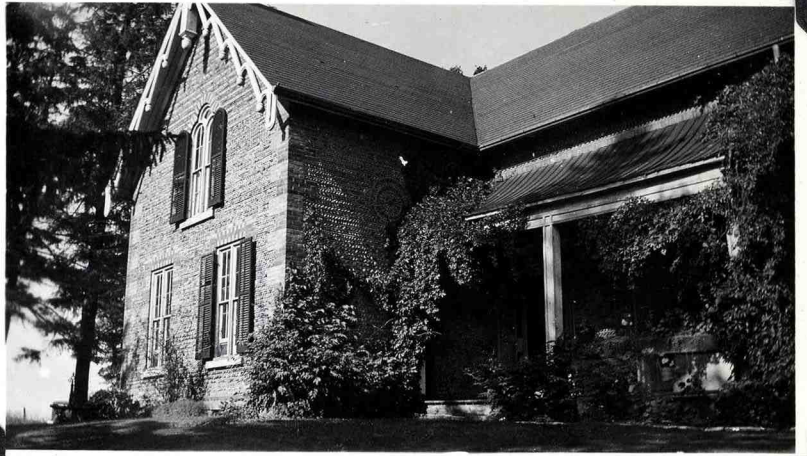


Spread (2yds X 2½yds)
with December 17-1834
worn in Lower corners
made by
Maria Marlatt Oille.



Home of Abner Chase
Built in 1871.

View showing
design of Cobblestones.



Home of John Oille in 1840.

CHASE

Abner Chase came from New York State in 1835 (when Isaac was fifteen years old) and settled in a house near where the cobblestone house now is, on Lot 22, Concession 4. This second house is said to be the only one of its kind in Canada and it took Isaac Chase two years to collect the stones, while clearing the land, and another twelve months before the house was completed in 1871. It is made entirely of stone; the walls are two feet thick with a facing of stones, the size of hens' eggs, forming the interesting pattern on the entire extent of the four walls. The mason work and the designing of the cobblestone pattern was mostly done by Isaac's uncle, Amasa Chase, who came from near Rochester, New York, where many cobblestone houses had been built. Amasa Chase was 78 years of age when he designed and built the mason work of the house. All the floor boards were whip-sawed from trees brought from the surrounding forests. The fence in front of the house was particularly attractive. It was an artistic iron fence set in a stone foundation. Later, a stone fence was built on the same base.

Abner Chase was one of the "Friends" in the section to have a successful barn raising without whiskey. Isaac's son, Oscar, was in possession of the place from 1903 until 1916 when W. H. Mills purchased it and is still owner in 1948. He made it the center of his farming operations and well-kept large apple orchards.

OILLE

John Oille was married to Maria Marlatt at the residence of John Marlatt, Talbot Street, St. Thomas, January 1837, by Rev. Mark Barnum of the Church of England. They settled at Jamestown where he had a blacksmith shop and made wagons, but soon moved to Sparta where he purchased the mud-walled blacksmith shop about 1840 - and the house opposite as a residence. When he purchased the shop, the original hand-hewed slab roof, shaved from Pleasant Valley cedars, was replaced by the first wooden shingle roof. In this shop he did wood-work, iron work, painting and made carriages and wagons. Mitchell's business directory states he was still there in 1864-5. A hand made horse-shoe that he fashioned in this shop is donated by Mrs. George Oille of St. Thomas.

In 1834 Maria Marlatt wove a lovely blue and white bedspread (pictured here). This is in the possession of her Grandson, Eric Oille, in 1948. John Oille's son, Fernando Oille, bought the Lake road farm (parts of lots 23 and 24, 1st Concession) from Mr. Dan Maynard - about 1860 and in 1905 he moved to Sparta, purchasing the Sarah Hickson place where he and his wife Adeline Baker and daughter Ethel Oille Bailey lived. At the latter's death in 1945 the property was purchased by Robert and Helen Harvey.

Fernando Oille's son, Eric, took possession of the Lake Shore farm in 1905 and resided there until he purchased the Eakins' store, Sparta, in 1921. He is still Postmaster in 1948, with his son, Norman Oille, managing the store.



Mrs. Margaret Minard

Born 1788.

Died 1889.



Home of John Minard



Chairs made in J. Minard's Factory



Serena Minard - awarded 1st Prize
as "Most Beautiful Grandmother in
America" by 'New Idea Magazine'

DAVID MINARD

Mr. David Minard and wife Margaret came to this section in 1822. Their home was what is called "The Baker Place" east of Russ' Corners. He died in 1865 at the age of 73 and the widow lived with her son John. "The Times-Journal says, at the time of the 100th anniversary of her birth, "Aunt Peggy was born near St. Catharines. Her grandfather came from Germany and settled in Rhode Island. Her father fought for King George at Bunkers' Hill. After the war, with other United Empire Loyalists, he received a grant of land in Canada. She died in March 1889 at the home of John Minard." A large number gathered at the Friends' Meeting House on the occasion of her funeral."

"Young Friends' Review" published the following; "Mrs. Margaret Minard celebrated the 100th anniversary of her birth, at the home of her son on Aug. 12th, 1888. Between 1000 and 1500 were present. The beautiful grounds seemed to be all in animation, especially under the trees where the tables were set heaped with luxuries. "Aunt Peggy" sat in a chair on the portico and above her waved the banners with 1788 - 1888 painted on them. She shook hands with five generations of her own children and conversed on matters that happened nearly a century ago."

JOHN MINARD

Mr. John Minard purchased Lot 17, Concession 5, from Colonel Baby and Lot 16, Concession 6 from the Crown. On the latter property he built the substantial brick house that is still in good condition. The brick of this house was made on the Baby land - Lot 17 - across the road. Oxen tramped the clay of which the bricks were made.

On this farm were many industries. Mr. John Tansley tells of the large building, just east of the house, in which chairs were manufactured. He worked at this trade for years. In one large room was the engine where the lumber was steamed and bent into required shapes. Another was the drying room to season the material and when ready it was planed and sandpapered and fashioned into rocking, dining-room and kitchen chairs. The two latter were of much the same style, with the dining-room chairs a little more elaborate. Edward Barrett put cane and splint bottoms in these chairs for years. Eight or ten men worked in this factory daily. The Minards served them dinners at a long table in their large farm kitchen. A saw mill and cider mill were also in operation. This was a busy place. At the time of Friends' Yearly Meetings he and his wife Serena, entertained thirty or more visiting friends for the week. Their covered wagon with seats along the sides and steps at the back made several trips daily to the Meeting House. Serena Minard was brought up by Presbyterian parents in New York City, but after coming to Sparta, she became a Friend and later an acknowledged minister.

John Minard died in 1891 in his 69th year.