



## What Does This Castle Have to Do with Guelph?

Bodiam Castle is a long way from the City of Guelph. You may recognize the castle from *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* or an episode of *Doctor Who*. But no, neither of these appearances has anything to do with Guelph.

Built in 1385 in East Sussex, England, Bodiam Castle is alive with magical stories of knights and sieges. It was constructed for Sir Edward Dalyngrigge, a former knight of Edward III, during the reign of Richard II to defend against French invasion during the Hundred Years' War. It has been owned by The National Trust since 1925 and is open to the public.

Fast forward to Guelph in 1858, when one of the most detailed early maps of the Town of Guelph was drawn, including surveyed areas intended for sale. The block bound by London Road, Westmount Road and Kathleen Street was known as Buckland's Survey, named for its owner/agent Charles John Buckland.

C. J. Buckland named the streets

within his planned subdivision -- Buckland Street, Bodiam Street and Sussex Street.

### *The Buckland Family*

Charles Buckland arrived in Guelph in 1835 from (you guessed it) East Sussex, England, where his family owned property at Bodiam Manor, part of the estate lands of Bodiam Castle. In registering his land for sale, he named the future streets after his home in England.

Buckland married Annabelle Sanders in Guelph and they had six children. They lived in a brick cottage, built between 1850-53, that they called *Sussex Place* (now 25 Barber Avenue).

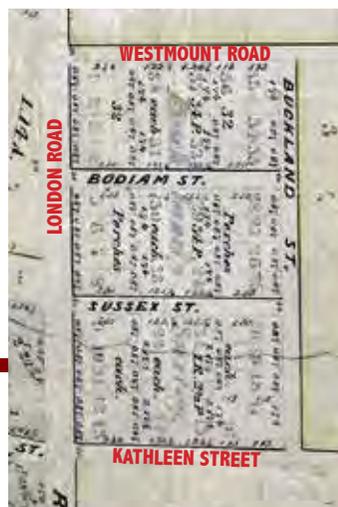
### *Idylwyld*

Around 1872, Buckland and his wife moved to California for health reasons and sold 13 acres of land in Buckland's Survey to local dry goods merchant James Deare Williamson, including the brick cottage. In 1880, Williamson built a much larger and grander residence next to the cottage facing London

Road which he named *Idylwyld*. In the 1920s, the property around the grand house was subdivided and the former laneway was renamed Barber Avenue. Today, both the cottage and *Idylwyld* remain in their original location.

Buckland's youngest daughter Lydia married James Bertram Williamson, son of James Deare Williamson.

While the names Bodiam, Sussex and Buckland have disappeared from the Guelph we know today, for a brief time we had a connection with a medieval fairytale castle far, far away.



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