

Walk of Ages History Tour 1

Mount View & Trinity Cemeteries



A Mount View & Trinity Walk of History Tour 1

Burial grounds, like the cities they serve, are evolving landscapes; new activities at cemeteries, such as spirit walks and genealogical searches in this age of the Internet and digitalization, show their changing cultural meanings. Cambridge's cemeteries reflect nothing if not the community's changing identity.

Galt's west side, a heritage district, was built by and for the elite, as was Mount View Cemetery. The legacies of these elites, as well as other residents, survive in the very cemetery they helped create, and in nearby parklands which they donated to the town, and in the churches, of which they were significant benefactors.

As changing cultural landscapes that reflect the local customs and practices of the community, Mount View and Trinity Anglican cemeteries are a treasure trove of local history and heritage, filled with various types of tombs, symbolism, art and architecture. French historian Philippe Ariès in his seminal 1982 work, *The Hour of Our Death*, argues that western attitudes and beliefs associated with death, dying and burial, are complex and varied. There is much more to cemeteries than simply the names and dates inscribed on gravestones.

Once, they were places of quiet visitation and remembrance, used almost exclusively for burial and commemoration. Now they have evolved to become public places to cycle, walk or jog, to bird watch, to meditate, to explore not only family genealogy but also local history and heritage through walking tours and ghost walks, and to see dramatizations about the dead.

The stories our cemeteries tell are both factual and fictional, like that of Millicent Milroy, a single and attractive young schoolteacher who claimed to have had a tryst in 1919—resulting in a secret marriage—with the Duke of Windsor. All cemeteries have their stories, but they are nothing without names. Names are human constructs, not biological, and long after bodies decay, or after they are cremated, names help ensure against oblivion. Names continue to serve the living by connecting us to our memories of the dead. It is the names, and not the physical remains in the grave, that speak for the dead in these imaginary communities for the living.

High on a hill near the entrance to Mount View Cemetery is the tall obelisk tombstone of a prominent Canadian Presbyterian clergyman, the Rev. John Bayne. He was the minister of Galt's St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church—the Auld-Church-on-the-Hill—which was the predecessor of both Knox Galt and Central Presbyterian churches, the two iconic symbols of Galt sitting across Queen's Square from each other for nearly 150 years. A stone's throw from Bayne's grave is the monument to the Rev. James A.R. Dickson, who was the rector at Central for nearly 35 years. Both were Scottish-born and educated, and their graves are on prominent hills at the cemetery. Although the clergy of Galt were not wealthy, their gravestones are on a par with some of the town's leading industrialists, a homage to social class and status, which goes back to earlier times when burial was only for the wealthy. Considered part of the town's elite, they were, in both cases, given large sendoffs to the afterlife by their congregations and the people of Galt. But curiously, a gravestone for the man who ministered to the country's leading Presbyterian congregation—Knox Galt—from 1898 to 1915, is almost obscured in its modest size and location. If Mount View shows a deference to class and wealth, surely the small gravestone of the Rev. Robert Edward Knowles is an anomaly. Or is it?

From 1898 to 1914 R.E. Knowles was minister at Knox and, as one of the town's leading citizens, was encouraged to run for mayor. During those years he began writing fiction at the manse, which sat on the west bank of

the Grand River where the current University of Waterloo School of Architecture stands. Several books he wrote between 1905 and 1911 became best-sellers, rivalling in sales those of L.M. Montgomery.

Religion occupied a pivotal role not only in early Galt, but throughout the entire nineteenth century Canadian cultural experience of death and the disposition of the body. As society changed and the relevance of the Protestant church waned, death and disposal became more an administrative and municipal function than a personal and religious one.

Located on the outskirts of town, where virgin land was plentiful, Trinity's cemetery was exclusively for members of the Trinity congregation, but with Confederation, Galt needed a cemetery that would be inclusive for all residents of the town, and one that would be the pride of the entire community. They needed a garden cemetery, like Montreal's Mount Royal Cemetery, which had evolved from an earlier Protestant burial ground.

English landscape gardener Henry Wyatt was hired to design the garden cemetery that generations of residents would come to know as Mount View. Wyatt was born in the late eighteenth century at Brome Hall, Suffolk, England, and came from an architectural lineage.

Owing to Wyatt's direction, Mount View's pathways were curved, with beautiful vistas. It was a rural landscape tamed by, and for humans. Leading to the cemetery was a long, treed avenue, Blenheim Road, designed personally by James Warnock, who directed the planting of large maples. The avenue, together with the two cemeteries and the park, are all connected into a symbiotic whole, both literally and aesthetically. But so too is St. Andrew's Park, site of the second cemetery in Galt. It sits on the southwestern hill almost beside William Dickson Jr.'s home, Kirkmichael, which is on the southern edge of the Dickson Hill district. And close by was the Warnock home. When industrialist and community leader James Warnock, the town councillor largely responsible for the creation of Mount View, died three decades after it opened, he was buried in the cemetery he helped create, beneath a towering stone, one befitting his wealth and social standing. Eventually his daughter, noted author Amelia Beers Warnock (Katherine Hale), was also buried there.

When paved pathways were introduced to accommodate automobiles early in the twentieth century, other problems arose. The pathways had been designed for horse and buggy; by then they had been hemmed in by gravestones and even today, in the oldest parts of the cemetery, there is no room for two cars going in opposite directions to pass.


Wyatt never lived to see his new cemetery mature. He died June 13, 1871. In the decades following his death it was a common sight to see visitors and family members flock to the cemetery on Saturday afternoons in the summer.

Cambridge's Mount View and Trinity Anglican Cemeteries hold stories for every person who is memorialized, though it is not possible to chronicle them all. For instance, the story of Harry Spencer Howell, who travelled around the world with his wife in the late nineteenth century, is not told, nor is the story of little Meta Cherry who was poisoned and died after eating a chocolate treat on October 4, 1888. And what of Hugh Cant, whose epic journey to California in the mid-1800s was chronicled in its entirety in the local newspaper. He went east, by ship down the Atlantic seaboard, crossing over to the Pacific by land long before the Panama Canal was born. There are so many more. Did you know, for instance, that the parents of Joseph Seagram, founder of Seagrams, are buried in Trinity?

Enjoy your time in Mount View and Trinity Cemeteries, where the story of a unique southern Ontario community is written in stone.

Who's Who at Mount View & Trinity

NAME **LOCATION** **DASH**

Syl Apps  Mount View **1915-1998**

Born in Paris, Ontario in 1915, Syl had Galt roots; his grandparents, the Wrigley's, lived in Galt. He was a standout athlete at McMaster University in Hamilton, and made his debut with the Toronto Maple Leafs in the autumn of 1936, attending their training camp at Galt Arena following his participation as a pole vaulter at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. Apps, one of Canada's greatest-ever athletes, played with the Leafs until 1948. He was named one of the NHL's 100 greatest players in 2017.

Stefan Kostrzewski  Mount View **1902-1999**

Born in Poland, August 4, 1902, Stefan attended the Polytechnic in Warsaw. A veteran of the Polish-Soviet War in 1920 and World War II, he was decorated with French, English and Polish medals. A national champion in numerous track and field events, he represented Poland in the 1924 Paris and 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games and was a member of the Polish contingent at the Berlin Olympics in 1936. He settled in Galt following the war.

Normie Himes  Mount View **1900-1958**

Born in Galt in 1900, Normie played several sports, including hockey with the Galt Intermediates hockey club that opened Galt Arena in January 1922. He was also a talented baseball player, playing for the Galt Terriers of the Inter-county Baseball Association. In 1926 he was invited to the NHL's New York Americans' training camp and starred with the Americans for the next decade. Named Cambridge Male Athlete of the 20th Century, Himes died in 1958.

Robert Edward Knowles  Mount View **1868-1946**

Robert Edward Knowles, the son of an Irish Presbyterian minister, was taught by famed educator William Tassie at Peterborough Collegiate after Tassie left Galt Collegiate. He attended Queen's University and Manitoba college, accepting the call to Knox Galt in 1898, where he ministered to the largest Presbyterian congregation in Canada until suffering a nervous breakdown in 1915. Noted for his fine oratorical skills, he wrote several best-selling novels from the Knox manse alongside the Grand River (where the UW School of Architecture is now located). He began a second notable career as a journalist in 1921 with the *Toronto Star*, where he was part of James Herbert Cranston's staff that included Ernest Hemingway, Gregory Clark and a young Morley Callaghan.

Millicent Milroy  Mount View  **The Millicent Story** **1890-1985**

Born near Little's Corners—part of present-day Cambridge, Ontario—in 1890, Milroy was a single Canadian schoolteacher who caused a sensation in 1969 and into the 1970s when news of the inscription she had approved for the family tombstone became known. That inscription claimed she was the wife of Edward (VIII), Duke of Windsor. Edward visited Galt on October 24, 1919. Writer Bob Green recalled seeing a photograph of the prince opening the auditorium of Galt Legion in 1919, and Millicent was pictured nearby. Concrete evidence has never proven her claim, but owing to a series of remarkable coincidences in the historical record, neither can her claim be disproven. The first Milroy arrived in the Galt area from Scotland in 1827, just 11 years after the community was founded. Not surprisingly, there are several Milroy gravestones at Mount View. Since her death in 1985, her legend has only grown.


Absalom Shade  Trinity **1792-1862**

A Pennsylvanian carpenter, Shade was hired by William Dickson to help establish a settlement on Dickson's lands in Dumfries. It was Shade who did the lion's share of building the fledgling community from scratch; he became wealthy as a result. He was one of the most respected men in the community but the time of his death in 1862. In 1831, Shade was elected to the [Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada](#) representing [Halton](#); he served until 1841

Katherine Langdon Wilks  Trinity **1854-1948**

A member of the Astor family from New York, Katherine was the first woman elected into Canada's Horse-racing Hall of Fame. That's because, at the turn of the 20th century, her Cruickston Park Stock Farm on Blair Road in Galt, Ont., commanded the respect of the entire harness horse world. Her farm was Canada's largest standardbred breeding establishment and was the envy of breeders in North America.

NAME **LOCATION** **DASH**

Don Rope  Mount View **1929-2009**


In the spring of 1955 Sault St. Marie sportswriter Paul Patton wrote a column about Don Rope, calling him one of the most gifted and versatile athletes to ever make the Sault a part of call. "We don't know if the folks down in Galt, where he'll be teaching next year, know what manner of man they're getting," wrote Patton. "It won't take them much effort to find out." Born in Winnipeg, Don kept a picture of his idol, Leaf legend Syl Apps in his scrapbook tall his life. Rope played Jr. A hockey with St. Michael's, where he roomed with Tim Horton. Later, as a teacher in Galt, he played senior hockey with the KW Dutchmen, winning bronze and silver medals at the Winter Olympics (Cortina 1956 and Squaw Valley 1960).

Amelia Beers (Katherine Hale) Warnock  Mount View **1874-1956**

Journalist and writer Katherine Hale's name was familiar to readers of the Mail & Empire newspaper in the early 20th century. It was the pen name of Amelia Beers Warnock, eldest daughter of Galt's James Warnock, who was instrumental in the creation of Mount View Cemetery, and his wife Katherine Hale Byard of Mobile, Alabama. Born in Galt in 1874, she was educated in Galt and at a private school in Toronto called Glen Mawr, then in New York and Europe. She was good friends with writer Mazo de la Roche and authored several books.

Andrew (Professor) Jenkins  Mount View **1844-1924**

Known as "The Canadian Blondin", the family moved to the Branchton area after coming from England in 1850. In 1859, when Andrew Jenkins was fifteen, he saw Blondin cross the Niagara gorge on a tightrope. Ten years later Professor Jenkins, as he was called during his performances, crossed the Niagara gorge on a bicycle as 50,000 onlookers watched, gaining instant fame. He gave performances in Canada and the United States for the next fourteen years. In one of his stunts he would take a stove to the centre of the rope and make pancakes which he would then throw to people in canoes far below. Other stunts included sitting on a chair while on the rope and reclining on the rope. Upon his retirement he opened photography studios in Galt and Dunnville. He was partially blinded when a bottle of ammonia exploded while he was working in Dunnville.

Ab Morton  Trinity Anglican **1914-2011**

One of Canada's finest marathoners and distance runners in the late 1930s and throughout the 1940s, Galt's Ab Morton raced with, and often beat, the greatest distance runners of his day. A member of the Galt Track Club and a good friend and training partner of the famed Scotty Rankine, he reached his peak in the mid-1940s. One year Morton was runnerup for the Canadian athlete of the year award – the Norton H. Crowe Award. Morton was Canadian marathon champion in 1947 but was denied a spot on the 1948 Canadian Olympic team. He twice finished fifth in the Boston Marathon.

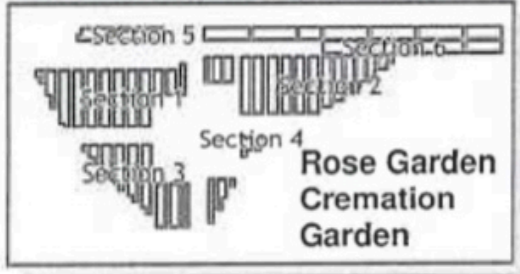
Emma Orr  Mount View **1859-1897**

The 1889 murder of Emma Orr, wife of Anthony Orr — their farm was about one mile west of this cemetery past Barrie's Cut — was one of the area's most mysterious and scandalous affairs in the late 1800s. Several suspects were questioned about the murder, but in the end, 16-year-old farm-hand James Allison was arrested, tried and convicted of her murder. Allison was hanged after confessing to having killed Mrs. Orr with an axe while attending to his morning chores, and hiding the body temporarily in a corn patch. The motive for the murder advanced at the trial was revenge for Mrs. Orr's refusal of his improper attentions, but Allison's confession disputed this—the constable was later reprimanded for using force. in his confession stoutly contradicted.

Donald McQueen Shaver  Mount View **1920-2018**

He came from a modest background, and after high school — it was during the Great Depression — he was not able to go to university. Instead, he became a tank commander during World War II, "The war brought with it for me great maturity, discipline and resolve," he said as he built up a world-wide poultry business, Shaver Poultry, that eventually extended to 94 countries, all of which he visited often. Donald McQueen Shaver left a marked influence on the global food industry. Helping to feed hundreds of millions of people around the world, his impact was predicated by a devotion to humanity's well-being through his contributions in poultry science, with an emphasis on breeding advances. He was an Officer, Order of Canada, and was presented with an honorary doctorate from the University of Guelph.

Mountview Cemetery



Mount View Cemetery Cambridge (Galt) Ontario

Grand River
City of Galt
Central School
Soper Park
St. Dickson
Andrews Mill

Rose Garden

Mausoleum

KENMORE AVE

GRANITE ST

BLAIR RD



Trinity Anglican Cemetery Cambridge (Galt) Ontario

Young Chapel
Columbarium

Veterans' Cross

Equipment Storage
Buildings and
Compound

Maintenance
Building

Young
Memorial
Chapel