



Trafalgar Township Historical Society

"Documenting, celebrating and preserving the agricultural heritage of North Oakville"

Summer 2015 Newsletter

Built Heritage Property Research and Updates

❖ 1187 Burnhamthorpe Road East

The TTHS recently received a request from the Town of Oakville and ATA Architects Inc. for information on the former owners of 1187 Burnhamthorpe Road. A little digging through the Society's records has revealed much about the property at Con 2 NDS, pt. Lot 9, and its former owners:

According to land registry records, in 1810 **Solomon Day** received 200 acres from the Crown. Day is not listed in the 1816 and 1823 assessment records, so he may have been only the landowner rather than an occupant.

In 1828, **William Bowman Secord** owned 100 acres of the property; Secord was born on February 4, 1799, in Port Dalhousie, Grantham Township, the son of Loyalist **Solomon Secord**. William married **Sarah Shain** (b. November 6, 1803, in Bertie Township, d. August 4, 1885, in Toronto) on February 14, 1842, in Toronto Township. The 1851 Trafalgar census shows William B. Secord and Sarah living in a 1-and-a-half storey frame home on property with several children. Upon his death in 1868, Secord's land was divided between two of his sons.

William Secord, Jr. (son of Secord and **Mary Phoenix**) received the western 50 acres of the property, while **Edwin H. Secord** (b. July 22, 1845, in Trafalgar, d. 1921 in Waterloo, son of Secord and Shain) held the eastern 50 acres, with the agreement that Edwin would give William, Jr. one quarter of the fruit produced on the property for the first 5 years.

In 1879, Edwin and his wife sold his property at 1187 Burnhamthorpe Road to **Alvin Griffin**, who in turn sold it to **Edward Fish** in 1883. Fish owned the property until 1919. Records show that **Wallace Joseph Whistance-Smith** received the property under the Veterans Land Act, and owned the property from 1946 to 1969.



❖ 2347 Royal Windsor Drive

Though the house at 2347 Royal Windsor Drive, formerly home to the **Winter**, **Ross**, and **Neilsen** families, was demolished last year, research and writing still continues on the historical plaque to be erected onsite by the Town of Oakville. TTHS has provided research and editing input throughout the development of the plaque text, ensuring that this commemoration will accurately reflect the story of each family and the Village of Sheridan. [At left: House at 2347 Royal Windsor Drive in 2014, now demolished. Photo courtesy of Oakville City Planning Services].