



The house that 'covered' the log cabin for decades.



Jim Sykes removing the siding
from the log cabin.

































A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HOLDEN FAMILY

OF SANDWICH SOUTH, ESSEX COUNTY

The Holden family of Sandwich South Township, Essex County can trace its roots back to Lancashire County, England where for centuries these people were engaged in farming and the cotton textile industry.

The family of our ancestors which emigrated from England was that of Joseph and Mary Holden who departed the town of Bolton, Lancashire in 1829. With their seven children, they *departed Liverpool for Philadelphia on board the sailing vessel "Ann"* arriving at the port of Philadelphia in October of 1829. Sadly, Joseph died aboard ship and was buried at sea.

Several of the children settled in Philadelphia and remained there for life, others such as Mary and Joseph Jr., John and James travelled westward to Kentucky. In 1834 Joseph Jr. and Mary his mother purchased 50 acres of land in Campbell County in northern Kentucky and built a log house. James may have lived in Kentucky for a period of time but in 1837 he purchased land in south-east Indiana and with his wife Elizabeth proceeded to farm the land and raise a large family of ten children.

It was often recalled by older members of our family that James did not remain in Kentucky as it was considered a "slave" state while Indiana across the Ohio River was considered a "free" state. As James did not believe in slavery he purchased a farm located near Richmond which is the seat of Wayne County, Indiana located in the south-east part of the state.

As the years passed and the family increased in size a new problem forced James to make another difficult decision. The slavery question with all of its attending problems began to break up the union of the U.S. and caused families to disintegrate as individuals took sides in the cause of

slavery or freedom. The states of Kentucky, Tennessee and Indiana among others in the mid-west were greatly affected in the 1850's by the disruptive forces at work which were determined to declare succession and war for their cause.

As James's older sons were by 1860 of military age and their sympathies were apparently divided between the Union and Confederate causes he was forced to solve the problem by moving his family from Indiana and the impending war -after 24 years in that state. It is a testimony to the strength of James's character that all of his ten children accompanied him to Canada in 1860. James and Elizabeth and 7 of their younger children settled in the town of Sandwich where James operated a general store at the corner of Sandwich and Mill Streets for many years before he died in 1892. (Ontario census record 1871). James and Elizabeth are buried with several of their children in the old St. John Anglican Church Cemetery in Sandwich Town.

The older sons: John, Thomas and Charles all settled on farms in the township of Sandwich South as indicated by the Ontario census of 1871. James Sr. purchased land on Concession 6 in 1863 as indicated by the Deed Registry from the Windsor Registry Office. James Jr. and Thomas settled on farms on Lot 4, Concession 6 while John settled on Concession 5.

It was often stated by older members of the family that a log house was constructed near the road of Concession 6, lot 4. Joseph Sykes who purchased the log house and part of the original homestead in 1958 from Newton Holden was told by Newton that the house was constructed in 1865. That the house now on the Sykes property is the original 1865 home is difficult to prove but its type of construction is of that era according to experts and it matches the same style and size of a Holden log house still standing in Alexandria, Kentucky. It is similar in that the door and window configuration, length and width, two-storey levels and methods of construction would indicate a passing of knowledge or plans by family members. It is a fact that full two-storey log houses were not common in Kentucky or Essex County according to people who study such residences in both areas.

or plans by family members. It is a fact that full two-storey log houses were not common in Kentucky or Essex County according to people who study such residences in both areas.

It is probable that the log house was moved from its original site to its present location instead of being destroyed or dismantled. This is probably true when one considers the difficulty of constructing such a structure of oak logs with only hand tools. When the house was moved, we have no record but the two-storey brick home standing on the original property was built in 1885 by Williard Holden and the log house was probably used up to about that date. We do know that Newton, Williard's eldest son was given the land south of the brick house in 1911 (for one dollar) and that he resided in the log house for some 30 years.

As was the custom in Kentucky and Ontario, the log house's exterior was covered with siding and various modifications were made to improve the appearance.

The Holdens who descended from the single family of James and Elizabeth prospered and increased in number to such an extent that the 6th Concession became known as the "Holden Road". All were industrious farmers and law abiding citizens and some took part in local government administrations.

Today, (1994), the number of Holdens residing along the road are few in number but the original property is still owned and occupied by Ronald Holden- thus the land has been in possession by the Holden family for 132 years. That this family was among the pioneer families Essex County is indisputable and the remaining family members have a strong attachment for and a desire to preserve the log house.

Respectfully submitted by:

**Robert Holden
1630 Elmwood Ave.,
R.R.3, Belle River,
Ontario NOR 1A0
727-6045**

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INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE RESTORATION OF THE LOG HOUSE

- Jimmy Sykes spent many unrecorded hours removing numerous layers of siding as well as add on porches, additions etc. to get down to the original log house structure. This had to have been an enormous undertaking.
- The deteriorated roof was removed by Heritage Village members and the log structure moved to Heritage Village in November, 1995.
- The house was mounted on a cement block foundation in order to help preserve the structure for many years to come.
- House dimensions are 28 feet by 20 feet, and constructed as one of the few true two storey log cabins in this area.
- The restoration required that the following be done:
 - a. New roof and rafters;
 - b. New windows and most frames;
 - c. New floor, both up and down;
 - d. Complete rethinking of the logs, both inside and outside;
 - e. Replacement of a number of the support beams;
 - f. Removal of the stairway to the upstairs; and
 - g. Building of replacement doors.
- Once teardown started, it was obvious that the stairway to the upper level had been added after the house was built. In all probability, access to the second story was via a ladder type stair when the house was constructed.
- The new windows were built locally by Jim Dufour, owner of Replacement Windows Manufacturing in Windsor, and thought to be as close as possible to the originals.
- Rethinking of the logs proved to be a major task and required 63 bags of mortar, which when mixed would total nearly 5000 lbs. Estimated manhours for the chinking was approximately 200.
- Removal of the old interior started in early May 1997, and work has continued fairly steadily right up to the day of the reunion. Most of the work was done by family and Village volunteers, although it was necessary to hire one student for two weeks in order to complete the project on time.

- The restoration to date, not counting Jim Sykes work or the move of the house and the construction and mounting of the new roof has taken 580 recorded manhours, with no doubt many unrecorded.
- While the major work involved with the restoration is virtually completed, much remains to be done in the way of landscaping, floor and wall finishing, furnishing, and mounting appropriate signage to show the visiting public where the house is from, and to give a bit of it's history.

A special thanks is due to the Sykes family for donating the home to the Village and allowing the Holden family the opportunity to help restore it, thereby leaving a bit of history for their descendents.

This fact sheet has been prepared by the Committee for the Holden reunion/picnic and it is hoped that it is of interest to all the attendees.

LANCASHIRE HOLDENS

Baptized - St. Peter's Church
Bottom, Lancashire

-James 1804-1892
Eliz. Barr 1815-1892 S.J.

Thomas English 1806-1871
Ann (?) M.V.

Mary Ann 1808-1883 M.V.

Joseph III 1810-1892 A.C.

Charles 1815-? Ohio

John 1816-1899 A.C.

Elizabeth 1824-?
Philadelphia? N.Y.

INDIANA - 1836-1860

John 1837-1920
Rhoda (Evans) 1841-1893

Thomas 1839-1928
Sarah 1841-1923

Charles 1845-1923
Emma 1845-1923

Mary 1845-1856
George Mason 1856-1956

James 1842-1910
Amy (Vollans) 1849-1930

Newton 1851-1885
Unmarried

William 1854
Jane (Purvis) Manitoulin Is.

Jane 1849-1923
James Westaway 1848-1916

Janet 1851-
Robert Tweedle (Detroit)

Joseph VI 1861-1895
Unmarried

Albert 1861-
(Chicago)

Frank 1862-1931
Marg. Pettypiece

Rosetta 1863-1950
William O'Neil

Viola
Edward O'Neil

CEMETERIES

H.R. - Heavenly Rest - Sandwich West

S.J. - St. John - Sandwich Town

Mt. V. - Mt. Vernon - Philadelphia

S.S. - St. Stevens - Sandwich South

A.C. - Alexandria - Kentucky

Vic. - Victoria - Windsor

Elvi 1898-1970
Lawrence Elliott

Lorenzo 1899-1962
Beatrice Stevenson

Esther 1900-1919

Clarence 1902-1975
Winifred

Robert 1904-1961
Alice 1911-1995

Carl 1905-1920

Raymond 1909-1986
Evelyn Jones 1917-1981

Ruby 1912-1988
Geo. Sicker Died 1946
Joe McFarland 1939

Ivan 1913-1974
Olive Paquette

Sylvia 1916-1992
Lawrence Meridith

Russell 1917
Mildred

LANCASHIRE
HARRY
ANNY ELLIOTT

LYLE
ROBERT
TED
MELBA
LINDA

RUTH 1938-
KEN 1940-
ALICE 1941-
JAMES 1944-
ALBERT 1946-
VIOLET 1948-
LORNE 1950-
BEAUNO 1955-
MURRAY 1956-
MAIDA 1958-
RUDNEY 1961-
MADON 1963-
NOLAN 1967

SHIRLEY
MARION
BILL

EDIE 1940-
HOWARD 1941-
VERON 1943-
MARLE 1945-
JENN 1946-
DOUG 1947-
HELEN 1951-
ROBERT 1956-
EDWARD 1962

DONNA
JUDITH

CARL 1944-
JOE 1946-
BARB 1948-
ELENNOR 1950-
BRUCE 1952-
GORDON 1955-
RICHARD 1956-

HOLDEN FAMILY GENEALOGY CHART

David 1940-1979
Ines -

Dorothy 1942-
Lloyd Dorey - 1953-1990

Garnet 1944-
Sandy Nelson -

Earl 1946-
Elizabeth Dorey -

HERITAGE VILLAGE

This old house has a new home

Story and photo by Patti Lauzon

Special to The Star

SANDWICH SOUTH TOWNSHIP



A log house built in the 1800s in Sandwich South Township was moved recently to Heritage Village to be renovated and kept as an historical attraction

For most people, watching your family's home put on blocks and moved away would be devastating.

For Robert Holden, it was a joyous event.

Last week, Holden watched as his family's 19th-century log house was moved from its original site on Con. 6 in Sandwich South to its new home at the Southwestern Ontario Heritage Village, located on Arner Townline near Essex.

"We know that my great, great grandfather, James Holden, bought the land in 1863," he said. "We believe the house was built in 1865."

The two-storey building still has the original log siding. It was owned by the Sykes family. Dorothy Sykes recently donated the house to the village.

"She could have sold it and got some money for it," Holden said. "But it was really something for her to donate it to the village."

Sykes and her husband actually lived in the log house and raised their four children there. The house hasn't been lived in for more than 10 years.

Year-long project

Holden and his family have been working at getting the house moved to Heritage Village for more than a year. Prior to the home being moved, the roof was removed.

The work was completed by volunteers from the village.

The move itself, which included hiring a house-moving company from Blenheim, cost approximately \$10,000. Holden and his family have raised \$11,500 for the project.

"The money has come mainly from family and friends."

Although the village applied for

funding to renovate the log house, it was denied. Holden said more fundraising is still necessary in order to have the house renovated.

"We're requesting more donations because there's still quite a bit that will need to be done inside the house."

For Holden, the restoration of his family's 19th-century home is one way for him to keep his family's name and history alive.

"It really means a lot to me. When my family moved there, it was nothing but bush. But they built up the land and prospered there."

Holden is still researching his family's history and plans on compiling the information into a book one day.

For more information about the Holden log house, phone 727-6045.