

HISTORICAL PLAQUES IN HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

1. Located In Gore's Landing in Pioneer Park

Bearing the Ontario Coat of Arms

GORE'S LANDING

Named after Thomas S. Gore, an Irishman who settled in this vicinity in 1845, the Village of Gore's Landing prospered for a time as the terminal point of a plank road construction from Cobourg to Rice Lake, 1847-48. Among the well-known residents of Gore's Landing were Archibald Lampman (1860-1899), noted poet; Derwyn T. Owens (1876-1947), Anglican Primate of All Canada from 1934-1947; J. D. Kelly (1862-1958), historical artist; and Gerald S. Hayward (1845-1926), a painter of miniatures who won acclaim in the U.S. and Britain. Hayward contributed to the building of the present St. George's Anglican Church, constructed of stone in 1908 to replace the wooden church erected 1846-48, and is buried in the adjacent cemetery.

Erected 1968 by the Province of Ontario, Department of Public Records and Archives, and the Archeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario.



On Sunday, June 23, 1968, an historical plaque commemorating the community of Gore's Landing was unveiled in a park opposite the Anglican church rectory in Gore's Landing. This plaque is one of a series being erected throughout the province by the Department of Public Records and Archives, acting on the advice of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario. Shown left to right after the ceremony are: Mr. Alex Carruthers, M.P.P. (Durham); the Rev. Michael Mandich, minister of the United Church, Gore's Landing; Mr. Gordon Carruthers, Reeve of Hamilton Township; Mr. Russell Rowe, M.P.P. (Northumberland); Mr. Wallace Pratt, a longtime resident of the area; Miss Enid Rogers, President of the Northumberland Historical Society; the Rev. Lloyd Delaney, Rector St. Mark's Anglican Church, Midland; Mrs. Norman D. Martin, wife of the rector of St. George's Anglican Church, Gore's Landing; Dr. Norman D. Martin, Rector, St. George's Anglican Church; Mr. Leslie Gray, representing the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board; and Mr. Earl Walkey, former Warden of the United Counties of Northumberland and Durham.

2. Located on McClelland Rd.

HARRIS BURIAL GROUND-SUSANNA MOODIE HOME

Boltus Harris, United Empire Loyalist from New York, was granted this property (Lot 32, Concession 4 of Hamilton Township) in 1797. Known as the township's "first settler", Boltus and his family (plus others), are buried here on the hill just south of the creek. In 1832, the lot became Melsetter Farm, the first home in Canada of Dunbar and Susanna Moodie. Mrs. Moodie's book, *Roughing It In The Bush*, relates the story of the Harris family she found here and her adventures with them.

The Hamilton Township Bicentennial Committee- 1984

(Note: The Bicentennial of the Province of Ontario was celebrated in 1984)



3. Located on Lander Rd.

Bearing the Ontario Coat of Arms

MOUNT ARARAT

In May 1847, Catharine Parr Traill (1802-1899) one of Canada's distinguished early writers, moved with her husband, Thomas, and family from Wolf Tower to this farm which they named Mount Ararat, "the highest elevation on the Rice Lake Plains". This property (Lot 19, Concession 8, Hamilton Township) is the locale of Mrs. Traill's famous book for children, *Canadian Crusoes* (later called *Lost In the Backwoods*). In the spring of 1849, the Traill family moved a few miles east to Oaklands on Traill Road, their third home in the eleven years they lived in the Gore's Landing area.

ERECTED 1985 BY TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON AND THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE



4. Located on the Harwood Rd

Bearing the Township of Hamilton Pine Tree Logo

GRAVE SITE OF GERMAN WORKERS

In 1854, fourteen German immigrants, who had been employed on the construction of the Cobourg and Peterborough Railway, died of cholera on this property (Lot 6, Concession 8, Hamilton Township). They were buried in unmarked graves beside the railway berm. In 1882, J. R. Barber, one-time superintendent of the railway, erected a wooden cross to mark the site. The inscription on the cross reads "IN MEMORIAM fourteen GERMAN laborers who DIED OF CHOLERA, 1854, and buried in POTTER'S FIELD".

ERECTED 1987 BY COBOURG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON and MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE

(Note: By a strange coincidence the owner of the railway berm at that time was a Joseph Potter.)



5. Located on the Cavan Rd.

Bearing the Hamilton Township Coat of Arms

MINA BENSON (1870-1956)

An early 20th century Canadian, female explorer of Labrador and writer, Mina Benson was born on this property, lot 28, concession 7 of Hamilton Township, County of Northumberland. From June 27 to August 27, 1905, Benson completed the ill-fated 1903 Labrador expedition of her late husband, Leonidas Hubbard, going a distance of 576 miles from the Northwest river to Ungava bay. Her maps, accepted by the American Geographical Society, were some of the first to record the Naskaupi River and George River systems. In 1908, she published an account of her trip, *A Woman's Way Through Unknown Labrador*. Later she remarried, had three children and moved to England where she died.

Erected in 1996, the Bicentennial Year of the Township of Hamilton, with the assistance of the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the Cobourg and District Historical Society.



6. Located in Harwood in front of Harwood Hall

Bearing the Ontario Coat of Arms

HARWOOD

This area purchased in 1828 by Robert Harwood, Montreal merchant, did not begin to develop rapidly until the arrival of the Cobourg to Peterborough Railway in 1854. Harwood was surveyed in 1855 and the line which transported passengers, lumber and goods to Peterborough and later ore for the Marmora iron foundry encouraged commercial development here. The nearby crib-bridge, which carried the track across Rice Lake to Peterborough was, however, poorly engineered and constructed and was closed in 1862. Competition from the Port Hope-Peterborough Railway was severe and service on the Cobourg and Harwood line closed in 1895 after the local lumber mills had closed. Today Harwood remains primarily a summer cottage community.

Erected 1971 by the Archeological and Historic Sites Board and the Department of Public Records and Archives of Ontario.