

Allen R. Cassidy Letters Cassidy Lake Homestead

The following is a transcription of a series of letters written by Allen R. Cassidy to his granddaughter, Anne Renwick, from 1972 to 1979 describing the homestead at Cassidy Lake and construction of a scale model of the house.

Allen meticulously documented the house and built the scale model in the 1970s for his granddaughter, Anne, which she still has along with these priceless letters. Anne wrote an excellent paper describing Allen and the house in 2014 based on her experience and material in these letters. If you have not already done so, I recommend reading Anne's story first (Appendix B), then this transcription of Allen's letters where you will find additional information about the homestead and life at the Cassidy Lake homestead.

There are five letters: Sept. 3, 1972, Jan. 1979, Feb. 13, 1979, Feb. 20-28, 1979, and Sept. 21, 1979. Where Allen has illustrations in his letters, I have incorporated these sketches into the transcription.

Appendix A contains scans of the original letters.

Appendix B is a copy of "A Precious Legacy" by Anne Renwick, June 2014

Having spent countless days, weeks and months in the house in the 1940s and 50s, reading Allen's description brings back vivid memories. Special thanks to Anne for her work and for sharing this important piece of Cassidy history.

Peter Cassidy
June 22, 2020



Scale model of homestead by Allen R. Cassidy

Sept. 3 1972

Dear Anne

Further to our brief conversation by phone today, may I pass on to you my present thoughts regarding the pictures of the Old Homestead

#1

Taken in front of the church by the lake facing North East. My father wearing the usual felt hat looks healthy & happy. Brother George, back view, it is a good picture intended to show those near the camera. Therefore the buildings are hazy.



#2

Taken on the driveway facing South West. Note the climbing vine on the left side it nearly covered the end of the old shop. A part of it was brought home & now covers one end of my car port. The little boy back to is Stan's son Pete. The big boy & girl are Percy Saunders & your Aunt Edyth Brother Georges wife. Note the clapboards show clearly as well as the window frame details. The piazza (a Latin word) was built on to the house about 1908 to 1910 by my father.



#3

This is the dining room with the camera facing South.

Note the wallpaper. The hewed beam over doors. The different width of the head casings. Pantry door is the wider one. The narrow one being over the summer kitchen door. And beyond, note beam covered with wallpaper on back wall of kitchen. This is the back of the Dining Rm. Also back of house. The open wood shed was beyond. Back to the hewed beam again, note heavy hewed post going up to ceiling to carry the weight of the rafters, roof, snow

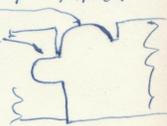


load, etc. Window on the right is the one Stan "C" is looking into in Picture 10. Little girl is Sheila Cassidy (far end of table) & beyond, the pretty girl with the white collar & curls is now a mother 3 times, you are right, your mother, pretty, pretty. Oh yes, show your mother the cane and hard hat. They belong to the bald head & glasses. See if she knows Fred Sharp.

#4

Pretty well covered by #3. Note pantry door is 3 panels quite likely 3 separate boards 1" thick, hand planed & hand moulded & matched. [sketch]

by #3. Note pantry door is
ely 3 separate boards 1" thick
-moulded & matched
ght wall, shown clearly



Note picture on right wall, shown clearly in #5.



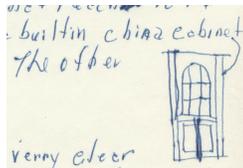
#5

Note Ceiling level under main house & finished under rafters. Section above level ceiling is bedroom.

Note door in right background . Woman in doorway is Gussie Harmer. Woman in light dress wearing glasses and man wearing glasses & dark suit are Rev. & Mrs. J.E. Shanklin the minister of the day now buried at Maplewood Cemetery near Petitcodiac. Dad in the back row looks so pleased and he was, he loved the old home & church. Back to details. Note casing around door so narrow on one side & wide on the other. This is not a mistake but is due to a wall being on the opposite side and



between the sitting room & stairway. Note in the extreme right part of the casing of a built-in china cabinet. [sketch] This wall is all doors except for the cabinet. The other two are to Parlor & cellar.



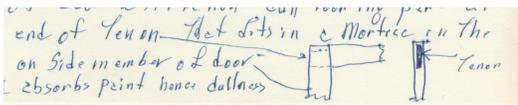
#6

Much the same as 3/4/5 but very clear. Note wall paper, real clear, rolled up curtain right wall. See scissors on summer Kitchen wall wall and just on the left an old fashioned pot cleaner with rubber preserve for ring on same hook or more likely a nail. Pretty Girl with white collar & curls, boy friend of the day with mouth open "moonstruck" don't tease too much.



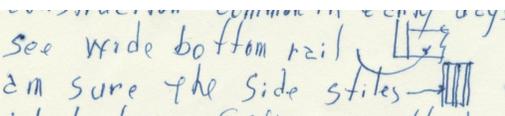
#7

Just a few points here but good ones. Note top edge of door to kitchen. Dull looking part at top is end of tenon that fits in mortice in the stile on side member of door. [sketch] End-wood absorbs paint hence dullness.

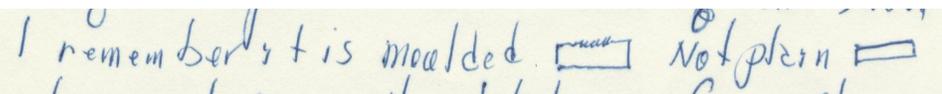


#8

This is the parlor and we are now facing the lake. The dr. on the left leads to the front vestibule from the stairway. This is a solid pine door probably 1 1/2" thick as that was a common thickness then. Note 2 panel construction common in early days in that locality. See wide bottom rail [sketch] quite likely 11" as I am sure the side stiles would be at least 5 1/2".



It looks as if there might be a moulding around the panels. Note wallpaper & carpet. Also 9" or 10" baseboard + moulding on top. The window casing don't show but as I remember it is moulded [sketch] not plain.



The phonograph is quite likely a Gramophone made by the Victor Company who still carry on in Radio, etc. The chairs are quite likely dated early in this century. Dad is sitting in an arm chair that I think belonged in the dining Rm. The little girl is Dayna O'Blenis. She lives near here now and is a tall, lovely woman with little girls of her own. Note Dad's middle finger on the left hand. It was cut off in a saw about 1916 when he and I were working together. The ash tray is a late comer. There were none during FE Cassidy's time, No No No. This is the room where my grandfather's body rested before his funeral on Oct. 27, 1927 and at that time Uncle Allen & I carried the casket out through the door shown on the left. Dad was in charge of arrangements.

#9

Much the same as #8. Note ceiling. These are pressed metal mouldings & sheets. It was called Mettalic Ceiling. There are two mouldings. Note large one on wall [sketch] & ceiling. Note the section between mouldings shows a pattern one dimpled upside down [sketch] field. This part is important as the center panels [sketch] were about 2'-0" square. Two are partly shown in extreme left of picture.



Note large one on wall & ceiling. Note the section between mouldings shows a pattern one dimpled upside down field. This part is important as the center panels were about 2'0" square. Two are partly shown in extreme top left of picture.

To carry out the work one would measure ceiling width & length, then figure the number of 2' panels & moulding sizes that were required and the difference would quite likely vary in measure between the side and end. [sketch] This is where the dimpled sheet called a Diaphragm came in. The carpenter could cut it to width to suit as the dimpled part did not show a cut and would always match.

& Moulding sizes that were required and the difference would quite likely vary in measure between side & end. This is where the dimpled sheet called a Diaphragm came in. The carpenter could cut it to width to suit as the dimpled part did not show a cut and would always match. Note the joint



Note the joint in the upper left corner, over dr. and again over window. This is the formed corner sheet. I do not remember when the ceiling was installed, probably between 1907 & 1912. Ceilings were plastered & when they cracked or parts fell off the area was strapped with 1"x3" [sketch] and the metal applied with special nails. [sketch] These nails used to skid on the metal applied & then one got a bruised thumb & finger, after a few days it really hurt as I found out.

between 1907 & 1912. Ceilings were plastered & when they cracked or parts fell off. The area was strapped with 1"x3"  and the metal applied with special nails . These nails used to skid on the metal & then one got a bruised thumb & finger, after a few days it really hurt as I found out.

#10

Here we are out in the yard on the driveway. Note the pretty girl in the doorway of the summer kitchen. As you can see wood shingles are the covering on back wall of house as well as side wall of extension. Kitchen chimney extends high because prevailing wind blows from west & coming over peak of house roof causes trouble by smoking from stove if chimney is low. Stan is looking into dining room. See #3. Note shingles below window, old fashioned cut nails were used as they were available & did not rust. I do not think screen doors or screens on windows were used in early days. Galvanized iron sheets in the roof were put on in later years, probably 1930+. I cannot prove the point but it is my opinion that the house when built was shingled on the exterior and somewhere about 1900 to 1912 or when the piazza & extension or dormer was put on the front. See #1. The shingles being old were taken off with a spade. [sketch] A steel hand tool used for gardening, made a horrible screeching noise rasping over broken nails.



extension or dormer was put on the front. see #1 The shingles being old were taken off with a spade, a steel hand tool used for gardening. Made a horrible screeching noise rasping over broken nails

Love

Gramp

AR Cassidy

Snow Town
Sunday Night

Assume Jan. 1979
Letter is undated

Dear Granddaughter

Cheers etc. & here are two pictures that Grandmother organized for you. No need to say where it is, we both know that well! So I will comment in the pictures which were taken app. 1912+/- & 1952 or so we are told. Both dates are close enough so no need to check further. Note that in the older one there are certain features that have changed due to time, etc. There is no roof over the piazza (a Latin word). Dad built the roof sometime between 1910 & 1914. The roof of the house is covered with wood shingles & notice the lines (vertical) at the joint of the pediment roof. That is a shingled hip commonly, called a Boston hip. I put on many of them. 2 chimneys are indicated in both pictures. Large trees at each end of the house are willows (not weeping willows). The one on the left is the whip that Grandfather Francis Edward



House 1912

"C" used to drive to St. John & when he came home it was stuck in the ground and grew to a tree. The willow trees were killed by bugs during the late 1920s. The pole in the foreground is for the telephone. Note the wood bracket on the top right side. [*sketch*]

Fore ground is for the telephone note the wood bracket on the top right side there was 11 miles of wire to Sussex while the road is 16. The line went the short way through

There was 11 miles of wire to Sussex while the road is 16. The line went the short way through the woods.

The time of year is just before haying quite likely June 15 or thereabouts. Note the daisy's in full bloom. The house could use a coat of paint. The driveway is narrow and low in relation to the adjoining

ground due to constant washing from rainfall. As I look at the old shop door it seems that Grandfather should come out wearing an old battered black felt hat. The 1952 picture proves that someone did paint the house & _____ the roof with Arrow-Lock asphalt shingles. I helped put on quite a number of them. Cost in 1938 was app. \$2.60 per square (10'x10'). Note the willows are gone. The limbs you see against the left gable end are part of an oak tree that is still there. That is not a hippy beand on the end of the shop but a climbing vine and there is some of it growing on our



House 1952

car port, near the kitchen window now. I do not understand why the vine shows on the front of the piazza and it is not a hole but might be a bush or rose tree as there are still roses in about that position. Note piazza roof is covered with corrugated & galvanized roofing quite likely over the wood shingles. A common thing for that period. This picture was taken after haying time & the mowing leaves something to be desired. Note the streaks of dried hay left by the mowing machine. Note lightning rods (so called) on the roof. White ball on the shop and blue on roof of house and the braided wire app. 5/8" dia. coming down the left end of the house roof. Note it carries down the end of the house & is embedded in the ground app. 10' as a ground. Lightning rods were common for that period. More some other time.

Love & Best Wishes

Gramp "C"

Feb 13/79

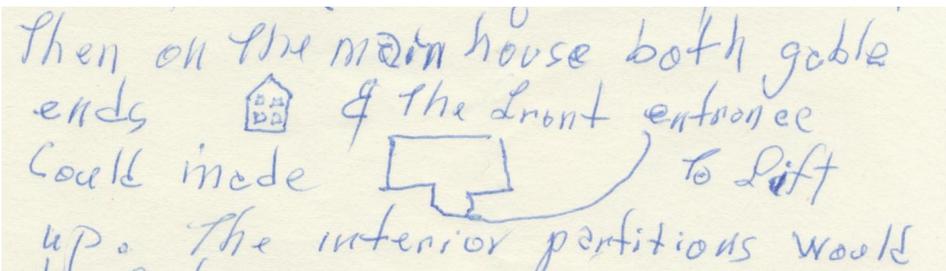
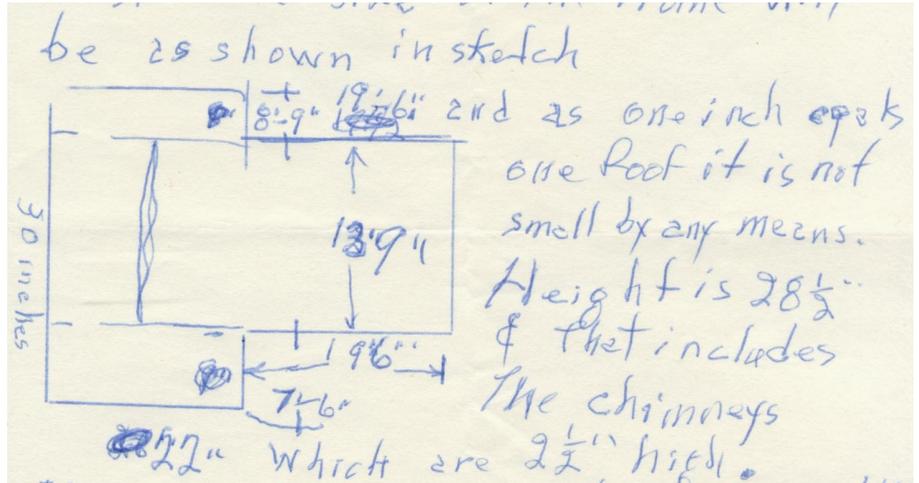
Dear Princess

I require some information re the Homestead House, so called.

First, the size of the home will be as shown in sketch [sketch] and is one inch equals one foot. It is not small by any means. Height is 28 1/2" & that includes the chimneys which are 2 1/2" high. It will be heavy as I intend to use 1/2" plywood for them in floor and the outside walls. The drawings are just about ready. Stairs (3 sets), windows, doors, walls, etc. I drove down to the old farm and for the third time measured the foundations which are 50% covered.

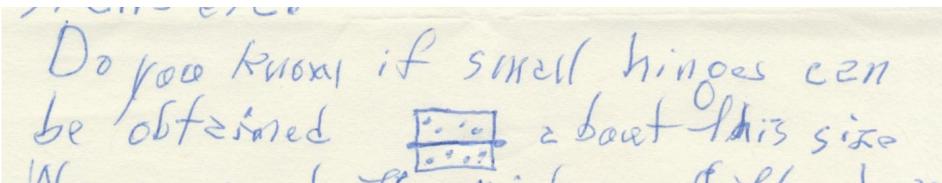
What I require is some, I hope, quick advice from you. Due to size, opening a front or back will not let one into several rooms, so here is what I propose.

A lift off roof (main house & back dining room & kitchen). Then on the main house both gable ends [sketch] & the front entrance could be made [sketch] to lift up.



The interior partitions would be fastened together to hold the doors, stairs, etc.

Do you know if small hinges can be obtained [sketch] about this size?



We received the pictures & they have have been a great help, at least 60%. I was delighted to see my father so happy once again. I must tell you that completion is a long way ahead. Feb 5 at 2 p.m. finds me at Dr's office as he is the one who will operate at a time as yet unknown to me and all the other things that old age has to slow one down.

Here I am sometime later. The drawings are complete & the job could start (?) soon we hope. Stan Cassidy was in for a chat & we talked the project over & gave me some good advice such as don't forget the sliding opening between the pantry and the kitchen, etc.

I will make the model as near as I can to what the house was such as the Dining Rm. With wide & narrow head casing on drs. To pantry & kitchen. The left end of the house was shingled as was the roof extension & back of the house.

Here I think that cardboard cut in strips would do for clapboards & shingles. So may I have your side of the story?

Can you do the painting & are you agreed that the exterior walls should be white with your choice of interior colors as most likely I will only give the exterior a priming first coat.

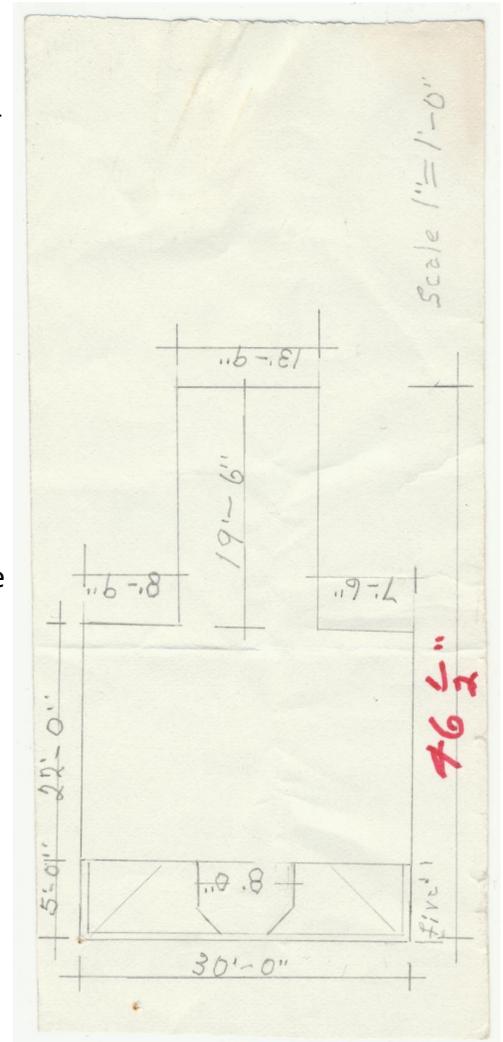
The hospital will call someday & advise when I am to go in. Right now my days can be good or somewhat less.

Read this humble effort & drop me a line.

Yours to a cinder

Gramp "C"

P.S. A friend of mine got put out of work even driving his car after the same operation as me!

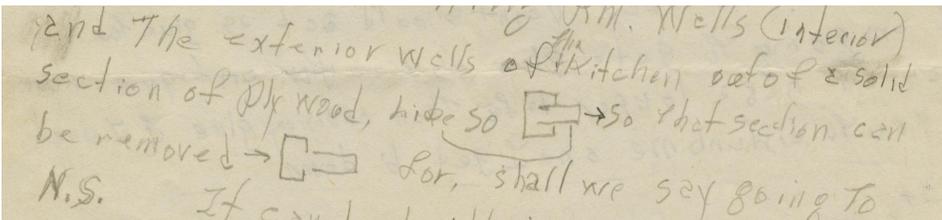


Dear Princess

Feb. 20/79 Re Homestead House

Your opening line is right on target if we can get off to a good start on any project then one can expect good relations thereafter. That is where your "consulting capacity" will prove to be a benefit & we could use a trip or two once I get squared away.

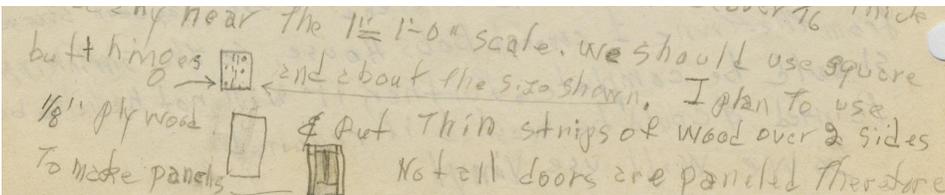
Now to answer your questions, physical size. I plan to make the dining Rm. walls (interior) and exterior walls out of a solid section of plywood, hide so [sketch] that section can be removed [sketch] for, shall we say, going to N.S.



It can be built in two sections in my cubby hole. No dining Rm. There might be too much for flying there.

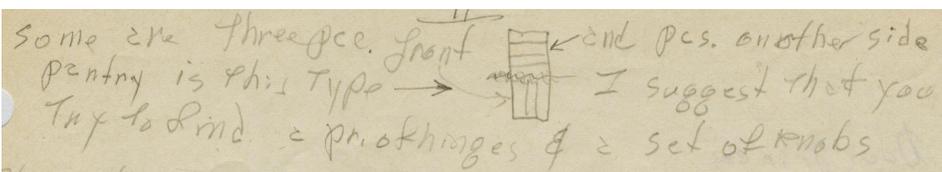
Your alternate suggestion re opening of the exterior end walls is ok & I will try to work out a way to swing them out. I could not solve the curtain bit either.

Hinges are a problem. The doors should not be over 3/16" thick to be any near the 1" = 1'-0" scale. We should use square butt hinges [sketch] and about the size shown. I plan to use 1/8" plywood [sketch] & put thin strips of wood over 2 sides to make panels. [sketch] Not all doors are paneled therefore.



Some are three pce. front end pcs. on other side. Pantry is this type.

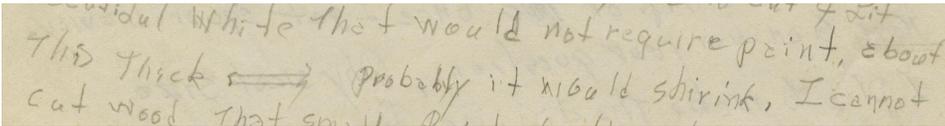
[sketch] I suggest you try to find a pr. of hinges & a set of knobs.



The pictures make the difference between a horrible headache & what I hope to produce. They were ok on arrival.

I have a card of the school register 1911. Guess who was last, ARC.
Teachers \$280.00 for 1 year.

Cardboard for cupboards? Glad you agree on same, white vinyl siding app. 8" wide, nice to cut and fit. Beautiful white that not require paint. About this thick [*sketch*] probably it would shrink.



I cannot cut wood that small. Paint should act as glue too. I am going to get a glue as used for antique work as it has a longer life than ordinary glue & I don't you to disturb me one I get b' down.

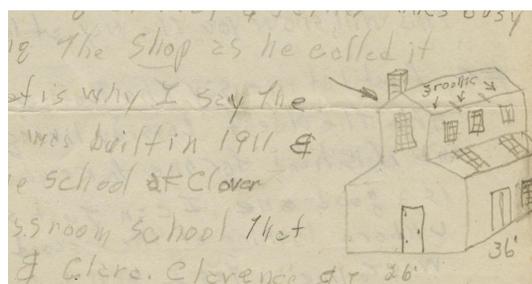
Feb 24

Still on the clapboard question. I have taken a hard look at white vinyl siding. It is just right in thickness. 20/1000 of an inch, and if one translates to inches, while working with 1"=1'0" scale, it is 1/2" which is exactly what the clapboards were at that time. I know for Dad & I worked together many times on that kind of job. Further the vinyl that I intend to use has been stored from the time I covered Bob's house, so the shrinking should be complete. Further, it will not have to be painted & could be washed if required. So we will use vinyl.

Feb. 25/79

Re your question six, the age of the Homestead House.

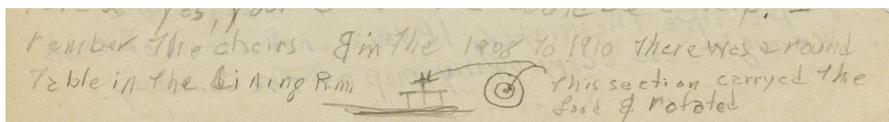
I remember being at the Homestead House prior to my grandmother's death on April 8, 1908. This was the previous summer, quite likely 1904 and at that time the interior of the house was the same as it was when you and I were in there and got the door knobs shortly before it was burned. And that is the way I shall try to make it now except that front piazza, was I think, not roofed over at that time for I remember my father being down to Grandfather's building something on the front of the house in 1911. As we came from Boston, Mass. in the early fall, say early Oct. 1908 & we spent the winter in Norton, N.B. & moved to the farm at Clover Hill (Cassidy Lake) in the spring of 1909 & father was busy that summer building the shop as he called it [*sketch*] later torn down.



That is why I say the roof over the veranda was built in 1911 & further dad built the school at Clover Hill in 1912, a one classroom school that cost \$885.00 complete & Clara, Clarence & I went from the old to the new school in that late fall.

The above should answer part of question 6.

Para. 2. Yes, your G. mother C could be a help. I remember the chairs & in the 1908 to 1910 there was a round table in the dining Rm. [sketch]



Still on #6 Para. III

1908 to 1911 the following lived in the house: Grandfather F.E. Cassidy, his son R. Allen, his daughter F.J. Cassidy, his son W.W. Cassidy, & daughter Clara Ann Cassidy. All the others had married and moved away. I remember my Grandmother being there when we were before she died. The cheese factory was operating then & I played in the lake with my grandfather's dog, Nero.

About that time there was a cheese maker named Hiram Gilles, a good and honorable man, something went wrong with the vat of milk & Mr. Gilles paid for the milk from his wages. He also made cheese at Carsonville, Kings County where Grandma Mid's grandmother lived & during W.W. II Nana & I were in St. John & met Mr. Gilles in a church. This will show you the way, at least, some of the people lived.

#4

First let me say the brother Clarence (1901 & 1903 ARC) are the oldest Cassidy living in this district & I. And it is hard for one to remember. However, your idea is a good one. I can just see someone yet unborn looking at the record & saying "What a queer way to live." Yes I will help you. Maybe we could let other members of the family have them at a price that could cover costs. May I suggest that you & R. come up & tape it & then have it printed for aold people like the writer. If you are not afraid of ghosts we might add a copy of my map of the cemetery.

Nana has four generations of her family buried at Berwick Cemetery and the writer expects to await the coming at Wesley Church Cemetery. When V-31, 986 R.C.N.V.R goes over the horizon the family history will be all that is left of the present century.

The Cassidy family history has 1 1/2 pages that deals with William 1797-1886 & Jane Millighan 1798-1875 Cassidy from the early days in Ireland to their days at our lake. Sorry I don't have any spare copies, but you could use my typewriter here. This page and one half is important to anything in the line of history since the early days.

In a week or 10 days, I should have a start on the work. There is lamp just about completed for our close friends "The Lindsays" & Bob has a test job for me to glue up small pcs. of waste wood to make lamp stands then THE real project could get off the ground.

I will keep your letter with other notes & drop me a note soon.

Love to you both

Gramp "C"

Luck "R" I have no router.

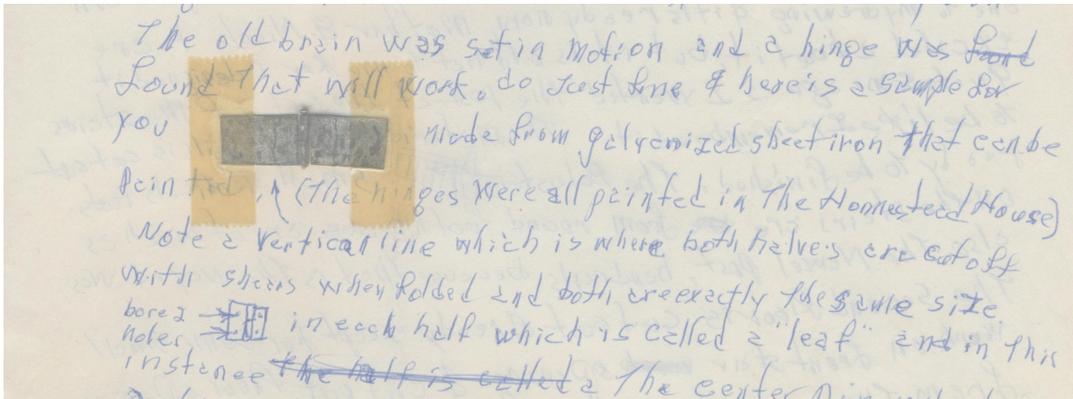
P.S. Feb 28/79

The lamp is finished & I made out a cutting order for the 1/2" plywood to make the first floor today. No word on gong to the hospital. I went to Kings Place yesterday & became a Canadian. Will get my tag in about a month. Lets hear from you. Gramp

Evening Sept 21/79

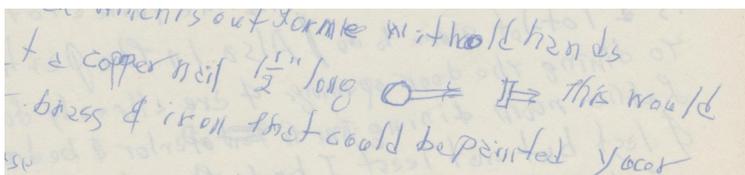
Dear Princess

Thanks for the letter of April 17/78 and your mention of hinges. I have had a talk son Bob & as it was a dry run the old brain was set in motion and a hinge was found that will work, do just fine & here is a sample for you [sketch] made from galvanized sheet iron that can be painted. (The hinges were all painted in the homestead house.) Note a vertical line [sketch] which is where both halves are cut off with shears when folded and both are exactly the same size. Bore 2 holes [sketch] in each half



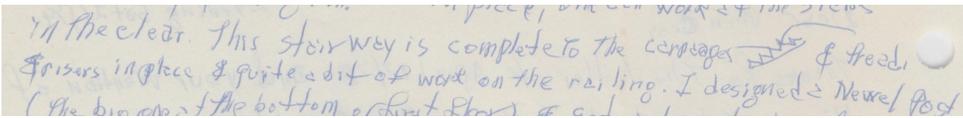
which is called a "leaf" and in this instance the center pin which is a 1/2" brad, now called nail is called a pin in the trade.

2-brads can be driven into the door edge & door jamb. Two doors are hung the one at the foot of the back stairs (in the dining room) and nearby the door under the stairs to a closet (boots etc.). The next question could be door knobs & on that I am stuck. The doors are app 3/16" thick & that don't leave much for a knob to say nothing of lock which is out for me with old hands. I took a look at a copper nail 1 1/2" long [sketch] This would do in copper brass & iron that could be painted. Your comments please.



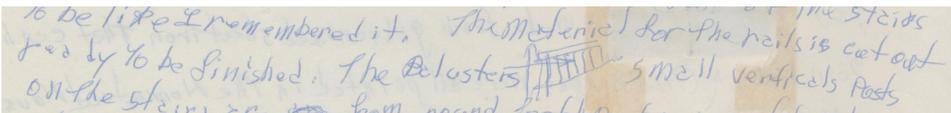
Progress to date: With one sheet of plywood for the base I start in the center and build out. Right now the spot light is on the front stairs with the partition between stairway & dining room in place, one can work on the stairs in the clear.

This stairway is complete to the _____ [sketch] & treads, risers in place & quite a bit of work on the railing.



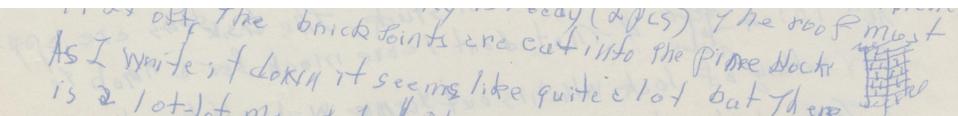
I designed a Newel post (the big one at the bottom of the first floor) & got a local chap to turn one to my drawing & it is ready now. Mother & Nicole + are excited about it, but it is old hat to me for I designed it quite some time ago as I wanted a post at the front of the stairs to be like I remembered it.

The material for the rails is cut out ready to be finished. The Belusters [sketch] small verticals posts on the stairs are from round tooth picks are of birches also the Newel post, handrails because that is the way it was.



The second floor is cut out & ready except some small work on front stair opening & cut out floor opening from the back stairs. The two sides of the house dining-kitchen & dining-pantry are all made with windows & trim complete exterior & interior as are partitions from dining to pantry/kitchen & these here shelving in pantry 3 sides + hatch from pantry to kitchen complete with sliding door that really works + all door trim even the support for the kitchen stove chimney. The chimney is ready (2 pcs). The roof must lift off the brick joints are cut into the pine blocks.

[sketch]



As I write it down it seems like quite a lot but there is a lot more to do. Also in the partition hall stairway to dining, the door openings are already for doors E Grand Lettier room dining Rm. To parlor & bedroom & to the cellar & last but not least I broke the rules & made the china cabinet of the very best walnut. It looked so nice. This unit is ready except for the doors. Hinges were the problem then. I will try a brass set now made by Cassidy.

Keep in touch Princess. Cheers & goodnight Gramp "C"

APPENDIX A

Scans of letters written by Allen R. Cassidy to his granddaughter, Anne Renwick, from 1972-1979 describing the homestead house at Cassidy Lake and construction of a scale model.

Sept. 3 1972

Dear Anne

Further to our brief conversation by phone today, may I pass on to you my present thoughts regarding the pictures of the Old Homestead

#1

Taken in front of the Church by the Lake. Facing North East my father wearing the usual felt hat looks healthy & happy. Brother George, back view, this is a good picture intended to show those near the camera therefore the buildings are heavy.

#2

Taken on the driveway facing South West. Note the climbing vine on the left side it nearly covered the end of the old shop. A part of it was brought home & now covers one end of my carport. The little boy back to is Stan's son Pete, the big boy & girl are Percy Scanders & your Aunt Edyth. Brother George's wife. Note the clipboards show clearly as well as the window frame details, the piazza (a latin word) was built on to the house about 1908 to 1960 by my father.

#3

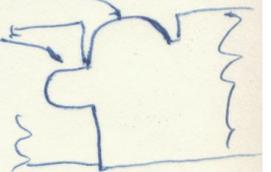
This is The Dining room with the camera facing South

Note the wall paper, The beamed beam over doors. The different width of the head casing, pantry door is the wide one, the narrow one beam over the summer kitchen door. and beyond, Note beam covered with wallpaper on back wall of kitchen this is the back of the dining Rm. also back of house, the open woodshed was beyond, back to the beamed beam again, note heavy beamed post going up to ceiling to carry the weight of the rafters, roof, snow load etc, window on right is the one Stan "C" is looking into in picture 10 little girl is Sherie Cassidy (Clarendon table) & beyond, the pretty girl with the white collar & curls is now a mother 3 times, you are right your mother, pretty pretty. oh yes show your mother the cane & hard hat they belong to the bald head & glasses, see if she knows Fred Sharp

#4

Pretty well covered by #3. Note pantry door is 3 panels quite likely 3 separate boards 1" thick hand planed & hand moulded & matched

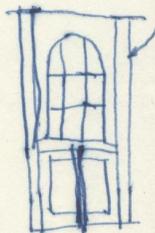
Note picture on right wall, shown clearly in #3



#5

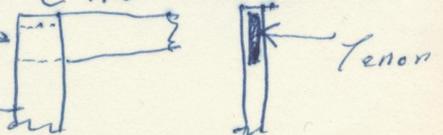
Note Ceiling, level under main house & Linsked under rafters, section above level ceiling is bedroom

Note door in right background. Woman in doorway is Cassie Harmer. Women in light dress wearing glasses and men wearing glasses & dark suit are Rev. & Mrs. J. E. Shanklin. The Minister of the day now buried at Maplewood Cemetery Near Petticoat. Died in the back now looks so pleased and he was beloved the old Home & Church. Back to details, Note casing around door so narrow on one side & wide on the other. This is not a mistake, but is due to a well being on the opposite side and between the sitting room & stairway. Note in the extreme right part of a casing that reaches to the ceiling. This is the left casing of a builtin china cabinet. This well is all doors except for the cabinet. The other two are to parlor & cellar.



#6 Much the same as 3/4/5 but verry clear. Note wall paper, reel clear, rolled up curtain right wall. See sissors on summer kitchen wall wall and jar on the left ~~and~~ an old fashioned pot cleaner with rubber preserve jar ring on same hook or more likely a nail. Pretty Girl with white collar & curls, Boy friend of the day with mouth open "Moonstruck" dont tease to much.

#7 Just a few points here but good ones. Note top edge of door to kitchen dull looking part at top is end of Tenon that fits in a Mortise on the stile on side member of door. end wood absorbs paint hence dullness.



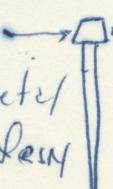
#8

This is The Parlor and we are now facing the door. The dr. on the left leads to the front vestibule from the stairway. This is a solid pine door probably $1\frac{1}{2}$ " thick as that was a common thickness then. Note 2 panel construction common in early days in that locality see wide bottom rail  quite likely 11" as I am sure the side stiles  would be at least $5\frac{1}{2}$ " it looks as if there might be moulding around the panels Note wall paper & carpet also for 10" baseboard + moulding on top. The window casing don't show but as I remember it is moulded  not plain 

The phonograph is quite likely a Gramophone made by the Victor Company who still carry on in Radio etc. The chairs are quite likely dated early in this century. Dad is sitting in on an arm chair that I think belonged in the dining room. The little girl is Dzyne Ancherbald she lives near here now and is a tall lovely woman with little girls of her own. Note Dad's middle finger on the left hand, it was cut off in a saw about 1916 when he & I were working together. The ash tray is a life corner

There were none during J. Cassidy's time No No No This is the room where my Grandfather's body rested before his funeral on Oct. 27 1927, and at that time Uncle Allen & I carried the casket out through the door shown on the left. Dad was in charge of arrangements.

#9

Much the same as #8 Note Ceiling these are pressed metal mouldings & sheets it was called Mettalic Ceiling, there are two mouldings Note large one on wall & ceiling Note the section between mouldings shows a pattern one dimpled & field. This part is important as the center panels were about 2'0" square. Two are partly shown in extreme top left of picture. To carry out the work one would measure ceiling width & length then figure the number of 2' panels & moulding sizes that were required and the difference would quite likely vary in measure between side & end. This is where the dimpled sheet called a Diaphragm comes in. The Carpenter could cut it to width to suit as the dimpled part did not show a cut and would always match. Note the joint in the upper left corner, over door and again over window, this is the formed corner sheet. I do not remember when this ceiling was installed, probably between 1907 & 1912. Ceilings were plastered & when they cracked or pents fell off. The crew was strapped with ~~1 1/2" x 3"~~ and the metal applied with special nails  App. 1 1/2" size. These nails used to stick on the metal & then one got a bruised thumb & finger, after a few days it really hurt as it sound out.

#10

Here we are out ~~at~~ in the yard on the driveway.
Note pretty Girl in doorway of Summer Kitchen.
As you can see wood shingles are the covering on back
wall of main house as well as sidewall of extension.
Kitchen chimney extends high because prevailing wind
blows from west & coming over peak of house roof
causes trouble by smoking from stove if chimney is low
Stairs looking into dining room See #3 Note shingles
below window, old fashioned Cut nails were used
as they were available & did not rust. I do not
think screen doors or screens on windows were used
during the early days. Galvanized iron sheets
on the roof were put on in later years, probably 1930+
I cannot prove the point but it is my opinion that
the house when built was shingled on the exterior
and somewhere about 1900 to 1912 or when the piazza &
extension or dormer was put on the front. See #1 The
shingles being old were taken off with a spade
& steel hand tool used for gardening, made a
horrible screeching noise respin~~g~~ over broken nails



Love
Cramp

AP Cassidy

Snow town
Sunday night

Dear Granddaughter

Chairs etc I have two pictures that Grandmother organized for you. No need to say where it is. We both know that well. So I will comment on the pictures which were taken app. 1912+ - & 1952 or so we are told. Both dates are close enough so no need to check further. Note that in the older one there are certain features that have changed due to time etc. There is no roof over the piazza (a latin word) Dad built the roof some time between 1910 & 1914. The roof of the house is covered with wood shingles. Notice the lines (vertical) ~~at~~ ⁱⁿ the joints of the pediment roof. That is a shingled hip commonly called a Boston hip. I put on many of them. 2 chimneys are indicated in both pictures. Large trees at each end of the house are Willows (Not weeping willows). The one on the left is the whip that Grandfather Francis Edward "C" used to drive to St John & when he came home it was stuck in the ground & grew to a tree. The willow trees were killed by bugs during the late 1920's. The pole in the foreground is for the telephone. Note the wood bracket on the top right side. There was 11 miles of wire to Sussex while the road is to. The line went the short way through the woods.

#

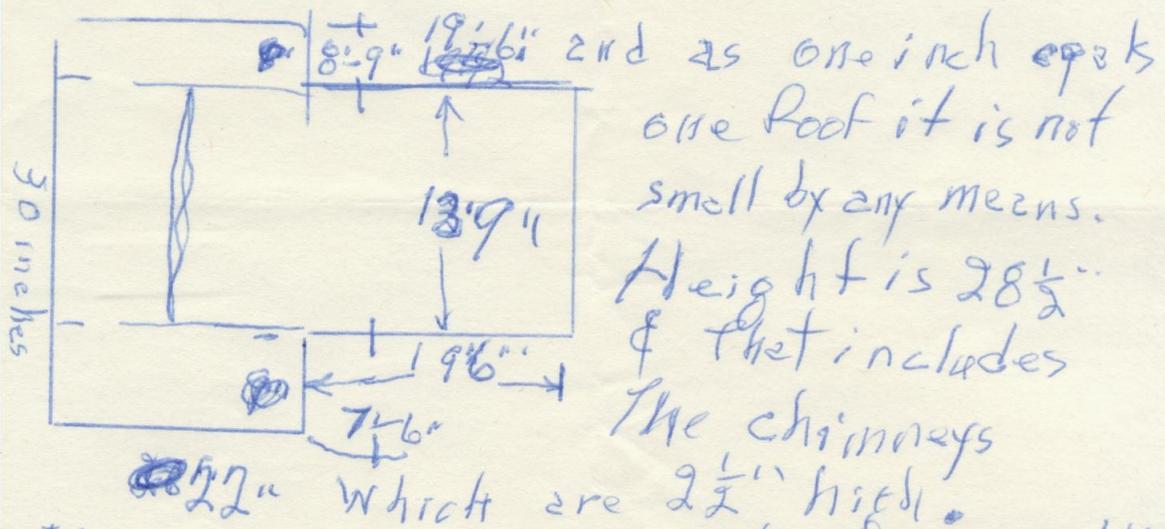
The time of year is just before haying quite likely June 15 or there abouts. Note the daisies in full bloom. The house could use a coat of paint. The driveway is narrow & low in relation to the adjoining ground due to constant washing from main level. As I look at the old shop door it seems that Grandfather should come out wearing an old battered black felt hat. The 1952 picture proves that someone did paint the house & shingle the roof with Arrow-Lox asphalt shingles. I helped put on quite a number of them. Cost in 1938 was app. \$2.60 per square \square^{100} . Note the willows are gone the limbs you see against the left or blind end are part of an oak tree that is still there. There is not a happy board on the end of the shop but a climbing vine and there is some of it growing on our carport, near the kitchen window now. I do not understand why the vine shows on the front of the piazza and it is not a hole, but might be a bush or rose tree as there ^{are} still roses in about that position. Note piazza roof is covered with corrugated ~~iron~~ galvanized roofing quite likely over the wood shingles. A common thing for that period. This picture was taken a later haying time & the mowing leaves something to be desired, note the streaks of dried hay left by the mowing machine. Note lightning rods (so called) on the roofs. White ball on shop & blue on roof of house and the braided wire app. $5/8"$ ϕ coming down the left end of the house roof. Note it comes down the side of the house & is embedded in the ground app. 10' as a ground lightning rod, were common for that period. More some other time have of Pest Wishes Group C.

Feb. 13 / 79

Dear Princess

I require some information re
The Homestead House, so called.

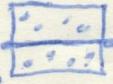
First The size of the home will
be as shown in sketch



It will be heavy as I intend to use $\frac{1}{2}$ "
plywood for the main floor and the
out side walls. The drawings
are just about ready stairs (3 sets)
windows, doors, walls etc. I drove
down to the old farm and for the
third time measured the foundations
which are 50% covered

II

What I require is some, I hope, quick advice from you. Due to size, opening a front or back will not let one into several rooms, so here is what I propose. A lift off roof (main house & back dining room & kitchen) then on the main house both gable ends  & the front entrance could include  to lift up. The interior partitions would be fastened together to hold the doors stairs etc.

Do you know if small hinges can be obtained  about this size. We received the pictures & they have been a great help, at least 60%.

I was delighted to see my father so happy once again. I must tell you that completion is a long way ahead. Let's at 7 pm. Birds meet Mrs. Office as he is the one who will operate at a time as yet unknown to me / and all the other things that old Age has to stow one down

111

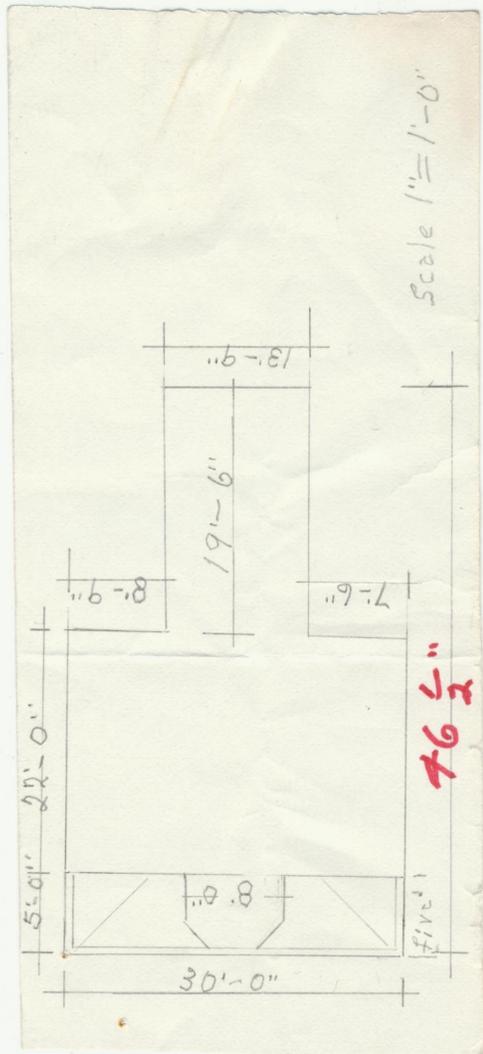
Here I am some time later

The bracings are complete & the job could start (?) soon we hope

Sten Cassidy was in Row 2 club & we talked the project over & gave me some good advice, such as don't forget the sliding opening between the pantry & the kitchen etc.

I will make the model as near as I can to what the house was such as the Dining Rm. with wide & narrow head casing on drs. to Pantry & Kitchen. The left end of the house was shingled, as was the rear extension & back ~~of~~ of house.

Here I think that cardboard cut in strips would do for clapboards & shingles, so may I have your side of the story



III

Can you do the painting of are you
 agreed that the exterior walls
 should be white with your choice
 of the interior colors as most
 likely I will only give the
 exterior a priming & first coat

The hospital will call someday
 & advise when I am to go in
 right now my days can be good or
 somewhat less

Recd this humble effort & drop me
 & I mlo

yours for a cinder

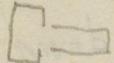
Gramp "C"

P.S. A friend of mine get put out
 of work even driving his car after
 the same operation (as me)

Dear Princess

Feb. 20, 1999 Re: Homestead Hooso

Your opening line is right on target if we can get off to a good start on any project then one can expect good relations thereafter. The fact is where your "Consulting Capacity" will prove to be a benefit & we could use a trip or two once I get squared away. Now to answer your questions, Physical size,

I plan to make the dining Rm. Walls (interior) and the exterior walls of ^{the} kitchen out of a solid section of ply wood, like so  → so that section can be removed →  for, shall we say going to

N.S. It can be built in two sections in my cubby hole. No dining Rm there might be too much for flying there.

Your alternate suggestion re opening of the exterior end walls is OK & I will try to work out a way to swing them out. I could not solve the contain bit either.

Hinges are a problem. The doors should not be over $\frac{3}{16}$ " thick to be any near the 1" = 1'-0" scale. We should use square butt hinges  and about the size shown. I plan to use

$\frac{1}{8}$ " ply wood  & put thin strips of wood over 2 sides to make panels  Not all doors are paneled therefore

Some are three pce. front
pantry is this type →  I suggest that you
try to find a pair of hinges & a set of knobs

The picture make the difference between a horrible
headache & what I hope to produce, they were OK
on arrival.

Cant board for clapboards? glad you agree on some,
white vinyl siding approx 1" wide, nice to cut & fit
beautiful white that would not require paint, about
this thick → probably it would shrink, I cannot
cut wood that small paint should act as glue too.
I am going to get a glue as used for antique work
as it has a longer life than ordinary glue & I don't
you to disturb me one I get to down

Feb. 24

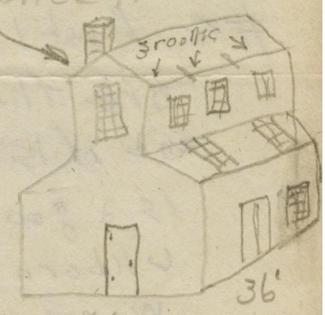
still on the clapboard question, I have taken
a hard look at white vinyl siding. It is just right
in thickness .20,1000 of an inch, and if one
translates to inches, while working with 1" = 1'-0"
scale, it is $\frac{1}{5}$ " which is exactly what the clapboards
were at that time. I know for Dad & I worked
together many times on that kind of job.
Further the vinyl that I intend to use has been stored
from the time I covered Bobs House, so the shrinking
should be complete. Further, it will not have to be
painted & could be washed if required
So we will use vinyl

Teacher \$280.00
fortress

you will require a Guess who is last
I have a copy of The School Register 1911

Re your Question Six, The age of
Feb. 25/79 The Homestead House

I remember being at The Homestead House prior to my Grandmothers Death on April 6, 1908. This was the previous summer, quite likely 1907 and at that time The interior of the House was the same as it was when you & I were in there & got the door knobs shortly before it was burned. And that is the way I shall try to make it now except that front porch, was I think, not roofed over at that time for I remember my father being down to Grandfathers building something on the front of the House in 1911. As we came from Boston Mass. in the early fall, say early Oct 1908 & we spent the winter in Norton N.B. & moved to the farm at Clover Hill (Cassidy Lake) in the spring of 1909 & father was busy that summer building the shop as he called it later torn down. That is why I say the



roof over the Veranda was built in 1911 & further dad built the school at Clover Hill in 1912, a one classroom school that cost \$885.00 complete & Clara, Clarence & I went from the old to new school in the late fall

The above should answer part 1 of question 6

Part 2 yes, your G. Mother C could be a help. I remember the chairs & in the 1908 to 1910 there was a round table in the Dining Rm.  This section carried the load & rotated

still on #6 Parc. III

1908 to 1911 the following lived in the house
 Grandfather F. E. Cassidy His son R. Allen, &
 Daughter F. J. Cassidy, His son W. W. Cassidy &
 Daughter Clare Ann Cassidy all the others had
 married & moved away. I remember my Grand
 Mother being there when we were before she died.
 The Cheese Factory was operating then & I played
 in the lake with my G. Father's Dog Nero. About that
 time there was a Cheese maker named
 Hiram Gilles a good & honorable man, something went
 wrong with the vat of milk & Mr Gilles paid for the milk
 from his wages. He also made cheese at Carsonville Kings Co.
 where Grandpa & Miss Grandmother lived & during
 W.W. II none & were in St John & met Mr Gilles in a church
 This will show you the way, at least, some people lived.

#4 First let me say the Brother Clarence (1901 & 1903) ^{ARE}
 are the oldest Cassidy living in this district & I.
 and it is hard for me to remember. However, your idea
 is a good one. I can just see someone yet
 unborn looking at the record & saying "What a queer
 way to live" yes I will help you maybe we could
 let other members of the family have them at a price
 that could cover costs. My I suggest that you & R.
 come up & tape it & then have it printed for old
 people like the writer. If you are not a friend of Ghosts
 we might add a copy of my map of the Cemetery.

V

Mama has four generations of her family buried at
Berwick Cemetery and the writer expects to await the
coming at Wesley Church cemetery. When V-31, 1986
R.C.M.V.P. goes over the horizon the family history
will be all that is left of the present century

The Cassidy family history has 1 1/2 pages that deals
with William ¹⁷⁹⁷⁻¹⁸⁰⁶ & Jane ¹⁷⁹⁸⁻¹⁸⁷⁵ McIlhann Cassidy from the
early days in Ireland to their days at our Lake
Sorry I don't have any spare copies, but you could use my
typewriter here. This page and one half is important
to anything in the line of history since the
early days.

In a week or 10 days I should have a stint on the
work. There is lamp just about completed for our
close friends "The hindsays" & Bob has a test job for me
to glue up small pcs. of waste wood to make lamp stands
Then THE Real Project could get off the ground

I will keep your letter with other
notes & drop me a note soon
luck R. I have no
Reuter

Love to you both
Ghemp "G"

P.S. Feb. 28/89

The lamp is finished & I made out a cutting order for
the 1/2" plywood to make the first floor today. No word on
going to the hospital. I went to Kings Place yesterday & became a
Canadian. Will get my tag in about a month. Lets hear from you Ghemp

Dear Princess

Evening Sat 2/1/79

Thanks for the letter of April 17/78 and your mention of Hinges I have had a talk son Bob as it was a dry run the old brain was set in motion and a hinge was found that will work, do just fine & here is a sample for you

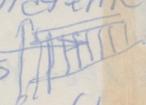


made from galvanized sheet iron that can be painted. (The hinges were all painted in The Homestead House)

Note a vertical line which is where both halves are cut off with shears when rolled and both are exactly the same size. Note  in each half which is called a "leaf" and in this instance ~~the half is called a~~ The center pin which is $\frac{1}{2}$ " bred, now called nail is called a pin in the trade

2-brads can be driven into the door edge & door jamb. Two doors are hung the one at the foot of the back stairs (in the dining room) and nearby the door under the stairs to a closet (boots etc.) The next question could be door knobs & on that I am stuck, the door knobs are app $\frac{3}{16}$ " thick ~~thin~~ & that don't leave much for a knob to say nothing of lock which is out for me with hold hands. I took a look at a copper nail $\frac{1}{2}$ " long  This would do in copper brass & iron that could be painted your comments please

Progress to date, with one sheet of ply wood for the base I spent in the center & build out, right now the spot light is on the front stairs with the partition between

Stair way & dining rm. ^{room} in place, one can work at the stairs
in the clear. This stair way is complete to the carriages & tread
& risers in place & quite a bit of work on the railing. I designed a Newel Post
(the big one at the bottom or first floor) & got a local chap to turn
one to my drawing & it is ready now, Mother & Nicole + are
excited about it, but it is old hat to me for I designed it
quite some ago as I wanted the post at the foot of the stairs
to be like I remembered it. The material for the rails is cut out
too by to be finished. The balusters  small verticals posts
on the stairs are ~~are~~ from round toothpicks are of birch as
also the Newel Post, handrails because that is the way it was
The second floor is cut out & ready except for some small
work on front stair ~~work~~ opening & cut out floor opening
from the back stairs. The two sides of the house
dining-kitchen & dining-pantry are all made with windows
to im complete exterior & interior as are partitions from
dining to pantry/kitchen & there here s helving in pantry
3 sides + hatch from pantry to kitchen complete with sliding
door that nearly works + all door trim even the support for the kitchen
stove chimney. The chimney is ready (2 pcs) the roof  must
list off the brick joints are cut into the pine blocks
As I write; it looks it seems like quite a lot but there
is a lot-lot more to do. Also in the partition Hall stair way
to dining the door openings & are already for doors to Grand
Letter room dining rm to ~~pantry~~ parlor & bedroom & to Celler
& last but not least I broke the rules & made the china
Cabinet of the verry best walnut. ~~It~~ It looked so nice
this unit is ready except for the doors, hinges were the
problem then. I will try brass set now made by Cassidy.
Keep in touch. Always, Green & Goodnight! Gramp's

APPENDIX B

A "Precious Legacy" by Anne Renwick, June 2014

June, 2014

Dear Reader,

I want to tell you the story of a precious legacy, a special little house built by a good man.

As children, my two sisters and I would spend a few weeks in the summer with our Cassidy grandparents who lived in New Brunswick. We would often go for country drives and picnics, and one of our fondest destinations was to Cassidy Lake and the Clover Hill homestead. This property had been in the family since our Irish ancestors settled there in the early 1800s.

In our time, the Cassidy home, which sat on a hill overlooking the lake, was empty and in disrepair; the farm's barns and workshop gone. But the tiny family chapel, built and named for our great great grandfather, and the cemetery where our ancestors were buried, were still intact and we would sit on the steps of the house's sagging porch while our grandfather told us stories of life at "Clover Hill" and the people who had lived there.



The porch stretched across the front of the house, divided in the middle by the house's entranceway. The entranceway was three-sided, mirroring the shape of the bay window above, having a door on either side from the porch, and the main door to the house in between.

Entering this way one arrived in a small front hall which divided the house in the middle. A staircase straight ahead anchored by a turned newel post lead to the second floor. To one's left was the parlour and to one's right a sitting room. Stepping into the parlour, there were two sash windows on one's left and two on the wall opposite. To one's right were two doors, the nearest leading into the kitchen/dining room, and another which opened into a small bedroom.

Returning to cross the hallway, one would enter the sitting room, a less formal space, but with the same configuration of windows and doors as the parlour. Both rooms at one time had little pot bellied stoves for heat. Standing at the entrance to the kitchen/dining room, one was greeted by a large area in which dining table, dressers, and in the winter, a Starr step-stove resided. Looking from left to right at this vantage point, one would see a built in china cabinet, next to which was the root cellar door, and the door from the parlour. A small projection across from this way in hid a steep turning back staircase up to the second floor. On the far wall was the entrance to a pantry, and to the right, the summer kitchen

to which the cast iron wood burning stove would be moved for the hot months. It is thought that this area was the original part of the Irish ancestors' first home, and indeed it did have a semblance of an Irish cottage layout.

Going across the kitchen, and heading up to the second floor via the back stairs, one would arrive a hall with a door to one's right, two on the left and a door ahead flanked by a window. This window did not face outside, but was for sharing the light from the master bedroom's bay window with the hallway and stairwell. There were four bedrooms on this floor, though the room on the right was latterly converted to a bathroom (rarely used as it was considered too "modern"). Prior to the bathroom conversion, the room had also been known to house my great aunt's chickens. None of the rooms had closets; clothing was hung on nails in the walls. Heating came from the chimneys of the pot bellied stoves below.

On what turned out to be our last visit to the house, we persuaded our grandfather to take us inside to "rescue" any artifacts that might be there. Grandpa managed to get the front door open, and we gingerly explored the dusty broken down rooms.

Vandals had struck multiple times. The floor of the parlour was caved in revealing the root cellar below, the staircase banisters were splintered like broken teeth. There was dirt and bits of wood everywhere. We carefully made our way upstairs and after some persuasion, Grandpa removed a few brown china doorknobs for me, reluctantly as he thought the home should be left as is. As he worked with his ever ready pocket knife, I looked for any other artifacts, and was able to find and pocket a scrap of linen. We were all saddened by the destruction around us and left subdued.

The visit turned out to be our only chance to see inside, as shortly thereafter, the home was burned to the ground.

A hundred and fifty years earlier, William and Jane Cassidy, emigrated from Ireland in shortly after they were married. They originally settled in Saint John, NB, but within a few years decided to carve out a homestead at what was then known as Deforest Lake, approximately 50 km northeast of Saint John. With two small children, they began life in the area on the south side of the lake and in 1823 William purchased 150 acres of land on its north side. "The contract price for the property was £40 in New Brunswick currency, equivalent to about \$5,000 in today's dollars, payable in carpenter's work over six years at an annual rate of £6 15s (6 pounds 15 shillings)."¹ In order to gain title to his land, William walked to the province's capital, a 160 km away, making the journey in the winter to take advantage of easier going across frozen lakes and rivers.

William and Jane built a home on their property, expanding it and a barn and workshops, while raising 12 children. They had to be self-sufficient, as the nearest supplies were 50 km away. They raised animals and crops for food; flax was grown from which some of the family's clothing was made. William was also a carpenter and a master craftsman in the making of hand looms.

A story of the Cassidys' self-sufficiency has been passed down through the generations: One day smoke from a large forest fire some 200 km to the north, covered Cassidy Lake with such dense fog that Jane, attempting to return from the pasture on the opposite shore of the lake became lost. William was able

¹ www.cassidys.ca

to guide her safely back home by trumpeting on a conch shell. (Perhaps a lucky memento from the days of living at an ocean port.)

Of William and Jane's life, at least two artifacts still exist: a green and white china cup and saucer which came with them from Ireland, and one of the shuttles William carved.



William and Jane's house witnessed the comings and goings of five subsequent generations, both living within and nearby. Carpentry skills were handed down, as were a love of Clover Hill and its family history. The house was expanded and improved, and in 1883, Francis Edward Cassidy, William and Jane's son, added a tiny chapel on the lakeside below the house. In 1890 the chapel was donated to the Methodist Church, and in 1949 the first of annual family gatherings at the church was held at its dedication to Francis Edward. Pictures from this event paid a large part in what comes next.

The house was burned down by vandals in the 1970s. In 1979 I proposed a project to my grandfather: could he build a 1/12th scale replica of the house? I was at that time starting a collection of 1/12th scale miniatures. I longed for a dollhouse in which to put my growing collection, and then it occurred to me: no one could live in the house at Clover Hill anymore, but perhaps we could bring it back to life another way. Grandfather embraced the idea wholeheartedly.

At the time, I lived in Halifax, NS and my grandfather lived in Fredericton, NB. The house took a year to build, and we corresponded throughout, planning, brainstorming with each other, researching and sharing progress reports and more family stories. Though I don't have copies of my letters, I do, more importantly, have Grandpa's. Excerpts from these letters follow.

From the first, as we embarked on our plan:

"Knowhow as a carpenter & one who has touched the hand of those who have gone before, will (have to) fill in the blank spaces and it will, for when my pencil, pen & carpenters tools are laid down it is doubtful if anyone else will duplicate the project."

One of the most useful guides in building the replica was a collection of photographs my grandmother had: one of the house circa 1912, one later in 1952, and ten photographs from the first family reunion. Close examination of these photos prompted letters full of interesting observations and comments about the times and construction of the "real" house.



It is thought that the house's beginnings were as a small cottage, which later evolved into the summer kitchen and dining room of the expanding home. In the 1912 picture, it does not yet have a verandah: *"There is no roof over the piazza (a Latin word) Dad built the roof sometime between 1910 and 1914. The roof of the house is covered with wood shingles and notice the lines (vertical) at the joints of the pediment roof. That is a shingled hip, commonly called a Boston hip. I put on many of them."*

"Large trees at each end of the house are willows (not weeping willows). The one on the left is the whip that Grandfather Francis Edward "C" used to drive to St. John and when he came home it was stuck in the ground and grew to a tree."

"The pole in the foreground is for the telephone. Note the wood bracket on the top right side. There was 11 miles of wire to Sussex while the road is 16. The line went the short way through the woods."

"The time of year is just before haying quite likely June 15 or thereabouts...the house could use a coat of paint. The driveway is narrow and low in relation to the adjoining ground due to constant washing from rainfall. As I look at the old shop door it seems that Grandfather should come out wearing an old battered black felt hat."

In the 1952 picture, we see changes:



"...someone did paint the house and shingled the roof with Arrow-lock asphalt shingles. I helped put on quite a number of them. Cost in 1938 was app. \$2.60 per square (10" x 10")...Note the piazza roof is covered with corrugated galvanized roofing, quite likely over the wood shingles. A common thing for that period. This picture was taken after haying time and the mowing leaves something to be desired. Note the streaks of dried hay left by the mowing machine." Grandpa was quite particular

about mowing, and he had previously recounted to us stories of when he used to help mow the property with a scythe, not a machine!

"Note lightening {sic} rods (so called) on the roofs. White ball on shop and blue on roof of house and the braided wire app. 5/8" coming down the left end of the house roof. Note it carries {sic} down the end of the house and is embedded in the ground app. 10" as a ground. Lightening rods were common for that period."

From the pictures of the 1949 reunion, further detail that would ordinarily have been overlooked by the unobservant eye:

(Picture #3) "Note the wallpaper, the hewed beam over doors, the different width of the head casings...note beam covered with wallpaper on back wall of kitchen. Note heavy hewed post going up to ceiling to carry the weight of the rafters, roof, snow load etc."



(Picture #5) "Note casing around door so narrow on one side and wide on the other. This is not a mistake, but is due to a wall being on the opposite side and between the sitting room and stairway. Note in the extreme right part of a casing that reaches to the ceiling. This is the left casing of a built in china cabinet. This wall is all doors except for the cabinet. The other two are to parlour and cellar."



(Picture #6) Some kitchen detail: "Note wall paper, real clear, rolled up curtain, right wall. See sissors {sic} on summer kitchen wall and last on the left an old fashioned pot cleaner with rubber preserve jar ring on same hook or more likely a nail."



(Picture #9) Installation of a tin ceiling: "Note ceiling. These are pressed metal mouldings and sheets (of) what was called Mettalic Ceiling. There are two mouldings, note large one on wall and ceiling. Note the section between mouldings shows a pattern one dimpled. This part is important as the center panels were about 2'-0" square. Two are partly shown in extreme top left of picture. To carry out the work one would measure ceiling width and length then figure the number of 2' panels and moulding sizes that were required and the difference would quite likely vary in measure between side and end. This is where the dimpled sheet called a Diaphragm comes in. The carpenter could cut it to width to suit as the dimpled part did not show a cut and would always match...The area was strapped with 1"x3" and the metal applied with special nails. These nails used to skid on the metal and then one got bruised thumb and fingers, after a few days it really hurt as I found out."



In later correspondence, discussion of the model's potential size and finishing took place:

"...one inch equals one foot, it is not small by any means. Height is 28 1/2" and that includes the chimneys which are 2 1/2" high. It will be heavy as I intend to use 1/2" plywood for the main floor and the outside walls. The drawings are just about ready. Stairs (3 sets), windows, doors, walls, etc. I drove down to the old farm and for the third time measured the foundations which are 50% covered."

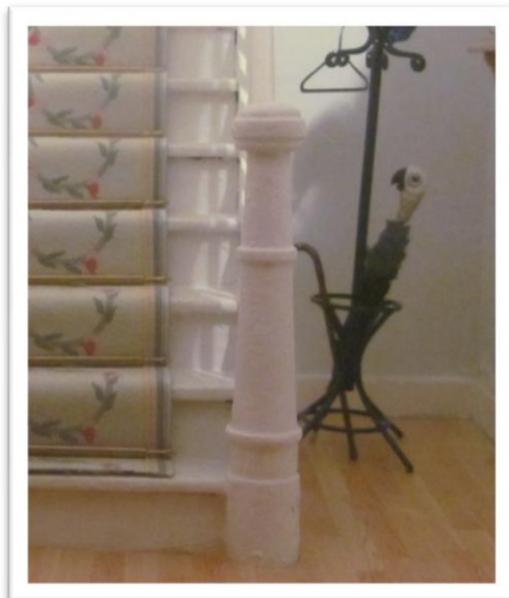
At the time, I was more focused on the project than on the occasional hint of things to come that were sometimes tucked within the house notes: *"Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. finds me at Dr's office as he is the one who will operate at a time as yet unknown to me..."*

Later in the same letter: *"The job could start soon we hope. Stan Cassidy (owner of the property at the time) was in for a chat and we talked the project over and gave me some good advice such as don't forget the sliding opening between the pantry and the kitchen etc. I will make the model as near as I can to what the house was such as the Dining Rm with wide and narrow head casings on drs to pantry and kitchen."*

The footprint of the house caused some issues as to how the interior would be accessible. It was essentially a rectangle, with a rectangular projection off the back containing the summer kitchen and part of dining room. At first, consideration was given to making the model in two pieces which would slide apart, the front from the back. Ultimately, however, it was constructed as one piece, with the roofs of the main portion and the kitchen removable, as well as the side walls of the main part of the house which were held on with magnets. The upper floor of the main part could also be lifted off, with a specific maneuver, and its walls removed for ease of painting and wallpapering.

Grandpa paid close attention to how the doors themselves were built. Some had two panels, some had three, some panels were horizontal, some were vertical, but at the time, tiny hinges were the bigger issue. He manufactured them himself from galvanized sheet iron and brads, taping a sample in one of the letters.

"The stairway is complete...treads and risers in place, and quite a bit of work on the railing. I designed a newel post (the big one at the bottom of the first floor) and got a local chap to turn one to my drawing and it is ready now. Mother and Nicola are excited about it, but it is old hat to me for I designed it quite some (time) ago as I wanted the post at the front of the stairs to be like I remembered it." Later the story also came out that when Grandpa went to see the "local chap" about turning the post, and the fellow said, yes he could do it and to bring the wood in. Grandpa then pulled the piece of wood out of his pocket, much to the great surprise of the woodworker!



In the last letter of the collection the house is near completion. It had been decided after some debate, that the clapboard siding would be replicated using thin strips of vinyl. *"The two sides of the house, dining-kitchen and dining-pantry are all made with windows and trim complete exterior and interior as are partitions from dining to pantry/kitchen and these have shelving in pantry 3 sides and hatch from pantry to kitchen complete with sliding door that really works and all door trim, even the support for the kitchen stove chimney. ...last but not least I broke the rules and made the china cabinet of the very best walnut. It*

looked so nice. This unit is ready except for the doors. Hinges were the problem then. I will try a brass set now made by Cassidy."

Meanwhile, I had been researching and ultimately commissioned scale models of two pieces we knew had been in the original house: a Starr Stove, and a bureau.

The Starr Stove intrigued me, as it was a wood burning cast iron stove, with its main surface only about two feet off the ground, presumably to aid in lifting the heavy cast iron pots on and off. The style, I later learned, is a "step stove." I happened across a real Starr Stove at Uniacke House, part of the Nova Scotia Museum complex, not far from Halifax. I took photos and presented them to a retired architect friend who made models as a hobby. Could he build me one of this stove in 1/12th scale? Indeed he could, and he did, complete with four removable cooking lids, opening warming oven doors, and removable ash bin.



He also replicated a small dresser, the original of which was at a Cassidy cottage. Part of this dresser's appeal was its dovetailed joints, though we don't know who built it (perhaps another Cassidy carpenter). Amazingly the miniature also has dovetailed joints and when photographed looks exactly like its full scale version.

In 1980 I eagerly drove to Fredericton to receive the special gift of the replica house. True to my Grandfather's abilities, it was exquisite. Every detail was there, from the door panels, to the crooked beams, to the built-in china cabinet, to the newel post. The interior remained without decoration, leaving it to my imagination, though Grandpa penciled in on some of the floors what he remembered of furniture positions. He had carved his name, the date, and his navy service number in one of the roof panels. We took pictures, shared more stories, and the usual wonderful visit, then I brought the model home. My own work had just begun: I now had to decorate!



I still have the house and my Grandfather's letters, and the model is undergoing its second "renovation" being re-decorated as if I was living at Clover Hill. I look at it still and think of the stories of those who went before: my Great Aunt Edythe keeping chickens in the upstairs back bedroom; my grandfather and

his cousins as boys jokingly peeing down the parlour stove pipe from upstairs; my mother being chased by geese in the yard; my sisters and I sitting with our grandparents on the steps of the verandah

It took my grandfather a full year, working every day, to build the replica. During that time, unbeknownst to me, he was diagnosed with cancer, and died shortly after giving me the house. He was a loving person, a strong believer in family heritage, a proud Canadian, honoured to serve as a Chief Petty Officer in our navy, and as a carpenter thereafter for the government. The highest praise he could give someone was "he is a good man" and he was definitely that.

William and Jane's descendants include nurses, pilots, lawyers, carpenters, farmers, and an Order of Canada honoree. Their legacy touches us all, and is remembered each time I look at the little house.

"Yours to a cinder"

Anne L. Renwick, a Cassidy Granddaughter

