

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

serving the communities of —
 GEORGETOWN, GLEN WILLIAMS, NORVAL, LIMEHOUSE,
 HORNBY, STEWARTTOWN, ARBROVIE, HALLINAVAD,
 TERRA COTTA.

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The Editor's Corner

GEORGETOWN EIGHTY YEARS AGO

As many readers will know, the Herald files go back only to 1917, when previous files were destroyed in a fire. It was therefore a real discovery when a copy of the Halton Herald, dated April 2, 1866, turned up recently. It is a four-page, 7 column sheet published by J. Craig and Brother and is labeled Vol. 2, No. 47. From this we can establish that the Herald had its origin sometime in 1866, which would make it 84 years old.

The early Herald did not feature what we nowadays call "display advertisements." Advertising, much of which was on the front page, was more of the type which appears in the classified columns. The charge was 8c a line for one insertion and 2c a line thereafter with a liberal discount to merchants who advertised by the year. In those days, there was no linotype and every bit of the paper was set by hand type, which accounted for the discounts allowed.

SOME EARLY ADVERTISERS

Among the largest advertisers was J. A. DePote, whose general store featured such items as tea, coffee, sugar, tobacco and snuff, crockery and glassware, and wines and liquors. General merchant Hugh McKay offered to take cash or farm produce for Grand River Land Plaster and offered large selections of boots and shoes. Barclay & McLeod called their store "Mammoth House" and stated that they sold "cheaper than any house in Canada." J. G. Parker and Standish & Beatty were also large advertisers. Some names are still familiar in this district: J. Murray, Stewarttown, issued marriage licences; Dr. Webster, whose wife still lives in Norval, advertised himself as physician, surgeon and accoucheur, which in consulting our dictionary we find to be "a gentleman who acts as a midwife"; T. J. Wheeler, for many years a jeweller and watch repairman; Ruston's Drug Store, Mr. Ruston being the father of the Misses Ruston whose house on Main Street stands empty since their death last year.

There were several local hotels. B. Thompson had just moved from the Georgetown Hotel to the Ontario House and advertised a fenced fair ground attached and free bus service to the station. A. Ryan had just had his British Union Hotel at Stewarttown redecorated. J. B. Lindsay, after an absence of 14 years, was once again proprietor of Hornby House at Hornby. C. H. Thompson had a picture with his advertisement for Thompson House at Milton and said stages left twice a day for Bronte to connect with trains east and west. John Wallace's Hotel at Milton also said there was a daily stage from Georgetown.

THE NAME THAT FITS

With a name like E. Bones, a gentleman in Milton was a natural as a cabinet maker and undertaker, and said that he was prepared to make coffins of all sizes and descriptions to order on short notice. Apparently there wasn't the money in dentistry that there is today. L. L. Bennett, who used ether spray to extract teeth without pain also was a photographer who took pictures eight for a dollar and had his office in Travis' new building. Trotter and Graham gave him some dental competition by coming to town every Tuesday.

NO TAX PROBLEMS THEN

The operation of the municipality did not have the problems which face councils of today. In the paper appears the financial statement for the village for 1867. Total expenditures were \$3716, the major part being \$1084 for schools. Salaries were \$125, streets \$346, county rate \$166, Guelph Street bridge, apparently a capital expense cost \$405, and a drill shed \$410, \$200 of which was paid by the county. Total tax collections were \$1174, there was a government school grant of \$156, statute labour poll tax \$60 and liquor licences brought in \$370. R. Geddes was village clerk at the time.

THE NASSAGAWEYA EXAMINATIONS

Possibly it was a dead week for news, but the early Halton Herald does not itemize any particular startling news in its pages, other than a letter from a Nassagaweya reader referring to the Competitive Examination in that township. Apparently the week before the gentleman teacher at S. S. No. 6 had written a letter to the paper about an incident which occurred at the examinations. The letter writer took exception to his remarks and said that the true story was that the teacher was "on that day in such a state of intoxication that he could not have been able to draw a line of distinction between right and wrong." The letter ends: "He forgot to inform you of the figure he displayed

when for disorderly conduct the chairman had to order him out, after which he withdrew from the Hall to take 'just one glass more' and that in his attempt to make a second raid upon the quiet proceedings of the afternoon, he was so far gone as to not be able to keep the path, but fell into the gutter and emerged therefrom 'on all fours'.

"It must be a fine thing for his pupils to have it said that it was in this state they conveyed him home, and that it was in this state that he lost his spectacles."

CRICKET AND PENNY READINGS

The Georgetown Cricket Club was being reorganized and Dr. M. H. Starr was chosen president at a meeting at Clark's Hotel. Other officers were James Higgins, vice-president; R. D. McMaster, secretary-treasurer; Bennett-Grant, Costigan and Higgins, management committee.

Rev. Henry Webbe, (rector of St. George's Church), was chairman at an evening of "Penny Readings," when readings were given by J. R. Barber, Dr. Starr, W. McKay, N. Armour and D. Smith. The reporter said that the evening was not as lively as usual, due to the absence of music and singing.

The death of John Hall from consumption was noted, the funeral taking place from the residence of G. C. McKenzie, Mill Street. Births included a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Silas Statham. (Mr. Statham ran a bakery) and a son to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Harrold, 4th Line, Esquesing.

A social in Stewarttown Hall was being held to raise funds to purchase a site for No. 2 Company's drill shed. The Juvenile Minstrels, unable to secure "the commodious Engine House" were looking for a suitable hall for holding their shows. W. Watkins was opening a new store in Glen Williams and William Roden was also a store operator there. Incidentally, as in other early documents, Glenwilliams is spelled as one word, while Spey Side is separated into two.

SOME EARLY BUSINESSMEN

Here and there in the Herald appear names of early Georgetown business and professional men. Bastedo and Dixon, barristers, had their office at the corner of Main and Court Streets next to the Division Court office. (Perhaps a reader can tell us where Court Street was). Barrister Robert Forsayeth had his office in Chase's Hotel; William Laidlaw practiced law in Milton and Georgetown and his office was in Barclay's Block. Dr. Milton Starr who practiced "both the new and old systems of medicine" had an office in T. G. Harrold's building, Main Street. E. N. Orr ran the Union Marble Works; A. Galbraith dealt in jewelry and advertised Irish Bog Oak jewellery; Duncan Clark ran a new livery stable on Mill Street.

E. C. White was a manufacturer of machine made envelopes. Wm. Barber & Bros. not only produced paper but also did wool carding and cloth dressing. J. F. Taylor sold saddles and harness on Main Street. Grieves & Co., Mill Street, advertised the patent elastic horse shoe cushion. The Esquesing Steam Foundry was operated by G. C. McKenzie and sold such items as sawing machines and shingles.

ONE WAY OF SAYING IT

Perhaps no better wording could be devised than appeared in a notice inserted by J. T. Standish which was headed "Short Settlements". The copy read "It is said that short settlements make true friends, and in order to continued the friendship which has so long existed between the advertiser and his patrons, any person indebted, no matter how large or small the sum may be, is requested to call this month and pay the same, otherwise he will not consider himself responsible if the kind feeling heretofore existing should be disturbed."

JOHN EVES WINNER OF THE 'WEIRD BEARDS'

John Eves of Cheltenham won the \$25 first prize in the 'Weird Beard' contest promoted by Rocco Lorusso which ended with the judging at the Roxy Theatre recently.

Second prize of \$15 went to John Ruddell. The \$10 third prize was donated to the Salvation Army. The two men were the only two of the original 30 contestants who finished the contest. Reeve W. G. Marshall presented the prizes to the winners.

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