

9. John Robert Peel (1830 - 1904)

John Robert Peel was born on September 26, 1830 in England. He married Amelia Margaret Hall in 1849 and emigrated to London in 1852. Today, John Robert Peel is remembered as the father of the famous artist Paul Peel. However, John Peel was quite a talented artist himself. It is said that his son, Paul, was artistically inclined from a young age thanks to the influence of his father. John



A monument carved by John R. Peel.

quickly became a leading figure in the London arts community. He was known for his sculpting skills and earned his living as a marble cutter, making gravestones. John Peel was also involved in various art initiatives in London. He was the co-founder of Western School of Art and Design and organized of the first Art Loan exhibition in London. Peel died on July 09, 1904 at the age of 74.



10. William Elliott (1806 - 1860)

William Elliott was a builder and stonemason in London. He helped complete the stonework on the first Post Office building at the corner of Queens and Richmond from 1859-60. It was torn down in 1953, and re-established as a bank before becoming the current location of Moxie's Bar & Grill. In 1854, Elliott married Elizabeth Park, the daughter of Sam Park, who was one of the first settlers in London. He worked as the jailer of Middlesex County from 1836 until the late 1850s. He died in 1860 at the age of 54.



The Park family gravestone, carved by William Elliott

London in the Nineteenth Century

In the 1860s, London was a rapidly expanding town. The prospect of Confederation was an exciting one, as it promised Canada's independence as a united nation state. Many Londoners benefited from Confederation as Canada became more economically self-sufficient, local industries were founded, and the "intercolonial railway" began to connect communities.

This walking tour will take you through London as it was 150 years ago, at the time that Canada became a unified nation. Everything from industrialists, businessmen, politicians, labourers, artists, and criminals - including newly uncovered history from the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Cemetery site - are featured in Woodland's celebration of 150 years of London history

Special thanks to the Western Archives, Western University and the London Room, London Public Library.

Land Acknowledgement

Woodland Cemetery is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of Southwestern Ontario and the City of London. Woodland values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America).

CANADA 150

London's Confederation Era History



Historical Self-Guided Walking Tour



1. St. Andrew's Cemetery Site

In May 2017, Woodland's monument conservation team uncovered the buried remnants of the St. Andrew's Presbyterian churchyard cemetery. These 147 gravestones were moved here in 1959 when the cemetery closed, and nearly all of them memorialize Scottish immigrants who lived in London between the 1820s and the 1860s. The gravestones, which were uncovered along the back of Section U, are being remounted there so that future generations can



147 gravestones were uncovered and catalogued



First St. Andrew's United Church has been in London since 1832

enjoy this previously lost history. Nearby, a large monument marks the lot where all those previously buried at St. Andrew's now rest.

2. William Love (1822 - 1874) and Freemasonry

Born in 1822, William moved to Canada between 1855 and 1861 with his wife, Agnes, and their children. A fireman in Scotland, when the family moved to London, William became an engineer and joined the Freemason Order in London. In the second half of the 19th c., the Freemasons were a not-so-secret society who were sworn to live by strict codes of moral conduct. Many of their members placed the Masonic compass and carpenter square on their tombstones. These symbols are representative of the society's values: honor, civic duty, learning and progress, among other things. Fun Fact In 1900, Agnes Love died of La Grippa, otherwise known as the Flu.



3. Thomas Francis (c. 1803 - 1867)

Thomas Francis was an Irish stone carver who immigrated to London in the 1840s. His wife Jane was much younger than her husband, and Thomas was abusive, jealous, and convinced that she was unfaithful. They separated in 1866. On 24 September 1867, Thomas traveled to the Ivy Green Inn, which Jane was managing. He begged her to allow them to live together again. When she refused, he drew a pistol from his pocket, and aimed to shoot his wife, who fought to disarm him. Thomas fired the pistol and missed, and Jane fled. A shot was heard, and inhabitants later found Thomas had shot himself in the head. The Francis suicide caused a thrill of horror in the community. He was buried at St. Paul's Cemetery, and believed to have been moved to Woodland in an unmarked grave. Many of the monuments he carved can be found at the St. Andrew's Cemetery site.

4. The Lee Family

Both born in Canada, Hiram (1833-1888) and Elizabeth Lee (1837-1916) were married in 1856 and had four children together: James, Charles, Emma, and Albert. Hiram had several positions at Carling Brewery throughout his life. He worked as a brewer, agent, and operator. Carling Brewery, founded in 1818, was still a small local brewery at the time but was expanding rapidly. In 1873, a new brewery was built on Ann Street near the Thames. Two years later, the building was immediately rebuilt after it was destroyed in a fire. Workers like Hiram, though not prominent members of the company, made London more vibrant during the Confederation era.



Fun fact: Emma Lee married a man from a very prominent family, William Edwin Saunders, after which Saunders S. S. is named.

5. Thomas Frazer Kingsmill Sr. (1840 - 1915) and 20th Century Scandals

Born in Ireland, T.F. Kingsmill first immigrated to U.S. before opening a London department store in 1865. He quickly became well-loved due to the quality of his goods and his involvement in city matters. Following his death in 1915, his life was the centre of a scandal involving his estate. Although he had married Ann Ardagh in 1858, another wife had come forward to claim her share of the estate. No one had known about this second marriage and it was a shocking affair. In 2014, the beloved store that T.F. Kingsmill founded closed its doors, but the Kingsmill name remains well-known. Fun Fact: It is claimed that Kingsmill travelled across the Atlantic 140 times to attain goods for his store (and to visit his second wife).



A crowd gathered at London's Covent Garden Market Square in the 1860s



Springbank Park in the Confederation Era

6. Colonel John Walker (1832 - 1889) and Corrupt Politics

Born in January of 1832 in Argyleshire, Scotland, Colonel Walker moved to London in 1867. He had spent most of his life in the military, and aided the country during the Fenian Raids. He made his money through the oil industry, working with the Imperial Oil Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway. However, it is in politics where Walker received the most attention, winning the election of 1874 only to be unseated 7 months later on charges of corruption and bribery. The London Free Press reported the furiousness of Londoners who had wanted John Carling to be their representative. Col. John Walker passed away of paralysis in 1889. Fun fact: Colonel Walker is credited with being the first to recommend the game of golf to Londoners.



George Powell was a stone mason who carved many of the monuments in Woodland Cemetery



The old London Court House

7. Thomas Scatcherd (1824 - 1876)

The Scatcherd family emigrated from Yorkshire in 1821. In Canada, John Scatcherd founded the village of Wyton, which was prosperous enough to host a church, schoolhouse, and post office. The Scatcherds employed many Irish workers when a number of businesses refused to hire them. This likely saved many from starvation. Thomas Scatcherd, born in Wyton, eventually went on to follow in his father's footsteps as a politician. In 1861, he was elected to represent the riding of West Middlesex, and was re-elected in 1863. By this time, the name Scatcherd was considered a "household" name in London. Thomas Scatcherd opposed Confederation because he believed it was a scheme to construct the Intercolonial Railway and it was designed to favour Canada East, today known as Quebec. He died in office on April 15th, 1876, in Ottawa.



8. Christopher Teale (1842 - 1925)

Christopher Teale owned a business as a stone and marble cutter in the 1860s. In 1864, he established a partnership with Wilkens. Their workshop was located on Dundas Street, and Wilkens was known as a talented sculptor of memorial stones. Teale later established his own business with his sons. Partnerships between stone carvers were common but constantly changing. Another prominent example is Peel & Powell, who have various memorials scattered throughout the cemetery. Stonecutters and carvers such as Teale left a lasting legacy for London's deceased. They memorialized loved ones in stone, which families could visit for decades after to mourn.



The O'Connor family gravestone, carved by Teale & Wilkens

