

Baker Family – Community Chat

By Linda Braun, Macedon Historical Society Secretary and Macedon Town Historian

On July 12, 2022, the Macedon Historical Society was host to the Baker Family. Anne Gilson and her brother Kenn Baker joined several others at the Macedon Academy to share some history and stories of their family. Anne provided us with pictures of their homes and both she and Kenn shared special remembrances of their family.



How often have you driven down Canandaigua Rd, directly across from Magog and noticed the beautiful quaint cobblestone with a barn beside it and pond out front?

Well, you can thank the Baker descendants. When they immigrated to our area in the 1830's they settled on land at what is now 815 Canandaigua Rd. Known as the Baker Homestead. In 1833 the 102 acres of land was purchased for \$2660. The homestead was built in the 1840s, gathering cobblestones from Lake Ontario, it took 10 years to build. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places under J & E Baker – John and Elizabeth. These were Anne and Kenn's Great-Great-Great-Great Grandparents!



This house was home to several generations of Bakers. Following the Bakers in 1932, Henry Marsh (Macedon Town Supervisor from 1958-1961 lived there with his family. Alfred E. Ernest Family, former owners of the Manhattan Restaurant (Rochester) purchased the property in 1964. It remains in the Ernest family today.

Kenn and Anne's father grew up in the cobblestone. He went to school at District Schoolhouse #2, known as "Trapbrook". It was located on Magog Rd, right near the creek known as Trapbrook. Kenn shared how multiple generations grew up in the homestead. At least 2 generations were together most of the time.



(Portion of the Wayne County Map of Macedon 1904)

The Bakers also made their mark in Pumpkin Hook. Before High Peaks Contractors of WNY, and Townsend Grocery, there was a general store owned by Albert Baker. That building has gone through many changes, there is so much history in "the Hook."

In the 1932, the Baker's sold the home they had lovingly built and moved to "The Farm" at 760 Route 31 in Macedon. It is across from the old Mobil Tech Center. This property had 104 acres. The farm was primarily a dairy farm, but there were 12 acres of muck used to grow potatoes, carrots and celery.

Anne shared that their cousin Don Baker owns a plane and was able to capture this terrific aerial photo of the property.

Stories were told about the school bus stopping during harvesting season and a load of kids would get off. Almost 2 dozen – “that is what you did.” Kids were paid 10 cents a bushel to pick potatoes. Kenn shared that it was way for his dad to supplement his income.



Story telling

continued during our chat, one had to do with the barns that were built on “The Farm”. The farm had a barn facing east-west. It was built from salvaged lumber from the old East Rochester Car Docks (Merchants Despatch Transportation Company). They used to disassemble old train box cars. The wood was about 8’ long, so when you look at the walls, you’ll notice they overlap. Like many of those days, their parents were very frugal. Another funny story was that in 1977 the family had contracted with

Agway to build a 3-sided barn. “It had just been built, facing south when a “freak wind” lifted it up and turned the building - “Wizard of Oz” style, took it over the shop and dropped it into the yard where it sits today. Since the building hadn’t been signed over yet, Agway returned and rebuilt it facing east!” Luckily it is still in the same spot

Remember “party lines?” The Bakers were on one with the Powers. When you picked up the phone, if someone else was talking, you set it down and tried again later!

The Macedon Historical Society was thrilled to have the Bakers join us and share their story. Would you like to chat about your family? We’d love to hear from you. There is a lot more information on our website at <https://www.macedonhistoricalsociety.org/>

J. and E. Baker Cobblestone Farmstead is a historic home located at [Macedon](#) in [Wayne County, New York](#). The [Gothic Revival](#) style, [cobblestone](#) farmhouse consists of a 1½-story, five-by-three-bay, rectangular main block with a 1-story side ell. It was built about 1850 and is constructed of nearly perfectly round, medium-sized, lake-washed cobbles. It was listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) in 1995.^[1]



Source: “J. and E. Baker Cobblestone Farmstead.”

Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._and_E._Baker_Cobblestone_Farmstead.