

THE

SUMMER 2019 • Vol. 09

BEECHWOOD WAY

MAGAZINE

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EVENTS

AUGUST 25

Great Canadian Plaque unveiling for Hensley Reed Holden

10:00am

SEPTEMBER 7

Back to the Future 2

8:00pm

SEPTEMBER 8

Annual Historical Tour - Unsung Heroes

2:00pm

SEPTEMBER 26

When Life Changes "The Gift of No Surprises" Workshop

7:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 29

Annual Memorial Service

3:00pm

OCTOBER 19

Harmony Concerts presents

Kamancello at The Historic Beechwood Mausoleum

7:00 PM



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We want your feedback on how we are doing! Contact: Erika Wagner at foundation@beechwoodottawa.ca

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20 MINUTES FOR HISTORY

by Nicolas McCarthy

*Director of Marketing, Communications and
Community Outreach at Beechwood Cemetery*

Photo Credit: Global Affairs Canada

YOU NEVER KNOW what a conversation can bring. Recently, Beechwood Cemetery hosted the Canadian Tulip Festival's Veterans Day. It was a wonderful ceremony that brought together Veterans, Foreign Military Attachés, Community leaders and politicians. It was a modified wreath laying ceremony at the Cross of Sacrifice in the Veterans Section of the National Military Cemetery.

Upon arrival of the foreign attachés, I welcomed them all and explained that they would be laying their wreaths to honour the members of their armed forces. The United States Attaché was quite surprised to learn that there were 23 USA born soldiers in this Section. I took him around and showed him a couple of headstones with USA military emblems. He was quite intrigued by this and thanked me for notifying him of it. I suggested that we, like we offer to other allied military, hold a small ceremony here to honour them on an armed forces commemoration day. Beechwood regularly does this with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Embassy of France and Embassy of Russia. That is where I left the conversation.

Unbeknownst to me, a briefing note was circulating in the US Embassy. It would eventually make its way to the Vice President's Office. The White House announced its first Canadian trip of its administration. Thinking nothing of it, I continued to work and plan the upcoming Beechwood event, which in this case was an RCMP Veteran Vigil and Walking Tour. The day prior to the event, I kept getting emails about a VIP event and a walkthrough. Finding the time between final event set-ups, I called back the Protocol Office at Global Affairs Canada and find out that Vice President Mike Pence wanted to come to Beechwood.

I agreed to start the planning process alongside our resident military staff and begin working with the Secret Service, the VP's Advance Office, the RCMP (which we know well) and Global Affairs Canada.





We checked the schedule and realized that it could only happen in the Veterans Section due to an internment in Section 103. Knowing that they wanted the larger Section and that regardless of visitors' status, a family will always come first, I went into pitch mode for the Veterans Section.

"We all know this will be a historic moment for all involved," I said. "In nearly 150 years, no sitting US President or Vice President has ever visited Beechwood or the National Military Cemetery and, on top of that, they have never visited the 9/11 monument, the first of its kind in Canada." I could tell that they wanted to make history on this already historic trip.

The scenario was an easy one for us. Let us have the VP and Second Lady stop at the Tank, greet a few Canadian dignitaries and Beechwood staff, then walk to the 9/11 monument, take a moment to reflect, take the path to the flag, salute and walk to a US headstone, take another moment and then stop at the Cross of Sacrifice for a traditional wreath laying ceremony and exit on the back of the Section at the end of the path. They agreed and then Protocol Office finally arrived and we had to go over the entire scenario a second, third and fourth time.

For nearly a week, we walked through the scenario, repeatedly, with the Advance Team, Second Lady's Advance Team, the Secret Service, the RCMP and a combination of each group. The scenario remained relatively the same.

More meetings, more emails, the wreath details were emailed ad nauseam and finally it was time. It was scheduled for 4:30 PM. Security (RCMP and Secret Service) started the sweeps at around 1:00 PM, everyone got into place and ready for 2:30 PM and then it was a waiting game. About 1 hour later, all the military members and Beechwood delegates (President

Ultimately, stories can connect people and that's what the bereavement industry has — stories.

Andy Roy and myself) got into position. The sky looked like it could rain at any moment. We waited and waited. The meetings downtown went for a long time, which delayed all the other events.

Sirens were heard in the distance; Secret Service and RCMP no longer had that casual look to them. They were on high alert. Then came the single largest motorcade in Beechwood history, 36 vehicles including black SUV's, an ambulance, a mobile command centre and a RCMP armoured truck. It was intimidating to say the least.

At the other side of the Section, the Minister of Veterans Affairs Lawrence MacAulay and Colonel O'Neil (Director of Casualty Support Management at the Department of Defence) greeted Vice President Mike Pence and Second Lady Karen Pence. They took a moment at the 9/11 memorial, then the press quickly got into position at their designated areas. There was a salute at the American Flag, a walk to the US headstone, they paused for a brief moment and then proceeded to the front of the Cross of Sacrifice. The rain started, but gently. It added a sombre element to the ceremony. The Last Post was played, followed by the Rouse and the Lament. The VP and Second Lady laid the wreath and proceeded to walk toward Andy Roy and myself.

With a handshake, we greeted and thanked the VP for coming to Beechwood and he, in turn, thanked us for taking care of the service men and women. The Second Lady commented on the beauty of our grounds. The Vice President then called his photographer over and asked him to take a picture of the four of us and the Minister. It was a gracious and very personal moment between the four of us. He thanked us one last time and proceeded to his motorcade and then left directly for Air Force Two. The first visit of the Trump Administration to Canada was successful and our event went off without a hitch.

Ultimately, stories can connect people and that's what the bereavement industry has, stories. Stories of the incredible lives that we get to learn about and interact with ever so briefly. It's our duty to share them and to celebrate all those that choose to frequent our cemetery. I did run into the US Foreign Attaché and he did tell me that my story is what prompted this entire event to happen.

I guess you never do know what a good conversation can lead to — even if it's only 20 minutes for history.



WOODEN CROSS

Gifts of Remembrance

by Sgt Jeffery Lacroix- Wilson

22 MARCH 2019 — Members from 81 Construction Engineering Flight, 8 Mission Support Squadron (8 MSS) in 8 Wing Trenton, volunteered to construct and deliver 30 hand-made wooden crosses to the National Military Cemetery in Ottawa to support military interments.

The four-foot-tall wooden crosses, painted white and staked into the ground, are placeholders for the fallen until a permanent granite headstone takes their place.

In the past, the National Military Cemetery of the Canadian Armed Forces (NMC) has resorted to hiring private contractors to build crosses because the National Capital Region does not have a dedicated carpentry shop. All this changed in early March, however, when the 8 MSS graciously offered to construct and deliver them in person.

“We saw this as an opportunity to provide something back to the members and families that have given so much,” says 8 MSS Commander, Captain Peter Warford. “No matter the circumstances, it is never a pleasant experience for families of the fallen. If we are asked to play a part in assisting the CAF to make a family’s journey as painless as it can possibly be, then we will.”

Accompanied by other members of 8 MSS – including Warrant Officer Eric Keding, Corporal Shane Christie and Corporal Alex Holmes-Makcrow — Captain Warford’s team set aside their pre-deployment training for the day to drive down to Ottawa with a trunk full of crosses and witness the NMC for themselves.

“There’s something about it,” says MWO Deborah Hodge – the Liaison Officer for the NMC. “It’s more meaningful to see military members building the crosses. There’s a greater sense of attachment; a stronger link between those who currently serve and those who have passed away.”

Several members who built the crosses have since deployed to Kuwait on Operation Impact. As part of 8 MSS, they will form the bulk of construction engineering personnel during their rotation.

MWO Hodge and Captain Warford hope the relationship between NMC and 8 MSS continues long into the future.

The NMC was officially opened in 2001 in order to honour CAF personnel who have faithfully served their nation in times of peace and war. As part of the Canadian Armed Forces Transition Group, it is a national focal point for a grateful nation to honour those who have placed themselves in harm’s way on behalf of the people of Canada. As of today, over 2,300 soldiers, sailors and airmen have chosen NMC as their final resting place.



THE STEVENSON VAULT

by Bruce S. Elliott

IN AN AUTUMN visit to Beechwood Cemetery in 1882, a reporter observed that upon entering the cemetery through the main gate (which was opposite Lansdowne Road, further north than the present one) “the first place that strikes the stranger is the vault owned by Mrs. Stevenson”. There were then two other private vaults in the cemetery, belonging to W.R. Bell and Samuel Howell. The MacKay vault, not far away, had been moved from the Presbyterian Section of the Sandy Hill Cemetery in 1875, but to land adjoining Beechwood that was not sold to the Cemetery by the MacKay trustees until 1893.

The Stevenson family had been buried in the Presbyterian Section of Sandy Hill as well (and some must have been moved there from the old burial ground below Barrack Hill). It is unlikely they had a vault there, as their current vault at Beechwood is not free-standing as the former MacKay vault was; the Stevenson like the Howell and Bell vaults is built into a hillside. (Fig. 1) Helen Stevenson purchased Sec. 61, Lot 8, measuring 20x24 feet, for \$168 on July 31, 1874. Presumably the relocations from Sandy Hill took place soon after that.

Set into the front of the vault are four white marble slabs. At least two of them are headstones that were cut down after they were moved from Sandy Hill. None of the names listed on the tablets appear in the cemetery interment registers (there are incomplete entries in the earliest years), but all but the earliest of the original interments are recorded in the burial registers of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church. From left to right the tablets read as follows:

MATTHEW CONNELL / ANN CONNELL

In Memory of / MARGARET/ Daughter of / JOHN STEVENSON / DIED / Jan. 5, 1864 / AE. 50 Yrs.

Noch Nicht Gestorben / JAMES STEVENSON / Died May 19, 1863, AE. 80 Yrs. / JANET SCARTH / His Wife / Died May 8, 1860, *[there must have been a line with her age, but it has been cut away. The German epitaph translates “Not yet dying”.]*

MATTHEW S. STEVENSON / [blank line] / JAMES STEVENSON / ANN STEVENSON



Figure 1.
Stevenson vault in Sec. 61 as it appears today, with remnant of original roadway. The blocked-up doorway is visible below the two central inscription slabs.

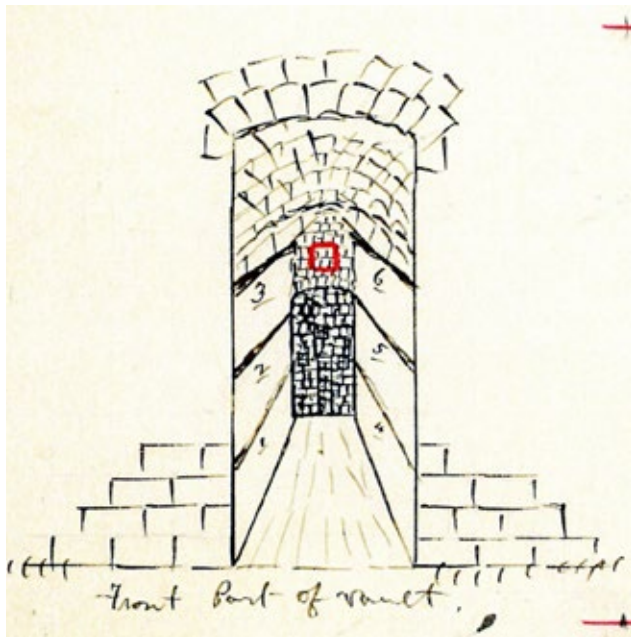


Figure 2. Interior sketch of Stevenson vault from Beechwood plot card.

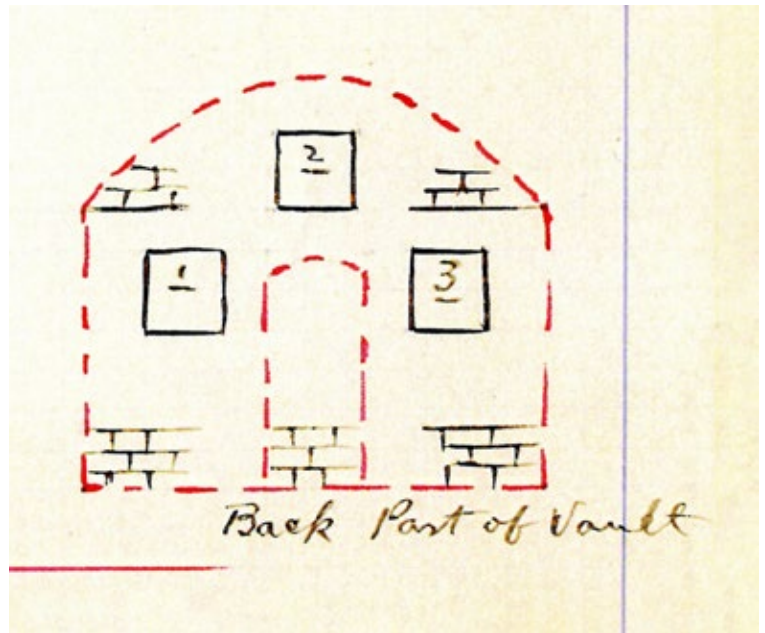


Figure 3. Exterior view of Stevenson vault from Beechwood plot card.

So who are the residents of the Stevenson vault? Matthew Scarth Stephenson (d. 1872) was Helen's husband, and James and Ann were their children. James died in Quebec City in 1857 aged 14 but was moved to Ottawa from Quebec's Mt Hermon Cemetery. The infant Ann died in 1842. A blank space was left for Helen's name on their tablet, but it was never added. James Stevenson and Janet (Scarth) were Matthew's parents, and Matthew Connell (d. 1832) and Ann (Robertson) Connell (d. 1865) were Helen's uncle and aunt. Margaret daughter of John Stevenson was likely old James Stevenson's niece.

The Stevensons and Connells were important residents of early Bytown. Stevenson was the Crown Timber Agent, whose home at 5 Rideau Gate is now the official residence of the High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa. Connell, Bytown's first postmaster, died in the cholera epidemic of 1832. Helen's father Archibald Denny was buried in Montreal after dying of the same ailment. Helen worked for a time in the Bytown post office, for W.P. Lett writes of Capt. Baker, Connell's successor, that he "oft the mailbag's lock untied / Long after Matthew Connell died -- / Long after Helen Denny's hand / Sent postal letters o'er the land". Another relative who may be entombed here is Lillias (Robertson) Denny, Helen's mother. She died at Rideau Cottage (5 Rideau Gate) in 1863. She, too, is in the St Andrew's register. There is no record of her removal to Beechwood but then Helen is the only interment in the Stevenson vault recorded in the cemetery's registers, and she died much later than the rest, in 1890.

When Ottawa Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society recorded Beechwood's inscriptions in 1983–85, the names of those interred in the Stevenson vault were taken from the plot card rather than from the marble tablets, implying that the tablets were at that time within the vault and not visible from the outside. The recording noted of the exterior: "Panels to left and right of door are smashed. Bottom of panel on right reads: *In the presence is fullness of joy At thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore* Psalm XVI.11. There are coats of arms above the door." Would that someone had recorded the coats of arms.

Interior and exterior views are sketched on the plot card. The interior (Fig. 2) shows the Connells' crypt at the bottom (1), James and Janet Stevenson in the middle (2), and Matthew Stephenson's family on top (3). The exterior view (Fig. 3) shows the two panels alluded to in the 1980s, with no. 2 above the door being the family arms. The vault must originally have resembled the Howell vault in Sec. 36, dating from 1875, which also had three panels astride the door, and to a lesser degree the smaller Bell vault in Sec. 21, which has just a white marble coat of arms and the date 1874 above the entrance. It is likely that the Stevenson vault, like the other two, dates from the earliest years of the cemetery. All were built into hillsides along roads connecting with the original northern entrance.

Bruce Elliott, a Professor of History at Carleton University, teaches a seminar course on the history of gravestones and cemeteries. His students have prepared several exhibits for Beechwood's National Memorial Centre.

LT. LUCIEN JOSEPH DUROCHER

by Richard Brisson

Lt. Lucien Joseph Durocher (1920-1985)

Royal Canadian Corps of Signals - SOE

BORN ON 26 JUNE 1920 in Casselman (Ontario), Lucien Durocher received his schooling in Embrun, L'Orignal and Ottawa (LaSalle Academy and Ottawa Technical). He joined the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals on 3 September 1939. Shortly after, Lucien was sent to Barriefield Camp, near Kingston, where he was trained as an operator in wireless telegraphy. In early December, three months after he had enlisted, he was on his way to England as a member of the advance units of the First Canadian Division. Durocher was also with the Canadian brigade sent to Spitzbergen in August 1941 — from June 1943 to early 1944 he was a wireless operator with battalion and headquarters in Sicily and Italy. From there, he was recruited by the UK's Strategic Operations Executive (SOE) and sent to Algeria for accelerated training. Having received the rank of sergeant a few weeks prior, Durocher left for Algiers in North Africa in April 1944. There he received specific training for specialized work behind enemy lines.

Durocher, a tall, lanky young man who spoke fluent French and who was a skilful and experienced wireless operator, was parachuted down in southern France (near Lyon) on 24 June 1944 as part of Team DODGE for a JEDBURGH/OSS mission. In two respects, Durocher was unique among the Canadian volunteers with SOE in Europe; he was not commissioned as he had the rank of sergeant; and he was part of an OSS (Office of Strategic Services — precursor to the CIA) mission. By mid-1944, many mixed teams were being sent into France; Americans, Canadians, Free French, and British. Some were commando units, others sabotage teams. American Major Cyrus Manierre who headed the small DODGE team was full of praise in his letter of commendation for Lucien Durocher: "Sgt Durocher parachuted into France with me on 24 June 1944. He was immediately successful in establishing radio contact with Algiers, and for over eight weeks he acted as a secret radio operator behind enemy lines in enemy occupied territory. Sgt Durocher was required to make long trips in civilian clothes though a German occupied region and he





Lucien with wife Jean, sons Denis, Jean and daughter Anne (in arms) - 1949



Lucien Durocher's armband worn while behind enemy lines in southern France (1944)

Sources of Information and Photos:

1. Lucien Durocher's children : Jean, Denis and Anne (especially almost all of the photos)
2. SOE Archives File on Lucien Durocher
3. "Canadians Behind Enemy Lines" by/par Roy MacLaren (1981)
4. "Eisenhower's Guerrillas - The Jedburghs, The Maquis, & The Liberation of France" by Benjamin F. Jones (2016)
5. "Uncommon Courage" Booklet by Veterans Affairs Canada (1985)

carried his radio on each of these trips. His accomplishments as a radio operator behind enemy lines were completely successful due to his courage, foresight, and endurance in the face of enemy obstacles and hazards as well as his high professional ability".

Lucien Durocher was awarded the following medals: a) 1939 -1945 Star, b) Italy Star, c) France and Germany Star, d) Defence Medal, e) Canadian Volunteer Service medal with clasp, and f) War Medal 1939-1945 with Mention in Dispatches.

When Lucien Durocher returned from Europe to Ottawa in February 1945, he was featured in a number of Ottawa newspapers in which he describes his experiences. In an article in the Ottawa Journal on 15 February 1945, he recalls that, since he was a tall blond-haired man, he stood out as a non-native in southern France — in Lucien's words: "My French commandant finally succeeded in getting me to cut my hair in a brush-cut style — like a German's. After that, the Maquis started shooting at me!" A few weeks later in 1945, he was joined by his British wife Jean and they raised a family in Ottawa — they had three children.

Lucien Durocher passed away in 1985 and is buried in Section 27, Range D, grave #139 at Beechwood.



As part of research for the "Spies in the Cemetery" event (sponsored by Beechwood Cemetery and CSIS/RCMP) held on May 9th at Beechwood Cemetery, it was discovered that there was at least one actual WW2 spy buried in that cemetery — one is Lucien Joseph Durocher. Additional information has become to light since that event was held and is incorporated in this article — in particular making contact with Lucien's sons Jean and Denis, and daughter Anne who have all been invaluable sources of photographs and insight into their father and family — and Lucien's SOE files from the UK National Archives.

About the author

Richard Brisson has great interest in the history of espionage and cryptology especially when there is relevance to Canadians. Mr. Brisson has a webpage dedicated to Lucien Durocher's story, which can be viewed at www.campx.ca/lucierendurocher.html to which new information will be added as it becomes available.