

(by Bill Stevens - originally published in the December 2005 Newsletter)

On Saturday, August 20, 2005 at 11 a.m. in the St. Andrew's Cemetery at the foot of Johnston Street, in Old Port Dalhousie, I was pleased to be able to join a small group of family and friends gathered to dedicate a monument to James "Chief" SMILEY. The monument was placed on the previously unmarked gravesite by grandson Wayne SMILEY of Brantingham, New York. The brownish granite monument reads "For My Grandfather" and a mounted photograph of the "Chief" in his gunslingers pose is prominent, following this is his name and date of birth September 20, 1884 and death date of March 18, 1948, followed by the phrase "The

Hermit of Henley and Marksman Extraordinaire".

The back of the monument bears the following: "My rule of life is to drink and be merry. To be free from belief and unbelief is my religion. I asked the Bride of Destiny her bride price, "Your joyous heart," she said – a passage from the Chief's beloved Ruba 'iyat of Omar Khayyam".

The grave is in the SMILEY family plot fairly close to the bank of Martindale Pond, a fitting place of rest. James "Chief" SMILEY died when his house located on the banks of the Henley course caught fire and he was unable to escape the inferno.