

BURRITT FAMILY WALKING TOUR – *Burritt's Rapids Continued*



Stop 8: The Daniel Burritt, Jr. Farm (*walk east 100m to 4390 Donnelly Dr.*)

Built in 1832, on the land granted to Daniel Jr. in 1802, the farm stayed part of the Burritt family until 1905. The first home on this site was likely a log house and present stone house was completed by the stone masons hired by Colonel By for work on the construction of the canal, and who were looking for new work following the canal's completion in 1831. Daniel Jr., like his brother, was involved in the military as a captain in the 2nd Grenville Militia, which took part activities at Prescott, Salmon River, Ogdensburg and Crysler's Farm. His nephew Henry was a Lieutenant in the same unit. Following military service he became the oldest Magistrate in Carleton County. The current owners restored the property as close as possible to its original design in the 1960s. Additions were built in 1977, and in 1989 the house was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. A plaque is visible at the driveway entrance.

Stop 8a: Edwin Burritt House (*Approximately 250 metres further east, at 4368 Donnelly Road*)

Edwin, a grandson of Daniel Burritt, Jr., built this house in the 1860s on land inherited from his father, Daniel Hamlet.

Stop 9: George Landon Burritt House and the First School in Marlborough Township (*go 300m further east to 4325 Donnelly Dr*)

The first permanent school in the Marlborough Township part of Burritt's Rapids (north of the Rideau) was built here in 1822 on property owned by George L. Burritt, behind where the present house is now.

It is not entirely clear when the house was built, or when or how long George Landon Burritt lived there, though in the 1861 census it is clear that a stone house was owned by him. The simple architecture (no ornamentation) on the home gives no clues to the house's exact age. The school remained on the property until 1866.

In 1851, George Landon was married with nine children, and among other mentions of him later in this tour he was appointed the Town Clerk of North Gower (20 min northwest) in 1823.

To complete your tour walk back to the Burritt's Rapids Community Centre at 23 Grenville Street—head west then turn south on Burritts Avenue/Grenville Street.

Stop 10: Overview of the Burritt Family Beginnings in Burritt's Rapids (*Start at the historical plaque at 23 Grenville St, to the south of the Burritt's Rapids Community Hall*)

Please take a moment to read the historical plaque which memorializes the settler founding in 1793 of Burritt's Rapids, providing an overview of the Burritt family's beginnings in Burritt's Rapids and the early development of the village.



Stop 11: The End of the Burritt Family in Burritt's Rapids (*go south to the John Haley House at 11 Grenville St*)

Now a family home, this building was once a department store run by three members of the Burritt family. Haley, who bought the house from Henry Burritt in 1852 sold the house to Hamlet George Burritt (son of George Landon Burritt), in 1875. Hamlet George, his sister Sarah, and daughter Nina operated the store until the 1930s.

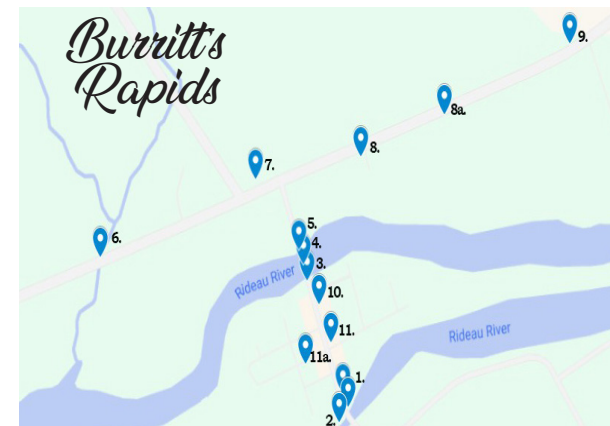
Nina, who died in 1944, was the last of the Burritts' to live in the village.

Stop 11a: 14 Centre Street: (*head east on Centre Street for one block*)

This house was also linked to Hamlet George Burritt and was possibly built with the help of his carpenter brother Edgar. The elaborate verandah and treillage was added later. After Hamlet George passed away, Fanny Burritt remained in the house until she sold it in 1922. The record is not entirely clear how Fanny was related to George but based on her age, it is believed that she was his sister.

Congratulations! You've finished the Burritt Family Walking Tour.

We hope you've enjoyed taking a walk through the founding of Burritt's Rapids. Please feel free to explore more or check out our other tours of the region. We hope to see you soon!



Written and created by the Burritt's Rapids Community Association. Brought to you in collaboration with the Municipality of North Grenville.



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BURRITT FAMILY WALKING TOUR

Burritt's Rapids



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Welcome to the Burritt Family Walking Tour

BURRITT FAMILY WALKING TOUR – *Burritt's Rapids*



The Burritt family not only founded the village of Burritt's Rapids, but made a significant contribution to its development.

The Burritt family originally made its way from Glamorganshire, Wales, in 1640, before heading to Connecticut settlement, and then Vermont, in the American colonies.

By the time of the American Revolution (1776-1783) the family was well established in the soon-to-be United States. Their loyalty to Britain, however, would soon strain this relationship and send the family on a new course.

This 60 minute walking tour will explore both the history of the Burritt family and their role in the founding and development of Burritt's Rapids.

Stop 1: From Arlington, Vermont to St-Jean, Quebec (*Swing Bridge by 1 Grenville Street*)

Southeast of the swing bridge, approximately five hours by car, is the hometown of Stephen Burritt, born in 1759. His father Daniel Sr. was loyal to the British Crown so, in keeping with his father's views, Stephen took part in the Battle of Bennington (in Vermont) in 1775 on behalf of the British.

A year later his father's farm in Arlington was confiscated by rebel forces and Stephen and his brother Adoniram were arrested.

Stephen escaped to St-Jean, Quebec (about three hours east of here) and joined the British Army's secret service as a soldier, scout and dispatch writer.

Stop 2: From the British Army to Augusta Township to an Unsettled Territory (*cross the street to Burritt's Rapids Park, on the west side of the Swing Bridge*)

In 1785, after his discharge from the Army with a distinguished record and the rank of colonel, Stephen was granted land in Augusta Township, on the banks of the St. Lawrence River about 30 minutes south of here by car. It is here where his father, six sisters and four brothers joined him.

In 1790, Stephen married Martha Stevens, the daughter of Roger Stevens, who is known to be one of the first people of European ancestry to have taken up land in the Rideau area.

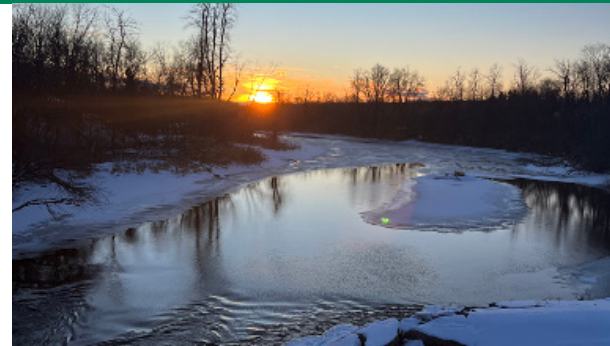
See the nearby signage in the park displaying information about the village of Burritt's Rapids and the Burritt family.



Stop 3: The Founding (*head 150m north, to the modern Burritt's Rapids Bridge just beyond 24 Grenville Street*)

You are at the edge of the Rideau River, down which Indigenous peoples travelled for millenia.

Stephen Burritt and his brothers Daniel, Jr. and Edmund, took an exploratory rafting trip in 1793 from Cox's Bay, near today's Rideau Creek (approx. 3 km from Burritt's Rapids, near Gilroy Road). They landed at a spot just west of here up river.



Stop 4: The Rapids and the "Mills"
historical site (*view from west sidewalk, half-way across the bridge*)

On display several hundred metres from this bridge (looking west) towards the Parks Canada dam, are the famed rapids and fast flowing water that was key to the development of the village. The Burritts' saw the potential of the water power when they landed.

Stop 5: Land Owners & Community Roles
(*walk just past the bridge*)

In 1802, Stephen, Daniel, Jr. and Edmund obtained adjacent land grants north of the Rideau River and soon after began clearing the land and developing the settlement. As an early settler with status, Stephen played various roles in the community including as postmaster, magistrate and a representative in the provincial government of Upper Canada from 1808-1812.

As a Lieutenant Colonel of the 5th Carleton Militia, he commanded Fort Wellington in Prescott under General Isaac Brock during the War of 1812. He also took part in the Battle of Crysler's Farm (near Morrisburg, Ontario) on November 11, 1813.

Some of his military regalia is on display at the Blockhouse Museum in Merrickville.

Once the canal construction began in the 1820s the land south of the Rideau River was bought by Henry Burritt, Stephen's son, and the island that was created by the construction of the canal was organized into a grid pattern, divided into lots and sold off over time. Henry was also the first "professional" teacher in Burritt's Rapids.

Stop 6: Stephen's Land and location of the Brassil's Creek Sawmill (*turn left at corner of Donnelly Dr/Country Road 2 and walk approx. 200m to the first bridge/overpass*)

This area is on the original property of Stephen Burritt. Look to the north of the road and see the creek that was the original site where a sawmill was built, originally owned by Daniel Burritt, Jr. and Ashael Hurd, between 1812 and 1828.

In 1829, the sawmill was taken over by Stephen's son Henry and run as a profitable business for some time. Unfortunately there is no longer any evidence of the original Stephen Burritt house. It is unclear also why the creek is named Brassil's Creek.



Stop 7: Church Land & Cemetery
(*return to junction of Burritt's Ave and Donnelly Dr*)

You have arrived at Christ Church Anglican, the oldest church in the City of Ottawa, and one of the oldest Anglican churches in Eastern Ontario.

The resolution to build a church was passed at a meeting chaired by Stephen.

The land for the church and accompanying cemetery was provided by Daniel Burritt Jr. and the community fundraised to build it. Completed in 1831, it provided a spiritual and social focal point for the community for many years, and services continue today.

Note in front of the church the historical plaque, and the cairn built in 1931 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the building of the church.

In the northwest corner of the grounds lay many of the Burritts' mentioned in this tour and their extended family. Their headstones can still be seen today!