

12. THE KINGSMILL FAMILY (NP)



When his business in Ireland failed, **Thomas Frazer Kingsmill** immigrated to North America and decided to establish a dry goods store in London in 1865. The store, Kingsmill's, would be a fixture in London for almost 150 years to come. Thomas crossed the Atlantic over 140 times, making sure that his store had the best goods and the latest fashions.

He was also a city alderman. He died Aug. 21, 1915. The store remained family-run from the time it opened to the time it closed in 2014. The Kingsmill family legacy, however, reaches far beyond Dundas St.

Major Henry Ardagh Kingsmill studied medicine at Western and became a respected doctor who practiced all over the world. He also served in the army for 25 years. **Thomas F. Kingsmill Jr.** (a grandson of the original owner) was manager of the store and was also director of the Ontario Branch of the Retail Merchants Association. He served as mayor of London for three years and was well-known for his philanthropic work at Victoria Hospital.



13. GENERAL CAMERON BETHEL WARE (M)

Cameron Ware was known for being a superb soldier because of his valour, leadership, warmth and humanity. He served in the Canadian Forces from 1935 to 1977. He graduated from the RMC in Kingston in 1935 and joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He fought in WWII as a Major and was part of the Allied Forces who helped overthrow Mussolini in Italy. He was awarded the DSO for his gallantry and leadership in the battle for Ortona.



Upon leaving the Princess Patricia's, he was promoted to Colonel and was given command of the Regiment at Camp MacDonald. Being only 37 at the time, he was one of



Canada's youngest Colonels. During the Korean War, he took command of the Canadian Military Mission to the Far East. He held many teaching and training positions up until his death on January 22, 1999 at 85 years old.

14. CLARA MULLIN & THE CRYSTAL HALL COLLAPSE (D)

Clara Mullin, a 22 year old saleslady, was 1 of 7 people killed when Reid's Crystal Hall collapsed in 1907. The former china shop was being converted into a billiards hall, and some of the renovations had made the building structurally unsound. Despite warnings from his crew, leaser Peter Smirlie proceeded with the work. City Hall had ruled a building inspector an unnecessary expense. At 4:12pm on July 16th, the East wall gave way, and the building crumbled, sending it crashing into two neighboring stores. The roof, bricks and timber cascaded onto Dundas St., trapping people under the avalanche. Bystanders immediately commenced a rescue effort, and worked through the night to free those who had been entombed by the rubble. 7 people perished and 40 were seriously injured. Shortly after, London hired a building inspector.



THE HISTORY OF WOODLAND CEMETERY

The origins of Woodland Cemetery can be traced back to the small churchyard burial ground at St. Paul's Cathedral. Until the mid-nineteenth century, it was common practice to bury people on the church's property. However, in 1849, the town forbade any further burials within the town limits (which included St. Paul's churchyard) due to overcrowding and sanitation issues.



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

St. Paul's Cemetery continued to be run by the church and featured family lots for purchase. It also had a Potter's Field, which was a separate piece of land on Hamilton Road where unknown or indigent people were buried at no cost.

Over the next 30 years, London expanded around St. Paul's Cemetery, and soon it, too, was within the city limits. Because of this, St. Paul's bought a new, rural piece of land on Pipe Line Road (now called Springbank Drive) to open a new cemetery: Woodland.



Woodland Cemetery opened its doors in 1879. Woodland was designed as a Victorian park-style cemetery. Woodland's first burial took place in December of 1879. The transfer of remains from St. Paul's Cemetery to Woodland began in 1880 and took six years to complete.

In 1921, Woodland added a Mausoleum. It was designed by architect Albert H. McPhail, and was done in the popular Art Deco style of the day. In 1939 a Veterans section was added, and in 1964 Woodland built the first crematorium in London. Today, we boast these and many other features, including indoor columbaria, scattering gardens and a legacy tree program.



WOODLAND CEMETERY

HISTORICAL SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR



TAKE A WALK THROUGH LONDON'S HISTORY

LEGEND

- (M) = MILITARY
- (NP) = NOTABLE PERSON
- (D) = DISASTER VICTIM



1. SHADRACH MARTIN (M) & (NP)

Though his full name was Shadrach Meshach and Abed-nego King Quarries Martin, he was affectionately known to Londoners as "Shack". Martin was the first African American to enlist in the forces of the North in the Civil War. Martin had been a barber aboard a Mississippi steamboat, where he met and served a Captain Sanford. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Sanford asked him to be an official steward on the boat he was to command. As unenlisted men were not allowed on board, Martin enlisted, and became a steward/gunner on the Mississippi river gun boat for 25 months. This was two years before "coloured regiments" were introduced in 1863. When he was honorably discharged in 1863, he returned to London to become a barber. He was known and respected by all, serving as a barber to prominent Londoners such as the Labatts, the Cronyns and Sir John Carling. He died on December 26, 1917. His grave is currently marked with flags, and a veteran's stone is pending.



2. LT. BARTHOLOMEW "BART" COTTAM (M)

Bartholomew Cottam, though memorialized in Woodland Cemetery, is actually buried in France, where he was killed in WWI. He grew up in London, and enlisted in the Canadian Infantry 21st Battalion "The Elgins" in 1915. During his deployment, he stayed with family friends in England and fell desperately in love with their daughter, Winnifred. She returned his affections, and they pledged to marry on his first leave. The wedding was planned for early December, but Bartholomew was never to return. He was killed on December 1st, 1916 while leading a snatching party into the German trenches. He was 22.



Lt. Cottam was posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His body was never recovered, and his name can be found on the Vimy Memorial. His tombstone in Woodland tells the story, in gripping detail, of his valour and how he was killed.

3. THE SMALLMAN FAMILY (NP)

Thomas Henry Smallman, an Irish immigrant, made his fortune investing in the petrochemical industry after oil was discovered in Lambton County in the 1850s. He founded the Imperial Oil Company in 1880 and served as director. He also helped found the London Life Insurance Company. He died on April 16, 1918.



The family is perhaps best known for their connection to two beautiful London homes: Waverly Mansion and Windermere Manor. The Smallmans bought Waverly from the Goodhue family in 1893. Thomas Smallman lived there until his death, and left the home to his daughter **Eleanor** (who won an OBE for her work with the Red Cross) and her husband **Capt. Claude Morgan** (an officer in the British Army). Another of Thomas' sons, **Col. John Elton Smallman**, built Windermere Manor in 1925.



4. GEORGE WASHINGTON PITT (M)

George Pitt fought for the Union side in the American Civil War, serving as a Lieutenant in the 85th New York Infantry. Pitt's regiment was present at the siege of Yorktown, the battle of Williamsburg, the taking of Fort Magruder, the fight at Savages' Station, and many more defining moments of the war.

However, Pitt's worst memories of the war consisted of the time he spent as a prisoner-of-war. In April of 1864, he and four companies of his regiment were taken prisoner and sent to Andersonville, a war prison known for disease, poor sanitation, malnutrition, overcrowding and a high mortality rate.

Pitt and five other Union men escaped by jumping from a moving train while being transferred to another prison in February, 1865. They survived in the wilderness for 28 days while being hunted down with dogs and shot at by the Confederates. After the war, Pitt returned to London and became a well-known jeweller and watch-maker. He died on April 21, 1921.



5. THE GUILLEMONT FAMILY (NP)

The Guillemont family was headed by Reverend Charles B. Guillemont and his wife Melanie, who emigrated from Paris, France around 1865. Before coming to North America, Charles Guillemont studied at the Academy of Paris, was ordained as a Priest, and was a professor of rhetoric for 9 years. Upon his arrival in North America, Reverend Guillemont served as a "Missionary to the French" in Kankakee County, Illinois for nine years. In 1879, the Guillemonts moved to London, where Charles was offered a position as Assistant Chaplain and Professor of the French Language at Hellmuth Ladies' College. He died on May 9, 1910.



Frank Guillemont, one of his sons, was also a prominent London citizen. He graduated from Western University's medical department in 1893 and served as a doctor at London's Insane Asylum. He later moved to Niagara Falls, N.Y., and began a respected medical practice.

6. WILLIAM SHERWOOD FOX (NP)

William Sherwood Fox served as the President of Western University from 1927 - 1947. During this time, Fox oversaw rapid expansions to the faculties of Arts, Public Health and Medicine. He established degrees in nursing, secretarial and library science, business and journalism. He also revived Western's music program and started the Trois-Pistoles French Language Summer School and Western's varsity sports teams. Through his leadership, Western went from a small university occupying borrowed space in Huron College,



to the powerful institution of learning we know it as today. Fox was also an accomplished Classics scholar and professor. He loved nature, fishing and floriculture, and the Western's Sherwood Fox Arboretum bears his name in tribute. He died on August 15, 1967.

7. THE HUNT FAMILY (NP)

Charles Hunt and his family immigrated to Canada from England in 1842. His early projects included farming, running a forwarding/lumber business, building a Great Western Railway depot, shipbuilding, and serving on the village council in Windsor. In 1856, he decided to move to London to build a flour mill. This company, the Hunt Bros. Flouring Mills, was operated by Hunt's descendants until 1957. Hunt also sold groceries, lumber, wood and coal in London, along with building the Bank of British North America in 1856 and his own block in 1866. He was President of the Board of Trade from 61 - 63 and from 69 - 70. In 1864, he was the first President of the City Gas Company (now Union Gas). He served as director of the Bank of B.N.A. and the Great Western Railway. He was also a warden at St. Paul's Cathedral and was well known for his charity work. He died on October 2, 1871.



Charles was married to Emma Brewer and they had ten children together, all of whom boast accomplishments nearly as remarkable as their father's. Their son Charles Brewer Hunt founded the Forest City Electric Light Company, was President of Hunt Bros. Ltd. Coal, and the London Board of Trade. He was the Chairman of St. James Church Building Committee, and was a city alderman. Another son, John Inkerman Alexander Hunt, was president of the Maple Leaf Milling Company and of Goderich Elevator & Transit Company. He was also Vice President of Hunt Mills, Treasurer of the Children's Aid Society, President of the London Board of Trade, and a Lieutenant in the London Field Battery.



Woodland's Chapel of the Ascension in our Mausoleum

The Pixley-Fulford Private Mausoleum



8. THE CRONYN FAMILY (NP)

The Cronyn family, led by Bishop Benjamin Cronyn, was one of London's first and most well-known pioneering families. Benjamin Cronyn, a clergyman with the Church of England, immigrated to Canada from Ireland with his family. Cronyn was meant to set up a congregation in Adelaide Township, but the family was waylaid in London. While they were there, Cronyn hosted the Evensong service. The people of London liked him so much, they persuaded him to stay. Cronyn was instrumental in building London as a community. In 1832, he relocated and built St. Paul's Cathedral where it now stands, and became its rector. He founded 101 churches during his time in Ontario.



Cronyn was elected as the first Bishop of Huron by a committee of laymen and clergy members from all of the churches in the area. He was the first Bishop to be elected as opposed to appointed by England. He was enthroned at St. Paul's Cathedral in 1858. He was also instrumental in soliciting funds to open a theological college in London. This vision was realized and Huron College opened in 1863. In 1878, Western University would emerge as an offshoot of Huron College. Bishop Cronyn died on Sept. 22, 1871. He produced many prodigious offspring, including a son (Benjamin) who became the Mayor of London, and a great-grandson Hume Cronyn, who was an accomplished stage and screen actor. His family continued to be relevant in London business and politics for generations.



Woodland Sanctuary Indoor Columbarium

North Dome Columbarium and Estate Cremation Lots



9. FRANCIS ROBINSON & THE CITY HALL COLLAPSE (D)

Francis Robinson, a 45 year old gentleman, is 1 of the 7 victims of the 1898 City Hall Collapse that are buried at Woodland Cemetery. January 3rd, 1898 was London's municipal election night, and a large crowd had gathered together in the second floor auditorium of City Hall to celebrate the election of London's new mayor.



Near the end of the evening, a crack reverberated through the building. The floor of the auditorium had given way and was caving in.

When the floor collapsed, it dumped approximately 250 people into the offices below. However, it was the 500 pound safe and the steam radiator that fell in after them that caused most



of the injuries and casualties. 23 people were killed, and 150 were seriously injured. Despite the blame resting solely on the shoulders of the city, very little was done to make London's buildings safer, until another deadly collapse took the lives of more Londoners... (See #14)

10. PAUPER'S GRAVE (D)

This unmarked pauper's grave by the edge of the ravine at Woodland is the resting place of people whose families could not afford a proper burial. This particular pauper's grave is unique because it was exclusively victims of local disasters that were buried here. The Victoria Day Disaster occurred on May 24th, 1881, and saw the loss of 200 lives when a steamboat was wrecked in the Thames River. Of the 51 victims that are buried here at Woodland, 6 of them are buried in this pauper's grave: Harry Abey (12), Lotticia Swanwick (21), John Kelly (24), Glenville G. Wiseman (16), Alice Williamson (29) and Edward Williamson (8 m). If you'd like more information about the Victoria Day Disaster and its connections to Woodland, ask for our Victoria Day Disaster Walking Tour at our office.



The July Flood occurred two years later, in 1883. On the night of July 11th, a severe electrical storm hit London. The storm was so disastrous that it produced a wave of water that jumped the banks of the Thames River. Homes were destroyed and people were drowned in their beds. It remains London's worst natural disaster, taking the lives of 17 people. 4 of them are buried here: Emma Malin (1), Edwin Stratfold (10), Martha Stratfold (7), and Alfred Stratfold (5).

11. THE SCATCHERD FAMILY (NP)

The Scatcherd family immigrated to Canada from England and

founded the hamlet of Wyton next to the township of West Nissouri. John Scatcherd, the family's patriarch, was elected as a member for Middlesex West in the Legislative Assembly of Canada. He is buried in a small family cemetery in Wyton. His son Thomas and descendants are buried at Woodland. Thomas was the town clerk for London in 1845, then began his

own law practice in 1848, eventually becoming the solicitor for the town of London. He was active in politics, resuming his father's position as member of the Middlesex West Legislative Assembly. He proved an experienced and influential parliamentarian. He died April 16, 1876.

