The following information is from a leaflet available at
Wolford Chapel, Devonshire, England

Burial place of John Graves Simcoe 1752-1806
first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada.

Wolford Chapel

Wolford Chapel
A piece of Ontario's Heritage.

Simcoe John Graves Simcoe was the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, now the Province of Ontario in Canada. Although he was only in Upper Canada from 1792 to 1796, in that short time he introduced governance, defence and settlement policies that profoundly influenced the development of the province.

1802 Wolford Chapel was built on the Simcoe estate in 1802. It is thought to be located on the site of an ancient chapel. John Graves Simcoe, his wife Elizabeth and five of their eleven children are buried at the chapel. The chapel and its ~~antique~~ collection of antique furnishings and decorative arts were generously donated to the people of Ontario in 1966 by British publisher ~~Sir~~ Geoffrey Harmsworth. At the same time, Mr. A.S. de Marchant le Marchant, then owner of the Simcoe estate, donated an easement to Ontario for a public right-of-way to the chapel.

1982 Since 1982, Wolford Chapel has been owned by Ontario Heritage the Ontario Heritage Foundation, a not-for-profit provincial Crown agency. The Foundation acquires and holds title to property and cultural works in trust for the people of Ontario. Wolford Chapel is the only Foundation-owned property outside of Ontario. It is managed by a group of dedicated local volunteers.

Simcoe's Career in North America.

1752 John Graves Simcoe was born in Cotterstock, England, on February 25, 1752. His father was a distinguished Royal Navy captain who died en route to Quebec with General Wolfe in May 1759. Simcoe was raised in Exeter by his mother and

educated at Exeter Free Grammar School, Eton and Oxford. He began a life-long military career in 1770 when he secured a commission as an ensign in the 35th Regiment of Foot.

1775 In 1775, Simcoe was sent with his regiment to Boston, then under siege by Washington's Continental Army. He was given command of the Queen's Rangers in 1777. Used primarily for reconnaissance, this Loyalist force was one of the most successful British regiments during the war. Simcoe was captured in an ambush in 1779 and spent three months as a prisoner.

1781 In 1781, Simcoe returned to England on convalescent leave. The following year, he married Elizabeth Posthuma Gwillim, a wealthy heiress. The Simcoe's purchased an estate at Wolford near Honiton and built Wolford Lodge (the Lodge remained in family hands until 1923). Simcoe spent the next few years enlarging and improving the estate but always maintained a keen interest in events in North America.

Simcoe was appointed as the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada in 1791. He arrived in the

1792 new province in June 1792, accompanied by his wife and their two youngest children. Although there had been considerable Loyalist settlement in Upper Canada, particularly in the east, most of the province was still a wilderness. Simcoe presided over the introduction of British institutions of government. He devised military strategy for defending Upper Canada against the United States and built strategic roads to facilitate troop movements, promote settlement and encourage trade.

Simcoe's Later Career

Health problems forced Simcoe to leave Canada and to return to England in 1796. The following year he served as Governor in war-torn St. Domingo (Haiti)

1798 In 1798 Simcoe was appointed military commander for Devon and parts of Somerset. An invasion by Napoleon's armies was anticipated during this period, and he supervised defensive preparations by the regular troops, militia and volunteer forces under

his command. In 1801 he was given responsibility for all South West England with the rank of Lieutenant General.

1806 In 1806, Simcoe accepted the prestigious appointment of Commander-in-Chief in India. He was asked to undertake a special mission in Portugal en route to his new command, but fell ill in Lisbon and returned to England. He died in the home of Archdeacon Moore in Exeter on October 26th and was buried at Wolford Chapel on November 4th.

Simcoe

Elizabeth Posthuma Simcoe

Elizabeth Posthuma Simcoe was a nineteen year-old heiress when she married. She chose to accompany her husband to Upper Canada in 1792 and endured the challenges of living in the new colony for four years. She often helped Simcoe with map-making and drawings for official documents. She also sketched, painted Water Colours and kept diaries that are filled with colourful vignettes that have provided historians with rare insights into this period in Canadian history.

After her husband's death Mrs Simcoe continued to live at Wolford. She managed her estates and was active in the evangelical movement of the Church of England. She died in 1850 at the age of 87 after forty-four years of widowhood.

An historic Chapel

Wolford Chapel

Wolford Chapel occupies a fenced-in plot approximately 88 feet long by 65 feet wide and is thought to have been erected on the foundations of a medieval place of worship.

It was built by the Simcoe's in 1802 for family worship. Near the base of the walls on the east and south sides are plaques in memory of John Graves Simcoe, Elizabeth Simcoe and five of their children, all of whom are buried at the chapel.

The font and altar, circa 1802 are carved of white freestone, decorated in part with a grapevine motif. Located behind the font is the Baptistry, a fine example of Jacobean workmanship. It incorporates the diocesan arms of Exeter.

The rear altar panelling bears the Apostles' Creed,

and the Lord's Prayer and features old carvings that may have come from a rood screen.

The 16th century panelling on the north wall is believed to have been taken from the parish church in Dunkerswell. This Church was in ruins when Wolford Chapel was built, but was restored by Elizabeth Simcoe around 1817. Three painted panels grace the walls, bearing the coats of arms of both the Simcoe and Gwillim families.

The ornamental wrought-iron light brackets are modern and depict the trillium, the floral emblem of Ontario.

Other nearby sites

There are a number of other interesting sites connected to the Simcoe family within driving distance of Wolford Chapel.

Dunkerswell Church

To the north in the village of Dunkerswell is the parish Church of St. Nicholas where the Simcoe's worshipped for many years. Nearby Holy Trinity Church is located on the site of a 12th-century abbey. The Church was built primarily with funds donated by Elizabeth Simcoe.

Abbey

Hemyock

Three miles north of Dunkerswell is the village of Hemyock. The Simcoe's owned Hemyock Castle. Alongside the castle is St Mary's Church. It has Norman origins but was largely rebuilt in Victorian times. The Simcoe's youngest son, noted theologian Henry Addington Simcoe, preached the first sermon at the rebuilt Church in 1847.

Buckerell

South of Wolford Chapel, just west of Honiton, is the village of Buckerell. The Simcoe's married ~~there~~ in the parish church there in December 1782.

Exeter

In Exeter Cathedral there is a bas-relief bust of Simcoe by the celebrated 19th century sculptor John Flaxman. Also in Exeter is an Ontario Provincial plaque in the corner of Cathedral Close on the site of the house where John Graves Simcoe died.

Below: from memory — Source not known

I shall pass this way but once, any good therefore that I can do, let me do it now;
for I shall not pass this way again.

Arthur noted the following — it fits.

Quietness

There is a place where I go
When I wish to escape
From the world that I know
There's a peacefulness there
So silent and still
That lives in the church
On top of the hill
I don't mean on Sunday
When every bell rings
For then there's a service
And everyone sings
But on Monday or Tuesday
When no one's around
I've crept in alone
And there isn't a sound
There's nowhere I know
That's so peaceful and still
As the quietness that lives
In the church on the hill.

Dawn Lawrence

Copied from 'The Suffitt Packet' May 2005 P#3

A short poem from Foulsham's New Fun Book probably published just pre-war.

Write we know is written right,
When we see it written write;
But when we see it written wright,
We know 'tis not then written right;
For write to have it written right,
Must not be written right nor wright;
Nor yet should it be written rite,
But write – for so 'tis written right.

Widdecombe Fair

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See pages 58 97 312 Jan Stewer

Tom Pearse, Tom Pearse, lend me thy grey mare,
Up along, down along, out along, lee
For I want to go to Widdicombe Fair
Wi' Bill Brewer, Jan Stewer, Peter Gurney,
Peter Davey, Dan'l Whiddon, 'Arry Hawk,
Old uncle Tom Cobleigh and all,
Old uncle Tom Cobleigh and all.

"And when shall I see again my grey mare?"
Up along, down along, out along lee,
By Friday soon, or Saturday noon,
Wi' Bill Brewer, etc.

Then Friday came, and Saturday noon,
Up along, down along, out along, lee,
But Tom Pearse's old mare hath not trotted home,
Wi' Bill Brewer, etc

So Tom Pearse he got up to the top of the hill,
Up along, down along, out along, lee,
And he seed his old mare down a-making her will
Wi' Bill Brewer, etc

So Tom Pearse's old mare her took sick and died,
Up along, down along, out along, lee,
And Tom he sat down on a stone and he cried.
Wi' Bill Brewer, etc.

But this isn't the end o' this shocking affair,
Up along, down along, out along, lee,
Nor though they be dead, of the horrid career,
Of Bill Brewer, etc.,

When the wind whistles cold on the moor of a night,
Up along, down along, out along, lee,
Tom Pearse's old mare doth appear ghastly white,
Will Bill Brewer etc.,

And all the long night he heard skirling groans,
Up along, down along, out along, lee,
From Tom Pearse's old mare in her rattling bones,
And from Bill Brewer, Jan Stewer, Peter Gurney,
Peter Davey, Dan'l Whiddon, 'Arry Hawk,
Old uncle Tom Cobley and all,
Old uncle Tom Cobley and all.

D-Day Copied from "This England" magazine 5/6/04
Summer 2004 Page 14
6-6-1944

See P208
P216

D-Day --- and the price they paid for our freedom

Looking back on the human story behind the biggest invasion in history, 60 years ago this summer.

A four page article which includes the message from General Eisenhower, which was read out to Allied troops just prior to them leaving England for the D-Day invasion

Supreme Headquarters
Allied Expeditionary Force

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the
Allied Expeditionary Force:

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and Brothers-in-arms on other fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle hardened! He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the World are marching together to Victory.

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept

nothing less than full Victory!
Good luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The above was read at Uppitt Church during the evening service on June 6th 2004. D-Day +60

D-Day +60 6/6/2004

D-Day 60th Year Commemorative Souvenir
Upottery and Exeter

An aerial photo of the airfield. Upottery 1944

D-Day:

It is hard to conceive the epic scope of this decisive battle that foreshadowed the end of Hitler's dream of NAZI domination. Overlord was the largest air, land and sea operation undertaking before or since June 6th 1944. The landing included over 5000 ships, 11,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 service men.

Hitler

After years of meticulous planning and seemingly endless training, for the Allied forces, it all came down to this: the boat ramp goes down, then jump, swim, run, and crawl to the cliffs. Many of the first young men (most not yet 20 years old) entered the surf carrying eighty pounds of equipment. They faced over 200 yards of beach before reaching the first natural feature offering any protection. Blanketed by small-arms fire and bracketed by artillery, they found themselves in hell.

When it was over, the Allied forces had suffered nearly 10,000 casualties; more than 4000 were dead. Yet somehow, due to planning and preparation, and due to the valour, fidelity and sacrifice of the Allied forces, Northern Europe had been breached.

Planning papers for large-scale operations are made up in detail long before specific dates are set. Phased orders are planned for execution on D-Day or H-Hour minus or plus a certain number of days, hours or minutes. The terms D-Day and H-Hour are used for the day and hour on which a combat attack or operation is to be initiated. They designate day and hour for an operation when the actual day and

hours have not yet been determined or announced. The letters are derived from the words for which they stand, "D" for the day of the invasion and "H" for the hour the operation actually begins.

When used in combination with figures and plus or minus signs, these terms indicate the length of time preceding or following a specific action. Thus H−3 means 3 hours before H-hour, and D+3 means 3 days after D-day. H+75 minutes means H-hour plus 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Photo of Glider troops waiting.
" " 81 C 47's Line up at Upottery on a rehearsal for operation Neptune May 1944.
Photo of planes taking off — off they go.
" A twin glider tow.
" The lead aircraft loading up for D-day 440th T.C.G.

In the invasion's early hours, more than 1,000 transports dropped paratroopers to secure the flanks and beach exits of the assault area. This souvenir booklet gives some events of the day.

D-Day 6th June 1944

The historic events of June 6, 1944, D-Day, are chronicled in innumerable documents, scrutinised and analyzed in thousands of books, and dramatized in several Hollywood motion pictures. The assault on the European continent that began that day during World War II was critically important to the Allied war effort and ultimately to the future security of all nations. Sixty years removed from the tensions of that time, one may dispassionately study the events of D-day. At the time though, to those who crossed the English Channel and to the Commanders responsible for setting the invasion plan into motion, the outcome was uncertain.

The featured document is a message drafted during the early hours of the D-day Normandy invasion by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Commander of the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF), to his superior in Washington, D.C. Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. The document captures the immediacy and suspence of that day. Eisenhower's statement reflects his lack of information

about how well the Landings were going, even though they were well under way at that moment. His pride and confidence in the battle tempered men he had met the preceeding night – men he was about to send into combat – is also evident.

Preparing for the Invasion

Almost immediately after France fell to the Nazi's in 1940, the Allies planned a cross-Channel assault on the German occupying forces.

Winston Churchill

At the Quebec Conference in August 1943, Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt re-affirmed the plan, which was code-named Overlord. Although Churchill acceded grudgingly to the operation, historians note that the British still harboured persistant doubts about whether Overlord would succeed.

The decision to mount the invasion was cemented at the Teheran Conference held in November and December 1943. Joseph Stalin, on his first trip outside the Soviet Union since 1912, pressed Churchill and Roosevelt for details about the plan, particularly the identity of the Supreme Commander of Overlord. Churchill and Roosevelt told Stalin that the invasion "would be possible" by August 1st 1944, but that no decision had yet been made to name a Supreme Commander. To this latter point, Stalin pointedly rejoined "Then nothing will come of these operations. Who carries the moral and technical responsibility for this operation?" Churchill and Roosevelt acknowledged the need to name the commander without further delay. Shortly after the conference ended, Roosevelt appointed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower to that position.

By May 1944, 2,876,000 Allied troops were amassed in southern England. While awaiting deployment orders, they prepared for the assault by practicing with live ammunition.

The largest armada in history, made up of more than 4,000 American, British, and Canadian ships, lay in wait. More than 1,200 planes stood ready to deliver seasoned airborne troops behind enemy lines, to silence German ground resistance as best they could, and to dominate the skies over the impending battle theatre. Against a tense backdrop of uncertain weather