

## Heritage Research Report

### Stone Pillars at Entrance to Firelane 2, west side of Pinecrest Rd.

Lot 17, Concession 1, Humberstone township

North Side Pillar – adjacent to 414 Pinecrest Rd

South Side Pillar – adjacent to 394 Pinecrest Rd

Prepared by L.R. Wilson Archives staff, 3 March 2025

### Historical Background:

In 1897, Buffalo real estate broker Frank Fulton Brown purchased 40 acres along the lakeshore in Lots 19 and 20, Concession 1, Humberstone township from local farmers. While the land was unsuitable for farming, it was perfect for cottages, as Brown recognized, and its beaches were considered far superior to those on the American side of Lake Erie. Brown quickly set out to develop a cottage community by having the 40 acres surveyed into 26 waterfront lots, with the plan registered in 1901, and even before the registration, he had already sold several lots. He named the community Lorraine after his only daughter. Brown built his own cottage at the western edge of the community, and the first set of entrance pillars.<sup>1</sup> Brown's former business partner, Walter Dann, became one of the first buyers, and soon a number of Dann's relations also purchased lots, and in turn, their relatives and business colleagues also became Lorraine summer residents. With very few exceptions, the people of Lorraine for its first three decades were part of a tight network of prominent family and business connections from Buffalo, New York which included political and business leaders.

The Lorraine community of cottages was originally limited to the lakeshore on Lots 19 and 20, Concession 1, Humberstone township between Lorraine and Weaver Roads. However, in the early 1900s, it expanded east, along the lakeshore into Lots 17 and 18. In 1908, Frederick L. Rohr Pope, Buffalo resident, decided to retire to Canada to become a gentleman farmer, and purchased just over 50 acres of property, including farm buildings, on the south-east corner of Lot 17 from Samuel Knisley which included the waterfront. Until at least 1913, the Pope property had no through access from the west and the rest of the Lorraine community, but by the time of Frederick Pope's death in 1915, the Pope farm was considered to be part of Lorraine, as the lane from James L. Crane's cottage property in Lot 18 was gradually extended eastward. Pope's daughters, Virginia and Ada, sold their property to Lorraine owner, James L. Crane in 1923 who sold part of it just a few weeks later to Bryant and Albertine Glenny. [See Appendix #1] Within a few more years, several more lots were sold on the eastern side, and

---

<sup>1</sup> The Brown cottage, 1001 Firelane 1, and the pillars on Firelane 1 at Lorraine Road received a Heritage Designation from the City of Port Colborne in 2003.

<https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/oha/details?id=7235&backlinkslug=advanced-search&fields%5Blocation%5D=28%2C327>

cottages built by new owners, filling in the gaps between the original Crane and Pope properties.

The Lorraine summer community thrived, thanks in large part to the close ties among the summer residents who were all American. They had their own flagstop station, called Lorraine, on the Grand Trunk Railway; several daily trains in both ways connected the residents with Buffalo. As automobiles became commonplace, the private roads, Firelanes 1 and 2, on the north side of the sand hills, became the connecting links between the cottages, rather than the beaches. Tennis lessons and tournaments, baseball games, horseback riding, 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnics, and Memorial Day parties were all part of a busy social calendar throughout the summer. The community remained exclusively American-owned until the Second World War. While many of the cottages have now become year-round dwellings, there is still a strong sense of community among the people of Lorraine.

There are no contemporary records regarding the construction of the pillars at the entrance to Firelane 2 off Pinecrest Rd. Based upon historical tradition and circumstantial evidence, construction dates for the pillars span from 1908 to the mid-1920s. It has been suggested that Frederick Rohr Pope may have had them built between 1908 and 1915 to mark the entrance to his farm and lakefront property, or that they were built when the private lane opened access across Lots 17 and 18 from Weaver Rd to Pinecrest Rd. Another possible date for construction given is c.1923 when Crane purchased the Pope farm, or very soon after, when he sold several more lots in that section. Crane's involvement in the stone pillars at Pinecrest Road seems likely for several reasons. Crane was involved the construction of the concrete bridge with similar spherical finials on Firelane 1 at Weaver Road, and he likely had the stone pillars on Firelane 2 at Weaver Road built, since they were at the entrance to his cottage property. The materials and construction of the pillars at Pinecrest Road are similar to those at Weaver Road, although the pillars are much smaller.

#### **Architectural Features:**

The pillars at the Pinecrest Road entrance to Firelane 2 are square, approximately 5 feet or 1.5 metres high, and are made of rough-hewn local stone. They were originally constructed with mortar made with beach sand and have shallow (1 foot or 30 cm) stone foundations. The stonework is capped with a cement capstone, and a cement finial is centred on the top of each pillar, fastened with a layer of mortar. The spherical shape of the finial is reminiscent of the much larger spherical finials on the Firelane 1 bridge. [See Appendix #2] The pillars are of a simple, rustic design, and reflect the popularity of the Arts and Crafts movement of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The style of these pillars, and the others marking the entrances to Lorraine are very much in keeping with the rustic style of many of the early cottages in the Lorraine summer community.

The pillars have been repaired and repointed in the past with cement mortars and have suffered damage from vehicles passing into the narrow lane. The south pillar has been adversely affected by a tree which is undermining it.<sup>2</sup>

**Historical Significance:**

While the pillars at Pinecrest Road are the most modest of the three sets of pillars, they are part of the tradition that seems to have developed of marking the entrances to the private lanes of the Lorraine cottage community with pillars, and at the west end of Firelane 1, with a bridge with square pillars and spherical finials. The access to these private roads was made deliberately narrow by the placement of the pillars, a physical and visible cue that they are entrances to private property. Their historical significance lies in their context and connections to the history of the Lorraine summer community, and as part of the visual symbols which the Lorraine community used to mark the entrances to the private roads to their cottages. The construction of the stone pillars at the entrances of Lorraine may also have been inspired by those built at the entrance to Tennessee Ave by the residents of the Humberstone Summer Resort Company.<sup>3</sup> The modest size of the Pinecrest pillars can be attributed to the fact that, in the early decades of the Lorraine summer community, this entrance was the least used by the summer residents. Most of the cottages were on Firelane 1, and the residents would have used the Lorraine Road entrance to Firelane 1 since it was closest to the train flag stop.

---

<sup>2</sup> A report on the condition of these pillars was completed in 2022. [https://www.portcolborne.ca/en/living-here/Restoration\\_of\\_Tennessee\\_Avenue\\_and\\_Firelane\\_Pillars.aspx#Project-Schedule](https://www.portcolborne.ca/en/living-here/Restoration_of_Tennessee_Avenue_and_Firelane_Pillars.aspx#Project-Schedule)

<sup>3</sup> The Tennessee Avenue gates received a heritage designation in 1983. <https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/oha/details?id=7214&backlinkslug=advanced-search&fields%5Blocation%5D=28%2C327>

Appendix #1

Abstracts for Lot 17, Conc 1, Humberstone township [Pope, Crane transactions]

106

TOWNSHIP OF HUMBERSTONE, Lot No. 17 in 1<sup>st</sup> Concession from Route A. Pope 1898

No. of Abstract	No. of Instrument	Instrument	Its Date	Date of Registry	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	Quantity of Land	Consideration or Amount of Mortgage	REMARKS
76	S 5214 B. 6.	9 April 1896	15 April 1896	John W. a. blessed James A. Root	John Miller	10 acres	\$1	1/4 Sec. in 2611	H
77	S 5215 B. 6.	24 June 1896	15 April 1896	Jules Root & company alias Root, Root & Root	John Miller	10 acres	\$375	same as	H
78	S 5317	10 Oct 1896	31 Oct 1896	John W. Whitman John W. Whitman	John Whitman	110 a.	\$385.14	1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a.	H DEC
79	S 5387	20 June 1896	17 Nov 1896	Pro. and Geo. H. Co. Ltd	John Whitman	110 a.	\$1	1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a.	H DEC
80	V 6410	10 July 1902	9 July 1902	Richard Whitman	Richard Whitman	110 a.	\$1	1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a.	H
81	V 6411	11 July 1902	11 July 1902	Richard Whitman	Richard Whitman	110 a.	\$1	1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a.	H
82	V 6422	11 July 1902	11 July 1902	Richard Whitman	Richard Whitman	110 a.	\$1	1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a.	H
83	V 6427	14 Aug 1902	15 Aug 1902	Richard Whitman	Richard Whitman	110 a.	\$1	1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a.	H
84	V 6466	1 Oct 1902	1 Oct 1902	Richard Whitman	Richard Whitman	110 a.	\$1	1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a.	H
85	V 6467	7 Oct 1902	7 Oct 1902	John Beach	Richard Deard	50 a.	\$500	1/4 Sec. 50 a. 1/4 Sec. 50 a. 1/4 Sec. 50 a.	DE
86	V 6509	15 Dec 1902	5 Jan 1903	Richard Whitman	Richard Whitman	110 a.	\$1	1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a.	DE
87	V 6597	19 March 1902	24 April 1902	John Whitman	Richard Whitman	110 a.	\$1	1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a.	DE
88	V 6598	10 July 1902	24 April 1902	Richard Whitman	Richard Whitman	110 a.	\$1	1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a. 1/4 Sec. 110 a.	DE
89	W 7086	4 Sept 1905	7 Sept 1905	Samuel Kinley	Cur. H. Geo. & Co. Ltd	150 a.	\$1	1/4 Sec. 150 a. 1/4 Sec. 150 a. 1/4 Sec. 150 a.	DE
90	W 7240	20 June 1906	7 July 1906	Cur. H. Geo. & Co. Ltd	Richard Whitman	150 a.	\$1	1/4 Sec. 150 a. 1/4 Sec. 150 a. 1/4 Sec. 150 a.	DE
91	V 7900	20 Mar 1908	26 Mar 1908	Donald MacMillan	Samuel Kinley	150 a.	\$1	1/4 Sec. 150 a. 1/4 Sec. 150 a. 1/4 Sec. 150 a.	DE
92	V 7842	27 Nov 1908	1 Dec 1908	Samuel Kinley	Richard L.R. Pope	50 a.	\$3500	1/4 Sec. 50 a. 1/4 Sec. 50 a. 1/4 Sec. 50 a.	DE
93	V 7843	27 Nov 1908	1 Dec 1908	Samuel Kinley	Richard L.R. Pope	3 a.	\$3500	1/4 Sec. 3 a. 1/4 Sec. 3 a. 1/4 Sec. 3 a.	DE
94	V 7878	4 Jan 1909	13 Jan 1909	Frank L.R. Pope	Winnie Snyder	35 a.	\$6500	1/4 Sec. 35 a. 1/4 Sec. 35 a. 1/4 Sec. 35 a.	DE
95	V 7879	11 Jan 1909	13 Jan 1909	Winnie Snyder	Frank L.R. Pope	35 a.	\$6500	1/4 Sec. 35 a. 1/4 Sec. 35 a. 1/4 Sec. 35 a.	DE

To page 310.

TOWNSHIP OF HUMBERSTONE, Lot No. 17 in 1st Concession from Page 106.

No. of Acre	No. of Volume	No. of Entry	INSTRUMENT	Its DATE	DATE OF REGISTRY	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	QUANTITY OF LAND	CONSIDERATION OR AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE	REMARKS
96	7	8230	Deed	13 Nov 1909	13 Nov 1909	Fredrick L.R. Pope	Minnie Snyder	of 1/2 pt. 17	9899	
96	7	8131	Deed	13 Nov 1909	13 Nov 1909	Minnie Snyder	Fredrick L.R. Pope	20 pt. 17	1700	
97	7	8765	Deed	17 Feb 1912	21 Feb 1912	David W. David	David W. David	20 pt. 17	3700	
98	7	9058	Deed	20 May 1913	31 May 1913	George Brown	John Brown	of 1/2 pt. 17	5850	
99	7	9122	Deed	6 Sept 1913	6 Sept 1913	Fredrick J. Davis	David W. David	of 1/2 pt. 17	8765	
100	7	9166	Grant	9 June 1913	25 Oct 1913	David W. David	Sophia J. Curtis	Interalia 50 ac.	\$6000.00	
101	7	9167	Grant	9 June 1913	25 Oct 1913	Sophia J. Curtis	David W. David	Interalia 50 ac.	\$6000.00	
102	1	7028	Grant	22 April 1915	22 May 1915	Edward Snyder & Frederick Kleinmuth	Jacob F. Miller	Interalia 50 ac.	\$5000.00	
103	1	7029	Grant	22 May 1915	22 May 1915	Jacob F. Miller	Edward Snyder & Frederick Kleinmuth	Interalia 50 ac.	\$5000.00	
104	1	9604	Grant	12 Mar 1915	27 Sept 1915	Frederick L.R. Pope	Virginia L.R. Pope	Interalia 50 ac.	\$1.00	
105	1	9643	Grant	20 Dec 1915	20 Dec 1915	Virginia L.R. Pope	Harman J. Howell	Interalia 50 ac.	\$1.00	
106	1	9658	Grant	19 Jan 1916	21 Jan 1916	Jacob F. Miller	Henry E. Harman	3 1/2 ac.	\$25.00	
107	1	9717	Grant	30 June 1916	6 July 1916	Edward Snyder & Frederick Kleinmuth	James S. Miller	of 1/2 pt. 17	9529	
108	1	9716	Grant	21 Mar 1917	6 April 1917	David W. David	Sophia J. Curtis	of 1/2 pt. 17	9769	
109	1	9932	Grant	16 Jan 1917	24 Apr 1917	Alexander M. Curtis	Ralph Plumb	of 1/2 pt. 17	\$1.00	
110	2	10873	Grant	23 July 1920	7 Mar 1923	Ada J.R. Pope	Virginia L.R. Pope	Interalia 50 ac.	\$1.00	
111	2	10874	Grant	3 Mar 1923	10 Mar 1923	Virginia L.R. Pope	James S. Crane	Interalia 50 ac.	\$1.00	
112	2	10878	Grant	22 Mar 1923	8 Apr 1923	James S. Crane	Albertine H. Thompson	Interalia 50 ac.	\$1.00	
113	3	11174	Grant	29 Sept 1924	15 Oct 1924	Charles Curtis	Julia C. Plumb	Interalia 50 ac.	\$2500.00	
114	3	11205	Grant	1 Nov 1925	6 Feb 1925	Julia C. Plumb	Andrew Thompson	Interalia 50 ac.	\$1.00	

TOWNSHIP OF HUMBERSTONE, Lot No. 17 in 1st Concession from page 310.

No. of Original	No. of Instrument	Instrument	In Date	Date of Expiry	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	QUANTITY OF LAND	CONSIDERATION OR AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE	REMARKS
<del>15</del>	<del>11524</del>	<del>Grant</del>	<del>12 Aug 1926</del>	<del>14 Aug 1926</del>	<del>George F. Knoll</del>	<del>James D. Coome</del>	<del>2 pt lot 17</del>	<del>\$1.00</del>	<del>Special Tax aff. attached</del>
16	11546	Grant	12 Aug 1926	14 Aug 1926	George F. Knoll wife	Atto F. Knoll	2 pt lot 17	\$1.00	Special Tax aff. attached
17	11547	Life Lease	12 Aug 1926	14 Aug 1926	Atto F. Knoll	George F. Knoll & Katherine E. Knoll	at 17	\$1.00	
118	11644	Release	1 Apr 1927	2 Apr 1927	Rosena Kleinworth Sarah Kear	Atto F. Knoll	apls lot 17	\$1.00	of a legacy in no. 11546
119	11804	Grant	17 Feb 1928	1 Mar 1928	Henry E. Xsama & wife	Milton C. Deff	3/4 acre pt 17	\$200.00	Tax aff. attached
<del>120</del>	<del>12961</del>	<del>Grant</del>	<del>15 July 1933</del>	<del>17 July 1933</del>	<del>Orval &amp; Hulley</del>	<del>Myrta &amp; William</del>	<del>Interest</del>	<del>\$500.00</del>	<del>Special Tax aff. attached</del>
121	13073	Deed	16 July 1934	8 July 1934	Myrta & William widow	Jacob D. Miller	at 17	\$1.00	Special Tax aff. attached
122	13556	Grant	21 Jan 1935	12 Feb 1935	Julia C. Clumb widow	Ralph H. Clumb & Josephine P. Clumb	Interest lot 17	\$1.00	Remains of Life Estate
123	13671	Char. Deed	29 Oct 1935	7 Nov 1935	Ralph H. Clumb & Josephine P. Clumb	Ralph H. Clumb & Josephine P. Clumb	Interest lot 17	\$1.00	Mutual benefit of special benefit of Tax aff. attached
124	13721	Grant	18 Jan 1937	25 Jan 1937	Julia C. Clumb widow	Ralph H. Clumb & Josephine P. Clumb	at 17	\$1.00	Remains of Life Estate
SEE DEPOSIT No. 5073.									
126	13854	Grant	14 July 1939	25 July 1939	Jacob D. Miller widow	Jacob D. Miller & Elizabeth C. Miller	Interest lot 17	\$1.00	Tax aff. attached
127	13913	Quit Claim	25 Oct 1939	8 Nov 1939	Julia C. Clumb widow	Ralph H. Clumb & Josephine P. Clumb	Interest lot 17	\$1.00	Special Tax aff. attached
128	15128	Grant	28 Nov 1930	26 Mar 1945	Carlaine C. Kleinworth	John Kleinworth	2 1/2 ac. pt 17	\$500.00	Tax aff. attached
129	15455	Grant	19 Jan 1946	6 Feb 1946	Albertine H. Glenny	Ray M. Watter	Interest lot 17	\$1.00	Special Tax aff. attached
130	15456	Quit Claim	19 Jan 1946	6 Feb 1946	Ray M. Watter wife	Albertine H. Glenny	Interest lot 17	\$1.00	Special Tax aff. attached
131	15504	Quit Claim	22 Feb 1946	16 Mar 1946	Albertine H. Glenny & Harvey Gaylord	Glenny	Interest lot 17	\$1.00	Special Tax aff. attached
132	15525	Grant	9 Feb 1946	30 Mar 1946	Albertine H. Glenny	Harvey Gaylord & Ann B. Gaylord	Interest lot 17	\$1.00	Special Tax aff. attached
133	17125	Quit Claim	24 Oct 1949	29 Oct 1949	Albertine H. Glenny	Ray M. Watter	Interest lot 17	\$1.00	Special Tax aff. attached
134	11204	Quit Claim	24 Oct 1949	29 Oct 1949	James J. O'Neil	Esther J. O'Neil & S. Miller	Interest lot 17	\$1.00	Special Tax aff. attached

(To Book 2 page 223)

**Appendix #2**

Bridge on Firelane #1, built about 1910-1912

PCHMM 2015.3.11.2

