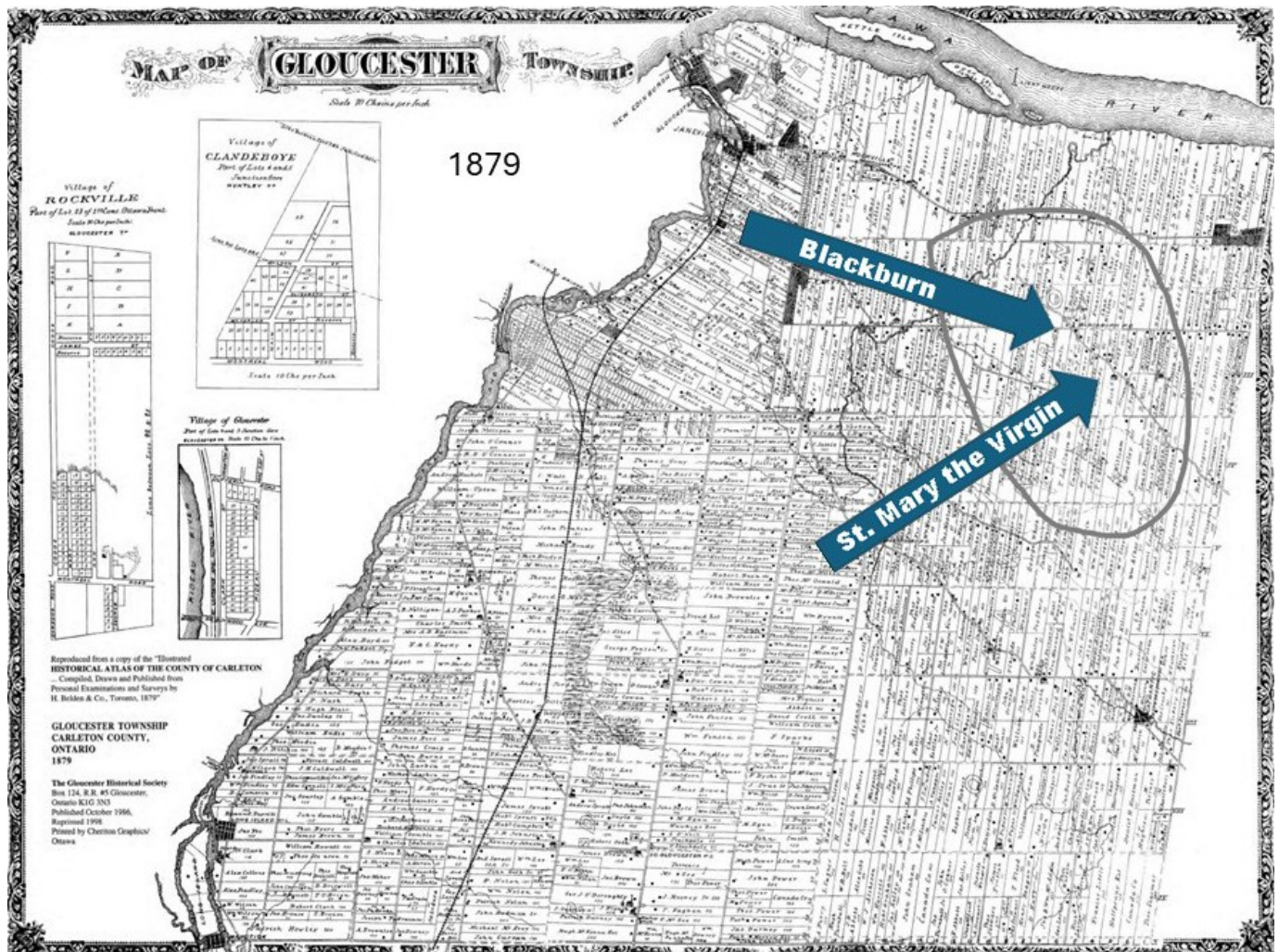


A Short History of St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church and its Cemetery

Part 1: Origins of the Church

The area now known as Blackburn was initially referred to as Green's Creek and later Daggsville. Among the first settlers were C. Armstrong, John Kemp, the Daggs - Richard, John and Thomas, William Purdy, William Bradley, William and Thomas Wilson, John Farmer, Andrew Daly, John Hall, Richard Dowler, John Holden, R. McArdel, Andrew Daley, Robert Hurst, John McGrath, John Coughlan, William Price, Robert Perrault and a family named Coombs.[1]



Map source: Gloucester Historical Society

On 2 September 1878, a group of these farmers met with the Rev. Edward Hannington, the incumbent of St. Bartholomew's in New Edinburgh, who oversaw the mission church in the Blackburn area, and confirmed their resolution to build a church for the community. It was at this meeting that Richard Dagg offered part of his land for the church and cemetery. With pledges and labour from neighbouring farmers, the church was built and formally opened in September 1879. They named their new church St. Mary the Virgin after the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Blackburn, England.[2] [7]

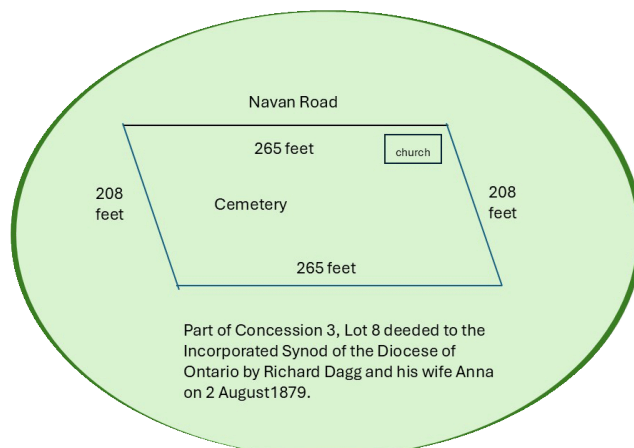
The building committee raised money for the construction of the church through a subscription of \$62 [2] (in today's dollars would be well over \$1,638 based on inflation from 1914, the earliest date available for the calculation [6]). The farmers were also economical with the construction as they apparently re-used wooden beams from at least one burned barn. A picture of one of these beams was photographed by Lynn & Brian Glenn in 2009 during their project for the Diocesan Archives to photograph all the churches in the Diocese of Ottawa.



A close-up of a charred wooden beam

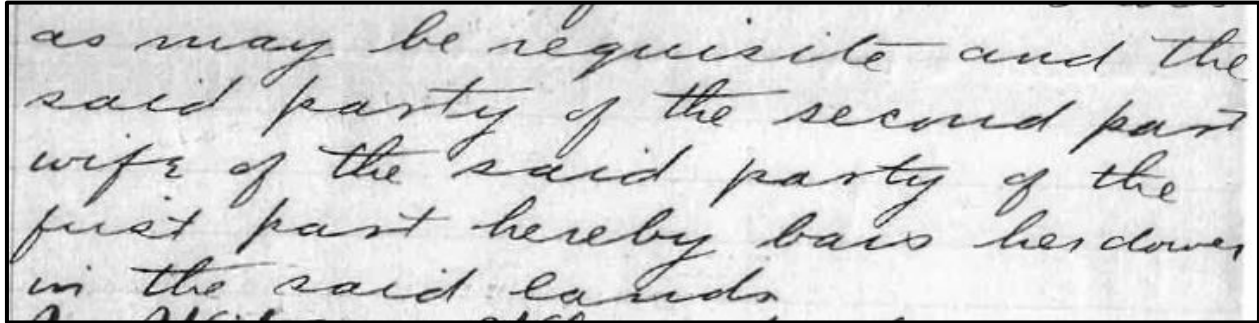
Richard Dagg and his wife, Ann Bridget Dagg, formally conveyed the parcel of land for the church from his farm on Concession number three, Lot eight, Ottawa Front, Gloucester Township, to the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Ontario and *"their assignees forever"* in an indenture or contract on 2 August 1879, for the sum of \$1 *"in lawful money of Canada"*. [3]

The tract of land was described as approximately one acre, measured along what is now Navan Road, three chains sixteen and one-quarter links, by four chains and one and three-quarter links, by three chains and sixteen and one-quarter links, by four chains, one and three-quarter links. The approximate shape and dimensions of the parcel of land is illustrated in the diagram, using



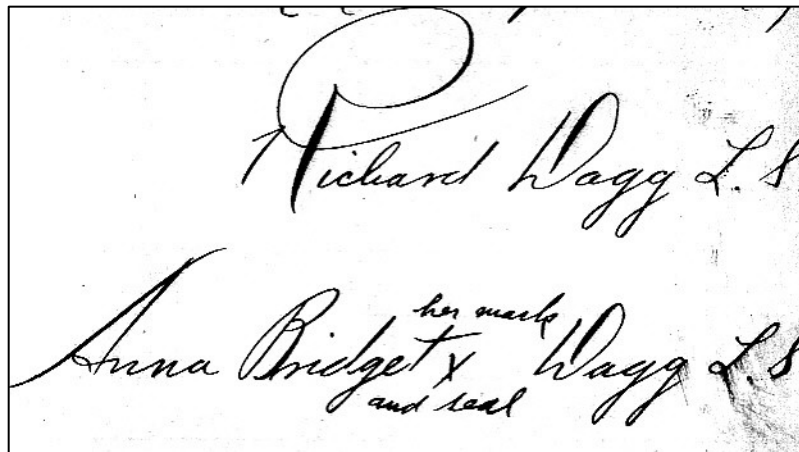
current imperial measurement as taken from a modern survey of the property. [4]

As part of the deed, Anna gave up her dower rights to the property should Richard die before her.[5]



as may be requisite and the
said party of the second part
wife of the said party of the
first part hereby bars her dower
in the said lands

Both Richard and Anna signed the document and its duplicate. It appears that Richard signed both his and Anna's signatures with Anna using her mark "X".



Richard Dagg L.S.
Anna Bridget ^{her mark} X _{and seal} Dagg L.S.

The deed was registered in the Registry Office in Book C for the township of Gloucester on 29 January 1880, Instrument #4946, by W.H. Waller, Registrar.

The Parish Register of the Diocese of Ottawa (now the Archives of the Diocese of Ottawa) did not, however, receive the duplicate copy until 10 March 1920, by John Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese.

A full transcription and copy of the Instrument can be found [in](#) the Annex A.

Brian Glenn

November 2024

Footnotes:

[1] “Carleton Saga” by Harry and Olive Walker, published in 1968.

[2] “St. Mary the Virgin, Blackburn 1879-1979 A History of the Parish” compiled by Helen Stolfi [found in the papers held by the St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery Committee]

[3] Duplicate of the original Instrument of the indenture, found in the Archives of the Diocese of Ottawa. Transcribed by Brian Glenn, October 2024.

[4] Imperial measurements estimated from Sketch of Cemetery Layout by Farley, Smith & Denis Surveying Ltd., October 2020 (document held by the St. Mary the Virgin Cemetery Committee)

[5] Extract from Instrument of Indenture donating land to the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Ontario by Richard and Anna Dagg, 1879.

[6] CPI Inflation Calculator (Canada) 1914 to 2024.

[7] The parish church of St Mary the Virgin, Blackburn, Lancashire, was consecrated in 1826 and become a Cathedral in 1926, when the Diocese of Blackburn was created. Essentially a Georgian building, designed by John Palmer, it stands on a site reputedly associated with early Christianity. The foundation is believed to date from the year 596. (<https://blackburncathedral.com/learn/our-history>).

Annex A
Deed for St. Mary the Virgin Church & Cemetery
(duplicate)
Anglican Diocese of Ottawa Archives
Transcribed October 2024 by Brian Glenn

Registered in the Registry Office in Book C for the township of Gloucester 29 January 1880, Instrument #4946, W.H. Waller, Registrar

Registered in the Parish Register of the Diocese of Ottawa 10 March 1920, John Bishop, Registrar of the Diocese.

This Indenture made the second day of August in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine.

Between Richard Dagg of the Township of Gloucester in the County of Carleton and the Province of Ontario, yeoman, of the First Part. Ann Bridget Dagg, his wife, of the Second Part, and The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Ontario, of the Third Part.

Whereas the said Richard Dagg is desirous of conveying the parcel or tract of land and premises hereinafter particularly described to The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Ontario aforesaid to the uses and upon their trusts hereafter declared.

Witnesseth, that in consideration of the sum of one dollar of lawful money of Canada now paid by the said parties of the third part to the said part of the first part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged and for the purpose aforesaid the said party of the First Part doth grant unto The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Ontario aforesaid and their assignees forever.

All and Singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situated and being in the Township of Gloucester in the County of Carleton and Province of Ontario, being composed of part of Lot number eight in the third concession, Ottawa Front of the Township of Gloucester and containing by admeasurement one acre the same more or less and maybe described as follows that is to say: commencing at a post planted on the south side of the present travelled road across said lot and on the center line between the east and west halves of said lot, thence southerly along said center line a distance of three chains sixteen and one-quarter links, thence westerly and parallel to said travelled road a distance of four chains and none and three-quarter links; thence northerly and parallel to said center line a distance of three chains and sixteen and one-quarter links, thence easterly along the south side of the present travelled road to place of beginning a distance of four chains, none and three-quarter links.

To have and to hold unto The Incorporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Ontario aforesaid and their assigns forever to the uses and upon the trusts following and subject to the provisions of the Act incorporating the Synod of the Diocese of Ontario.

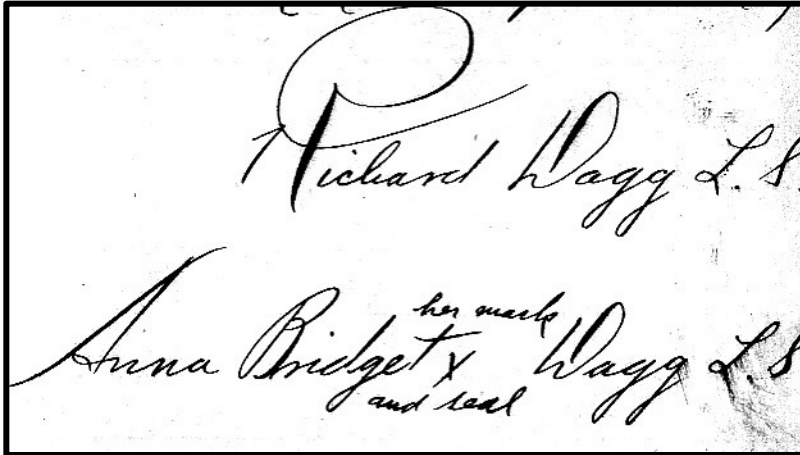
That is to say: upon trust to hold the same forever hereto for the use of a church of the United church of England and Ireland, to be erected upon said parcel or tract of land and for a burial ground in connection therewith and for no other purpose whatever.

And the said party of the first covenants with The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Ontario aforesaid and their assigns that he will execute such further assurances of the said lands as may be

requisite and the said party of the second part, wife of the said party of the first part, hereby bars her dowry in the said lands.

In Witness where of these parties to these presents have herewith set their hands and seal the day and year first written. (in duplicate)

Signature of Richard Dagg and mark (X) of Anna Bridget Dagg

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature reads 'Richard Dagg L.S.' with a large, ornate initial 'R'. The bottom signature reads 'Anna Bridget Dagg L.S.' with an 'X' mark over the name 'Bridget'. Above the 'X' is the handwritten phrase 'her mark' and below it is 'and seal'.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of H. Morrison

Note from the Archivist: In 1879 Blackburn was a mission of the Rev. Edward Arthur Wellesley Hanington who was the Incumbent at Saint Bartholomew's, New Edinburgh.

Ontario County of Carleton

To Wit: I Henry Morrison of the City of Ottawa in the County of Carleton and Province of Ontario, Law Clerk, make oath and say:

1. That I was personally present and did see the witness Instrument and duplicate thereof duly signed sealed and executed by the therein named Richard Dagg and Anna Bridget Dagg two of the parties thereto;
2. That I know the said parties;
3. That the said Instrument and duplicate were executed at the said city of Ottawa;
4. That I am a subscribing witness to the said Instrument and duplicate.

Sworn before me at Ottawa in the County of Carleton this Second day of August A.D. 1879

John H. Bell

Image of original document follows

Tues March 10th 1880

J Bishop
Reynolds

Attest in 3rd Con 07
Gloucester

I certify that the within Instrument is
duly entered and Registered in the Regis-
try Office for the County of Carlton in
Book C for the Township of Gloucester
at 12.55 P. M. o'clock of the 29th
day of Jan A D. 1880
No. 4746 W. H. Waller, Deputy Registrar

Entered in the Parish Register,
of the Diocese of Ottawa,
The 10th Day of March
1880 Lib..... Fol.....
J. Bishop Registrar,

I Certify that the
within is a true Copy
of Instrument No.
4746 filed as above
in this Office.

J. Waller
Acting Reg





Copy of Instrument N^o 4946
Tp. Gloucester.

This Indenture made the
second day of August in the
year of Our Lord one thousand
eight hundred and seventy
nine.

BETWEEN Richard Dagg of the
Township of Gloucester in the
County of Carleton and Province
of Ontario, Yeoman,

Of the First Part,
Ann Bridget Dagg his wife.

Of the Second Part,
and "The Incorporated Synod of
the Diocesis of Ontario."

Of the Third Part;
Whereas the said Richard Dagg
is desirous of conveying the parcel
or tract of land and premises
hereinafter particularly descri-
bed to "The Incorporated Synod
of the Diocesis of Ontario" aforesaid
to the uses and upon the trusts
hereinafter declared:

Witnesseth, that in consideration
of the sum of one dollar of lawful
money of Canada now paid
by the said parties of the third
part to the said party of the
first part, the receipt whereof
is hereby acknowledged, and
for the purpose aforesaid
the said party of the First Part
doth grant unto "The Incorporated
Synod of the Diocesis of Ontario"

aforsaid and their assigns,
forever.

All and Singular, that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate and being in the Township of Gloucester in the County of Carleton and Province of Ontario, being composed of part of Lot number Eight in the third concession Ottawa Front of the Township of Gloucester and containing by admeasurement one acre be the same more or less and may be described as follows: that is to say: Commencing at a post planted on the South side of the present travelled road across said Lot and on the centre line between the East and West Halves of said Lot, thence southerly along said centre line a distance of three chains sixteen and one quarter links, thence westerly and parallel to South side of said travelled road a distance of Four chains and nine and three quarter links; thence northerly and parallel to said centre line a distance of three chains sixteen and one quarter links, thence Easterly along south side of the present travelled road to place of beginning a distance of four chains nine and three quarter links.

To have and To hold unto "The Incorporated
Society of the"

366 1/2
4 9 3/4

aforsaid and their assigns forever to the uses and upon the trusts following, and subject to the provisions of "The act incorporating the Synod of the Diocese of Ontario". That is to say: upon trust to hold the same for ever hereafter, for the use of a church of the United Church of England and Ireland, to be erected upon the said parcel or tract of land and for a burial ground in connection therewith and for no other purpose whatsoever.

And the said party of the first covenants with "The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Ontario" aforsaid and their assigns that he will execute such further assurances of the said lands as may be requisite and the said party of the second part wife of the said party of the first part hereby bars her dower in the said lands.

In Witness Whereof the parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written. (in duplicate)

Signed sealed and
delivered
In presence of

H. Morrison

Richard Pagg L.S.

Anna Bridget ^{her mark} x Pagg L.S.
and seal

Ontario
County of Carleton) I Henry Morrison of
To Wit: the City of Ottawa in the
County of Carleton and
Province of Ontario Law Clerk
Make oath and say:

1. That I was personally present and did see the within Instrument and duplicate thereof duly signed sealed and executed by the therein named Richard Wagg and Anna Bridget Wagg two of the parties thereto.
2. That I know the said parties.
3. That the said Instrument and duplicate were executed at the said city of Ottawa
4. That I am a subscribing witness to the said Instrument and duplicate.

Sworn before me at Ottawa
in the County of Carleton this
Second day of August
A. D. 1879

H Morrison

John H. Bell
a Commissioner