



Kingston Frontenac Public Library 2016 Scottish Walking Tour Two

Table of Contents

St Andrews and Skeleton Park –Tour Two.....	2
A - St. Andrew's Church.....	2
B - St. Andrew's Manse	2
C - 163 Clergy Street - Willis Family	3
D - 178 Clergy Street - Shields Family.....	3
E- McBurney Park a.k.a. Skeleton Park – Plaque	3
F - Skeleton Park Barclay Monument	4
G - Skeleton Park Cross	4
H - Skeleton Park Cannon	4
I - 181 Clergy Street – MacPhersons.....	4
J - 135 Clergy Street - Dr. Campbell.....	5

The tour was produced for the May 2016 KFPL "Outlandish" (Scottish-themed) month. It's in two parts:

Tour one is located in the Central Library neighbourhood.

Tour two is located in the St. Andrew's and Skeleton Park neighbourhood.

Free self-guided walking tour. Discover the homes and haunts of Scots who shaped our city. Scottish history in Kingston is full of surprises!

Queen's University, founded in 1841, was modelled on the universities in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and supported largely by the Presbyterian Church. Almost all of its early faculty were educated in Scotland.

St Andrews and Skeleton Park –Tour Two

A - St. Andrew's Church

In 1818, King George III granted to the Scottish Presbyterians in Kingston, Ontario a deed for one acre of land on Clergy Street, between Store Street and Grave Street (now Princess Street and Queen Street). In 1820, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church was built on the site. It was the first stone Protestant church in Kingston.

In 1822, the Reverend John Barclay came from Edinburgh to be its first minister. He was 26 years old when arrived in Kingston on Christmas Day, 1821. We'll learn more about him during later stops in the walking tour.

B - St. Andrew's Manse

The second minister of St. Andrew's Church was Rev. John Machar. He lived in this limestone manse, which was built in 1841 and has been called "one of the finest houses in Kingston." In 1843 a dispute broke out in The Church of Scotland, about whether local congregations should have the right to chose their own ministers.

Those who preferred the old tradition stayed here at St. Andrew's. They were served by Rev. Machar until his death in 1863. But some prominent church members left and formed a new congregation: Chalmers Free Presbyterian Church. Their story continues later in the walking tour. In 1888 the St. Andrew's church sanctuary was destroyed by fire. It was quickly rebuilt. On 16 February 1890, the church re-opened, and services have continued here ever since.

C - 163 Clergy Street - Willis Family

Scottish history in Kingston isn't only about prominent people and buildings. The sad story of James Willis is a case in point. Born in Ontario of Scottish parents, he worked as a coal-shoveller at the docks. In 1910, just five days before Christmas, he slipped into a back room at the Kingston Gas Works and lay down for a nap. He never woke up. His body was found the next morning. James (and a sparrow that had also flown into the room for shelter) had been suffocated by fumes from the illuminating gas that was made at the plant. After James's death, his wife Aggie continued to live here, raising their 3 teenaged sons by herself.

D - 178 Clergy Street - Shields Family

Not far from Aggie Willis lived another young widow. Annie (McDonald) Shields and her husband had lived in Edmonton for a while, but by 1911 she was back in Kingston, raising her two boys (10 and 8 years old). Both Annie and her mother had recently lost their husbands and were living here together, making ends meet by taking in a female lodger. Annie could trace her Scottish roots all the way back to her Loyalist great-grandparents. They sailed from Scotland to New York in 1773 on a ship called *The Pearl*, and settled on Wolfe Island around 1820. Many of their descendants still live on the Island.

E- McBurney Park a.k.a. Skeleton Park – Plaque

Earlier, we met Rev. James Barclay, the first minister of St. Andrew's Church. Soon he was embroiled in a dispute with the minister of the Anglican Church, Rev. George Okill Stuart. Barclay wanted the right to bury Scottish Protestants here in the "Upper Burial Ground," using the Scottish forms of service. Stuart said no, and a war of words broke out. Twice, the ministers challenged each other here during funerals. Barclay even brought a locksmith to one funeral because he thought the Anglicans might have locked the gates. For 3 years, he appealed to the

authorities until finally, in 1825, the Scottish congregation was granted a 1.5 acre section here for their burials

F - Skeleton Park Barclay Monument

Unfortunately, Reverend Barclay didn't live long after the Scottish section of the Burial Ground was granted. He died at the age of 30 from a fever that he caught while visiting friends near London (Ont.) He was buried here, and a monument was erected to commemorate him. In time, the original monument deteriorated, but it was rebuilt in 1893 and has stood here ever since.

G - Skeleton Park Cross

About 10,000 bodies were buried in the Upper Burial Ground. About 2,000 were Presbyterians (Scottish Church) and the rest were Anglican and Catholic. By 1865, the space had become too crowded, and all new burials were taking place elsewhere. In the late 1880s, the decision was made to turn this space into a city park. Church authorities agreed to exhume the bodies and re-inter them in the newer cemeteries. However, for various reasons only about 1,000 of the estimated 10,000 bodies were actually moved. In 2002, this granite cross was erected so the Scottish and Irish who still rest here will not be forgotten.

H - Skeleton Park Cannon

The McBurney Park cannon is a Blomefield smooth-bore muzzle-loading 24-pounder, made in England, that would have been used by the British forces. The cypher on top of the gun is the royal insignia of King George III. He was the king who brought together Ireland and Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) to form one nation called the United Kingdom. He ruled from 1760 until his death in 1820, about a year before young Reverend Barclay arrived in Kingston as the first minister of St. Andrew's Church. King George III never visited Canada. In fact, he never even visited Scotland or Ireland!

I - 181 Clergy Street – MacPhersons

In 1901, this was the home of two unmarried sisters, Misses Annie and Edith McPherson, who were from a well-respected Scottish family in Kingston. More than 50 years earlier, when Annie

was just a baby, John A Macdonald and his wife Isabella got married in the MacPherson home. In 1889 Sir John A. wrote a charming letter to Annie, who had done a favour for him: "I don't know how to thank you sufficiently...You seem to have been born to take care of other people and other people's interests...The statement you have sent me is just what I want, and I shall file it away with the probate from Louisa's will." Louisa was his sister, and we will "meet" her in another stop on the walking tour: at 134 Earl Street.

J - 135 Clergy Street - Dr. Campbell

Dr. James William Campbell was a Scottish physician who lived here with his wife Martha and their two sons. He started his career as a teacher and then a school principal, then graduated from Queen's University in 1891, and practiced family medicine here for the next thirty years. For much of that time, he was also teaching in the medical faculty at Queen's. He was active at St. Andrew's Church, and in fraternal organizations and civic affairs. A staunch Liberal, he served on City Council in 1899 and 1900. When he died here in 1923, from a serious infection, the city flags flew at half-mast to honour his long years of service to the community.