

(To be typed when information is confirmed.)

A- Architecture - Hamilton June

(05-07) 291

Beaver Meadows Farm

Known as the "Sowden Place"

John Byers and his wife who was a Blanchard from Baileboro area. raised their family there from circa 1910 till their deaths perhaps in the 30's.

The family:

Harold - (eventually built the small house on the north side - west of the barn.

George - elementary school teacher in Toronto

Wes - died in teens with spinal meningitis
out west on a "harvest excursion".

Mae - (Mrs. Rupert Ferguson)

Frank -

Annie - Mrs. ~~Glass~~ Noray Goheen

Ethel - Mrs. Glass

Charlie -

Charlie & his wife Peggy lived in the old farm home and had 3 children - Fred, Margaret and Gloria.

Harold lived with them until he built his own home.

In early 50's Charlie sold to Robert and Margaret May from Port Hope who lived there 17 years.

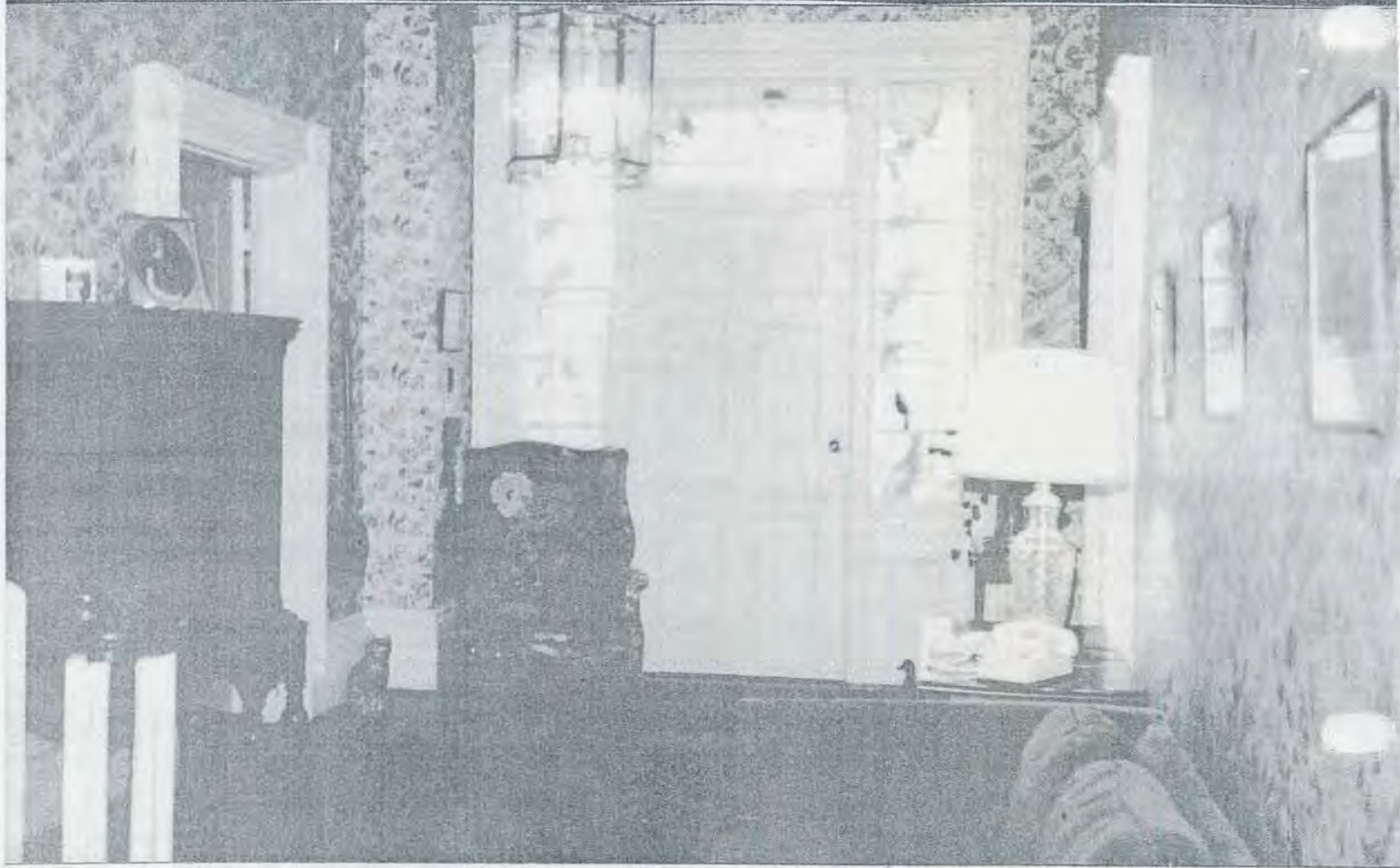
Their family:

Ronald

Joan.

The Mays sold the farm (perhaps only the south part) to Dr. Davies who are the present owners of the house, around 1970 - after Bob died with cancer.

Dr. Davies has children - one little boy was born after they moved there.



The entry hall has refinished pine floors which run throughout the residence (199.



The beautiful dining room in Bowden House 1990 (see opposite page)



Dine in old fashioned elegance in the beautiful dining room

Sowden House is a restored neo-classic residence

The Port Hope Evening Guide, Friday, February 9, 1990

The "Sowden House," which may also be known to you as Beaver Meadow Farm, was built in the 1820s by Sanford Sowden, who immigrated with his wife to Canada.

The lovely proportions of the building, the unusual brick and other materials of which it is constructed, and the thoroughness of the workmanship suggest, according to a modern architect, the employment of English workmen, an English architect and the importation of at least some of the materials from Montreal or possibly England.

The neo-classic residence has been restored to excellent condition, without additions.

The front door is flanked by Venetian style windows. On through the front entrance you are greeted by a beautiful staircase and lion's heads on the corner of the door frames. Sowden House is designated as an historical home.

Located on 16 acres in Hamilton Township, this beautiful five-bedroom home boasts a formal 16 by 28' living room with fireplace, dining room and massive 17 by 24' family room for your entertaining, with Vermont Casting stove.

The large 17 by 21' master bedroom also contains an ensuite. There are two additional baths in the home.

Lovely refinished pine floors run throughout the home. It is heated by electric baseboard as



well as a forced air furnace.

Situated on the 16 acres, as well, is a two-stall barn with hydro and water and a year-round creek across the eastern boundary.

The property is currently listed for sale with Realty World-Long Bros. For further details on this magnificent home, please feel free to call at 885-4504, or drop by our new offices at 45 Walton Street in Port Hope.



The formal living room features a fireplace



FARM REG. OF J.S. SOWDEN ESQ. CORN. 2. 18184. HAMILTON, ST. NORTHUMBERLAND CO. ONT.

An illustration of the house from the 1878 *Northumberland and Durham Historical Atlas*

Shortly after, in 1820, for the sum of 150 pounds, they bought 100 acres from Zaccheus Burnham and moved into a one-storey log house on the south side of Dale Road. It burned down in 1833.

The property had been originally granted to Luke Smades in 1808. Smades was a tavern-keeper, and records show that several other tavern-keepers purchased the land before Sowden bought it.

The original house was described in 1822 in the correspondence of Frances Stewart, a resident of the township.

Having set out from Cobourg, Stewart wrote: "(We) drove eight miles, mostly through woods, to Mr. Sowden's farm. His log house is the oldest in the Township of Hamilton and has been built for 25 years. It is black and shabby looking on the outside, but I never saw more comfort and cheerfulness than there seemed to be within. There was a large fire that my poor British eyes had never before seen within the walls of a house. I am sure that the logs on the fire were eight feet long..."

In 1839, the township census records that the Sowdens were residents of a two-storey brick house on the same site as the original log home.

The brick house is depicted in the *Northumberland and Durham Historical Atlas: 1878*.

According to Toronto restoration architect Peter Stokes, the house was built of brick kilned on the property. This fact has proved difficult for the Hamilton LACAC to document, because there were brickworks in both Cobourg and Port Hope at the time.

The Sowdens had thirteen children.

The daughters all married 'well-placed' gentlemen who graced the social circles of the gentry of Cobourg and Port Hope, including the Jones and the Boswells.

Sowden's sister, Sarah, was the second wife of the first settler on the Rice Lake Plains, Judge William Falkner.

The family are buried at St. John's Church in Port Hope, where they attended the weekly services.

The brick house was left to one of the sons, Joseph S. Sowden.

The neo-classic residence is presently restored to good condition without additions.

The line-drawing in the atlas shows a verandah to the southeast which is now removed.

The front door is flanked by Venetian-style windows which appear to have been shuttered at one time. The three upstairs windows in the front facade are twelve over eight. There are no windows on the east side of the house.

Inside, there is a fine neo-classic staircase and lion's heads on the corners of the door frames.

The bricks are laid in flemish bond and the main entrance has a portico supported by delicately tapered columns. The latter is typical of that particular style of house and can also be seen on the Poplars in Cobourg and Whitehall, a residence on the north side of Hwy. 2 across from Zellers.

The *Cobourg Daily Star* would like to acknowledge the Hamilton Township LACAC for the information contained in this article.

BEAVER MEADOWS FARM ("The old Sowden Place")

Lot 34, Concession 2, Hamilton Twp.

*Cabourg Public Library
May 5, 2005*

Portico's tapered columns

The Port Hope Evening Guide, Wednesday, August 24, 1988

enhance neo-classic home



The front facade of the Beaver Meadows Farmhouse, graced by the neo-classical portico.

A 'gentleman's farmhouse,' the Beaver Meadows Farm, located just south of the Dale Road and east of Hwy. 28, was built by a native of Yorkshire, England.

William Sowden served under the Duke of Wellington as a ma-

yor before his emigration to Canada in 1818 with his wife, Maria Louisa Varley.

The Sowdens had secured land in Cavan Township before their move, but found it uncleared and decided to purchase elsewhere.

Before purchasing the Hamilton Township property, the Sowdens were captured on canvas by Charles Fothergill. The artist pictured the family as living on a property on the north side of Rice Lake in 1819.