

Sorting Natives from Indians: interrogating historic burials in the Catholic Burying Ground on the Dartmouth Common (1835-1865)

Sorting “Natives” from “Indians” : interrogating historic burials in the Catholic Burying Ground on the Dartmouth Common (1835-1865)

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Abstract:

This research disrupts a colonial narrative about settlers and hundreds of “Indians” inscribed on a monument as part of a non-Indigenous tourism scheme to raise money and clean up the abandoned Catholic Burying Ground on the Dartmouth Common. Many Natives of Ireland and others, not Natives of North America, are identified by a detailed analysis of handwritten death records and other sources. They were all but forgotten when the municipality took control of the cemetery in 1975 without a copy of the church records. This left a gap in public memory that allowed variations of an “old Indian burial ground” narrative to evolve from burials in the ground (1962) to burials in a mound (2010). The findings are relevant to the national project of Truth and Reconciliation and serve as a cautionary tale about the importance of seeking truth before reconciliation. This research will be of interest to Irish researchers and descendants of those who died; residents of Halifax Regional Municipality who own the cemetery in trust; government administrators, planners, and surveyors; Catholic organizations in control of historic records; and to social, legal and Indigenous researchers who grapple with constructed “Indian” identities as a way of decolonizing the story of Canada.

Description:

vi, 111 leaves : illustrations (some colour), colour map ; 29 cm

Includes abstract and appendices.

Includes bibliographical references (leaves 100-111).

Subject:

- Catholic Burying Ground (Dartmouth, N.S.) -- History
- Cemeteries -- Nova Scotia -- Dartmouth -- History
- Collective memory -- Nova Scotia -- Dartmouth
- Monuments -- Nova Scotia -- Dartmouth
- Burial records -- Nova Scotia -- Dartmouth
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The Indian Burial Ground is a historic Native American cemetery on Narrow Lane in Charlestown, Rhode Island. The small (0.1-acre (0.040 ha)) cemetery is believed to have been the burying ground for leaders of the Narragansett and Niantic tribes. It is now fenced off by an iron post and rail fence, erected in the late 19th century. The cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. National Register of Historic Places listings in Washington County, Rhode Island. SUTHERLAND, Heather J. Sorting "Natives" from "Indians" : interrogating historic burials in the Catholic Burying Ground on the Dartmouth Common (1835-1865). 2017. OBED, Diane (2017), Illiniavugut Nunami: Learning from the Land: Envisioning an Inuit-centered Educational Future. SLAUNWHITE, Stefanie (2017), The intricacies of intergration: the case of Graham Creighton High School. SHEARS, Robert H.J., (2013), Examination of a Contested Landscape: Archaeological Prospecion on the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia. 2012. BROWNLOW, Bridget E. (2012), Secularization, Co-education and Conflict Management at Saint Mary's University: 1967-1970. Bury, J. B. (John Bagnell), 1861-1927. Publication date. 1923. Topics. Byzantine Empire -- History, Rome -- History Empire, 284-476. Publisher. London : Macmillan.