

## Folly Village Cemetery and Local History May 2010

Researching the older records from 1922 onward, some interesting items:

From the Financial Records the following:

- Aug.17, 1922 S. Arnold Smith submitted a bill of \$105.35 for doing the plan of the cemetery, which we are still using !!!
- 1925 Victor Rushton did the cemetery care taking (\* mowing with a hand pushed lawn mower.!)  
And was paid \$8.75 and \$7.00 per mowing.
- June 1 1926 The cemetery Co purchased flowers from Sucking & Chase of Truro to decorate the graves for May 30th.
- 1930 Burton Rushton did the summer mowing.  
April 29<sup>th</sup> 1930, L S Hill charged the cemetery Co \$1.50 for maple trees
- 1932 Henry Perrin did the summer mowing.  
Nov 15, Homer Wright painted the tool shed for \$6.00
- 1934 June 23 Homer Wright was paid \$19.55 for painting posts and gate for the cemetery.
- 1935 Jan 4<sup>th</sup> the cemetery paid H D Johnson \$12 for PC (Perpetual care) markers.
- 1937 & 1938 Shrubs were purchased from Dept Agriculture and planted on the grounds.  
For \$14.00 each year.  
Edson Gray did the cemetery mowing for the summer and was paid \$112.70
- 1938 The Endowment Fund was set up through sale of Perpetual Care at \$75.00 per lot.
- 1939 Edson Gray was paid \$35.25 per month for mowing grass.
- 1940 Edson and Earl Gray mowed the grass  
Aug 7 the cemetery bought additional shrubs for \$10.50.
- 1943 Gordon Cruikshank worked for the cemetery and was paid \$13.41 & \$10.94.
- 1944 Sept 11 C E Davidson worked on the tool shed. repairs.
- 1945 Oct 3, Murray Chisholm was paid \$4.50 for painting the tool shed.
- 1957 Howard Rushton did the mowing. Also 1959
- 1960 E.B Faulkner took over as secretary/treasurer of the cemetery for \$40 per year.
- 1961 - 1964 Mowing was done by Murray Chisholm.
- 1962 The cemetery purchased wood for Murray Chisholm from Arnold Giddens.
- 1965 - 1968 Gordon Wylie did the cemetery mowing.
- June 26, 1965 The cemetery received from the Emma Hunt Estate \$5139.36 and began the constructing of the Emma Hunt Memorial Chapel and Vault. At a cost of \$3500.00
- 1967 an electric heater was purchased for the chapel and the building was wired for electricity by Higgins electric for \$297.00.
- 1967 - 1970 Robert and Jean Spence did the caretaker work( Jean doing most of the work !!)
- 1970 - 71 Mary Smith the caretaker  
Art McElhinney became Secretary/treasurer.
- 1972 Ken Spence was caretaker for \$39 per month.
- May 1992 Lester Settle was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

T. M. Morrison, Secretary-Treasurer of the Trustees, wrote a short account of the history of Folly Village Cemetery, dated June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1929 as follows:

*The first British settler in what is now known as Glenholme was James Fkemming, who located there in 1762, about the same time Robert and Samuel Archibald settled in Little Dyke, but moved from there in 1768. While there they lost three children and buried them on an island in the marsh.*

*The aforesaid James Flemming gave or deeded land to the Township of Londonderry for a burial ground. This must have been done before 1784 as William Corbett, Elizabeth Fletcher and Jane McLellan were drowned in the Shubenaadie River in October of that year and are buried in the cemetery.*

*On the plan of the Township drawn by James Fulton Esq., after the Writ of Partition in 1794, a block of land extending from the main road south along the Little Dyke road to a narrow point between the road and the swamp, is marked "Meeting House."*

*This piece of land has been curtailed at different times until now it only contains about five acres.*

*For over a century nothing was done to any extent towards improving the cemetery.*

*In 1901 the late Hon .C.N. Cumming had an act passed through the Legislature in Halifax incorporating "The Folly Village Cemetery Co."*

*Early that year a meeting of the lot owners was called for the purpose of accepting the act and getting the much needed work started, but so much opposition developed that the matter was dropped. Some years later a number of people gathered and did good work by cutting down and tearing out trees and bushes of all sorts which had overrun the land.*

*Late in 1921 a letter was received from Richard L Wilson of Concord, Mass., a native of Masstown, stating that he wished to give a sum of money the income of which was to be used for the improvement of the cemetery if any responsible party or parties could be found to act in a legal way.*

*A meeting of the lot holders was called and the act of incorporation was accepted. Trustees were appointed and empowered by the meeting to proceed to improve the cemetery.*

*At the request of Mr. Wilson, a copy of the act of incorporation and the minutes of the meeting were forwarded to him and he had his lawyers examine them and on their approval, he sent his cheque for \$1000.00. The income of this was to be used for the perpetual care of his father's lot in the cemetery and the balance of the income was to be used for the general improvement of the cemetery, but he expressly stipulated that this money was not to be used for the care of lots belonging to those who were able to care for their own lots. Mrs. George J. Hunt of Boston, also a native of Masstown, was the first person to contribute to the endowment fund. To those two people belong the credit of starting this worthy object.*

*The first work of the Trustees was to have a plan of the cemetery made, the lots numbered, and the graves marked on the plan as far as it was possible to do so.*

*In 1923 a nice tool house was built, maple trees set out and quite an improvement made in the looks of the cemetery.*

*The unused part has been ploughed and this spring oats were sown on it and seeded out to grass. In respect to the endowment fund our bye-laws read as follows—"Any person giving \$75.00 or more to be invested for the perpetual care of their lot in the cemetery shall forever be free from any further assessment on their lot." The lot is supposed to be in fair condition at*

*the time of endowment.*

*Our endowment fund has grown from year to year in quite a satisfactory manner and now amounts to over \$5500.00, all of which has been invested in good Trustee securities.*

*Only the interest of this money can be used and the first call on the income is to keep the endowed lot in good condition.*

*Our limited means will not allow us to carry on the work as fast as we should like to do.*

*The Trustees feeling that there are a large number of people interested in the cemetery who are able and willing to help this good cause, decided to prepare this statement and by it to call their attention to the work being done.*

*To those who may wish to have their lots put in good condition, the Company will do this work at the actual cost of the work done.*

*By order of the Trustees.*

*T.W. Morrison, Secretary-Treasurer.*

*Glenholme, N.S. June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1929.*

The Minute Book, presently in use, began Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, 1922.

The Cemetery was Incorporated in 1901.

Jan 9, 1922; Rev. Wm. MacDonald, the minister of Upper Londonderry Presbyterian Church outlined the value of being incorporated. The first trustees were elected in the persons of: James R Flemming and T. W Morrison for Glenolme; Arthur Putnam and George W. Vance for Masstown; Morton Reid for Debert; George Gray for East Mines and L.S. Hills for Great Village. (7 in total) There was discussion about having a plan of the cemetery made and this was left to the trustees.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of Jan 1922, the trustees met and elected J. R. Flemming as President. And T. W. Morrison as Secretary/Treasurer. By-Laws ( three in number) were drawn up to be presented to the annual Meeting May 2nd 1922. A plan was made to receive endowments to support the work of the cemetery.

The first Annual Meeting was held May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1922 in the church hall and adopted the proposed by-laws, elected a new trustee, Capt C. E. Fulton to replace J.R. Flemming, who did not wish to be re-elected. A Paper was prepared to be circulated to receive subscriptions toward the cemetery funds. Arthur Putnam was elected President.

The next meeting of Trustees May 22, 1922, a further by-law was prepared for the May 1923 annual meeting stating: "Anyone giving \$75 or more to be invested for the Perpetual Care of their lot, shall forever be free from any further assessment on their lots."

Mr. S. Arnold Smith was engaged to prepare a plan of the cemetery, and the plan was presented July 25<sup>th</sup> to the trustees. The trustees determined to mow the cemetery twice a year, 1<sup>st</sup>, June 25<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Aug 25<sup>th</sup> to Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. of each year. The trustees ruled that all future monuments to be erected should have a proper foundation, as approved by the caretaker or one or more of the trustees. Initial investments of funds were made with the City of Halifax at 5% interest, payable yearly.

The Annual meeting May 1<sup>st</sup> 1923 accepted the recommendations of the trustees, and elected Fowler Fletcher to replace G. W. Vance who did not wish to be re-elected. May 8<sup>th</sup> was set as a

work day at the cemetery, the notice to be given from the pulpit.

Oct 11<sup>th</sup> the Trustees decided to build a suitable house for the cemetery tools, "at once."!!

A committee was appointed to carry out the task. It was decided to charge lot owners at least 50 cents for mowing of the lots if Perpetual Care was not paid. In April 1924 the first vehicle was purchased by the trustees for the cemetery – a wheelbarrow !!, and decided to pay the secretary/treasurer \$10 per year for his work.

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1925 there was \$11 in the bank to meet liabilities of \$48.75 and decided the taxation of the lots rate would have to be increased to \$1.00 At the annual meeting May 5<sup>th</sup> 1925 a letter was read advising that the R.L. Wilson estate legacy is to go to the cemetery, but the amount was not yet known. The trustee recommendation to increase the tax for mowing lots was not put before the meeting. May 27<sup>th</sup>, the Trustees were advised that the Wilson legacy was \$2500.00 and had been received and put in the bank. It was decided to invest the money for a higher interest rate than the banks could give. It was invested with Canada Permanent Mortgage Corp at 5 1/4% interest payable June 1<sup>st</sup> and Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, The decision was made to buy a push lawn mower for the cemetery. Two men and a team were hired for a day to put up "marsh mud" for use in the cemetery! A superintendent was appointed to lay out the work for the caretaker. The annual meeting of May 4<sup>th</sup>/26 showed the cemetery made a profit of \$73.84; the endowment fund earned \$69.85. Wilbert H. Smith was appointed trustee in place of George Gray who retired.

Americus Gray was appointed superintendent of the cemetery for the year. The planting of maple trees and repairing the roads was suggested. May 28<sup>th</sup> the trustees appointed Edson Gray as caretaker. \$5.00 was spent to decorate the graves May 30<sup>th</sup>. 12 trees were set out, costing 50 cents each. The secretary/treasurer's salary was raised from \$10 to \$20 May 3, 1927!

The Cemetery Co was in good financial standing by 1927, and invested a further \$500 from receipts that year.

The 1929 annual meeting approved of obtaining 25 iron signs to mark the Perpetual Care lots. It was decided to paint the building and the fence posts. A further \$400 from general fund was invested.

The 1930 annual meeting (May 6<sup>th</sup>) decided to place the lot of James Flemming (senior), who gave the land for the cemetery, under the endowment fund.

In 1931 the interest rate on 5 year investments dropped to 4 3/4% from 5 1/4 ( no doubt, reflecting the depression of the 1930's ) In 1932 Americus Gray was made "Honorary Superintendent" and was offered \$10 for his tools used at the cemetery.

In 1943 the cemetery trustees invested in Victory Bonds. The rate of 33 cents per hour was paid for work at the cemetery. Repairs were made to the tool house. LS Hill President, F. C. McNutt secretary. 1944 Rev.G. R. Goudge was minister in Glenholme, he and Rev.Hugh Upham were appointed auditors.

In 1945 a power lawn mower was purchased at \$129.00 paid for by contributions from trustees. Investments were placed with Acadia Trust Co., Truro, who would manage the invested funds.

In 1951 the caretaker's wages were raised to 60 cents per hour.

The annual meeting of 1952 set the price for lots as \$12 for half a lot, and \$20 for full lot.

The Perpetual Care fund was \$8,750 in 1953. The fence on Little Dyke road was removed in 1955 by the caretaker and superintendent.

Frank Smith was appointed trustee May 7<sup>th</sup> 1957 ( for one year in place of Mr. McNutt) and was appointed secretary/treasurer and Supt of the cemetery; Frank declined the nomination, and Lloyd Morrison was elected. to secretary & manager. Wages raised to 80 cent per hour for cemetery work. Frank Smith was elected for 7 year term in 1957; he was elected as President May 6, 1959.. A work night to straighten stones was planned, and announced by radio for May 1<sup>st</sup>. 1958. The annual meeting 1959 elected Edith (Fletcher) Croft as secretary of the meeting. Rev. A J. Dymont opened the meeting with prayer.

May 20, 1959 the trustees met to discuss wages for Howard Rushton as caretaker, and agreed to pay \$30 per week, plus employment stamps. Gordon Wyllie was appointed trustee for seven years, and Tom Fisher for two years, 1960. It was decided to place P.C. (Perpetual care) on the family stones that contributed to the fund, paid for by the cemetery. May 2, 1961 Arthur McElhinney was appointed trustee for 7 years. Murray Chisholm was offered the job of caretaker at \$32 per week.

The blueprint of the cemetery plan was brought up to date Jan. 1962, with over 20 new lots available. July 6, 1962 the trustees met at home of Frank Smith, and were served a lovely lunch by Mrs. Smith and daughter!! May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1963, Rev. Lester Settle opened the annual meeting with prayer.

The AGM May 4, 1965, received notice by correspondence that Mrs Emma Hunt in her will had left a sum of money ( \$5300.00) to be used for a receiving vault or improvements to the cemetery in memory of the late John N. Lynds. The decision for dispersal of funds was left to the Trustees.

May 5, 1965, Gordon Wyllie was appointed caretaker, and a new lawn mower was purchased. The Emma Hunt Memorial Vault and Chapel was completed by October 1965 at a cost of \$3858.00 and the vault fees were set at \$5 for non lot holders, free for lot holders. 12 chairs were purchased for the chapel at \$3.90 each from Dominion Chair Co., Bass River.

Total investments May 3, 1966 reported as \$11,187.50. The vault reported 10 committals for the year. Investment fund had risen to \$19,900 by 1967; 17 committals were record for the valt in 1967. July 1967 Gordon Wyllie had to resign as caretaker, due to ill health.

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1968 . E.B. Faulkner resigned as Secretary/Treasurer; Art McElhinney was appointed Secretary/Treasurer and manger. January 1969 the trustees decided to place insulation and heat in the chapel

In 1972 and '73 and '74, '76, '79, there were not enough present to hold annual meetings.

Fred Urquhart became care taker in 1973 to 1980. May 10, 1977 an annual meeting was held with seven people present. Caretaker pay was set at \$50 weekly. \$2.00 fees were set for lots not under perpetual care, and later dropped. In 1979 there was a theft of three mowers, shovels and rake, etc. a new mower was bought, and other tools donated. Fred Urquhart, due to ill health had to resign as caretaker, Michael Sisco agreed to take on the work for the year, and continued to 1984

Fred Richard was elected trustee 1982. Vault fees were raised to \$15.

It was decided to sell individual graves 4'x10' for \$10.00. Dick Ross was elected trustee 1983. A Whipper Snipper was purchased for trimming around stones. Off highway vehicles using the cemetery property was raised as a problem.

Jim Leggate took over mowing of cemetery 1986, to '91 Lots were raised to \$25 in 1988 plus perpetual care. Victor Rushton was elected trustee.

April 6, 1992 Lester Settle was appointed Secretary/treasurer

The annual meeting May 5, 1992, reported \$19, 439.32 in investment fund. A memorial book was purchased to record memorial donations, and placed in the church. 1992 a manager of grounds was appointed in the person of trustee Jim Leggate. Dick Ross was elected president. A vote of thanks was extended to Frank Smith who for many years had acted as President. Vault fees increased to \$25.00.

The 1993 annual meeting reported trust funds had increased to \$23, 208.62, earning \$2000.64 for the year. A summer works project application was applied for, and Matthew Dodsworth was hired. Vault fees were increased to \$40.00 for non lot holders, and \$25 for lot holders.

A Cemetery Sign Stone was purchased and erected at the Little Dyke Road entrance at a cost of \$1295.50. Lester Wyllie was elected trustee in 1995. D & D Landscaping took on the mowing contract in 1966. Acadia Landscaping was hired for 1997, to 2002.. A copy of the cemetery map was prepared by the secretary and erected in the cemetery by Dick Ross in 1997. Linda Giddens was elected trustee May 1998. Roy Rushton was elected trustee 1999 A set of cemetery regulations was drafted in 1999 and printed., revised 2001., 2002 and 2008. Grave lots were established May 12, 2008 as \$100 per grave including perpetual care. Perpetual care for lots not already covered to be \$100.

In May 2000 rates for 4 grave lots was raised to \$200 with perpetual care. Vault fees were raised to \$75 in 2002. In 2003 students were hired to survey all stones in cemetery and record names, in order to provide a computer inventory of all grave sites, supervised by Secretary.

Corey Spencer was hired to do the mowing, summer of 2003 at \$325 per mowing and continued into the year 2010 at the same rate. Anne Richard was engaged to do necessary pruning.

The church trustees asked if Corey could also mow church yard at \$40 per mowing, Cemetery to pay Corey and bill the church at the end of each mowing season.

Cecil Jennings was elected President May 2003. Kaye Maxwell was elected Trustee May 2008. 2009 Fred Richard was elected President. Linda Giddens agreed to act as Vice President to the end of her term, 2014.

The decision was made at the AGM 2010 to remove the tool shed and use the basement of the Chapel for tools. A new set of posts to be placed at the tool shed site with the map and names of lot holders. The secretary is to revise the lot holder list.

LMS May 19, 2010.