

Tyrone self-guided walking tour

In the area of Concession 6 and 7, lots 6 to 11, we have the village of Tyrone, which is very important to the history of Darlington and Durham. Settlers came from the County of Tyrone in Ireland and also from the Devon and Cornwall counties in England. The Irish wanted to name the area Tyrone while the Cornish wanted the name Mount Hope. It is said a cricket match determined the name.

This self-guided tour gives you a sense of who was living in Tyrone in the later part of the 1800s. The tour is from the Tyrone Mill to the blacksmith shop using the north sidewalk.



2656 Conc. 7 (Tyrone Mills)

Most of Tyrone was originally owned by the first settler John Gray. He wrote many letters to relatives back in Tyrone County, Ireland including the McClung brothers, John and William. Tyrone Mills, built in 1846 by James McFeeters and John Gray, is a site well known for its flour milling and is one of Canada's oldest water powered grist mills. The millstone and woodworking machines are driven by connected belts, pulleys and line shafting with a minimum of modern concessions. Little has changed in the mill's interior over the past 150 years.

Today, a woodshop, blacksmith shop and an outdoor wood-fired Quebec oven, made of clay from the property and straw from a local farmer, have been added to enhance the mill.

2688 Conc. 7

This hotel was operated by Mr. Nicholls when Tyrone was a hub of commerce and activity in the 1880's. West of the house was a large shed with a dance hall upstairs which served as a carriage house for the visitors and guests. Well-known local landowner, Mr. Will Hambly owned the property in the thirties and forties.

Today, the home has been restored and updated but maintains many of the historic features including the original window panes with all their detail and imperfections, wide baseboards, wood floors, two stair cases and wraparound porch with rough timbers visible underneath.

2699 Conc. 7 – south side

The Sons of Temperance built the Tyrone Orange Community Hall around 1880. The hall was used for many social functions, meetings, concerts and travelling shows. The building was one large room with an anteroom on each side and a balcony above. Sunday school picnics and other social events were held west of the hall in a park area. The Sons of Temperance closed down around WWI and remained this way until 1926 when it was renovated with financial help from Mrs. George McLaughlin. The Hall

became Tyrone Community Hall run by an elected board. The Sons of England Lodge held their meetings here until the 1930s. The first Orange Lodge in Tyrone was created in 1855 and later moved to Bowmanville. The second Lodge (#764) formed in 1904. Today the Hall is owned and operated by the Tyrone Orange Community Hall Board. The Board consists of members from three groups: Loyal Orange Ledge (#764 Long Sault), Loyal Orange Benevolent Association #1244, and the Royal Black Perceptory.

2702 Conc.7

The Tyrone Community Foundation Garden's history began with funds donated by Elizabeth Staples to Tyrone Church for a stained glass window in memory of her grandson, Otho Staples, who died in action in WWI. However, in 1926, the Church Board decided to use the funds instead to build a much needed metal and concrete shed. The foundation was that of a driving shed was used to shelter horses and carriages during church services (please take note of the tie rings in the concrete walls). From 1947-1950 the shed was used as an ice-skating rink. Some people remember church suppers and dances in the shed and even a greased pig contest! In 1952 the shed roof was sold. The foundation remained and the building was unused for many years. In August, 2000, more than 100 volunteers made generous donations of time, materials and vision to create the garden you see today.

2704 Conc.7

John Gray sold this property to his brother in-law, John McClung. John McClung's sons, John and Thomas, owned the first general store in Tyrone. Later, they sold it to their cousin John Gray Jr. The McClung boys, John, Thomas and James, eventually moved to Bowmanville to establish the McClung Brothers Dry Goods Store. William's family lived on Bethesda Road. His 10th child, James, worked at the Gray's store and was known as Jimmy the Shop Boy. In 1901 he retired to Winnipeg where he became the father-in-law of the famous Nellie McClung. The McClungs and the next owner Robert Hodgson both donated land to develop the church. This house once had a verandah across the front.

2701 Conc. 7 -south side

This 1 ½ storey framed house was built by James Pooley. James and his brother Jack grew up in a small house on the northwest corner of Taunton and Liberty, known as Pooley's Corner.

2707 Conc. 7 –south side

The home was originally a 1 ½ story frame home occupied by the Wm. Brimicombe family, the Gardiners and later enlarged by Albert Hawkey. The church drew its water from this property's well.

2712 Conc. 7

Central Boot and Shoe Store was another popular business in Tyrone; owned by Mr William Henry Hicks, for over 40 years. In 1866 Hicks, with his wife and son, travelled to Canada and stayed in Guelph, Ontario for a short time before moving to Tyrone. He advertised in the Canadian Statesman promoting his products that were purchased in Toronto. Men's, ladies' and children's shoes and boots priced at one dollar and up. WH Hicks was the caretaker of the Tyrone church for 43 years.

2718 Conc. 7

James and Anne Branton lived here for many years after emigrating from England in the 1870s. James was called Gran-fer by many children.

2722 Conc. 7

Richard Branton and his wife, Sarah, came from England with the first six of nine children around 1870. Richard was the local hog butcher and farm labourer. He was known for his threshing of peas with a flail.

LOT between 2722 and 2726

George Lewis owned a Carpet and Weaver shop on this lot in the 1880s. The Lewis family came from Ireland in 1873 with the 4 oldest of 7 children. George was considerably older (by 30 years) and mellower than his wife. Mrs. Jane Lewis clashed with the neighbour Mrs. Curtis and the school's Head Master on many occasions.

2726 Conc. 7

The Salvation Army was posted here for a decade disbanding in 1895. Hoidge and Sons did plaster work in the renovation of the building in 1887. The Army band played music up and down the main street even during the Methodist Church service. The Salvation Army also conducted open air services in front of the hotel. Their short stay in Tyrone was from lack of support.

2723 Conc. 7 –south side

The S.S. #18 has been four apartments since it closed in 1969. The first school on this lot was built in 1840 as a two story wooden structure. A home on the west side caught fire and it spread to the school and burned it down in November, 1891. Classes were temporarily held in the Sons of Temperance Hall now known as the Tyrone Orange Community Hall. The school was built by Andrew Pennington, a General Contractor, from Hampton. Tyrone SS#18 opened in the fall of 1892 complete with a furnace, basement, slated roof and red brick exterior. The main floor consisted of the senior and junior rooms and the teachers' cloakroom. The basement was the student cloakroom, playroom and the coal bin. This school was designed in the Queen Anne Revival style.

2732 Conc. 7

This home once housed the John and Elizabeth Hoidge family of 6 sons and 4 daughters. John Hoidge was a stone mason and plasterer. The family later moved to Toronto where John and John Jr. continued the business including ornamental marble and cement decorating. Hoidge and Sons worked on the interior of the King Edward Hotel in Toronto.

2734 Conc. 7

Thomas Curtis, a carpenter, lived here. The next owner was Miss Penfound who decorated the house up with flowers and a white picket fence in front.

2736 Conc. 7

The Pollard, Hooper and the Scott families lived here. The home had a wire fence along the front and young children could not resist the sound of a stick clack along the fence.

2737 Conc. 7 –south side

This brick home was built for the Bible Christian Church in 1858. The church's former location was north of the village at the Tyrone cemetery. The old wooden church was moved to the back of this lot for a stable. The church merged with the Wesleyan Methodist (Tyrone United) in 1884. The building became the parsonage until it was sold in 1945 to the Philp family. Families of the Bible Christian Church included: Vanstone,

Hellyar, Elliott, Curtis, Pollard, Cole, Brent and Branton . The bay windows, arched windows and the decorative bargeboard date to the conversion into a parsonage.

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Painter, Glazier, Paper-Hanger, &c., &c

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Residence--Next door east of the Bible Christian Church, TYRONE.
Tyrone, March 8th, 1869. 22-1f

2741 Conc. 7-- south side

The driveway was a road allowance that was never developed to the south.

James Bingham was a labourer before he ventured into insurance.

2738 Conc. 7

Known as the Double House many families lived here during the late 1800s. Two well know families were the Thomas Jardines, from the corner of Liberty and Conc. 6 and Peter Werry from Bethesda.

2744 Conc. 7

This house and lot to the east once held two framed homes. On the west side was John Doney who sold Bell Organs from Guelph, Ontario, as well as sewing machines and watches. He was also a Sunday School Superintendent. The lot to the east was the home of retired farmer Hooper and later lived in by John Phare and his wife Georgina Collacutt. John Phare died in 1900 leaving Georgina with 3 children under the age of 4.

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Bowmanville, Feb. 2rd, 1882. 5-1y.

2743 Conc. 7 -south side

Built in 1895 by Mr. Philp who also built a carpenter shop to the east where the driveway is. Thomas Gardiner and his son Ben were both well- known carpenters. They worked on the new school, homes and barns. Ben operated the shop for a short time.

2745 Conc. 7 -south side

Joseph and Jane Moore settled in Tyrone in 1856. Joseph purchased this property in 1877 from George Smith. It is not known whether the "cottage" was built by Smith or by

Moore. Joseph was a local teamster who transported products from the mill, passengers, mail, parcels and medicine between Tyrone and Bowmanville. Joseph's son Byron (Barney) married Sarah the daughter of the blacksmith, George Emmerson. Another son, William H (Billy) married Rhoda Walter. Rhoda's father was Charles Walter, who was a teamster with Joseph. The first Post Office in Tyrone was established in 1852 by John Gray. Billy Moore carried the mail from Tyrone to Bowmanville from 1883 until 1924 when the 5th rural route of Bowmanville was established. He then delivered the mail to each resident's mail box but continued to pick up passengers and deliver special items for the people of Tyrone.

LOT west of Byam's General Store

From 1854 to 1883, John Hellyar was a cobbler in Tyrone. His shop was located west of the former hotel. In 1830, John was born in St. Eval, Cornwall, England. He was five years old when his father died and John was forced to start earning his own keep. John apprenticed with Mr Brenton, the local shoemaker. In 1850, the Brenton family and John emigrated to Cobourg and two years later, Brenton's daughter, Catherine and John were married. In 1854, the couple moved to Tyrone to start a family and build a shoemaking business. The top of the shoes were hand sewn and the soles nailed on by wooden pegs or iron nails. Year round employees included the Manning and Sampson families. In 1883, after 29 years of business in Tyrone, the Hellyar family sold the shop to an employee, John Manning. The Hellyars lived at 7037 Liberty St North and raised six children. John Hellyar was one of the founder/leaders of the Tyrone Bible Christian Church and an enthusiastic member of the Sons of Temperance. The family moved to Bowmanville and continued the shoemaking trade.

J. HELLYAR'S

OLD and RELIABLE

BOOT and SHOE STORE,

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Stands in the front rank

in good goods. in right

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Cash purchases.

To prove the above correct, he invites all his old customers, and the public generally, to call, examine and compare goods and prices with either town or country. His home-made work is favorably known, both far and near, and has established its own reputation, and at present is fully up to the past.

16-1f

JOHN HELLYAR.

Tyrone, April 28, 1882.

2748 Conc. 7

The building was built in 1835 as a hotel for the travellers and lumber workers making the trip up Manvers Road (Liberty Street North) to the bush . It was operated by Mr. Varcoe and later by Mr. Moyse.

Frederick Gideon Byam was from a large family headed by a Methodist minister from Myrtle, Ontario. In 1887 Frederick with his wife Clarrissa rented the store which was on the south east corner. In 1894 the Byams bought the hotel and converted it into a general store by adding the verandah and the shop in the front. The Byam family operated the store until it closed in 2003.

Blacksmith Shop



George Emmerson bought the shop and home from Charles Trick in 1856. His neighbour to the east was Thomas William's wagon shop. A few years later William was steaming some sleigh runners and a fire started. It spread to the framed blacksmith shop burning it to the ground. In 1860, Mr. Trenouth, from Hampton, built the present day blacksmith shop for Mr. Emmerson. The stone building was built with granite fieldstone, arched doorway and paned windows. George Emmerson and his wife Elizabeth raised a family of 6 children at the home just north of the shop. Robert McCullough apprenticed with Emmerson from 1888-1891 and once heard of Emmerson's death, on Oct 31, 1895, he returned to Tyrone to purchase the blacksmith shop and house. The blacksmith shop remains in the family.

6859 Clemens Road -south east corner

The store at the east end was first built and operated, not very successfully, by Charles Trick. The business was left vacant for a while. In 1867 Glover and Prust opened a general store and tailoring. The Elliot family owned and operated the store at various times. In 1886 Stephen Clemens built and operated a new store until 1889. The location continued as a store as well as a butcher shop for a few more decades. It sat empty until it was torn down in 1931.

PROPERTY FOR SALE IN TYRONE.

The Store, Dwelling, Stable and Driving house and about three-fourths of an acre of land situated in the village of Tyrone, and known as Elliott's store, is offered for sale All in good order. For terms and conditions of sale apply to JAMES BINGHAM, Insurance agent, Tyrone, or to SAMPSON, KENNEDY & CO., 44 Scott st., Toronto. 17-11.

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TYRONE.

Tyrone, Nov. 2nd, 1871.

Credit: Kim Vaneyk, Tyrone Resident