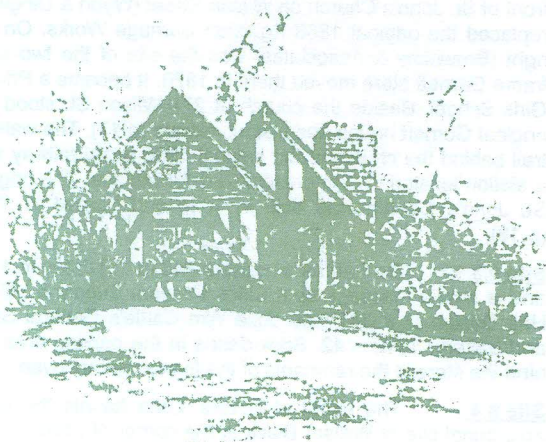


THE
ROADSIDE HISTORY
OF
OLD ANCASTER
TOWNSHIP

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Map Included



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Historic Ancaster Township

This self-guided driving tour begins at the Hamilton Golf & Country Club (HGCC) at Halson Street & Golf Links Road. It is a supplement to the Wilson Street Walking Tour. Page references are to pictures in "Ancaster - A Pictorial History".

Site # 1. The first HGCC was a 12-hole golf course at the Hamilton Jockey Club on Barton Street in 1894. It moved to the Chedoke site in 1896. When the Radial Electric Railway was built in 1906 the club purchased Dr. Farmer's 190-acre farm on this site and moved here in 1916. The HGCC has hosted the Canadian Open in 1919, 1930 and Sep. 2003.

Site # 2. The stone buildings (p.20) across from the front of St. John's Church on Wilson Street (Wynn & Dingwall) replaced the original 1868 Egleston Carriage Works. On the right (Brownlow & Associates) was the site of the two-story frame Garnett store moved there in 1870. It became a Private Girls School. Beside the church at 274 Wilson St. stood the original Gurnett house and historic plaque (p.17). The walking trail behind the church is the original 1906 radial railway with a station located on the present transformer site. The original St. John's Church was built in 1824 and burned in 1868 (p.18).

Site # 3 Dr. Farmer's house # 343 (p.13) dates to 1872 and is now a massage spa. Cliff's Vacuum Supply & Village Hair Design at # 347 was once Wm Cattle's General Store and Bakery, 1912 - 42. Brick debris in the parking area behind the store is the remnants of the former bakery oven.

Site # 4. The ghost of Lovers' Lane haunts the probable burial site of William Black at the corner of Lover's Lane and Sulphur Springs Road. See p. 74 of Hamilton Street Names.

Site # 5 The Bloody Assizes plaque was placed here in 1964 (p.11). The Traveler's Tree, Ancaster Cycle & Glass Works at # 363-67 Wilson St. is the probable site of George Rousseau's store (1830) and the space behind it was the home of his widowed mother, Mrs. J. B. Rousseau. Jean Baptist Rousseau died in 1812 at Niagara due to illness and is buried in a soldier's grave. His widow died in 1835. Her grandson, George B. Rousseau, built # 375 Rousseau House in 1848 on the site of Rousseau's original cabin (p.7). The actual site of the Bloody Assize was in Rousseau's Hotel, which disappeared long ago next to the post office at # 393.



Site # 6. Jacob Gabel's Hill is the site of Mount Mary Immaculate Convent, the former home and estate of F. Daley, grocery wholesaler and manufacturer of 2 in 1 Shoe Polish (p.3). Gabel's house dates from 1815 at # 449 Wilson Street at the entrance to the convent (p.3). The house was rebuilt after a fire in 1950. Gabel operated a tannery on the property to the north of the house.

Site # 7. # 467-75 at the corner Wilson & Old Dundas Road was the site of the Barlow Blacksmith Shop and house. Later it was the site of a wooden vegetable stand. There was a tollhouse (1843, demolished 1921) in the corner triangle on the other side of Old Dundas Rd (p.2). In 1846 Eyre Thuesson built a foundry on Ancaster Creek between Wilson Street and Old Dundas Road (p.28). It has since been converted to private home once occupied by actor Vincent Price.



Site # 8. This is the probable site of the first Wilson-Beasley dam and mill of 1794. When viewed from Rousseau Street about 90 meters east of Wilson Street, an earth mound with cut stone and a sill with rapids can be seen. The cut stone ruins of Jasper Crane's Knitting Mill built in 1854; burned 1875 can be seen on the northeast side of the Wilson St. Bridge (p.29-30).

Site # 9. Barbeau's dam and pond was filled in around 1941 after an accidental drowning (p.32). It was located behind # 41 Rousseau Street. Part of a concrete control gate can still be seen. Andy Dellio's house on the north side of the former pond has hand hewn basement beams that may date to 1812. He claims that the cellar served as a detention cell for the Bloody Assize.

Site # 10. This site located in Ancaster Heights at the end of Lime Kiln Drive and behind new houses on Greenravine Drive is the possible location of Richard Hatt's Burial Ground. His wife owned property here and there appears to be gravestone remnants.

Site # 11. In a wooded depression where the Bruce Trail (Hwy 403 overpass) meets Filman Road is the site of a Sulphur Spring. A trading post is believed to have been located there at one time. Around 1900 owner Mr. Hughes developed a garden park around the spring. Spec Photo Sep. 6, 1958.

Site # 12. At the entrance to a hiking trail on Hendry Lane is a limestone quarry wall, which marks the site of Guest's Limestone Kiln (1855-1914). The road was once white from hauling lime.

Site # 13. On Wilson Street East. (Hwy. 2) where it crosses Tiffany Creek is a pull-off used to rest horses pulling wagons up or down the escarpment. A horse trough built in 1856 by Mr. Moffatt can still be found beside the road. The area is known as Bulmer's Glen because he had a house and operated an ice cream stand here. He had a similar enterprise at the top of the James Street Incline, which became the Lookout Inn. The house, sitting on a shelf of land overlooking the glen, burned down leaving only a stone fireplace and chimney. The beautiful stonework on the Hwy 2 culvert is an excellent example of century old workmanship.



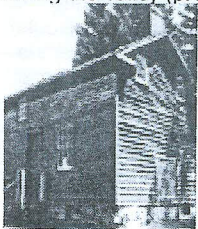
Site # 14. Ancaster Creek crosses Lower Lions Club Road just east of the Old Dundas Road intersection. The remnant of an old foundation beside the creek on the north side of the road is believed to be the site of Hiram Broadbent's Brass Factory (1868).

Site # 15. On the south side of Lower Lions Club Road on Ancaster Creek is the site of Kelly's Woolen Mill, 1835-1876. A depression beside the creek marks the site of a pit for an 18-foot overshot waterwheel and foundation rubble. Some of the stone rubble was used in the foundation of the nearby barn.

Site # 16. In 1835 Kelly built the beautiful stone home at the corner of Lower Lions Club Road & Old Dundas Road. Whitefield added a second storey to the house in 1876 when he built the barn across the road.

Site # 17. Richard & Samuel Hatt's Old Red Mill (1798-1877) was built below Ancaster Falls at a sharp turn in the Old Dundas Road known as the Devil's Elbow (p.28-9). Originally an Indian trail, the brothers improved the road for commercial reason. There is an historic plaque across the road from where the mill once stood. The brothers also built a distillery behind the mill beside Lions Club Road. It served as a barn until dismantled in 1905.

Site # 18. There are a number of heritage buildings in the vicinity of the junction of Sulphur and Mineral Springs Roads. George Leith built the Hermitage in 1855 as a summer retreat. It burned down in 1934 and has been plaqued (p.102). Sulphur Springs developed as a health spa in the 1860s. The Deer Springs Hotel (1868-1910) with rooms for 30 guests once stood on the western side of the road overlooking the valley (p.100). Wilf Ruland now owns the home rebuilt on the old hotel site. To the west of the intersection on the north side of Mineral Springs Road is the Griffin House. It was built by a runaway black slave in 1834 and is now designated as an important historic site. Situated on a hilltop, it has a commanding view.



Site # 19. Mineral Springs is located where an Indian trail to Brantford crossed the Cold Springs Creek. The available waterpower at this location spawned several mills.

On approaching the hamlet from the east is a white frame house sitting in a pasture. Part of this structure was built by Captain John Aikman in 1789 and is now the Birmingham estate. Out of sight in the valley behind the house are the ruins of Aikman's gristmill. It was converted into a woolen mill in 1850 by the Egleston Bros. and burned down in 1876 while being operated by the Grafton Clothing Co (p.97).

Another gristmill was located in the hamlet at # 999 Mineral Springs Road where it crosses the Cold Springs Creek (p.97). Named for the creek, this gristmill, built in 1820, rebuilt 1840, and a third storey added in 1863, was demolished in 1917. A house now stands on the site. The dam for this mill was located upstream across the road at the back of Jack Spark's property (# 1050). He has turned the remnants of the dam into a garden storage shed. The floodgate piers show initials carved into the cement after repair work in 1913 (WA, EH, HL, LMD, CMS, SMS, KP). The flume for the mill ran along the hillside below the railway and under the road.

A flume for another mill was found on John Sturrock's property (# 986) when he constructed his house in 1948 next to the waterfall beside Martin Rd. That mill site is believed to be of 1830 vintage.

Above the riverbank on the Gartshore property (Auchinburn Farm) behind Sturrock's house is a capped oil and gas well. It was discovered in 1922 but never put into commercial use (p.100).

When the TH&B Railway came to Mineral Springs in 1895 it gave new life to the hamlet (p.98). The abundance of pieces of coal and old posts on the south side of the road crossing are evidence that a coal shed and stockyard were once located there. The passenger station was on the north-east side of the crossing. The rail bed is now a walking trail between Hamilton and Brantford.

Site # 20. A painting by J. B. Kenrick in Fieldcote Museum shows the Jones Brewery ca. 1875. It was located on south side of Mineral Springs at the second crossing of the TH&B Railway west of Gravel Pit Road.

Site # 21. Jerseyville took its name from New Jersey settlers who came here in 1799. The Van Sickle Hotel was built in 1846 at the corner of Sunnyside (# 5) & Jerseyville Rd. (p.75). Diagonally across the road in what is now a back yard stood a gristmill operated by the Swartz family. It also served as a wagon works & pump manufacturing shop. The family home next door later became a funeral parlor (p.72).

Site # 22. The Jerseyville TH&B station stood in the V formed by the crossing on the north side of Jerseyville Road. The station can now be found at Westfield Pioneer Village. The railway storage shed, which stood in the opposite V was moved east along Jerseyville Road in 1931 and converted to Ludlow's General Store at the Sunnyside intersection (p.73). It became a private home in 2000.

Site # 23. Number 2 Field Road at Jerseyville Road is believed to be the oldest home in Jerseyville. Built by Francis Young it served as the first post office prior to 1851 (p.73).

Number 16 Field Road is the former Jerseyville Methodist Episcopal Church built 1856. It closed in 1884 when the congregation amalgamated with the Wesleyan Methodist Church built in 1861. Located across the street at # 17 Field Road it became the United Church in 1920 (p.72-3).

Site # 24. The Jerseyville Cemetery north of the hamlet on Field Rd. dates back to 1818. It was located on the Burlington to Brantford Indian Trail and was the site of the first log church in Jerseyville.

Site # 25. The house and barns at 400 Field Road were built by Wm Closson Vansickle in the 1890s (p.75-6). It became a well known breeding farm after 1938 for Holstein-Friesian cattle.

Site # 26-7. Indian Trail is the oldest road in the Township. It originally started at Jos. Brant's house in Burlington, following the north shore of the Bay and Coote's Paradise to the Old Dundas-Ancaster Road. It followed Mineral Springs Road and crossed the farm fields to this junction on Lynden Road and on into Brantford.

Site # 28. The house at # 3612 Indian Trail is the former home of Peter Van Sickle built ca. 1810 (p.82). It is identical in design to the Van Sickle house on Jerseyville Road.

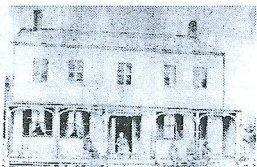
Site # 29. Isaac Van Sickle, a later Loyalist from New Jersey, built a ten-room house at #3396 Jerseyville Road West in 1824 (p.85). Family descendants occupied it until 1979 when the house was moved and reconstructed at Mofat, Ontario. Only the out buildings remain now.

Site # 30. Alberton, a string of houses, a garage, a store, a church and a seniors' Centre was named in honour of Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert. Job Franklin built the Alberton General Store (p.43) in 1874. Originally located on the north side of Highway 2, it had to be moved when the highway was widened. The store was cut in half, with part moved across the highway and the other part around the corner on Alberton Road.

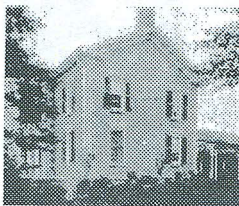
Site # 31 Hammill Race Track once stood behind the Alberton Senior Achievement Centre.

Site # 32. John Hunter built this cheese factory on Alberton Road in 1894. It later became a blacksmiths, then a grist-mill and finally a two family residence (p.43).

Site # 33. Wm. Vanderlip, UEL, built a tavern in 1799 at the junction of Hwy 2 & 53. Purchased by Adam Duff in 1844, it was called Duff's Tavern and the junction became Duff's Corners. Today there is a stoplight and empty fields where the tavern once stood. The commercial activity is now across the road at Wendy's Drive-in, Tim Hortons & a gas station.



Site # 34. This part of Ancaster is also known as the Shaver Settlement (p.65). Wm. Shaver UEL, from New Jersey, settled here in 1789. Visitors to the Wm. Shaver homestead at 1166 Hwy. 53 are welcome. Contact Shirley (Shaver) Cranston at 648-3284 for information. Other Shaver homes are located at



1028 Hwy. 53, 403 Hwy. 2 and 1019 Hwy. 2.

Site # 35. The J.F. Wilson Sawmill was part of a hamlet called Trinity at Book & Trinity Roads. Now long disappeared, there was a store, post office, church and school (p.50-51).

Site # 36. Jacob Shaver operated a sawmill on the western side of Shaver Road in Con. 4. (p.66). It is now an empty field.

Site # 37. Fiddler's Green Inn stood on the SE corner of Garner Road (Hwy. 53) & Fiddler's Green Road. North of the junction, the Ancaster Plain was a racetrack and military training ground, making the inn a popular gathering place. The innkeeper & his daughter played the fiddle. All that is left of the Fiddler's Green Hotel is a crumbling foundation 100 ft. X 30 ft. which is being used as a backyard garden dump. Square head nails can be found in the debris.

Site # 38. Fiddler's Green Blacksmith shop (1880s) was moved from the hotel site to # 166 Book Road. It is now a large board and batten storage shed on the Wine-garden property.

Site # 39. John and Charity Book built their house at # 209 Book Road East in 1811 (p.52). It has the distinction of



being the oldest two-storied house between Niagara and Windsor. The walls consist of four layers of bricks that were all handmade on the property. There was also a horse-powered saw and plane on the farm and a weaving shed behind the house. The looms came from Germany. The family name is of German origin and was probably spelled "Buch". A large barn was demolished in 2003 to make way for a new airport highway passing through the farm. The Book cemetery located on the eastern side of the new airport road is very large. It contains headstones of John (1754-1827), Charity, their twelve children and other descendants. The oldest headstone is for a maiden daughter, Mary Book age 56, 1815. Several stones indicate intermarriage with families such as Vipond, Morton, and Kendrick. The hamlet of Southcote once stood nearby at the corner of Book and Southcote Roads (p.53).

Site # 40. A wooden barn on the western side of Fidler's Green Road midway between Butter and Book Roads has 1834 carved on the door.

Site # 41. This is the location of the ghost town of Renforth at the intersection of Glancaster (Stone) Road and Butter Road. It was once a thriving community with two hotels, a post office, store, lumber mill, cheese factory, church and brick yard (p.103-5). The sawmill provided wood for the plank road to Caledonia (Hwy. 6).

Site # 42 - 45. The southern triangle of the township was known as the Scotch Block because of the number of settlers who came from Scotland. The Calder family named the community of Carluke after their home region in Scotland when they arrived here

ca. 1830. At one time the village contained a saw mill, gristmill, a blacksmith shop, post office, general store, a cobbler, a weaver, two churches, a school, a



curling rink, and a lending library.

Site # 42. In 1854 Wm. Wilson established his blacksmith shop at 341 Carluke Road (p.58). It is now an empty field. Four of his sons became Presbyterian ministers as well as his grandson, Rev. T. Melville Bailey, a noted historian and member of the Hamilton Gallery of Distinction.

Site # 43. By 1844 a log school was built on this site, replaced by a brick school in 1885 (p.55). That building was badly damaged in a fire in 1925 and rebuilt as it appears today. In 1969 it became the Carluke Community Centre. The original log schoolhouse also served as the community's first church. The cemetery beside the old school was the site of Knox Presbyterian Red Brick Church built in 1855 (p.56). The cemetery contains headstones for Knox followers such as; Butter, Stewart, Cranston, Hyslop, Inch and Bailey.

Site # 44. The former Carluke General Store located at # 504 on the south side of Carluke Road was originally a blacksmith shop. The store operated by Charles Moffat, also sold candy, ice cream, and gasoline and served as a meeting place for the village men (p.58-9). A few doors west at # 526 is St. Paul's Presbyterian Church built in 1898 (p.56) to replace the earlier Erskine and Knox churches. The present church was built on the same site after a fire in 1925. A manse was built on the eastern side of the church.

Site # 45. The cemetery on the southeast corner of Carluke and Shaver Roads was the site of the first dedicated church in Carluke. It was a white frame structure built in 1850 (p.55) and was called the Erskine Presbyterian or White Church. It closed when St. Paul's Church was opened in 1898. Many of the original Scotch Block names like Calder and Morton can be found on the White Church cemetery headstones.