

# Barber Family Played Major Role in Georgetown's History



Georgetown's Jolna.

Now that you've got your family-tree-climbing muscles in fine fettle from following Jolna on T.V., it will help make a nostalgic journey into Georgetown's past, via the Barber family, all the easier and more enjoyable.

Having lived here all my life, I could hardly help being aware of the role the Barber family has played in the formation of Georgetown. But, until I began doing a bit of research, I didn't realize just how extensive that role was. And in gathering up the bits and pieces of information to fill out the story of the family's early years in this area, it was not surprising to find their history inextricably interwoven with the early history of our town.

Are there members of the Barber family still living here? Yes indeed: Col. John R. Barber, Park Avenue (he was born in Berwick Hall); and his nephews: Robert, Market Street; Keith, King Street; Paul, Market Street; and George Sr., Main St. North.

And the imposing residences built by the Barber brothers in Georgetown's earliest days, are still town landmarks — Berwick Hall, Main Street South; the two large brick homes on either side of the C.N.R. track which runs under Mountainview Road; and the house on the hill overlooking the family-founded, owned and operated paper mill in the valley of the Credit River.

The mill buildings are now owned and occupied by Deltacrafts Manufacturing Company and the house is the property of the Maclaren family. It was built by James Barber, the great-grandfather of Col. John R. Barber.

Everytime we use our Public Library, we are remembering the James Barber family — consciously or unconsciously. They decided the church building to the town to be used as a library. James Barber had been a deacon of the Congregationalist Church for 34 years. There is a plaque to his memory on one of the library walls.

Allowing us to take a really giant step backwards in time, is an excerpt from a book written and published in Toronto in 1877, called "The Irishman in Canada". Nicholas Davin writes — "On the 12th of May, 1822, a family named Barber — consisting of the father, mother, four sons, and a daughter, all of whom were born in Antrim, sailed from Belfast for Quebec, where they arrived on the 10th of July. The next day they went up the river in a steamer to Montreal; thence to Lachine, a distance of nine miles, in carts. Here they took a Durham boat for Prescott and compassed the rapids as we have seen Mr. Austin and his friends do.

"The passengers were ordered at times to proceed on foot for miles along the banks. On such occasions they were much alarmed by the song of the

grasshoppers, which they took for the hissing of snakes. The greater part of the way was wood with only a few clearings. They were not accustomed to bush, and the grasshoppers' cry caused more alarm than it would have done had the country been open. After eleven days they arrived at Prescott. The distance is now run by rail in four hours.

"Old Mr. Barber, who was a mason and bricklayer, found at Prescott employment for the remainder of the season, at good wages, of which a certain part was in kind, or as it was called then "store pay", the balance being in money. Prescott was, in those days, a very important town.

"All produce coming down the lakes for Montreal or Quebec had to be transhipped there. This consisted for the most part of flour, staves, and tobacco, which at Prescott, had first to be put on board of Durham boats, as none of the lake vessels could live in the rapids.

"The season for mason work over, and the impression being general that the country westward was better to settle in, Mr. Barber determined to go to Niagara, where he arrived on the 12th of December. Niagara was then a flourishing town. From the head of the lake and from York, people went thither to buy their goods.

"After some time, the Hon. James Crooks went to Niagara to

try to find a mason to go with him to West Flamborough. He offered employment to as many of the family as could work. He was carrying on an extensive and various business: a flour mill, saw mill, oil mill, woolen factory, tannery, distillery and a large general store. A few years afterwards he built the first paper mill in Upper Canada, for which he received a bounty from the Government of five hundred dollars.

"The eldest of the young Barbers (William), went into the woolen factory and served his time to the trade. The second (James), learned the paper-making business; the third, (Joseph), the mill-wright business; the youngest, (Robert), like the eldest, going into the woolen factory. In 1811 the father died. But the family kept together and remained with Mr. J. Crooks, two of the brothers renting the woolen factory for him."

Roger Williams was the founder of Rhode Island. His friendship with the Indians more than once averted a massacre.

Heart Fund gifts have speeded virtually every advance in cardiovascular medicine in recent years, prolonging thousands of lives.

The Agrarians were a group of 20th century American writers in the South, who favored agriculture as the economic base for the area.

The first woman internal revenue collector was hired in 1823. Theodore Roosevelt was an ardent champion of spelling reform.

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### \$20,000 Less Than For High Schools

## Public School Field Trips \$33,000 Price Tag Discussed

The first part of the 1972 education budget considered by the Halton County Board of Education shows a tentative decrease of over \$500,000 compared to the 1971 spending program.

The board of education began its annual budget sessions last week, giving preliminary consideration to about 18 percent of the total budget. Debenture charges, one of the big expenditures every year, makes up about 12 percent of the 1972 budget proposal. Last year the board spent \$10,139,265 out of its \$39 million budget on the part it expects to spend \$9,581,441 on this year.

**SEGMENTS**  
The budget is being presented to the board of education in several segments, each part reviewed twice by the finance committee before going to the board for preliminary study. Before being approved, the budget as a whole will be considered.

The first segment of this year's education budget, which is expected to force a small increase in municipal taxes, showed a decline of almost \$600,000 in debt and debenture payments.

**POPULATION UP**  
Bruce Lindley, superintendent of business and finance for the Halton board, says the debenture charges have increased only slightly while student population has increased by about 1,000, meaning a lower cost per pupil.

Transportation costs are expected to increase about \$50,000 to \$1,038,670. The board will take a longer look at the \$33,000 allocated for elementary school field trips.

Trustee Bill Lawson said he thinks many field trips are subsidized by parents or students, which trustee Fred Armitage says he thinks is a good thing.

**"INEQUITABLE"**  
High school students are allotted \$52,000 for special field trips, about \$20,000 more than elementary students. Lawson

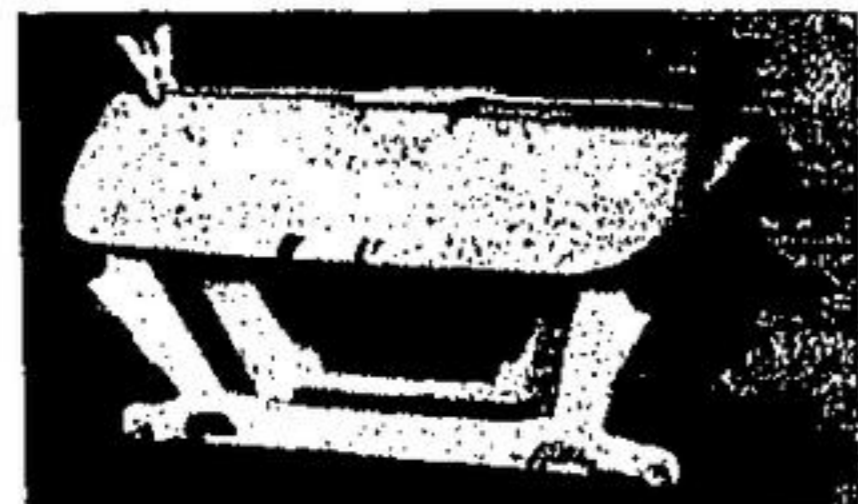
says he thinks the difference is "inequitable — maybe we're asking the parents to subsidize field trips unnecessarily", he said, because the fund for elementary school field trips returned a surplus of about \$2,500 last year.

The two biggest savings in 1972 are expected to be the lower debenture charges and a \$200,000 reduction in non-operating charges, such as replacement of damaged property.

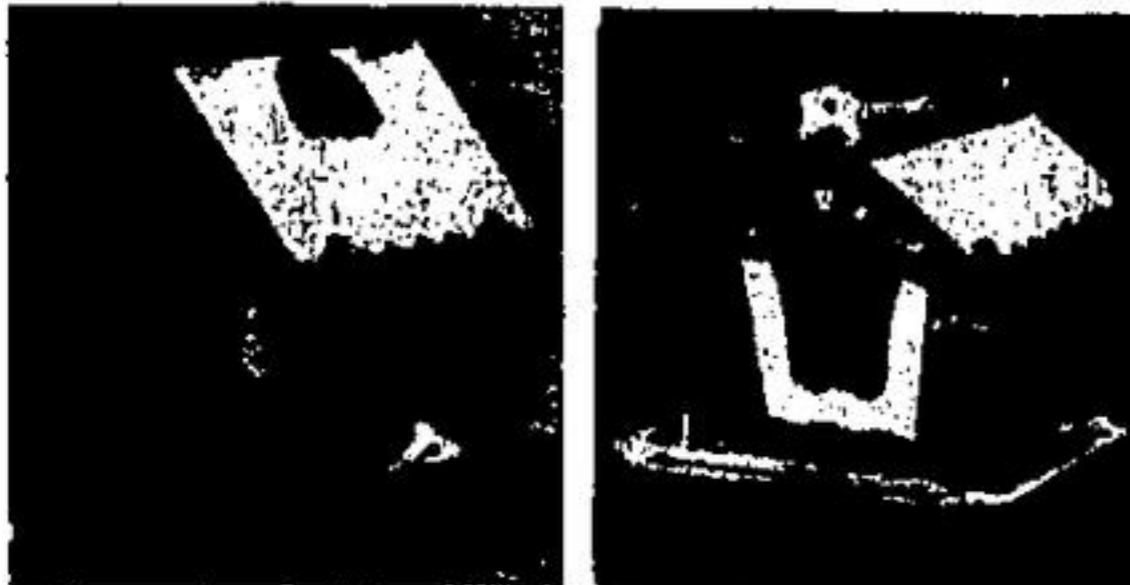
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