

A-Grafton (07-29)

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Grafton Historical Notes

(25) By T. R. M.

Although the ravages of fire have destroyed several of Grafton's fine old homes yet enough remain to bear testimony to the solid and careful workmanship of the builders of early days.

In the Village proper the oldest structure is Bryson's Garage, which we have identified with John Grover's Tavern. This building was built previous to 1820. Next to it in age is its neighbour the Mansion House, built by Edward H. Pepper in 1833. This "Wayside Inn" has been serving the public for more than a century. Its capacious fireplaces have been boarded up, but its doorway merits an inspection.

Standing on the site of Spalding's Inn is the fine residence of the late Mrs. Anson Cartwright. The original Inn was in service as late as 1826, and it is conjectured that this house and the large brick residence on the adjoining property were built between this year and 1840. Old Mr. Spalding owned a brick-yard and manufactured the material for these houses on his own property. Originally both houses had ovens, but of these only the one in the Steele-Cameron house remains. This house appears to have been built by Mr. Spalding for his son-in-law John Steele.

"The Pines," residence of the late R. W. Standly and "Stillbrook," once the residence of the Distillery owner, J. Montgomery Campbell are good examples of the rambling English country-house. Both these large brick structures date from about the year 1840. Obviously built by men of wealth, they reflect the day of spacious comfort and the large domestic staff. Just such another large house, but built of stone, stands on what was formerly the Lang property, some miles north of Grafton. A method of wall construction at once permanent and durable if somewhat lavish of lumber is found in the Monroe house at the Harbour, Lawless's Store in the Village, and

various other buildings dating from the 1840's. The outer walls are constructed of narrow boards, placed unevenly one upon the other, and the whole covered with plaster.

By far the most interesting house in the community is the Barnum house, now the residence of the Prentice family. Although no documentary evidence is available, there is a well-established tradition that this house was built during the War of 1812-14. The original house is said to have been accidentally burned while a group of soldiers was billeted there during the War.

Professor Arthur of the architecture department of the University of Toronto states that this is the finest house of its type in the Province. "Manual skill," he writes, "and book knowledge of the profile of mouldings could never produce a Poplar Hall or a Barnum House. They can only be described as the crowning achievement of a period when the standard of taste was at a height that this country may not see again for centuries." In describing the house he writes:—"The weather boards do not overlap, but form a perfectly smooth face-like masonry with a fine joint between them. Mouldings are all delicately detailed, and show the work of an architect thoroughly versed in the style, and of craftsmen equally skilled. One could go on enumerating the good points of this house both of composition and detail, for indeed it is a perfect example of the Early Colonial period." The great kitchen fireplace, the huge central chimney, the east wing with its delicately constructed mantel, and the front facade are parts of this old home that well repay inspection.

The original St. George's Rectory, built in the 1840's by J. C. Hogaboom, and the residence of Mr. Jerry Hoskin were modelled after the Barnum House, but no attempt was made by the copyists to reproduce

Warkworth

Rinks composed of W. H. Heaton, A. M. Smale, J. F. Dingman, Buchanan, skip and W. J. Harp, W. Mowat, M. E. Smith, C. C. Ley, skip, played in Campbell Friday, May 31st., in a Trent V. Bowling League fixture and were defeated 4-1. Campbellford teams here, Friday, June 7th.

Large congregations attended Andrew's Presbyterian Church Sunday, June 2nd., on the occasion of their anniversary services. Rev. B. Rhodes, B.A. of Cobourg was special speaker. The church beautifully decorated and sp music was furnished by the choir. The evening service of St. Paul's United Church was withdrawn.

The death of Jesse Johnston, resident of Cramahe Tp. occurred Thursday, May 29th. The funeral was held on Saturday, June 1st. Requiem High Mass being celebrated at St. Jerome's R. C. Church by Rev. Father J. B. Ferguson. Interment was made in Warkworth Cemetery.

Messrs. J. L. Phillips and J. Duncan spent a few days in Montreal last week on business.

Miss Marie Hicks, B.A., of Peterborough Collegiate Institute visited friends here over the weekend.

A large number of Masons attended the funeral of the late W. Ames of Codrington on Monday, June 3rd. The deceased was a member of Percy Lodge No. 161 A.F. & A.M.

The monthly meeting of Percy Council was held on Saturday, 1st., instead of the usual first day, Court of Revision being held that time.

STATIONED HERE

Constable Robert Warner, formerly stationed at Hamilton has moved over the Cobourg work of the P. replacing Constable Harry who has been transferred to land Lake

the fine craftsmanship of the totype.