



115 LOGS in one load - something of a record. This picture was taken in 1911. E. E. Perry man is marked with an X.

The Committee hereby extends a cordial invitation to
Mr. W. M. Leary and Lady
 to be present at
The First Annual Home
 of The Employees of
Boardman & Co. and Acton Tanning Co., Ltd.
 to be held in the Town Hall, Acton,
TUESDAY EVENING, 8th DECEMBER, 1903
 AT EIGHT O'CLOCK
 The Kyle Amusement Co., of Toronto
 will furnish Concert Programme
 FOWL SUPPER AT 10.30
 Music by
 H. M. Deane & Co. Organists
 H. M. Deane & Co. Organists

Shops and factories flourish

For a village of 750 Acton had a flourishing business section, mostly on Main St. in those days. From 1825 to 1845, Main St. was the only street, except for Mill St. down to the mill. The first store was the Danville grocery (at the Legion hall site). Both Main and Mill were narrow, dirt streets, with plank walks and pleasantly overhanging with shady trees.

Many of these stores and workshops were of frame, and many tragic fires account for some of the changes in the face of the town. In our blaze, the alarm was telegraphed to Guilph who sent down help on the train. There was no fire fighting equipment here.

At the far end of Mill St., steam locomotives of the Grand Trunk Railway have been steaming through since 1856. People who lived over the track, mostly on farms, complained of the time spent in buggies and carts waiting for the interminable shunting at the crossing. A house stood in the way of Mill St., extension, amid the Adams grainfields.

Post office

The post office, under long-time postmaster James Matthews, was located in his Post Office Store on Mill St. where the Toronto Dominion bank is now. "Cash or Trade Only Reduces Prices Six to Eight Per Cent." Mr. Matthews advertised. He had already been in business 20 years when the village was incorporated.

Mr. Matthews sold dry goods, crockery, school books, groceries, and also "Conveyancer, Issuer of Marriage Licenses, Insurance Agent, Agent Money to Loan, Agent Montreal Telephone Company, Clerk Fourth Division Court, Com. in B.Q. etc." The telegraph was located at the back of his shop with the post office.

He had been a postal clerk for his uncle, Robert Swann, who chose the name "Acton" with fond memories of his native town in England.

Many shops

Other stores included East End Dry Goods and Clothing Store, Dickson and McNab, J. W. Mann's Central Store. The Place for Cheap Goods - C. T. Hill general groceries, Second Eras, Montreal House, Christie Henderson and Co. "Remember their Famous 50 cent Tea". Mr. Henderson is to become Halton M.P. Kennedy Bros. Boots and Shoes, D. McNair dry goods, Crane and Son Boots and Shoes.

Businesses

Ebbage and Campbell's Acton Planning Mill was almost lost in the big fire of

1870 which destroyed a whole block of frame buildings around the site of Knox church.

There was R. Creech Harness Shop, James Ryder wagon and carriage factory, Charles Dean Dominion Saddlery, Acton Bakery (baking cakes made in the latest style), D. Galloway, Acton Livery and Sale Stable, Fisher Tin and Stove Shop, Sibley Smith's shingle mill.

W. H. Storey Canada Glove Works was established in 1863 and over the years employed hundreds.

Acton Flour Mills were in operation and there were of course several blacksmith shops. There was as yet no paper or printer. The Free Press is to sell its first crisp four-page issue on Dominion Day, 1875.

Slaughter here

Butchers in town weren't bothered by sanitary laws. William Worden sold meat lamb at 5 cents a pound, a pair of chickens for a quarter.

There must have been a barber, because the Free Press recorded "Our village barber levanted last Monday morning leaving an unrecd. bill to trouble his conscience. A few trusting friends also mourn his early flight. There is a barber shop to rent."

Drug Store

Dr. E. G. Morrow also operated the drug store and advertised.

G. E. Morrow Chemist and Druggist Medical Hall, Acton Dealer in Drugs, Chemicals, Perfumery, Patent and proprietary Medicines. Always on hand well-selected stock of Dye Stuffs, Liquid Dye, Fancy and Toilet Soaps, Brushes, Sponges, Trusses for children and Adults, Shoulder Braces for Men, Women and Children, Paints, dry and in oil, Books, Stationery and Fancy Goods, Pure Wines and Liquors for medicinal purposes, Physicians, Prescriptions and Domestic Receipts and Horse and Cattle Medicines, carefully compounded.

But from an edition a few months later "Complaint was made a few days ago by Mr. Hiram Ryder against Mr. E. Morrow, druggist, for selling liquor for other than medicinal purposes without a license. The case was tried before a magistrate's court and the case was dismissed" July 18, 1875.

The two doctors whose names appear in the earliest Free Presses are W. H. Lowry, Mill St., Dr. R. Morrow, consultation days Tuesdays and Fridays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. West Bower St. and Dr. McGarym who in 1875



TANNERY EMPLOYEES of many years ago.

begin to build a "handsome brick residence which will be an ornament to the village." It was an ornament almost a century, and was torn down by Acton Medical Group in June 1974.

One day three or four lads claimed they had had as good entertainment as a circus, when Dr. McGarym took a young patient to the door for better light and pulled the tooth out with forceps. The tooth and a yell came out at the same time, to the young spectators' pleasure.

Old Asa Hall had a good reputation as a tooth puller too.

James G. Hill was the photographer. "First Class Work."

D. Henderson was the agent for Canada Life Insurance, and handled deeds and mortgages.

Mail by pack

Mails were carried from the station on a back pack. Thomas Perryman had the contract but the carrying was done by his sons William and Thomas, who often heard the father declare, as he reminded them to leave, "The Queen's mail must not be late!" And the boys were never known to miss a mail.

Horse and wagon was to carry the mail soon, on contract. One reason was the added weight of the new weekly newspaper.



FREE PRESS staff about 1927 when G. A. Dills purchased the newspaper are Clara Moore, Earl Vincent, Arlot Dills, Bob MacArthur, Cam Currie and H.P. Moore.



PURE MILK.

The undersigned begs to thank his customers for the liberal patronage received during the past summer, and would say that he is now prepared to supply an additional number of customers with good, pure, fresh milk delivered every morning, and twice a day on Saturdays. Parties who keep cows will find it much cheaper and less trouble to get milk delivered at their doors, and they would do well to call their cows and buy their milk. Twenty-one quart tickets for \$1 if paid in advance, or twenty-one pint tickets for \$1.00.

P. S. ARMSTRONG,
 Acton, Nov. 10th, 1875.