

Richmond & District Royal Canadian Legion Branch #625

Eric Booth

With Remembrance Day approaching, you may have noticed that there are white crosses at certain graves within the cemeteries of Richmond, Munster Hamlet and Dwyer Hill. These crosses are placed by members of the Richmond and District Royal Canadian Legion Branch #625 to mark veterans graves. These veterans served in the War of 1812, the Fenian Raids, the First and Second World Wars, Peacekeeping operations, the Cold War, or served with the Canadian Armed Forces.

Not all of these veterans were members of the Royal Canadian Legion and as such we ask for assistance in updating our files. This will assist us with updating the memorial boards located at these cemeteries as well as at the Richmond Memorial Park.

It is interesting to note that there are five war time graves located in Richmond. These are graves of military personnel who died while in Canada both in the First and Second World Wars. These graves have the standard military headstone and are maintained by Veterans Affairs Canada. Their names are also listed in the Book of Remembrance housed in the Memorial Chamber within the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill.

St. Phillip's, Roman Catholic Cemetery:

Sergeant Thomas Augustine O'Grady, service number C/98324.

Sgt O'Grady served with the Royal Canadian Ordinance Corps (RCOC).

He died on the 31 July 1945, at the age of 36.

He was the son of Charles and Margaret Ann O'Grady, of Richmond.



St. John's, Anglican Cemetery:



Trooper William Benson Woodruff, service number C/21146.

Trooper Woodruff served with the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps (RCAC). He died of a heart attack while training at Camp Borden on 30 June 1943, at the age of 43.

He was the son of Sarah L. Woodruff, of Cumberland and husband of Mary Edna Woodruff, of Leonard, Ontario.

He was born and lived in Richmond before moving to Bells Corners. He served during the First World War as a gunner with the 69th Battery Royal Canadian Artillery, service number 274029. He was wounded in the left leg.

He was the father of five sons, Edward, Allan, Donald, James and Orville as well as three daughters Louise, Dorothy and Doreen.

Private John Henry Simmonds service number 145819
Pte Simmonds died of pneumonia while training with the 77th Infantry Battalion in Ottawa on 21 April 1916, at the age of 17 at the Rideau Street, General Base Hospital.
He had come to Canada as an orphan and had lived with the Reverend W.H. Green, rector of the Richmond Anglican Parish prior to enlisting with the 77th Battalion.
He was the son of the late Charles and Eleanor Simmonds, of London, England.



St Paul's United Church Cemetery

Aircraftman 2nd Class William James Findley, service number R/135526.
AC2 Findley served with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF).
He died on 28 October 1941, at the age of 42.
He was the son of James and Mary Alice Findley, of Richmond.



Pilot Officer William Irwin Moore, service number J/29302
PO Moore served with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) as a training officer at No. 23 Elementary Flying Training School (EFTS) at RCAF Station Davidson, Saskatchewan. The school and station were a component of the British Commonwealth Training Plan.
He died in a plane crash in Davidson Saskatchewan on 12 May 1944, at the age of 25. He was the son of Charles and Bernice Moore, of Richmond.

Also found in some of the cemeteries and churches are memorials and Roll of Honours to those who died or who served during one of the wars.



More information on Canada's War Dead can be found at:

The Commonwealth War Graves: www.cwgc.org
Veterans Affairs Canada virtual war memorial: www.veterans.gc.ca
Library and Archives Canada: www.bac-lac.gc.ca

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM