

GCPS Progress Report March, 2017

- After our February Meeting, Bob and I took a laminated copy of the signed Staking Notice for our Cemetery Lease Application to the Cemetery and posted it on a tree just inside the Cemetery boundary. Bob photographed it and at home he printed off a copy which I sent together with copies of both newspapers that had our Lease Notice in it as well as a cover letter. It should take about 140 days for them to make their decision. That would bring it to approximately the beginning of August. Please remember this is only step one of a very lengthy process so we are in this for the long haul.
- An email (together with links) was sent out to all of Members asking to send emails of support to FrontCounter B.C. regarding our Lease application to re-open the Cemetery. We have received feedback that a few have sent their support. Thank you to those who did.
- On February 6, Roy Roberts signed our guestbook. He said: "Extremely well done portfolio and informative documentary on one of the most important places in BC history. Awesome effort, stand tall." Thank you, Roy!
- There was another entry in our guestbook on February 26 from Chris McCouaig. It reads: "Hi, Thank you for your efforts in locating and listing the Granite Creek Cemetery burials.

"Noted burial of Catherine Cronkhite nee Barton (1900-1993), William A Cronkhite(1931-1999), Mary Barton (15/11/1880-12/5 1971) and William Barton(1876-1969) in the Find-a-Grave Index. Mary nee Starrs and William emigrated to BC in 1922 from Willington Quay Northumberland, England, where he was a coal hewer. They were married in 1909 and celebrated their 60 year marriage anniversary in Princeton. The death certificate for Mary shows C Cronkhite, daughter, as the person registering the death. I suspect the John William Barton may have been a son who died very young. (31 years)

"On Mary's death certificate it shows her burial place at Mt View Cemetery. Am a little puzzled by the different burial places.

"Mary Starrs Barton was a sister to my grandmother Susan (Starrs) McCouaig who emigrated to Australia.

"Regards, Chris"

I did some online research and gave him the following response to his entry:

Admin reply: Hello Chris:

Thank you for signing our guestbook. I am glad you were able to find the graves for your relatives who are buried at the Granite Creek Cemetery.

I searched the records for Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver (which are available online) and could not find any reference to Mary Barton being interred there. I also checked Mountain View Cemetery in Trail and Duncan (on Vancouver Island) and found no records for her being buried at those locations either.

Since there is a headstone for Mary at the Granite Creek Cemetery, it is probably safe to assume she is interred there. It could be that family members originally planned on her being buried at Mountain View but changed their minds.

Thank you for the family information. I will include it in our Cemetery records in case other family members might find it helpful in the future.

*Diane Sterne
Vice-Chair
Granite Creek Preservation Society*