

Focus on

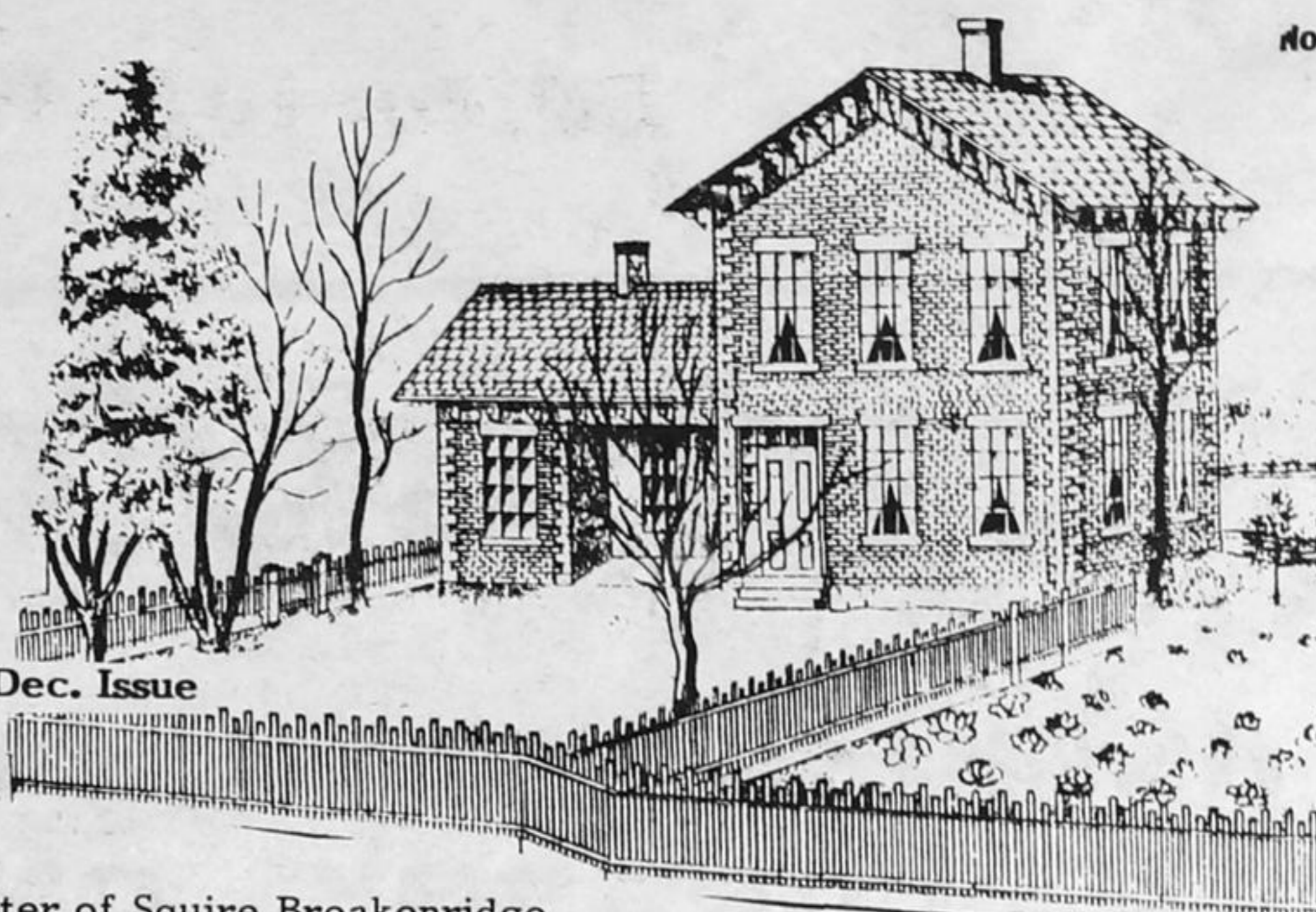
The Bowser House

THE BOWSER HOUSE

Location: Lot 17, Concession 8 (#67 on map)

Original Owner: Elijah Bowser Please refer to map in Dec. Issue

Present Owner: Wayne Woods



Reprint courtesy of
Thaddeus Leavitt's
History of Leeds &
Grenville. (1879)
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Significance:

In 1804, the Crown deeded Nancy Day, an adopted daughter of Squire Breakenridge, lot 17 in the eighth concession of Bastard Township. Dr. George Breakenridge, possibly a son or nephew of Squire Breakenridge, married Nancy Day and they resided on this property until 1841 when it was sold to George Moffit and John Jamieson. Five years later John Bowser bought the farm for the sum of 500 pounds.

Elijah Bowser, born in 1823, came to Canada with his parents in 1829 from Yorkshire, England. The family first settled at Maitland, then moved to Yonge Township in 1831 and finally John & Hannah Bowser bought this farm in Bastard Township. The family lived in a log cabin, that was located behind the present brick house, for quite a number of years. John's son, Elijah, was married in 1850 ~~in~~ Yonge Township. It was at this time that Elijah built the brick house and the log cabin was dismantled. John Bowser passed away in 1859 and the farm was willed to his son, Elijah. The following quote was taken from Thaddeus Leavitt's History of Leeds & Grenville on page 123.

"He has always been regarded as one
of the most prosperous farmers in the Township."

Elijah Bowser and his wife had six children. Their oldest son, John, added the brick second storey on the south-west side in 1904. The farm remained in the Bowser family until 1944 when it was sold to Bernard Woods. Bernard's son, Wayen Woods, and his family are the present owners and they continue to operate a dairy farm here.

Description

The Bowser house, located on the Delta Road, is a two storey brick farmhouse. The style and size of this home reflects the prosperity of the original owner. This L-shaped red brick home has a Flemish bond on the facade and a Common bond on the side and rear walls with every sixth course consisting of headers. All the corners are quoined with shaped stone except for the second storey on the south-west end which was added at a later time.

The metal roof is medium gabled and has projecting wooden eaves. The trim on the eaves consists of moulded fascia, plain soffit and frieze and decorative brackets. The roof also has projecting verges with trim identical to the eaves. There are three chimneys; the first brick chimney located on the centre left side, the other, offset right to the rear of the house and a later cement block chimney on the exterior rear in the centre.

Most of the windows are rectangular in shape with plain stone lintels at the head and plain stone lug sills at each base. The trim within each structural opening is moulded and the windows have a six-over-six pane arrangement. Several windows on the south-west end are segmental in shape.

The main entrance is located off-centre on the facade. The opening is flat with a moulded lintel at the head. Above the main entrance is a decorative strip of zig-zagged carved wood and a transom with multiple lights. The front door is flanked by side lights and shaped panels.

On the facade there is a recessed open verandah and a balcony situated above, both having an open wooden railing. The verandah and balcony are supported by wooden piers and have decorative braces at their capitals.

RIDEAU REVIEW

Many interesting books have been released in the past few months. The following selection is but a few of the titles recently placed in circulation through the Rideau Lakes Union Library System. Waiting lists are sometimes necessary for some titles, however the speed of service in the Union can meet your needs for both leisure and reference material.

Pet Semetary by Stephen King. - A must for King fans. Personally, I enjoyed this book much better than "Christine". The slow development of the theme and the excellent characterization of the major participants helped create a taut and enjoyable novel. While of the usual King genre, I did not find it as horrifying as some of his earlier works.

Myself My Enemy by Jean Plaidy - Another fine historical novel from this prolific writer. Telling a skillfully woven tale of Henrietta Maria & Charles, their most successful marriage with its disastrous results,

Plaidy takes the reader back in time to those days in court fraught with intrigue.

And the Wild Birds Sing by Lola Irish - Set in Australia, the author's home, this novel covers the whole melting pot of early Australian life, from the military government, the Society ladies, the seamen and their waterfront "ladies" to the convict colonies and exiles. The main character, Raunie Lorne, will intrigue readers with her determination and ambition. A sequel is in the offing.

Not my Thing by James Hadley Chase - For Chase fans and mystery lovers. A ruthless tycoon with an unwanted but devout Catholic wife wants to be free. From this premise the author hurtles the reader through plot and subterfuge for an exciting read.

The Game by Ken Dryden - Touted as one of the best sports books to come along for some time, Dryden takes the reader into the world of hockey as never before. The reader will experience the "inside" of a team, get first hand feelings of the pressures etc. which go with "the game".

The Bowser House
1983



All material researched by LACAC can be seen
at the Township Office, Chantry.

*The Lantern again wishes to express
thanks to the Bastard & Burgess (S)
LACAC for the use of this material.
We plan to print the map, showing
the location of homes researched
with names of original owners &
present owners, as soon as space
allows - hopefully early in 1984.*

Kingdom by the Sea by Paul Theroux - While many have panned Theroux's latest travel book, it is an entertaining if somewhat limited journey around the coast of Britain. Staying in low budget establishments and away from the usual tourist ares, Theroux gives the reader a definite feel for the everyday Britain.

Contenders, The Tory Quest for Power by P. Martin, A. Gregg, & G. Perlin. Anyone interested in the machinations of a political party will enjoy this book. The inside and oft unheard information on the power behind the power make this a most interesting item. As recent history, (the dump Joe Clark Convention) the authors show the strain and toll to all contenders of the seemingly endless search for a Conservative leader. Well written and reads like a novel.

Doctors by Martin O'Malley - O'Malley provides us with an in-depth study of several Canadian doctors as well as the problems they face, both from institutionalized medicine and personal stress. While penetrating many of the layman's myths about doctors, the author also shows the involvement most doctors have in their professional lives, their humanity & caring as well as the frustrations.

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for the latest in reading material.