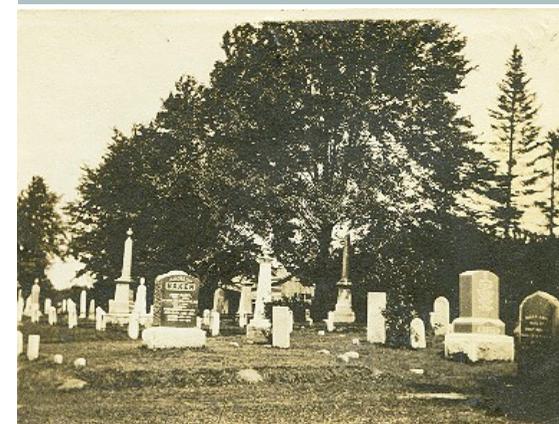
### Map of Cemetery Locations



## The Flamborough Heritage Society & Archives

# Historic Cemeteries Walk

WALKING  
in  
WATERDOWN



Union Cemetery - Waterdown, undated

[FlamboroughHistory.com](http://FlamboroughHistory.com)

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Revised 2019  
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## Union Cemetery

Located in an area known as Vinegar Hill in the North-East, and oldest, part of the village, the Union Cemetery contains over 1000 monuments erected as memorials to early pioneers. A village school house was built on part of the property in 1827 and used by the Methodists on Sunday morning and the Presbyterians in the afternoon. The name *Union Cemetery* originated from another joint venture between the two churches, when they agreed to share the cost of maintaining a burial ground in the village.



Ross McGregor Vault

The cemetery property was purchased from E.C. Griffin by George Bush in 1843. It was almost certainly in use before this transaction occurred as over a dozen stones date from the 1830s and Griffin's name appears on the original cemetery plan, which is undated. In 1846 this property at the end of William Street was transferred to the Trustees of the Waterdown

Chapel and in 1849 another plot was sold by Absolom Griffin, a prosperous mill owner and brother of E.C. Griffin to the Trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. On January 1, 1877, the Trustees sold the cemetery property for \$400 to the Waterdown Cemetery Company with the deed naming the property as the *Waterdown Burying Grounds*.

As you enter through the old-fashioned, hand-made turnstile and go to the North-West section, you can find the oldest monuments, dating from the 1830's. Names of many pioneer families are to be found on tombstones such as that of Dr. J.O. McGregor who, for over 50 years, was a much-loved physician in Waterdown. This well kept and tree-filled cemetery is now owned and managed by Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries and is still active.

## Saint Thomas Roman Catholic Cemetery

The origin of the St. Thomas Roman Catholic Cemetery is linked with the establishment of the Roman Catholic Church in the Village of Waterdown. In 1846, Catholic pioneers had settled in sufficient numbers that a small wooden church was erected on the lands where the cemetery is located today. Prior to this, the people who had settled in the area were served by priests from Oakville

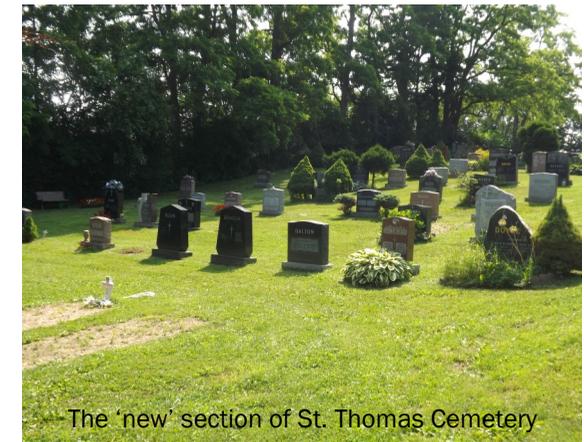
and Dundas and mass was often celebrated in homes. Even though the land had been used for a church and cemetery for a number of years, it was not legally church land until 1852 when Mr. Thomas English, who had purchased property from Alexander MacDonnell, generously donated it.



Stone Church —demolished in 1937

As the parish grew, the need for a larger and more centrally located church arose. By 1915, a new church building was completed and opened on Flamboro Street, a location removed from the cemetery. When the structure was completed, the old church was allowed to fall into disuse and was eventually demolished in 1937. The land continues to be used as a cemetery, and is managed today by the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton. The cemetery entrance is a long driveway with a canopy of maple trees, ending at the location of the old church.

The earliest internment at the St. Thomas Cemetery dates from 25 February 1847, although some monuments commemorate pioneer burials from as early as 1809. Many of the burials commemorate early village pioneers who came from counties in Ireland. Over 235 stones, some weathered with age, others more modern, which speak of love and devotion can be seen in this peaceful burial ground.



The 'new' section of St. Thomas Cemetery

## Grace Anglican Cemetery

The beautiful stone building of Grace Anglican Church stands adjacent to an equally beautiful and well-kept cemetery. This land, located on the north side of the original Village of Waterdown, was a generous donation by Frederick Feilde and his wife Elizabeth Gildart-Campbell in 1847. Feilde had served in the Napoleonic Wars with his father Captain James Feilde, and his brother Fulford Feilde.