



THE WARREN-MURPHY HOUSE.

This house, located on Lot 17 of the 7th Concession, just outside of Chaffey's Lock, retains a somewhat illustrious and historical link with the past. Its story begins with a crown grant to Daniel Cross in 1804. Thirty five years later, in 1839, Samuel Warren acquired the land. It is believed he was an immigrant from the United States. He lived off the land, farmed and cut firewood for steamers operating on the Rideau.

Noel Warren, a thirty two year old yeoman and boatman, was next to own the house, purchasing it in 1862. He, like his uncle Samuel, belonged to the Second Company of the Leeds and Grenville Militia formed to guard the locks on the Rideau during the troubled times of 1838. He was responsible for the construction of the present home, most probably in 1865. Three years later, George Randall and Peter Murphy, both sailors on the Great Lakes, bought the house. George Randall married Mary Brady and they continued to live in Battle Creek, Michigan for the next few years. George later returned to run a half way house here which included a pub. According to present reports, evidence of this can yet be seen where one overzealous patron tried to put his fist through a door. George Randall again left for a few years, listing his address as Berlin-Waterloo, now Kitchener-Waterloo. Once again he returned, this time employing himself as a mail carrier. As a result, the house became a mail drop as well as a stopover house on the way to Kingston. The Catholic Church also used the house occasionally as a meeting place, primarily at Easter, when confessions would be made and a mass held in the parlor. In 1912, the colourful and exciting George Randall died.

Peter Murphy, of Irish descent, was the second partner of the co-ownership. He and his wife, the former Bessie Bates, (sister to Mary) maintained the businesses and farm around which so much importance had settled. It is for this reason that Peter, while not demanding the recognition as his partner, became just as important, if not more so, in the development of the house's character and history. In 1906 John Murphy, son of Peter was given part ownership of the property on returning to Chaffey's Lock. Prior to this, John, following in his father's footsteps, had worked on the Great Lakes as well as working on the railroads in the United States. Six years after John's arrival, Peter left the property to farm his own land; John taking over his father's duties here and becoming co-owner with Mrs Mary Randall. In 1919, Mary sold her property to John, entitling him to sole ownership. The property remained in his name until his death in 1954 when he left it to his two daughters, Helene Murphy and Loretta McNally. Miss Murphy now resides in the house, her sister Mrs. L. McNally presently living in Westport.

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