

Lochaber Bay Cemetery



The Reunion of the «Old Boys» 1912 - The Descendants of the First Settlers

Location

The cemetery is located on the south side of the 3e rang, approximately 600 meters west of Montée Berndt, in the Township of Lochaber-Partie-Ouest, in the Outaouais region.

History

From 1803 to 1823, there was a period of turmoil in Scotland called the Highland Clearances, when the lairds of Scotland evicted farmers from the land, burned their huts and turned the fields into sheep pastures.

Confronted with this situation, three families decided to emigrate to a wild and unknown land called Canada. For three months, they braved the Atlantic Ocean in a sailboat eventually traveling up the Ottawa River drawn by the promise of land ownership on the condition they cleared a percentage for farming. Thus begins the Canadian story of three Scottish-born men from Argyllshire married to the three MacDonald sisters: Marion married to Duncan MacEachern, Margaret to John McCallum and Mary to Robert MacLachlan.

John and Margaret McCallum settled in Lochaber Bay in 1832. The MacEacherns and MacLachlans, along with Robert MacLachlan's father John, first settled in Breadalbane, near present-day Dunvegan, Ontario. Four years later, the MacEacherns and MacLachlans decided to travel upriver and join the MacCallums as neighbours. Upon arriving at Lochaber Bay, they encountered a burial on the shore and, sadly, it was Margaret. This was in 1836, in an early cemetery near the shore. It is possible that Margaret was the first to be buried at this early cemetery located between the Campbell and Lamb farms on Bay Hill.

Robert and Mary thrived at Lochaber Bay producing a family of ten children. Robert continued his trade as a blacksmith in addition to clearing and farming the land. Eight of the ten children were eventually buried along with their parents at this present-day cemetery up on this ridge overlooking the bay. In 1936, the cemetery was incorporated with letters patent

issued under the seal of King Edward VIII, before he abdicated. The trustees at that time were John C. McCallum, Rory MacLachlan and Fletcher MacEachern, all of whom were named as "farmers from Masson". In 1957, a new committee was formed to manage a renewal of the cemetery. Many changes were made, including the extension of the cemetery grounds, fencing and a cedar hedge. In 1982, the cemetery was again expanded with donations from Malcolm and Arthur McCallum. Among the earliest headstones and graves in this cemetery are Alexander McCallum buried in 1839 (John McCallum's father) and James Campbell buried in 1845 – presumably re-located from the early cemetery on Bay Hill.

Heritage Committee

In 2019, Mayor Pierre Renaud proposed and created with the Municipal Council the Heritage Committee whose objective is to highlight the heritage sites of the Township of Lochaber-Partie-Ouest. The Committee is composed of two elected officials Pierre Mudie and Guylaine Ouellet as well as two citizens Gilles Chénier and Claude Gauthier. The Committee undertook to make sure the Scottish heritage was known in Quebec and Lochaber with the collaboration of the current cemetery committee.

"To forget your ancestors is to be a stream without a source, a tree without roots."

The Municipal Council of Lochaber-Partie-Ouest

Mayor, Pierre Renaud
Councillors, Suzanne Caron, Linda Cousineau, Mario Mongeon, Pierre Mudie, Guylaine Ouellet and Sylvie Rossignol

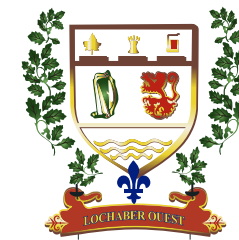
Partners

We would like to sincerely thank:
Ms. Marie-France Bertrand, Cultural Development Officer, MRC Papineau
Lochaber Bay Cemetery Company

September 2021

References:

www.lochabercemetery.org
www.urbexplayground.com
www.leslabelle.com/Cimetieres



Canton de
Lochaber - Partie - Ouest



The oldest monument dated 1839
Alexander MacCallum
1759-1839