

THE NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY

THE STAR SHONE FIRST

Before the Town of Cobourg was incorporated in 1837, the community already had a voice. On January 11, 1831 the first issue of the **Cobourg Star and Newcastle Commercial and General Advertiser** appeared, Cobourg being part of the District of Newcastle.

While records are poor from this time period, the *Cobourg Star* is thought to be the first paper for this community. Nearby Port Hope's first newspaper, the *Evening Guide*, also appeared in 1831.

Founding *Cobourg Star* publisher **Richard Dover Chatterton** was one of the earliest settlers in Cobourg, and one of our local inventors. He had apprenticed in the publishing industry in England and set a lofty goal for his newspaper from the beginning.

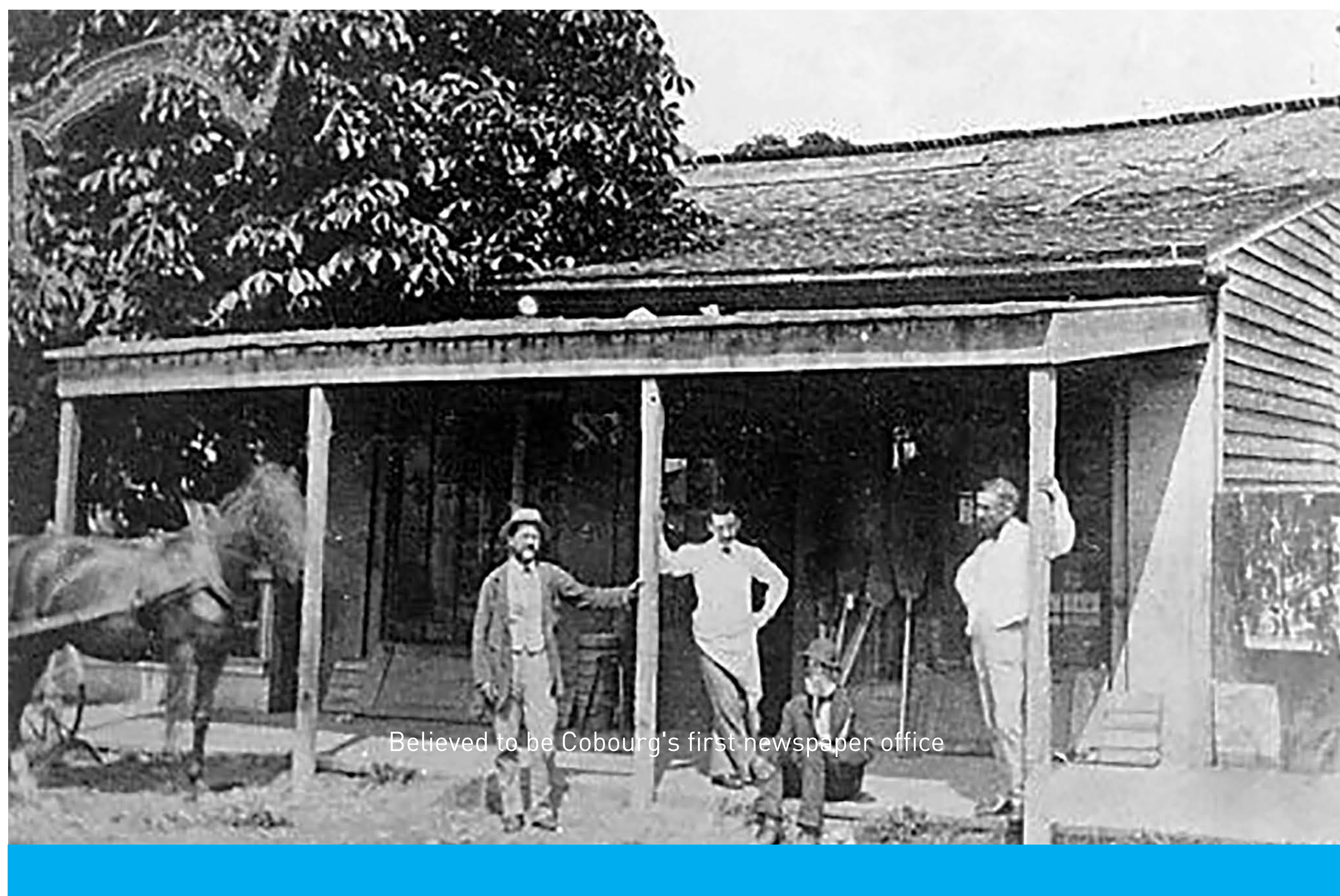
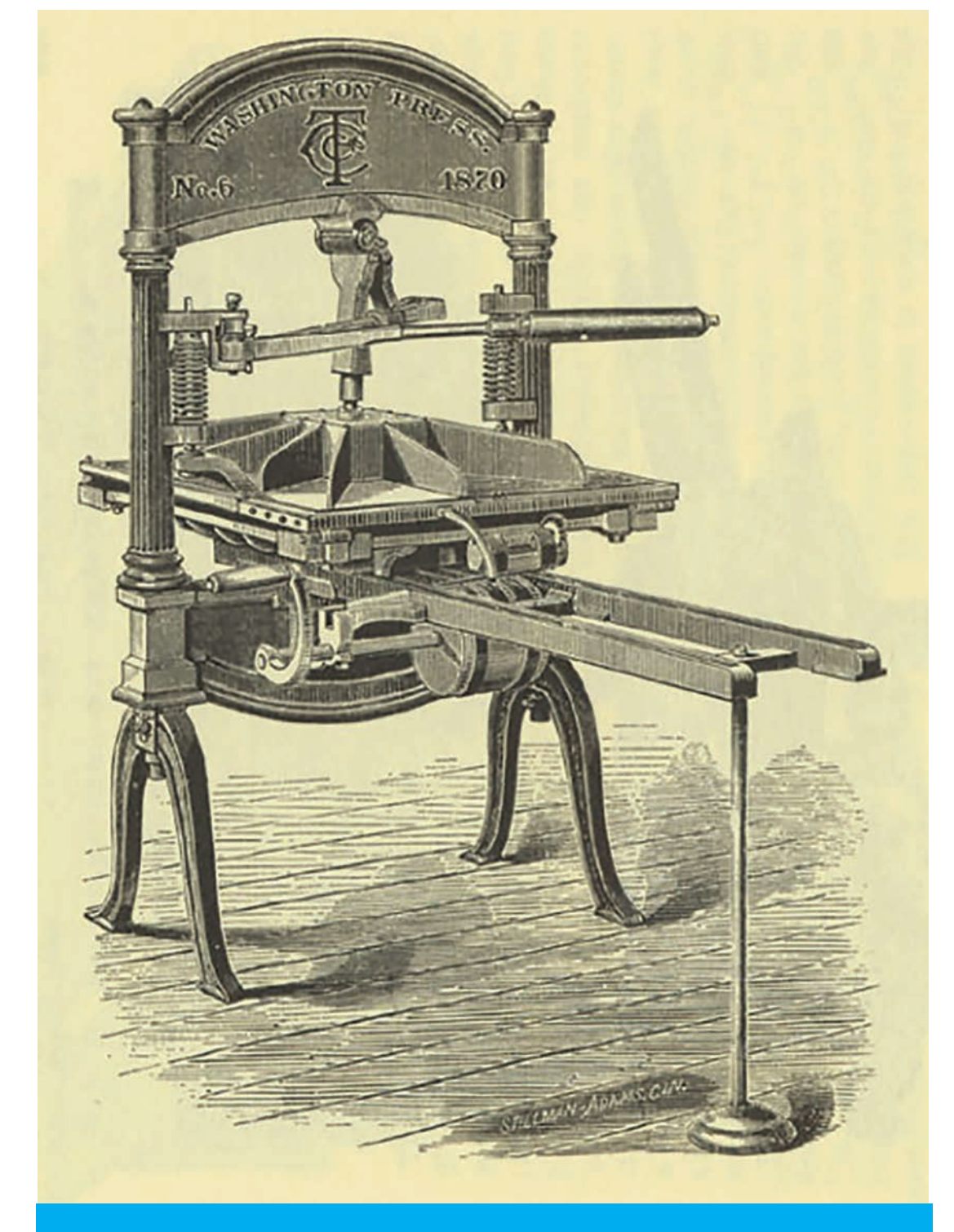
In the conduct of this paper neither expense nor exertion will be spared to make it a source of usefulness and prosperity to the district and entitle it to be an esteemed friend and welcome guest at every fireside.

Chatterton produced just **500 copies of the paper on his small, hand-fed Washington press** (similar to the Gutenberg) , often made from modified wine-presses. The type was set by hand, one letter at a time or with larger engraved blocks with images. To set a column by hand took a full day!

Unlike community newspapers today, it wasn't uncommon for papers in those days to be delivered across a wide region. In its early days the *Cobourg Star* reached the communities of Belleville, Port Hope, Whitby, Colborne, Haldimand, Peterborough, Otonabee, and as far away as Ancaster and Guelph.

During the 1800s **the name of the newspaper changed several times** including being called the *Cobourg Star and Newcastle District Gazette*.

In 1850 Henry Ruttan, also an inventor, and his partner, E.C. Clench (son of the well-known local furniture maker) bought the *Star*.



Believed to be Cobourg's first newspaper office

SOME STORIES FROM THE COBOURG STAR & NEWCASTLE DISTRICT GAZETTE

Board of Police publicize new bylaw regulating the sale of bread

Reward offered for a lost overcoat..

Elizabeth Johnston, a 14-year-old girl missing after she boarded a train from Montreal on her way to see her brother in Newcastle, never showed up...