The Village of Richmond was named after Charles Lennox, who was the ‘Fourth Duke of Richmond and Lennox’. In 1818, Charles Lennox was made Governor-General of British North America. Before this, he had served in Great Britain’s parliament.

As Governor-General, Charles Lennox set out on a tour of British North America’s new military settlements. While at Fort William Henry in Sorel, Lower Canada, the Duke of Richmond was bitten by a pet fox owned by one of the soldiers. It is likely that he caught the rabies virus at this point.

In July of 1819, the Duke of Richmond and his party began an extended tour of Upper Canada. They arrived at the Perth military settlement on August 21st, by which time Charles Lennox was already very ill.

On August 24th, the party set out over a bush trail for the year old military settlement of Richmond. Charles Lennox was unusually irritable with his staff on this trip. Once they reached Richmond, the Duke’s party stayed at the ‘Masonic Arms Inn’. This inn was owned by Sergeant Major Hill, who fought during the War of 1812 with the 100th Regiment of Foot. Most of the pioneer families who first settled in Goulbourn had been members of the 100th Regiment, and had been given free land in Goulbourn by the British Government.

The Duke of Richmond hosted a great feast on the 26th of August. His rabies had now reached its final stage, and Charles Lennox now suffered from hydrophobia (fear of water). He spent an uncomfortable evening, clumsily trying to sip his wine.

On August 28th 1819, the Duke of Richmond’s party set out for Montreal. As they proceeded down the Goodwood (Jock) River, Charles Lennox was overcome by hydrophobia and he jumped from his canoe. He died a number of hours later near Twin Elm (just outside of Richmond) at the age of 54. Maria Hill, Sergeant Hill’s wife, prepared the Duke’s body to be transported back to Quebec City. Charles Lennox was buried at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Quebec City.

*Imagine that you are walking through the forest from Perth to Richmond. What would you see?* or

*Imagine that you are attending the Duke of Richmond’s feast at the ‘Masonic Arms Inn,’ and describe what you see.*