THE TOWNSHIP OF ARTEMESIA

A HISTORY

BY W. S. CHRISTOE

Mathew Richardson, Esq., succeeded Reeve Christoe, but was subsequently defeated by John Boland, Esq. Some misapprehension in reference to his relationship to the Patron movement was, it is supposed, the chief cause of his defeat. He was not a new hand at the municipal machine. Quite early in the township's history, under W. K. Flesher's reeveship, he was deputy for two years. His mercantile business seemed to absorb his attention, however, and consequently he did not seek re-election until the time of which reference is now made. Of his municipal history nothing of a striking character occurred by which his real ability as a presiding officer could be fairly tested, and it is only from general observation that any thing like a correct criticism could be made. The concensus of opinion undoubtedly ascribes to him characteristics of unsullied honor and integrity. He is well versed in important questions of church and state, but whether he can be considered a gentleman of quick perception and dynamic force for a model chairman may be fairly questioned. Being of very reticent, noncommittal and slow habit, he often misses the blessing following the proverb, "A word spoken in season, how good it is." However, he possesses unquestionably much laudable ambition, and in a quiet, unobtrusive manner, seeks for, and obtains, whether on business or municipal lines, the ascendency. As a speaker he is ornate and convincing, and would grace any legislative hall to which he might be elected. At this writing, 1897; he is one of the newly elected representatives to the County Council. During his official year there were $1,100 received from the government on account of Land Improvement Fund. This fund arose in the following manner: The Province of Canada (Ontario and Quebec) set apart one million acres of land for common school purposes, but out of the proceeds one-fourth of this, besides one-fifth of the then unappropriated Crown Land, a fund was formed for public improvements in the counties where such lands were situated, but afterwards this arrangement was rescinded, so far as the crown lands were concerned, viz., 6th March. 1861, but divers moneys had been recieved from that day to the first of July, 1867, one-fifth of which sums amounted to $101,771,68, and became applicable to the Improvement Fund; but the Province of Quebec disputes any liability to the fund in respect to crown lands—upon which arbitration is still pending. Meanwhile, the Ontario Government consented to distribute what she considered her share, viz.: $53,704. Artemisia's share of this was $1,100, as previously stated, but this sum may not be final, for there is a question of accumulated interest. It is not likely, however, that until there be an authoritative decision, by the arbitrators, any further advance will be made. The township, among which the one million acres of school lands were appropriated, are the only beneficiaries of that fund. Artemisia having no school lands, she has no claim. Since 1867, however, as the public lands have been sold, more or less, one dollar an acre (I believe) has constituted the Land Improvement Fund, from which Artemisia has received her share from year to year, but it is now very small indeed. The $1,100 mentioned were like other such moneys, divided among the several wards, and no doubt good equivalents received by work done; but at present it would puzzle an ordinary observer to point to its outlay.

John Boland, Esq, succeeded Mr. Richardson in the Reeveship—a man raised in the township, and an agriculturist of no small merit. He became deputy reeve during Dr. Christoe's Reeveship, and naturally became acquainted with municipal affairs. In his first encounter with Richardson, he was defeated. Meantime, the Patron movement of the day became a very strong body, and possessed an influence far beyond its own circle. It may be said, as far as the writer understands it, that it was an institution of some merit, and if judiciously managed would have resulted in benefit to the farming community. The sequel shows that it rapidly declined in consequence of selfish political hucksters using it as best they could to subserve their own interest. I was in the hey day of the association that prevented any one who was not in hearty sympathy with it to succeed in being elected to any municipal office—however clever he might be, more especially merchants. Under those circumstances the present reeve was elected. It must be stated, however, that his popularity was considerable independent of those circumstances and without gainsaying, by comparison, he stands forth well with his predecessors. He is a person of undoubted impartiality and sound judgment, but, like other reeves, has sometimes been out-voted, contrary to his judgment of right. He is not an orator, and makes no pretension to it; but in his presence his opponent had better be careful of his facts, and have a coat of mail against his incisive witticisms. The writer has noticed particularly a few things during his administration, which calls for approbation, especially in municipal matters, viz.: a congenial manner, non partisan in practice, and a desire to render justice to all, friend or foe. After all it is averred that he lacked firmness, somewhat, to be considered an ideal chairman. Nothing but routine business has been on the tapis during his official career, excepting the building of a new bridge over the Beaver, which is pronounced an excellent structure. This bridge was built by money to the township from the county, but moneys absolutely paid by the ratepayers indirectly. The principle is this, if memory serves: This fund arose out of building a bridge at Meaford, for which the whole county was liable. Now Artemisia's share was, say $800, towards the bridge. But the fathers of the county thought that if they had to be taxed for this bridge, an equal sum to the cost of building should be raised for the present use of the municipalities. By this mode Meaford will pay her share of the new levy. It stands thus: Instead of taxing the people $3000 only (say) for Meaford bridge, the sum of $3000 additional was raised, and the additional $3000 were divided proportionately among the townships; $800 was Artemisia's share, but it is seen that the people pay the whole bill. This is indirect taxation with a vengeance. It is provided for by the county, and ratepayers are comparatively ignorant of it. The Eugenia bridge was built from such moneys. However, this system was inaugurated many years ago. The figures may not be correctly given, but are sufficient to exhibit the principle. The righteousness of the method is questionable.

These notes would be scarcely complete without mentioning our present clerk, W. J. Bellamy, Esq., who became clerk on the 5th day of April, 1880, succeeding J. W. Henderson, Esq. The council was very fortunate in the selection. Never offensive, Mr. Bellamy is always ready to give to every one any information in his possession touching the affairs of the township. His duties are performed without fuss or fury. He possesses unqestionable ability, and is trustworthy without comment.

It would be out of my scope to write to any extent, regarding Deputy Reeves. A brief notice will have to suffice. Alexander Irwin, Esq., was first, in 1857, and served for 3 years in succession He is long since deceased. He was a fine speciman of an Irish gentlman, tall, commanding, and always commanded respect. He was father to Henry Irwin, Esq., and brother, of Ward 2. Then followed Mr. McDonald, in 1860, serving for 3 years. For some cause 1861 had no deputy reeve. In 1864 Dr Mahaffy served for a part of the year, and J. H. Yeomans the balance. Mr. Yeomans lived in Priceville, and if memory serves me he was a merchant. 1865 finds J. H. Yeomans Deputy for a part of a year and James Love for the balance. In 1866 James Love was Deputy, followed in 1867 and 1868 by Thorp Wright, who also served in 1881. In 1869 Robert Trimble was Deputy. He ran for reeve afterwards but was defeated by W. K Flesher, Esq. In 1870 Peter Campbell was elected Deputy He was a wool carder, and operated the Flesher carding mill both before and after it came into Flesher's hands. He made himself quite prominent as a citizen. He was a rough, rash man, and met his death tragically. He was father of a large family of children, but obverse in character in every particular. In 1871 Dr. Ghent was Deputy, and was one of the chief causes that kept the Rail Road out of Flesherton. Then in 1872 and 1873 Matthew Richardson became Deputy. Afterwards Archy Elliot, Esq., for seven years, viz.: 1874 to 1879 and 1883. Samuel Pedlar was elected in 1884 and 1893. Eugenia ward never elected a better councillor. Economy was his constant watch word, and he was never backward to hold his fort His confreres often thought he was too much so. But it hurts no council to have such men in its midst. However, he had the good sense, whenever a matter was decided whether for or against him, to be always friendly. In 1882 Alex. Webster, Esq., a merchant of Priceville and an able man, was Deputy. 1885 finds Jos. Blakely, Esq., as Deputy—a young man raised in the township, possessed of excellent judgment, and who now resides a short distance outside of the village. John McArthur of Priceville became Deputy and served in 1886, 1887 and 1888. He is now a merchant at Priceville. He made an excellent councillor, has since acted as auditor of the township and is an excellent penman He failed to attain to the Reeveship, principally because the people were not sufficiently acquainted with him. The township now commenced in 1887, to elect two deputies, when John Boland appears as the second man, and also in 1888-'90. In 1889 the township relapsed and H Cairns was the only deputy—a young man of unimpeachable character, and who, had he continued in municipal politics might have made his mark. In 1891 William Sharp and George Thompson were elected, both of whom are Artemisia boys, and both are owners of farms. Both have borne excellent characters from boyhood. But they differ in municipal stamina. The first named is more discriminating and determined, and whatever he essayed to do, whether in Council or out of it, he would do it fearlessly; while the latter, showing a good deal of good nature and good intention, is afflicted ofttimes with vaccilation, doubting the right course to pursue. Both are excellent citizens. The years 1892, 1894 and 1896 find Thos. Kells as deputy; 1892-4-6, D. McMillan; in 1893 S. Dumaude was the choice with Mr. Pediar; in 1895 G. Thompson and James Best were elected. This finishes the roll as far as representatives to the County Council are concerned. Mr. McMillan, a councillor, the writer knows little about. Judging from his time of service he must have given satisfaction to his constituents. Mr. Dumude is well known to the township. He was an early aspirant to municipal honors, but failed of success until 1895. He was very strong in his resentments, but possessed fair business ability. He left the township for a lucrative position in the city of Toronto. James Best, another Artemisia boy and the last to be named, has made phenomenal strides towards wealth, and rather unexpectedly succeeded in his election to the Council. His re-election shows him to have many friends. Of his ability as a councillor opinions are divided. As to the particular actions of the present Council, it is out of my province to mention, any further than to say that the concurrent opinion is that a few lessons on economics would most likely improve their popularity.

The moral aspect of the township, after the many taverns that followed the wake of the gravel roads were shut up, was fairly good. The missionary followed the settler from a very early period. The first, I believe, was Rev. Hill of the Methodist church, who died the past summer. And from his entrance Artemisia has never been without a pastor. Others soon followed. Those of the New Connexion denomination assisted in supply, Rev. Mr. Baskerville being one, with his predecessors. In the early days most all of the children attended Methodist Sabbath schools, and to them belongs the praise of being the pioneers. Soon, however, the Presbyterians had a share in the work, commencing, if correct, at Priceville. The Baptists also did some early work; so that the morals of the township were well looked after. The temperance question was early advocated, and made a lasting impression.

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To sum up, it may be stated that, from the beginning, Artemisia has held no mean position in the county. In her representative men she has stood high; in her general improvements she has kept pace with her neighbors; in her finances she may well be proud. The township, through her excellent collectors, has learned to be punctual. Few townships of her age can boast of better school houses or a better choice of teachers. Her inhabitants are practically a temperance people; they are a church-going people to a praiseworthy degree. She has no public debts. It is true her physical features are not so lovely in places as some others; yet her sons are sturdy and peaceful. And if comparison be drawn for 30 years, the changes and comforts of the people have increased immensely. Very many of the log houses and barns have given place to more substantial buildings; the ox sled and lumber wagon have been supplemented by horses, buggies, democrats and bicycles; the old cradle has given place to binders and reapers ad finitum; the hand sowing is supplanted by the drill. Time would fail to estimate the value of all these. The mode of farming is being rapidly improved. The gratuitous information imparted from time to time by the government should make Artemisia a township to be admired.

Much more might have been written of circumstances and individuals, but the present inhabitant is familiar with the later history. The writer has endeavored to be fair and correct in his statements, but admits at the same time the possibility of errors.

"Oh wad some power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as others see us!
It would frae mony an error free us
And foolish notion."

With thanks to The Advance for his great patience, I now finish my notes.

W. S. CHRISTOE.

Port Law

From our own Correspondnt.

Mr. Ben. Hargrave is at present suffering from a severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism, but, as he is under the care of Dr. Scott we hope soon to hear of his speedy recovery.

We are very sorry to note the very serious accident which happened to Mrs. McEachnie, sr., of the 4th con. While she and her husband were driving throught an open on Tuesday, Oct. 12th, the wind caught the gate and brought it forward in contact with the hind wheel, causing the rig to upset, and thorwing Mrs. McEachnie violently to the ground, dislocating the hip joint and causing a fracture of the same. She is under the care of Drs. Carter of Flesherton and McWilliams of Dundalk. We fear the the result may prove fatal, as she appears to be suffering extreme pain and only recently recovered from a severe attack of heart trouble. She is nearly 70 years of age.

Born—At Port Law, on Oct, 9th, the wife of Jas Maxwell, a son.

Died

DERUSHA—At the residence of her cousin, Mr. Dolphen, of Osprey, on Sunday, Oct. 17th, Miss Jenny Derusha of Artemesia in her 21st year. Funeral took place Tuesday at 2 o'clock, to Alt, Zion cemetry

AUCTION SALE

—OF—

VALUABLE FARM PROPERTY

—IN—

The Township of Glenelg

Under and by virtue of power of sale in a certain mortgage from Richard Haley to the Vendors, which will be produced at time of sale, and on default being made in payment of the money thereby secured, there will be offered for sale by public auction, by R. N. Henderson, auctioneer at

Marsh's Hotel

—IN THE—

Village of Markdale

—ON—

Tuesday, 26th day of October, 1897

At 2 o'clock p. m. the following property namely:

Lot number 15, in the 7th concession of the Township of Glenelg containing 104 acres, more or less, of which about 70 acres are said to be cleared. On the premises are said to be a wooden house, log barn and stable and the property is situated in a good farming district, convenient to church, school and market.

TERMS

Ten per cent. at time of sale, and for the balance terms will be liberal, and will be made known at time of sale.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. BELLAMY & HENDERSON, Flesherton, or to BARWICK, ALYESWORTH & FRANKS, Vendors' Solicitors, Toronto.

Dated 30th day of Sept., 1897.

M. Richardson & Co.

Seasonable Footwear

Sensible people realize that this fine fall weather cannot last much longer, and are preparing for the cold damp days. They know that comfort and health cannot be asssociated with cold or wet feet and buy their wet weather boots now.

Why not follow a good example and buy yours too?

Some Tempting prices for Reliable Goods . . . .

Mens' Long Front Split Stogas,	$1.75 and $2.00
Mens' Long Front Whole Stogas,	2.50
Mens' Long Front Grain Driving,	3.50
Boys' Long Front Split Stogas,	1.75
Womans' Union Bals, No. 1	1.10
Womens' Pebble Bals,	1.25
Womens' Glove Grain,	1.55
Misses' Union Bals, peg sole,	95
Misses' Pebble Bals, peg sole,	1.10
Misses' Glove Grain Bals, Rivets	1.00
Childs' Union Bals, peg sole,	85
Childs' Pebble Bals, peg sole,	75
Infants' Cacks Tan or Black,	35
Infants' Moccassins, all colors,	25
Womens' Toilet Slippers,	25
Womens' all Felt Slippers,	25
Womens' Carpet Slippers, turn,	75

Good for Cold Feet

Mens' 4 buckle Split Felt Boots,	2.50
Mens' 4 buckle Grain Felt Boots,	2.75
Mens' Half Foxed Split Felt Boots,	2.25
Womens' Felt Foxed Buskins,	1 10
Womens' All Felt Foxed Buskins,	1.00
Womens' Pebble Felt Foxed Bals,	1 35
Womens' Pebble Felt Foxed Congress,	1.65

= Special Import =

Uncolored Japan Teas

In March last we placed two large orders for Tea to be packed specially for ourselves on the gardens in Japan, in 20 and 30 lbs. caddies. Since that time Teas have advanced 3c a lb. and we can therefore offer our customers exceptional values.

We are so fully convinced of the extra quality of these Teas that we guarantee every pound of them—you run no risk in buying a whole caddy—if it doesn't stand comparison with others or is not to your taste, bring it back.

Butterfly, 20 lbs. Cads, worth 30c lb.,	$5.00
Jubilee, No. 1, 30 lbs. Cads, worth 25c lb.,	6.50
Jubilee, No. 2, 30 lbs. Cads, worth 30c lb.,	7.50

Things We're Selling Every Day:

30 lbs. Pure Yellow Cane Sugar	$1.00
4 packages Corn Starch	25
Shredded White Wheat Biscuits	15
Mens' Laundried Shirts, fancy stripes	75
Mens' Unlaundried Shirts, fancy stripes	50
Mens' Heavy Top Shirts, all colors	50
Mens' Black Sateen Shirts, 50c to	1.00
Mens' Heavy Cotton Underwear, the Suit	55
Mens' heavy All Wool Underwear in grey and colors, the suit	1.00
Boys Tweed Caps, all sizes	10
Mens' Tweed Caps, all sizes	25
Flannelettes, wide cloth, fast colors, selected patterns	4½

HARDWARE DEPARTMENT

On the Ground Floor

We are right away down with prices. A look through the following lists will convince you.

New Braces extra value, at	$ 50	Boot and Shoe protectors, card	10
New Butchers Knives, Rodgers	25	The Handy Microscope	35
Heel Surporters pair only	10	Matchless Metal Polish	5
New Razors, Elliots best at	1.00	New Reading Glasses	35, 55

NEW TINWARE

Daisy Tea Kettle	15	Rd. Story Cake Tins, false bottoms sett	25
Cake Turners, wooden handle	10	Sq. Story Cake Tins, false bottoms sett	30
1 Gal. Feed Pans	20	Granite Tea Pots, each 45, 50, 65,	75
Covered Kneading Pans, only	45	Wire Toasters or Broilers	15
White Granite Wash Basins	25	Cov'd Self Basting Roast Pans, 75c	85
Copper Bottom Teapots, only	25		
Square Pie Tins, each	5, 8		

DO YOU KNOW?

That we can supply you with everything in the Stove Pipe line, and save you money on it. We keep Damper, Pipes, Tee Pipes, Taper Pipes and Round Elbows, Partition and Chimney Thimbles, all sizes. Barclay's and Standard Stove Pipes.

OUR STOVES . .

Are HANDSOME COOKERS, GOOD BAKERS, and SPLENDID HEATERS. They consist of MOFFAT'S PEARL, McCLARY'S FAMOUS and STEWARTS GOOD CHEER. See them.

A HANDSOME LOT of new Lamps, just opened, also a lot of nice Glassware, Crockery, and Windowshades to hand

M. Richardson & Co.