

Bowmanton Cemetery

Location: Bowmanton Rd., Lot 32 Con. 8

Number of Burials (2011): 253

This pioneer cemetery was established before the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches were built in the area. It is also thought that Bowmanton Cemetery was possibly a family burial ground. The earliest burial is Robert Henry Smith who died in 1847.

Pioneer families include: **Allen, Baker, Bowman, Brisbin, Curtis, Deviney, Farr, Ferguson, Halligan, Halstead, Hie, Johnson, Knight, McCarty, McNutt, Pratt, Sandercock, Tupper and Williams.**

One of the deceased that has fascinated many is William Gummow who passed away in 1901 at the age of twenty. His young age and the verse on his gravestone are part of the legend that is "Weird Willy." The verse is as follows: "Young people all as you pass by o think of me for you must die, repent in time no time delay, for I in my prime was called away." This was a common verse to place on the stones of those who had died young. It is also William's stone itself that has created controversy. It is thought that the headlights of passing cars cast an eerie glow off of his reflective gravestone. There are many other tales that are part of this legend that have led to the destruction of some gravestones, including William's. Since then the Alwick/Haldimand Township Heritage Cemeteries Advisory Board has continued to repair some of the broken and damaged stones.

Bowmanton Cemetery is open for burials.

