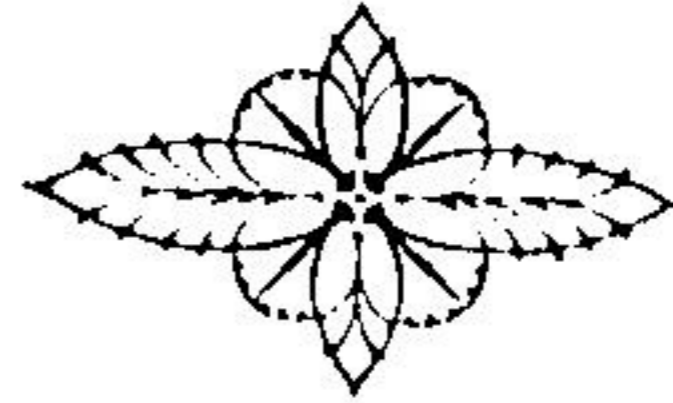


Drill shed

Race course



THIS IS WHAT Acton looked like in 1899 from Brown's windmill which obviously must have been situated about the area of Nelson Court in Lakeview subdivision. On the extreme left is the W. H. Storey tannery which was situated on Main St. No. south of the tracks. The large brick house in front is still there, now owned by Al Berry. Also easily observable is the former Sandy McSane home, the old Acton public school with its bell tower, and the Henderson saw mill and the lumber yard which once spread out on the south side of where Elizabeth Drive is now. Henderson's pond can also be seen. Storey Glove Co., the town hall, Knox Presbyterian church and the pioneer cemetery behind. Note the old drill sheds in what is now Prospect Park and the grandstand along the race track which was a favorite place in those days. Houses along Lake Ave. dot the background. Behind the James Dues Cobble Hill much of which was carted away to rebuild Highway 2. A. T. Brown took this panoramic view with four glass negatives on June 9, 1899.

## The Adams family lives on in names



IN JUNE, 1897, long skirted ladies were pictured flocking in to the town hall. Concerts, patriotic programs, presentations, dances - all were held here.

The Adams family left their mark in street names. Mill, first of all for their mill. Main for its then intended major thoroughfare. Church for their planned sanctuary and family names John, William, Frederick, Agnes, Ransom and Maria. Bowen Ave. was originally a lane into one of the Adams farms.

**Milled man**  
Ransom Adams in 1874 was the one named man in town and acted as the local banker. His one object in life was making money and they said he couldn't quit long enough to get married. His immense woodpiles, which he sold to the G.T.R., filled blocks that are now houses. He was a nephew of the original founder.

**Founders here**  
Still in the village was Ezra Adams. He was different. Everyone called him "Uncle". He and his wife lived humbly and happily at Main and Ransom Sts.

Brother Zenias was still here, too, living with a large family on the corner of Main and Church. Like Ezra he was a retired preacher of the New

England conference of the Methodist Episcopal church. Because of the rigors of the climate and the many miles of travelling, he was broken in health. He continued as local preacher, but travelled no more.

The house still stands at the southwest corner of Main and Church.

The Adams had three farms, the same stream running through them all and to the mill they first contemplated in 1829.

Surveyor Young had surveyed east of the G.T.R. tracks for the Adams family by 1874 but few lived there. He gave the main artery of this subdivision his own name and added Wellington for the Duke of Wellington, Arthur for the Duke of Connaught and Peel for the British prime minister. The surveyed lots were used for a race track with a cricket course inside.

**Brick houses**  
The number of brick houses was growing. The first was a cottage on Education Lane, built for blacksmith William Overton (now Mrs. C. K. Brown's store). The second was postmaster Matthews'

house on Mill (now A and J Boutique). The third was the brick house on Main where Charles Leatherland's law offices.

In these days the area north of the G.T.R. tracks on Main St. was dubbed "Shingle Town" presumably because many of the men were employees of the two shingle mills nearby.

Many of Acton's century-old houses are still standing, although it's difficult to determine location for sure.

The charming Sidney Smith estate is now part of the Robert Little school. This house had the first system of private waterworks with a pipe from the school creek supplying the house, bath, conservatory and stables.

One vacant lot at the Mill-Main corner was used for years for travelling circuses and shows and itinerant photographers.

**Toll gate**  
There was still one toll gate left in Halton, on the seventh line of Esquesing. By 1876 people could travel on the only few miles of gravel road in the county without having to lark over a dime.

Although the Free Press staff has attempted to make this issue looking at life over the past 100 years as complete as possible there will obviously be omissions and errors. Records are few, the Free Press had not begun publication in 1874 and there were no photographs that early.

For 99 years the Free Press records are complete. Acton's Early Days was written and individuals amplified on the material from recollections. All have been used and are gratefully acknowledged but there is no suggestion this Centennial Photo Album has everything in it.

The staff, through pictures from a variety of sources has endeavoured to catch glimpses of early days and earlier ways.

Many of the pictures come from glass negatives in the A. T. Brown collection which was entrusted to the Free Press by Mr. Brown. He was a prolific picture taker and his scenes are concentrated in the 1890-1900 era. Others have loaned old pictures for use and this has been most helpful.

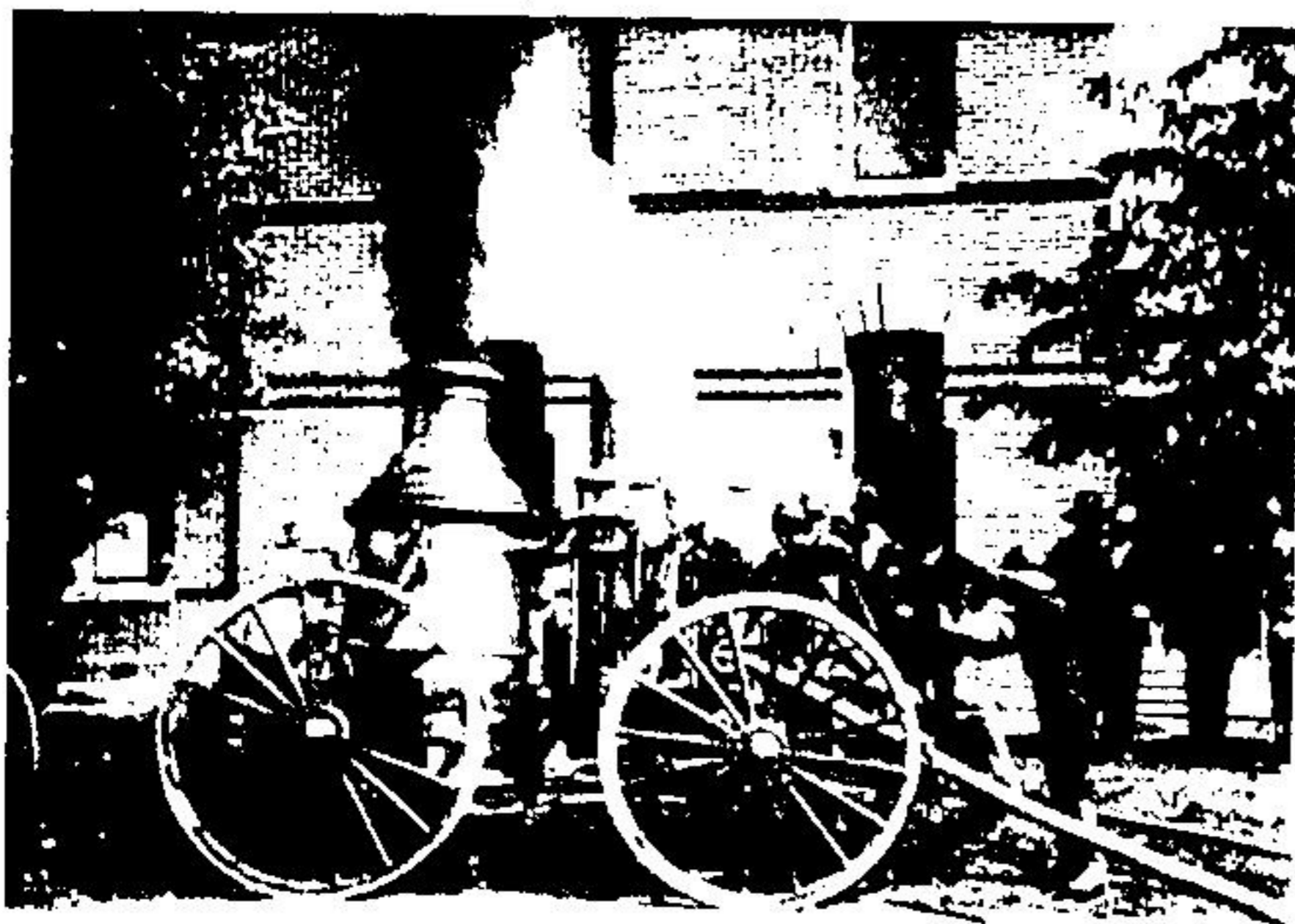
Enjoy this issue as a centennial souvenir and keep it as a book of memories. Additional copies are available in limited supply at 50 cents.



FAIRVIEW cemetery from Cobble Hill



LOOKING NORTH FROM the Mill-Main corner with hotel Acton House on the left



STEAM PUMPER WAS the pride of the fire fighters. There was no fire brigade in the village in 1874 and volunteers came running to help their neighbors when fire broke out.



THERE WERE no stoplights at the Mill and Main corner to slow this parade. Buildings that house the Royal Cafe and the former Wiles bus depot remain.