

73 Hope Street East, Tavistock



If you were to walk past 73 Hope Street East (above left) you would see an average size house and likely believe it would be suitable for a small family, perhaps mom and dad, 2 kids and a dog.

That same property, circa 1905 (above right) was home to Jacob and Mary Stock, their 6 children, a Jersey cow and a flock of Leghorn chickens. Mrs. Stock ran a dressmaking school and she operated it ... you guessed it ... out of the house. Everyone talked about how very large the house was. How times have changed!

This property was once part of Lot 20 Concession 5 of South Easthope Township. Records suggest there was a house on the lot as early as 1870. That may be the case as there were several log houses in the immediate vicinity at that time but it cannot be proven. Jacob and Mary Stock bought the property in 1894 and Jacob built the brick home that is on the site today.



Jacob was a little short of money by the time the house was finished and could only afford to put steps up to the front door. It was circa 1910 before the finishing touch ... the big verandah ... was added, as shown in the picture on the right. This was the scene of much socializing ... greeting neighbours out for their evening stroll, catching up on all the news and a bit of harmless gossip.



Jacob Stock (1858 - 1924) was a stone mason. Mary (nee Miller, 1861 - 1929) was a dressmaker, somewhat of necessity. Shortly after they were married Mary went crying to her parents that she had made a huge mistake. Jake had been a fun-loving, party-going boyfriend but wasn't proving to be good husband material. "Too bad" said her parents. "You made your bed and now you must lie in it." To help the cause and provide her with an income of her own, they bought her a sewing machine and Mary perfected her skills. Soon she was in demand, going from house to house throughout the community. As the babies kept coming, she needed to be at home and opened a school at her house for "young ladies" to learn the dressmaking trade.

<< *Jacob and Mary Stock (seated) on their wedding day 1889*

As was somewhat customary at the time, the house stayed in the family after Jake and Mary died with daughter, Ericka and her husband, Henry (Fin) Quehl taking unofficial possession. No one bothered to do any formal change of ownership registration.

In 1941, 12 years after his death, the Estate of Jacob Stock sold the property to T.A. (Anthony) Jickling and his wife for \$2,500. Mr. Jickling was a local businessman who, over the years,

sold farm implements, bicycles, pianos and cars. For many years he was the local representative of General Motors of Canada.

In 1943 the Jicklings made a gift of the property to their daughter, Gladys. Gladys was married to Howard Zimmerman ... a well-known name in Tavistock associated with the planing mill, box factory and mink ranch. Gladys and Howard lived at 73 Hope Street East until about 1962 when they moved and rented the house to Mary Zimmerman and Frank Barbour. In 1966 the property was sold to Jim and Janet Bleay. Jim had a long-term association with the mink ranch. In 1973 Walter and Evelyn Yungblut bought the property at 73 Hope Street East and made it home for their family. Walter worked at J.M. Schneider and was active in the community and at his church. In 1992 Evelyn sold the property to Bill and Ruth Ann Wettlaufer who, in the same year, sold it to the current owners (names not disclosed).

Might you be interested in doing a history of your house?

The history of 73 Hope Street East is a sample of a property / house history. There is no right way or wrong way to write one. You simply have to get started. Histories can be short or long; focus on one family or provide detailed descriptions of every family who ever lived on the property; include or not include pictures or extracts of official records; be penned in story form or simply a listing of the facts. The choice is yours. Information can be found in many places. At the museum / archives we have material that will help in your research ... e.g. Registry Office records to determine property owners, family histories, obituaries, old Tavistock Gazette newspapers and, of course, lots of local lore in our heads. Just ask.