

23 January 2023

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+ one attachment

Re: Township of Southgate Committee of Adjustment and Application for Consent - File No. B13-22

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you, senior Southgate officials, who at your meeting on 18 January 2023, proclaimed February as "Black History Month". (Council Minutes, 18 January, 2023 online)

My name is Diane Watt, a genealogist who has been researching for ancestors in Southgate Township. I am also a concerned citizen, who wishes to express my concerns in regard to the above-noted file, on which a hearing is scheduled for 25 January 2023 at the Township's Council Chambers in Holstein, ON, and more particularly to matters relating to Watson's Cemetery, formerly the Mount Zion Methodist Church Cemetery.

Questions:

- 1) Have the boundaries of this historic and special pioneer cemetery ever been precisely determined?
- 2) Are fences in place around the burial ground, Watson Cemetery?
- 3) Have any of the parties contacted the Bereavement Association of Ontario, requesting an inspection of Watson Cemetery? It is extremely important to do so.

In your deliberations, I respectfully urge you to please very carefully consider the following important matters:

i) Exhibiting fundamental respect and reverence for the human remains and graves in the area outside and within, Watson Cemetery. See the pioneer settlers' surnames "**Jones**" (a black man) and "**Nickle/Nicol**" below. There could very well be more burials, currently unknown, at this site. An archaeological assessment of unmarked graves is necessary and appropriate protective measures established for all time.

A body of people feel strongly about the Watson Cemetery issue and are following Southgate's process and decisions.

Information respecting a burial outside the Cemetery's fence and within the Watson Burying Ground follows: a book, and Ont. Genealogy Society research paper

a) Book: "***While We Still Remember: A History of Egremont Township 1840-1983***"
Editor: Well-known author Mr. Campbell Cork, Mount Forest, ON., Historian, Councillor, Wellington Co., Speaker (Book is available at the Mount Forest, ON Library)

See page 161 - reference to an early Black, Grey County settler, William Jones, a teacher, laid to rest outside the fence-line of the Mount Zion Methodist Cemetery in 1878.
(Other books written by C. Cork: "History of Normanby Township, The History of Holstein 1850 - 1996", "First 100 years, Wightman Telecom", "From Then to Now, History of Arthur Twp. 1850-1985, etc.)

**b) Documentation: Ontario Genealogical Society (O.G.S., now "Ontario Ancestors")
Cemetery Transcription of one gravemarker in Watson's Cemetery**

One gravemarker was transcribed by the O.G.S. (see attachment)

***"NICKLE, James died 1856, age 42 years
his daughter Elizabeth, died Nov. 18 1864 age 16 years"***

Mrs. Elizabeth (Eliza) Nickle, née Guin, presumably James' wife, passed away in 1875 and was interred at this site. No inscription on the original "Nickle" gravemarker was made for Mrs. Nickle.

As decades pass, this marker, and perhaps others, may have been removed or will have severely deteriorated since the transcription occurred.

This Nickle family was a large one. Thirteen children were born to James and Elizabeth Nickle Sr. There are an untold number of descendants, (and in Mrs. Nickle's case, 100 family trees easily available online) who could wish access to the gravesites.

ii) Any approval of the subject application must have conditions with deadlines attached to it. The building of a meeting house/church and creation of a driveway is a development, albeit a small one. There are wetlands in the area. In the material available to date, it seems that there are no indications of the size of the church to be constructed or the size of the Old Order Mennonite congregation. Conditions regarding setback, as outlined in the County's form, care of the wetlands as summarized in the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority submission, etc. must be enacted and enforced. If the subject application is approved, hopefully the Committee and Southgate Township officials will not only attach conditions but also monitor the work occurring behind the dense canopy of trees to ensure compliance.

Respectfully,
Diane Watt



Mount Zion Old Methodist Cemetery
Lot 27, Concession 13, Egremont Township, Grey County
ISBN 978-1-55132-617-7

Cemetery Location by Gordon Torrie

Name	Mount Zion Old Methodist
Alias	Watson's Cemetery
Type of place	Cemetery
Status	Inactive
Administrator	The Township of Southgate
OGS Cemetery Number	2010
Provincial Site ID Number	817
County	Grey County
Township	Egremont
Concession	13
Lot	27
Assessment Roll Number	420706000408100
Civic address	Southgate Rd 14
Directions	On the east side of the road, west of the Egremont-Proton Townline
Nearest place named on the Province of Ontario Official Road Map	Holstein
Latitude	N44° 05' 13.3"
Longitude	W80° 36' 28.2"
Datum	WGS84
Height above sea level	1594 feet

Only one recorded monument

NICKLE

James, died 1856 age 42 yrs

his daughter Elizabeth, died Nov 18, 1864 age 16 yrs