

## Stone house fulfills dream



**CEDAR CREEK FARMHOUSE** on Fourth Line, Esqueving Township was built in 1870 by James Warren. He emigrated to Canada in 1832 and lived in a log house un-

til the stone house was built 38 years later. It is now the home of David and Linda Craig and their three children.

Linda and Dave Craig and their three children live on Cedar Creek Farm just north of Highway 7 on Fourth Line in Esqueving Township. Linda is president of the board of directors of Maple Nursery School, Georgetown and David is head of the Guidance Department at Brampton Centennial School.

From outside the stone farm house has changed little in appearance since it was built in 1870 by James Warren.

James and his wife Barbara Cameron of Iverness-shire, Scotland, emigrated to Canada in 1832 spending seven weeks on a sailing vessel. They lived in an 18 by 12 foot log cabin for a few months, at the home of friends from Scotland, the Kennedys, on the first line. Their fifth son was born there before the family moved to their own cabin on this same property on the fourth line. In 1870, 38 years later, they completed the stone house on their farm. By then there were six sons in the family.

Dave and Linda find it exciting to be living in a house built by an early settler. They are anxious to restore it as much as possible to its original condition and are furnishing it with Canadiana throughout.

### History told

Reminders of the past are everywhere. The original bubble blown glass in the living room windows is etched with the letters "C.E.J. J.W. Dec. 25 - 1880."

Mrs. John Wood of Acton, great-granddaughter of James Warren, has provided the Craigs with first-hand history. Her grandfather, John Warren, the second son of James, was deputy-reeve of Esqueving Township in 1874. Mrs. Wood's family moved to the stone farmhouse in 1893 and lived there until her father, also named James, was forced because of ill health to sell the farm in 1908.

Mrs. Wood recalls a woodshed where the garage is now and a railing around the front porch. At one time there were steps leading to a stand making it easy to get in and out of buggies and wagons. Many of the trees are the same as were planted over 100 years ago.

Mrs. Wood reasons that the

kitchen was added to the house a few years after 1870 as there was always a stone step or part of a sill going into the dining room which could have been the outside door.

### Kitchen

A Franklin stove in the kitchen replaces the wood range of years gone by. An original window has been enlarged to an attractive picture window in front of which Linda has two old nursing rockers. A long butternut table and six chicken coop chairs sit on a large oval rug in the centre of the room. A primitive pine cupboard is made attractive with flowered ceramic pulls painted by Elizabeth Hoye of Nassagaweya. A pine wash stand, an old copper boiler which now holds wood, and a milk pail doubling as an umbrella stand, are all part of the kitchen decor.

In its original location the dining room leads directly from the kitchen. An Empire-style chest of drawers with a cherry bonnet top is put to practical use in the dining room as is the Quebec pine armoire. In 1870 few, if any, cupboards were built into the houses.

### Changes

To the right of the dining room is the Craig den. In Mrs. Wood's time this room was a pantry and the adjoining bathroom was a door to the cellarway.

The bathroom is custom built, resembling the old-fashioned dry sink with materials from old doors. A wagon seat forms the back of the sink. Wall to wall pine cupboards in the den have glass doors and were originally in the living room. The glass doors were found by the Craigs in the basement behind the furnace. They have since restored the wood and put the doors back on to make a useful and attractive wall in the den.

The living room or "parlor" runs the full width of the house, the entrance to which is off the front hall. At one time part of the living room was a small bedroom. The present large room is tastefully and creatively decorated with deep blue walls offset by the wide white woodwork and beamed ceiling.

A deep blue velvet chestfield is a perfect match for

the walls. An indigo blue and white coverlet made in 1877 by H. Lippert covers the round end table which holds a white glass Alladin Lamp. Beside the table is a Quebec ladder back rocker with a cane seat. Completing the attractive corner arrangement is a pine dry sink with ceramic knobs and a butter churn which has been converted to a plant stand.

### Local artists

The fireplace centres the room on the outside wall. Linda commissioned Elizabeth Hoye to paint Canadian birds on tiles which will eventually outline below the trim around the fire opening. Local tradesmen and artists have been caught up in Linda's enthusiasm to make authentic changes in restoration, and their contributions are evident throughout the house.

A butternut corner cupboard with bubble glass provides a natural back-

ground for the pine and maple Quebec baby cradle. The re-finished pine floors throughout the house are boards eight inches wide. Hours of painstaking work have removed tile floors installed over the years.

The small front entrance hall is charmingly decorated with gold, yellow, and blue paper and gold painted woodwork. One can easily imagine inhabitants of a hundred years ago hanging a coat on the hall hooks and turning the original key in the lock before retiring upstairs.

A curved archway frames the straight stairs to the second storey. The landing is large with a squatty look-out window. It is furnished with a rabbit ear chicken coop chair and a pine tool box which is now used as clothes storage.

### A dream

The four bedrooms are furnished with period furniture. Pine armoires are used throughout to make up for lack of cupboard space.

Linda, intent upon keeping the traditional flavor, has dressed the bedroom windows with bleached muslin curtains. The upstairs bathroom, the first room to be renovated, is now modern and functional. The lighting fixtures are replicas of stage coach lamps.

Originally 200 acres, the farm has been reduced to the two and a half acres the house and outbuildings sit on. There is a pond, barn, stone carriage house, and a horse barn also on the property.

The Craigs moved from Oakville to the farm five years ago. It had been their dream to live in a Canadian stock house but thought it would be financially out of the question. They have been pleasantly surprised to find it possible with a bit of searching and much hard work. They have been able to restore, refinish, and furnish their home authentically, bringing to life part of our heritage.

## Cedar Creek Farm early settler's home built in 1870



TURN OF THE CENTURY picture of Cedar Creek Farm shows Mrs. John Warren in the doorway. Her eldest son James and his wife are in the foreground. Standing with them is Helen Warren, now Mrs. John Wood of Acton, who has provided much of the house and family history, as well as this picture.



LINDA CRAIG sees how the hand-painted tiles by artist Elizabeth Hoye of Nassagaweya will look on fireplace. Local tradesmen have been caught up in the enthusiasm to make authentic restorations in the house.



CRAIG KITCHEN is furnished with pine Canadiana. Linda and David enjoy their old-fashioned nursing rocker as the dog urges to be included in the fun.

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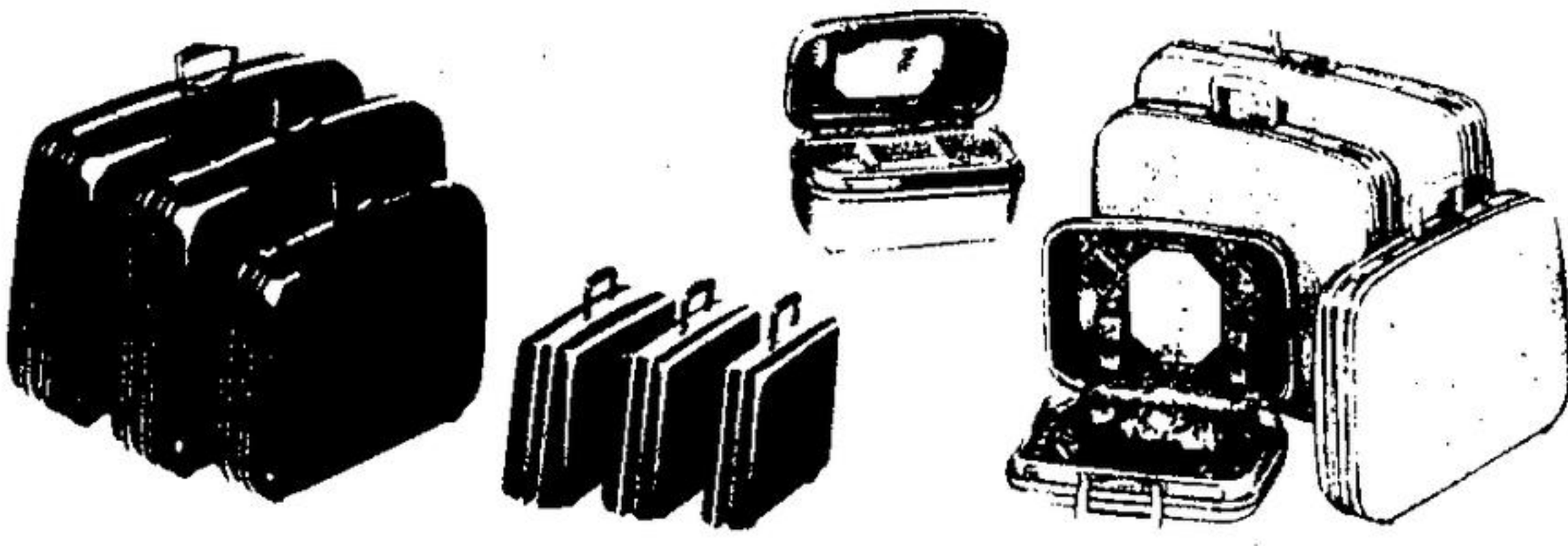
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CURVED ARCHWAY frames the straight stairs to the second storey. Part of the squatty look-out window at the landing can be seen.

## Recovered in Toronto

A car stolen Monday night from Main St. was recovered abandoned in Toronto. Keys had been left in the ignition, according to Acton OPP.