

# 214566 21st Line, Zorra

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Location: Lot 1 North,  
Concession 4,  
North Oxford  
Architectural style:  
Ontario Farmhouse  
Cottage  
Notable features: Narrow  
rubble stone masonry  
Construction date: 1850s  
Original owner: James  
Brown, 1815-?  
Stone Mason: James  
Brown, 1815-?  
Demolished: 2020



2004 north elevation photograph by Doug A. Huntley

# 214566 21st Line, Zorra



2020 east elevation



2020

Photographs by Melissa Widmer

This Ontario Farmhouse Cottage was likely constructed by owner James Brown, who purchased this farm in 1850, using stones found on the property. Brown is stated as living with his family in a stone house on the 1861 Census of Canada. The masonry technique used to build this house is unique in that very narrow stone slabs are employed, with relatively small corner blocks. Perhaps Brown worked alone on this project and the use of smaller stones made the process more manageable. The front of house has a consistent stacked stone appearance, with the other three sides having stones placed randomly, with little regard for size or colour. Thick bands of mortar holding the stones in place. Similar in construction method is that of the stone house at 315441 31st Line.

# 214566 21st Line, Zorra

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2020



In 1862, Brown sold the farm to new immigrants, the Vincent Rodenhurst (1808-1892) family, who arrived from Shropshire England with his wife, Rebecca and their seven children. The stone house would have originally had a simple low gable roof.

Perhaps the Rodenhursts changed the roof line to that of a Dutch Colonial Revival Gambrel, with dormer windows. This roof style gained popularity in the 1890s in Ontario and would have added light, ceiling height and added bedroom space to the upstairs rooms, something that would have benefited a large family. Simple wood lintels supported door frames and windows.

Photograph by Melissa Widmer

# 237126 23rd Line, Zorra

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2010 north elevation photograph by Doug A. Huntley,



Location: Lot 35 West,  
Concession 12,  
East Nissouri  
Architectural style: Ontario  
Farmhouse Gothic Revival  
Notable features: ornate  
porches & trim  
Construction date: 1868  
Original owner: James  
McLarty, 1820-1886  
Stone Mason: unknown

# 237126 23rd Line, Zorra

north elevation & west front façade



circa 1900 photograph  
possibly by  
Carter & Isaac, St.  
Marys.  
Pictured are John  
Bolton, Charlotte  
McLary Bolton & their  
daughter, Lena.

# 237126 23rd Line, Zorra

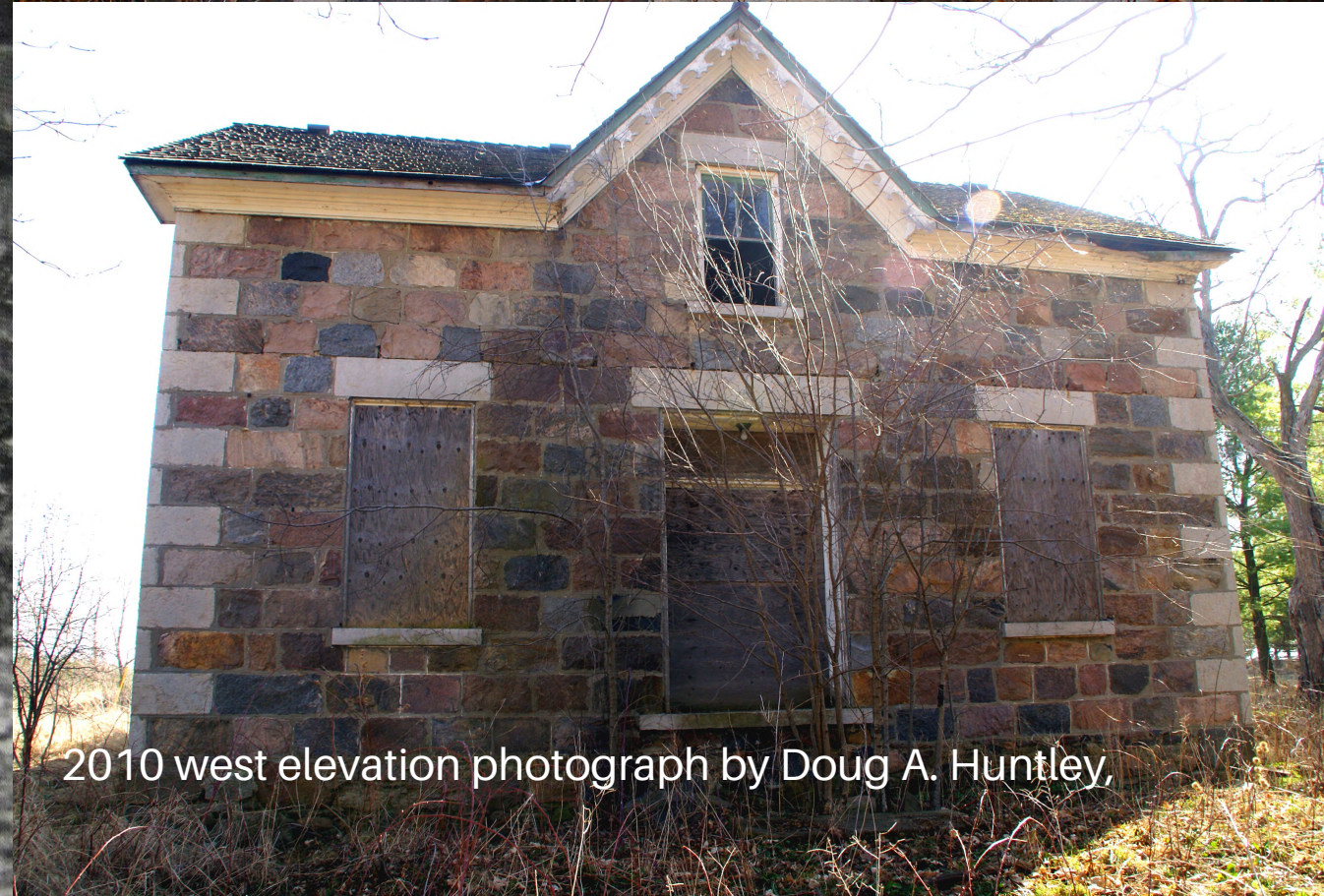
John Bolton married Charlotte McLarty in 1873. She was the daughter of James McLarty and Phoebe Harris McLarty. After their marriage, the couple moved in with Charlotte's parents at Lot 35 Con 12. The field stone house on this farm was built in 1868 using stone from the fields on the land. John and Charlotte took over the farm and raised four children there: James Wilton, Samuel Milton, John 'Jack' Livingston and Mary Phoebe 'Lena' Umberline. James Wilton, the oldest son, took over the farm in 1896. He married Marion Barclay Ward in 1909, the daughter of Thomas and Alexina Ward of Embro. They raised four children: Wilton Ward (1910-1968), John (1912-1967), Charlotte (b. 1915) and James 'Jims' (1918-1927) who died of rheumatic fever. The Wildwood Post Office was located in the Bolton's home from 1902- 1913.

*East Nissouri Township:  
People, Perseverance, Progress, 2012*



# 237126 23rd Line, Zorra

Ward Bolton (1910–1968) joined his father in farming. After his marriage in 1940 to Sydney Mary Fairbairn (1917–2009) the newlyweds lived in the family home with his parents. Pictured at right on the porch, with children, Thomas, Brenda & Sandra. This family were likely the last Boltons to live in the stone house.



2010 west elevation photograph by Doug A. Huntley,

# 237126 23rd Line, Zorra

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In the fabrication of the McLarty stone house, extremely even blocks were created, with no discernible difference on the façade versus the side elevations. Substantial lintels and window sills are quarried white limestone, which arrived by wagon from St. Marys. Limestone is relatively soft and can more readily be shaped into precise blocks that window encasements demand. The original roof was covered in wood shake shingles. Photographs show evidence of plaster of Paris covering the mortar joints - an attempt at waterproofing the mortar joints. The Ontario Gothic Revival Farmhouse was not complete without elaborate decorative wood trim. An ornate turned finial at the gable peak that extended above & below the roof line is somewhat still in evidence on the Victorian wood framed tail section, which likely housed the kitchen. The porches may have also been added at this time, the gingerbread trim aligns with high Victorian ideals, as well as the intricately wrought fretwork details on the porch balustrade. An enclosed vestibule protected the front door from the weather. The decorative trim on the gable of the stone portion, is much simpler in design, and speaks to an earlier period. Original six-over-six pane windows are still in evidence on the upper storey.



2010 west façade & south elevation photograph  
by Doug A. Huntley



# 254637 25th Line, Zorra



Location: Lot 3,  
Concession 3,  
North Oxford  
Architectural  
style: Ontario  
Farmhouse  
Cottage  
Notable  
features:  
Colourful stones  
Construction  
date: 1861  
Original owner:  
George Telfer,  
1814-1893  
Stone Mason:  
unknown

2022 east elevation

# 254637 25th Line, Zorra

The 200 acres of Lot 3, Concession 3, was purchased in 1855, by three brothers from Scotland. It was divided into three equal sections of  $66 \frac{2}{3}$  acres each by Robert Telfer, and his two brothers. Robert retained the south  $\frac{1}{3}$ , William received the middle  $\frac{1}{3}$ , and George was left with the north  $\frac{1}{3}$ .

George Telfer (1814-1893) married Janet Smith (1823-1892) and the couple had five children. Christina (1857-1910), Elizabeth (1859-1922), Mary (1860-1931), Thomas (1863-1922), and John (1865-1932). Thomas married Annie Suggitt, and they had two children, George Leonard and Catherine Dow and this family took over the legacy of the stone house.

From Forest to Farm: the Story of North Oxford  
Township  
2015



2010 east elevation photograph by Doug A. Huntley

# 254637 25th Line, Zorra

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2022 south elevation

The 1861 Census states that the three Telfer brothers were all living together on Lot 3, Concession 3, in one log house - including George's wife Jane & three young daughters. Interestingly, the 1861 enumerator made a mark in the census column devoted to 'House Being Built'. The stone house may have been under construction in 1861.

The Telfer Ontario Farmhouse Cottage has a pleasing façade, with carefully chosen stones, evenly distributed for their colour and carefully crafted into similar sizes. Heavy lintels provide contrast over the front door & windows. The side elevation shows hand wrought stone lintels over these windows, with perhaps wooden sills. The corner blocks are evenly hewn and of a size corresponding to the stones in the field, and can only really be detected on the side elevation. The replacement windows mimic what were likely original six over six paned. There a stone tail section, housing the kitchen, constructed of smaller rubble stones, brought to courses with mortar. The original roof was likely wooden shake shingles.

# 255164 25th Line, Zorra

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Location: Lot 3,  
Concession 13,  
East Nissouri  
Architectural style:  
Ontario Farmhouse  
Georgian  
Notable features:  
mammoth corner  
blocks  
Construction date:  
before 1861  
Original owner:  
Robert Cameron,  
1798-1875  
Stone Mason:  
unknown

2022

2022



Robert Cameron  
1798-1875



Robert Cameron, 1801-1875 received Lot 3, Concession 13, from the Crown in 1823. At Glengarry Hill Farm, he & his wife Nancy raised a family of eight children. Robert Cameron was born in the Glengarry area of Ontario, which may influenced the farm name. The Camerons lived on the farm as many early Oxford settlers, in a series of log cabins. The growing family eventually built the present stone house which was said to be an exact copy of the Cameron home in Cornwall Township, Stormont. For a number of years Robert Cameron was the magistrate for this district of Oxford. The court was held in the dining room of the stone house, with a corner cabinet storing his judicial documents.

## Obituary.

### Death of Robert Cameron, Esq., J. P.

It is our painful duty to record the death of Robert Cameron, Esq., at his residence, Glengarry Hill, East Nissouri, on Sunday morning last, 24th inst., at 10 o'clock. He was one of the oldest settlers of this county, to which he came in 1821, and of which he has been an honored and widely respected citizen ever since. He was a man of tender sympathies and kindness of heart, mingled with great firmness and decision of character. The public spirit which he always manifested put him in active sympathy with all the improvements of this section of the country. In his own township he was Councillor and Reeve a great number of years, but owing to his old age he has for some time retired from all public life. He was one of the oldest Magistrates in the county, and always sought to conduct the responsibilities of this office with reference to securing the most lasting peace and kindly feeling amongst neighbors. Seldom did a case come, before him without having it settled by bringing the parties together for mutual understanding or by arbitration. He was a Liberal Conservative in his politics, and being the son of a U. E. Loyalist, was earnestly loyal to the Government. Although a mere boy at the time, he served in the war of 1812; and although he was conscious of great wrongs that needed to be rectified, he identified himself with the Government in the rebellion of '37, and was captain of a company for its suppression, believing that legislation is a better way to secure reforms than a resort to arms. Ever since that time, he has maintained a connection with the standing militia, in which he held the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel at the time of his death.

His suffering was severe during his last illness, which continued about three months. It was all borne with the patience and submission of a Christian hope, which he had obtained and confessed during the last year or more of his life. He leaves a widow of seventy-two years, who has been his faithful and affectionate companion during the past 54 years, and who has borne him twelve children, nine of whom are still alive. He was followed to the grave on Wednesday last, when he was buried in the Ingersoll cemetery, by a large number of sympathising friends. Deceased was 76 years and 7 months old.

Ingersoll Chronicle,  
28 January 1875

Cameron died at home, 24 January 1875, and he rests in the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. On his death, his son William Wallace Cameron inherited Glengarry Hill Farm from his father's estate.

# 255164 25th Line, Zorra



1892 Montague barn raising with the Thamesford band in front and laden tables of food for the labourers.

Ontario Georgian Farmhouse details are in evidence in this photograph. A door placed centrally, flanked by evenly spaced windows defines the style. The front door has a handsome surround, with leaded glass side lights & transom. The windows appear to be single paned, which would have been a rarity at this time; shutters add elegance & dimension to the façade. Raised ribbon jointed mortar supports the field stones. This mortaring technique was decorative, but often failed over time, due to a tendency to hold water, leading to deterioration.. Elegant, detailed twin brick chimneys are depicted. Rafter tails peak out at the roof line. Massive limestone lintels support door & window openings.

The roof may once have been slate or wood shake shingles.

**EAST NISSOURI.**  
—A barn raising at this season of the year is of such common occurrence that but little curiosity is excited in rural communities. One, however, that took place on Saturday, the 9th inst., will long be remembered by the people of East Nissouri as being an event where pleasure and work were happily combined. It was the occasion of the raising of Mr. Montague's mammoth barn and many were the expectations of a difficult task, on account of its immense proportions—86x46, with a 40 ft. frontage. Everything passed off as harmoniously as could be desired, much credit being due to the splendid workmanship of Mr. Avey. By 3 o'clock 220 men had assembled to erect the huge frame, and captains being chosen in the person of D. Yake and G. McKenzie, an exciting contest followed, resulting in a draw. After a sumptuous repast, graced by the presence of some sixty young ladies of the adjoining neighborhood, a most enjoyable evening was spent in the surrounding grove. Music was furnished by the Thamesford brass band. Mr. Montague, regardless of expense, is sparing no pains to have his barn finished in the most approved method, and it is said will, when completed, stand without a peer in Western Ontario. His many friends extend to him their hearty congratulations at the success of his enterprising spirit, and their best wishes are that this barn giant, like as it may seem, may stand not as an empty memorial of an enthusiastic mind, but may prove inefficient to meet his growing harvest.

Abram and Charlotte (McDiarmid) Montague bought Glengarry Hill Farm from the Camerons in 1889. Charlotte was the daughter of local magistrate, Hugh McDiarmid. As new owners, the Montagues set about updating the Cameron farmstead. They remodelled the stone farmhouse and sparing no expense built a "mammoth barn" in 1892. The barn formed an L shape and measured 86 feet by 46 feet with a 40 foot frontage and 24 foot corner posts above a fieldstone wall. The stonemasonry was done to a high standard by William Crellin of Kintore with lime stone quoins on each corner.

*East Nissouri Township, People, Perseverance, Progress*

# 255164 25th Line, Zorra



1961

Photographs from the Montague family collection depict Glengarry Hill farm over the years.

1933 - shows the stone summer kitchen extension at the rear of the house.

1961 - shows the original Georgian front door & windows still in evidence. The raised ribbon mortar technique has failed in areas.



1965



1933

# 255164 25th Line, Zorra

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1978 Montague family photographs



Walter Hugh Montague (1891-1947) inherited the farm following his mother's death in 1912 & henceforth bequeathed it to his wife, Mary Jane Wilson Montague (1905-1967), at his death in 1947. Abram Montague's mammoth barn burnt in 1963 and was replaced with a modern dairy barn. Mary Jane passed the farm to two of her sons, Wilson (1932-1997) and Hugh (1935-1988), jointly in 1967. Hugh, died in 1988 and he left his half interest to his brother, Wilson.

Wilson ceded the farm to brother Robert, in 1997. Robert had been educated locally and at Oxford University in England, graduating with a doctorate in 1976. He is now retired and lives on the farm. He has restored Cameron's fieldstone farmhouse with the help of local craftsmen in a manner, he hopes, does justice to the intentions of the original builders.

*East Nissouri Township, People, Perseverance, Progress, 2012*



# 255164 25th Line, Zorra

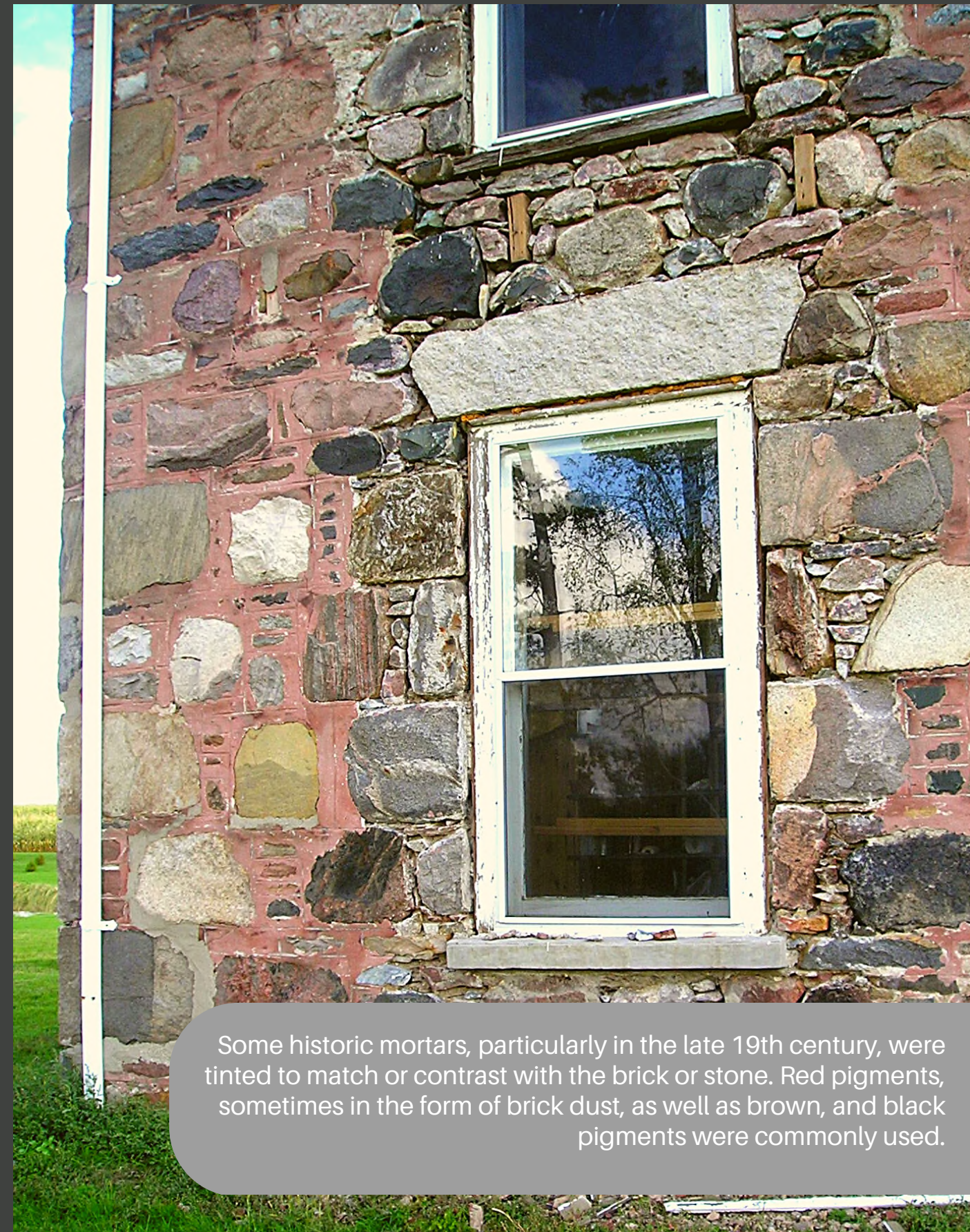
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## A NOVICE TAKES ON REBUILDING AN OLD STONE HOUSE

In early 1997, I inherited the family farm near Thamesford, Ontario, and decided almost at once to retire. There would now be ample time to travel and to make plans for the future. I had never farmed. Growing up on the farm I had absorbed something of its rhythms, and this would have to suffice as my basis for running a farm. I had always enjoyed living on a farm but found the work of farming laborious, unending and not monetarily rewarding. Cash cropping with neighbouring farmers seemed to be the answer for the immediate future. The barn and sheds had been built relatively recent in the 1960s or 1970s; there was no shortage of willing renters. The livestock would have to go. That left only the fate of the old stone farmhouse undecided. It was something of a problem as we shall see. For four years I dithered over what should be done while continuing to live in the old fieldstone farmhouse. There was a cacophony of advice, some advising immediate and total removal. A few, very few, said it could be turned into a showplace. Their calculations, I noticed, never included any mention of a price tag. There the matter stood. The years rolled by pleasantly. I spent the summers at the farm and the winters travelling around Southern Europe.

Then, in the early summer of 2002, my quiet and predictable life changed. My two elderly neighbours, the Becketts, invited me to go along for a tour of a new stone house under construction near Brooksdale. A solitary workman met us and guided us around. He and the owner seemed to be the only workmen on site. Dan Davelaar, a man of about forty, had taught himself the basics of stone cutting and working with stone. He and the owner had made a large guillotine for splitting rocks to fit requirements. Dan was about to finish the house he was working on and agreed to do an on-sight tour of my old house. He was free towards the end of November. I hired him on the spot and packed my bags for Australia without leaving clear instructions. The house I had inherited was about one hundred and fifty years old. It had been stripped of all its dependencies and was in a near derelict condition. The back or summer kitchen, as it was sometimes called, along with its veranda were already missing as well as the old wood shed which ran at a right angle from it. The wood shed with its loft had provided generations of children with a place to play on rainy days. The main house now stood alone, reduced to a stone block approximately 32 by 45 feet. It's stone work was intact but covered with faded reddish coloured mortar, scored to resemble squared stone. No significant money had been spent on the house since the 1880s in the time of my grandparents. There was clear evidence that the roof had leaked at one time. The oil furnace was on its last legs. The original clear pine floors had warped in places with large holes poked in most floors to accommodate several generations of heating ducts. The bathroom had long passed its prime. The plaster had fallen off the upstairs ceilings in several places. The most notable feature of the house was the windows and window wells.

When I returned towards the middle of February 2003, Dan Davelaar had made a good start at clearing away the old plaster and lathe on all the downstairs rooms. For the following three months, he and I worked at removing all the trim as well as the plaster and lathe on the rest of the house to reveal the inside stone walls and the Victorian roof structure. At this point he turned his attention to outside stone work, cleaning the external walls and removing the red mortar by tracing around every stone with a battery operated drill.



Some historic mortars, particularly in the late 19th century, were tinted to match or contrast with the brick or stone. Red pigments, sometimes in the form of brick dust, as well as brown, and black pigments were commonly used.

# 255164 25th Line, Zorra

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2003



photographs from  
the Montague family  
collection



Scaffolding he was able to design and make himself. He had an astonishing ability of see how something useful, a tool for instance, might be made from what was a scrap piece of metal. He left after the new year, and a firm of local stonemasons took over. Doug Hazen and crew repointed the entire exterior of the house in six weeks. Dan eventually settled in Ingersoll where he made something of a reputation as stone carver.

Meanwhile, the house had a new roof, the electricians had come and gone, the house had been insulated, kitchen cupboards ordered and the drywalling done. It had become obvious by this point that I had to become much more actively involved in the project. I was the owner of the stone house but also the on-site contractor. I needed to exercise more control over what was being done. Luckily I had at one time supervised a large staff of twenty eight. By keeping the number of workmen to a minimum at any one time, it was easier to keep an eye on them. I had also learned to pace the work with breaks for me between each stage. This ensured enough free time for me to read up on what needed to be undertaken during the next phase.

The installation of a new furnace and plumbing proceeded without a hitch. There remained the question of windows and trim. Trim was an enormous project in itself. Trim adds nothing to the structural integrity of a building but is critically important to how the interior of an older house looks. There were sixteen rectangular windows in the house plus one round window. Openings for the sixteen measured forty inches by eighty, tall enough for an average adult to stand in. There was also the window wells and more than a thousand linear feet of trim.

A lead put me in touch with Mr. Aaron Weber of Millbank. He agreed to make all the windows and window wells, and he was willing to make them in clear pine, the original choice of the Victorian builders in 1852. The stones had originally been faced, then positioned back to back to form the wall, but the layer of insulation added an additional three inches. Now the walls and henceforth the window wells had grown to eighteen inches in width. Aaron Weber also gave me the names of two men who were real finds, Clair Stoltzfus of North Bruce who did all the trim millwork and Melvin Martin of Desboro who made the interior doors. All three along with those who helped to make these family businesses a success did first class work. The trim, the window wells and the doors all in clear pine were supplied unfinished. A friend, Frank Brekelmans, and I sanded and sprayed every inch of trim and the sixteen window wells four times. We did the work in batches over a year or so, partly to offset renovation fatigue of which we both suffered at times and to give the two excellent young workmen who installed the trim long breaks. For they had other jobs as well.

Finally the end was within sight. A project which had started in 2002 was now finished. The year was 2008. The hardwood floors laid, bathrooms and kitchen floors tiled, a new staircase installed, and the painting of each of the eleven rooms was the last work to be done. Basically I have been left with a new house in an old fieldstone box. How much money did I spend in total? I am unable to answer the question. I never had the nerve to add up all the invoices. Whatever the cost, the results continue after all these years to give me delight.

*Robert Montague, September 2022*

255164 25th Line, Zorra

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2022 west elevation



2022 south elevation

# 255164 25th Line, Zorra

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Massive stone corner blocks support randomly sized rubble stones brought to rough courses - each course reflecting the size of the corner block. Rough faced limestone lintels support window openings. A graceful portico was added to restore the Georgian façade, with an elegantly trimmed vestibule enclosed by glass on three sides.

2022 west facade & south elevation

# 256258 25th Line, Zorra

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2022 south elevation

Location: Lot 21  
West,  
Concession 13,  
East Nissouri  
Architectural style:  
Ontario Farmhouse  
Gothic Revival  
Notable features:  
Aberdeen Bond  
façade  
Construction date:  
before 1861  
Original owner:  
William Paton  
Sutherland, 1815-  
1892  
Stone Mason:  
unknown

# 256258 25th Line, Zorra

Brothers, Ebenezer (1808-1867) & William Paton Sutherland (1814-1892), natives of Rogart, Sutherlandshire, Scotland, emigrated to Oxford in the late 1830s. William homesteaded on a parcel of land south of Lakeside with his English wife, Hannah Mary Pearson (1820-1901). The 1857 Tremaine's Map of Oxford documents the brothers having divided Lot 21 and living side by side. Perhaps William engaged neighbour & stone mason, Angus Shaw to construct the house. William and Mary had nine children: Alexander (b. 1837), James (b. 1842), Ann (b. 1843), John (b. 1845), Emerson (b. 1848), Alexander (b. 1849), Robert (b. 1852), Ebenezer (b. 1856), and Charles (b. 1861).

*East Nissouri Township: People,  
Perseverance, Progress*



2009 south elevation photograph by Doug A. Huntley

# 256258 25th Line, Zorra



Charles Sutherland (1861-1931) inherited the W 1/2 Lot 21 Con 13 farm from his father William in 1897. He married Mary Lyrena Rounds (1867-1945) in Ingersoll in 1892, and together they raised three children: Roy (1893-1966), Lyrena (1900-1987), and Bryant (1903-1974).

Charles was a stone mason and with the help of his brothers built eight stone houses in the area.

Large stones from the farm fields were loaded on a stone boat, a few at a time and hauled to the location where the house was to be built. Charles built scaffolding and lifted the heavy stones into place with ropes and pulleys.

Charles and Mary's youngest son, Bryant Sutherland (1903-1974) took over the home farm in 1925. It became known as 'The Homestead Farm'. Bryant married Verna Laur from Embro and they had two daughters, Betty and Kathryn. Bryant was very proud of owning a century farm that was in the Sutherland family for over 130 years.

# 256258 25th Line, Zorra

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2022 west elevation

The Sutherland Ontario Farmhouse Gothic Revival stone house is similar to the Henderson stone house at 135714 13th Line, as well as the Shaw house at 256261 25th Line. Extremely even blocks were created, with no discernibly large corner stones. The stonework façade is example of Aberdeen Bond: a masonry pattern where large rectangular blocks alternate with two or three small, square stones arranged vertically, most commonly found in north east Scotland. The mortar work on the façade is done in the raised ribbon style, likely a later restoration.

Replacement windows in the six-over-six pane pattern reflect what may have once existed originally. Lintels and window sills are quarried limestone, which arrived by wagon from St. Marys. Limestone is relatively soft and can more readily be shaped into precise blocks that window encasements demand.



# 256258 25th Line, Zorra

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The gothic arched window in the front gable has been framed by shaped stones fashioned to highlight the curve. The original roof may have been wood shake shingles, though a steel roof prevailed at some point. The Ontario Gothic Revival Farmhouse was not complete without decorative wood trim to accent the gable, this ornamentation was known as barge board or gingerbread. Between 1840-1880, barge boards became a medium of artistic expression for individual carpenters, who turned their saws to the wide virgin pine boards that had been felled to clear farm land. The Sutherland house still maintains lacy barge boards on the front gable, with an elaborate finial at the peak that likely once extended above the roof line. Elegant, detailed twin brick chimneys still ornament the roof. A stone tail section likely accommodates the kitchen & pantry.



2009 west elevation photograph by Doug A. Huntley

# 256261 25th Line, Zorra

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2022 east elevation



Location: Lot 21  
West,  
Concession 12,  
East Nissouri  
Architectural style:  
Ontario Farmhouse  
Gothic Revival  
Notable features:  
Tracery window  
Construction date:  
before 1861  
Original owner:  
Angus Shaw,  
1824-1888  
Stone Mason:  
Angus Shaw,  
1824-1888

# 256261 25th Line, Zorra

Willow Farm was bought in 1850 by Angus Shaw (1824-1888), who together with his wife, Mary Jane Kelly (1829-1911) raised a family of 9 children. Shaw built the stone house between 1850 & 1861, as the 1861 Census of Canada records the family living in a stone house at this time.

Angus Shaw was employed as a tax collector by the township of East Nissouri in 1860. He seems to have had a dispute over his wages for service - as recorded by the *Ingersoll Chronicle* of 21 March 1862

in my favor. You can plainly see that instead of me being in debt to the Council \$19 55¼ they are in debt to me 44¼cts, and I appeal to the Treasurer, Town Clerk, the present Deputy Reeve, and the ex-Reeve of this municipality for the truth of my assertions.

I am, Mr. Editor,

Your obed't serv't,

**ANGUS SHAW,**

*Willow Farm.*

E. Nissouri. March 12, 1862.

Though he was born & raised in East Nissouri, Angus Shaw must have sensed an opportunity in the American West. He packed up his family and moved to a new farm in Turner, Oregon in 1876.



2009 east elevation photograph by Doug A. Huntley

# 256261 25th Line, Zorra

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2009 east & north elevation, photograph by Doug A. Huntley

James & Alexander Sutherland bought the stone house from Angus Shaw in 1876. It was later owned by Alexander & Emerson Sutherland and William Chandler. In 1923, Charles Sutherland bought the farm and in 1931, willed it to Roy Sutherland, who did mixed farming until his death in 1966. There was a cheese factory located at the spring at the centre of the farm. The bush was cut off in early 1920s and another bush has grown since that time .

*Lakeside Tweedsmuir Histories*

John Francis Marvin 'Frank' McLeod of London, son of Doris Andrews and Francis McLeod, married Margaret Marie Sutherland in 1958. She is the daughter of Anna and Roy Sutherland of Lot 21 Con 12. They moved to Brantford for a year and then to her parents' farm. Frank and his brother-in-law did cash crops for a few years, but the land has been rented since that time. During the mid 1960s the barn was removed.

*East Nissouri Township, People, Perseverance, Progress*  
2012

# 256261 25th Line, Zorra

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The Shaw Ontario Farmhouse Gothic Revival stone house is similar to the Henderson stone house at 135714 13th Line, as well as the Sutherland house at 256258 25th Line. The stonework façade as well as the sides of the house have extremely even blocks, with no discernibly large corner stones. Unique ground floor original windows are in the four-over-four pane pattern - smaller upper windows are six-over-six paned and can be seen on the north elevation. Front elevation lintels and window sills are quarried limestone, which arrived by wagon from St. Marys. Limestone is relatively soft and can more readily be shaped into precise blocks that window encasements demand. Side elevations features hand hewn stone lintels supporting the stone above windows.



2022 south elevation

## 256261 25th Line, Zorra

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2022 east elevation



The tracery gothic arched window in the front gable has been framed by shaped stones fashioned to highlight the curve. The original roof may have been wood shake shingles, though a steel roof prevailed at some point. The Ontario Gothic Revival Farmhouse was not complete without decorative wood trim to accent the gable, this ornamentation was known as barge board or gingerbread. Between 1840-1880, barge boards became a medium of artistic expression for individual carpenters, who turned their saws to the wide virgin pine boards that had been felled to clear farm land. The Shaw house still maintains lacy barge boards on the front gable, with an elaborate finial at the peak that likely once extended well above the roof line. Coved millwork highlights the soffit area, adding a shadow line and another layer of detail. The front door is surrounded by inset panelled millwork, with many paned side lights & transom. A stone tail section likely accommodates the kitchen & pantry and features original six-over-six paned windows.

# 256398 25th Line, Zorra



1962 photograph from the collection of Joyce Day

Location: Lot 22 West, Concession 13,  
East Nissouri  
Architectural style: Ontario Farmhouse Cottage  
Notable features: hip roof  
Construction date: circa 1925  
Original owner: Donald Sutherland, 1859-1923  
Stone Mason: unknown

The Sutherland Ontario Farmhouse cottage stone house is simple design, with a hip roof, a central door & symmetrically spaced windows. In 1861, the farm at Lot 22, Concession 13 was owned by Alexander Sutherland (1806-1885), he had the stone house at 276311 27th Line (east half of Lot 22) constructed, and it is possible that this stone cottage on the west half was built by the Sutherlands as well. Alexander's son, Donald Sutherland (1859-1923) took over the farm on his death.

In 1946, William Lionel 'Hap' Day (1913-2010) & Fern Elizabeth Logan (1920-2011) took ownership of the small stone house covered in stucco. Only the kitchen had a sub floor with planks for the other rooms. There was no electricity (although that was installed quickly), indoor plumbing, or running water. One of the morning chores was to start the engine in the pump house and bring pails of water into the house. A wood burning cook stove in the kitchen supplied warm water. Daughter, Joyce Elizabeth Anne Day (1946-) recalls seeing a late 1920s construction date carved into the window sills. In 1977, the stone house passed to son, Keith Day (1956-) and was covered in siding.

*East Nissouri Township: People, Perseverance, Progress*

2012

# 256594 25th Line, Zorra

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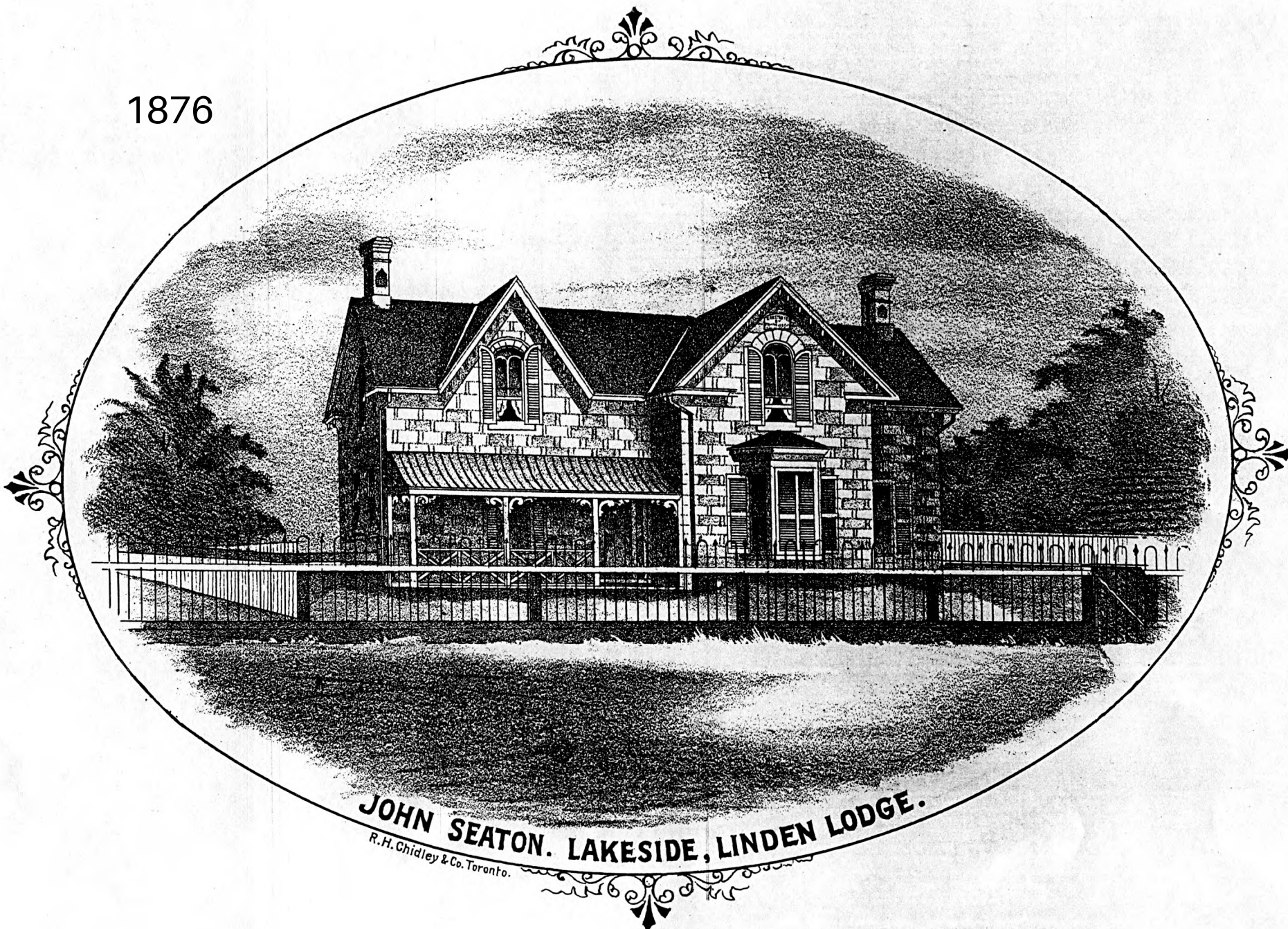
2004 west elevation photograph by Doug A. Huntley

Location: Lot 26  
West, Concession 13,  
East Nissouri  
Architectural style:  
Ontario Farmhouse  
Gothic Revival  
Notable features:  
Aberdeen Bond  
façade  
Construction date:  
1873  
Original owner:  
Francis German,  
1811–1887  
John Seaton,  
1827-1905  
Stone Mason:  
John Thompson  
Crellin, 1837-1922



# 256594 25th Line, Zorra

1876



Linden Lodge, the German/Seaton home as it was depicted in the 1876 Historical Atlas of Oxford County. This sketch shows a simple bell cast front porch roof. This was the original design, with the elaborate gabled & columned Victorian verandah added at a later date.

charcoal sketch of John Seaton (1827-1906)

photograph of Jane Relief German Seaton (1834-1917)

An old map in the Department of Crown Lands states that James German (1782-1860) acquired Lot 26, concession 13, East Nissouri, sometime in 1818. This lot has been in the German-Seaton families since pioneer days and remains so today, passing on to his son Francis German (1811-1887), followed by John Seaton (1827-1905) who had married Francis German's daughter, Jane Relief German (1834-1917). Francis German engaged local master stone mason, John Thompson Crellin to construct a home for his daughter's family in 1873. It was to be a highly ornamented Ontario Farmhouse Gothic Revival; the masonry in the Aberdeen Bond pattern. Crellin had built one previous house and he was to refine his craft in the German/Seaton house. He goes on to use elements in his own house at 196150 19th Line, Kintore.

# 256594 25th Line, Zorra



circa 1890



circa 1910

At left, The John & Jane Seaton (standing with dog) clan gather on the original porch as conceived by Crellin, circa 1890. Crellin had milled elaborate scrolled corner brackets for the porch, attached to chamfered posts. The metal clad bell cast roof adds a charming touch. At right, the 1910 photograph may commemorate the finishing of the new Victorian porch, with workman adding final touches and freshening paint on the soffit details. Round milled porch columns are crowned by ionic capitals, supporting twin pediments, with dentil moulding finishing the frieze. The children may be Penelope Seaton (1891-Deceased), John German Seaton (1892-1959) & Jane Relief Seaton (1897-1961).

# 256594 25th Line, Zorra

The German/Seaton Ontario Gothic Revival Farmhouse house was built in Crellin's distinctive Aberdeen Bond masonry style. Hand hewn granite blocks were carefully selected by colour, given a woven appearance. Corner blocks, heavy top window lintels & sills are quarried white limestone, which arrived by wagon from St. Marys. Limestone is relatively soft and can more readily be shaped into precise blocks that window encasements demand. An elegant bay window projects from the front façade, with a hip roof. Classic Gothic Revival arch-top tracery windows grace the upper storey. In high Gothic Revival fashion, the fancy turned barge boards drip from the soffits. Elaborate twin decorative brick chimneys grace the roof. Finely wrought shutters, were built to fit & compliment the arched windows. The windows are framed by meticulously shaped limestone with a centre highlight quoin. The roof was once slate. A plaque mounted in the main gable, states the construction date of 1873 and owner names.

circa 1910



Francis German Seaton (1866–1927) family: Jane, Francis, Francis G., Mary, Donald, and John Seaton.

# 256594 25th Line, Zorra



2022



Each of the four façades of most of the Crellin-built farmhouses uses different masonry patterning, indicating a clear hierarchy based on prominence and visibility. A secondary façade [driveway] is made up of even courses of masonry beginning at each quoin with stacks of two snecks in random colours rather than three on the front.

*The Late Nineteenth-century Stone Farmhouses of John Thompson Crellin  
Karen Elisabeth Armstrong*



2022 north elevation

# 256601 25th Line, Zorra

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Location: Lot 26 East,  
Concession 12,  
East Nissouri  
Architectural style:  
Ontario Farmhouse  
Cottage  
Notable features:  
rustic masonry  
Construction date:  
before 1861  
Original owner:  
Elisha Harris,  
1787–1868?  
Stone Mason:  
unknown



2009 east elevation photograph by Doug A. Huntley

# 256601 25th Line, Zorra

2007 photograph by Doug A. Huntley



The Harris Ontario Farmhouse Cottage stone mason created extremely even courses, made up of relatively small stone blocks. Some large corner stones, perhaps made of limestone, support the façade. Lintels and window sills are quarried white limestone, which arrived by wagon from St. Marys. Limestone is relatively soft and can more readily be shaped into precise blocks that window encasements demand. The original roof was likely covered in wood shake shingles. There is still evidence of plaster of Paris covering the mortar joints - though a repointing job has obscured much of this by 2009. The Harris house has a stone tail section with rustically laid stone courses of a more irregular nature - the window & door openings here are also supported by limestone lintels. This Ontario Farmhouse Cottage perhaps had a simple gable roof when it was originally designed. The Victorian peak gable in the façade was likely added at a later date, to add light to upstairs rooms. The pediment in the gable, as well as the decorative corbels, brackets, & stained glass, speak to the 1880s era.

According to the 1861 census, Elisha Harris (1787-1868) was living on Lot 26, Concession 12, in a 1.5 storey stone house, with wife, Angelina Loomis Harris and at least 6 of their 17 children. Property records seem to indicate that Harris acquired this lot in 1849 and held it until his death in 1868. His youngest son, Andrew Hewton Harris, (1836-1889) seems to maintain title until he sells to Thomas Quirk in 1883. Elisha Harris was an English Army officer & Loyalist, born in New York State. His parents, Eli Harris & Lucretia Ransom also migrated to Oxford County, south of Ingersoll. The Harris family rests in the Harris Street Cemetery, south of Ingersoll. It is difficult to document if Elisha Harris contracted the stone house to be built, but he held title during the period during which construction likely occurred - the 1850s.

# 276311 27th Line, Zorra

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2022 east elevation

Location: Lot 22 East,  
Concession 13,  
East Nissouri  
Architectural style:  
Ontario Farmhouse  
Gothic Revival  
Notable features:  
Colorful stones on  
façade  
Construction date:  
1861-1867  
Original owner:  
Alexander  
Sutherland, 1807-  
1885  
Stone Mason:  
unknown

# 276311 27th Line, Zorra

circa 1867 south & east elevation



The 1861 census states that the Sutherlands were living in a log cabin on this farm. Using the estimated ages of the family in the photograph, the stone house was likely built between 1861-1867. Alexander stands holding a horse at left & son, Donald is seated in the horse drawn buggy. Wife, Catherine is seated, and is perhaps pregnant. Two of the Sutherland daughters are shown, perhaps Jesse & Catherine. This photograph may have been taken to send back to Scotland, showing the prosperity of farm life in Oxford.

The Alexander Sutherland (1807-1885) family depicted proudly in front of their stone house, circa 1867. Alexander emigrated from Rogart, Scotland with his brothers, William Paton & Ebenezer Sutherland, who developed the stone houses at Lot 21, Concession 13. Alexander married Catherine McDonald (1829-1902) in 1849, in Zorra. The couple was to have 7 children, some of whom were still living in the stone house on the death of Alexander in 1885. The farm passed to youngest son, Donald Sutherland (1857-1923) at this time. It remained in the Sutherland family until at least 1902.



# 276311 27th Line, Zorra



2022 south & east elevation

The Sutherland Ontario Farmhouse Gothic Revival stone house is similar to the Sutherland house at 256258 25th Line. The stonework façade and well as the sides of the house have extremely even blocks, with no discernibly large corner stones. No small sneck stones are apparent, which perhaps were not necessary, given the smaller overall stone size. All elevations show stones selected for their pleasing colours. Windows are in the six-over-six pane pattern and modern replacements mimic the originals. Lintels are composed of carefully selected stones shaped & set vertically. Windows sills were originally wood. The tracery gothic arched window in the front gable has been framed by shaped stones fashioned to highlight the curve. The original roof was wood shake shingles. This Ontario Gothic Revival Farmhouse is free of ornamentation known as barge board or gingerbread.

# 276311 27th Line, Zorra

2022 south elevation



The 1860s photograph seems to show an absence of a tail section at that time. Perhaps a wood frame addition was added at a later date to accommodate a kitchen & pantry. The current owners, the Jongelen family, added a sympathetic addition to the rear of the house in 2013, which added living space, as well as a welcoming side porch. The front portico was also added at this time.

# 295135 29th Line, Zorra

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Location: Lot 3 East,  
Concession 14,  
East Nissouri  
Architectural style:  
Ontario Farmhouse  
Cottage  
Notable features:  
Colorful stones on  
façade  
Construction date:  
before 1861  
Original owner:  
Hugh Sutherland,  
1804-1871  
Stone Mason:  
George Weir, 1805-  
1884

2022 east elevation

## 295135 29th Line, Zorra

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1960s

According to the Emigrants List of Rogart, Scotland, Hugh Sutherland (1804-1871) and his wife, Christian 'Christy' McKenzie (1805-1877) came to Canada in 1831 with their two sons, John and Alexander - the family victims of the Highland Clearances. Both Hugh and Christy were born near Rogart and they married circa 1829 at Loth. On their arrival in East Nissouri, they settled on Lot 3, Concession 14 where they received a conveyance of land from the Canada Company in 1845, consisting of 114 acres.

*East Nissouri Township: People,  
Perseverance, Progress, 2012*

# 295135 29th Line, Zorra

Hugh built a log cabin in which the family lived in for many years. Eventually, it was replaced by a stone house built by a family of masons, the Weirs, who hailed from a short distance to the south on the Governor's Road at Lot 6 Con 1, North Oxford. The beautiful stone house was home to Christy and Hugh Sutherland where they raised their family of 13 children, two born in Scotland and the other eleven, in East Nissouri.

*East Nissouri Township: People, Persistence, Progress, 2012*

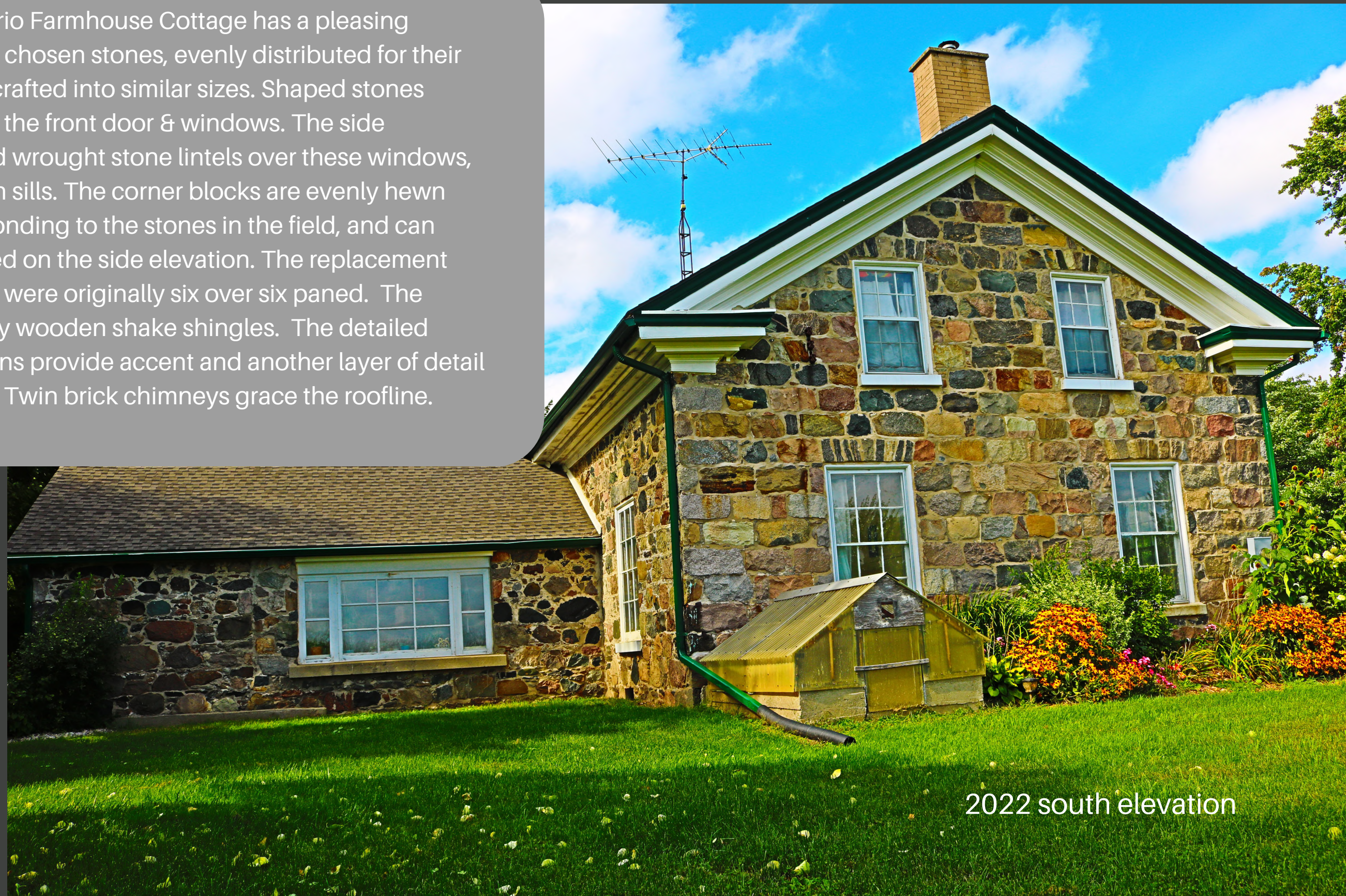


2022 south & east elevation

# 295135 29th Line, Zorra

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The Sutherland Ontario Farmhouse Cottage has a pleasing façade, with carefully chosen stones, evenly distributed for their colour and carefully crafted into similar sizes. Shaped stones comprise lintels over the front door & windows. The side elevation shows hand wrought stone lintels over these windows, with perhaps wooden sills. The corner blocks are evenly hewn and of a size corresponding to the stones in the field, and can only really be detected on the side elevation. The replacement windows mimic what were originally six over six paned. The original roof was likely wooden shake shingles. The detailed deep eaves and returns provide accent and another layer of detail to the side elevation. Twin brick chimneys grace the roofline.



2022 south elevation

# 295135 29th Line, Zorra

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2000 west elevation photographs by Joyce McCorquodale Groves



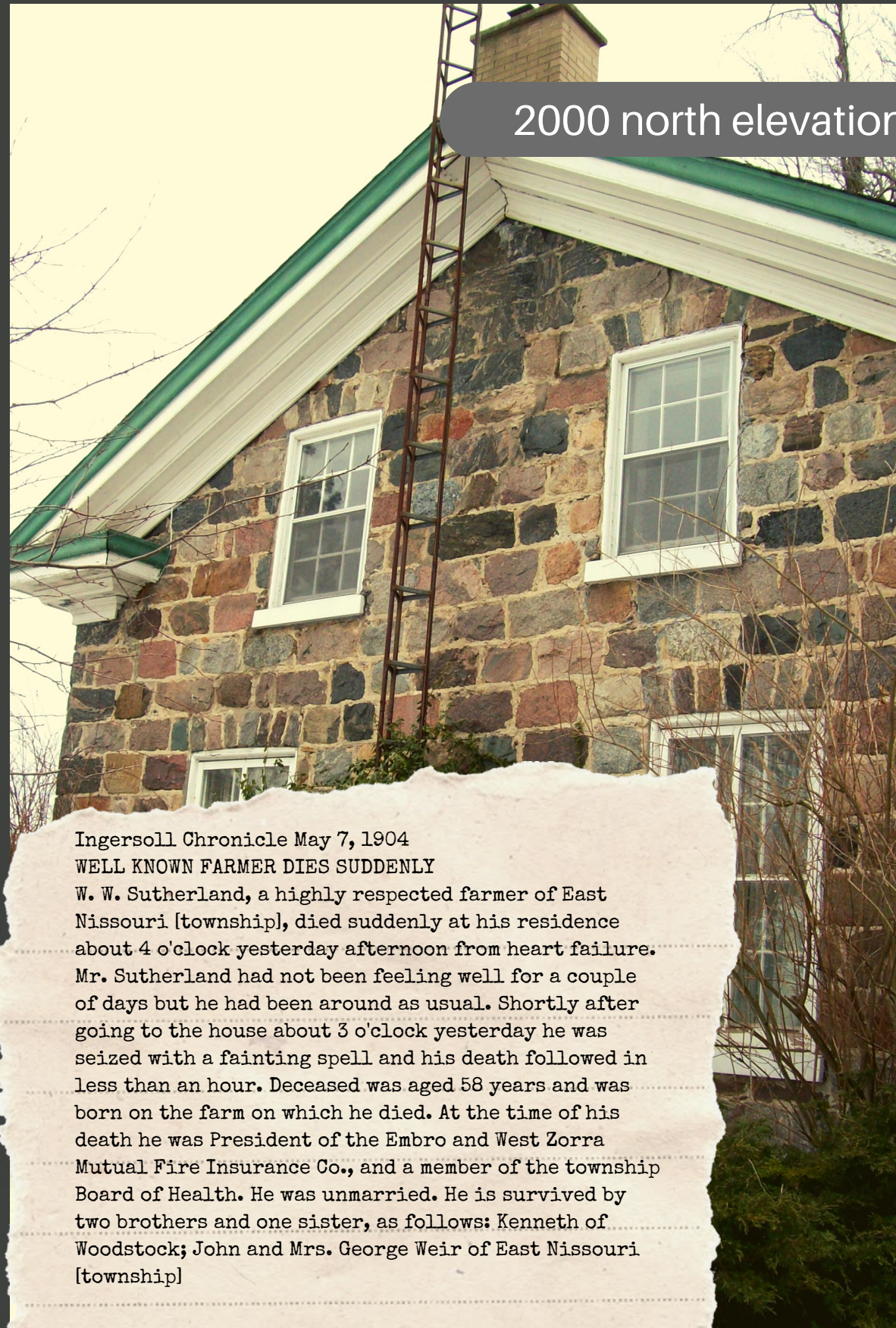
The stone tail section, housing the kitchen is constructed of smaller rubble stones, brought to courses with mortar, shown at left. The rear of the stone tail section, at right, is an example of un-coursed random rubble stone masonry. It is the roughest and the cheapest form of stonewalling. Since stones are not of uniform shape and size, they are arranged with great care so as to distribute pressure over the maximum area and at the same time avoid long vertical joints. The Sutherland stone house is an example of what might be described as having a "Lady Anne front, with a Mary Anne back".

# 295135 29th Line, Zorra

Following the death of Hugh, the farm was left to his son William (1846-1904) on the condition that his mother Christy would always have a home there. Christy lived with William until her death in 1877. William remained on the farm and when he died in 1904, the farm was purchased by his niece, Elizabeth Hall (1857-1929) & her husband, Hugh C. Mitchell (1857-1943). Hugh Mitchell continued to farm the property until his death in 1943. Hugh and Christy Sutherland, along with six of their children, are resting in the North Embro Cemetery. In 1946, returning WWII airman, John Beckett purchased the stone house with his wife Marion, and together worked on beautifying the property with many gardens. In 1990, a tornado swept through the area, destroying the barn.

Current owners, The Witteveen family, maintain the stone house to a very high standard today, with a deep interest in preserving its heritage.

*East Nissouri Township: People, Perversance, Progress, 2012*



2000 north elevation



2022 north elevation

Ingersoll Chronicle May 7, 1904  
WELL KNOWN FARMER DIES SUDDENLY  
W. W. Sutherland, a highly respected farmer of East Nissouri [township], died suddenly at his residence about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon from heart failure. Mr. Sutherland had not been feeling well for a couple of days but he had been around as usual. Shortly after going to the house about 3 o'clock yesterday he was seized with a fainting spell and his death followed in less than an hour. Deceased was aged 58 years and was born on the farm on which he died. At the time of his death he was President of the Embro and West Zorra Mutual Fire Insurance Co., and a member of the township Board of Health. He was unmarried. He is survived by two brothers and one sister, as follows: Kenneth of Woodstock; John and Mrs. George Weir of East Nissouri [township]



# 295346 29th Line, Zorra

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Location: Lot 6

West,

Concession 1,

West Zorra

Architectural style:

Ontario Farmhouse

Gothic Revival

Notable features:

Rustic

craftsmanship

Construction date:

between 1851-

1861

Original owner:

William Bain

McKay, 1809-1879

Stone Mason:

unknown

Demolished: 2010



2007 north elevation photograph by Doug A. Huntley

## 295346 29th Line, Zorra

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2007 north elevation photograph by Doug A. Huntley

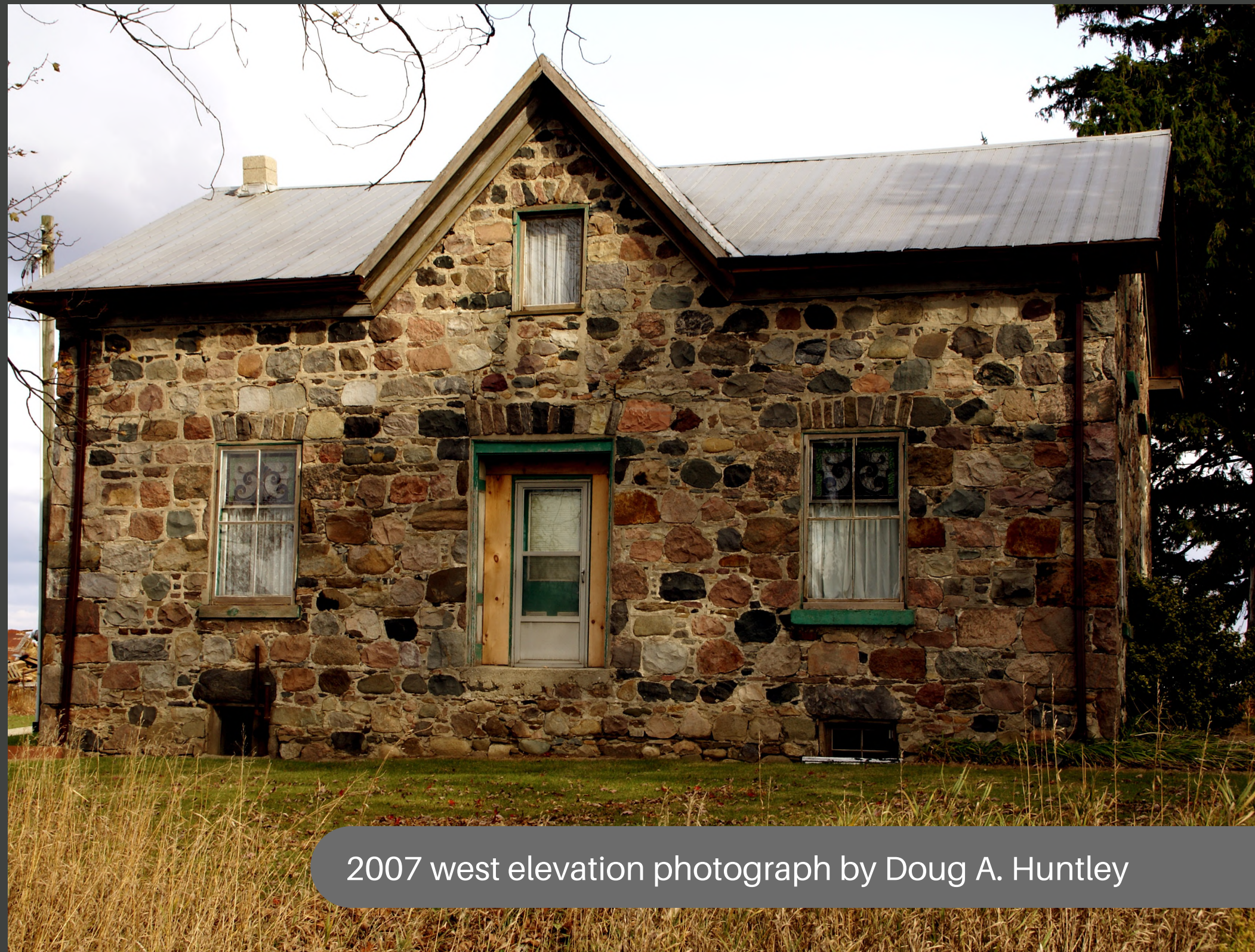
William Bain McKay (1809-1879) was born in Creich, Sutherlandshire, Scotland. In 1835 he married Christene Sutherland (1811-1895) in Clyne, Sutherlandshire. When they immigrated to Canada in 1841, they had three children, and Christene was pregnant with a fourth. In all, William and Christene had 10 children. The census records indicate there were 12 people living in the log house on this lot in 1851. The 1861 census states that there were 13 residents, but by then they were living in the stone house that had been constructed through the 1850s. Upon the death of William in 1879, his brother George McKay took over the farm. Doug and Violet Innes purchased the farm in 1956, and here they raised a family of four children.

*Historically Bound: the History of Embro and West Zorra, 1820-2007*

# 295346 29th Line, Zorra

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The McKay Ontario Farmhouse Gothic Revival stone house is an example of random rubble masonry, brought to courses. The blocks of stone are either undressed or comparatively roughly dressed. The masonry has wide joints since stones of irregular size are used, with small sneck stones supporting the courses. Lintels are composed of carefully selected stones shaped & set vertically. Windows sills were fashioned from wood. Windows are in the two-over-two muntin configuration, perhaps they are original. The window in the front gable appears to once have been a door that exited to a front porch. The original roof was likely wood shake shingles. The front door once had side lights and perhaps a transom window. The stone tail section may have been added at a later date, as the side elevation photograph shows corner blocks that have been integrated into the body of the wall. A rafter plate can still be seen that indicates a porch once was attached to the north elevation. A charming arched window perhaps brought light to a stairwell. This Ontario Gothic Revival Farmhouse may once have had ornamentation known as barge board or gingerbread.



2007 west elevation photograph by Doug A. Huntley

# 295437 29th Line, Zorra

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Location: Lot 7,  
Concession 14,  
East Nissouri  
Architectural style:  
Ontario Farmhouse  
Georgian  
Notable features:  
Rustic elegance  
Construction date:  
circa 1846  
Original owner:  
John McIntosh,  
1793-1882  
Stone Mason: John  
McIntosh, 1793-  
1882

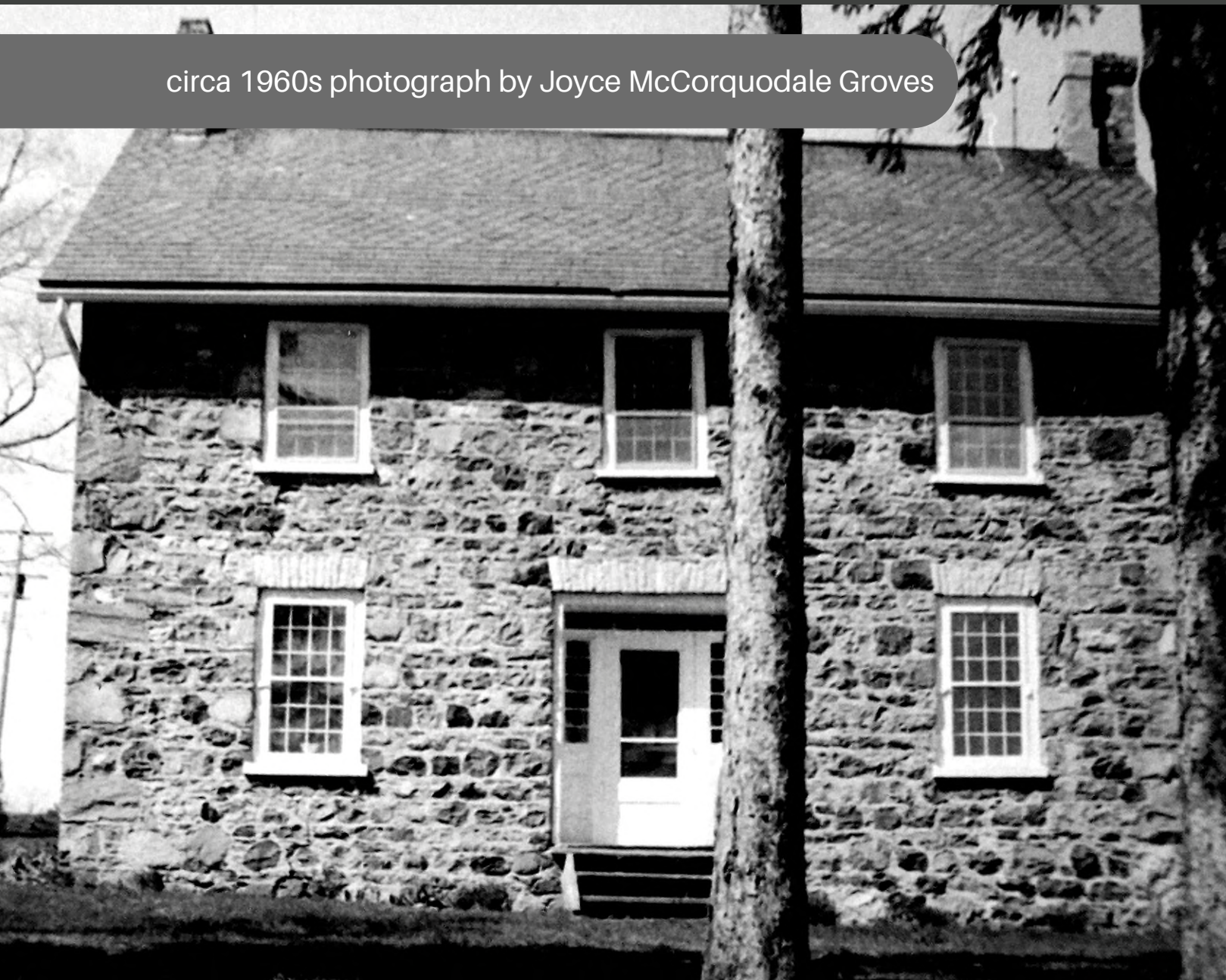


2022 east elevation

# 295437 29th Line, Zorra

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circa 1960s photograph by Joyce McCorquodale Groves



John McIntosh (1793-1882) & Isabel McKenzie (1795-1873), circa 1870

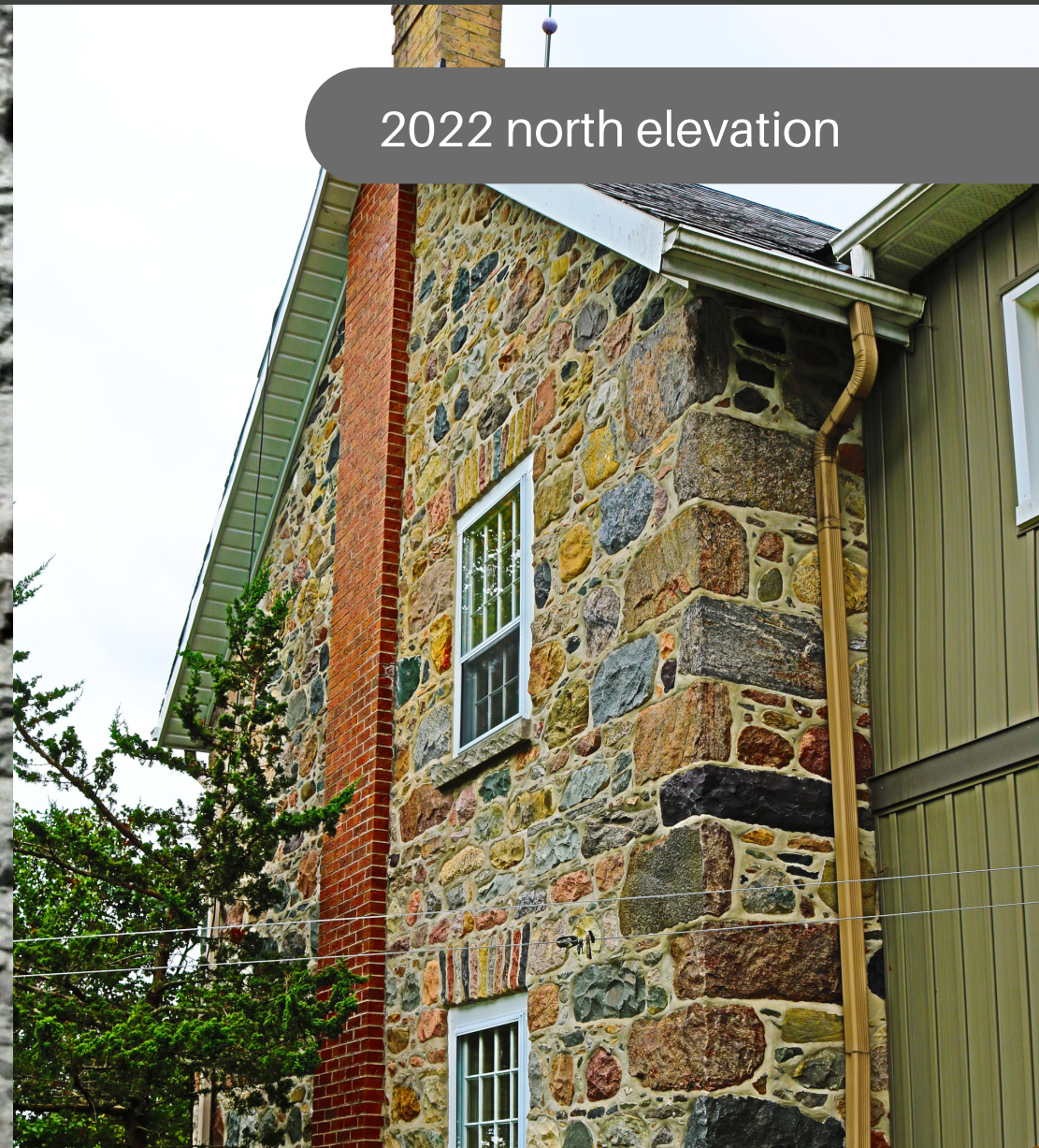
John McIntosh (1793-1882) married Isabel McKenzie (1795-1873), both were born in Ivergordon, Scotland. Their children were: Christopher (1822-1883), Johanna (1828-1912), Jane (b. 1829), and Annie. John McIntosh was the Captain of a Voluntary Regiment at St. Amicet, Quebec. They came to Oxford County where they farmed Lots 7 and 8 Con 14, 214 acres in all. At one time John, appointed by commission, served as a Justice for Oxford County, and also was a lieutenant in the 22nd Battalion, Oxford Rifles. John McIntosh, a stonemason, built the stone house on the south side of the river in or about 1846 for his son Christopher, who was getting married. The wedding never took place and Christopher went out west.

# 295437 29th Line, Zorra

circa 1960s photographs by Joyce McCorquodale Groves



2022 north elevation



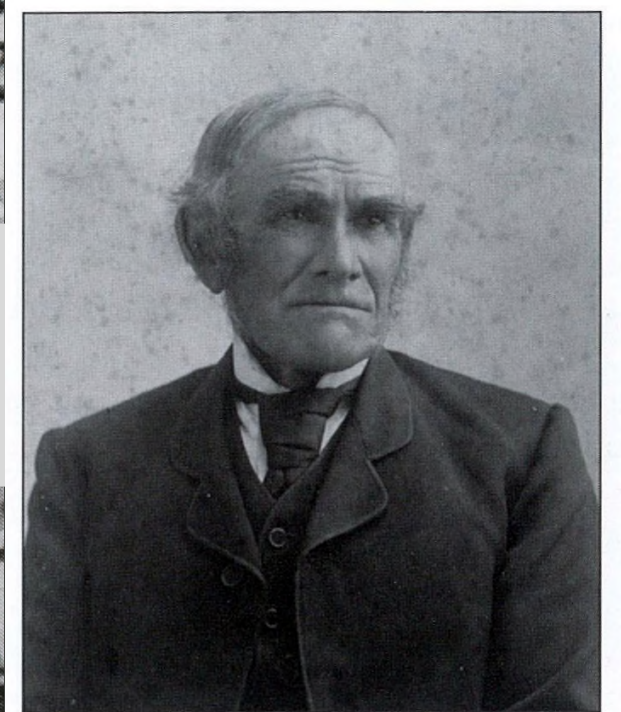
The McIntosh Ontario Farmhouse Georgian stone house is an example of random rubble masonry, brought to courses. Massive stone corner blocks support randomly sized rubble stones - each course reflecting the size of the corner block. The blocks of stones that are used are roughly dressed. The masonry has wide joints since stones of irregular size are used, with small sneck stones supporting the courses. Lintels are composed of carefully selected stones shaped & tightly set vertically. Windows sills were fashioned from wood, replaced with limestone at a later date. Lower windows on the front façade are twelve-over-twelve paned configuration, a signifier of age as they are a hallmark of Georgian architecture. Upper, smaller windows are twelve-over-eight panes. All windows are original today, carefully & painstakingly restored by the current owners, the Arbuckles. The original banded fish scale slate roof remains. The gracious front door has side lights and transom window, bringing light to the foyer.

# 295437 29th Line, Zorra

The McIntosh family intermarried with the McWilliam family and the stone house passed to this branch. John McWilliam (1825-1898) & Janet 'Jessie' Smith (1828-1912) married in 1853, and immediately sailed from Portsoy, Scotland, for Canada. They moved to East Nissouri in the 1850s and had a family of 7 children. John McWilliam died on the family homestead in 1898. His wife and youngest daughter, Helen, then moved to Thamesford, where Janet 'Jessie' passed away in 1912.



south elevation  
wood frame kitchen,  
circa 1940



*John McWilliam*



south elevation  
wood frame kitchen,  
circa 1920



*Jessie (Smith)McWilliam.*

photographs from the  
McWilliam family collection

# 295437 29th Line, Zorra



circa 1935 east elevation photograph from the McWilliam family collection

*Ross McWilliam at Parents' house -*

John McWilliam's youngest son, George (1868 - 1947) married Annie Mooney (1880-1979) in 1900. George and Annie continued to work the homestead on Lots 7 and 8 Con 14. They had nine children. Their son, Ross Edward McWilliam (1914-2014), is pictured on the front steps. circa 1935. All were born in the 'old stone house' which had been constructed by their great great grandfather John McIntosh. George and Annie's sons Bruce Philip (1910-2003) and Kenneth Angus (1920-1993) took over the family homestead in 1947.



## 295437 29th Line, Zorra

The McIntosh-McWilliam stone house, depicted in 2007. The elegant brick chimneys are in evidence from this angle, facing north west. The modern two-storey kitchen addition can be seen at rear. The massive stone supporting corner blocks can certainly be appreciated from the vantage point. The original slate fish-scale banded roof is a highlight of the façade. The Arbuckle family, caretakers of this stone edifice for almost 50 years, have worked tirelessly to preserve it.



2007 east & south elevation photograph from the Arbuckle family collection