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35 King St. E., once at the very centre of the Cobourg business community

Graveley residence on King Street E.
served as home and business place

Behind a rambling verandah at 35 King St. E. is a fine late Georgian residence built by William Graveley in 1837.

Graveley was the son of John and Mary (nee Locock) of Yorkshire, England. Mary's father, Sir Charles Locock, was physician to Queen Victoria.

First travelling from Yorkshire, Graveley settled in Quebec in 1819 and moved to Cobourg in 1831.

Graveley was in the wholesale mercantile business and probably used the house as both a residence and for business purposes. This is borne out by the previous construction of the building. It once featured huge arches at the back of the basement, which then stood at ground level, to facilitate the moving of merchandise to and from the building.

The spot where the house stands was once the heart of the Cobourg business area, before it spread further to the west.

The list of Graveley's town interests is a long one.

He was a member of the town council and the school board, a director of both the harbor and the Cobourg-Peterborough Railway, and served for 17 years as the town commissioner.

Graveley also held the post of collector of inland revenue — a fairly high federal position — in 1868, and retired from the local militia with the rank of major.

He married Margaret Boswell, daughter of Captain Walter Boswell RN, in 1839. They had five sons and two daughters.

As the residence passed hands, the story becomes intertwined between the two families.

In 1851, Graveley sold the house to John Vance Boswell, his wife Margaret's brother. Boswell married Graveley's sister, Clara, when she was not quite 16 years old.

Another one of Graveley's sisters, Eliza, married William Boswell, John Vance's first cousin.

The closely related marriages illustrate the small social circles

Building history

in which the larger, more prominent families moved.

The considerable number of offspring, combined with the elite number of friends and relations, meant that in many cases families married within their own circle and, not infrequently, two brothers from one family married two sisters from another.

Of William and Margaret Graveley's children, son John Vance (named after his uncle) married Mary Angill, the adopted daughter of major John Campbell, founder of Campbellford and builder of *The Maples*, referred to in a previous article.

Son Walter was one of the first settlers of Vancouver, purchasing the first lot from the CPR.

Son William Jr. became manager of the Bank of Montreal in Halifax and married the daughter of Senator Almon.

When Graveley sold the residence, he built a beautiful house (now demolished) which stood on the site of the Roma Apartments on King Street East. It was called *Maple Grove* and later *Interlaken*.

The Boswells sold 35 King St. E. in 1895 to Clara and Hector Cameron. Clara was a daughter of Eliza and William Boswell, who had been adopted by the Graveleys when her parents fell upon hard times.

They, in turn, sold to Philip Guiton in 1898.

Guiton was one of Cobourg's chief real estate agents, originally from St. Catharines.

It is thought that Guiton probably rented out rooms during this time to the American summer colony.

He was married to Alicia MacDonald, daughter of Rolland MacDonald, whose wife Ann was a sister of William and Margaret Boswell, first cousin to John Vance Boswell.

The residence was sold again to Mary and Laura Crowe in 1921, when it served as a boarding house that was known as *Slumber Inn*.

Mary served for 50 years as organist at St. Michael's Church, and Laura was a prominent member of the Business and Professional Women's Club.

The Crowes owned the property until it was purchased by the Gordons in 1970.

The house features three ornate dormer windows in the high-pitched gable roof. They were probably added in the 1850s. Similar ones can be seen on the house at 411 John St., referred to in a previous article as *The Gerton Cottage*.

Each dormer has a pediment style roof, supported by finely carved pilasters.

The top panes have gothic heads and, although the double-glazing now obscures the top of the windows, they are thought to be semi-circular.

The top floor features 12-over-12 window panes and the ground 6-over-6.

The verandah was probably added in the late 1800s, and is "of gingerbread design" according to the Cobourg Public Library LACAC files.

The name "gingerbread" was coined in the 1800s and referred to the use of bargeboard or other similar decoration which lent buildings the appearance of fairy tale houses.

Of note is the fire insurance plaque, located centrally, just below the roof line.

Apparently, this was meant to signify to the fire brigade that this particular building was insured for fire, and should therefore be looked after first.

A fine example of having your bread buttered on the right side!

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TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, 1980, R.S.O. CHAP-