

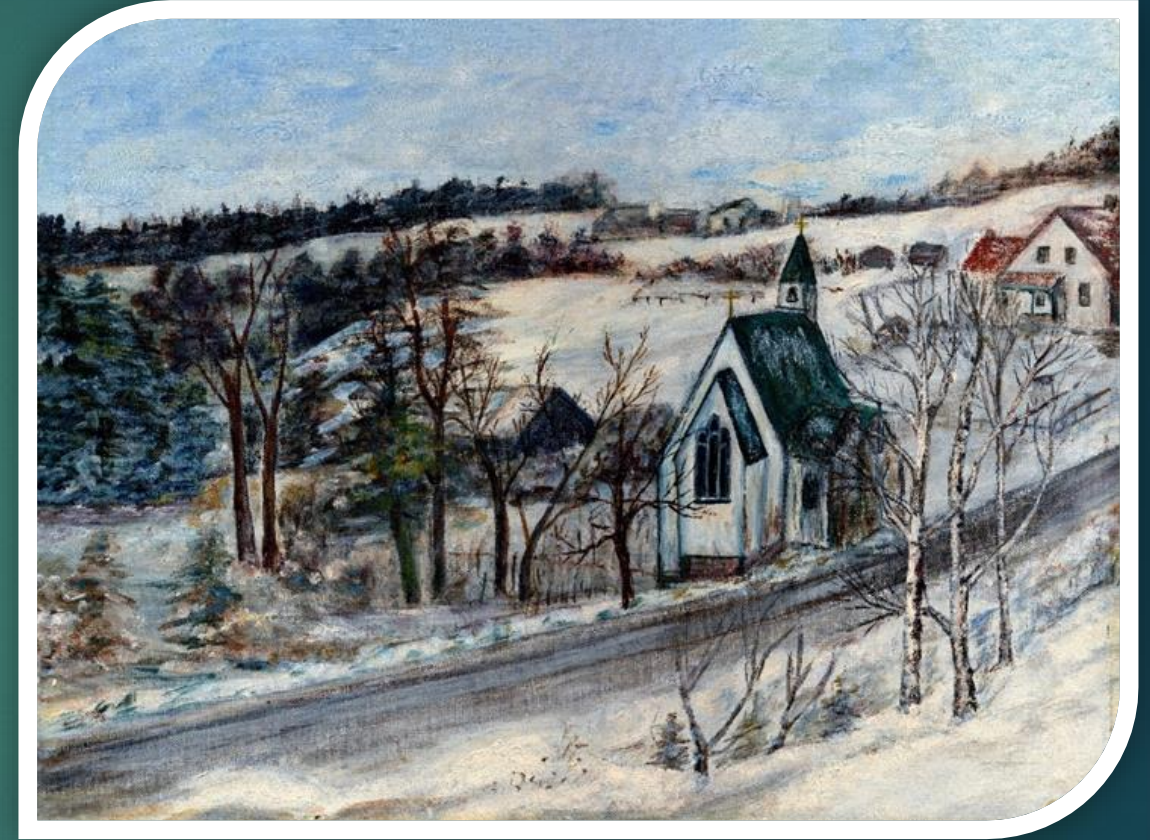
St. Nicholas Cemetery – Hammonds Plains

A HISTORY



Beginnings

- ▶ The Anglican presence in Hammonds Plains goes back to the early 1800's.
- ▶ Some of the early settlers connected with the Anglican Faith through the St. John's the Evangelist Parish in Sackville.
- ▶ During 1830's, Hammonds Plains congregation decided to build their own church.
- ▶ Land was donated by Thomas & Mary Johnston (Half acre of their land was sold to Church of England – 1839). Deed was registered in 1839.
- ▶ Church was built in 1843, but services were held in Hammonds Plains as early as the late 1830's in local homes and yards.



The Cemetery

- ▶ Cemetery was created at rear of church. It was originally just a wooded lot where folks were buried, in among the trees.
- ▶ First registered death for the St. Nicholas Church parish of a Hammonds Plains resident was that of 19 year old Nathaniel Melvin, who passed away on May 9, 1834. No sure where he is buried.



The Fire

- ▶ Original Church burnt to the ground in 1888.
- ▶ New Church was built over a two year period, with first service held in 1890.
- ▶ New church was built on same site as original church, thus not causing a change in cemetery location.



The Cemetery



- ▶ The cemetery has had a fence around it since the 1800's. A picket fence was put around as a way to keep wayward animals out of cemetery. It remained until mid 1900's.
- ▶ Oldest gravestone dates back to 1857 – Thomas Johnson
- ▶ Many unmarked graves in cemetery. Up to 10 unmarked children's graves at back of cemetery. Children had died due to Diphtheria and Tuberculous epidemics.
- ▶ Maintenance of cemetery was handled by the church. Usually the warden of the church played a major role.
- ▶ Trees remained within the cemetery until the 1960's/70's when tree roots were pulled, topsoil put in and the graveyard was leveled out.

The Move

- ▶ St. Nicholas remained the little Anglican Church along the road from 1890 to 2004.
- ▶ The congregation decided in the late 1900's that a new facility was needed to house the growing membership.
- ▶ In 2004, congregation moved to new site in Westwood Hills.
- ▶ In 2010, The Ethiopian Orthodox Church reached a deal to rent the old St. Nicholas Church for Sunday services.
- ▶ Cemetery is still maintained by St. Nicholas parish, although there is current discussion as to the future of the graveyard.



Individuals Buried at St. Nicholas Cemetery



Thomas Johnson 1769-1857

- ▶ Known as one of the Founding Fathers of Hammonds Plains.
- ▶ Married Mary Tufts.
- ▶ Donated a small portion of his estate for the cemetery.
- ▶ A community leader and diversified business person during the 1800's in Hammonds Plains.
- ▶ Was in charge of mail, setting up the first post office in the community.
- ▶ Bought a grist mill, had it imported from England and set it up in the community.
- ▶ Ran the first Inn in Hammonds Plains (operated out of his home).
- ▶ First in the community to be given title of 'Esquire'. (Name given to individuals who held minor government posts).



Charles Schmidt – 1805 -1874

- ▶ Moved to Hammonds Plains in 1860's after he had retired as a Barrister in Halifax.
- ▶ Became very involved in Anglican Church. Was a lay reader in the church. Due to his lawyer status, he was able to perform marriages for the church.
- ▶ Helped citizens in community with legal manners.
- ▶ Had 17 children, with two wives – Sarah Ann Fletcher and Sophia Hunt.
- ▶ While only in the community for a short time, he was most instrumental in the development of St. Nicholas Church in 1800's.



Samuel Eisenhauer – 1844 - 1935

- ▶ Very well known and active community resident. Distinguishable characteristic was his long beard.
- ▶ Came to Hammonds Plains in 1868. Spent his life as a farmer and lumberman. His original farm still has roots in the community to-day as Blue Barn Farms.
- ▶ Very active in Anglican Church. Served as Warden of Church for many years.
- ▶ Married for over 60 years to Sarah Ann Boutilier. Had 11 children.
- ▶ Had remarkable health as a senior. Very active until past age 90. Still could read without eye glasses at age 90.



Arthur Harrison Eisenhauer – 1885 - 1931

- ▶ Son of Samuel & Sarah Eisenhauer. Married Jennie Robinson. Had 6 children.
- ▶ Was a Provincial Game Warden. On November 29th, 1931, while checking on a complaint of Sunday hunting in the Kearney Lake area, he was attacked and beaten, leading to his death in hospital two weeks later. Led to a high profile murder trial.
- ▶ The province instituted an award in 1985 called the 'Arthur H. Eisenhauer Award' given annually to a member of the Conservation Enforcement Officers Association of Nova Scotia who contributes the most to conservation enforcement.
- ▶ In 1997, he had his name engraved on the Peace Officers Memorial Monument on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.
- ▶ In 2009, the Department of Natural resources erected an individual monument of him at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park.
- ▶ In 2010, his name was one of the original names on the provincial Fallen Peace Officers Memorial Arch in Grand Parade in Halifax.



William Garvie Haverstock – 1871 - 1939

- ▶ Well known businessman in the lumber trade in Hammonds Plains.
- ▶ Founded W. G. Haverstock & Sons – Producers of lumber, boxes and barrels.
- ▶ Active in community activities, including the church, and the Royal Sussex Lodge.
- ▶ Married to Ethel Eisenhauer (daughter of Samuel & Sarah Eisnehauer). Had 7 children, including the well known 'Haverstock' twins (Albert & Alfred).



Earl Haverstock – 1904 – 1982

Weilder Haverstock – 1909 - 2003

- ▶ Very active community residents in the 1900's.
- ▶ Earl was son of W. G. & Ethel Haverstock. Ran W. G. Haverstock after death of his father. Was a diversified Hammonds Plains businessman, with a hand in both lumbering and farming.
- ▶ Weider was daughter of Lewis & Tressa Romans.
- ▶ Earl ran as a PC Candidate in the local riding in the 1950's.
- ▶ Both very active in St. Nicholas Church. Earl served as warden in church. Weilder was organist for church for many years. Weilder was local IODE Regent during 1950's & 60's.
- ▶ Earl served as trustee for Hammonds Plains School and was active in community hall functions. Also was a community overseer in 1930's.



Mae Wright Romans– 1903 - 1996

- ▶ Known as a tireless community worker
- ▶ Very active in community serving on church communities, was treasurer for IODE for many years, active in Hammonds Plains Community Club. She was on Labour Day Picnic Committee for several years. Also, president of St. Nicholas Sewing Circle.
- ▶ Married to Wallace Romans
- ▶ Born in Kemptown. One of the last families to have lived in Kemptown. Daughter of Wilbur & Florence Wright.



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**A PRESENTATION BY THE
HAMMONDS PLAINS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**