

**HISTORICAL NOTES**  
**ON THE**  
**"OLD BURYING GROUND", "CIMETIERE DU MOULIN,"**  
**"CEMETERY OF THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD"**  
**PLANTAGENET**

**Lot #11 Concession # 4**  
**North Plantagenet Township,**  
**Prescott County,**  
**Ontario**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

The enclosed information was compiled as we researched the early history of the village of Plantagenet. It has been chronologically arranged in order to paint a picture of the history of the property that, during the formative years of Plantagenet was known as the "Old Burying Ground", the "Cimetiere du Moulin", and the "Cemetery of the Church of the Good Shepherd" on Lot 11 Conc. 4 in Plantagenet.

This preponderance of evidence has been submitted in good faith and is accurate to the best of our knowledge.

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John and Kay Chesser.

HISTORICAL NOTES  
ON THE  
"OLD BURYING GROUND", "CIMETIERE DU MOULIN",  
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PLANTAGENET  
Lot #11 Concession 4

North Plantagenet Township, Prescott County, Ontario

In May 1797, Prescott County was first surveyed for Loyalist settlement. Lots 9, 10 and 11 Concession 4 were surveyed by MR. JOSEPH FORTUNE, Deputy Provincial Surveyor.

L 11, C 4 was granted to Margaret Corbin as her Loyalist grant in 1804. With the granting of the property by the Crown L 11, C 4 included Letters Patent from the Crown, which designated certain portions to be used as a church and school.

John Chesser Sr. purchased the 200 acre, L 11, C 4 from Margaret Corbin. (B #4 Instrument # 815), that included the Letters Patent from the Crown.

This piece of property adjoined the 400 acres in L 9 & L 10, C 4 that John Chesser, Abner Hagar and Jonathan Hagar purchased as PARTNERS on 16 February 1811. (Land Book 1 Memorial #211) John Chesser was 50% partner, and the Hagar were 50% partners.

These pioneers built the first sawmill on the Nation River in 1812, founding the town of Plantagenet. At this time a Burying Ground was established on the Mill property.

Chesser became sole owner of L 9 & 10, C 4, in 1817 when the partnership with the Hagar Brothers was dissolved.

In 1828, John Chesser Sr. sold the 200 acre, L 11 C 4 on which the family sawmill, gristmill and Inn business was located, to his son Alfred Chesser. (Land book # 4 Instrument #2662), noting the Letters patent from the Crown.) At the same time he sold the 400 acres in L 9 & 10 C 4 to his sons Alfred and John Jr.

John Chesser Sr. died in 1828, and was buried in the Old Burying Ground on the Family property. A few months later a Chesser daughter, age 22 died and was buried beside her father.

By the early 1830's the area around the Chesser's Mills and Inn site was developing into a village and called Chesserville. Alfred Chesser sold village lots in L 11 C 4.

In 1831, Alfred Chesser sold village lots #1 and #2, on the east side of Alfred St. to J.W. Marston for a house and store. (Book #5 Inst. #1266.)

In September 1832, four members of the Chesser Family and a friend Mrs. McKay died and were buried in the Old Burying Ground. Reverend Alexander Fletcher, a friend and minister of the Chesser Family, wrote poetic Stanzas entitled, "On visiting the Graves of the Chesser Family at Plantagenet", October 1832.

In 1833, Alfred Chesser sold village lot #3 on the east side of Alfred St. to Michael Ryan for an Inn. (Book #6 Inst. # 1675.)

For a few years, Father Lefaivre and Father MacDonagh, had been coming from the Saint-Jean Baptiste, Parish in L'Original to minister to the Catholic population in the Plantagenet area. They would hold services at Chesser's Inn which adjoined the Mill property on L 11 C 4. Since 1833, Chesser's Inn was leased by Thomas Lee and his wife Honora.

On 22 September 1834, Alfred Chesser transferred by Deed of Trust, to the Right Reverend Alexander McDonnell, Bishop of the Holy Roman Catholic Church See of Kingston and his successors, (Book #7 Memorial # 1,557) two acres of land, and 1 acre beside the two acre parcel, containing "Old Burying Ground", where his parents and other family members had been buried. This deed in trust honoured the Letters Patent from the Crown. (For use as a church).

In 1835, the first Catholic burial noted in this Burying Ground took place. The funeral service for Hugh McKinley was presided over by Father MacDonagh, with James Molloy, (a brother in law of Alfred Chesser), and Thomas Lee, the proprietor of the Chesser's Inn, as witnesses.

In 1836, Thomas Lee, the Innkeeper, at the Mills died, and was buried in the "Old Burying Ground", which was also called by the French community the "Cimetiere du Moulin" because it was adjacent to Chesser's Plantagenet Mills property.

In 1838, Alfred Chesser sold L 11 C 4, to Samuel Hatt, Seigneur of Chambly, and the land was transferred, recording the reservation from the sale of 2 village lots to John W. Marston, and 1 village lot to Michael Ryan. Also noted was the 3 acres including the Old Burying Ground, Deeded in Trust to The Right Reverend Alexander McDonnell for the Catholic Church. (Book # 8, inst # 2662)

In Sept 1837, at the time of this sale of Alfred Chesser's L 11 C 4, and the two lots 9 and 10 that Alfred owned with his brother John Chesser Jr. a new survey map was drawn, by Duncan McDonnell, Surveyor, on the request of the Honourable Peter McGill who was handling the sale of the Chesser property to Samuel Hatt.

About 1839, a small chapel was built by the Catholic priests and parishioners on the property Alfred Chesser had deeded in trust to them. The Church was built on stilts to avoid flooding from the Nation River.

In 1845, Alfred Chesser died. The Old Burying Ground where his family was buried was now a Catholic Cemetery. Alfred was a Presbyterian, and was buried directly across the Nation River where the Hagars had buried family members. With subsequent Chesser Family burials, this site has become known as the Chesser Protestant Cemetery.

Before 1852, the Catholic Chapel on stilts on the banks of the Nation River, in Plantagenet was dismantled, transported and re assembled in Curran. By 1863, the Curran Parish had built a new stone church.

In 1854, L 11 C 4 was sold by the Samuel Hatt family to Peter McMartin. Samuel Hatt had died, and his Will had transferred the property to his sons. The village lots that Alfred Chesser had sold to J.W. Marston and

Michael Ryan, and the 3 acres of land, including the Old Burying Ground deeded in Trust to the Catholic Church, were duly recorded as being reserved from the sale of L 11 C. 4. (Book 16 Instrument # 6617).

On 7 August 1857, an Indenture from Peter McMartin to the Incorporated Synod of Diocese of Ottawa, Anglican Church, was made for the 2 acres, from where the Catholic Chapel had been removed, and the 1 acre Burying Ground deeded in Trust.

In 1857, the Plantagenet Catholic parishioners now needing land for a church, purchased property from Peter McMartin on Nation Street, in L 11 C. 4, (Book 16 #8038). Over the next 20 years St. Pauls Catholic Church was built and a new cemetery established near the new church,

In 1862, Peter McMartin sold to the Trustees of School Section # 6, North Plantagenet, 2 acres on the north side Montreal/Ottawa Road for a school. In 1863, a stone school-house was built on this two acres, on the river bank, and near the property acquired by the Anglican Church.

In 1864, Peter McMartin sold to the Anglican Church, (Book 16, pages 243-244, Memorial # 8038), the property he had promised by Indenture, which included the 2 acres, and the 1 acre Burying Ground which was deeded in Trust.

In 1865, Peter McMartin sold L. 11, C 4 to Albert Hagar, (son of Abner Hagar) (Book 16 Instrument 14637) recording the reserved lots.

In 1869, a document prepared by Peter McMartin, was registered in the Township of North Plantagenet, Prescott County, (Land Book #32, Number 78) with an explanation of the location of the property containing the three acres which were Deeded in Trust to the Catholic Church, by Alfred Chesser and again by Mr. Hatt. The document also contained the information on the location of the two acres of land sold for the stone school,

In 1875, the Anglican Church constructed the "Church of the Good Shepherd" on the two acres of land bordering the Old Burying Ground purchased from Peter McMartin in 1864.

Until the Curran and Plantagenet Churches and cemeteries were established, Catholic burials continued in the Old Burying Ground (Cimetiere



du Moulin). In 1939, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Curran, St. Luc's Catholic Church history records that early parishioners were buried at the "Cimetiere du Moulin" in Plantagenet.

After Curran and Plantagenet had built their new Catholic Churches, and established their cemeteries, it was recorded that SOME of the Catholic parishioners that had been interred in the "Old Burying Ground" or "Cimetiere du Moulin" were moved to these new cemeteries.

In 1883, a Presbyterian Church was erected on Ottawa Street, across from the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd, and the Old Burying Ground.

The Presbyterians used the cemetery on the other side of the Nation River where Alfred Chesser had been buried in 1845.

Between 1885-87, two members of the Van Bridger family were buried in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Anglican Burying Ground in Plantagenet. Between 1897-1907, four members of the Kains family were buried. In 1907, John Spaul was buried. The last burial was of Thomas Van Bridger in 1915.

In 1923, the Church of the Good Shepherd was closed and sold by the Anglican Synod of the Diocese of Ottawa.

The document records that the property included one acre of land which encompassed a small cemetery measuring 60 feet by 30 feet which had been Deeded in Trust. The document for this transaction clearly spelled out "that the purchaser, his heirs, will erect and keep in good repair in perpetuity, a fence at least three (3) feet in height along the boundary lines of the burial ground, hereinbefore described."

Oldtimers in Prescott County remember the "Old Burying Ground", "Cimetiere du Moulin", "Cemetery of the Church of the Good Shepherd", complete with headstones. The cemetery was in evidence in the village of Plantagenet until the 1950-60's, when the headstones were vandalized, and gradually over the years vanished completely from sight, also from the memories of some of the citizens of the village.

In 1952, Henri Lalonde, purchased the property on which he operated a large garage. In 1964, the hundred year old stone school-house was demolished and replaced by a large modern residence.

In 1998, descendants of those who had been buried in the "Old Burying Ground" started a campaign to have this historic "Old Burying Ground", "Cimetiere du Moulin", "Cemetery of the Church of the Good Shepherd" acknowledged.

Communication was made by descendants to the owner of the property, Alain Lalonde, the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, The Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Cemetery Regulations), the Town of Plantagenet and others.

In the fall of 2000, we understand the Anglican Church, and Alain Lalonde agreed to have a marker placed on the property to mark the location of the cemetery.

The Anglican Diocese purchased a granite monument which honoured the early settlers of the village of Plantagenet, who had been buried in the "Old Burying Ground", "Cimetiere du Moulin", "Cemetery of the Church of the Good Shepherd". On November 10, 2000, the engraved monument was placed by the Anglican Diocese on the property.

The descendants of these early settlers of Plantagenet were delighted to know that finally, the Founder and early settlers of Plantagenet, were being acknowledged. Unfortunately, the present owner of the property removed the monument after a year and a half.

The Town of Plantagenet was asked to arrange a survey of the property, to determine the cemetery's location. During the summer of 2002 the property in question was covered with earth, reshaping the land.

*As of March of 2003, the monument is still hidden away.*

It is inconceivable that this situation be allowed to continue. This is the history of the town and area around it, and you should not change or ignore it.

Most municipalities take great pride in promoting their history, and that includes respect and care for their historic burying grounds.

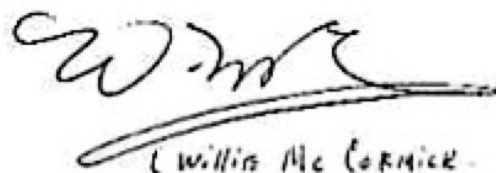
## - LE CIMETIÈRE DU MOULIN -

LES PIONNIERS DE PLANTAGENET SE NOMMAIENT "CHÉSSER".  
ILS BATIRENT UN MOULIN A SCIE OÙ SE TROUVE MAINTENANT  
LA DEMEURE DU DR. GERAL SÉGUIN - LE POUVOIR MOTRICE  
ÉTAIT LA RIVIÈRE NATION. POUR LE MOULIN

ILS AVAIENT <sup>PROPRIÉTAIRE</sup> ~~POSSESSION~~ DE BEAUCOUP DE TERRAIN OÙ EST  
MAINTENANT "LE VILLAGE". ILS AVAIENT MÊME UN CIMETIÈRE  
OÙ EST AUJOURD'HUI LA MAISON D'ALAIN LALONDE ET LES  
CONDOS. CE CIMETIÈRE, AINSI QUE LES MONUMENTS,  
SONT "MYSTÉRIEUSEMENT" DISPARUS. C'ÉTAIT AU DÉBUT  
UN CIMETIÈRE CATHOLIQUE, PLUSIEURS PERSONNES Y  
FURENT ENTERRÉES INCLUS JOHN CHÉSSER ET AUTRES  
APRÈS QUE LA PAROISSE DE CURRAN FUT FONDÉE ET  
CE CIMETIÈRE EST DEVENU LA PROPRIÉTÉ DE  
L'ÉGLISE ANGLICANE QUI AVAIT UN "PRESBYTÈRE" SUR  
LA PROPRIÉTÉ, QUI EST DEVENU LA MAISON DE GEORGES  
LADOUCEUR ET SA FAMILLE. EXAMINEZ LE MONUMENT  
DE GEORGES LADOUCEUR DANS LE CIMETIÈRE ST PAUL  
ET VOUS CONSTATEREZ PEUT-ÊTRE QUELQUES QUESTIONS -

LYAL CAMPBELL, QUI PARLE FRANÇAIS COMME MOI A  
TOUTE UNE RECHERCHE LA-DESSUS - MÊME SI VOUS  
CONDUISEZ VOTRE AUTO VERS LE PRÉSENT CIMETIÈRE  
AU BORD DE LA RIVIÈRE NATION - LÀ IL Y A UNE BOÎTE  
DANS LAQUELLE EST UN LIVRE AVEC TOUTE L'HISTOIRE  
DU CIMETIÈRE "DU MOULIN". VOUS PRENEZ LE "PTCH OFF  
RD. DESCENDEZ PAR UNE PETITE ROUTE L'AUTRE CÔTÉ DE  
LA BATISSE DE "LALONDE LUMBER".

LE TÉLÉPHONE DE LYAL EST 673-5976 - SI VOUS ÊTES  
INTÉRESSÉ DE "JASER" —

  
Willis Mc Cormick