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The Corporation of the Township of Rear of Leeds and Lansdowne

Louis  
M/G

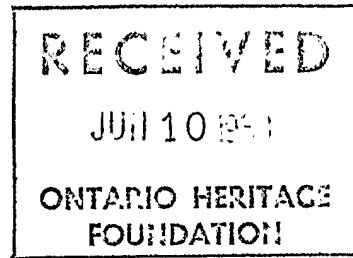
Clerk-Treasurer - Mrs. Alexia M. Landon, B.A., AMCT, C.M.O.  
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer - Mrs. Carole Johnston  
Roads Superintendent - Laurence Hudson



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Offices on County Road No. 2  
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REGISTERED MAIL

Ontario Heritage Foundation  
77 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9



Dear Sirs:

Pursuant to s.s. 29 (6) and (14) of The Ontario Heritage Act, you are hereby served with a copy of By-law 14-1988 of this Township and Reasons for designation of Part of Lot 15, Concession 11 of Lansdowne as a Heritage Property.

Pursuant to the above sections, you are also hereby served with a copy of By-law 15-1988 and Reasons for Designation of Part of Lots 8 and 9, Concession 13 in the Township of Lansdowne as a Heritage Property.

Yours truly

Alexia M. Landon

Encls. (2)

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF REAR OF LEEDS AND LANSDOWNE

BY-LAW NUMBER 15-1988

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS "SOPERTON CEMETERY", PART OF LOTS 8 AND 9, CONCESSION 13, TOWNSHIP OF LANSDOWNE, AS BEING OF HISTORICAL VALUE OR INTEREST

WHEREAS Section 29 of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337, as amended, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural or historical value or interest, and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Rear of Leeds and Lansdowne, the owner of the said Soperton Cemetery, has caused to be served upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the clerk of the municipality;

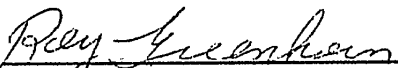
THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Rear of Leeds and Lansdowne enacts as follows:

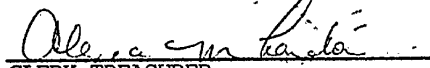
1. There is designated as being of historical value or interest the real property known as the 'Soperton Cemetery' located on Part of Lots 8 and 9, Concession 13 in the Township of Lansdowne, more particularly described in schedule "A" hereto.

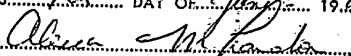
2. The municipal solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" hereto in the proper land registry office.

3. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME THIS 6TH DAY OF JUNE, 1988, AND GIVEN UNDER THE SEAL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF REAR OF LEEDS AND LANSDOWNE AND PASSED THIS 6TH DAY OF JUNE, 1988.

  
REEVE

  
CLERK-TREASURER

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY  
THIS 7th DAY OF June 1988  
  
CLERK-TREASURER  
TOWNSHIP OF REAR OF LEEDS & LANSDOWNE

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NUMBER 15-1988

THOSE lands and premises located in the Township of Lansdowne, in the County of Leeds, and being composed of parts of Lots 8 and 9, Concession 13, Township of Lansdowne, designated as Part 1, Plan 28R1767.

"SOPERTON CEMETERY= REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

This burying ground is located in Lots 8 and 9, Concession XIII of the Township of Lansdowne. No records exist of its establishment or early history. The census of 1805 lists a total of 149 people in the Rear of Lansdowne township living in 23 households, and in the Rear of Leeds 98 people in 18 households. Newly arrived the previous year were Levi and Lois Soper who had moved with their three children from Kitley to Lansdowne. A son, Billa, was born in 1806 but died within the year and may be buried here in an unmarked grave. It is likely that there were other deaths in this small community and this site in Lot 9 was chosen as a common burying ground. Since there was no manufactory of tombstones in the vicinity some of the graves were never marked and it is certain that markers for the earliest deaths were erected later. (Although Ezra Holton died in 1824 a monument commemorating him and his wife Anner is of a style common later in the nineteenth century; it was probably commissioned and erected after Anner's death in 1858 by their sons Ezra and the Honorable Luther Holton).

In 1821 Levi Soper purchased from Ebenezer Washburn a 50 acre section of Lot 9 which adjoined his property in Lot 8; nine years later Soper sold this same property to William Wilkie Howard, a doctor from the neighbouring township of Yonge.

Burials increased from this date onward.

In his Will, probated after his death in 1863, Dr. W.W. Howard set aside the burying ground; in addition, he bequeathed three-eighths of an acre on the west side of the burying ground to his housekeeper, Anna Smith. Although there is no record of the transfer, this property was joined to the cemetery property in the 1880's and some burials were made in this section. Earlier in the 1860's a small portion of Lot 8 had been added on the east side.

Apparently there was no Cemetery Board and no provision for regular upkeep of the grounds; with the old section of the burying ground filling up, the grounds in an unkempt condition and complaints that the location was wet, it was decided in 1894 to open a new cemetery in Lot 10, Concession XII on land donated by Napoleon Howard. Gravestones and some remains were subsequently transferred from the Soperton Cemetery to this new location known as Pine Hill Cemetery.

The majority of the grave markers in this cemetery are marble of the type common in the nineteenth century; some bear the mark of "C. Allyn" who operated a tombstone manufactory in Delta. The stone over the grave of Truman Hicock is a table-stone, an unusual occurrence in a rural Ontario cemetery. There are some obelisks, most notably the fine marble obelisk marking the graves of Ezra and Anner Holton.

Soperton Cemetery is recommended for a heritage designation because it is the earliest cemetery in this area and because of the individuals buried there. Prominent among them are:

Dr. Peter Howard (1772-1843) was born in Albany County, New York and emigrated to Leeds County with his family after the Revolutionary War. He settled in Elizabethtown Township where he was township clerk from 1797 - 1800. In 1804 he was elected to the provincial legislature where he generally voted with the Reformers. He was re-elected for three successive terms, retiring in 1820 when Leeds became a two seat constituency. Howard was licenced to practice "Physic, Midwifery and Surgery" and was a much respected doctor in the rear townships. In 1815 Howard moved to Yonge where he began a milling operation in partnership with Josiah Brown at what is now known as Beale's Mills. The following year Howard took the contract to open the road from Toledo to Oliver's Ferry (Rideau Ferry), thus providing access from Brockville to Perth for the growing number of Irish immigrants arriving from Montreal.

In 1836, after the tumultuous events related to the four elections held in Leeds in the previous two years, Peter Howard was chosen president of the newly re-organized Johnston District Reform Society.

Dr. William Wilkie Howard (1801-1863) - son of Dr. Peter Howard, bought Levi Soper's property in Lot 9, Concession XIII, Lansdowne Township, in 1831. He built a home south of the road where he carried on his medical practice for thirty-two years. Dr. W.W. Howard was an officer in the militia and a local magistrate. With his brother Dr. Alpheus Howard, he obtained the body of the murderer Simpson after his execution in Brockville. They used the cadavre to improve their medical skills and distributed small portions of the murderers skin to locals as souvenirs.

Dr. Truman Hicock (1763-1831) - arrived in Leeds County with his cousin, Nathan, from Connecticut sometime prior to 1800. He served for a time as a justice of the Court of Quarter Sessions. As a doctor, lumber merchant and major landholder, he played a prominent role in the rear townships in the early decades of the nineteenth century. His name appears on a variety of documents - testimonials, road reports, and once as a defendant before the Court of Quarter Sessions for failing to pay the import duty on three barrels of salt. Hicock settled on Lot 14, Concession VIII, Leeds Township; this property, known as the Hicock Fields, was a landmark mentioned in contemporary accounts.

Nathan Hicock - cousin of Truman and father of Philo, a prominent businessman in Delta, is undoubtedly buried in this cemetery, but there is no marker. Nathan Hicock is listed in the 1803 census as the town clerk.

Levi Soper (1772-1859) - came from Vermont and settled in Kitley where the village of Frankville is located. In 1804 Soper moved to Lot 8, Concession XIII Lansdowne where he built a large home for his wife Lois and family. This family later included Lois Soper's cousin, Ezra Holton and his wife Anner. It was in the Soper household that the Holton's third child, Luther, was born. (After her husband's death in 1824, Anner married Cleveland Stafford. Young Luther was sent to Montreal to live with an uncle, Moses Gilbert; it was there that he began a successful business career which culminated in his appointment as a cabinet minister in those years immediately prior to Confederation.) Like anyone of the period with capital, Levi Soper bought local goods - potash, lumber, lime - and sold or exchanged them on an extended line of credit in Brockville, Kingston or Montreal. Soper established a brick manufactory and with his son Nathan he established the iron works in Bastard which were later sold to Philo Hicock. Levi Soper was a major in the Leeds militia and was an influential leader of the Reform supporters during Beverley Election Riots.