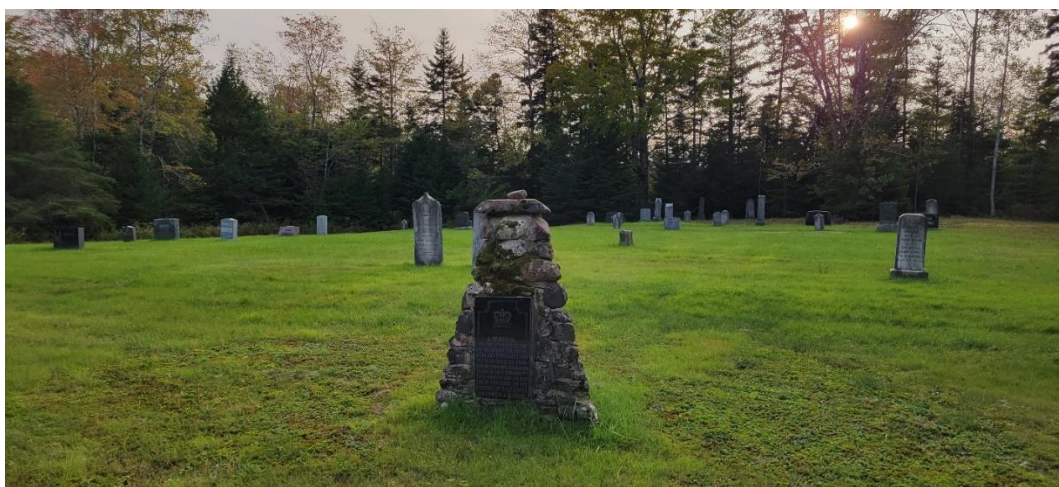


## The Monument to the 84<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

By Brian McConnell, UE\*

There is a unique loyalist monument located in Hants County, Nova Scotia which I visited in September, 2023. It is the only monument in Canada built by descendants as a tribute to a Regiment that served with the British during the American Revolution. It is located in the Saint Thomas Anglican Church Cemetery on the Georgefield Road.



**Saint Thomas Cemetery with Monument at front**

The monument was completed in 1995 by Peter Ashley and Winston MacPhee. Both are descendants of members of the 84<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion that served during the American Revolution. They were also members of the 84<sup>th</sup> of Foot Second Battalion Regimental Association. The Association was registered under the Societies Act of Nova Scotia on October 16, 1986. Its' by-laws describe it as a volunteer non – profit and self – funded organization dedicated to the research, preservation and authentic re-creation of a military regiment, camp and community as it existed during the period of the American Revolutionary War (1775 – 1783). (1) Members of the Association are living history reenactors.

The monument has a plaque on it which reads:

A MEMORIAL  
TO THE 2ND BATTALION  
84<sup>TH</sup> REGIMENT THE ROYAL  
HIGHLAND EMIGRANTS. WHO  
SETTLED DOUGLAS TOWN-

SHIP IN 1784 AND SO BEGAN  
TO BUILD THIS COMMUNITY,  
THIS CHURCH AND TO ADD  
THEIR PRESENCE TO THE  
HISTORY OF EAST HANTS  
October 1, 1995



**Monument to 84<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

To view a video on YouTube that I prepared during my visit to the monument see:

[https://youtu.be/pv\\_0p-v1Gwo?si=-w7VcYuxdhYt1D9](https://youtu.be/pv_0p-v1Gwo?si=-w7VcYuxdhYt1D9)

The 84<sup>th</sup> Regiment, originally known as the Royal Highland Emigrants, was the first Highland Regiment to be raised outside of Scotland. It was formed during the summer and fall of 1775 as a Provincial Corps for service against the Rebels in America. It consisted of two battalions. The 1<sup>st</sup> battalion was based in Quebec and the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion in Nova Scotia. In 1778 they became part of the British Establishment as the 84<sup>th</sup> Regiment. The 1<sup>st</sup> battalion saw action in the defense of Quebec. The 2<sup>nd</sup> was raised in the Maritimes, New York and the Carolinas. It took part in the relief of Fort Cumberland and saw garrison duty at Halifax, Sydney, Shelburne, Fort Sackville, Fort Howe, Fort Anne, and Fort Edward. A detachment also served in Newfoundland, as well as Antigua and five companies were part of the Southern Campaign. Following the end of the American Revolution the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion was disbanded at Fort Edward in Windsor, Nova Scotia on October 10, 1783. The Township of Douglas in Hants County was provided for their settlement.

During the last week of October, 2023 I contacted Peter Ashley, historian and retired teacher. He indicated: "The monument as I recall was completed on the date inscribed but the idea and planning began in the Spring of 1995. The stones for the monument were collected by Winston MacPhee and

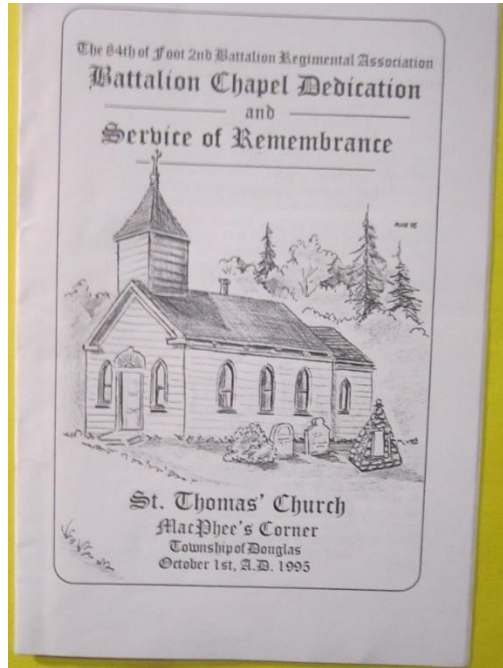
myself from an old rock fence remains on property once granted to one of Winston's ancestors who was in the 84<sup>th</sup>.... He and I built the cairn that summer and after he had ordered the monument tablet. "Peter Ashley further recalled that "It was built on that particular site for two reasons: It was where our battalion chapel was located. Two, the place name MacPhee's Corner and fact it was on the Georgefield Road. MacPhee because of Winston's 84<sup>th</sup> ancestry and Georgefield was named after the son of my 84<sup>th</sup> ancestor, George Miller. The small cemetery contains a number of descendants."

In the book "Rawdon and Douglas: Two Loyalist Townships in Nova Scotia" authored by John Victor Duncanson in 1989 it describes how veterans of the 84<sup>th</sup> Regiment were settled in the area. (2) It also notes how the officers of the 84<sup>th</sup> were mainly Gaelic speakers from the Scottish Highlands. The uniform of members was full highland garb with Black Watch Tartan and sporrans of racoon skin.



Photo above taken at Sasine Ceremony held with Mayor of East Hants at Memorial. Appearing in photo left to right: Reverend Richard Walsh, Sgt. Major Bill Nelson, Drummer Colin Nickerson, Mayor Lloyd Matheson, Private Peter Ashley, Private Mark Weatherby, Private Winston MacPhee, Private Peter Hyslop, Private Kerry DeLorey.

The Sasine Ceremony was held during the Summer of 1995. Saint Thomas Church had been dedicated as a chapel for the 84<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Regimental Association earlier that year. A service of Remembrance was then held to all the former soldiers who had settled Douglas Township. The service was officiated by Reverend Richard E. Walsh, the Chaplain of the 84<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.



Appearing in Photo above left to right: Captain Ross McInnis, Private Pater Ashley, Reverend John D. Leddicote, Reverend Richard E. Walsh, Private Wilfred Crowe (Photo Credit: Kerry DeLorey)



Peter Ashley standing beside Monument taken about 2011 (Photo Credit: Marjorie Ashley)

- This article was completed on November 12, 2023 by Brian McConnell, UE, President of the N.S. Branch of the UELAC. To contact him email: [brianm564@gmail.com](mailto:brianm564@gmail.com)

Notes:

- (1) By-laws of the 84<sup>th</sup> of Foot Second Battalion Regimental Association as Repealed and Completed Amended 2008
- (2) Duncanson, John Victor, "Rawdon and Douglas: Two Loyalist Townships in Nova Scotia", Mika Publishing Company, Belleville, Ontario, 1989