



Stuart Home

This home, originally from Wales, was owned by Dr. James Stuart, a surgeon in the King's Royal Regiment of New York. Dr. Stuart had received a land grant of five hundred acres in the Township of Osnabruck, in 1783. It was on this land that the Stuart home was built in 1810, and five generations of Stuarts lived in this home on the Stuart tract, between 1810 and 2003. In 1957, the home had to be relocated to higher ground at the north end of the Stuart tract due to the flooding which would be taking place as a result of the Seaway and Hydro Project which began in 1954, and was completed in 1958. The home was lifted from its original stone foundation and placed on a cement block foundation. At the time of its move, the house was covered in a grey, brick-like fibre siding, known as "insul-brick". The architecture of the building has not changed significantly since it was first built, with the cornice returns still evident on the gable ends. The one and a half storey home has a dormer over the front door. Upon careful examination, it has been revealed that the interior walls indicate Upper Canada construction techniques of the early 1800s. Over the original cedar slabs, piled in an off-set fashion, a mixture of straw and clay-plaster was applied. Over the years, the walls have been covered with gyprock, paint and wallpaper.

The home was donated in 2004 to the Society by Cheryl(Stuart)Griffith, the niece of the late Donald and Wilda Stuart. The move to The Lost Villages Museum took place in May of the same year. The move was made possible with the support of the South Stormont Council, Greg Sullivan who moved the house free of charge, and David Brown Const. who provided the new foundation, also free of charge. The Lost Villages Historical Society hopes to have the home open by July 1, 2008, which would be the 50th anniversary of Inundation Day.

The Stuart home is significant to the members of the society because it was in the Stuart home, around the kitchen table on Feb. 11, 1977, that Fran Laflamme put forth the idea of forming The Lost Villages Historical Society.