

The following is the History of the beginning of Evergreen Cemetery. As set 25: Con. 2. S. W. R. Artemesia was written, in the early 1950s, by Mrs. Bella (McDougall) McConnell, a grand daughter of the first person to be laid to rest in that hallowed ground —

"On the Isle of Ilay there lived a man by the name of Ronald McDougall, who was a miller by trade. At that time mail service was not good but he heard about a distant land by the name of Canada which offered opportunities to a man of his nature. Therefore, in the year 1850, he left his highland hills in Scotland along with his wife and family to seek his fortune in this country called Canada. While he was well blessed with a large family, he had little money but with his pioneer spirit, a stalwart man with a Christian home upbringing and speaking the Gaelic language, he thought he was well fitted to meet any obstacles that might cross his path. So preparations to leave his native land were made, consisting mainly of baking huge barrels of scones to provide he and his family with eats for the twelve week voyage on the sea in a sail boat.

Finally the shores of Canada were reached and plans had to be made to establish homes for himself and his wife, Flora, as well as the family which consisted of his married son Jimmie and his wife, Mary, also Mary's widowed mother, Mrs. Catherine Smith, and his four unmarried sons, Colov, Allen, Sandy, and Donald, and his two beautiful daughters, Flora and Mary. Their first visit was with a sister of Mrs. Catherine Smith who lived in the Caledon district, but the visit was not too long as preparations had to be made for building houses in which to spend the winter, which was fast approaching. So they started for the township of Artemesia in Grey County on foot, carrying all their worldly possessions on their backs with the exception of one precious parcel which had to be carried in loving arms. This parcel was a baby boy who had been born to Jimmie and Mary during their stay in Caledon and was named Neil.

The family settled on the south line and took up the allotted fifty acres from the Crown, Sandy and Allen