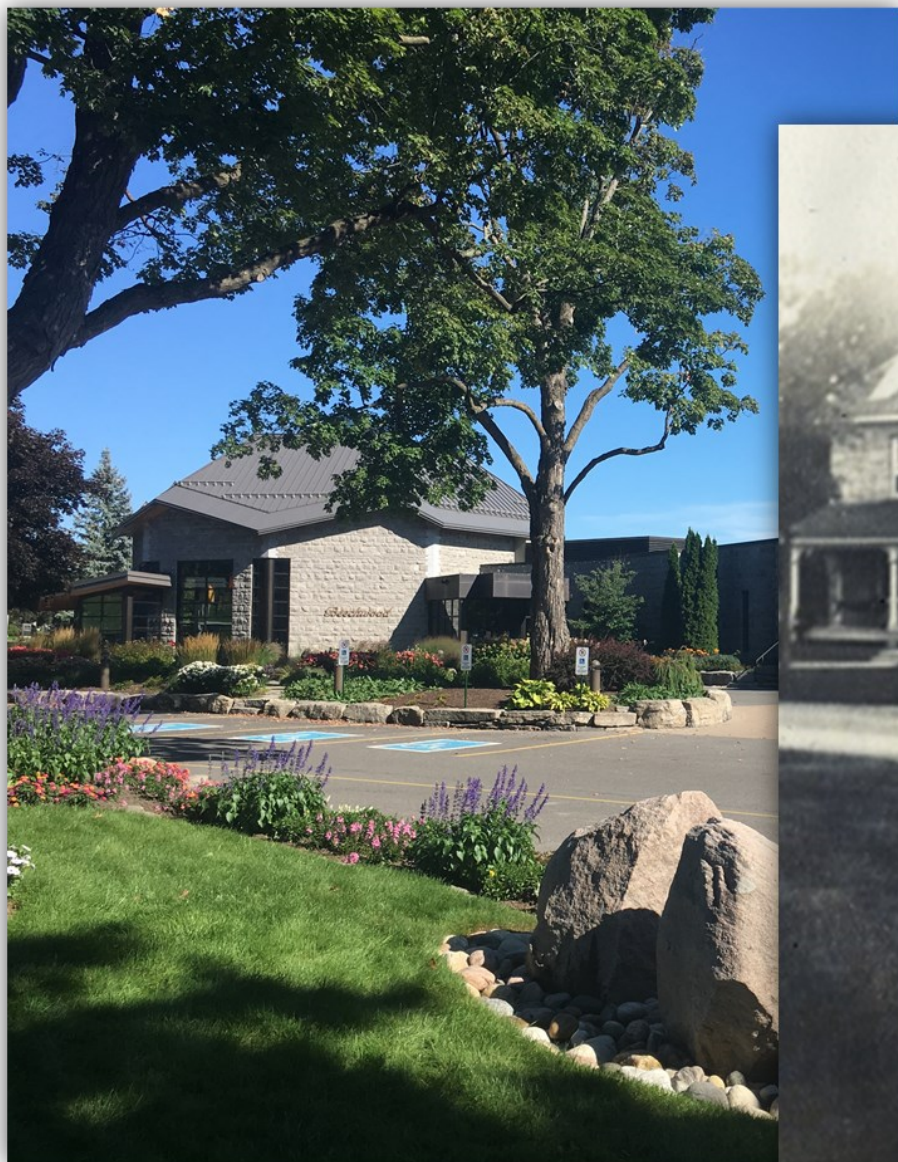


**TWENTY-FORTH ANNUAL HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR**

Sunday, September 9, 2018

**BACK TO THE  
FUTURE**



*History Told, Lives Celebrated*

The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation presents:

# Back to the Future

**T**his tour is held annually to acknowledge and applaud the contributions and accomplishments of the various people buried at Beechwood Cemetery.

This year our theme draws on the excitement and fun of travelling back in time to learn about various individuals who impacted Canada.

Separated by time itself, each person shaped the face of Canada for generations to come in very different ways. Through science, arts, heroics, and adventures, each person honoured this year left his or her mark on the pages of history books. Experience the joy of learning first hand the stories of famous Canadians.

With all of the fun exploring the past, will you ever want to return to the future?

More notable people buried at Beechwood can be found in our Historical Portraits booklet, available both on our website and in hard copy at our main office. We welcome any suggestions you may have for additional people we can include there, and we're also always looking for suggestions for themes for future tours.

Thank you for joining us in 2018, and we hope you'll be back again next year.



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# LORRIS ELLIOTT

## Section 51S, Grave 336

**L**orris Elliott was born on December 20, 1931 in Scarborough, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in the West Indies. He grew up on the island and attended university there at Queen's Royal College. After graduating he taught high school in Trinidad and Tobago from 1950 to 1959. In 1959, Elliott emigrated to Vancouver, BC and enrolled in the University of British Columbia where in 1965 he received his Master's degree in English with an emphasis on twentieth century literature. Elliott proved himself a dedicated student, moving to Montreal, QC where he enrolled in the University of Montreal's doctoral program in English Literature. He received his Ph.D. in 1974, for his dissertation, titled *Time, Self, and Narrative: A Study of Wilson Harris's "Guiana Quartet,"* which examined a work by a black contemporary poet, Wilson Harris.

While still working towards his Ph.D. in 1969, Elliott began teaching at McGill




University. Initially a lecturer, in 1990 he was made a full professor of literature and creative writing. Unfortunately, Elliott retired a very short time later, due to health problems. During his time at the university, he introduced the first course on Caribbean literature to be taught at McGill, and worked to develop a creative writing program at the university.

In addition to teaching, Elliott was also an actor, writer and editor. He wrote several plays which were produced on stage, though never published. Elliott's plays focused on the world inhabited by minorities, whether in the Caribbean or Canada. For instance, his

Lorris Elliott

Credit: McGill University Archives, PR034779




play, *How Now Black Man*, told of the adventures of a West Indian black man, while a later play, *The Trial of Marie-Joseph Angélique - Negress and Slave*, related the story of the woman who was accused of setting Montreal on fire in 1734. Other plays included *A Lil'le Bit o' Some'ting* and *Our Heroes*. Because Elliott did not publish his plays, there is little information about their production histories, their reception from the audience, or even their content. They are essentially now lost to the public, though some information is known. For example, *How Now Black Man* was produced at the Centaur Theatre in Montreal in 1968, and later was the inaugural piece performed by the Black Theatre Workshop, founded in 1970. Prior to the creation of the Black Theatre Workshop, there was no forum for the performance of black art and drama. More than thirty years later, the Black Theatre Workshop was still providing a venue for black playwrights to present their work. It went on to produce another Elliott play, *Holding Firm the Centre* ("knit one/purl one").

Elliott also wrote a novel, *Coming For to Carry: A Novel in Five Parts* (1982), which was self-published. Similar to his other works, the novel centred on the life of a black man from Trinidad and Tobago who confronted racism and loneliness in his life. Elliott also wrote non-fiction books, and he was perhaps better known for those works than for his plays or his novel. *Other Voices: Writings by Blacks in Canada*, 1985, is an anthology of poems and short stories by writers from Canada's black community. Elliott's work as a scholar was most directly seen in the bibliography that he compiled and edited, *The Bibliography of Literary Writings by Blacks in Canada*, 1986. Elliott's final non-fiction work was *Literary Writings by Blacks in Canada: A Preliminary Survey*, 1988. He also published a number of short stories in various literary magazines.

Elliott worked hard to champion the work of black writers. In addition to his involvement with the Black Theatre Workshop, where he also served as an Honorary Board Member from 1976 to 1980, Elliott was also active in the National Black Coalition of Canada from 1979 to 1981. He organized an important new conference, *The Black Artist in the Canadian Milieu*, at McGill. He was also active in the Black Literacy Society of Montreal from 1983 to 1990.

Elliott died July 14, 1999 in Ottawa at the age of 67, after a nine year battle with Alzheimer's disease.



## ROCKCLIFFE ST. PATRICK FELLOWES


Section 22, Lot 11 SE



Rockcliffe St. Patricks Fellows (middle)  
Lobby card from the 1931 film Monkey Business

**B**orn in 1884 on St. Patrick's Day, Rockcliffe St. Patrick Fellowes was one of Hollywood's early film stars. In 1903, at age 19, he married Lucile Watson, an American actress, and left Ottawa for New York. Lucile had lived most of her life in Ottawa before leaving for New York to study at the American Academy of Dramatic Art. She was an established stage actress when she married Fellowes and with her assistance he began his acting career, appearing on stage with noted actors of the time.

With the creation of the motion picture industry, Fellowes' made a smooth transition from stage to silver screen. His first movie, called 'Regeneration,' was filmed in New York in 1915. It ran for three weeks at a local theatre, much longer




than the usual three days, and was considered quite a success

In 1918, Fellowes took a break from the film business and joined the Siberian Expeditionary Force of the Canadian army. Once in Russia, he became quite ill and was hospitalized. By 1919 he had returned to America and his burgeoning film career. Lucile continued her stage career, and in 1921 the couple moved from Manhattan to a new house in the suburbs. Sadly, by 1928 they had divorced, possibly as a result of Fellowes following the movie studios when they moved from New York to California, while Lucile was committed to the New York stage. She often played screen roles, however, and was nominated for an Oscar.

Many of Rockcliffe's movies were filmed in the "silent" era, with his top work in the 1927 "The Understanding Heart" with Joan Crawford as a co-star, having been classed among the ten most famous silent films. By 1929, the silent era was almost over and Rockcliffe's mystery-drama "The Charlatan" of that year was a "part-talkie." In some movies he played again, before the camera, his stage roles, such as in George Bernard Shaw's "Man and Superman." His skill in acting and his "ruggedly handsome" appearance made him a star, praised in 1925 as "one of the best actors on the screen today." He worked for the major film studios and with stars of the day, appearing with the Marx brothers in one of his last films, "Monkey Business," released in 1931.

Rockcliffe was known for his charm and wit and for his dedication to acting but his philosophy was not to take himself very seriously, and he worked, apparently, only when he needed money. After starring on stage and screen for more than three decades he retired from the profession in 1935. After his death in California in 1950, his body was returned to Ottawa for burial in Beechwood. Lucile Watson died in New York in 1962. Like Rockcliffe, she had spent much of her early life in Ottawa and together they may be named as some of Ottawa's stars of stage and screen.



# SIR SANDFORD FLEMING

## Section 49, Lots 13, 14

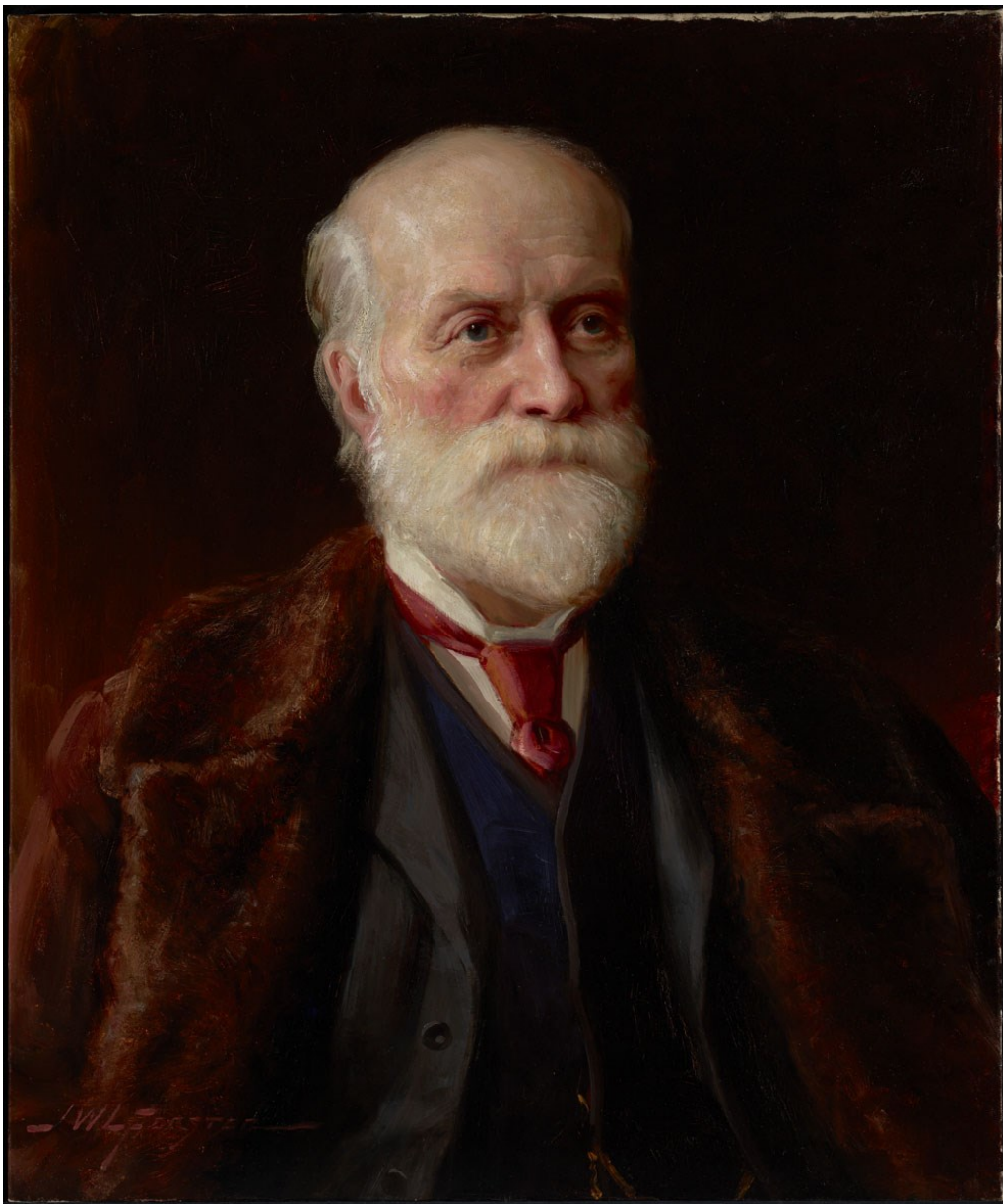
**B**orn in Kirkcaldy, Scotland on January 7, 1827, Fleming studied surveying and engineering in Scotland and came to Canada in 1845 to work in the railway industry. He was appointed chief engineer of the Northern Railway in 1857 and was the chief engineer of the International Railway during its construction and in 1871 was appointed chief engineer and surveyor for the historic Canadian Pacific Railway. In 1880, Fleming retired and devoted himself to literary and scientific work.

Fleming spent most of his life in Peterborough, Halifax and Ottawa. Author of many scientific papers on railways and other topics, he was one of the founders of the Canadian Institute for the Advancement of Scientific Knowledge. He published the first large-scale surveyor's map in Canada, designed the first usable chart of Toronto Harbour and promoted the trans-Pacific submarine telegraph cable, doing all this in addition to handling his duties as chief engineer of the CPR and as chancellor of Queen's University. Fleming also designed Canada's first postage stamp, the "three-penny beaver," in 1851.

One of the major problems Canadian travelers encountered in the late 19th century involved keeping proper time. How could one be sure of having the correct time at every stop along the way? More importantly, how could rail connections be coordinated in a coherent, permanent system? Traditionally, it was noon in each place when the sun was directly overhead. So if it was noon in Toronto, for example, it was 12:25 in Montreal. This system became complicated as voyages became longer. For instance, during the Halifax-Toronto rail journey, passengers had to re-set their watches in Saint John, Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, Belleville and Toronto.

In 1878, Sandford Fleming decided to do something about this situation. In a series of papers delivered to the Canadian Institute, he suggested that the planet be divided into 24 time zones, each covering 15 degrees of longitude, from an accepted meridian. The time in each zone would be the same, notwithstanding the position of any point in relation to the sun. Fleming, with his reputation and his energy, encountered little resistance to his idea. By 1883, all railways in North America were using this system. In 1884, the first International Meridian Conference was held in Washington D.C., and Fleming's idea was officially adopted. The only objections came from some religious groups who accused him

of being a communist and of proposing a system contrary to God's will.  
Fleming passed away on July 22, 1915 at the age of 88.



**Sir Sandford Fleming**  
Credit: Library and Archives Canada, Acc. No. 1951-566-1



# MARIA HILL

## Section 37E, Plot 59 & 60

**T**hroughout her long life of service to king and country, Maria Hill always thought of herself as “a soldier all through.” Even at age 90, she said her only regret was that she had “no sons to wear the British uniform and, if occasion called, offer his life for England.” She was what historians call “a daughter of the regiment,” raised from infancy in military traditions and lived as an army wife who followed the regiment into the war zones.


Born in Lancashire in 1791, Maria lost both her parents when she was still a child – a father who was an army surgeon in England and a mother who was remarried to a recruiting sergeant. Maria’s stepfather brought her to Upper Canada in 1799 and to Fort Amherstburg, near Windsor, where she married Sgt. Andrew Hill, an Irish soldier in the 100th Regiment of Foot in 1811. They had two daughters. She was one of



Maria Hill's monument

the wives whom the army permitted to travel to the forts and armed camps where the women were given accommodations and food rations in return for caring for 600 men in the regiment.


After the American invaders were defeated at the Battle of Queenston Heights on Oct. 13, 1812, Maria met Laura Secord who was searching the battlefield for her gravely-injured husband. We know that Maria, a nurse, left Fort George and went to aid injured soldiers while “her husband [was] under arms among the rest” who were sent to fight the invading enemy. Playwright Sarah Anne Curzon, in her



1887 drama about Laura Secord, identified Maria as a “brave woman” who hid “her babe ... under a wood pile” and walked among the wounded. She described Maria as “one in whom the heroic blood ran thick and strong as e’er in times gone by.”

When the U.S. army invaded again in 1813 and occupied the Niagara frontier, British generals ordered women and children to withdraw to Montreal. Legend says Maria disguised herself as a man, donning a redcoat, to follow Sgt. Hill. Her identity was revealed when she was run over by an ammunition wagon and examined by a doctor. She was partially disabled for life. Yet, as a nurse, she was allowed to stay and help the surgeons cope with overwhelming numbers of badly injured soldiers at the 1814 battles of Chippawa and the bloodiest, at Lundy’s Lane.

Once the war ended, the Hills took land in the Richmond military settlement and ran the tavern in the town. Maria died in 1881 and is buried in a family plot at Beechwood with two husbands and the only one of her children to survive – Margaret – who married Edward Malloch, an MP in early Upper Canada. A granddaughter, also named Maria, also shares the burial site. She had become Lady Grant, having married Dr. James Alexander Grant, who was knighted by Queen Victoria for medical care of our first eight governors general. Dr. Grant was also a MP in John A. Macdonald’s government. They raised seven of their 12 children in a mansion on Elgin Street, which much later became Friday’s Roast Beef House.



# JOSEPH AUGUSTE OMER LEVESQUE

Section 27, Range F, Grave 263




Joseph Levesque

**J**oseph Auguste Omer Levesque was born on May 23, 1920 in Mont-Joli, Quebec. In 1940, he left his home town to enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force. After graduating as a pilot, Sgt Levesque was sent to England and, after some additional training, he joined No. 401 RCAF Squadron of Fighter Command. Based in southern England, the squadron's Spitfire fighters intercepted German bombers and their fighter escorts, and also made sweeps over France to attack enemy aircraft.

On November 21, 1941, during such a sweep, the squadron encountered German fighters and in a combat that followed, Levesque destroyed at least one Focke-Wulf 190, the first RCAF success over this type of German fighter. By early 1942 Omer had shot down four enemy aircraft, one short of ace status.


On February 12, 1942 Levesque's Spitfire was shot down and he became a prisoner of war. In his diary, he recorded such events as the volley-ball games he



took part in, the arrival of a parcel from his father in Mont-Joli, and he made many sketches, one showing his Spitfire being chased by a FW 190. When WWII ended Levesque remained a pilot in the RCAF, but the Spitfire was replaced by the Sabre jet fighter. In 1950, he was among a group of RCAF pilots transferred to a squadron of the US Air Force on exchange duty.

Levesque's US Air Force squadron was based in Japan during the Korean War, its Sabres escorting bombers, to targets in Korea where Russian-built MiG jet fighters tried to intercept them. Combats between Sabres and MiGs took place at speeds almost double that of Levesque's Spitfire and in an action in March, 1951 he dove on an MiG, his Sabre breaking the sound barrier as he shot the other aircraft down. He became the first Canadian pilot to be successful in a combat against an MiG, and when this victory was added to those of WWII he became an ace. His achievements earned him the USAF Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

When he left the RCAF, Flight Lieutenant Levesque continued his career in aviation as an official of the Canadian Transport Commission. His experience as a pilot spanned the years from propeller-driven to jet-engine aircraft, and he became an ace fighter pilot flying both the piston-engine, propeller-driven Spitfire and the Sabre jet fighter. Levesque died June 2, 2006.



# HENRIETTA LOETITIA TUZO WILSON

## Section 24, Lot 23




Mount Tuzo, named after Henrietta Tuzo

**H**enrietta Tuzo was born in Victoria in 1873 and was educated there and in England. She was a pioneering woman, but not in the traditional sense.

Wilson was known for her love of climbing. By 1906 she had climbed many mountains in the Alps and in western Canada, being the first Canadian-born woman mountaineer. And a pioneer she was: she made the first ascent of Peak Seven of the Ten Peaks (3,246 m) in the Canadian Rockies. This peak was later named for her – Mt. Tuzo. She was also a charter member of The Alpine Club of Canada, which was where she met her future husband. In 1907 she married John A. Wilson, another pioneer, known as the “father of civil aviation” in Canada.


After marriage and a move to Ottawa, Wilson retained her love of climbing but was also involved in many public-spirited organizations, including the National Council of Women, the Red Cross, the Canadian Parks Association, the Women's Canadian Club, the League of Nations, the Ottawa Local Council and the Horticultural Society. Wilson was awarded the King's Jubilee Medal 1935 and Coronation



Medal 1937 for her successes. Her husband praised her common sense.

Wilson was a tall and elegant woman with a sunny disposition, a dedicated homemaker, a warm companion and tireless worker for so many causes dear to her heart and to her commitment to improve society. She made it her mission to visit every WW II war bride who came to Ottawa.

Wilson died 11 January 1955 at 81, just three months after her husband.





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