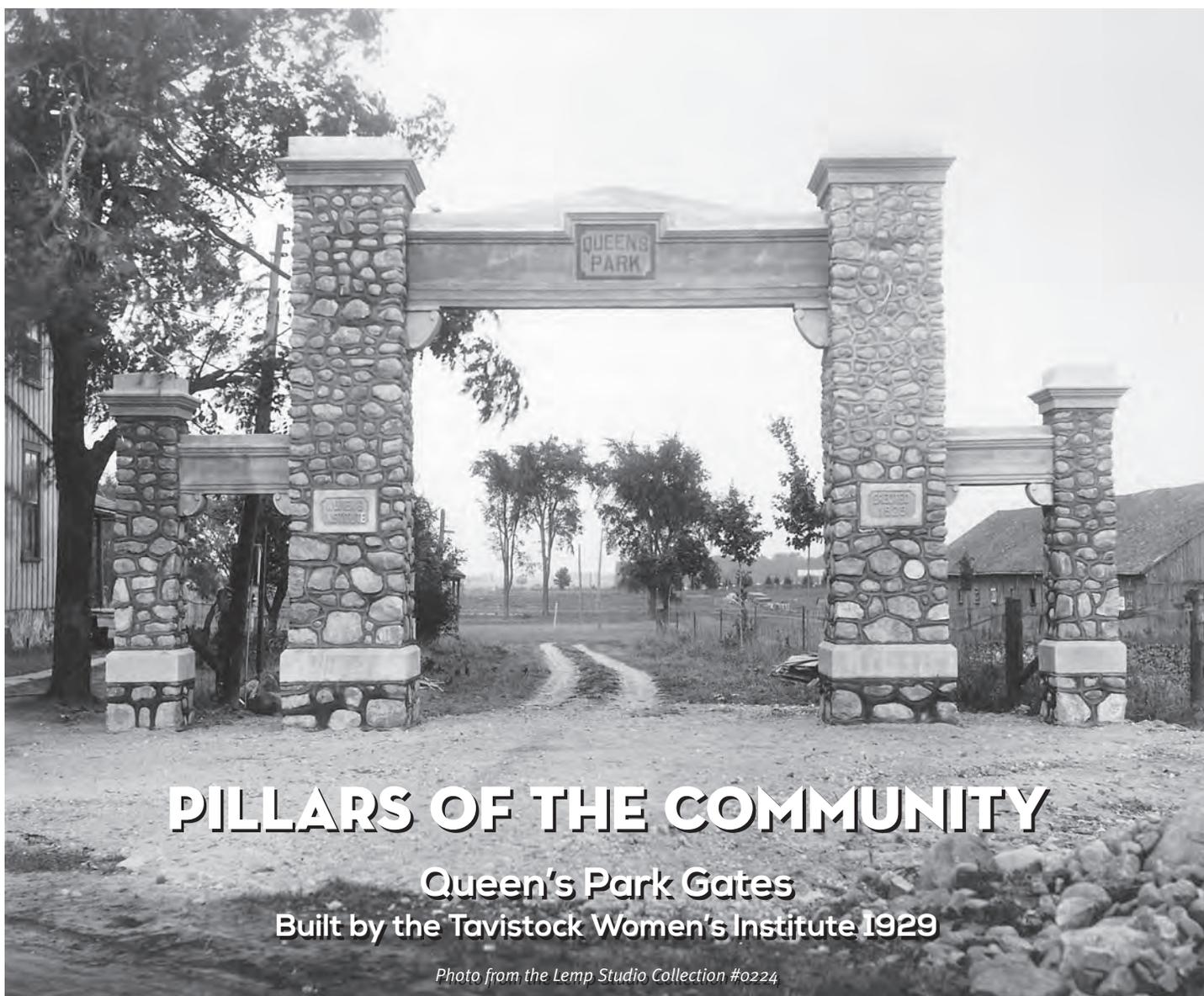


# YESTERDAY

News from the Tavistock and District Historical Society

VOLUME 24

WINTER 2013



## PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY

Queen's Park Gates  
Built by the Tavistock Women's Institute 1929

*Photo from the Lemp Studio Collection #0224*

## VETERAN'S DISPLAY

A Veteran's Display was set up at the Museum/Archives in November to remember our brave men and women who served and sacrificed themselves for our freedom.

More than 400 veterans are recorded in our Honour Books available for viewing at the Museum/Archives or searchable on our website.

A keepsake CD is also available for purchase.



# Not in Kansas anymore

## *Cyclone hit the area in 1929*

Cyclones. These weather events don't happen in our part of the world. Right? Wrong. And we have pictures to prove it.

Visitors to the museum/archives and readers of this newsletter are familiar with the Lemp Studio Collection of glass negatives. When the glass negatives were rescued from the drug store attic many years ago so was an old tin can full of plastic negatives. The "plastics" were recently developed. What a surprise to find photos labelled "Ravages of the Cyclone. Schlattman's Barn, Tavistock, Ont." Surely there was a story behind these pictures.

Yes, the Tavistock Gazette was on the scene in July 1929 with a story headlined "Cyclone Strikes In South Easthope". The first paragraph graphically captures the event.

"Standing in the path of a cyclone which struck a section of the Township of South Easthope about five o'clock Saturday afternoon, a large fine barn on the farm of Ferdinand Schlattman, Lot 34, Concession 4, was a mass of splintered wood, twisted tin and shattered cement blocks. The garage which stood close by reposed in an adjacent field and the roof of the dwelling house was without shingles. Across the road, on the farm of Edwin

Heinbuch, the verandah on the south side of the house had taken temporary quarters on the housetop. And in a bush about 130 rods to the southwest of the wrecked barn, a number of trees lie uprooted while others stand naked, pulled limb from limb, shattered and torn by the fury of the wind."

The article goes on to describe the pigs and horses "imprisoned but unharmed" after the barn collapsed and notes that "it was just ten minutes before the disaster that Mr. Schlattman let all the cattle, with the exception of one head, out of a section of the barn that was crushed flat". The family automobile wasn't so lucky. The car was turned completely upside down and tossed into the wreckage.

Total damage was assessed at \$5,000, a huge amount in 1929. Local insurance companies ... C.J. Kaufman and P.W. Morgenroth ... had advertised tornado and cyclone insurance policies with great regularity in the 1920s. One wonders if Mr. Schlattman had insurance or, like so many people, thought cyclones happened only in some other part of the world.

Check out the Schlattman photos and other interesting shots in the new plastics part of the Lemp Studio Collection.



**Tavistock & District  
Historical Society**  
37 Maria Street,  
Box 280, Tavistock, Ontario,  
Canada N0B 2R0

**Executive:**  
Chair - Brian Bennett  
Secretary - Mary Nicklas  
Treasurer - Bob Rudy

**Membership:** \$10/year

**Directors:**  
Paul Bartlett  
Sherrill Calder  
Bill Gladding  
Harry Lawry  
Barb Matthies

Denise McLachlin  
Ed Pellow  
Mary Stewart  
Tim Mosher

**MUSEUM HOURS:**  
Now Open third Saturday of the  
month 1-4 p.m. Closed months of  
January & February  
*Other times by appointment:*  
call 519-655-9915 or 519-655-3342

# Pillars of the Community

## A Tavistock Women's Institute project

### SHARE YOUR WINTER MEMORIES

**SPECIAL  
Saturday,  
December 14, 2013  
at 1-4 p.m.**

at the Museum/Archives  
37 Maria Street,  
Tavistock, ON

*Bring the whole family!*

**SLEIGH RIDES!**

*Everyone welcome!*

*Apple cider and  
gingerbread cookies.*

### Get your new videos...

**\$20.00**

- 1962-1971  
Home Movies of  
Tavistock - the way it was  
*Excerpts from home movies  
taken by the late Walter  
'Wally' Schaefer - kindly  
provided by his son, Phil  
Schaefer, who also provides  
the narration.*
- Selected Videos from  
TDHS Archives  
*as shown at  
2013 Tavistock Fall Fair*
  - 1949 - Tavistock School  
& other scenes  
*- filmed by Rev. Roy  
Massecar*
  - Movies of Tavistock  
from Bob and Doris Rudy  
donated to TDHS by  
Bob G. Rudy
  - 100th Anniversary of  
Tavistock Fall Fair, 1952  
*filmed by John Holley  
for Bob Rudy*
  - Tavistock Cheese  
Factory Tour - 1972  
*filmed by Walter Schaefer  
for Bob Rudy*

*"The community spirit of Tavistock, long one of its outstanding features, was further emphasized here on Friday night, when more than 300 citizens gathered to witness the completion of the latest improvement to the community."*

... TavistockGazette

The year was 1929. The occasion was the grand opening of the stones gates at the entrance to Queen's Park.

Back in 1929 the gates were called the archway. Queen's Park was a brand new name, changed that same year from Exhibition Park. The park's name change, along with everything else related to the new archway, was spearheaded by the Tavistock Women's Institute (TWI), a somewhat formidable group of women who "thought outside the box" and "pushed the envelope" decades before those terms were coined. Music in the school -- thank the Tavistock Women's Institute. Playground equipment and lights in the park -- another thank you. First sponsors for the local Scout Troupe, Girl Guides and Brownies -- yes, it was the TWI. And the list goes on and on.

In November of 1927 the Tavistock Women's Institute took on yet another noteworthy project. A delegation of 3 TWI members appeared before Tavistock Village Council with a request to build an archway at the entrance to Exhibition Park. Granted! One month later they were back at Council with blueprints and an estimated cost, which the TWI would finance, of \$400.

By January of 1928 things were in full motion. Farmers were asked to donate fieldstones. Housewives were asked to contribute goodies for bake sales. Local organizations were encouraged to give monetary donations. Charles Hanke, a local stonemason, was hired. Plans were in place to lay the foundation in May of 1928 with stone pillars to rise shortly thereafter and opening ceremonies were scheduled for early summer. Small snag. The May 17, 1928, Gazette stated "The Women's Institute of Tavistock wish to extend their thanks to each and all who so cheerfully helped them by bringing material to build the archway to the fair grounds but there is some material lacking and also some greenbacks. So help them again and as soon as the archway is completed, all those who helped will be given a nice supper".

Time passed ... a year and a bit. By the summer of 1929 the material inventory and bank account were at a point that work could commence in earnest. Once again, the "women" went to see the

"men", this time the men on Park Board and Chamber of Commerce to make arrangements for a September grand opening of the archway. Local politicians and a Canadian Senator were invited to speak. Talented local individuals were asked to participate in a musical program. A request went to the boys at Knox Church Sunday School to perform a drill on the big day. The Tavistock Citizens' Band was hired to play as was an orchestra for the evening dance. Things were moving well. Then the accident happened. Siegfried Bowien, a worker new to Canada and living at the Oxford Hotel, was seriously injured when a large stone fell on the top of his head. Siegfried was of strong stuff and survived.

The official opening of the arch was Friday, September 13, 1929. Senator Rankin cut the white ribbon that stretched across the opening of the arch and declared the work "well and truly done". Everyone adjourned to the arena for a program that featured the best of the best Tavistock talent, refreshments and a dance.

The financial statement for "Opening The Arch" was printed in the Gazette the next week. "The committee for the opening of the archway wishes to thank the citizens for their co-operation to make the evening a success and presents the following statement.

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
receipts at the door	\$57.50	orchestra	\$23.00
refreshment booths	\$57.90	ice cream, etc.	\$17.20
dance	\$24.90	rent for rink	\$15.00
other sources	\$14.91	rent or piano	\$5.00
donations	\$25.00	rent for chairs	\$1.00
		printing & ads	\$6.50
		weiners	\$3.60
		buns	\$3.15
		coal oil & stove	\$1.25
		stove	\$1.00
Total Receipts =	\$180.21	dishes	\$6.60
Total Expenses =	\$79.35	cups	\$.45
<u>Balance On Hand =</u>	<u>\$100.86</u>	mustard	\$.60
		washing dishes!	\$1.00"

While the stones and material were donated and while fundraising had been successful, the labour charges mounted up and money was still needed. The original estimate of \$400 had risen to \$443.37 in expenses requiring cash payment. After considerable discussion the Women's Institute decided to write a letter to former residents of Tavistock asking them to contribute. Tavistock roots run deep and former residents came through with donations to pay the final bills.

That was 1929. Now, some 84 years later, those gates are still standing at the entrance to Queen's Park ... pillars of the community.

# South Easthope landmark

## *Andreas Wilker homestead razed*



### **SCHMIDT WEDDING:**

*Above is the wedding photo of Henry Schmidt and Wilhelmina Wilker, taken April 30, 1913 in front of the old homestead.*

*The photo comes to the Museum/Archives courtesy of Betty Stere, Tavistock.*

*Excerpt from The Tavistock Gazette  
Wednesday, November 6, 2013*

It was a grey day in South Easthope history on Friday, November 1 as the old Wilker homestead on the west side of Road 107 between Tavistock and Shakespeare was knocked down. The Andreas Wilker red brick two-and-a-half-storey home had been a landmark to travellers for the past 162 years.

Built in 1851, it replaced a log home built by the Andreas Wilker family, said to be the fourth landowners in Perth County. According to family lore, the original log dwelling had been located in front of the brick home on land purchased on contract from the Canada Company in 1840 and deeded in 1850. The family granted land for the first school and church on the property's southeast corner at Sebastopol.

Andreas Wilker was a brother of Peter Wilker, the founder of Petersburg. Andreas married Anna Maria Wettlauffer and they had nine children. Many of Tavistock's current residents can trace their ancestry back to this family. It is interesting to note that the son of Andreas and Anna, Conrad Wilker married Elizabeth Mogk. Her family's homestead was also demolished earlier this year to make way for a new

subdivision in the northwest corner of the village.

The Wilker property northwest of Sebastopol was last owned by a namesake, Andreas's great grandson the late Andrew Wilker, until 2007. Joe Moreland, a great nephew of Andrew, purchased the 92-acre property prior to Andrew's death in 2007.

Restoring the triple-brick home seemed out of the question, so Mr. Moreland allowed the owners of Artefacts Salvage and Design of St. Jacobs to come in last Tuesday and take what was worthwhile.

Demolition contractor James Thoume of Ariss, Ontario then arrived on Friday morning with a backhoe to dig a hole on the north side of the house and proceed to knock down the house and deposit the remains in the pit. All that could be seen Saturday morning was a pile of red bricks and portions of the foundation wall.

Sunday, smoke could be seen rising from the site as the old timbers were burned.

With the demise of this old homestead goes another part of South Easthope's history. The property had fallen into disrepair over past years with the barn and former frame church being removed in 2010. Mr. Moreland said the home was becoming a hazard as passersby would stop and look around the property which was becoming more and more dilapidated.

Members of the Tavistock and District Historical Society toured the home several years ago and many artifacts of interest were accessioned into their collection. For a video of the home's final moments, go to [www.tavistock.on.ca](http://www.tavistock.on.ca) and click on the link.



*The home as pictured in 2010*

# Dig into Tavistock's history - online!

## **TAVISTOCKHISTORY.CA**

**You can search photos in The Lemp Studio Collection; find birth, death and marriage dates of thousands of Tavistock residents; or find out more about local veterans.**

*Find out what's in the archives and museum collections, displays, and business and family histories.*