

15. Marion Errington

Plot: N-181-SE

Over a period of sixty years, Marion Errington contributed to the cultural scene of London, Ontario as a dancer, teacher, choreographer and artistic director. She was the founder of the London Ballet Company and the London Civic Ballet Theatre which ran until 1954. Her dance school ran until 2015, with a 98-year history, making it the longest continuously run dance school in Canada.

16. Kate S. Dr. Matthews

Plot: N-167-SW-3

Kate Sotham Matthews founded Matthews Hall in 1918. The school started in a room at St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral as a private school for "young ladies and gentlemen". Over time, St. Paul's became the focal point of Miss Matthews' personal and public life. She was much admired for her work in the parish and for her active support of the Guiding movement.

17. Shadrach "Shack" Martin

Plot: D-171-1

Shadrach immigrated to Canada in 1854 where he stayed, working as a barber for London's elite, until the outbreak of the American Civil War.

Martin stated that he was one of the first Black men to enlist in the Union forces fighting the Confederacy.



18. Margaret Fullerton

Plot: AE-170-NEN-1

Fullerton, a politician was the first female London's Ward Councilor. She was also appointed by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau as a Commissioner on the Pension Review Board.

19. The Veterans: Janet Groshow

Plot: VA: 0134

There are close to 1500 veterans laid to rest at Woodland. On this tour we highlight Janet Groshow, a nursing sister in France during WW1. She enlisted after her first son died during the war. Following his death, her 2 other sons enlisted, and she followed to be closer to them.



The History of Woodland Cemetery

St. Paul's Cathedral purchased land for a new cemetery outside the town limits, which they called St. Paul's Cemetery. It was located where the Western Fairgrounds stand today.

St. Paul's Cemetery continued to be run by the church. London expanded around the cemetery, and soon it was within the city limits. This led to, St. Paul's buying a new piece of land, to open a new cemetery: Woodland.

It opened its doors in 1879. It was designed as a Victorian park-style cemetery. The transfer of remains from St. Paul's Cemetery to Woodland began in 1880 and took 6 years to complete. In 1921, Woodland added a Mausoleum. In 1964 we built the first crematorium in London.

Today, the cemetery continues to offer burial plots, cremation plots, niches and scattering gardens within a scenic, tranquil resting place, along the Thames.

Our direct cremation and grave-side burial options are aligned with simpler, family focused memorials.

Our professional staff are here to help you pre-plan for a service arranged specific to one's needs, while locking in today's prices.



Woodland Cemetery Life Qr Code Historical Walking Tour

Take a Walk Through London's History with our Life Qr Code!



Woodland Cemetery & Crematorium

493 Springbank Drive

London, Ontario N6J 1H3

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How it Works

When you see a Qr Code (Like the one's shown below) in our cemetery, take out your phone's camera and scan it.



A website with a short biography of the historical person should pop up. Here you can view photos and read up on their lives and how they've contributed to London's History.

This brochure provides a listing of the historical Londoner's featured on the Woodland Life's QR code tour.



1. Annie Pixley

Annie Pixley was an internationally famous actress. She often performed at London's Grand Theatre and spent her summers in Port Stanley. In memory of his wife and son, Robert Fulford built the Fulford - Pixley Mausoleum.



2. Crystal Hall Collapse: Clara Mullin

Plot: U-037-SW

One of two collapses that occurred in London's history. Seven people were killed and 40 people injured, when the east wall of the Crystal Hall, on the south side of Dundas Street between Richmond and Clarence Streets collapsed during renovations in 1907.

3. Potters Field

Plot: Section U



Woodland's Potter's field is the final resting place for those who were unidentified or unclaimed. We have provided proper recognition here for those lost souls.

4. Paul Peel

Plot S-111-SW-1

Born in London, an internationally recognized artist, Peel travelled widely in Canada and in Europe, exhibiting as a member of the Ontario Society of Artists and the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. His childhood home is one of the many attractions at the Fanshawe Pioneer Village in London, Ontario.



5. William Sherwood Fox

Plot: P-176-NE

President of Western University, 1927-1947, greatly involved in the expansion of the University during his tenure both geographically and through the Faculties of Arts, Public Health and Medicine.

6. City Hall Collapse

Plot: R-263-SE

On election night in 1898, a major disaster happened at the old City Hall. As a large crowd assembled to cheer on London's new mayor-elect, part of the floor collapsed, taking with it a couple of hundred people, leaving 23 dead and 150 seriously injured.

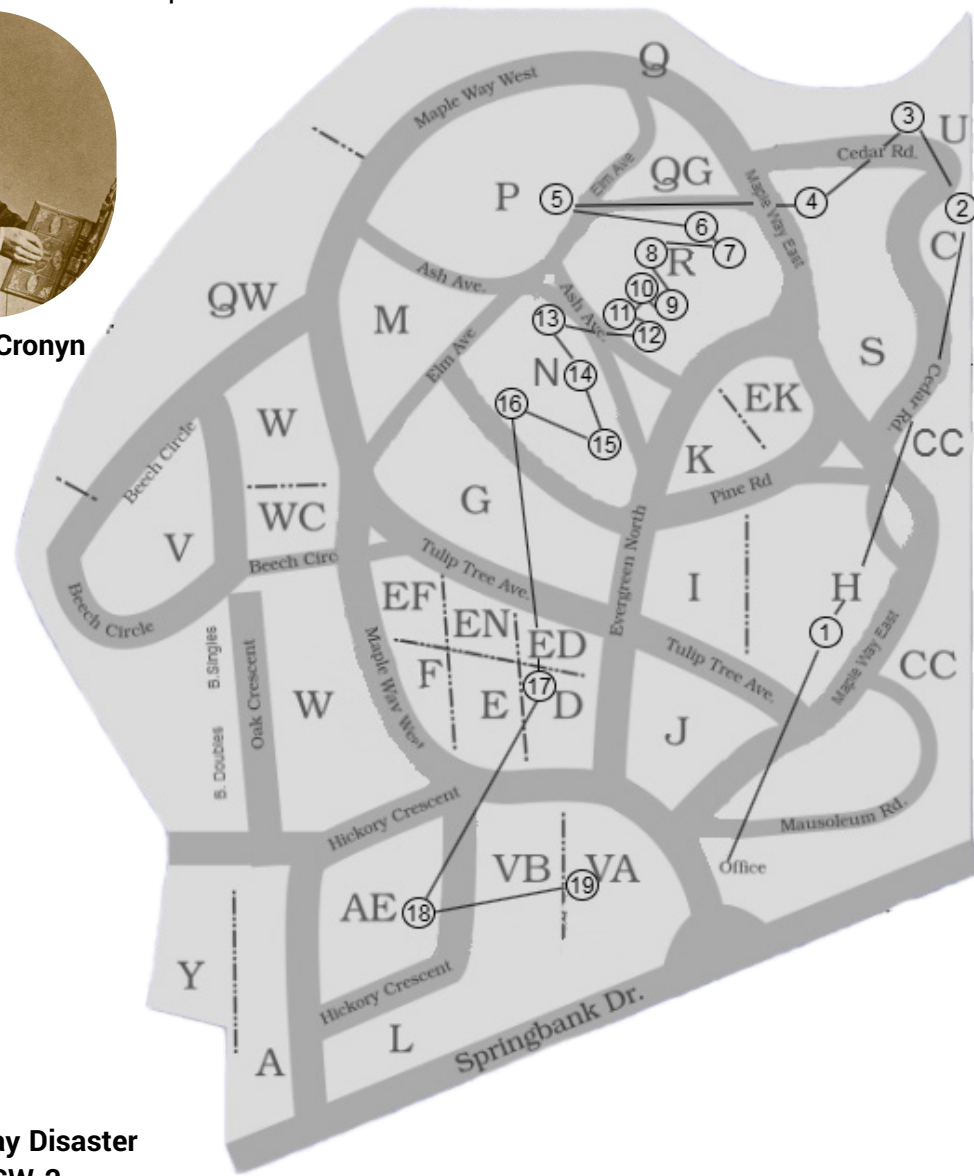
7. The Cronyn Family

Plot: R-224-NE

Born in Kilkenny, Ireland and educated at Trinity College, Dublin, the Rt. Rev. Benjamin Cronyn helped to establish St. Paul's Cathedral and was the first Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Huron. His great-grandson, Hume Cronyn was a London born accomplished actor.



Benjamin Cronyn



Amelia Ryerse Harris

8. Victoria Day Disaster

Plot: R-220-SW-2

On May 24th 1881, one of the worst Canadian Marine disasters struck London Ontario. The SS Victoria, a small double-decker ship capsized on the Thames River, killing more than 200 individuals. Returning from Springbank Park, the boat was extremely overcrowded at almost double its capacity. Those resting in this plot include Mary Jane, Henry and their son William Henry Hayman.

9. Amelia Ryerse Harris

Plot: R-119-SW

A matriarch raising twelve children, she was renowned for her character and sense, and she became a central part of the history of Eldon House, and London, Ontario, then Upper Canada, as one of the City's founding women.

10. Harriet Ann Boomer

Plot: R-155-NE



Born in Somerset, England in 1835, married to the Reverend Michael Boomer, Dean of the Anglican Diocese of Huron, she devoted her life to service for the community and played a major role in establishing a number of women's societies in London.

11. The Hunt Family

Plot: R-367-1

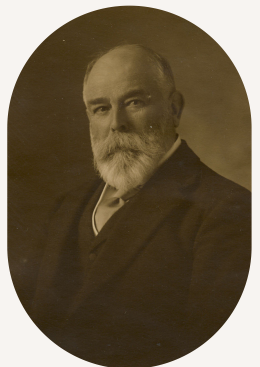
An Anglican, Charles Hunt was a warden of St Paul's Cathedral in 1861-65, played a leading role in the financial and commercial community. As owner of Hunt Brothers Flour Mill along the Thames, he was well known for his charity in the city, providing flour for the poor.

12. John Labatt Family

Plot: R-355-SW +

R-363-NW

A member of St Paul's Anglican Cathedral, John Labatt a dominant figure in southwestern Ontario business in the late 1800s, achieving great success, growing the family-owned local Labatt Brewery to the seventh largest in Canada at that time.



13. Hillside Crypts

Plot Section N

Woodland Cemetery is home to 3 hillside Crypts. Built in 1880, these impressive family crypts memorialize local businessmen C.P. Smith, Charles T. Priddis, George S. Birrell and their families.



14. The Smallman Family

Plot: N-106-SE

Thomas Smallman was a founding member of Imperial Oil, one of the first Board directors for London Life, Western University and London's Smallman and Ingram department store. In 1893 the family purchased and expanded the impressive Waverley Mansion, and their son, John built the equally stately Windermere Manor as a tribute to his father.