

BURYING GROUND #5

1905 - 1938

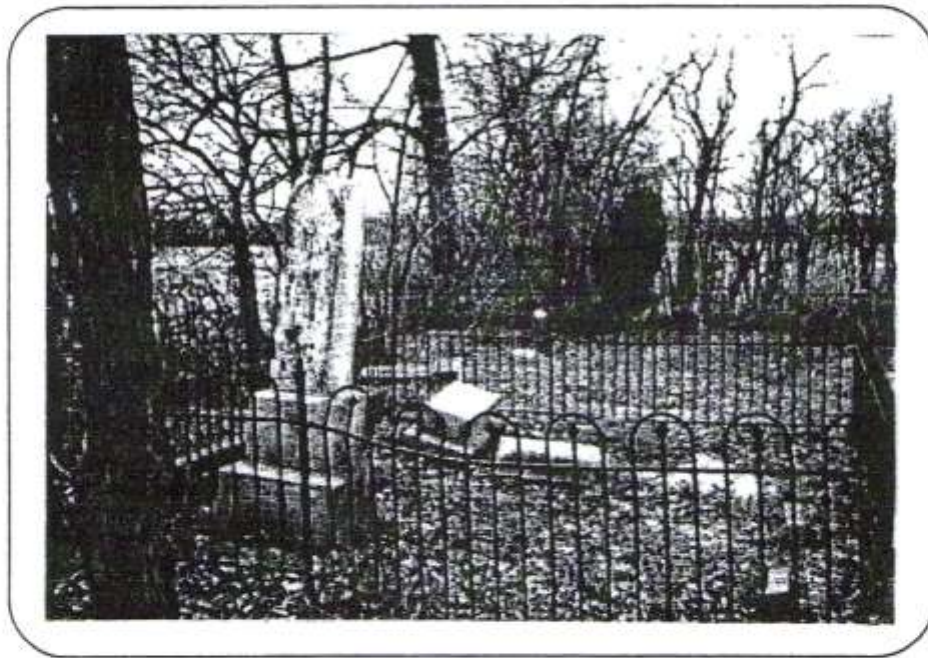
(Located Extreme South End of Opequon Church Grounds)

This is a very small burying ground that is approximately twenty feet by forty feet in area. It is located in the extreme south area of Opequon church grounds. It has no separately marked boundaries and it contains only six burial sites. All of these burials occurred between 1905 and 1938.

The reason for the establishment, as well as for the discontinuance of this burying ground is unknown. Sessional records during this time contain no reference or information regarding either. Sessional records however, do indicate that all six of those buried here were members of Opequon church, and that five of the six transferred their membership directly from their home churches in Scotland.

Since there is no information or records indicating why this burying ground was established, it must be assumed that these members apparently desired to be buried on Opequon church grounds. If this was the case, and since the older burying grounds were filled, apparently the Session authorized the creation of this new burying ground. It is interesting that while there was considerable area available at this site for additional burials, there were no further burials here after 1938.

All the burial sites in this burying ground are marked with grave stones. A wrought iron fence encloses the grave sites of three members of one family.



Burying Ground #5.

CONCLUSION

Thus as we observe these ancient burying grounds, we see the long sweep of history as reflected in the lives of those who now rest here. Across a span of four centuries these forefathers walked the stage of time, and when their work was done found their common denominator in the burying grounds of old Opequon. Each in his own time and in his own way ran the course and fought the good fight, and when his summons came joined "that innumerable caravan which moves to that mysterious realm where each shall take his chamber in the silent halls of death".

While it is not appropriate that we place undue emphasis on history, it is appropriate we take example from the lives of those resting here who endured hardships, dangers, sacrifice, and privation to worship God as they chose. By their example we are challenged to carry on the good work that they so admirably advanced, and to hold high the torch of Christ in this place and in the world.

Looking back from our vantage point in time, we can perhaps more fully appreciate the rich heritage and the legacy given us by those who have gone before. We can be proud to be a part of this on going tradition, and there is no reason we should not be proud. Lest we lose perspective however, and misplace our priorities, we only need to gaze upon these old burying grounds. There we shall see true reality. There, we will be reminded again that death is but a part of life, and in the grand scheme of things God is in charge. To God be the glory!





Old Opequon

This 1877 painting is of the ruins of the stone church built in 1790 and destroyed by fire in 1873.