

BROOKS CEMETERY

Brooks Cemetery is situated on the south west corner of Lot seven, Concession one, Town of Plympton-Wyoming, Lambton County approximately one mile south and three miles west of Wyoming. It was originally named Mount Zion Cemetery but the Methodist Church on the site was called Brooks Church from the beginning because of its situation on the corner of the farm of James Brooks.

On June 15, 1875, James Brooks and his wife Margaret, for a consideration of twenty-five dollars, deeded a piece of land forty-two feet by twenty-seven feet to the Trustees of the Brooks Congregation of the Methodist Church in Canada. A church was built on this location. Up until this time, the Methodists of the neighbourhood, along with other denominations, had used the Dunlop School house, east of Mandaumin, for a meeting house and burial ground. The original trustees for the Brooks Congregation were Robert Brooks, Joseph Hall, Norman McIntyre, Thomas Climmie and James Foster, all farmers of Town of Plympton-Wyoming; Joseph W. Smith, merchant and George Bennest, waggon-maker, both of the Village of Wyoming. By November, 1882, Tho. A. Climmie was dead, (probably buried in Plot 37, Mandaumin Cemetery, although no marker exists), Smith was no longer a member of the Methodist Church, McIntyre and Foster had both moved from the area. Four new trustees were appointed, namely Hugh Park and Thomas Rawson, both farmers of Town of Plympton-Wyoming Bruce McLeod, engine driver of Enniskillen Township and Allan Duncan, merchant of Wyoming. No trace of the Brooks Church remains today. A piece of ground for the Cemetery was purchased from James and Margaret Brooks on 20th March, 1882. It was to be named Mount Zion Cemetery and the original trustees were Joseph Hall of Enniskillen, Robert O'Neil and John Brooks, both of Plympton. For many years this Cemetery has been known locally as the Brooks Cemetery. James Brooks, on whose farm the Cemetery was situated, died in 1897 at the age of ninety years, ten months and 3 days. His is the oldest burial. The earliest burial recorded was that of Margaret, wife of James Graham. She died May 2, 1854. There are Sixty-two stones recorded and possibly many early burials for which no marker remains. An excellent job of Cemetery restoration was accomplished in 1966 through the efforts of Wayne Donald and local residents. A new fence, donated by the Brennan family, was erected around the property.