

# YESTERDAY

News from the Tavistock and District Historical Society

VOLUME 23

FALL 2013



Aerial photo circa 1947

## OPENING DOORS TO THE PAST

In the process of developing “The Ponds” subdivision on 22 acres of land to the northwest of the village, The Tavistock and District Historical Society has been reminded how early settlers influenced the town’s start and development.

Casper Mogk settled on land in South Easthope in 1844 and purchased it from the Canada Company in 1853.

His many descendants have remained key figures in the life of the community.

*For more, turn to page two.*

SCHEDULE M.					SCHEDULE M.				
Township of South Easthope, Lot No. 21 (Twenty One)					in the 6th Concession				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
No. of Instrument	Instrument	No. Date	Date of Registry	Grantee	Grantee	Quantity of Land	Consideration or Amount of Mortgage	Remarks	
Patent	5 May 1836			The Governor	Canada Company				
93	1836	6 August 1853	23 September 1853	Canada Company	Casper Mogk	120			
136	1854	18 January 1854	27 April 1854	Casper Mogk	B. B. & C. Railway Company	5	\$45/51		
399	1854	18 March 1854	20 March 1854	Casper Mogk	Duncan Campbell & Alexander Mitchell	3/8	\$120		
433	1854	2 June 1854	5 June 1854	Casper Mogk	Buffalo & Toronto Railway Co.	4 1/2			
434	1854	2 June 1854	5 June 1854	Duncan Campbell & Alexander Mitchell	Buffalo & Toronto Railway Co.	3/8			
439	1854	2 June 1854	23 June 1854	Casper Mogk	Duncan Campbell & Alexander Mitchell	3/8	\$3,77 1/2		
671	1860	14 March 1860		Casper Mogk	Henry Eckstein	1/2	\$200		

# Casper Mogk homestead

## Lot 21/22, Concession 6, South Easthope

### ON THE COVER:

The original door with sidelights and transom window salvaged from the Casper Mogk timber frame residence.

The establishment of a village comes when business and commerce meet at a crossroads and make a concerted effort for settlement. Many farmers who own land next to the community subdivide their properties into village lots. Portions of four farm properties were surveyed to become the Village of Tavistock which was incorporated in 1909. They were divided by Hope Street as the boundary between Perth and Oxford Counties, or South Easthope and East Zorra Townships.

The southern half was owned by Philip Oelig (Lot 36, Concession 12, East Zorra) on the west side and Henry Schaefer (Lot 36, Concession 13 East Zorra - west half) to the east, divided by the 13th Line or William Street. The northern half was owned by Henry Wilker (Lot 20, Concession 5, South Easthope) on the east side and Casper Mogk (Lot 21/22, Concession 6) on the west side, divided by

Woodstock Street North.

Much of Tavistock's early prosperity came from the development of the Mogk property which was 84 acres purchased by Casper Mogk from the Canada Company on September 23,

1853 for £68 (pounds) and 5 shillings. He purchased both Lots 21 and 22, the west half being used for his farm buildings.

Mr. Mogk was born in 1801 in Alsfield, Germany

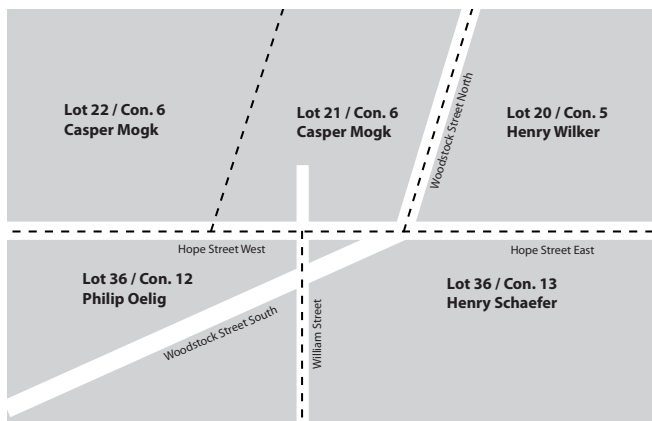
and came to Canada in 1842 and settled in South Easthope with his wife, Anna Elizabeth Ortwein, and their two children, Heinrich and George. Three more children were born in Canada, Elizabeth (Mrs. Conrad Wilker), Maria (Mrs. Henry Schaefer), and John.

Family records state that he first leased the land from the Canada Company in 1844. In 1854, a section of the property was sold to the Buffalo, Brantford and Goderich Railway Company in preparation for the rail line being built. In 1857, developers Duncan Campbell and Alexander Mitchell purchased 3/8 pt. sections in May and June for £130 (pounds). Then in 1860, Henry Eckstein spent \$205 to purchase the plot of land where Tavistock's first brick hotel was built. In June of 1866, George Malcolm purchased a 2-acre piece of property for \$300 for the construction of Tavistock's first grist mill, just north of the railway on the west side of Woodstock Street North.

Casper Mogk passed away in 1868, but his son John Mogk, who acquired the property in 1867, continued to sell off portions of the property to local businessmen. John Kalbfleisch and Adam Schaefer bought property for their planing mill in 1870 for \$620. Then in 1877, Thomas Ballantyne and William Gillard purchased part of Lot 22 for the construction of the first cheese factory.

The farm and original log house were purchased by Harold "Doc" Wilker (Ruby Iutzi) in 1942. "Doc" was the grandson of Elizabeth Mogk (Mrs. Conrad Wilker) and the son of Henry Wilker (Lavina Yausie). Bruce and Mary Lou Holst purchased the property in April of 1983 and sold the remaining 22 acres to Mansoura Development in December of 2007.

The farm buildings were removed several years ago and the log house is presently scheduled to be demolished (fall 2013) to make room for "The Ponds" subdivision of 75 building lots.



**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 655-3342

## SPEAKER SERIES 2013

### TOPIC:

Till death do us part ...  
*Funeral rites and customs*

### Speaker:

Bev Dietrich, Curator,  
Guelph Civic Museum.

**Wednesday,  
October 9, 2013  
at 7:00 p.m.**

Grace United Church Hall  
116 Woodstock St. S.,  
Tavistock, ON

*Everyone welcome!  
Refreshments  
Donations at the door.*

# Till death do us part

## *Funeral rites and customs*

A key element of every culture is how they observe death. In some cases traditions withstand the test of time while in other instances, observances or rituals are abandoned or replaced with something deemed more modern.

In Tavistock, depending upon the person's religious affiliation, we still ring the toll bell when they die ... once for each year of that person's life. While you might very occasionally still see a wreath with the funeral flowers, the days of hanging a wreath on the front door when someone in the household died stopped in the 1950s. The days of making a wreath to keep in the front parlour disappeared long before that.

Our museum collection features a death wreath complete with coffin plaque housed in a shadow box. They were made to remember Henry Diehl, a young man born in South Easthope in 1864 and who died at the young age of 23. Henry is buried in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Sebastopol.

Coffin plaques date back to the 17th century but were never common in this area. When they were used it was always a case where a child died before his or her parents. A plaque made of some suitable material like nickel or silver or copper, inscribed with the deceased person's name and dates, was attached to the coffin for the period of visitation and funeral. At the cemetery it would be removed and kept by the surviving family as a remembrance. This form of memorial peaked in the late 1800s.

More common in this area, although not widespread, was the death wreath. Death wreaths of varying materials have been used since ancient Greece to represent a circle of eternal life. During the

Victorian era specific flowers were used to represent particular sentiments. In this community, in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the female members of the deceased's family would make the flowers for the wreath from brightly-coloured yarn or crepe paper. Occasionally wax flowers were used, as was human hair. The flowers, which never faded or died, were put in a shadow box with glass covering. The end result was either hung on the wall or sat on a table in the front parlour along with a picture of the deceased. While coffin plaques were for children or



**Henry Diehl, death wreath**

young adults, the death wreath could be for any age and, in fact, was usually a shrine to husband or wife or grandpa or grandma.

The Tavistock & District Historical Society currently has 2 death wreaths in our collection.



## September Museum Archives Feature

### TOPIC:

**Tavistock Bands**  
*featuring recordings of the  
Tavistock Citizen's Band  
courtesy of Craig Wilker*

**Open Saturday,  
September 21st  
1:00-4:00 p.m.**

### **AN EARLY UNDERTAKING ...**

In 1915, shortly after graduating from Embalming School, John Krug and his wife Rebecca opened a

funeral home and furniture store in their hometown of Tavistock. In the early days funeral visitation was usually held at the home of the deceased. The 1940s saw a change to visitation at the funeral home at 47 Woodstock Street.

Furniture was sold from the red brick store that John built next door in 1915. John and Rebecca operated the businesses until 1948 when their son Robert and his wife Beatrice took over.

The photo shows John Krug (seated right) with the winter hearse at the rear of his property on Decew Street.



# Fall Fair Facts

## *Things you may not know about the Tavistock Fall Fair*

As early as 1852 East Zorra Township had a farmers' organization known as the East Zorra Agricultural Association. While the location for the early fairs sponsored by this group is not known, by the 1900s the annual fair was held in Strathallan (south of Hickson) and a few years later moved to the Adam Mohr farm in Tavistock (where the Memorial Hall is now located).

Not to be outdone by East Zorra, the farmers of South Easthope Township formed a similar organization. The South Easthope Agricultural Society held their annual fair on the John Mogk farm (currently the corner of Oxford and William Streets in Tavistock with entrance along Mogk Street).

Union Fairs started in 1879 as a collaborative undertaking between the East Zorra and South Easthope Agricultural Societies. The Union Fall Fair was usually held on a Monday and Tuesday in late September.

The Agricultural Society Act legislated against Union Fairs and from this ban was born the Tavistock Agricultural Society which held its first Fall Fair in 1907.

The grounds on which the Tavistock Agricultural Society held its Fall Fair were handed over to the Village of Tavistock as part of Queen's Park in 1918 with the provision that the Ag Society would have free use of the facilities for its annual fair. In 1975 East Zorra Township council tried to sell a portion of the fairgrounds in the park. The Ag Society opposed this and a Supreme Court of Ontario ruling stopped the sale.

In 1917 the Tavistock Fall Fair was one of 84 such fairs held in Ontario between September 20 and Thanksgiving Day. The date of Tavistock's fair that year was October 1-2.

Photography is a popular class for young and old alike enter. It was also popular when it was on the 1917 prize list ... best collection of snapshots.

Admission to the Fall Fair in 1935 was 10 cents for adults on Friday and 25 cents on Saturday; 5 cents for children on Friday and 10 cents on Saturday; 25 cents per car at any time.

The slogan "Show what you grow -- Share what you know" was adopted in 1931.

A merry-go-round and ferris wheel made their first appearance at

the 1936 Fall Fair to the delight of children and adults alike.

The 1943 Prize List included 23 classes for fowl (chicken, geese, ducks and turkeys); the opportunity to show 28 different types of apples; a class labelled "9 sandwiches for afternoon tea"; and a knitted hot water bag cover.

The Fall Fair was held during World War I in spite of serious reduction in government grant money. Similarly, the Fair was held every year during World War II. Prize list covers during this time frame featured a patriotic symbol such as a maple leaf and patriotic phrase such as "There'll Always Be An England".

The stone monument, located in front of the Memorial Hall, that marks the 100th Anniversary of the Fair (1852-1952) was

sponsored by the Tavistock Women's Institute. Gazette reporting at the time referred to it as a commemorative pylon.

The "centennial" Fall Fair of 1952 had a special class ... a decorated 2-storey dark fruit cake with first prize of \$25. The winning cake was offered for sale by public auction at the Fair. Schoolchildren attending the Fair were eligible for a special draw with the winner receiving a budgie bird and cage. Attendance records in every category were smashed that

year. The Saturday afternoon show didn't conclude until 8 pm when the last entrant in the tractor rodeo made his rounds of the course. The horse show finished at 7:30 pm after a very full day of events. Every available inch of space used for concessions within the park was full with two set up on the street outside the grounds.

If you were a first-prize baker in 1952 your first-prize money was 75 cents. If you were a seamstress and won first prize for buttonholes - 3 worked and 3 bound - your prize was also 75 cents. It was the same for the category called "specimen mending - ladies stockings". Things weren't quite as good for the gardeners as first prize for "floral arrangement, suitable for church" was 60 cents.

Since its beginnings 160+ years ago there has only been one year when Tavistock did not have a Fall Fair. That was 1873 - reasons unknown.



## Dig into Tavistock's history - online!

[www.tavistockhistory.ca](http://www.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.**

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