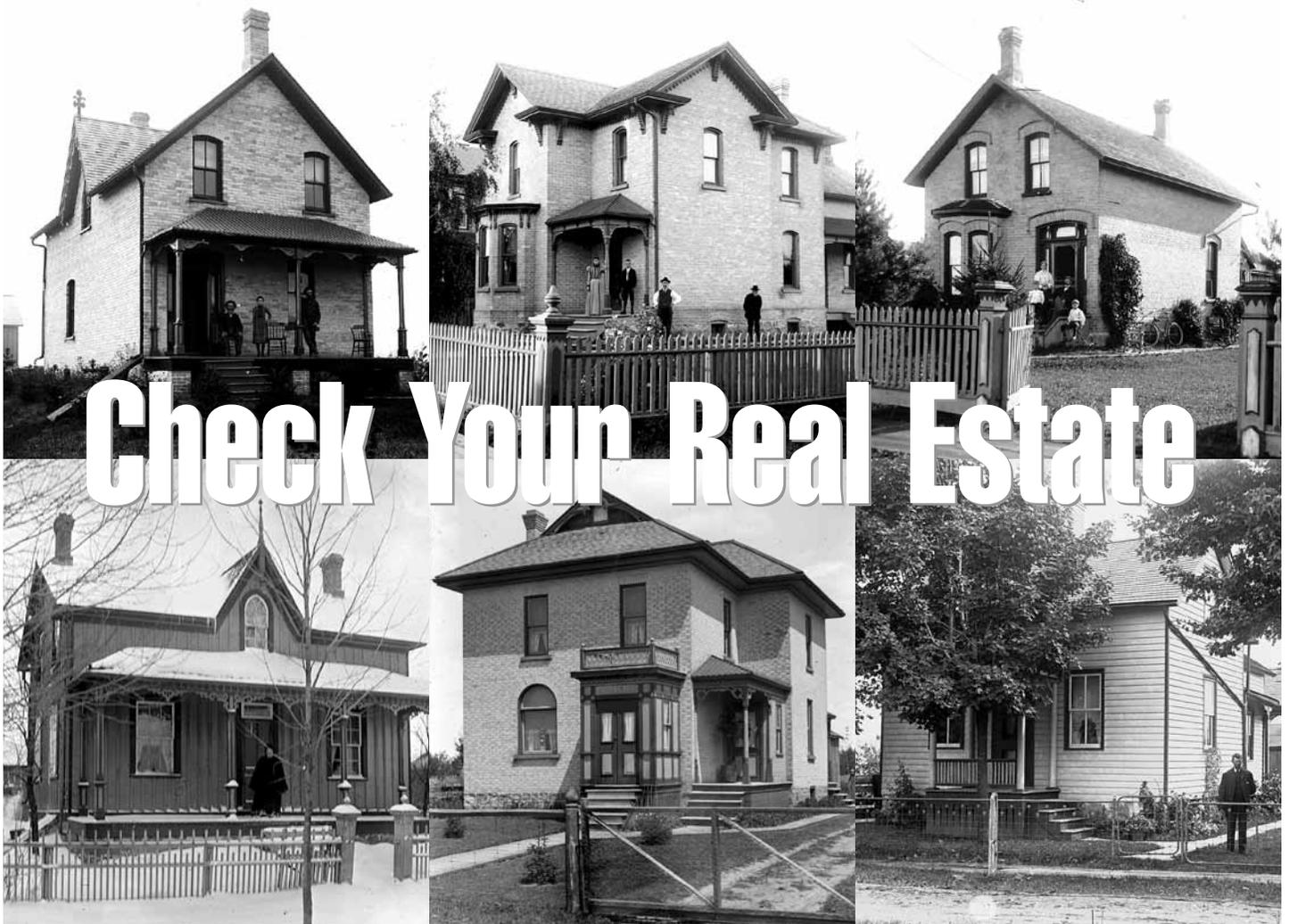


# YESTERDAY

News from the Tavistock and District Historical Society

VOLUME 14

SPRING 2010



Check Your Real Estate

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in the Tavistock Library Hall • Open House 10am-4pm

Presentation: A Prime Piece of Tavistock Real Estate

**Tavistock & District  
Historical Society**

**Executive:**

Secretary – Sherrill Calder  
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**Tavistock  
& District  
Historical  
Society**

37 Maria Street,  
Box 280,  
Tavistock, Ontario,  
Canada N0B 2R0

**MUSEUM  
HOURS:**

*Saturdays  
10am-12 noon*

*Other times  
by appointment*

# Check Your Real Estate

Office records of village property transactions from the very early days up to 1987 when the transition was made to computers.

Some histories have been completed on local houses. Yours may be one of them. If not, we will gladly tell you how to do the research so you can write up your own story.

While “Check Your Real Estate” focuses primarily on Tavistock village properties, we haven’t forgotten about the farmers who keep us fed. There are some farm histories available for the area bounded by the townline to Punkeydoodles, the Cassel Sideroad and the 12th concession / Hwy 59. If you happen to be living on one of those farms and wonder why your old deed references King’s College or Clergy Reserves, we can tell you that, too.

Did you ever wonder why your garden is full of clay shards? At one time the local potter lived on your property. Water in your basement? The very first surveyor, way back in 1819, could have told you about wet land. Ever wonder what your house looked like in years gone by? You may find the answer in the Lemp Studio Collection photos. Do you hear footsteps at night and think it might be the ghost of a previous owner? Sorry, you’re on your own for this one. But we can tell you who the prior owners were.

For all sorts of information about your property you should definitely “Check Your Real Estate” ... the museum/archives exhibit running from March 27 to July 31, 2010. You’ll see exquisite pictures of Tavistock homes and street scenes from our own Lemp Studio Collection. The early survey plans are available for viewing as are the Registry



**Elizabeth Street**

When they were built circa 1900, the three centre houses (above) now numbered 34, 40 and 46 were definitely three-of-a-kind. They were all of cement block construction, identical right down to the front porch. Note the board sidewalks.

**Jacob Street East**

Tavistock has another three-of-a-kind grouping, built around 1900. This is the Jacob Street group. Go for a walk and check out these houses, all in the Vernacular style defined as houses of the working man, built along simple lines, often from a pattern and all in a row.



## Did you know?

The first telephone switchboard was installed in 1889 in Fred Krug’s store (the Glasgow Warehouse) with Miss Dora Pflugradt as the first operator. In 1908 the local “central” averaged 80 calls a day.

**MUSEUM CALENDAR:**

Please mark your calendar, check your attics, scour your basements and plan to participate in the 2010 lineup.

Displays feature items related to the theme loaned by people in the community as well as artifacts from the Historical Society's permanent collection of Tavistock and area memorabilia.

**March 27 – July 31**

"Check Our Your Real Estate" ...

an opportunity to see if your house or farm has been researched and, if not, to learn how you can check your real estate's history

**August 7 – Oct. 30**

"Calendars". We'll be papering our walls with calendars from Tavistock and area businesses from years past.

**Sept. 10 – 12**

See you at the Tavistock Fall Fair

**Nov. 6 – Jan. 23, 2011**

"O Christmas Tree"

**Did you know?**

In 1867 the school sections were in question and Tavistock pupils were asking that the sections be changed as they had to walk three miles to the schoolhouse.

The Tavistock Public School opened in 1879.

# Stone, bricks and mortar

**53 Hope St. W.**

Many readers may remember Leonard and Mary Lemp. Would you recognize this as the back of their house on Hope Street West? You can also see the "Collum" house on the right, across Hope Street, that was demolished to make way for the Trinity Church parsonage which in turn was demolished to make way for the grocery store parking lot. Such is progress.

**39 William St. N.**

Depending upon your age, you know this as the Siegner house or the Hilcox house. Apologies to the people who live there now. It will become "your" house at some future point. In 1910 George Pepler (one half of Pepler Brothers General Store) purchased this house on 1/5 acre of land for \$2,700. In 1919 he sold it to the new manager of the Bank of Montreal, Alexander Collins, for \$3,800. Bank managers were always on the move and in 1922 Collins sold to Frederick Walter Siegner for \$3,300. Ups and downs in real estate are nothing new.

**38 Mogk Street**

Be careful what you say in this house. It used to be the Presbyterian Church manse. In 1907 this house and property was sold by Wilhelmina Helmuth to the Trustees of Knox Presbyterian Congregation (James G. Field, Duncan McKellar and Robert Facey) for \$1,950.

**94 Hope St. W.**

It wasn't the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker who have lived in this house. But it has been the businessman (Wm. Pepler), the bartender (Ike Eckstein), the preacher (Rev. Scharf) and the power guy (Kevin Zehr and wife, Pam).

**6 Hope Street East**

This was a prime piece of property in the Hendershot Survey of 1869. In that same year Wm. B Hendershot sold the property to Jane Rutherford. In 1874 Jane sold it to Eckhardt Siegner. Eckhardt, one year later, sold it to Henry Eckstein who, on the very same day, sold it to Margaret Siegner, wife of Eckhardt. Margaret hung on to it for three years until she sold it back to husband, Eckhardt. Land flips obviously were not invented by our generation. The property stayed in the Siegner family for another 78 years until 1956 when it was purchased by Dave Jutzi.

**90 Woodstock St. N.**

It would definitely take an earthquake to shift this cement construction home. It's solid cement. If you look very closely you can tell that the blocks were painted on. It's had a variety of owners over the years but most people of a certain age will remember it as Dr. Fisher's house.

**22 Elizabeth Street**

Built around the turn of the last century, this house has been home to a newspaper editor, electrician, hardware store proprietor and currently the owner/operator of McDermott Motors (Ron and Jane McDermott). In 1929, during the Great Depression, the house and 1/8 acre of land sold for \$3500.

**45 William St. N.**

This 1905 Queen Anne-style home is the only house in Tavistock that has a name. It's called Hillcroft, printed in large letters above the front porch. We're told it's a Scottish term for "house on the hill."



# The survey says...

What do the names Hendershot and DeCew and Adam and William mean to you? If you said “street names” you would be correct. They are also names of some of Tavistock’s original land owners and surveyors.

The first survey in what has become Tavistock is credited to Alexander Mitchell. Alex was an interesting character. On one hand he was Shakespeare’s first postmaster and, in 1852, the Reeve of South Easthope. He was also the man taken to court for missing money on land deals in Tavistock. By the time the court decision came down, Alex was long gone and, when last heard from, was in Texas.

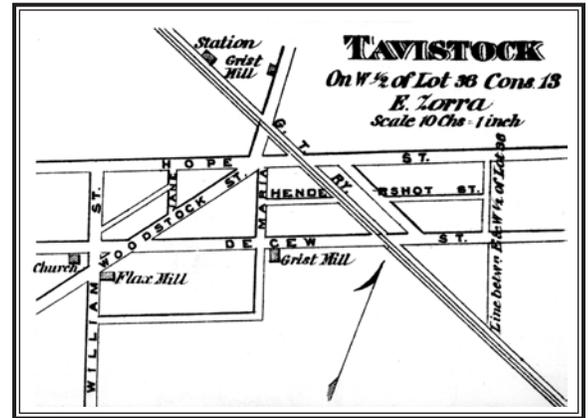
In 1858 the court sold the west half of lot 36, concession 13 East Zorra to the highest bidder, William B. Hendershot. Hendershot commissioned a survey, hiring Edmund DeCew (note the spelling) from Cayuga to do the legwork and plans. From this we have Plan 167 -- The Hendershot Survey, 1868.

A few years later, in 1876, Adam Mohr hired William Smiley to complete a survey known as Plan 201.

Plan 329, also known as the Wilker Survey, was completed in 1882, covering a wide swath of land north of Hope Street.

Not to be outdone by the men, Wilhelmina Wettlaufer, wife of John C., ordered up a survey completed by John Roger, a surveyor in Mitchell. Plan 268, filed in 1902, covers part of Lot 35, Con 12 of East Zorra.

All of these plans were compiled in 1909 to form Plan 307, still the primary reference plan for Tavistock properties. All of these plans can be surveyed at the museum.



## Down on the farm...

Long before the Village of Frieburg (renamed Inkerman, renamed Tavistock) came into being a truly ambitious man named Shuball Parke surveyed the Township of Zorra from the 9th line to the 19th. The year was 1819. Parke wrote about stands of black ash, beach and maple along with cedar swamps and wet areas that are still “wet” today.

As Fred Lichti wrote in “A History of the East Zorra (Amish) Mennonite Church” this area attracted the Amish, German Lutherans, Evangelicals and Presbyterians. Farming was the main occupation of settlers who came to East Zorra after 1837. In early assessments few horses are mentioned so their labours were by hand and maybe oxen. It would take at least a generation to clear some of the land for cultivation.

Early records show the sale in 1852 of Lot 33, Concession 16 to Christian J. Schwartzentruber. Upon Christian’s death his widow, Magdalena, continued farming with the help of Henry Schumm. Perhaps a bit more than farming was going on as Henry married Magdalena. Three generations later (John, Henry and now Laird) have all called this property home.

The Schumm farm is one of many area farms that have been in the same family for 100+ years.

Women’s Institutes in the area took on the task of writing farm histories, a wonderful record of our rural community. Many of these histories, along with excellent research done by Lorraine Roth, are available for viewing at the museum.

## Contest #1

Everybody likes a good quiz.

What existing Tavistock home has the distinction of being the oldest house in Tavistock? Here’s the clincher. You need to be able to prove it’s the oldest house.

Serious contenders are the houses at 8 Minerva Street, 108 Decew Street, 85 and 95 Hope Street East, 98 Hope Street West and 173 Woodstock Street North. Might your house be in the running and do you have the “goods” to back up your claim?

## Contest # 2

Some people flit from house to house. Others stay for years on end. What older house in Tavistock has the record for having the least number of owners? We think the prize here goes to 113 Woodstock Street North that has been in the Zimmerman family pretty much forever. A slightly newer home (1922) with truly low turnover is 164 William Street South. This was the Hanke home, complete with its own tennis court, for decades before it was purchased by the current owners, Rob and Shelly Gingerich. Can you top these truly low turnover records?

**PRIZE: 13x19 sepia-toned digital print from  
The Lemp Studio Collection (your choice)**

## Did you know?

The first streetlights in the village were paid for by private citizens? In 1911 Mr. Field (Tavistock Woollen Mill) offered 30 lights for an annual fee of \$400, but this was determined to be too costly. Hydro power was brought to Tavistock in 1916.