



THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH

Under a spreading chestnut tree The village smithy stands; The smith, a mighty man is he, With large and sinewy arms Are strong as iron bands.

His hair is crisp, and black, and long, His face is like the tan; His brow is wet with honest sweat, He earns whate'er he can, And looks the whole world in the face, For he owes not any man.

Week in, week out, from morn till night, You can hear him swing his heavy sledge, With measured beat, and rhythmic clang— Like a sexton ringing the village bell, When the evening sun is low.

And children coming home from school Look in at the open door; They love to see the flaming forge, And hear the bellows roar, And catch the burning sparks that fly Like chaff from a threshing floor.

He goes on Sunday to the church, And sits among his boys; He hears the parson pray and preach, He hears his daughter's voice Singing in the village choir, And it makes his heart rejoice.

Tolling, tolling, sorrowful, slow, Onward through life he goes; Each morn'ning sees some task begun, Each evening sees it close; Something attempted, something done, Has earned a night's repose.

—Longfellow.

THE BLACKSMITHS OF ACTON

I overheard a couple speaking about blacksmiths who had been doing business in Acton, the other day, and the thought came to me that perhaps the readers of THE FREE PRESS would like to have a list of the various blacksmiths who have been actively engaged here. I knew every one of them personally, have been in all the shops, and as boy and man, have had interesting conversations with them all. I think perhaps the first blacksmith shop was opened in Acton about 1835 by George Keelo, and the site was the vacant ground on the Perryman property, west of Town Clerk Farmer's office. It was closed about the year 1873, and was never again utilized as a blacksmith shop, though the forge remained there until Mr. Perryman purchased the property from Square Grant about 40 years ago, and remodelled the premises to its present form.

I am under the impression that the second blacksmith shop was established by Thomas Overton. It stood on the lot where Mr. N. F. Moore's residence now is situated. It was just across the creek from the old California House, a tavern conducted by William Ward. Mr. Overton was an Old Country blacksmith and came here from England in the early days of Acton's history. He had a son and daughter, William and Ann, and by the way, his home was on the north side of the tavern. Like many of the folks of those days, he rarely passed the bar-room door to or from his work that he did not stop and go in for a sample of Handford Ward's liquid refreshment.

At times he partook freely, and was then found to be in rather ill humor, both at the shop and at his home, but he was a good workman, and kept his customers, but he never could be regarded as a kind-hearted friend. His daughter, Ann, married Thomas Ebbage, and this bright young Christian couple founded a happy and prosperous home. They had a large family of sons and daughters, and enjoyed the esteem of the community and were active in church and temperance work.

William, the son, learned the blacksmithing trade. He was, however, not disposed to stay on with his father, but built a shop for himself across the street, where McEaac's garage now stands, and commenced business in opposition to his father. The venture was, however, not very successful, and after a few years he sold out to Anthony Stephenson, and removed to Hallburton, where he spent the balance of his business life. Mr. Stephenson, after doing business in the William Overton shop for a num-

ber of years, during all of which his brother, John, was with him, built a new shop on the west side of the street, on the site which had been occupied by the old California House, and which was destroyed by fire over fifty years ago. Here the two Stephensons, Anthony and John, spent the remainder of their activities.

It may not be generally known that three Stephenson brothers, blacksmiths, came to Acton from Knatchbull, in 1874. This was at the time of the organization of the Acton Plow Company. The company, the moving spirit of which was William Stephenson, the eldest brother, was organized to manufacture the one-handed Stephenson plow, an invention of William Stephenson, which a number of Acton citizens were induced to believe would make the shareholders of the company independently wealthy. The plow became quite popular for a time, won first prize at the Great Centennial Exposition in 1876, but its popularity was short-lived and its manufacture was discontinued. Anthony then went into business for himself; John with him; and William went West. There he was successful with several inventions—a steam gang plow, which generated steam from burning straw in the furnace; and, I think later a steam binder.

Another blacksmith brought from Knatchbull to the Plow Company was Robert Tamshaw. After the Plow Company amalgamated he went to Milton, and later to Hamilton.

I am of the opinion that the second blacksmith shop was established by Michael Speight, of Markham. The Speights had built up a big business over there in the York County village. There were the father, Thomas Speight, Esq., a fine old Yorkshire mechanic, who came to Canada early in the eighteenth century, and six well-treated sons. Acton was developing in those days and Mr. Speight and his sons decided it would be a desirable place for building up another centre for their wagons and carriages. He and three sons—James, Thomas and Henry, remained at Markham, and John, Samuel and Michael came to Acton. John was a woodworker on wagons and carriages, Michael, a blacksmith skilled in founding the wheels, that John built, and Samuel was an expert painter.

The blacksmith shop was built on Main Street, on the south side of Agnes Street, and Michael was established there. Twenty years or so later a new and more commodious shop was erected on the north side of the street and steam working machinery installed. David Williamson, another Knatchbull blacksmith, was engaged as foreman, about sixty years ago, and James McLam, an apprentice. In due time James' brother, Noble, became an apprentice, and with successive steps James became a master blacksmith and purchased the business. Noble also graduated, and for a number of years occupied a good position in the blacksmithing department of the Grand Trunk Railway car shops at London. Eventually he became proprietor of the old Speight business, and a few years ago sold out to Mr. James Gilmour, the present proprietor. James R. Anderson, another Knatchbull boy, who conducted a business at Eden Mills for some years, was for a time owner of this blacksmithing enterprise.

When the Speight young men came to Acton three families were established here. Of their descendants the following only now remain in Acton, Mrs. James Moore and her daughter, Miss Clara; Mrs. H. P. Moore; and Miss Bertie H. Speight, the daughter of Charles C. Speight, and grand-daughter of Michael Speight. About the year 1860 James Lightheart built a blacksmith shop on the corner of Mill and Eight Streets, where the Baptist Church now stands. Two brothers, Samuel and John, were in the cooperage business here. Their shop stood where the garage now is on the Atkinson property. In 1867 the shop burned down. It was rebuilt, and after a year or two he sold the business to James Ryder, his brother-in-law. Mr. Ryder ran a prosperous business, but in the course of time another conflagration came along, about 1879, and the shop and residence were annihilated. Mr. Ryder never rebuilt, but removed to Petrolia, where Mr. Lightheart had preceded him. His son, Edward, is still a resident of Acton.

After the fire of 1879, when just out of his apprenticeship, conducted a blacksmithing business in a building erected in the rear of the Ryder shop for several years. He made fine progress and was successful in life, being superintendent of the great steel works at Winnipeg for many years. He died in Toronto last winter.

There were two other blacksmith shops on Main Street for short periods. When James McLam had completed his apprenticeship he concluded to go into business for himself. His brother, Samuel, who was a blither, erected a shop for him on a site just north of Nelson Lambert's house. But he never occupied it. When he thought of leaving his kind-hearted master, Michael Speight, and running a place in opposition to him his heart failed him, and he never shot a horse in the new shop, and all the working days of his life were spent in the old Speight shop. The other shop was occupied by Thomas Gibbons, one of our Dublin boys. About the year 1870 he built a shop across the street from where Robert Agnew kept hotel, where Sam Lashy's shop and dwelling now stand, which are occupied by Boney, the shoe man. A few years later he vacated that stand and built a shop on Frederick Street, where Mrs. Jennie McDougall's house now is located. From there he went to Yergus.

Back about 1886, the Salvation Army built a barracks at the corner of Mill Street and Park Avenue. After a couple of years the Army became dormant in Acton, and the building went into possession of Henry Grindell. He opened a blacksmith shop there. The building was

destroyed by fire, and Mr. Grindell replaced it with the present brick structure. I think he sold his business to John Robertson, and he to James R. Boney, and Mr. Tamshaw sold to Thomas Tambley. Mr. George Cowie purchased from Mr. Rumley, and with his experience skill is still operating there.

William Mason had a blacksmithing business in a part of the driving shed of the Station Hotel, which was located in the Court of the Acton Athletic Association now is.

James Ritchie learned his trade in the old Speight shop and then went into business for himself at Oapridge.

William Anderson, another Knatchbull blacksmith, was in business for a time at Creighton Corner.

I think this covers the blacksmiths of Acton. Many a time in my boyhood days did I stop at the door of one or other of the shops in going home from school, to see the flying sparks and hear the anvil ring. This was one of the charms of boyhood recollections.

The Old Man

SERVE SUMMER SALADS

Do not neglect the salad in summer time. As a matter of fact, the salad is something that should be featured, not only during the hot summer but also during the spring when spring fever seems to be lurking around the corner every day.

Summer salads may be elaborate, but few of us can afford to serve elaborate salads every day. We can all afford, however, to serve some simple little salad prepared from fruits and vegetables in season—particularly those that are selling at a moderate price.

Lettuce is usually a salad essential. Oranges are a very popular salad ingredient, and lemon juice fits in very nicely to moisten and flavor.

Practically all fruits and berries as well as many vegetables fit into the summer salad. Three or four orange slices halved, a slice of pineapple quartered, and three or four nice ripe strawberries, placed upon a crisp leaf of lettuce should please anyone. If company is present, top with a marshmallow half. If a little added flavor is desired sprinkle the salad with a combination of orange and lemon juice well sweetened—about two parts orange juice to one part lemon juice.

Douglas' Egyptian Liniment is recommended for sore necks, galls, distemper, callouses and spavins. Removes proud flesh and Hoof Rot. Stops bleeding instantly.

"OLD DOBBIN" HOLDING HIS OWN

"Old Dobbin," as the farm horse is affectionately known, is not being as rapidly supplanted in Canada by the farm tractor and the motor car as many may suppose. There were in June, 1930, 3,295,028 horses on Canadian farms, compared with 3,400,352 in June, 1920, or a decrease of only 105,324 in 10 years. With the present prices of grain the prospects are that the horse may regain some of his former popularity among farmers in Canada.

The number of cattle, which includes bulls, milch cows, calves and other cattle on the farms increased from 8,234,432 in 1920, to 8,937,133 in 1930. Milch cows remained practically stationary in number, there being 3,484,706 in 1920 and 3,483,453 in 1930. Slightly more than 60 per cent. of the milch cows are owned in Ontario and Quebec.

There were 2,014,700 sheep and 1,691,263 lambs, a total of 3,699,040, in Canada this year. This total is slightly in excess of that for 1929. The Province of Ontario leads with 1,134,457 sheep and lambs, followed by Quebec with 870,773 and Alberta with 530,000.

The swine on Canadian farms numbered 3,999,934 in 1930. Of these 506,865 were brood sows. This is a slight decline from the previous year. Here again Ontario, with 1,681,334 heads, followed by Quebec with 702,756, Alberta with 636,402, and Saskatchewan with 497,927. The census of the poultry on Canadian farms in June, 1930, gives a grand total of 60,795,169, an increase of 863,206 over the year before. Hens, which numbered 56,247,141, were by far the most numerous. There were over two million turkeys, more than a million geese and slightly under a million ducks on the farms at that time.

Its Quality Sells It.—The fact that so many thousands of intelligent people continue to use "Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil" speaks volumes for its healing efficiency. Ever since it was first introduced it has grown steadily in public favor, owing entirely to its manifold usefulness in relieving and healing sickness. As a specific for cuts, burns, scalds and various inflammatory pains its record is beyond reproach.

A MODERN DIALOGUE  
He: "Your bread is not so light, my dear As mother's used to be."  
She: "Your roll is lighter far than dad's. That equals things, you see."

OKAY BY WILLIE

When parent—Willie, I'd like to go through town while day without one nodding or nodding you."  
Willie—"Well, mother, you have my consent."

TAIT OPTICAL CO.  
110 Wyndham Street  
GUELPH

"Not a chance"  
We guarantee money back if you don't like this tea.  
That's how sure we are.  
**RED ROSE TEA**  
"is GOOD TEA"  
2 CHOICE BLENDS—Red Label & Orange Pekoe

Make your Walls Friendly with Empire Wallpapers  
  
Empire Wallpapers are Different  
because they are made exclusively for EMPIRE WALLPAPERS LIMITED from designs selected in the Fashion centre of the world and colored by our own staff of experts. They are both SMART AND ARTISTIC, and cost no more than the ordinary kind.  
The Empire Selection of Wallpapers for 1931 is most comprehensive— from 10 cents to \$2.00 per roll. Phone or write to have Empire Samples shown in your home—the ideal place to select wallpaper. Sold by:  
J. HUDSON  
Phone 110—Young Street, Acton  
Canada's Largest Wallpaper House  
Empire Wall Papers  
TORONTO MONTREAL WINNIPEG

Business Directory

MEDICAL  
DR. J. A. McNIVEN  
Physician and Surgeon  
Office and Residence—Corner Bower Avenue and Eight Street.

LEGAL  
Phone No. 22 P. O. Box 33  
HAROLD NASH FARMER, M. A.  
Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public, Conveyancer, Etc.

PERRYMAN BLOCK - ACTON, ONT  
MONEY LENT ON MORTGAGES  
Hours—9:30 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.  
Saturdays—12:00 o'clock

KENNETH M. LANGDON  
Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public  
Office:  
Main Street South Georgetown  
Phone 88  
Appointments in Acton on request

DENTAL

DR. J. H. JOHNSON, D.D.S., L.D.S.  
Dental Surgeon  
Office: Mill Street, In the Cooper Block.  
TELEPHONE 45

A. J. BUCHANAN, D. D. S.  
Dental Surgeon  
Office: In Leckman Block  
Hours: 9 a. m. until 6 p. m. Evenings by Appointment  
Gas for Extractions  
Closed All Day Wednesday Phone 148

P. W. PEAREN, D. D. S., L. D. S.  
Dental Surgeon  
Successor to Late Dr. J. M. Bell  
Phone 29 Mill Street, Acton

MISCELLANEOUS

FRANCIS NUNAN  
Bookbinder  
Account books of all kinds made to order. Periodicals of every description carefully bound. Ruling neatly and promptly done.  
Wyndham Street - Guelph, Ont.  
(Over Williams' Store)

FOR THAT TIRED FEELING HAVE YOUR EYES EXAMINED  
The approach of spring is often blamed for laziness caused by eye-strain. If you have an inclination to buckle down to your work, it may be just laziness; but the chances are that your eyes are not working properly.  
The energy consumed by over-coming eye-strain is sometimes appalling. If you find it difficult to work, have your eyes examined right away.  
A. D. SAVAGE, R. O.  
OPTOMETRISTS—SPECIALISTS  
SAVAGE BUILDING - GUELPH

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY SUGGESTIONS  
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS  
PAINT HEADQUARTERS  
  
Light Poultry Netting, 2 inch mesh, at the following prices: 12 inch, per yard 6c; 18 inch, per yard, 7c; 24 inch, per yard, 9c; 30 inch, per yard, 10c; 36 inch, per yard, 12c; 48 inch, per yard, 13c; 60 inch, per yard, 15c; 72 inch, per yard, 18c.  
O. & A. Black Wire, for repairing fences, single strand, per lb. 5c  
Barbed Wire, 4x6, per 80 rod spool \$4.00  
CULTIVATOR POINTS, each 25c  
PLOW SHARES, each 75c  
ELECTRIC HOT PLATES  
2 Burners for \$2.75  
2 Burners with 2-way switch, for \$4.00  
2 Burners with 3-way switch for \$5.00  
ELECTRIC RANGETTE for \$25.50  
BLACK WIRE FLY SCREEN  
Finished with a coat of glossy black rust-resisting paint. Prices: 18 inch, per yard, 16c; 20 inch, per yard, 17c; 24 inch, per yard, 18c; 26 inch, per yard, 20c; 28 inch, per yard, 22c; 30 inch, per yard, 24c; 36 inch, per yard, 29c.  
Ask for our prices on Galvanized also Bronze Screening.  
SCREEN DOORS, all sizes \$1.90, \$2.75, \$4.25  
Fittings complete, 25c extra  
Combination Doors, all sizes, 4 lights \$5.75  
Combination Doors, all sizes, 6 lights \$6.75  
Galvanized Pails, 12 quart, for 29c  
Galvanized Pails, 14 quart, for 39c  
ADJUSTABLE WINDOW SCREENS  
Hardwood frames, fitted with closely woven Black Screen Cloth:  
10 in. high, 20 in. wide, opens to 32 in., @ 45c  
14 in. high, 20 in. wide, opens to 32 in., @ 50c  
14 in. high, 22 in. wide, opens to 30 in., @ 60c  
18 in. high, 22 in. wide, opens to 36 in., @ 65c.  
We Carry in Stock Several Other Sizes.  
HARDWARE  
JAMES SYMON  
MILL STREET, ACTON

New Stock  
This week we have added to our stock of Monuments ten new designs, imported direct from the Old Country. Every one of these Monuments is new in its architectural design and coupled with our usual stock of Monuments and Markers makes an excellent range for you to choose from.  
We Invite You to See This New Stock and Get Our Quotations  
Acton Monument Works  
J. NICOL & SON  
PHONE 113 - ACTON-ONT.

The Public Health  
CITIZENS ARE REQUESTED TO COMPLY WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.  
Notice is hereby given that all residents of Acton are required forthwith to clean their cellars, drains, yards, pig styes, water closets, outbuildings and other premises, and remove therefrom all dirt, manure, and other substances which may endanger the public health, and to have the same completed by the fifth day of May next, on which day the Sanitary Inspector will commence a general inspection; and further take notice that the section of the Public Health Act prohibiting the keeping of hogs between the 15th of May and the 15th of November, except in pens at least 70 feet from any dwelling house, and 50 feet from any street or lane, with door kept clear from all standing water and regularly cleaned, will be strictly enforced.  
All citizens are earnestly requested to keep their premises constantly clear and thoroughly disinfect.  
AMOS MASON,  
Reeve of the Municipality,  
Acton, April 16, 1931.