



# A SOCIAL AND LEGAL HISTORY OF 585 BESSERER STREET, OTTAWA

DAVID LAFRANCHISE AND MARC LOWELL

13 April 2015

A Social and Legal History of 585 Besserer Street, Ottawa

© Marc Lowell and David LaFranchise, 2015

Website <http://househistory.tricolour.ca/>

New photographs (as credited) © Richard Guy Briggs, 2015

Marc Lowell

208-215 Wurtemberg Street

Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8T1

[bookbookmaggie@gmail.com](mailto:bookbookmaggie@gmail.com)>

David LaFranchise

3 Salisbury Place

Ottawa Ontario K2P 1G6

[david.lafranchise@sympatico.ca](mailto:david.lafranchise@sympatico.ca)

Cover photograph: 585 Besserer Street, Nov 2014 (courtesy Richard Briggs)

The authors would like to record their thanks to the following people for their help in preparing this document:

Joan Hives for her information on her mother, Marion (Sutherland) Hives and the Sutherland family.

Mark Gehrlich for the photograph of 585 Besserer in 1896.

The Gatineau Valley Historical Society, Louise Schwartz, Director, and Margaret Coleman, Meech Lake Historical Association, for information on access to Meech Lake before the First World War.

City of Ottawa Archives

Ottawa Room, Ottawa Public Library

Andrienne Vallee of Beechwood Cemetery

Sally Coutts, Co-ordinator of Heritage Services, City of Ottawa

Richard Briggs for photography

## Table of Contents

The Neighbourhood	3
The Sutherlands build 585 Besserer	6
Sutherland Family Life 1889-1989	8
After the Sutherlands, 1990-	15
Sources for more information	18
Other Ottawa house histories by Marc Lowell and partners	20

## The Neighbourhood

The story of Sandy Hill begins with two brothers, René-Léonard and Louis-Théodore Besserer, sons of an immigrant military surgeon who arrived in Quebec City from Alsace or Germany in the 1780s. Both brothers distinguished themselves as officers in the militia of Lower Canada during the War of 1812. In particular, Louis-Théodore carried out several sensitive missions for the Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief, Sir George Prevost, and his private secretary, Dominick Daly.

At the end of the War, both brothers were awarded land grants. Louis-Théodore chose his land in Horton Township, northeast of what is now Drummondville, Québec, but in 1823, René chose lot D in Concession D of the Rideau Front of Nepean Township (the area now bounded by Rideau Street, Waller Street, Laurier Avenue and the Rideau River). Like most of his neighbouring landowners in Nepean, René-Léonard was content to hold his land as a speculation for future sale.

René-Léonard died in 1831, leaving his land to his brother and heir, Louis-Théodore. Middle-aged and newly married, Louis-Théodore prospered both as a notary in Quebec City, and from successful investments in property and business, aided by his continued friendship with Daly, now Provincial Secretary (in effect “minister of everything” in the government of Lower Canada). He also sat in the Legislative Assembly as member for the County of Québec.

At the same time, new prospects for the land in Nepean opened. The same year that René-Léonard received his grant of land, Lord Dalhousie, Prevost’s successor as Governor-General, bought the land immediately to the north of Besserer’s as the site for a future settlement, and in 1826 Lt-Col John By of the Royal Engineers arrived to begin construction of the Rideau Canal. By took control of the Government’s lands for the Board of Ordnance (the department of the British Government in charge of military installations), laid out streets and began leasing city lots.



With all his other business and political interests, Louis-Théodore did not take a particular interest in his new property beyond appointing an acquaintance, a Mr Corbin, as his agent in Bytown.

Bytown in fact did not become the flourishing military and commercial centre projected by its founders. The British government cultivated American friendship after the War of 1812, reduced the garrison in Canada and cancelled plans for a citadel at the mouth of the Canal. The Canal itself never became a commercial success, for as Upper Canada grew, the flow of commerce moved from the Ottawa River to the St Lawrence. The city lots on the Ordnance property were more than sufficient for the village of 1,300 inhabitants in 1837.

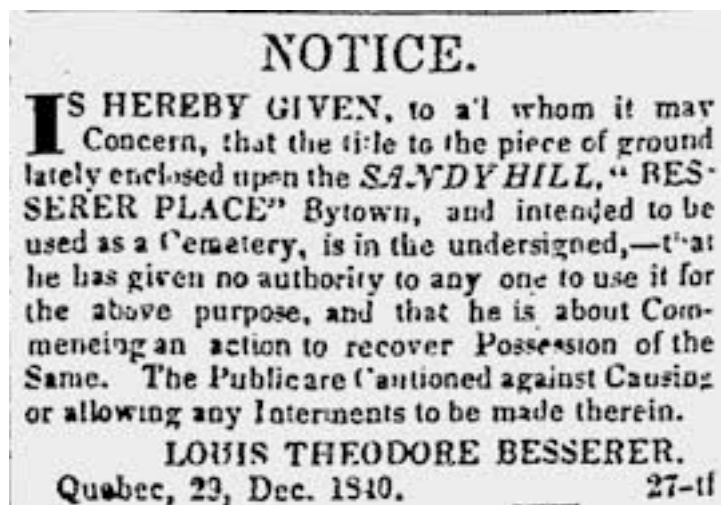
Corbin did his best to lease lots to farmers and market gardeners, but failed to collect rents. He was unable to stop the pilfering of the standing timber, or discourage squatters in the resulting clearings. When he eventually resigned, Besserer apparently decided that a more determined agent could develop the property successfully as city lots. In 1838 he chose William Stewart, a businessman who had come to Bytown as early as 1827, as his new agent.

Stewart had the property surveyed into “Besserer Place”, a name that was used alongside Sandy Hill as late as the 1920s. He extended the north-south streets of Lowertown south into the property. By had named the streets for military figures and members of the Royal Family, including Wurtemberg for Charlotte, Queen of Wurtemberg<sup>1</sup>, eldest sister of King George IV. Stewart then laid out five new east-west streets, which after consultation with Besserer, were named Besserer, for the owner; Daly, for Besserer’s patron Dominick Daly; Stewart, for the agent; Wilbrod, for Besserer’s eldest son Louis-Wilbrod, and Theodore, for Besserer himself (Theodore was later renamed Laurier Avenue when the Laurier Bridge was built over the Canal).

Stewart immediately put the more desirable lots on the market, but with no success. He did his best to collect rents, renew existing leases at higher rates, and clear off squatters

---

<sup>1</sup> This was the French spelling, usual in English at the time. Today the German spelling Württemberg is used.



and other uses that stood in the way of urban development. The most controversial of these actions was the displacement of the Roman Catholic cemetery on Rideau Street, which stood on land granted by René-Léonard in 1830, but blocked the extension of Friel Street (then called Gloucester) into Besserer's lands. In 1839 Stewart

wistfully advised an impatient Besserer "...if this place [Bytown] were to grow, there is no doubt but eventually it [your property] would be valuable". Stewart and Besserer perservered, among other things reaping a modest success from granting land to public institutions and churches, and so encouraging the sale of near-by lots.

At the same time that he was taking more interest in Bytown, Louis-Théodore faced a number of personal and social set-backs in Québec City. His wife died in the early 1840s after some 12 years of marriage, leaving him unconsoled and with a young family. In addition, he felt himself ostracized by the tight little society of Québec City. Besserer had supported the moderate or Québec wing of the Patriote group in the Assembly. With the failure of the armed revolts of 1837-1838, he was suspected by those who supported the Government of supporting the rebels, and attacked by the more radical patriotes for not taking an active role.

In 1843, Besserer announced that he would close his notarial practice in Québec, move to Bytown, and assume management of the estate himself. He made the actual move in 1845, building the fine stone house on King Street (now King Edward Avenue) at the corner of Besserer St.

With better economic times in the 1840s, Bytown grew substantially, to 6,300 inhabitants by 1848, but the fortunes of the town really changed in the 1850s, with the establishment

of new mills to supply softwood lumber for the American market, and the decision of 1858 to move the provincial capital to Ottawa (as it had now been renamed).

Despite the growth in population, at a time when there were few alternatives to walking, Sandy Hill was still too distant from the centres of activity at the Chaudière and the Rideau Falls to attract many residents. The actual move of the Government to Ottawa in 1865 brought modest growth, especially the construction of a few big houses for senior officials, and established Sandy Hill as a better-off neighbourhood with a greater mix of languages and cultures than most other areas of Ottawa. Even so, it was not until electric streetcars began running on Rideau Street in 1891 and Laurier Avenue in 1895 that the many vacant lots in Sandy Hill really began to fill.

## The Sutherlands build 585 Besserer

Lot 54 North Besserer Street (NE corner of Besserer and Wurtemberg) was one of several that Besserer had pledged against debts. In 1851 the lot was seized by court order and sold for £20 5s (\$81 at the exchange rate when decimal currency was adopted in 1858). After passing through several hands, the lot was purchased by Andrew Sutherland in May 1895 for \$450. The same day he sold the east half of the lot (site of 587 Besserer) to John Joyce, a resident of Heney Street and a major landowner in Lower-town and Sandy Hill.

Andrew Sutherland was born in Scotland; the location, the names of his parents and even the date are all uncertain. He himself at different times indicated his date of birth as anywhere from 1856 to 1869, while the burial record at Beechwood states 1863<sup>2</sup>. This could mean that he really didn't know, or that he had an independent attitude to nosey companies and governments; this is certainly consistent with the erratic entries for the household in the City Directories. He definitely arrived in Canada in 1885, coming di-

---

<sup>2</sup> in the 1891 census, Andrew gave his age as 35, in 1901 as 52, in 1911 as 52, in 1921 as 61.





585 Besserer Street in 1895-1896, before the construction of 587. Robert Maclaren bought the vacant lot at 587 in 1896 for \$225 and sold the lot with the house to Arthur Leggatt in August 1898 for \$1860.

rectly to Ottawa and living at 608 Rideau St Site of the strip-mall at the southwest corner of Rideau and Wurtemberg).<sup>3</sup>

In 1888 Andrew brought his bride Margaret Brown, newly arrived from Scotland with her sister Lizzie and possibly other relatives, to the house on Rideau Street. The date of marriage is unknown, and there is no marriage licence on record in Ottawa. It's still

---

<sup>3</sup> Attempts to link Andrew to other family in Ottawa have been inconclusive. There were many Sutherlands in the city at the time, and they all used a limited number of given names e.g. John Sutherland of 510 Rideau St named his eldest son Andrew; our Andrew named his son John. In the early 1900s there were John Sutherlands living at 40, 293, 493 and 585 Besserer. The Alexander Sutherland (and son Ian) living at 589 Besserer were not relatives.

possible that they may have met and married as soon as she arrived, but more likely that they had known each other previously, indeed may have been married in Scotland. In any case, their first child, Elizabeth (Bessie) was born in August 1889.

Andrew must have arrived with savings, or had help from other family. He reported his annual income in 1891 as \$600 but was able to buy a lot for a net \$250, and build a house on it (probably at the cost of another \$1000 or so) without taking out a mortgage.<sup>4</sup>

A photograph of the new house and the fire insurance map of 1912 both record a 2 1/2-storey plain frame house parged with rough-cast stucco, likely sitting on a timber foundation (definitely no basement), with a 1 1/2-storey kitchen wing at the back, and a substantial one-storey shed sheathed in board and batten (likely a summer kitchen) continuing off the back wing.

## Sutherland Family Life 1889-1989

What do we know of the household? The City Directories never listed Margaret, and don't list the children till they were grown and working (and sometimes not even then), so we have only the periodic check of the Census and occasional mentions in the press to peek at the make-up of the family.

Andrew described himself throughout his life as a cabinet-maker. From his arrival he seems to have worked out of his home, starting as a partner or employee of Daniel Storey, a wood-turner, but also advertising his services for furniture repair and the manufacture of window screens.

This was just the period when new machinery was changing furniture-making from a handcraft to a factory activity. The initial effect of mechanization was to favour large workshops, with individual master craftsmen now working as employees. Cabinet-making skills remained important, and workers were relatively well paid.

---

<sup>4</sup> No mortgage was registered. There was no legal requirement to do so, but creditors usually did it to protect their claims in case of default.



Advertisement in the Ottawa Journal of 17 April 1894. Similar ads ran regularly into 1895.

By 1896, Andrew had gone to work for J. Errat Furniture at 34-36 Rideau Street (now the site of the ramp from Mackenzie Avenue to Colonel By Drive), and in 1900 he moved from Errat's to Harrison and Campbell at 42-44 O'Connor Street

(site of the office building on the northwest corner of Queen Street)<sup>5</sup>. In 1904 he moved again to the Library Bureau of Canada, a manufacturer of office furniture at 21-25 Sussex Street (now the site of the South African High Commission), where he is described as "machinist", and in the 1921 census as "plater".

It seems that Andrew continued to carry on his own small furniture making and repair business on the side. Grand-daughter Joan Hives noted that his work, particularly small tables, was prized, and that she had had some examples in her own home.

Andrew and Margaret had six children: Elizabeth (Bessie) born 1889, Margaret born 1891, Marion born 1894, John (Jock or Jack) born 1899<sup>6</sup>, Dorothy born 1902 (died in infancy) and finally Jean, born in 1909.

We know that Andrew was an active member in the St Andrew's Society, a social club and friendly society for Scots. As well as the social aspect, friendly societies like this provided the only social safety net before the creation of health and unemployment insurance. Like hundreds of others, Andrew donated money towards the cost of the

---

<sup>5</sup> When Harrison and Campbell gave up making furniture and became a retail store, they moved into the former home of the Colonial Stained Glass Co at 403 Bank Street and changed their name to Colonial Furniture. The business is now located on Cyrville Road. 403 Bank St is now Staples.

<sup>6</sup> The burial record at Beechwood Cemetery gives the date of birth as 17 March 1879, but the census data and the newspaper announcement of the birth agree on 17 November 1899.



monument to the Boer War now in Confederation Park. In 1916, both Andrew and Bessie are recorded as contributing to the collection for Belgian relief, donating \$3.75 between them.

In 1891 Andrew described himself as a member of the “Free Church”. Although the various Presbyterian churches in Canada had united into a single body in 1867, this could mean that the family attended Knox Presbyterian Church on Albert Street at Elgin, or St Paul’s Church on Cumberland Street (today’s St Paul’s-Eastern United Church), both of which had been linked to the Free Church before the Union. By 1921, the family described themselves as Congregational, and occasional mentions in the press suggest that the family was active in groups associated with First United Church on Kent Street, the former Ottawa Congregational Church.<sup>7</sup>

Andrew also kept a revolver in the house. This emerges from a bizarre incident in the summer of 1899. Arthur Leggatt, the resident of 587 Besserer and a reporter for the *Ottawa Journal*, was walking home down Daly Avenue when he heard breaking glass. He found a burglary in progress at the home of the painter Charles Eugene Moss, who was away with his family for the summer in Murray Bay (La Malbaie, Quebec). Leggatt walked to the maternity hospital at Rideau and Wurtemberg and used their telephone to summon the police. Ultimately four constables and a sergeant arrived. Unsure how many burglars were in the house, the Sergeant “secured a revolver” from Andrew Sutherland, and the five policemen, Leggatt, Sutherland and another neighbour, Charles Stapledon, surrounded the house. Eventually the burglar was cornered on the roof and surrendered, but couldn’t get down until a ladder was found. The next day, Andrew found the burglar’s lamp behind the house on Daly (*Journal* 1899-08-02 and 08-04).

The family enjoyed a comfortable life during the “naughties” and the teens. The children all appear to have done at least some years of high school at the Ottawa (now Lisgar) Collegiate Institute - the only public high school in the City. In 1908 Bessie and Margaret, now 19 and 17 year old respectively, were first given their own listings in the

---

<sup>7</sup> First United now shares a building on Richmond Road with All Saints Anglican Church, Westboro; the Kent Street building is now the Trillium Hall of the Chinese Cultural Centre.

City Directory, Bessie as an assistant in the new Carnegie Library (now the Main Branch of the Ottawa Public Library) on Metcalfe Street and Margaret as a clerk. Elizabeth later took a job as a stenographer.

In 1912 the family built a “pretty new cottage on the hill” at Meech Lake, and the social columns record the regular arrival of Andrew, Margaret, Bessie and Jean, but not Jack, Marion or daughter Margaret. Those not working in town would stay for the entire summer, while Andrew would stay for two weeks and come up on weekends. Margaret Coleman of the Meech Lake Historical Association suggests that the family likely took one of the four or five trains that ran each day to Chelsea, then hired someone to take them by wagon or buggy the 10 km or so to the Lake. It’s possible that the Sutherlands had a motorcar, but before the First World War cars were extremely expensive to buy and operate, and relatively rare. The social columns were discontinued about 1918, and it is not known when the Sutherlands sold their cottage or whether it still exists.

At the age of 26, in 1917, Margaret married Samuel Lawrence, a banker, and the couple moved shortly afterwards to St Lambert, a suburb of Montreal.

The First World War touched the family directly in 1917, when Jack, only a few days after his 18th birthday, was accepted for the Royal Naval Air Service and left to train in Britain. The RNAS recruited perhaps 1,000 of the approximately 7,200 Canadians who went overseas as air crew between 1914 and April 1, 1918, when the RNAS was merged with the Army’s Royal Flying Corps to form the Royal Air Force. The RNAS was picky about its Canadian recruits, preferring immigrants from Britain or their children, and those with an academic background (university if possible), in short, men who were or could be turned into gentlemen.

Jack returned safely from the War and rejoined his family. As of the 1921 Census, Andrew, Margaret and all of the surviving children except daughter Margaret were living at home, aged between 10 and 31, and all except Jean, the youngest, were employed.

Andrew, still with the office furniture company, was earning \$1800 a year, and Elizabeth now a stenographer, \$1740. Jack was working in the Daly Building (Rideau and Mack-



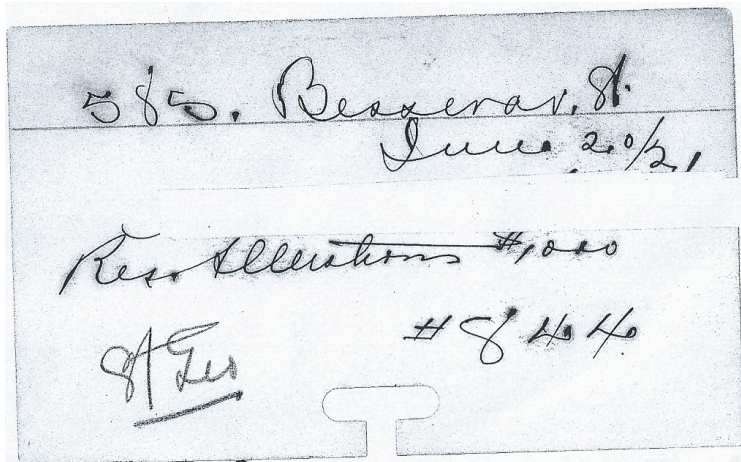
enzie) as a clerk for the Division of Pensions in the Department of Pensions and Public Health, at a salary of \$1100. Marion was teaching, with a salary of \$1040. Between Normal School and teaching she had worked as a telephone operator at the Canadian National/Grand Trunk ticket office at 91 Sparks Street (the building remains on the northwest corner of Sparks and Metcalfe), where she met George Hives, one of the ticket agents. They were married in 1922.

In 1921 Andrew and Margaret undertook major renovations to the house, spending \$1,000 to jack the house up, build a new foundation with a basement, replace the stucco siding with brick, replace the shingle roof with tile and add a covered verandah to fill in the angle between the main house and the kitchen wing.



Upper Rideau Street from an aerial photograph probably taken in 1925-1927. Wurtemberg Street is unpaved. The pitched roofs of 585 and 587 show much darker than the flat roofs of surrounding buildings. The new alignment of Rideau Street and the new Cummings Bridge (1919) can be seen just to the right of the crescent of houses on the original alignment of the street. The former Protestant General Hospital (today's Wallis House condominiums) can be seen at the NE corner of Charlotte Street, as well as Macdonald Gardens and the Cobourg Barns of the Ottawa Electric Railway (site of today's Macdonald Manor apartments). A large hangar-like building sits at 608 Rideau Street, the site of Andrew Sutherland's first workshop.

Family life was shattered, however, by the death of Margaret in 1923 from cholecystitis, a swelling and infection of the gall-bladder, a painful and often fatal condition before the age of antibiotics. Jean, the youngest, was only 14 at this point, and Joan Hives notes that Bessie left her job to manage the household and look after Jean. The City Directory



Building permit for the renovations of 1921, the only document from this period on the City's file for 585. Most such records were lost when the City Hall burnt in 1933. The actual renovations can be worked out from the current state of the house and a comparison of earlier and later Fire Insurance Maps.

for 1927 shows Bessie once again working outside the home, now as a clerk at the International Joint Commission at 63 Sparks Street.

Andrew also left the office furniture company in 1922 or 1923 to work as a carpenter with the Department of Public Works.

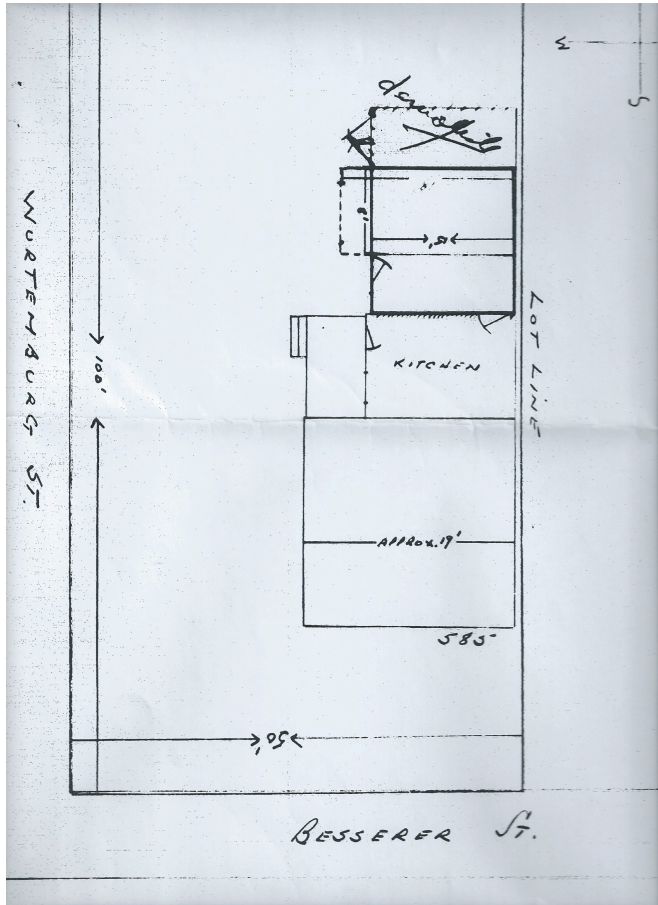
Jean seems to have finished high school and perhaps attended a course at a private business college. She is first

listed in the City Directory in 1929, working as a stenographer for the Ottawa Electric Company, 54-60 Sparks Street (today 56 Sparks).

In August 1932 George Hives died suddenly, aged 42, leaving his widow Marion and a daughter Joan, and naming Andrew Sutherland as his executor. Rev Robert Turley, the Rector of Trinity Anglican Church on Bank Street in Ottawa South, conducted George's funeral in the parlour at 585 Besserer. The body was then buried at Beechwood Cemetery. Joan Hives recalls that she and her mother stayed at 585 for about a year until they were able to find a place of their own. She also notes that the Sutherland family "didn't like her father" and that relations between Marion and her siblings remained strained for some time even after his death.

The household was also touched by the Second World War. Andrew's grandson John Lawrence, son of Margaret and Samuel Lawrence, joined the RCAF, following the ex-

ample of his uncle and other relatives (including Hugh Campbell, the later Air Marshal and Chief of the Defence Staff, who was a cousin on the Brown side). In 1942 he was declared missing and presumed killed. Andrew himself died in hospital in October 1943 from an attack of acute gastro-enteritis. According to the Cemetery record, he was 80 years old. He named Elizabeth as his executor, and left the house to Elizabeth and Jean as joint tenants.



**Plan of 585 Besserer showing the shed demolished in 1950 and the new garage that replaced it.** *From the building permit in the City files.*

Jack continued to live in the house with Bessie and Jean. At some point the old summer kitchen/woodshed had been converted into a garage. In 1950 this "attached garage" was demolished and replaced with a longer but narrower free-standing garage in its place, the building permit recording the estimated cost as \$100. At some point before 1956 the tile roof installed in 1921 was again replaced with a shingled roof.

Jack is not listed in the City directories after 1962, suggesting that he may have spent his last years in a retirement or nursing home. He died in the summer of 1965 aged 65<sup>8</sup>. Elizabeth died in 1968, leaving the house to Jean, who was still working as a private secretary at Ottawa Hydro.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Not 85 as recorded at Beechwood, see note above.

<sup>9</sup> The City bought Jean's former employer, the Ottawa Electric Company in 1946 and merged it with the municipally-owned Ottawa Hydro-Electric Commission.





**585 Besserer Street in February 2006.** *Photo by Ron Roy for the City of Ottawa.*

Jean lived alone in the house for 22 years, until her death in 1990 ended 95 years of residence by the same family. She bequeathed the house to her friends Arthur and Eileen Tinker, who sold it at once to Steve Perry and Anne-Elizabeth Charland, for \$195,000.

### **After the Sutherlands, 1990-**

Perry and Charland planned a series of major renovations to repair and modernize the house. They proposed to open up the attic with new stairs, a skylight and dormer and convert it into a master bedroom, and also to add a family room. The work was begun, but it was discovered that the contractor had not secured the proper permits from the City. The neighbours complained that run-off from the new dormer fell on their property, and that in winter chunks of ice fell from the roof. In addition, a new land survey showed that the eaves of 585 Besserer actually overhung the lot next door, that the garage and fences encroached on the lot of 587, and that the hedge on the street side was on the road allowance.

In September 1993 Perry and Charland signed an agreement with the neighbours at 587 Besserer to install eavestroughing to direct the run-off on to their own property, construct an ice dam to prevent the accumulation of ice on the roof, demolish the 1950 garage by the year 2000, ensure that any replacement buildings respected all building and site-planning standards, and replace the existing fences with a new privacy fence along the proper lot-line. In return, the owners of 587 granted an easement to permit the encroachment of the dormer. With this agreement, the City granted building permits, re-



585 Besserer from the the south-east, Nov 2014, showing the new dormer built 1990-1994.

quiring only that the shingle siding on the dormer be replaced with metal cladding. The building inspector certified in August 1994 that all work was complete.

Work on the foundation for the addition had stopped during these negotiations, but was resumed in 1994 by new contractors Gordon and McGovern. To abide by set-back rules, the foundation was moved 2'9" west and the remaining hole filled with sand. The addition as built at the north end of the kitchen wing included a new entry and vestibule (the old door directly into the kitchen was bricked up), a bathroom, pantry and family room with fireplace. The side verandah was altered to serve the new entrance. To pay for the renovations, Perry and Charland took out mortgages in 1995 and 1996.

Perry and Charland divorced shortly thereafter, and the house was transferred to Charland as sole owner in 1998.

In preparation for the first designation of heritage districts in 1982, the City assessed all buildings in Sandy Hill, and rated 585 Besserer as “grade 2”. The house was not included in any of the heritage districts designated at that time.

In preparation for a new heritage plan for Sandy Hill (available in draft since 2010), the heritage value of the house was re-assessed in 2007, using a new scale based on age, prominence of past occupants, architecture and “contribution to neighbourhood context”. The house once again received a modest rating of 53 out of 100 points (“group 3”). The rating noted its age, the fact that it had been occupied by the Sutherland family for over 50 years, and its moderate value as a “typical example of a vernacular cottage...with its simple, steeply-sloped roof, simple brick facade and windows ... with stone sills and lintels.”



585 Besserer from the north-west, showing the addition of 1994, deck and porch.

## Sources for more information

### ***For the Besserer family and the origins of Sandy Hill***

Dictionary of Canadian Biography (available online without charge), articles on Louis-Théodore Besserer and Dominick Daly.

Elliott, Bruce *Nepean: the City Beyond*. Nepean: City of Nepean, 1991 - *A history of the former City of Nepean. useful because much of the former City of Ottawa was at some point within the municipality of Nepean, and much of the development of Nepean was an extension of or response to the growth of Ottawa.*

Ouellet, Fernand - *Lower Canada 1791-1840*. Toronto: McLelland and Stewart, 1980 (abridged translation of *Le Bas-Canada 1791-1840*. Ottawa: Université d'Ottawa, 1976 - does not deal specifically with Besserer, but background on the social, economic and political world in which he moved.

Taylor, John *Ottawa, an Illustrated History*. Toronto,: Lorimer, 1986 - *a work with more of a focus on themes of urban history in Canada than the Elliott history.*

### ***For the Sutherland family***

Ancestry.com - *a database of family-related information from multiple sources (directories, newspapers, census, birth, marriage and death records, etc. In some cases records (e.g. census, marriage registers) have been posted as a whole, in other cases individuals post information they have come across. The institutional version can be consulted without charge at the City of Ottawa Archives.*

Beechwood interment records - *obituaries for families buried in the Cemetery. Similar records are available at Notre-Dame and Pinecrest.*

City Directories - *published annually (or more recently biennially) can be consulted on micro-film at the Ottawa Public Library, or in paper at Library and Archives Canada. The Directories list the names of residents house-by-house. Older volumes also indicate occupation, sometimes age and relationship, and whether the resident was an owner or renter (as noted, the information for 585 is always incomplete, presumably at the desire of Andrew Sutherland). Especially in later years, Directory information is not always reliable.*

Coleman 2015 - *e-mail from Margaret Coleman of the Meech Lake Historical Association on access to Meech Lake before the First World War.*

Hives 2015- *telephone conversations with Miss Joan Hives, grand-daughter of Andrew and Margaret Sutherland.*



*Ottawa Citizen* - articles from the *Ottawa Citizen* newspaper can be searched on Google News, a subscription-based service which can be consulted without charge at the Ottawa Public Library.

*Ottawa Journal* - articles from the former *Ottawa Journal* newspaper can be searched on Newspapers.com, a subscription-based service which can be consulted without charge at the City of Ottawa Archives.

Wise, S.F. *Canadian Airmen and the First World War*. Ottawa: Minister of Supply and Services, 1980. - The first volume of the official history of the RCAF, it provides background on the Royal Naval Air Service and its recruitment operations in Canada.

### ***For the land and house***

*Canadian Contract Record and Builder*, 1894-1898- weekly paper listing building permits, tenders and contracts for cities in Canada. Available on microfiche at Library and Archives Canada.

City of Ottawa file on 585 Besserer Street. A fee (currently \$65) is charged for consultation. Documents can be copied for a further fee. The file currently contains the building permits from 1921, 1950 and 1991-1994.

City of Ottawa Sandy Hill Heritage Study, draft report June 2010. The Descriptive Sheet for 585 Besserer Street has been included with the electronic version of this document.

Ontario Land Registry Office 4, Judicial district of Ottawa-Carleton, located at the Court House on Elgin Street. Abstract records trace all instruments (deeds, mortgages and other contracts) registered against a property. All records before the mid-to-late 1990s can be consulted without charge on microfilm. More recent records are online. Instruments can be consulted without charge, but a fee is charged to consult the abstracts. 585 Besserer is the west half, and 587 Besserer the east half of lot 54, Besserer Street North, registered plan 6, which can be found on microfilm reel AR-29. The instruments consulted were:

RO 4934 seizure of the lot for debt, 1851

CR 43766 sale to Andrew Sutherland May 6, 1895

CR 52329 sale of East half of lot with house to Arthur F Leggatt 1897

CR 249106 transfer of 585 to Elizabeth and Jean Sutherland, 1944

N554299 transfer of 585 to Arthur and Eileen Tinker, October 1990

N670454 agreement with owners of 587 Besserer, September 1993

\*\*\*



## Other Ottawa house histories by Marc Lowell and partners

Available for reference in the Ottawa Public Library Main Branch, Ottawa Room

Posted online at <http://househistory.tricolour.ca/>

“Caplans in the Capital”: the Caplan family

### ***Centretown***

46 Cartier St (former Carmichael Inn and Spa)  
25 Gilmour St  
43 Gilmour St (Clarke House)  
45 Gilmour St (Fagan House)  
59 Maclaren St (Harris House)  
660 Maclaren St (available online through [johnkingteam.com/blog](http://johnkingteam.com/blog))  
18 Queen Elizabeth Driveway (Haydon House)  
25 Somerset St W (Addams House)  
300 Somerset St W (Mamma Teresa’s Ristorante)  
110 Waverley St  
117 Waverley St (available online through [johnkingteam.com/blog](http://johnkingteam.com/blog))

### ***Lowertown***

507 and 509 Clarence St  
524 Clarence St / 102 Wurtemberg St  
18 and 20 Rockwood Ave  
78 and 80 Wurtemberg St

### ***New Edinburgh***

113 Crichton St

### ***Sandy Hill***

89 Daly Ave (Gasthaus Switzerland)  
27 Goulbourn Ave (available online through [johnkingteam.com/blog](http://johnkingteam.com/blog))  
27 Sweetland Ave (available online through [johnkingteam.com/blog](http://johnkingteam.com/blog))