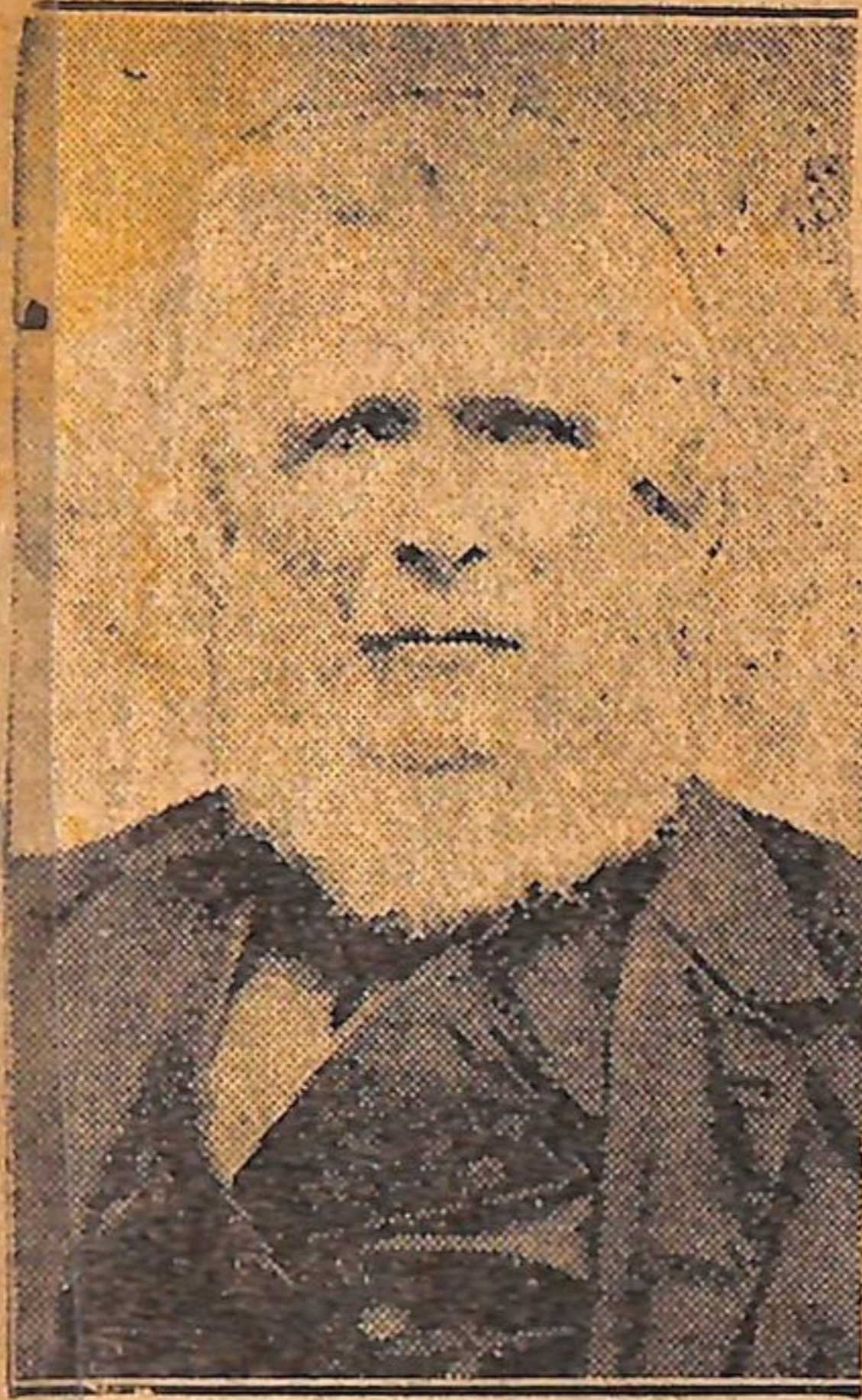
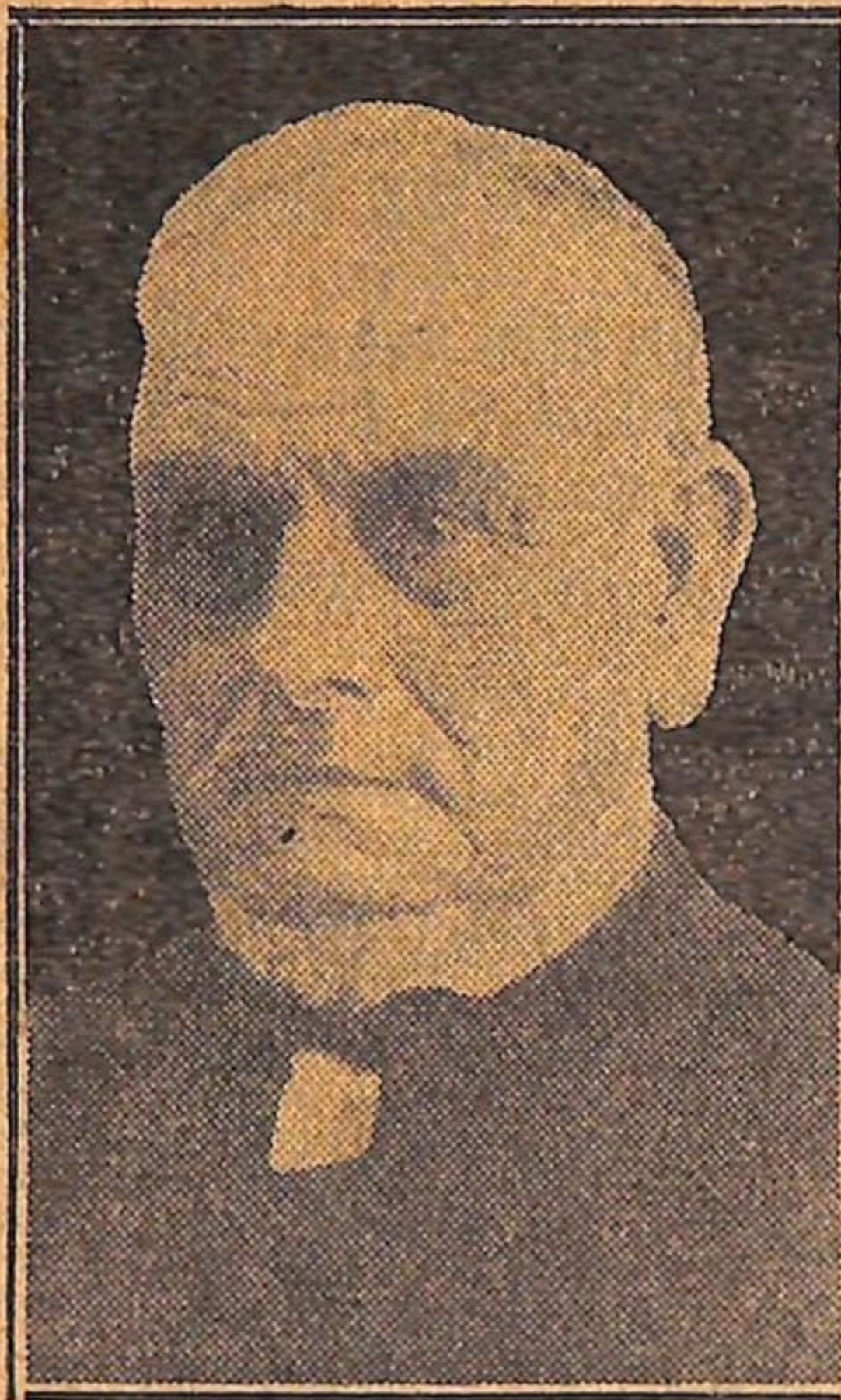


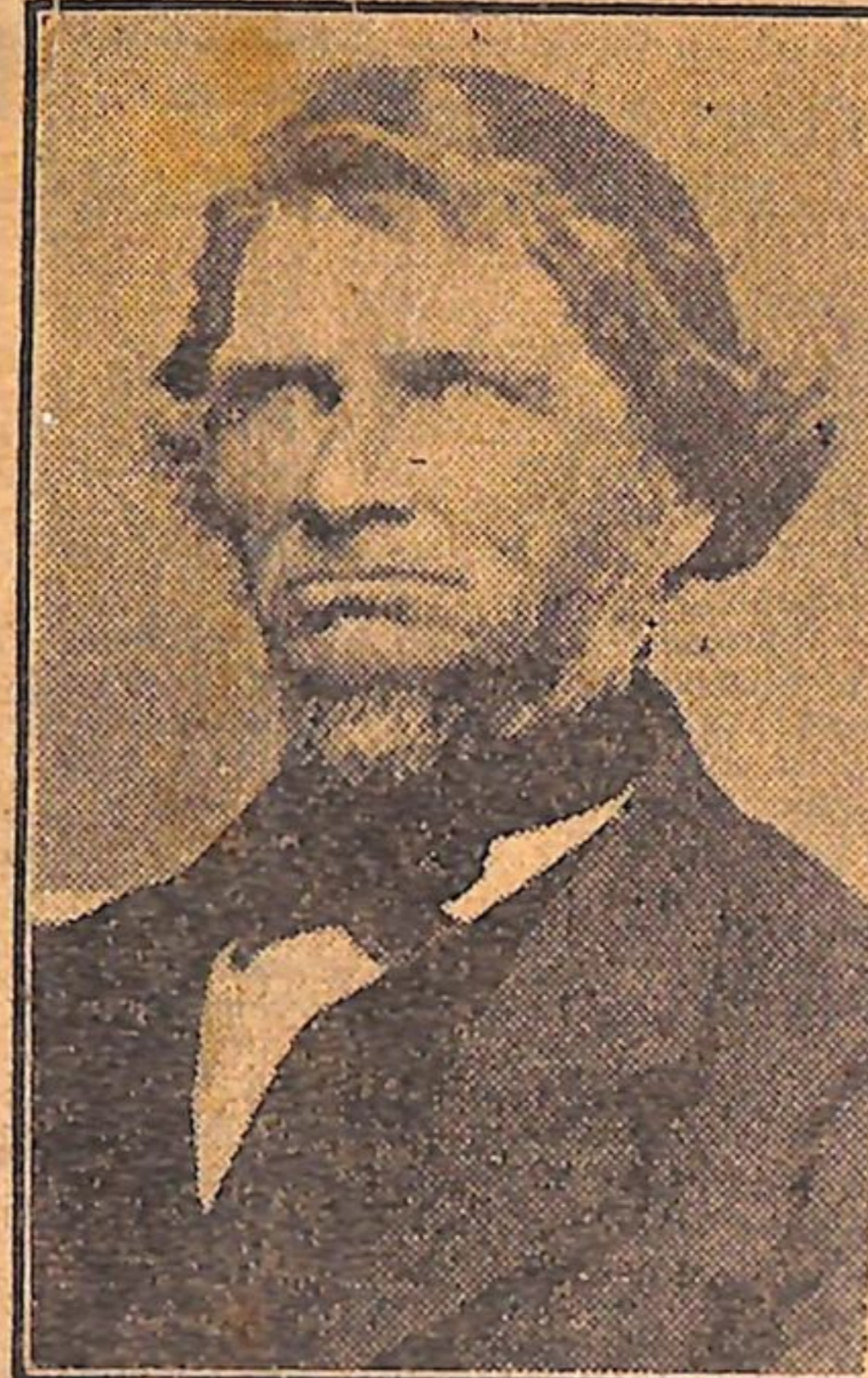
Men Who Helped Shape Destinies of Nissouri



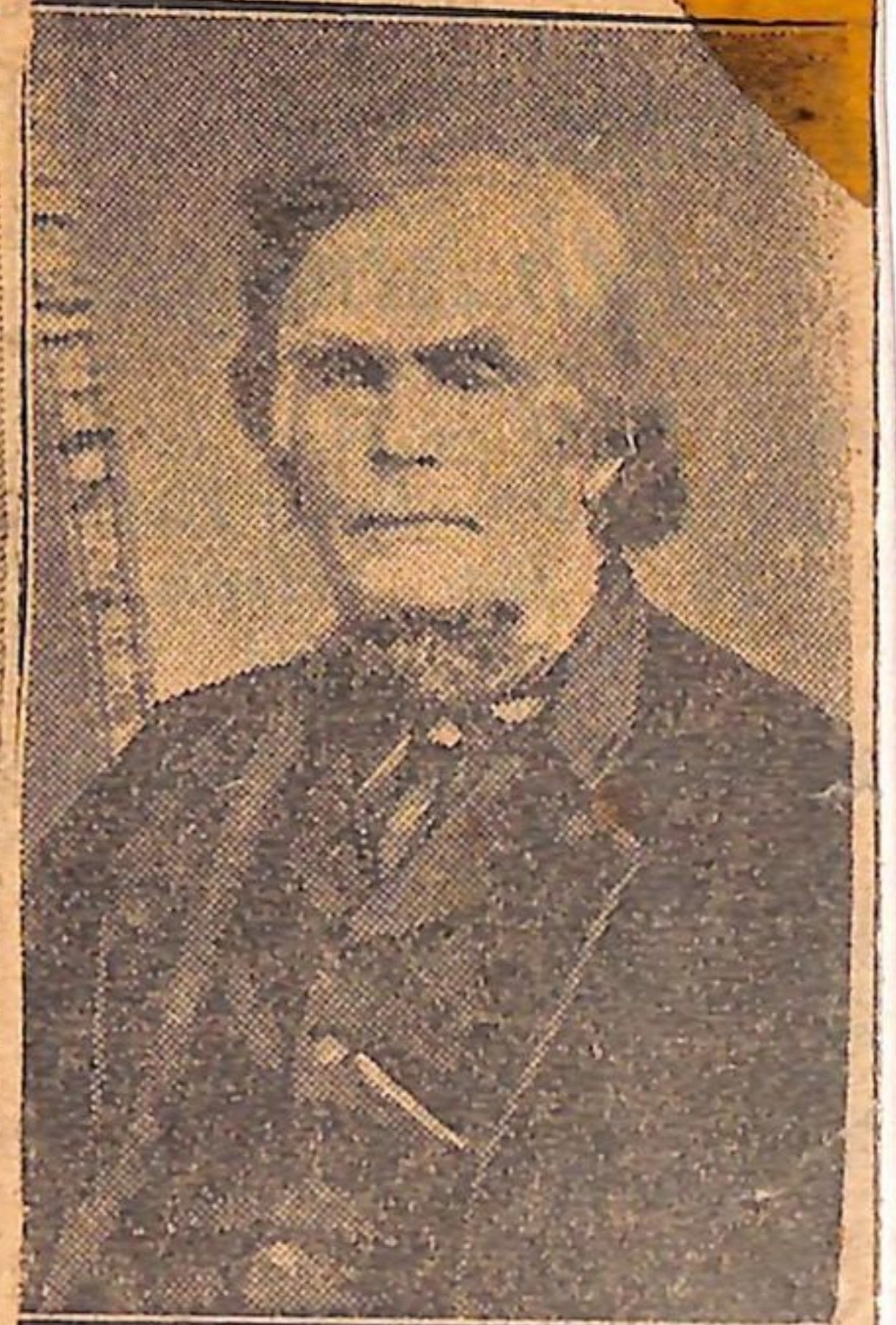
REV. S. VINING.



REV. T. B. BROWN.



THOMAS UREN.



REUBEN GLEASON.

These four men came to Nissouri in the difficult days of the 1820's, when Western Ontario was forested by bears and other wild animals, when farming meant real pioneering. More than 500 descendants will pay honor to their memory next Wednesday afternoon at Springbank Park here at a joint reunion picnic. All four pioneers have been followed by splendid people who have contributed much, and are today maintaining the tradition to the well-being and happiness of the garden area of Canada, Western Ontario. Many members of the present families are well known in the City of London. Rev. T. B. Brown came to Nissouri in 1822, Thomas Uren came in 1820, Reuben Gleason in 1826, and Rev. S. Vining in 1821.

Early Settlers

Robert Gleason settled at Lakeside in 1832 and Charles Mitchell arrived in 1834, taking up the farm on the north shore of the lake where his grandson, Charles Mitchell, now resides. The pioneer preacher, T. B. Brown, came to the settlement a few years later, carrying in a bag all his worldly possessions, which it is said included a violin and a little bottle of whiskey, the latter being used for medical purposes.

In 1837 when news of the rebellion reached the little settlement, excitement ran high. The New Englanders with the Loyalist blood welling in their veins, determined to quell the rebels, and if necessary lay down their lives for the country of their adoption. The old muskets were taken down from the cabin wall, a meeting called on the shore of the lake, and a brigade formed, consisting of four men and a boy, Jacob German, Charles Mitchell, Philip Baker, William Gregory and George Hereford. These volunteers, bidding farewell to their wives and families, shouldered their old flint locks and began their march to Oxford, as Ingersoll was then called.

Wild rumors raged everywhere. Due to the lack of proper communication it was impossible to learn the truth of the situation, and terror was driven into the hearts of the women and children. Meetings were held at a central home, conditions discussed, and plans made to carry on in the absence of fathers and husbands. However, on hearing of the retreat of the rebels, the little Lakeside band returned unharmed, and peace reigned in the settlement once more.

In 1842 the first public building, erected in the village of Lakeside. This was the log schoolhouse which stood on the main corner where the United Church now stands. The building was 12 feet square with one window at the south side, and although this was the only lighting system for the school, pioneers declare that eye trouble was unknown.

In 1846 a hotel was erected on this corner across from the school. This was a frame structure, and still stands, though remodelled several times. In this building was a large sitting-room in which stood a huge fireplace. Here on winter evenings the pioneers, and while the flames roared up the old chimney, many wild tales were told of experiences in the locality. In the midst of the group sat the genial host, Captain Dottie, ever ready to extend a hearty welcome to any wayfarers who might enter the inn.