

Sunderland & District Historical Society



September 6, 2023

Ingrid Svelnis
Chief Administrative Officer
Township of Brock

Dear Ingrid Svelnes:

The Thompson Cemetery, one of several cemeteries administered by the Township of Brock under the Bereavement Authority of Ontario was a topic of discussion at a recent meeting of the Sunderland & District Historical Society (S&DHS). While there are records indicating the presence of more than 500 graves on the site, many of the remaining stones that once marked these graves have now been incorporated into a single cairn. Given the disarray into which the site had fallen, the current presentation of the cemetery's memorials can readily be understood.

In the ensuing discussion, it was noted that a complete listing (though not a site map) of those interred in the cemetery is on file at the museum. Does the township have a site map for the cemetery on file? Given our records, it is apparent that many stones memorializing those buried at the cemetery have been lost. In particular, the stone marking the death of Ann Bagnall, the matriarch of Brock Township's Thompsons has been lost. Emerging from the discussion was the notion of erecting a plaque in the memory of this remarkable woman along with notation that information about all interred at the cemetery can be acquired through contact with the Sunderland & District Historical Society.

Given that Brock Township is the owner and overseer of this site, permission is being sought to move ahead with this proposal with the understanding that the design and inscription on this plaque would have the approval of the municipality. No funding from the township is being sought for the project.

Should the necessary approvals be gained, a dedication service will be planned by the S&DHS with township officials being invited and hopefully in attendance.

Through this correspondence your advice and/or assistance is being sought regarding appropriate steps to proceed with this project.

Joe Allin, Co-Chair

