

Many Local Subjects Are Discussed Gleanings Present Interesting Picture

In an editorial on July 23, 1875, on public facilities we find that "The people of Acton have long labored under the disadvantage of having only one mail east and west each day." Further comment states: "We have no doubt that with a small subsidy from the department a daily stage line between Acton and Malton would pay handsomely."

The columns of August 27, 1875, also found room to mention and quote verbatim packed up in the streets of Acton, written by some "fair young lady" to some "handsome youth." The author also mentioned "spooks."

Acton, Ontario, on May 4, 1877, of the Free Press Commissioners held at the residence on the 19th of T. H. Campbell and Robert Arnew were granted licenses to sell liquor in Acton.

Commenting on May 31, 1877, on the performance of local actors in presenting Uncle Tom's Cabin, the Free Press advises: "We may also add that Eliza's rehearsals were attended with a few artistic strokes of the paint brush on a pine board and a packing box set on four wheels."

Some half grown boys in this village on Sept. 13, 1877, roamed up and down Mill Street at night bent on mischief. They throw stones at houses, untie horses, hook water meters and make themselves a nuisance generally. Several double barreled guns are watching for their next visit.

Our late subscriber on October 4, 1875, of the early paper asks why the editorial proceedings have not been included in the recent issues. The paper's answer is simply because "the Council have not had a meeting since the 13th of June last." "Surprising council ain't it?"

The Free Press included a fashion column in this issue. Walking costumes made in length six inches less, the ground will be fashionable for the coming winter. Ladies are tired bearing trams, repairing skirt bottoms and cleaning dust and mud that their dress has swept from sidewalks.

Commenting on current music we find by the issue of April 25, 1873, that "Always Keep a Smile for Mother" is the latest sentimental song published.

"Always keep a smile for mother, Do not drain the festive jug, Leave enough somehow or other, Just to moisten her old mug, Touch it lightly, leave some in it, Just a swallow, that's the style, What you'd drink in half a minute Is enough for mother's smile."

Dec. 7, 1876. Why? -- The reason why I am such a poor public speaker must be in the wearing out of my tongue licking postage stamps for so long a time. The public will hereafter please lick and stick their own stamps as the law requires. . . . James Matthews, P.M.

From the issue of July 19, 1878, we find that Acton Band had a variety of events. The Band was reorganizing again Monday evening Dr. McGeevin was the victim this time. After playing a number of excellent tunes they were invited into the house, where ice cream and cakes were served up. An enjoyable evening was spent.

From the Local News of July 25, 1878, we find the practice of bathing in the mill pond every Sunday. The Local paper thought that should be stopped. Another item on the same subject points out that several of the young men recommend as healthful exercise bathing in the mill pond every morning at dawn.

Horse Watches As Drunk Drives

Sept. 20, 1878. A man considerably "dewed" drove into the Village on Tuesday evening. He took his rig into one of the back streets, unhitched his horse, tied it to the fence and left it there. He then went to one of the hotels, "slew" some whiskey and after an absence of an hour managed to return to his horse and buggy. He tried to hitch up his horse, putting its head toward the dashboard. At last he got it hitched to his own satisfaction, and told the animal to "glong." The horse first went forwards, then backwards, then sideways and at last got so confused and entangled that it fell down. The man went to "chopping" completely overpowered by his bad pop or something else. In this queer mess a kind Samaritan found the rig and set things right. The horse no doubt glad to find he had always been used to "trot off" and went home.

The man called yesterday and "confidentially" told the story, and requested us not to publish it as he had not got hurt or anything damaged. Of course we will not publish it, but will merely tell it to our subscribers but hope they will not tell anyone else.

6 Shot Shotguns Match at Hotel

November 7, 1878. -- A shooting match will be held at Campbell's hotel on Tuesday, 12 inst., when 50 turkeys will be shot. Either rifles or shot guns to be used--rifles at a distance of 80 yards, No. 6 shot to be used in shot guns. Shooting to commence at one o'clock.

Jan. 10, 1878. -- It is estimated that about \$400 changed hands Monday, over the election in this village.

Late Apparitions Ghosts, No Less

October 17, 1878. While strolling around town about 10:30 o'clock Monday evening we were startled by seeing what appeared to be two phantoms. They were on Main Street in front of the Presbyterian church behind which building is the village cemetery. They each appeared to be dressed in white gowns, one seemingly about six feet and the other a little shorter, and both wearing an unearthly appearance in the bright moonlight. When we approached them they suddenly vanished. We have not heard whether the performance was repeated on the following nights or not.

North and South Baseball Match

September 2, 1880. The second match between the teams north and south of Mill Street was played on Saturday last and resulted in favor of the North again. The game was well played by both sides up to the sixth inning and the south at that time had scored three runs more than their opponents after this wild throwing was made and the North succeeded in securing nine runs in the sixth inning, and held their place to the end of the game. The South team did not have all their men, several of them not being able to leave their work otherwise we believe it would have been a very closely contested game. Mr. J. C. Allan acted as umpire. On the same day the Junior nine went to Georgetown to play a match with the boys there and succeeded in bringing home the trophy. The score was 26 to 24 in favor of the Acton team.

Elevated Gent Demands Gun Duel

May 11, 1876. One evening last week a gentleman in our village, while considerably elevated, was accidentally insulted. As nothing but blood would satisfy his honour the bystanders kindly loaded up a double-barrelled shot gun. After considerable trouble, they decided to toss for the first shot, which the aggressing party was fortunate enough to secure. Our friend was accordingly posted up at twenty paces distance, with instructions to stand still. Instead of this he surprised the spectators by making tracks in a lively manner for a neighbouring wood pile. He escaped two flying shots due to his adversary's want of practice, and lives to tell the tale.

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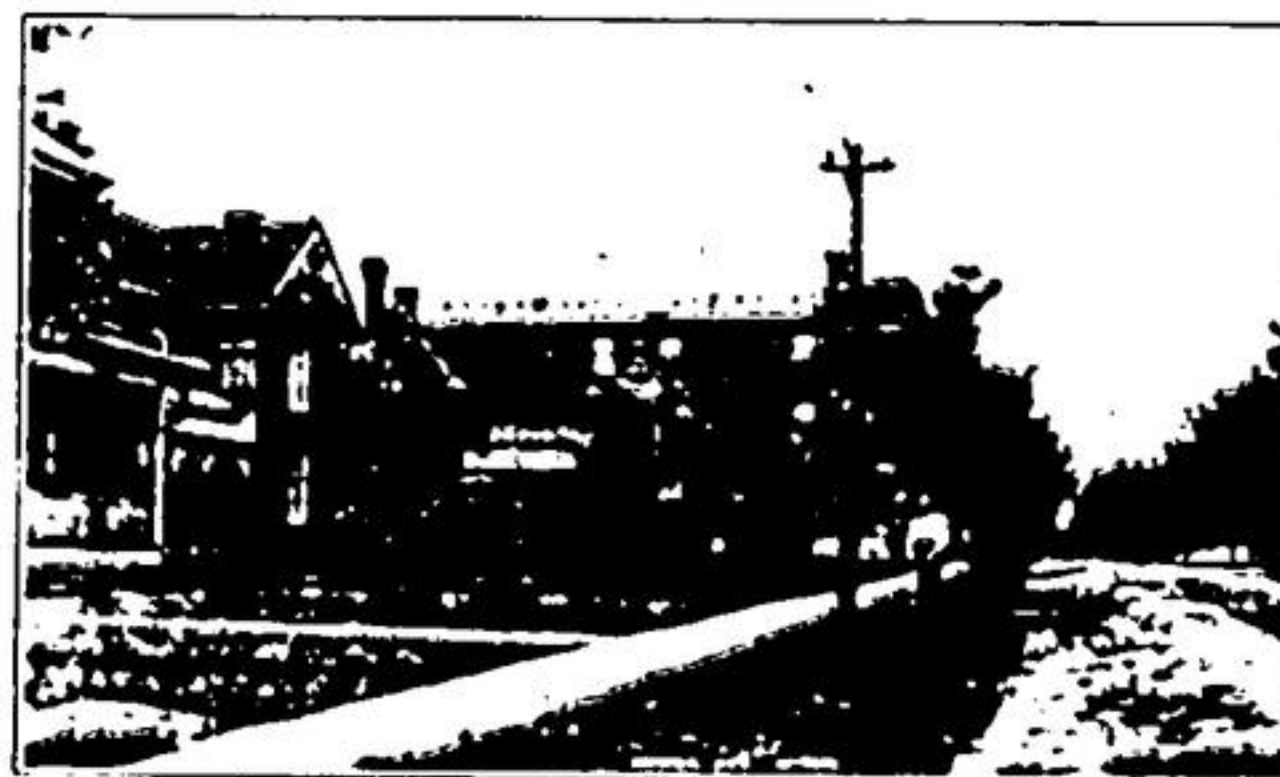
Items of Interest that have been gleaned from the newspaper files which vividly

Bargains Offered, Clothes Line Theft All Recorded in the Files of the Free Press

November 21, 1878. -- James Matthews is giving 25 pounds currants for one dollar, 12 pounds of sugar for one dollar, 25 bars of soap for one dollar, 4 1/2 gallons of coal oil for one dollar, 10 brooms for one dollar, 12 pounds of biscuits for one dollar, 20 pounds of rice for one dollar or 10 pounds of cheese for one dollar.

July 30, 1875. -- More clothes thieves around. Shirts were stolen from Mr. Ebbage's yard Wednesday night.

August 27, 1875. The clothes line stealing business is getting monotonous. Whoever the individual is he or she appears to have got a full supply of shirts, and now goes in for dresses and things. Last Tuesday night a raid was made on Edward Moore's lines and two dresses taken therefrom. The overskirts were left behind, and as they are useless without the dresses we are authorized to say that the thief may have them also, by applying personally, or by letter.

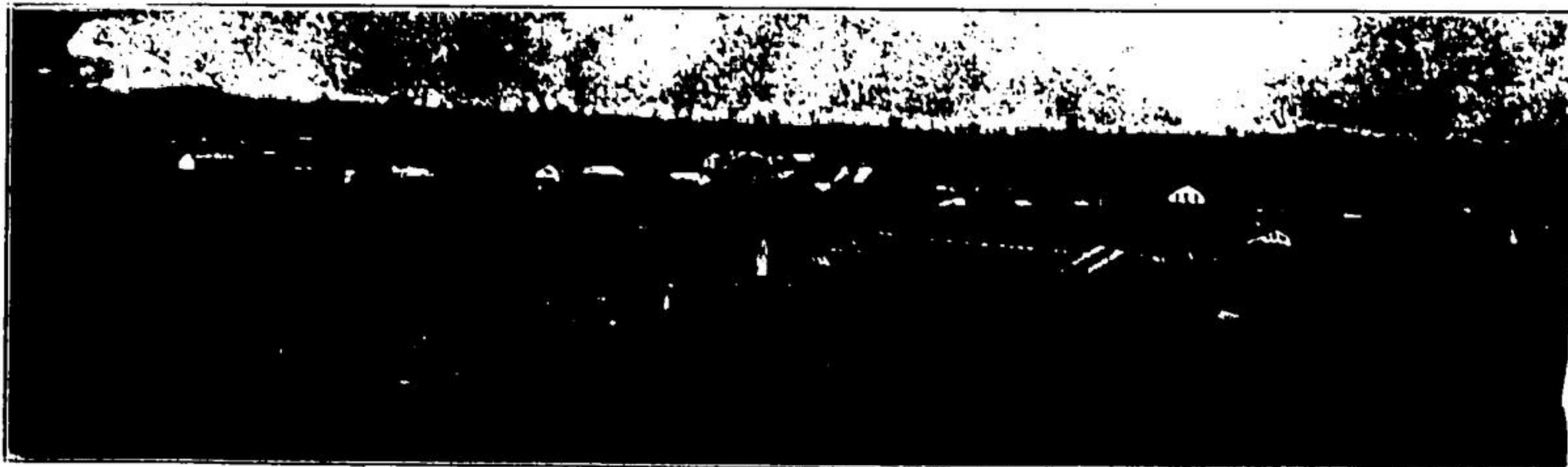


LINED WITH TREES, Bower Avenue has always been one of the beautiful streets of Acton. The one lamp post is a reminder that this is not a recent photograph.

Municipality Town Hall and Lock-Up Subject of Early Editorial Comment

March 31, 1881. At the beginning of the year we recommended the newly-elected village council to take into consideration the erection of a new town hall and lock-up, in some central site in our village. Since that time considerable conversation on the subject has been indulged in by the ratepayers and citizens generally, and at the last meeting of the council the matter was taken up and notice was given that at the next meeting a motion would be presented to the ef-

fect that, "in the opinion of this council the time has arrived when steps should be taken to secure a proper town hall and lock-up." We understand that it is the intention of the council to visit a number of halls in other towns for information respecting the constructing and cost of a suitable town hall. The reeve will probably call a meeting of ratepayers in a week or so to lay before them the result of the investigations and to ascertain their opinions on the subject.



ONE OF THE EARLIEST VIEWS of Acton ever taken was by Adams, photographer of Owen Sound, from Cobble Hill. It will be noted that the road west past the mill was not open and that there are no other streets west of Main Street. The smoke stack of the shingle mill can be seen on North Main Street and it appears that the railway had not gone through Acton at the time. The first train went through in 1856.