

The Mason Log Cabin – A Brief History

In about 1831 John Mason Sr. came from the town of Dungannon, County Tyrone Northern Ireland and settled with his family in Trafalgar Township. In 1845 he purchased 200 acres of land, Lots 23 and 24 on Concession 6, Township of Windham for his sons John Jr. and William.

John Mason Jr. took the West 100 acres, Lot 24, and built his house, this log cabin in 1849. He lived alone until 1856 when he married Elizabeth Shaw, who came to the log house, a bride of 19 years. They raised a family of 8 children.

Robert John Mason, a son took over the homestead in 1901, and brought his wife Josepha Oliver to the log house in 1902. Their children Elizabeth (Mason) Marlatt and Mabel (Mason) Seaton were both born in the house.

The original house, built in 1849, was comprised of one large room, or living area and two bedrooms, with sleeping space on the second floor. Around 1870, the house was enlarged and a living room and two more bedrooms were added. The house was well finished with hand polished oak beams overhead, oak wood work and white pine floors.

In 1913 Robert Mason and his wife built their new farm home. Regardless of its great weight, the log house was moved back from its original site, to make room for the new dwelling. It was preserved and well cared for. Robert Mason died in 1926, and to settle the estate his widow sold the farm, the 100 acres on Lot 24 Concession 6, to Mr. George Parker to grow tobacco. She sold the old house to Mr. Lewis Beal. These sales took place in 1930. Mr. Beal, a short time later, sold the old house to James Edgeworth, who took the building apart and rebuilt it in Edgeworth Park at Teeterville, where it stood for many years and housed many of Mr. Edgeworth's artifacts. After the death of James Edgeworth the park property and buildings were purchased by Bert Granger of Windham Centre.

In September 1965, Keith Granger, who inherited the park property from his father gave the log house to the Windham Township Council to be restored as a Museum for a Centennial project.

The Township Council consisted of the following members:

Reeve - Albert Blake

Dep. Reeve - Fred Peacock

Councillors - John Malcolm
Clare Huffman
& Harvey Church

The house was taken down, log by log, under the supervision of Mr. Wm. Crewson of Rockton, and re-built here on the Women's Institute Grounds. Each time the house was moved it was put back together again a bit smaller than the original.

The first Museum Board, consisted of Fred Peacock and John Malcolm from the Township of Windham Council and Alta Ellington and Edna Malcolm representing the Women's Institute. Mrs. Muriel (Attlebery) Huffman became the first Curator, a position she held for many years. The contents of the Museum, the furniture, utensils and the many interesting artifacts were either donated or purchased by the Board. The building was officially opened in July 1967 to be a part of Canada's Centennial Year celebrations. The small smoke house standing near by was also a gift from Keith Granger and contains a number of artifacts moved from Edgeworth Park. In the barn, erected later on, one can find many household items along with antique farm implements.

It is an interesting place and a great credit to our community. It speaks so well of the diligent and far sighted people who worked so hard to pull it all together. A place of memories for future generations to enjoy.

-by Audrey Wist