

## Tavistock House History

### 164 William Street South

First Owners: The Charles Hanke Family 1922 - 1996

Second and Current Owners: Rob and Shelly Gingerich 1996 - present



Tavistock was a cluster of small houses, mostly built of logs, when Charlie Hanke, then a little boy of 8, arrived with his family from Germany in 1873.

In 1891 Charles married Bertha Schmidt and the couple raised five children, one son and four daughters. At a time when the expectations for most girls was to find a good husband and raise a family, Charles and Bertha made certain that each of their daughters was a well-educated professional woman. Olivia, Hedwig and Ella were registered nurses. Talitha (Tally) earned a Master of Home Economics degree at McGill University and taught at McGill before returning to teach school in the Tavistock area.

Charles was a stone mason by trade and is best known for building the stone gates at the entrance to Queen's Park. He is remembered, as well, for building three beautiful homes in Tavistock, all in the Arts & Crafts style and all featuring stone porches. In 1922 he purchased the William Street land and built the stately house that became the Hanke home for the next 74 years. Beside the house he installed a tennis court for the family and their friends. The stone house by the cheese factory on the Loggan Lane Farm is a Hanke-built home. For his son, Fred, he built the house at 41 Elizabeth Street.

The outside of the 164 William Street house looks much as it did in the Hanke days which probably explains why people still call it "the Hanke house". The current owners are Rob and Shelly Gingerich. Shelly had her heart set on buying this Craftsman-style home for a long time but Rob was a bit of a holdout, believing it would be one long renovation project. He was right, of course. Throughout the many upgrades and renovations Shelly and Rob have tried to keep the interior as original as possible. They sourced out reclaimed oak for flooring and reclaimed Douglas Fir for trim. Today the house very neatly combines charm and character with functionality and comfort.

The following is a listing of land owners for the property on which the house is situated.

Date	Seller	Buyer
<u>Lot 35 Concession 12 (relevant extracts)</u>		
1822	The Crown	Anna Rouse (200 acres)
1823	George Rouse & wife Anna	George Whitehead (200 acres)
1824	George Whitehead	Samuel Street (200 acres)
1839	Samuel Street - will	Thomas Street (200 acres) - his son

1853	Thomas Clarke Street	Frederick Wettlaufer (200 acres)
1869	Frederick Wettlaufer	Conrad Wettlaufer (200 acres)
1870	Conrad Wettlaufer & wife	William Morlock, Henry Schmidt & Valentine Stein - Trustees for the site of a church and cemetery
1877 - 1902	Conrad Wettlaufer & wife	various transactions for lots of varying sizes
1902	Christina Wettlaufer, release of dower	Wilhelmina Wettlaufer
1902	John C. Wettlaufer & ___ Wettlaufer, executors for Conrad Wettlaufer	Wilhelmina Wettlaufer

Wettlaufer Survey (1902), Plan 238, Lot 8 - Part Lot 35 in the 12th Concession

1903	Wilhelmina Wettlaufer	John C. Wettlaufer (her husband)
1909	John C. Wettlaufer & wife	George Staebler

Plan 307 (1909) - Lot 8

1921	Catherine Wildfong executor for G. Staebler	London & Western Trustees
1922*	London & Western Investment Co. Trustee of George Staebler & Mary Staebler, widow	Charles A. Hanke
1945	Charles A. Hanke & wife	Hedwig, Talitha, Olivia, Ella & Frederick Hanke - their children
1969	Hedwig, Talitha, Olivia, Ella & Frederick Hanke & wife	Olivia Hanke
1996	Olivia Hanke	Rob & Shelly Gingerich

\* In 1922 Charles Hanke also purchased Lots 9 and 10 immediately to the south. Each of the 3 lots purchased cost \$300. Lots 9 and 10 were sold in 1968 to Mahlon Zehr.

*prepared 2014*

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*This 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. Information can be found in many places. At the museum / archives we have material that will help in house history research ... e.g. Registry Office records to determine property owners, family histories, obituaries, old Tavistock Gazette extracts and, of course, lots of local lore in our heads.*