

More Georgetown, Glen Gray Says Aged Home Policy Hinders Department's Work

by Judith Goebelle

A number of interesting artifacts have arrived at the Halton County Museum during the past two months from the Georgetown-Glen Williams area. In September Mr. and Mrs. E. Healey gave a Cruet Set circa 1880.

Also donated in September were a variety of antiques from Mr. B. Harley: a tin canister, carpenter's monkey wrench, old school books, monkey wrench, caliper, and a silyard scale. You may remember this type of scale in Goldham's Butcher Shop on Main Street many years ago.

Early this month Judge Kenneth M. Langdon made a gift of four of his Robes and five of his Certificates of Appointment. By donating these items now, Judge Langdon has ensured the Museum of a unique collection which will increase in value and importance as the years go by.

Miss L. Campbell donated a number of items including a carriage rug, wooden curtain rods and rings, and two pillow shams. On one is stitched "I slept and dreamt that life was beauty", showing a young woman asleep in the clouds; the other reads "I woke and found that life was duty", the

lady now holding a broom!

PORTABLE TUBS
Mr. and Mrs. G. Goebelle gave a tin hip-bath - a popular method of bathing in the 19th century. In her book "At Home in Upper Canada" Jeanne Minnick best describes the bathing habits of previous generations: "Bathrooms were rare before the 1850s and were confined to the homes of the rich. Some of these had running water (cold, of course), which was piped in by gravity from a tank in the attic. A small stove in the bathroom was used to heat a kettle of water to take the chill off the bath. Most families owned one or more portable tin bathtubs. The most luxurious bathtub, which cost \$5.50 in 1860, had a ring for hanging it up."

The "Family Encyclopedia", published in New York in 1860 and sold in Canada, states firmly, "One ought to bathe once a week the whole year through, in tepid water, and it will be of considerable service to add to it some soap".

flavouring beer and other malt drinks, hops could grow a foot in a night - the vine winding itself around the pole.

The other two items were made by Cabinet-maker Alex Murray many years ago. One item is a hand carved wooden pattern for an iron gear; and the second - a wooden machine designed by him to facilitate the making of various designs in his carpentry.

WINTER RECESS
After this weekend the Museum will be closed to the public for its winter recess. School tours will continue of course until the end of the academic year in June.

This brings to a close another successful season for the Museum which saw many old friends return, and many newcomers introduced to the fascinating world of Pioneer Halton County.

Wrap Shrubs
Evergreens are often desiccated by the drying effects of the wind and sun during the winter. Wrapping the plants with burlap is a very effective way of reducing winter damage.

J. D. Gray, county social and family services director, says Halton Centennial Manor policy on admitting nursing home patients is hindering his department's work. County council's departmental committee deferred action on the complaint until Gray is out of hospital where he is recovering from an operation.

Gray's letter to the committee states that the Manor board is deferring applications from nursing home patients on the grounds they are receiving proper care.

"It has been the practice of this department up until now that when we find an elderly person who is perhaps not being properly cared for or unable to care for themselves, we place the person in a nursing home, rather than leave them on their own during the period of application is taken and considered by the board (4-6 weeks)."

"QUANDRY"
"Our quandary is that it is certainly not an advantage for this department to place any applicant in a nursing home pending a decision of the board," Gray states. The committee discussed a possible resolution in favor of the department using nursing homes as much as possible while the space shortage in bed care existed at the Manor.

Burlington Reeve James Swanborough eventually proposed the committee wait until the director could explain his letter to the committee members. The committee agreed.

The letter cited an 81-year-old woman who had been in hospital for two years but had become healthy enough to be discharged.

ASK ADMISSION
Since the woman did not have a home to go to, the department placed her in a nursing home and applied for her admission to the Manor.

Gray states that he told the Manor board the woman was in a nursing home only because she had no home to go to, not for medical reasons. The board rejected the application because she was receiving proper care in the nursing home.

Gray suggests that the committee might be able to work with the board to clear up the misunderstanding.

BETTER OFF
Harris said the cost for nursing homes is only 20 to 30 cents higher per day than the Manor and the provincial subsidy to the department is higher for nursing home patients than Manor residents.

"The county is better off financially," Warden Frances Oakes said the board must use priorities for selection of applicants with the large number of applicants. "People are admitted more on their need than on their order of application."

He said the board would naturally not leave anyone in a nursing home if there was space in the Manor. Swanborough said he took part of Gray's letter to mean he would no longer put people in nursing homes since it would hurt their chances of admission to the Manor.

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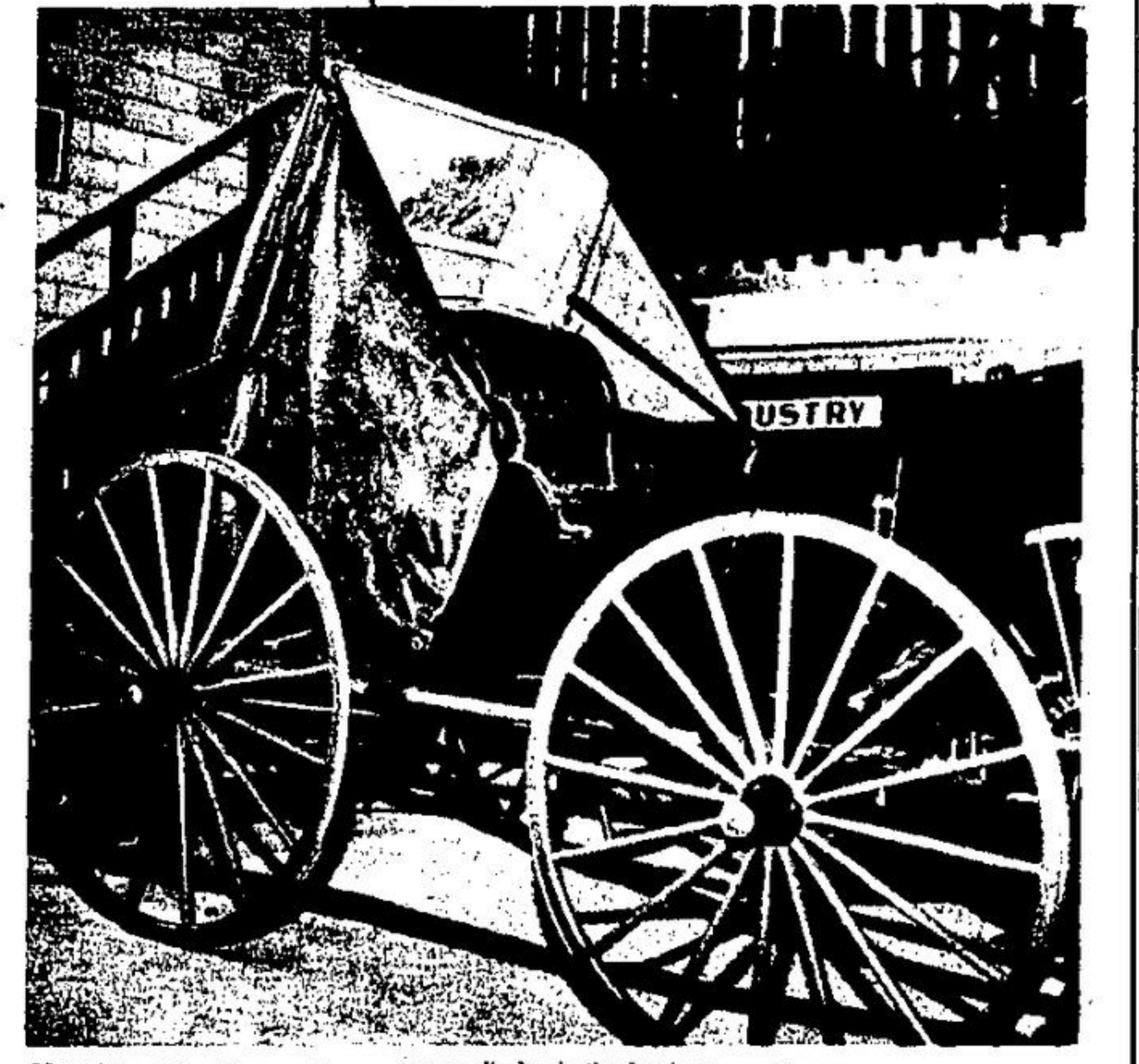
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