

Tavistock - Shakespeare and points in between

1

Our trip starts at the five corners in Tavistock. Please park your car and walk to the front of the Post Office.



Tavistock Celebrates 100 Years in 1948 (above) and 150 years in 1998 (below)



In Tavistock everything of consequence happens at the five corners, known as “the village square” in days now long gone. From celebrations marking the end of world wars to parades with marching bands for every possible occasion to special events recognizing our history and heritage, it all takes place at the spot where Tavistock got its start.

Our history is recorded in many different ways. Without question the Lemp Studio Collection ... over 4,000 glass negatives starting in the late 1800s showcasing people and places in Tavistock and the surrounding community ... is an unmatched resource. As you travel on this shunpiker be sure to check frequently for Lemp Studio Collection photos that may provide a slightly different or broader view or a photo of the same location but from a different era. You can search by category or you can specify a particular name or location or event. You can see the collection in either a list or a grid view.



The northeast corner is where it all began. A woodcutter in Sebastopol named Henry Eckstein heard a rumour that the railroad might be coming one mile to the south. In 1848 he moved one mile south and built a log house for use as his home and tavern. He called the new place Freiburg after his birthplace in Germany. In 1855 the name changed to Inkerman after a famous battle in the Crimean War. In 1856 the first train locomotive roared through. Shortly after, in 1857 coincident with the establishment of a Post Office, the name changed to Tavistock.

The northeast corner has seen many changes over the years. In this postcard from 1923 the curbs are being installed coincident with the road being paved.

To learn more check tavistockhistory.ca ...

- (1) Newsletters - YESTERDAY Volume 20, Fall 2012 ...Tavistock’s first businesses.
- (2) Newsletters - YESTERDAY Volume 5, Winter 2006 ... Emerson Weitzel’s General Store
- (3) Postcards and the related story in (3) Newsletters - YESTERDAY Volume 34, Spring 2019



The current Post Office location on the southwest corner was once Valentine Stock's General Store (1884-1917). At the Stock establishment, (at left) as at all the general stores, you could buy everything from rubber boots to shotgun shells. Valentine Stock was a school teacher, a merchant, a part owner in the flax business in Tavistock, an East Zorra Township Clerk and an elected Member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for two terms.



Business transactions of all manner have taken place at the five corners. Before the days of automobiles livestock auctions were held right on the road. This view (top right) is looking at Hope Street East and Maria Street. Seigner's Harness Shop (no longer standing) is seen in the background.

To learn more check tavistockhistory.ca

(1) Street Names, Part 1, for the origin of the Woodstock Street name



Without question, the most well-known building in Tavistock is the red-brick Gothic style structure that has sat proudly on the corner since 1871. Fred Krug named it The Glasgow Warehouse in 1874. In the early years it boasted a general store on the ground floor with a millinery and tailor shop above. Up to 20 people worked at the store. The grocery section was so busy that some years 3 train cars just of sugar were delivered for sale at the Glasgow Warehouse. The building housed the local post office and Tavistock's first telephone exchange. For many years it was the 5 cents to \$1 Store.

See more and learn more check tavistockhistory.ca

(1) Newsletters - The Tavistock Mail - Volume 101

A long list of businesses have operated on Hope Street West. In this photo circa 1923 we see (from the left) George McKay's Grocery Store, Lemp's Drug Store, R.E. Appel's Jewellery Store and Hugh Hotson's Shoe Store.

Taking center stage is Tavistock's best known landmark, the fountain.



Learn more check tavistockhistory.ca

- (1) Newsletters - YESTERDAY Volume 31, Fall 2017 Tavistock - It Was 1917
- (2) Features, page 2 for the story Village of Tavistock Horticultural Society 1923 - 1947

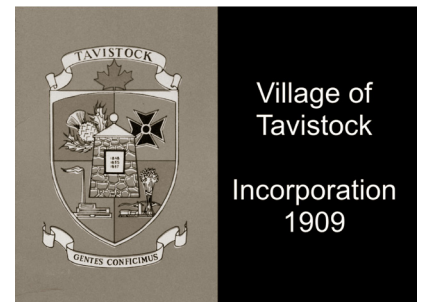


For many years the Commercial Hotel had pride of place on the northwest corner where the Hasty Market is today. Imagine pulling up to this imposing edifice in your horse and buggy. The Commercial had 43 rooms available for rent, a dining room that sat 50 guests and the services of a dentist who set up shop at the hotel every Wednesday. Of course there was an elaborate well-stocked hotel bar. Tavistock has always liked its beer. Take a close look at the flag. The owners flew the German flag ... the flag of their homeland and most of their patrons.

Learn more check tavistockhistory.ca ...

- (1) Newsletters - YESTERDAY Volume 26, Fall 2014 ... Beer, bonnets and boxcars
- (2) Features, page 3 for the story World War 1 Ends, Tavistock Celebrates

Before you return to your car stop for a moment at the cairn in front of the Post Office. It commemorates Captain Henry Eckstein, our founder, and records the important years in the life of the village. Do you remember from earlier reading what the years represent? While the dates are important the Tavistock Crest is more meaningful. It's not a common sight these days. The Scotch Thistle represents the people from Scotland that settled in our community. The Maltese Cross signifies the immigrants from Germany. The sheaf of wheat showcases our farming heritage and the smokestack talks to our factories. Gentes Conficimum, the slogan, tell us that we accomplish things by working together. That was true in 1909 when the Village of Tavistock was incorporated and equally true today.





Time to get back in your car and head north on Woodstock Street. Stop at the Dental Office at 48 Woodstock Street North.

2

This is an interesting stretch ... some buildings long gone and some still standing. From the left: house at # 86, the original Baptist Church (now Men's Club Hall), Kalbfleisch Furniture Warerooms (now Francis Furniture), two houses (now parking lot), house # 56 still standing, Vance Meat Market and H.Yost (now Dental Office and house # 46). Henry Yost, carriage builder, bought the building in 1896 and added two additions to accommodate a new carriage and cutter showroom. Samples of his vehicles are displayed on the street.

Kalbfleisch & Schaefer Planing Mill & Furniture Factory stood cross the street in the area that is now Yantzi's Feed & Seed and parking lot. Kalbfleisch & Schaefer were the principle carpenters for Trinity Lutheran Church in Sebastopol.

In 1906 the building became Zimmerman Brothers Box Factory. Zimmermans was a multi-faceted family business starting in 1868 by John Zimmerman with a stove and heading plant and expanding to include a cooperage and sawmill. There was also a shoe store, a contracting business that is credited with building 14 houses in Tavistock and the Oxford Hotel (now



Zimmerman Bros., Residence and Factory, Tavistock, Ont.

Public Library) and in later years a fox and mink ranch. The Box Factory was considered a war-time industry in WW2. A peak of 130 employees worked 55-60 hours a week turning out anti-aircraft shell boxes, howitzer boxes, boxes for TNT and other applications. The Box Factory burned in 1956. The mink ranch was developed into a major enterprise.

The house shown here was the Zimmerman family home, later the Bonnie Brae Nursing Home on the site of what is now # 55 Woodstock Street North.



To see more and learn more check tavistockhistory.ca ...

(1) Newsletters - YESTERDAY Volume 8, Spring 2008 ... Zimmerman's: A Family Business

Drive north on Woodstock Street to Sebastopol (no sign). Turn left (west) on Line 29 and park just around the corner by the old part of the cemetery at Trinity Lutheran Church.

3

In the early 1850s the Woodstock Plank and Gravel Road was built from Bell's Corners (now Shakespeare) south to Woodstock. Concessions were built east and west from this corduroy road. The first would become known as Speck Strasse or Pork Street (now Line 33) and the second was called Hessen Strasse (now Line 29) because of the many of the early immigrants that had come from the Grand Duchy of Hessen in Germany. In 1855 Sebastopol was given its name after a battle of the same name in the Crimean War.

In the 1830s most of the immigrants to this area were German Lutherans. At first they worshipped in the home of a settler. This was the first congregation of any denomination of professing Christians in Perth County. In time a simple log structure that served as a church and school was built on the northwest corner of the then unnamed hamlet, now Sebastopol.



The congregation grew and in 1855 a new church, a simple post and beam construction 60' x 32', was erected west of the log building. They named it St. Dreieinigkeits Gemeinde (Holy Trinity Parish). Soon a larger building was again needed. Work on the brick church that stands today began in 1882 and the church was consecrated in 1884. Shortly after, in the tall steeple that can be seen for miles, a four-faced clock was installed ... the only clock tower in Perth County on a sacred building.

By the 1880s commercial trade in Sebastopol was brisk. The hamlet had grown and boasted a wagon-maker, blacksmith, cider mill and jelly factory, a weaver, several carpenters, dressmaker, shoemaker, saddlery, school, hotel, church and parsonage. One newspaper made the bold prediction that history would record the union of Sebastopol and Tavistock, forming a rival to the city of Stratford.

Perhaps the best known name in Sebastopol, at least from an historical perspective, is Wettlaufer. Mr. and Mrs. Eckhardt Wettlaufer lived on the northwest corner. Eckhardt (1845-1919) was a farmer, woodworker, wagonmaker and cider maker. The earliest known crokinole board to date was built by Eckhardt as a fifth birthday gift for his son, Adam, who was born in 1871. The family remembered that it hung on a bedroom wall, rarely used.

To learn more check tavistockhistory.ca

- (1) Newsletters - YESTERDAY, Volume 34, Spring 2019 ... Wettlaufer cider mill
- (2) Fact & Fantasy for information about Sebastopol
- (3) Postcards

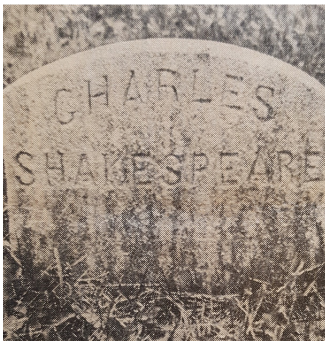
Before you leave Sebastopol take a walk into the cemetery. In the first row you'll spot a small tombstone with two poppies on it in front of three maple trees. The tombstone reads:

THESE TREES WERE PLANTED IN LOVING MEMORY OF CLARENCE KALBFLEISCH
FRANCIS WEITZEL ALFRED KINGSLEY
WHO GAVE THEIR ALL FOR KING AND COUNTRY 1939 - 1945

Each of these men, soldiers all, were killed in action in World War II and buried overseas.

For more information please check tavistockhistory.ca ...

- (1) Veterans. Search by surname.
- (2) Features, page 2 for the story D-Day — June 6, 1944



Turn around in the church parking lot, return to the corner and turn left (north) on Road 107 towards Shakespeare. As you approach Shakespeare stop at the South Easthope Township Cemetery, # 3901, on the right-hand side of the road.

4

In the very first row of the cemetery you will find a small tombstone with the name Charles Shakespeare. No dates, just the name. Charles was a foundling baby. One cold night in January in the 1860s a traveller passing by a hotel driving shed heard a baby crying. He found the baby in a manger. George Brown, the postmaster, and his wife gave the baby a home. The little boy needed a name. They called him Charles after the owner of the hotel and Shakespeare after the village. Little Charles died a few months later and was buried in the Brown family plot. The Presbyterian Church now stands on the property where the hotel and driving shed once stood.

Continue north to the traffic light in Shakespeare and hope you get there just as the light turns red to best see the building shown below.

The second building on the northwest corner used to be the Shakespeare Post Office. It's seen here all draped in bunting in recognition of Queen Victoria's death in 1901.

Turn left (west) onto Hwy 7&8 and continue to the Shakespeare Cairn which is on the right just past house number 2234A&B

5



Hail to the Pioneers of North Easthope.

The names on the cairn are predominantly Scottish ... Campbell, McTavish, Stewart and more. But not all. The early settlers came from different homelands with different customs. They quickly learned to work together to carve out a new life.

Shakespeare today is known as "the antiques capital of the world". You may wish to stay and browse a bit, enjoying the little shops. Or you may elect to head on to the next shunpiker destination.



Turn left (east) out of the parking lot, right (south) on Galt Street, left (east) on William Shakespeare Drive and right (south) at the stop sign to be back on Road 107. Continue south to Line 33 which is the first concession and turn left (east). Stop just around the corner.

Hands up if you knew you were parked in what was once called Balaclava. For a brief time in the 1870's and 1880's this was a thriving little settlement. There was a hotel, a cooper, some houses and a nearby church. If you know your history you will easily connect up Balaclava with Sebastopol and Inkerman (Tavistock) ... all battles in the Crimean War.

Continue to St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church which is # 1956 on the left (north) side of the road.

6

Nestled at the bottom of a knoll on "Pork Street" is the oldest Roman Catholic Church in Perth County. St. Anthony's is a gem of early architecture. Its walls were built of field stones carried from nearby fields and the lumber for the hand-hewn altar, wide-planked floors and sun-bleached pine pews were all wrested from the primeval forest. Erected in 1863, the simply-designed edifice has one entrance and three large windows on each side. A delicate, fan-shaped transom rises like a sun above the double doors and a steeple is topped with a stark, black wrought-iron cross of interlocking hearts. The stone church replaced a log chapel that was built there in 1839 on a plot of land gifted by local parishioner and farmer, Joseph Dietrich. Few Roman Catholics ever lived in South Easthope and services ceased in 1871. St. Anthony's is now part of the Avon-Thames Catholic Family of Parishes.



To learn more check tavistockhistory.ca ...

(1) Features - St. Anthony's among-the-tiger-lilies - assorted stories from various sources.



Continue east on Line 33 to Road 104 and stop on the corner.

7

The building on the northwest corner, # 3802, was once S.S. No. 2 South Easthope, known locally as Hartleib's School. "I remember going to my first Christmas concert. Ooh! What excitement. We went in a sleigh. A whole load of people and when we got to the school, more people. Wall to wall people. Everybody was there and the costumes and the recitations and the singing and Santa Claus. In later years they dressed up one of the Trustees with white whiskers and a red suit but that night I was sure there really was a Santa Claus. Who else would have a present for each child if it was only a brand new pencil or a comb and a Christmas package with an orange and candy and nuts." ~ *Memories from Carl Niebergall, a student at Hartleib's.*

To learn more check tavistockhistory.ca

(1) Schools ... download S.S. No 2 - Hartleib's School

Turn right on Road 104. Continue to the stop sign at Perth - Oxford Road and turn right (west) towards Tavistock.

As you approach the 15th Line you'll spot a Home Hardware store and several homes. This corner is locally known as Yantzville. Why? For many years pretty much everyone who lived here either was a Yantzi or was related to a Yantzi or worked at Yantzi Building Supplies on the corner.

You are entering Tavistock on Hope Street. Stop at The Renaissance building #199.

8



A woollen mill was established on this site in 1868. The best-known owner was J.G. Field. In 1903 the mill produced 12,000 pairs of socks a week. Production dramatically increased during WWI when a contract was signed with the US government for socks for the US Army. That contract kept the mill running day and night for six solid months. The woollen mill closed in 1987.

To learn more check tavistockhistory.ca ... (1) Fact & Fantasy

Continue west on Hope Street and at the five corners traffic light turn left (south) onto Maria Street. Stop at the corner of Maria and DeCew Streets in front of the Tavistock & District Historical Society building # 37.

9



The house at 18 Maria Street is an excellent example of the Queen Anne Style which was in vogue from approximately 1880 - 1910. Queen Anne features include contrasting building materials, different sized and shaped windows, gable and hip rooflines and a tower. This was once the home of Valentine Stock, the man you read about earlier in the shunpiker who owned V.S. Stock General Store on the five corners.

35 Maria Street as it appeared on a postcard in 1923.

The postcard showcases the Tavistock Public Library, a Carnegie Library opened in 1917, along with Tavistock's first Fire Hall and the village's one-cell jail. The Historical Society building (formerly the Public Utilities Commission building) had not, as yet, been built. The Tavistock Fire Brigade was formed in 1911.



The Tavistock Milling Company at 45 Maria Street

The history of the Tavistock Milling Company dates back to 1886. The history includes several setbacks (fires) and many successes. For many years the flour mill ran 24 hours a day; served as the market for all wheat grown within a 25-mile radius of the village; shipped coast to coast in Canada and had an export business to Scotland.

The Adam Ratz home at 9 DeCew Street was built in the early 1890s.

Mr. Ratz was a long-time owner of the Tavistock Milling Company. In the days before hydro in Tavistock the mill generated sufficient steam to heat and light the Ratz home by means of steam lines laid underground.



To learn more check tavistockhistory.ca

- (1) Newsletters - Tavistock Mail - Volume 102
- (2) Newsletters - YESTERDAY Volume 15, Fall 2010, for the story of the libraries in the village
- (3) Newsletters - YESTERDAY Volume 17, Fall 2011, for the story of the fire brigade in 1911



*This is the last stop on our shunpiker.
If it's a nice day you might want to spend some time in Queen's Park.
If so, drive to the next corner and turn left through the gates.*

9

*The Tavistock and District Historical Society
37 Maria Street, Tavistock, Ontario, Canada N0B 2R0
www.tavistockhistory.ca*

*That's all, folks. We hope you had a good time and learned a little bit along the way.
Now it's time to head home but not before you've stopped into one of our local eateries for a coffee and a cupcake
or a piece of pie or stay for a full meal and think about your next shunpiker.*