

Celebration honors old house and family

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SYDENHAM — "Open House" usually means a celebration of a significant occasion in the lives of the occupants of a home. However an "Open House" held here recently was aptly named, as it was held in honor of the 150th anniversary of the building of a house.

Long known as the "Old Grant Place", its present owners Anna and

Wiekert Miolee, who cherish its historic value, entertained in honor of the home's tradition and of Grant descendants, Douglas Grant and Mrs. Marjorie Barber, who spent their early lives in the home.

Mr. Grant and Mrs. Barber were among those joining in the festivities. Other special guests were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fleming, who owned the home for 10 years

between the Grant occupancy and the Miolee residency which extends over the past 12 years.

Mrs. Miolee, a teacher and artist, has continued the restoration program started by the Flemings, now residents of Newboro. The spacious, multi-roomed, three-storey stone residence has been furnished with antiques and artwork.

With a panoramic view overlooking Sydenham Lake, the sturdy stone structure is among the oldest buildings in the Sydenham area. It was erected in 1826 by the Wood family, the same family that produced the famous local Mormon convert Daniel Wood.

In 1869, the property passed from the Wood family to James Grant. The late Fred Grant who operated the farm until his death in 1948, came to the home as a baby with his parents in 1869.

Following Fred Grant's death, the house and adjacent acreage was severed from the farm land, which is still owned by the Grant family.

In the 1878 Atlas of Frontenac and Lennox and Addington Counties, the house is pictured, along with its aristocratic owner James Grant, with his magnificent flowing beard, high style in those days.



JAMES GRANT BUILT HOME IN 1826