



Prior to St Helen's Cemetery's establishment, Dutton Dunwich's faithful Catholics would have transported their dearly departed to either the Cemetery of the North American Martyrs in Wardsville or Holy Angels Cemetery in St. Thomas. Either of these locations would have been a two-or three-day trip by horse and wagon over rough trails cut through the woods. Nevertheless, many of the Catholic pioneer families are still buried at those two locations.



Timothy Crowley donated a corner of his farm for use as a Catholic cemetery in 1887. The donation was requested by his wife following the death of the couple's daughter. In order to be interned in sanctified ground, she had to be buried far away and the mother could not visit often. The cemetery layout was designed by the couple's son Patrick, who organized it in sections named after Saints all converging on the central cross and Corpus Christi. Every Catholic cemetery has a large crucifix in a central location from which all paths lead.



St. Helen's Cemetery

28291 Thomson Line,
Dutton



Municipality of
Dutton Dunwich

MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE

1



Crowley

This is the headstone of the family who donated the land for the cemetery. The marker is a family stone with burial dates ranging from 1888 to 1992. Many of the original markers in this cemetery were made of wood, which rotted over the years, so this stone is a replacement for the originals. The stone is centrally located on the plot with smaller markers indicating where each individual is buried.

2



Mary Cunningham

The top central portion of the stone is a carved motif of a crown with cross. This symbolizes the departed's soul gaining victory over death through Christ the King. This is one of the older original headstones in the cemetery. It faces east, and all of the coffins in this cemetery would be laid with the foot end facing east as well. This practice comes from the Bible, in a verse essentially meaning that on the day of judgement they will be able to see the second coming of the Lord this way.

3



Vandenbosch

Stones with a Cherub on top most often are used to mark a child's grave. Sadly this is the case with young Adriaan John Vandenbosch who died at age 14. The Cherub signifies the purity and innocence of the child and that the child's soul has taken flight to heaven. This grave also shows the remarkable diversity in the cultural origins of the faithful of this Parish.

4



McCaffery

One of many stones belonging to this original pioneer family. This stone for Bernard McCaffery and his wife shows a scroll or open book atop a lectern. The open book represents the Book of Good Deeds opened to the page listing the charitable acts performed by the departed. The Book would be read out on the Day of Judgment. This motif is seen in all Christian denominations, not only Catholic.

5



Hooley

Another family stone that would have replaced wooden markers. Burial dates range from 1849 to 1975 with ground markers showing location of actual burial. This headstone bears an inscription often seen on Catholic markers: the initials 'IHS.' This stands for *Iesus Hominum Salvator*, which is Greek for 'Jesus Savior of Mankind.'

6



Kairns

This impressive family stone is surrounded by ground markers showing location of the deceased but also dates of birth and dates of death. This large stone marker is carved out to display a cross emerging from the stone. This design signifies the departed's belief in their resurrection after death. The cross emerging from the stone represents Christ leaving his tomb 3 days after his death.