

JOHN DAWSON and HANNAH ADELIA YOUNG

John was born 28 April 1849 in Glanford Township to George Dawson (born 1827 Weasenham All Saints, Norfolk, England – died 1907 Barton Township, Wentworth County, Ontario) and Mary Ann Dunham (born 1815 Queensbury, York County, New Brunswick – 1899 Barton Township). The family, which included Mary Ann's three sons from a previous marriage to Thomas Hart, as well as a full elder sister, three brothers, and a younger sister, moved from Glanford to Barton Township, at Ryckman's Corners in 1867, to a modest home near George's wagon making establishment situated in the middle of what is today Upper James Street just south of the intersection with Rymal Road.



Dawson home on Rymal Road west of Upper James

While John's elder sister, Frances, was baptized in 1847 at Christs Church Cathedral in Hamilton, the rest of the children were only baptized as adults, as seen in the entry below from St. Paul's Anglican Church Glanford:

Baptisms.			
CHILD'S NAME	PARENTS' NAMES	QUALITY, TRADE OR OCCUPATION	AGE
20 John William	Robert Jan. Anna Brock <u>Crab</u>	Walter a dairyman	Warton 1
21 John (Dawson) adult	Son of Geo. Dawson	adult	Warton 2 con 4
22 Frank (Dawson) adult	son of Geo Dawson	adult	Warton 6 con 7
23 Harriet Elizabeth (Dawson) adult	Wife of Jonathan Dawson	Wagon maker	Warton 8 th con 2
24 Bertha Eugene	Frank & Sarah C. Whittington Dawson		Warton 8 th con 20
25 Harry	Harry & Elizabeth Moseley	in sixth month of pregnancy	Warton 1
26 Charlotte Esther Mary	John Harry & Pisula H.M. Lord	Accountant	Warton 2, Warton 2
27 Leopold George	Harry Maria Charlotte Armstrong	Wagon maker	Warton 1
28 Edwin Levens	Hugh & Sarah Johnston	Artist & Photographer	London 14

Baptisms.			
DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF BAPTISM	REVISIONS	OFFICIATING MINISTER
13 th July 1850	May 14, 1882	at Holy Trinity, Warton	Geo. A. Kull
4 th April 1848	May 20, 1882	(at St. Paul's Cleayford	Geo. A. Kull
7 th April 1857	May 20, 1882	Harry Young and	Geo. A. Kull
22 nd March 1850	May 20, 1882	Geo. Dawson & wife	Geo. A. Kull
20 th Sept. 1850	May 20, 1882	Witneses	Geo. A. Kull
1 st June 1862	June 5, '62	at Holy Trinity Warton	Geo. A. Kull
28 th January 1862	June 11, 1882	George W. C. Wilson, Warton	Geo. A. Kull
1 st March 1852	July 16, 1882	W. Armstrong, Warton	Geo. A. Kull
17 th April 1879	August 24, 1882	Geo. Sanderson, junior	Geo. A. Kull

John's marriage caused a bit of a stir in the community. He eloped with his 14 year old bride Hannah Adelia Young; and subsequent events were noteworthy enough to warrant an extensive write - up in the Hamilton Spectator, as shown in the transcript below:

Hamilton Spectator, 30 July 1869 under the banner, "*Elopement in Barton*":

"At the Police Station yesterday, George Dawson, who lives on the Hamilton and Port Dover Road, near Ryckman's Corners, was fined \$5 for profanity and obscene language towards Henry Young, of the same neighbourhood.

The affair grew out of the elopement on Saturday last of Young's daughter, aged 15, with Dawson's son, aged 21. The young girl is described as small for her age and in appearance not more than twelve years old.

It appears that on the Saturday last, Dawson and his son came to this city and procured a marriage licence, giving the usual bonds and making the required affidavits as to age, etc. On their arrival home, the elder Dawson jumped out of the carriage, a timber wagon, while the son, with the licence in his pocket, drove on a short distance where the girl was awaiting him by the wayside. She quickly clambered into the wagon and away they two went at break - neck speed down the town line between Barton and Glanford to the residence of a clergyman who married them. They then returned to the paternal roof of Dawson Sr.

In the meantime Mr. Young and his family, half - distracted at the sudden and mysterious disappearance of their favourite child, were searching high and low for her, not forgetting to look into all the wells and dragging all the fish ponds in the neighbourhood.

This dispiriting employment engaged the efforts of themselves and friends all night and until ten o'clock on Sunday morning, when some one discovered the head of Mrs. Dawson, the younger, gracefully resting on the bosom of her husband whose feet protruded through the back window of the tenement of Dawson, the elder.

Enraged, as a fond father naturally would be, Mr. Young, ignorant of the clandestine marriage, rushed into Mr. Dawson's domicile and ordered his daughter off home. To his astonishment, his once obedient and loving child merely raised her hand and handed him a marriage certificate which she drew from her pocket. The father read it; and then, without a word, half blind with sorrow, and burning with shame, marched out of the house, and went home.

No so quiet and subdued was Dawson, the elder, who had been the chief engineer of the elopement, for so overjoyed was he at the success of his scheme that he immediately fell to and drank up what remained in the jug of whiskey provided for the nuptial cheer. Thus primed, he marched over to the residence of Mr. Young, and taking up a position in the road in front of the house, expended his vocabulary of the abusive in galloping gab. The consequence of this was that he was fined \$5 yesterday by Mr. Cahill. Perhaps the end is not yet".

At the time of the 1871 census, John, Hannah, and their infant daughter were residing in the home of John's parents. In the 1870s it is known that John Dawson participated in the 77th Battalion, Wentworth Militia as seen in the 1876 roster below:

TO BE MADE OUT AND SIGNED IN DUPLICATE.

M. & P. 1875, Form 56.
Quota No. _____
Company No. _____

MILITIA—DOMINION OF CANADA.

ANNUAL DRILL IN CAMP FOR 1875-76.

ACQUITTANCE (Bill) of the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of No 6 Company No 6 Battalion of Active Militia at Niagara for their Drill Pay, for the month of June ending on the 30th June, 1876, in Camp at Niagara by the undersigned Officers and Men belonging to the above-named Corps hereby acknowledging to have received from the Department of Militia and Defence, by the Order commanding our Company, the amount placed opposite our names respectively, being our Pay for Drill for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1876.

No.	RANK.	NAME.	PERIOD.		No. of Days.	Pay of N. C. Officers and Men.		Pay for Messes.		Total Amount due to each person.	Signature of the Officers, N. C. Officers and Men.	Witness to the Rank of those who cannot write.
			From.	To.		Rate per Day.	Total.	Rate per Day.	Total.			
1	Captain	Thomas A. Walker	12	12	12	1 58	19 96			18 96	Thomas A. Walker	
2	Lieutenant	William Wells	"	"	12	1 28	15 36			15 36	Wm Wells	
3	2nd Lieut.	Charles Terryberry	"	"	12	50	9 60			9 60	Charles Terryberry	
4	Corporal	George W. Hill	"	"	12	70	8 40			8 40	George W. Hill	
5	Pay Serjt.	John Sanders	"	"	12	70	8 40			8 40	John Sanders	
6	Serjeant	John French	"	"	12	60	7 20			7 20	John French	
7	"	Robert Terryberry	"	"	12	60	7 20			7 20	Robert Terryberry	
8	"	James W. Gandy	"	"	12	60	7 20			7 20	James W. Gandy	
9	Corporal	Thomas Ametage	"	"	12	60	7 20			7 20	Thomas Ametage	
10	Private	Alison Isaac	"	"	12	60	7 20			7 20	Alison Isaac	
11	"	William W.	"	"	12	60	7 20			7 20	William W.	
12	"	Bristol C. W.	"	"	12	60	7 20			7 20	Bristol C. W.	
13	"	Bradt Joseph	"	"	12	60	7 20			7 20	Bradt Joseph	
14	"	Combs James	"	"	12	60	7 20			7 20	Combs James	Wm Wells
15	"	Clark Joseph	"	"	12	60	7 20			7 20	Clark Joseph	
16	"	Dawson John	"	"	12	60	7 20			7 20	John Dawson	
17	"	Wood John	"	"	12	60	7 20			7 20	John Wood	
18	"	French Joseph	"	"	12	60	7 20			7 20	French Joseph	

Roster, 1876, 77th Battalion, Wentworth Militia



John Dawson (on right) and Tom "Alexander" (on left)

The author's great great aunt Adah Artemus (Dawson) Crowe said that the other man in the above picture was John's friend Tom Alexander. Likely the author misunderstood the name since the roster shows only a Thomas Armatage, bugler. This photo is the only known image of John Dawson – ironic since there are at least 8 of John's father in the possession of the author.

John Dawson and family cannot be located in the 1881 census of Canada. Ultimately, in 1882, John and Hannah with their children (all born at Ryckman's Corners) moved to the City of Hamilton. Two of their children had died while they lived "on the Mountain", and Adah (Dawson) Crowe recalled that her mother would become tearful every time that she heard a train whistle since this is the sound she heard when one of her young children died.

It did not take John Dawson long before he was in various minor scrapes with the law, being arrested for being drunk in 1882, and for being drunk and pulling a knife in 1883. It seems that he may have been following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather - drinking and fighting.

In 1885, Hannah also came to the attention of the police. The Hamilton Spectator for Tuesday April 7 (Evening Edition) recorded the following:

"BURGLARY - A Thief Cleans out Mrs. Evans' Back Kitchen

Saturday night or Sunday morning, the back portion of the residence of Mr. Danford Evans, 84 Hess Street North, was entered and a chair, a mattress, a boiler, two hams, a side of bacon, and other articles stolen. Mr. Evans was away from the city and Mrs. Evans was not aware of the burglary until Sunday morning. This morning, Detective McKenzie took the matter in hand, and by following up the bits of straw which had fallen from the mattress, traced the thief to 121 Caroline Street North. There he found the stolen goods and arrested Mrs. Hannah Dawson, a woman wearing the badge of the Salvation Army. When arrested, Mrs. Dawson denied any knowledge of the affair, but subsequently admitted having stolen the goods. She will be placed in the cells and will be brought before the police magistrate for trial to-morrow morning."

Wednesday April 8, 1885 (Early Edition)

"Police Court (from Tuesday April 7)

Hannah Dawson, charged by Mrs. Evans with the larceny of several articles of kitchen furniture and some hams, pleaded guilty, and elected to be tried by the police magistrate. She said that she did not know what induced her to steal the things, having never done anything of the sort before. the magistrate reserved his decision until to-morrow."

Thursday April 9, 1885 (Early Edition)

"Police Court (from April 8)

Hannah Dawson, the Salvation Army woman who pleaded guilty yesterday to a charge for the larceny of several items from Mrs. Evans, was brought up for sentence. She appeared to be very penitent and pleaded hard to be allowed to go this time. The magistrate said she had stolen too many things to be allowed to go, and sentenced her to one month in jail."

Police records provide further details, for example that she was a housekeeper, 30 years old, born in Canada, and of the English Church.

It seems inconceivable that Hannah, a very slight woman, could have purloined a mattress and other very heavy and clumsy items by herself. Perhaps she "took the fall" for her husband, whose reputation with Hamilton's finest was obviously stained so he could have expected a stiff jail sentence. Perhaps the couple thought that the Court would simply let a woman with small children and no prior record go - if so they were wrong, and Hannah, no matter what the truth of the matter, did a month's jail time.

Curiously, in the Police Court column of the Spectator for April 27, her husband "John Dawson was charged by Wm. Randall with assault. Randall testified that Dawson struck him in the face while he was in his own house. Dawson was fined \$5 or 20 days in jail."

One wonders whether Randall taunted Dawson with the matter of his wife being in jail, and Dawson became enraged. The police records given Dawson's address as 121 Caroline Street North, that he was a laborer, age 37, born in Canada, and of the English Church.

The later Police records remain to be checked.

The Hamilton Directory for 1885 indicate that at that time John was residing at 186 Jackson West in Hamilton. From that point it appears that the family moved frequently within Hamilton. They seem to have lived longest at 77 Jones Street. By 1891, John (a Labourer), Hannah, and all their surviving children except Clarissa were residing in Hamilton.

By 1901, it appears that John and his wife Hannah were separated. At this date, according to the census of Hamilton, he was a "widowed" Teamster boarding at 227 George Street. His wife Hannah "married" was residing with her daughter Ida and son in law John Harris at 25 Little Peel Street.

John's death certificate is shown below. It is virtually illegible, and to add insult to injury, the doctor was the informant and thus there are no parents names included.

DEATHS

County of Hamilton Division of Hamilton

DEATH	DEATH	DEATH
<p>1. Name of Deceased: <u>John Crowe</u></p> <p>2. Date of Death: <u>2nd January, 1909</u></p> <p>3. Date of Birth: <u>1872</u></p> <p>4. Age and Place of Birth: <u>37 yrs. age of son of Hamilton, Ont. 43 yrs of Hamilton, Ont.</u></p> <p>5. Residence: <u>80 Poulette St.</u></p> <p>6. Sex, Married, or Unmarried: <u>M</u></p> <p>7. Full name of Father: <u>John Crowe</u></p> <p>8. Occupation of Deceased: <u>Watchman</u></p> <p>9. Medical Cause of Death: <u>Stricken with apoplexy</u></p> <p>10. Distribution of Medical: <u>General</u></p> <p>11. Name of Physician who attended Deceased: <u>W. H. Balfour</u></p> <p>12. Certified by: <u>W. H. Balfour</u></p> <p>13. Address: <u>80 Poulette St. E.</u></p> <p>14. Date: <u>2nd January, 1909</u></p> <p>15. Medical Certificate of Death: <u>I hereby certify that I attended the deceased</u></p>	<p>1. Name of Deceased: <u>Robert Nelson</u></p> <p>2. Date of Death: <u>2nd January, 1909</u></p> <p>3. Date of Birth: <u>1872</u></p> <p>4. Age and Place of Birth: <u>37 yrs. age of son of Hamilton, Ont. 43 yrs of Hamilton, Ont.</u></p> <p>5. Residence: <u>80 Poulette St. E.</u></p> <p>6. Sex, Married, or Unmarried: <u>M</u></p> <p>7. Full name of Father: <u>John Crowe</u></p> <p>8. Occupation of Deceased: <u>Watchman</u></p> <p>9. Medical Cause of Death: <u>Stricken with apoplexy</u></p> <p>10. Distribution of Medical: <u>General</u></p> <p>11. Name of Physician who attended Deceased: <u>W. H. Balfour</u></p> <p>12. Certified by: <u>W. H. Balfour</u></p> <p>13. Address: <u>80 Poulette St. E.</u></p> <p>14. Date: <u>2nd January, 1909</u></p> <p>15. Medical Certificate of Death: <u>I hereby certify that I attended the deceased</u></p>	<p>1. Name of Deceased: <u>Daisy</u></p> <p>2. Date of Death: <u>2nd January, 1909</u></p> <p>3. Date of Birth: <u>1872</u></p> <p>4. Age and Place of Birth: <u>37 yrs. age of son of Hamilton, Ont. 43 yrs of Hamilton, Ont.</u></p> <p>5. Residence: <u>80 Poulette St. E.</u></p> <p>6. Sex, Married, or Unmarried: <u>M</u></p> <p>7. Full name of Father: <u>John Crowe</u></p> <p>8. Occupation of Deceased: <u>Watchman</u></p> <p>9. Medical Cause of Death: <u>Stricken with apoplexy</u></p> <p>10. Distribution of Medical: <u>General</u></p> <p>11. Name of Physician who attended Deceased: <u>W. H. Balfour</u></p> <p>12. Certified by: <u>W. H. Balfour</u></p> <p>13. Address: <u>80 Poulette St. E.</u></p> <p>14. Date: <u>2nd January, 1909</u></p> <p>15. Medical Certificate of Death: <u>I hereby certify that I attended the deceased</u></p>

I hereby certify the foregoing to be the true and correct copies of all Deaths returned to me for the quarter past ending
Given under my hand, this _____ day of _____ 1909.

By _____
Deputy Registrar of Deaths

John's obituary in the Hamilton Spectator (2 January 1909) indicates that at time of his death he was a watchman for the Toronto, Hamilton, and Buffalo Railway, and died at the home of his daughter Ada and her husband Robert John Crowe at 80 Poulette Street in Hamilton. This record states that he was "stricken with apoplexy for about six weeks" prior to his death. Great great Aunt Ada maintained that the true reason why he died was that while on the job he caught his foot in a switch by the tracks, fell, and was knocked unconscious. Apparently he fell so hard that his boot was jammed in the switch and he "jumped" out of it. She maintains that he ultimately died of the effects of this head injury and that the T.H. & B only gave the family about \$125 in compensation.

Hannah Adelia (Young) Dawson outlived her husband by almost 35 years. The following two pictures show Hannah at different periods in her life:



The first is when she was a young woman. The second shows Hannah on the right and her daughter Ida (Dawson) Harris – Bennett on the left, at about the time when Hannah remarried on 19 October 1915.

When she was 61 years old, Hannah married John B. Day who was 45. It is impossible at this stage to give even a guess as to what the motivation for both might have been – although her father at age 75 married a 45 year old woman as a second marriage. John Day died in 1923 and Hannah was a widow again. She spent the rest of her days residing in Hamilton, although frequently travelling to Buffalo to visit daughter Ida. She also had 6 children who survived to adulthood: Clarissa (born 1871), Joseph (1872), Arthur (1876), Adah (1880), Ida (1881), and Ethel May (born 1891 who was adopted).

The following picture gives a sense of Hannah's busy family life in her latter years:



Hannah, daughter Clarissa, and a 5 generation photo - 1939

In her later years Hannah resided with her daughter Adah. She died in 1943 (four years before the birth of the author, her great great grandson).

Every item of information should be carefully supplied. (See reverse side for instructions)

1. PLACE OF DEATH: County or District Hamilton Township of Dundas St. S.
 If in City, Town or Village: Hamilton Street Dundas St. S. House No. 64
 If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give the name instead of street and number.

2. LENGTH OF STAY (in years, months and days): (a) In City, Town or Township where death occurred 12 years (b) In Province life (c) In Canada (if immigrant) life

3. PRINT FULL NAME OF DECEASED: Hannah
 (Give name of woman in usual order)

RESIDENCE No. 44 Since Dundas St. City, Town, Village or Township Hamilton Province Ont.
 (Residence means usual place of abode. Post Office Address for residents in rural parts not sufficient)

4. Sex F. 5. Nationality Canadian 6. Racial Origin English 7. Single, Married, Widowed & Divorced Widowed
 (Mark in usual place)

8. BIRTHPLACE Hannon, Ont.
 (Province of Country)

9. DATE OF BIRTH November 6th 1884
 (Month Day Year)

10. AGE at 58 Years 88 Months 12 Days 12
 (If less than one day old give in min.)

11. Trade, profession or kind of work as salesman, teacher, office clerk, etc. None

12. Kind of industry or business, as cottoner, etc. None

13. Date deceased not worked at this occupation None

14. Total years spent in this occupation None

15. If married give name of wife or husband of deceased None

16. NAME Henry Young

17. BIRTHPLACE Ontario

18. MARRIAGE NAME Elizabeth Young

19. BIRTHPLACE Ontario

20. Person giving information Mr. John Crowe
 Address 54 Dundas St. S. Hamilton
 Relationship to deceased Son-in-law

21. Place of Burial, Cremation or Reinterment Hamilton Cemetery
 Date of burial or reinterment Sept. 2nd 1943

22. Burial Permit was issued by J. J. Barry
 Address Hamilton

23. Entombment The J. B. Marlatt Funeral Home
 (Give usual address) 615

24. DATE OF DEATH August 31 1943
 (Month Day Year)

25. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from: Feb. 19 1942 to Aug. 31 1943
 and last saw him alive on Aug. 26 1943

CAUSE OF DEATH

I. Immediate cause Hypertensive Pneumonia
 Give names, signs or symptoms, such as chest pain, cough, etc., and the mode of dying, such as heart failure, rupture, etc.

II. World conditions, if any, giving date in immediate cause (entered in order preceding backwards from immediate cause)
 (a) Arteriosclerosis
 (b) Hypertension
 (c) fractured femur
 (d) chronic cystitis

III. Other world conditions (if important contributing to death but not closely related to immediate cause)

26. If a woman, was the death associated with pregnancy? No

27. Was there a surgical operation? No Date of operation 19
 State findings Was there an autopsy? No

28. If death was due to external causes (stabbing) fill in also the following—
 Accidental, suicide or homicide? None Date of injury 18
 Nature of injury None (If not satisfied)

29. Nationality of injury None
 Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place

Signed by W. Gordon Cornett M.D.
 Address 196 George St. Date 31 - 8 - 1943

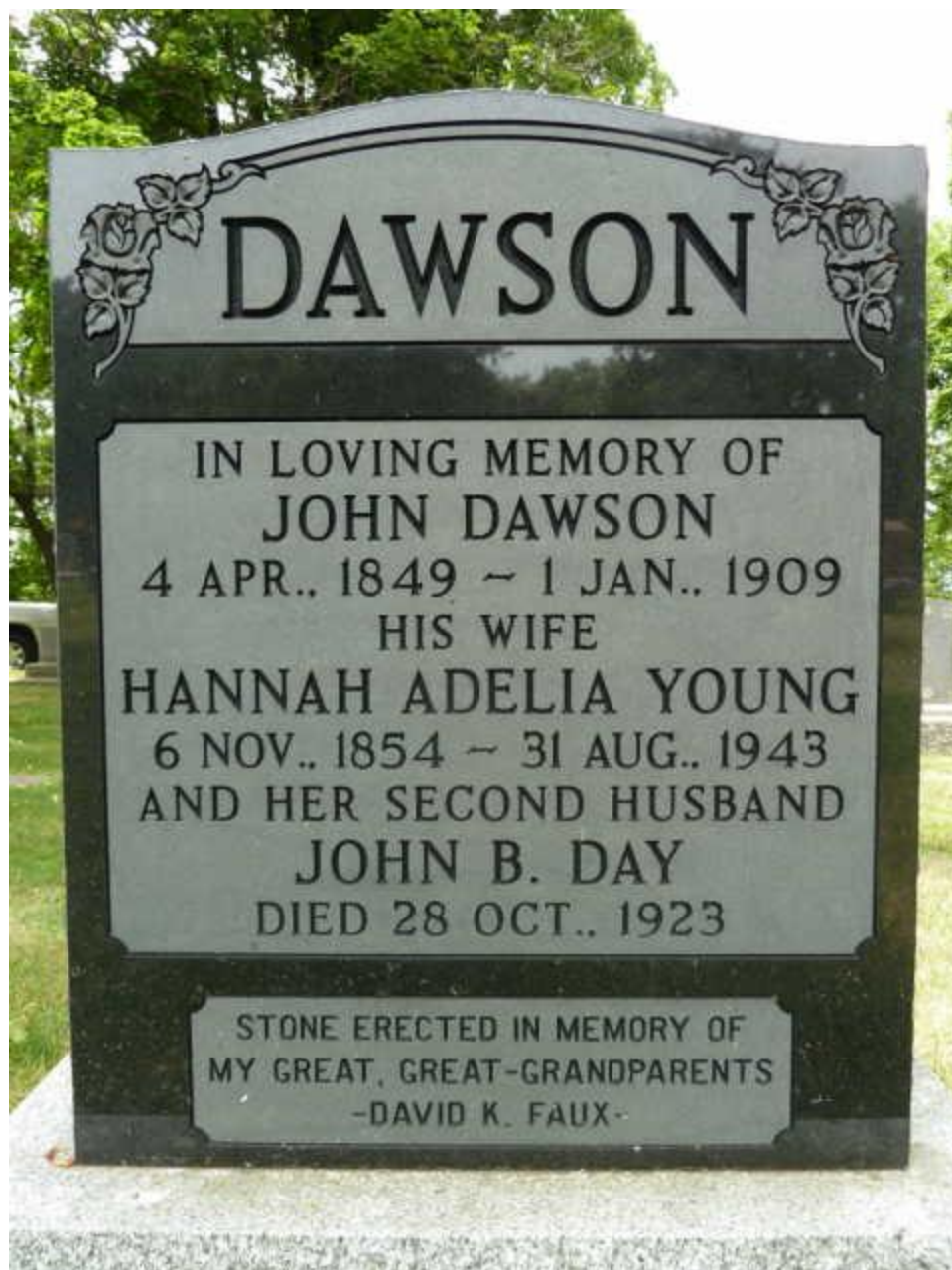
30. Division Registrar's Record No. 1943
 Filed Aug 31 1943
Hamilton, Ont.

WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD

THIS FORM MUST BE FILED FORTHWITH WITH THE DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS BEFORE A BURIAL PERMIT CAN BE ISSUED

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO—CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF DEATH 041756 191

John and Hannah were buried in an unmarked grave with the latter's second husband John B. Day, in the "Crowe Lot" in Hamilton Cemetery (Section U, Lot 566). Aunt Adah said quite frankly that she just "never got around to it" in terms of erecting a suitable monument. Thus in 2004 the author took it upon himself to have a stone placed over the grave site, as shown below:



Dr. David K. Faux
Cypress, California; Caledonia, Ontario
30 June 2017