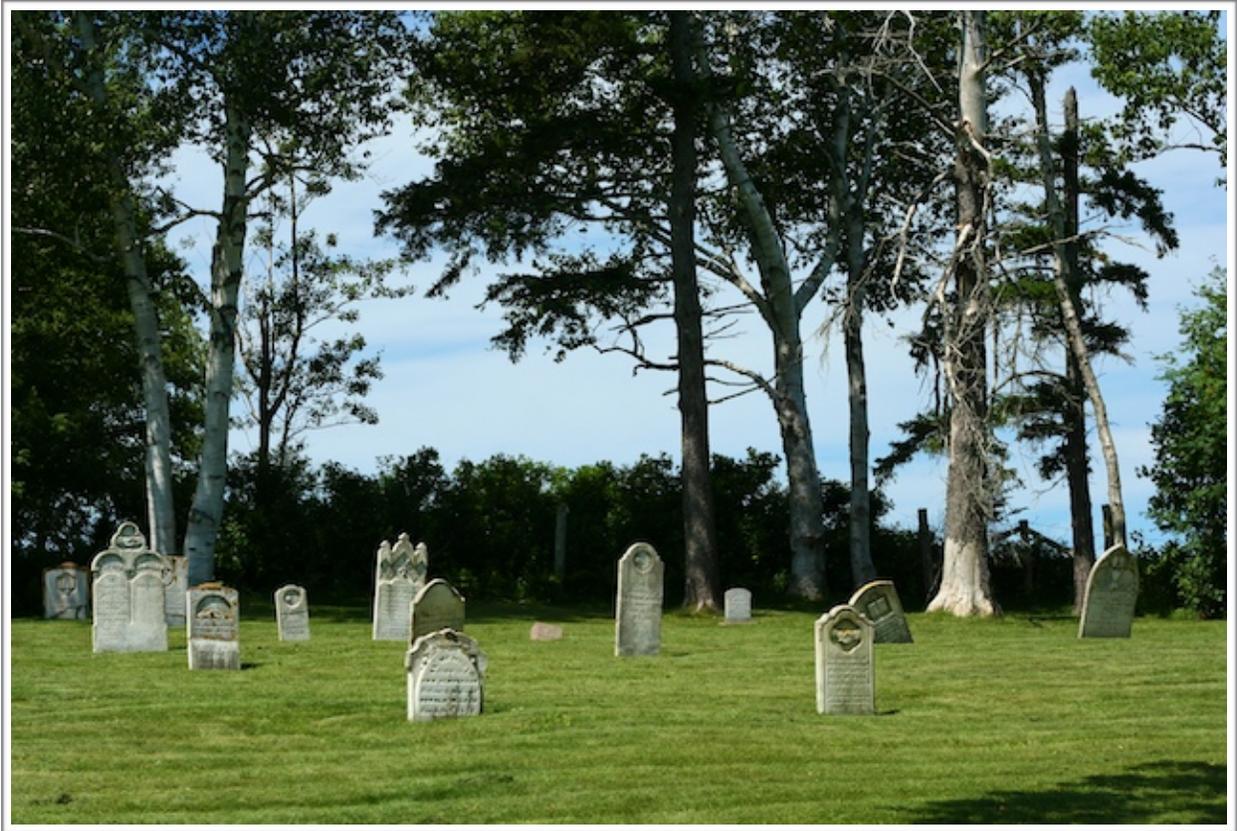


# Cemetery Stories Online Study Course

*Never forget those you come from*



Clyde River Pioneer Cemetery

**November 2020 - August 2021**

# Cemetery Stories: Online Study Course

*Never forget those you come from*

The Clyde River History Committee has decided to forego a 2021 Clyde River Lecture Series further to COVID-19 pandemic. In place of the lecture series, we have decided to proceed with a Cemetery Stories Study Series that people can take part in via internet from their own home.

We have fully opened up the research focus of the course, as we have participants from other communities which will make this course even more interesting. Participants can choose any communities, cemeteries and family names.

This course is self-directed and will run from November to August 2021. Over the course of the next months, we will introduce topics that participants can focus on with some suggested readings and outlined activities. We invite participants to share their research with the whole group at any point and pose any questions that others can help answer. Participants can choose the family names and cemeteries of their choice.

We have set up a Facebook page “**Cemetery Stories - Clyde River and Area**” ([link here](#)) and we welcome you to collaborate on this project. We invite you to share highlights of your research. You can also send highlights of your research to [clyderiverpei@eastlink.ca](mailto:clyderiverpei@eastlink.ca).

## **Participation/Registration:**

- Participants will register for free for this course. [Registration form here](#) or email [clyderiverpei@eastlink.ca](mailto:clyderiverpei@eastlink.ca)
- We will share the participant list with the study group and area of research to promote collaboration.

- Participants are also invited to offer an introduction on FB page as well highlighting the focus of their individual family and cemetery research so that others with a similar focus can reach out to collaborate. They can also pose research questions to the group.

## **Historical Period:**

We will focus on the time period of 1850 to present, but, in some cases, we may reference earlier dates. For the brief bios' writing exercise, we can go up to the present day because it's easier to write about deceased ancestors/friends that we actually knew personally.

## **Learning Objective:**

To build an archive of research and stories of ancestors and cemeteries which will offer future generations insight into the people/personalities that contributed to the early life of the community.

## **Cemeteries:**

For those focusing on Clyde River and surrounding communities, there are three cemeteries in Clyde River, and we have identified at least 30 cemeteries in the area which represent family and community connections to Clyde River and area. The list of cemeteries appears on this [Google sheet](#). (Also, see PDF appendix)

## **Study Plan:**

1. Understanding cemetery history and gravestone design (November-December 2020)
2. Gathering family names, photos and obituaries (January-February 2021)
3. Gathering family stories (March-April 2021)
4. Understanding how old-time residents managed their health (May-June)
5. Individual free time to explore and organize your research findings (July)
6. Clyde River & Area Cemetery Tours (August 2021)

## **Resources:**

We have shared a list of resources that we are aware of, and we welcome others to share titles of valuable publications. We will add to the list as the course progresses and participants share further resources.

### **Clyde River History Committee Resources:**

1. Digital photo collection of almost 2000 photos from Clyde River family albums - we also invite those to contribute additional photos to this collection during this course.
2. Links to articles on [www.clyderiverpei.com](http://www.clyderiverpei.com) website that relate to family connections
3. Access to Clyde River History Committee who has a good knowledge of local family genealogy
4. Links to research we gather from participants as the course progresses

### **Provincial Resources:**

1. **PEI Libraries and Public Archives** - [website](#) and [best practices](#)
2. **Island Voices** - includes Dutch Thompson interviews with Island seniors. This [website](#) offers a search function.

### **Online videos:**

1. This video offers a good starting point for this course: Silent Storytellers - [YouTube video](#)
2. Canadian Cemetery History Videos - Adam Montgomery, PhD - [YouTube Channel](#).
3. Please share any other videos that you think are good resources to inspire our research.

## Online Resources:

1. **[Dying to be Modern: Catarauqui Cemetery, Romanticism, Consumerism, and the Extension of Modernity in Kingston, Ontario, 1780-1900](#)** - An excellent thesis about the community of Kingston, Ontario which offers a good Canadian example which will resonate with Islanders.
2. **History Etched in Stone: Gravestone Art and The Garrison Graveyard at Annapolis Royal** (Nova Scotia) - [view here](#).
3. **[Identifying Stone Types found in Cemeteries](#)**
4. **Canadian Cemetery History blog** - [www.canadiancemeteryhistory.ca](http://www.canadiancemeteryhistory.ca) - Adam Montgomery, Ph.D. - his blog features Canadian cemeteries, feature stories and videos.
5. **Headstone symbols** - [UK site](#)
6. **Island Register** - <http://www.islandregister.com>
7. **Billion Graves** - [www.billiongraves.com](http://www.billiongraves.com) Cemetery Search - <https://billiongraves.com/search/cemetery>
8. **Find a Grave** - (Queens County) [https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery-browse/Canada/Prince-Edward-Island/Queens-County?id=county\\_5502](https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery-browse/Canada/Prince-Edward-Island/Queens-County?id=county_5502)
9. **Historic Places** - <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/home-accueil.aspx>
10. **Familysearch.org** - <https://www.familysearch.org/en/>
11. **Ancestry.ca** - <https://www.ancestry.ca>
12. **Island Newspapers** - <https://islandnewspapers.ca/browse>

## Publications:

1. **Old Canadian Cemeteries: Places of Memory**, Irwin, Jane, (2007), 320 pages, hard cover; colour. ISBN 13-978-1-55407-146-3. - used copies available on Amazon.

2. **Gone to the Grave, Burial customs of the Arkansas Ozarks, 1850-1950** - Burnett, Abby, (2014) ISBN 978-1-62846-111-4. This book is very well researched and, as immigrants also had English heritage, some stories will resonate with Island readers. - available in digital or print format on Amazon. There may also be a copy at UPEI Robertson Library.
3. **Who Departed This Life: A history of the Old Protestant Burying Ground** - Wright, George (2005), Acorn Press, ISBN 978-1894838184, 176 pages - history of early pioneers buried at Old Protestant Burying Ground in Charlottetown, PEI which have connections to other Island communities including Clyde River. Likely available at local libraries and bookstores. Otherwise, available on Amazon.
4. **Stories in Stone: A field guide to cemetery symbolism and iconography** – Keister, Douglas, (2004) Gibbs Smith, Publisher, ISBN 1-58685-321-X. You can view online version of book [here](#).
5. Please suggest others.

## **Part One: November-December 2020 - Understanding cemetery and gravestone design**

**Introduction to Cemetery and gravestone design** - Influences and progression of cemetery and gravestone design. What the shape and carved elements on headstones meant. The trends for grave markers at various times in history and also what was important to the individual or couple.

### **Resources:**

1. **Silent Storytellers** - YouTube video [here](#). This three-time Emmy Award winning video offers an excellent introduction to the rich history to be found in cemeteries.
2. **Stories in Stone: A field guide to cemetery symbolism and iconography** - Keister, Douglas, (2004) Gibbs Smith, Publisher, ISBN 1-58685-321-X. You can view the online version of book [here](#).
3. [Dying to be Modern: Cataraqui Cemetery, Romanticism, Consumerism, and the Extension of Modernity in Kingston, Ontario, 1780-1900](#) - Bower, Cayley B., (2017), Thesis, University of Western Ontario. This excellent thesis features one of the many garden cemeteries from the 19th century, Kingston, Ontario, which offers a good Canadian example that will resonate with Islanders.
4. Article that appeared *The Guardian*, **“Stories from beneath the surface with cemetery explorer”**, <https://www.theguardian.pe.ca/lifestyles/regional-lifestyles/video-stories-from-beneath-the-surface-with-cemetery-explorer-deadinhalifax-490883/>
5. We invite participants to suggest other good references.

### **Activities:**

1. Capture photos of cemeteries and selected gravestones - individual field trip or online
2. Research resources to better understand the style of cemeteries and gravestones

3. Choose 5 or 6 headstones/ancestors for this study, or if you wish to choose more, that's up to you. Alternatively, you may choose interesting headstones that have no ancestral connection to you - maybe something about a gravestone/epitaph piqued your curiosity and you would like to research this individual. Study the headstones that you have selected to research by summarizing the meanings of gravestone style and carvings, identify trends for different times in history and what would have influenced design.

## **Part Two: January-February 2021 - Gathering of family names, photos and obituaries**

Gathering family names, photos and obituaries and identifying cemeteries where they are buried - We will work together to list the family names that each of us are working on, so we can collaborate on our research. Also, we will highlight where their ancestors were buried before there were cemeteries in the local area e.g. Old Protestant Burying Ground, family plots, Sherwood Cemetery.

### **Resources:**

- 1. Island Newspapers** - <https://islandnewspapers.ca/browse>
- 2. Billion Graves** - [www.billiongraves.com](http://www.billiongraves.com) Cemetery Search - <https://billiongraves.com/search/cemetery>
- 3. Find a Grave** - (Queens County) [https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/browse/Canada/Prince-Edward-Island/Queens-County?id=county\\_5502](https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/browse/Canada/Prince-Edward-Island/Queens-County?id=county_5502)

### **Activities:**

- 1.** List family names in your ancestry within Clyde River and area or with connections to Clyde River area
- 2.** Gather obituaries for selected individuals
- 3.** Gather photos of individuals. We may have photos within our digital collection as well if they are from Clyde River.

## **Part Three: March-April 2021 - Gathering family stories**

Gathering interesting family stories of these individuals that go beyond the obituary. Here are some suggested questions to help you develop their bios. The Clyde River History Committee can assist with bio development.

1. What was their name?
2. What was their birthdate and death date?
3. Where are they buried?
4. Where did they live?
5. What was their occupation?
6. Was there something particularly interesting about their life that the family would like to share?
7. Did they contribute to their community/church - what role?
8. How would you describe them in terms of their personality/character?
9. What was important to them? What do you think they would like to be remembered for?
10. Did they have a special saying/words of wisdom?
11. Who were their family connections?
12. Where is their family/relatives buried e.g. parents, spouse, siblings, children?

If you wish, we will feature those with Clyde River connections on our [www.clyderiverpei.com](http://www.clyderiverpei.com) “In Memoriam” page. Names will appear in alphabetical order.

### **Activities:**

1. Answer suggested questions for selected individuals. The Clyde River History Committee can assist with bio development.
2. You are invited to share stories and feature them on the “In Memoriam” page that we will create on [www.clyderiverpei.com](http://www.clyderiverpei.com)

## **Part Four: May-June 2021 - Understanding how old-time residents managed their health & folklore around death**

We will explore common diseases/viruses from the period of 1850-1950 and explore the history of medical remedies before advances in medicine - What were some of the old time cures for various illnesses between 1850 and 1950? How did doctors treat common diseases? We welcome people to share old-time remedies and stories.

### **Resources:**

- 1. Gone to the Grave, Burial customs of the Arkansas Ozarks, 1850-1950** - Burnett, Abby, (2014) ISBN 978-1-62846-111-4. This book is well researched and, as immigrants also had English heritage, some stories will resonate with Island readers. Available in digital/print on Amazon.
- 2. Lotions, Potions, Pills and Magic: Health Care in Early America** – Breslaw, Elaine (2012), New York University Press, ISBN 978-0-8147-8717-5 [Online version here.](#)
- 3. Making Medicare – The history of health care in Canada, 1914-2007** – [Canadian Museum of History](#)
- 4. Disease, Medicine and Society in Canada:** A historical overview – Bernier, Jacques (2003) – ISBN 0-88798-207-7 Historical Booklets – This publication covers the history of health in Canada since the 17th century. [Online version here.](#)

### **Activities:**

1. Make a list of old-time remedies and what they were used for. Highlight remedies that would have been used by your ancestors.
2. Gather an overview of epidemics that each generation faced
3. Gather stories on folklore around death
4. Capture some advertisements from PEI Newspapers which highlight products and promises they offered. Gather any photos or artifacts of items.

## **Part Five: July 2021 - Individual free time to explore and organize your research findings**

This is a chance to review your research over the past months and organize information. We welcome you to share research with other participants and to feature highlights on Clyde River website.

### **Activities:**

1. Visit cemeteries, public archives to verify aspects of your research
2. Finalize information/stories on selected ancestors (Clyde River History Committee can assist with bio development)
3. Share research results and stories with other participants
4. Pose any outstanding questions or gaps in research where others could assist
5. Update research based on feedback from participants

## **Part Six: August 2021 - Clyde River & Area Tours**

At the conclusion of the course, we will host one-hour tours of the following cemeteries:

12:30 p.m. - St. Catherine's

2:00 p.m. - Clyde River Burnside Cemetery

3:00 p.m. - Refreshments at Riverview Community Centre

3:30 p.m. - Clyde River Baptist Cemetery

You can join all three tours or those of your choice.

Based on participant interest, we will schedule cemetery tours of other community cemeteries as well.