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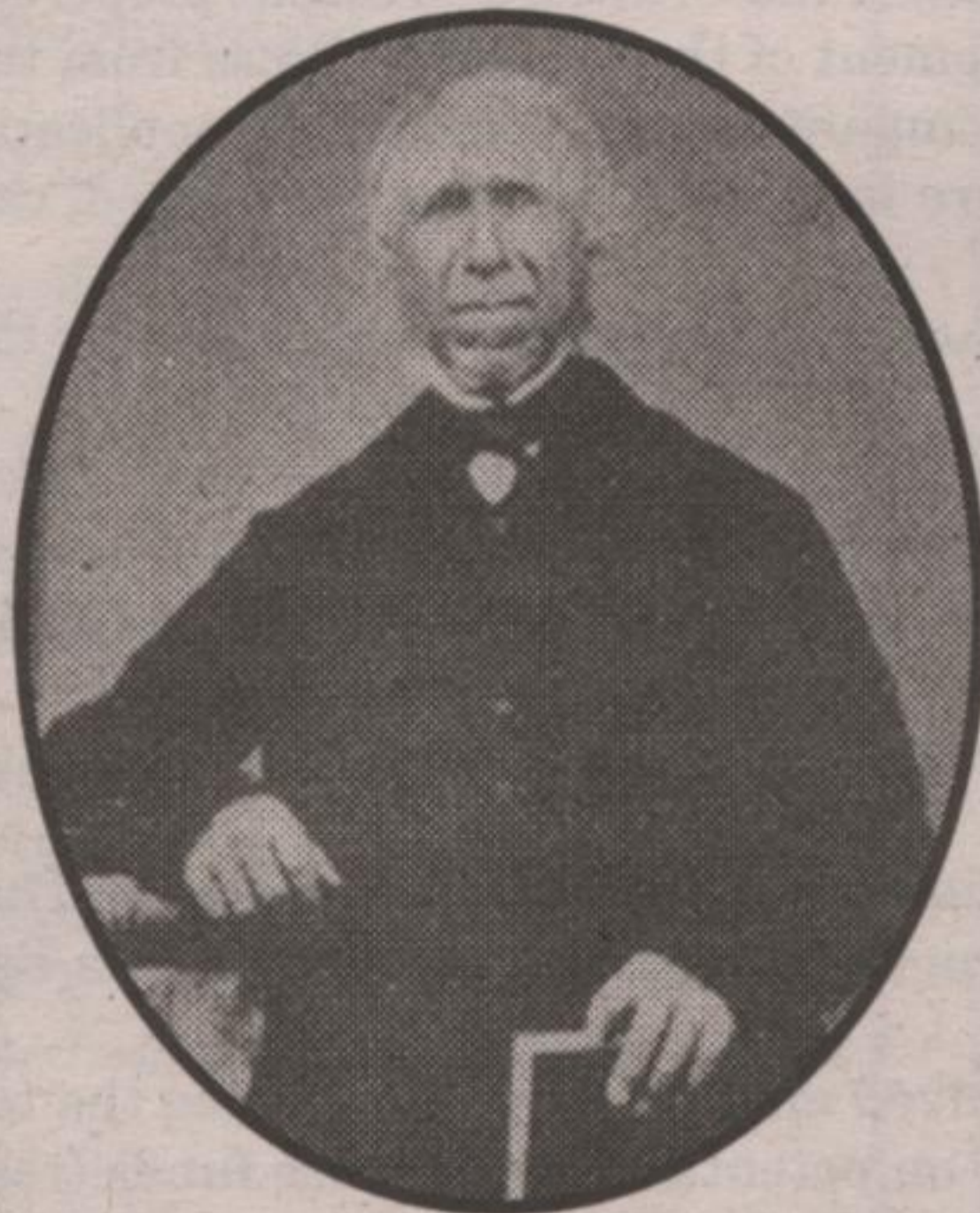
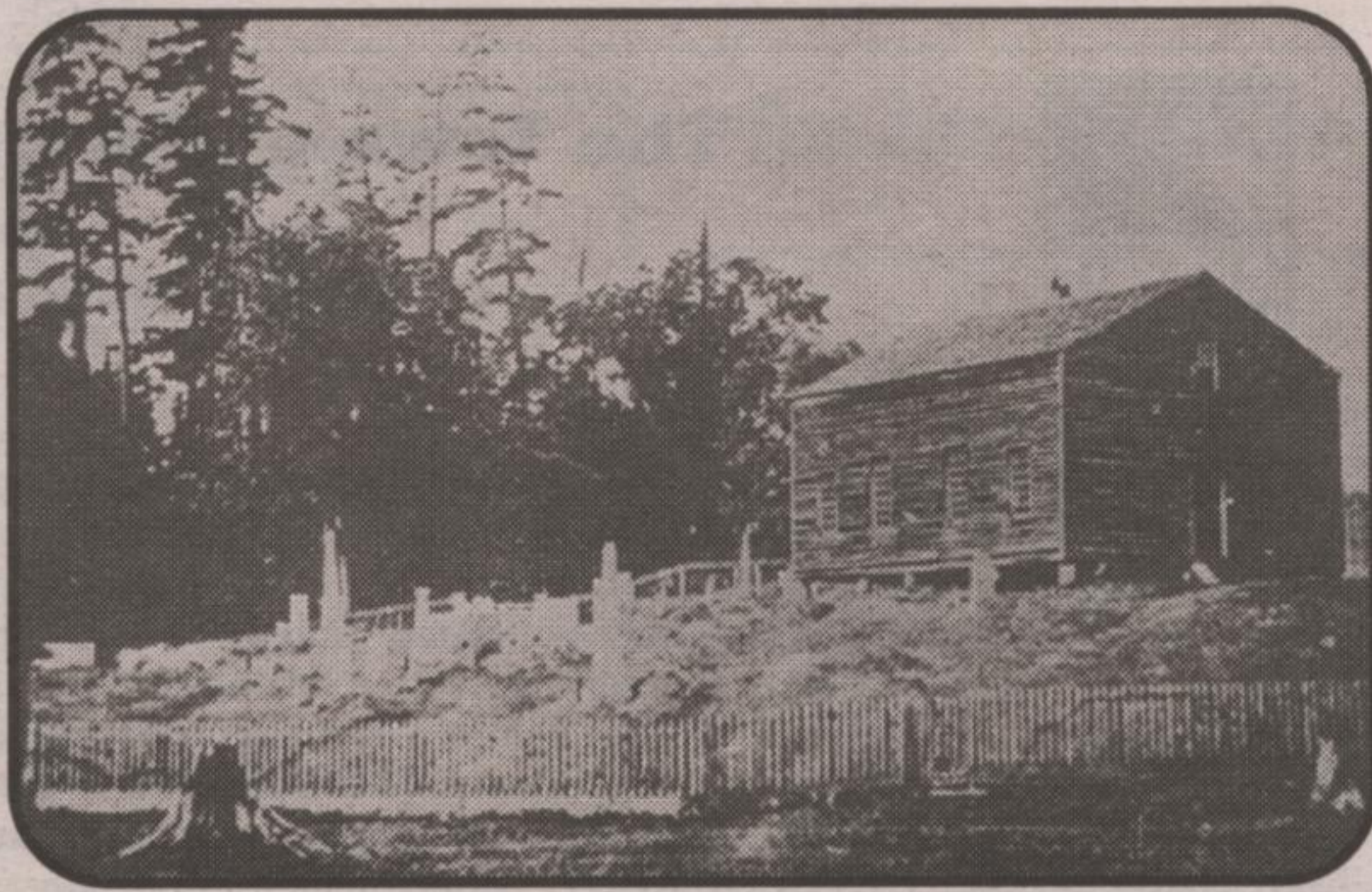
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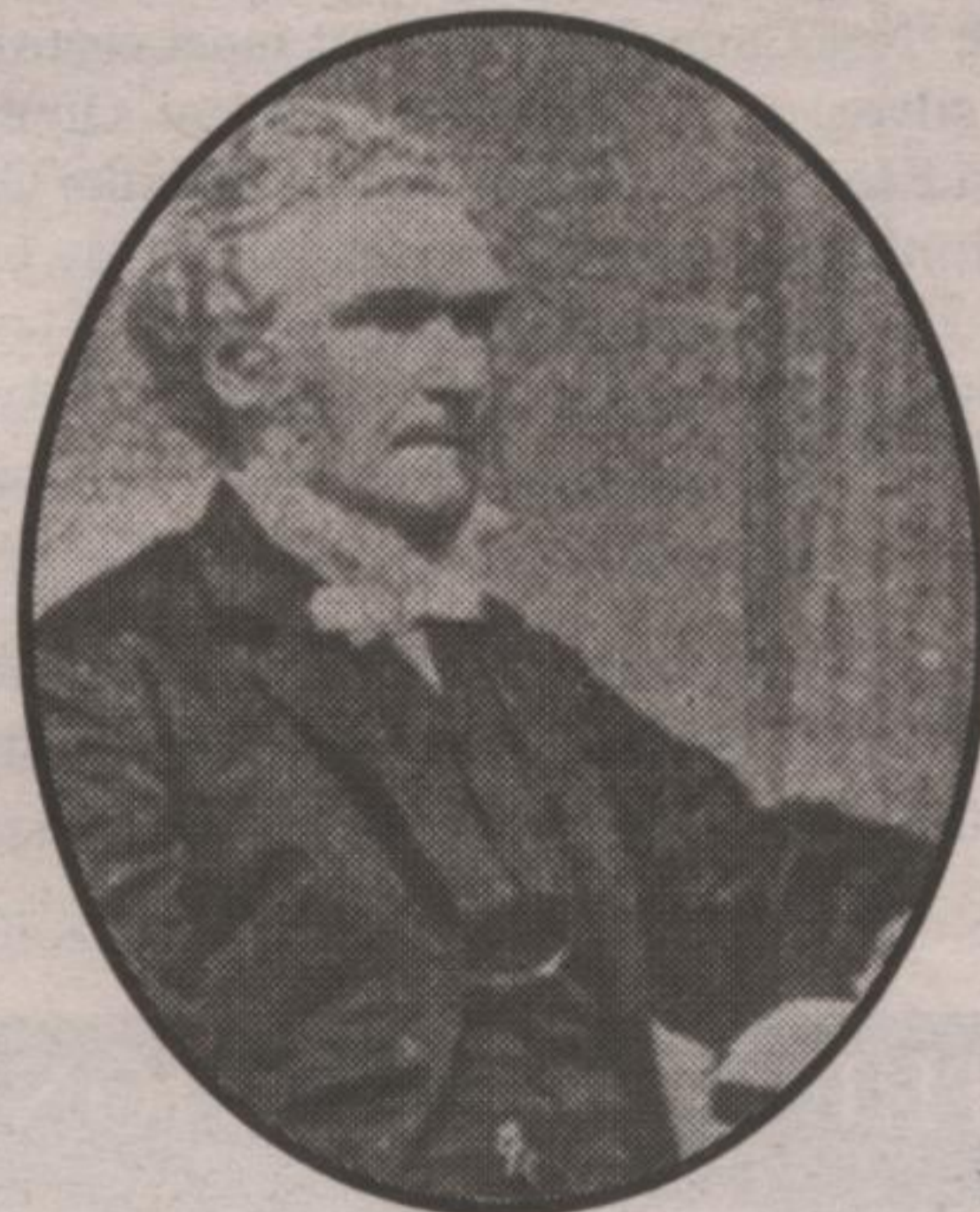
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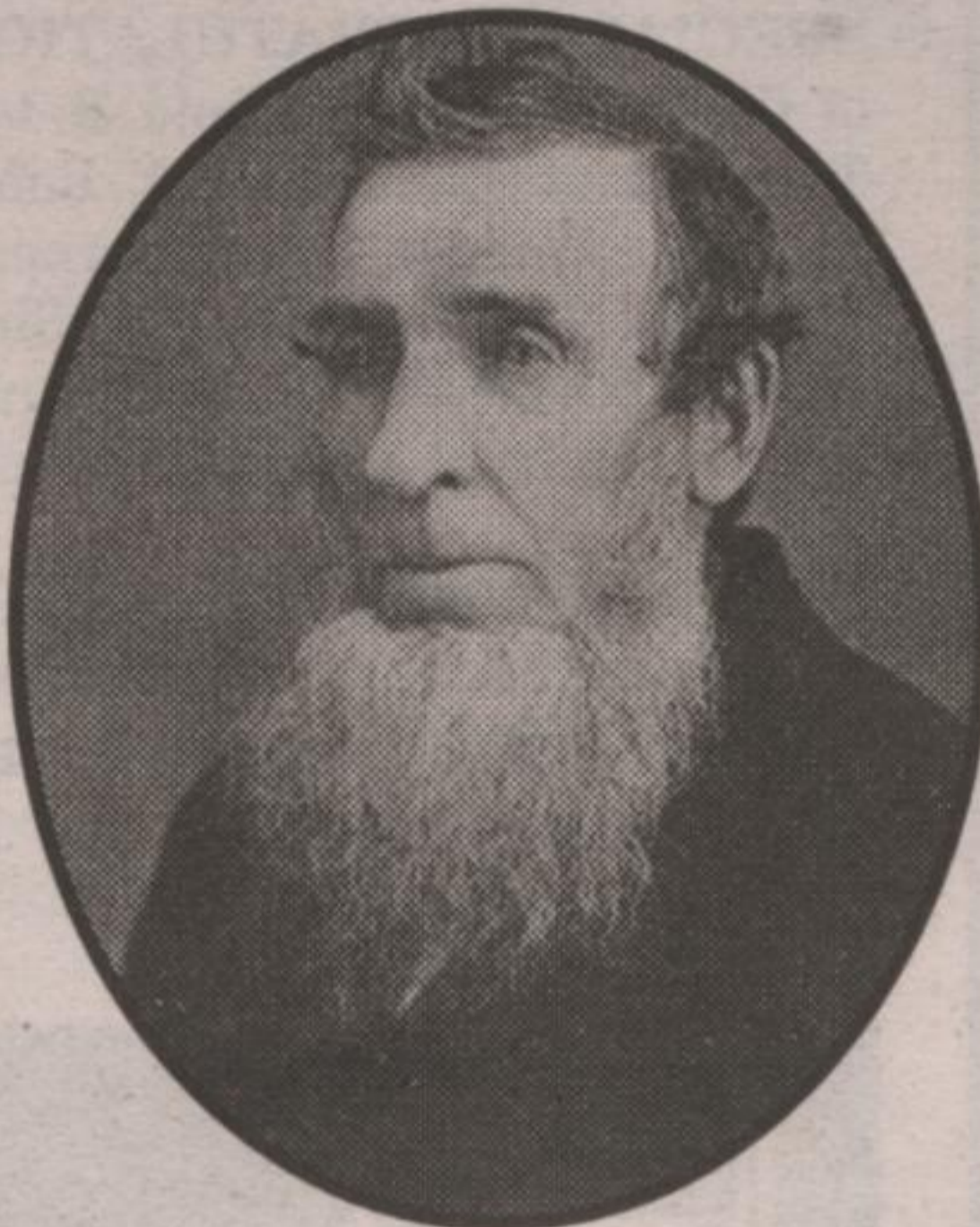
Andrew Laidlaw



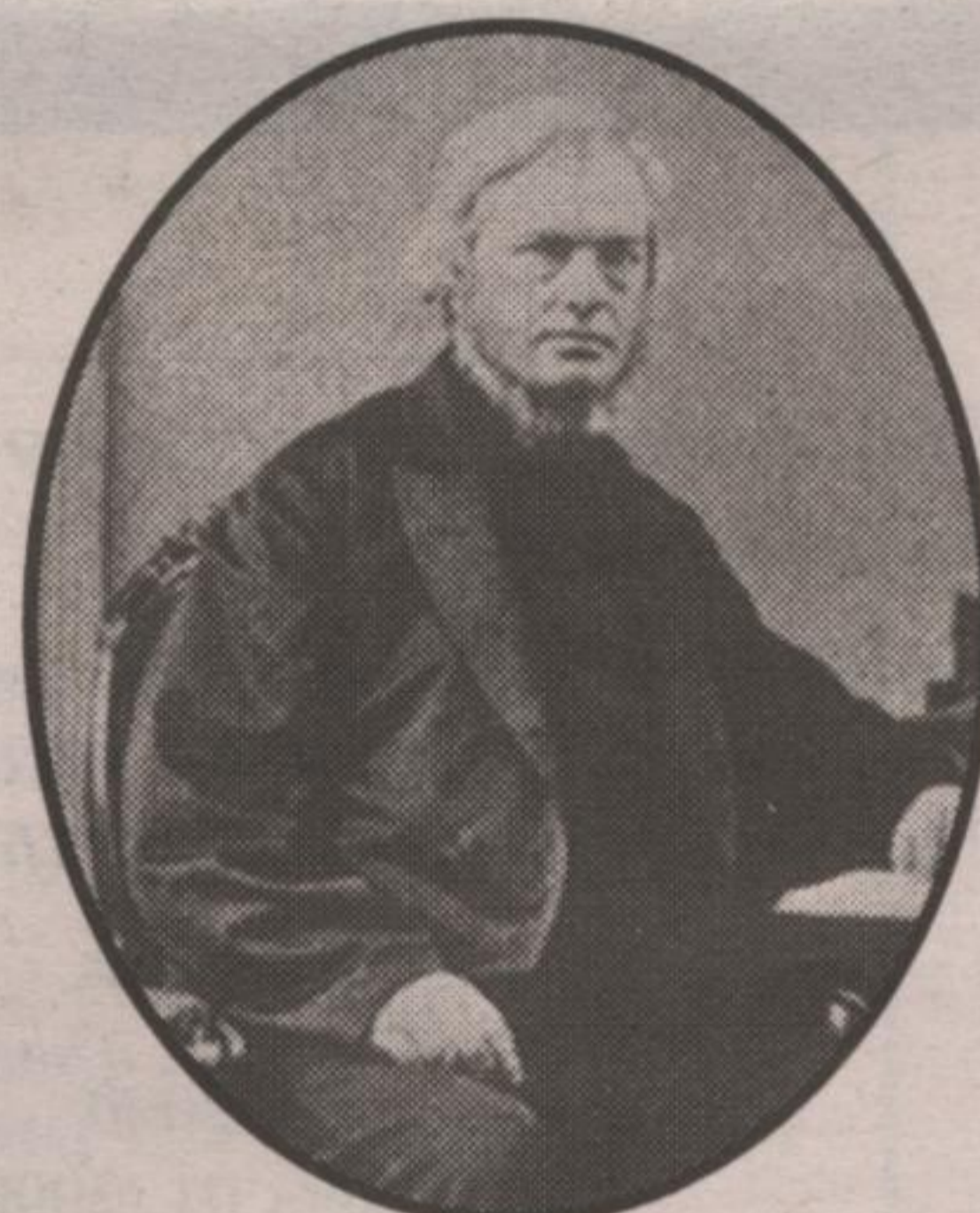
Walter Laidlaw



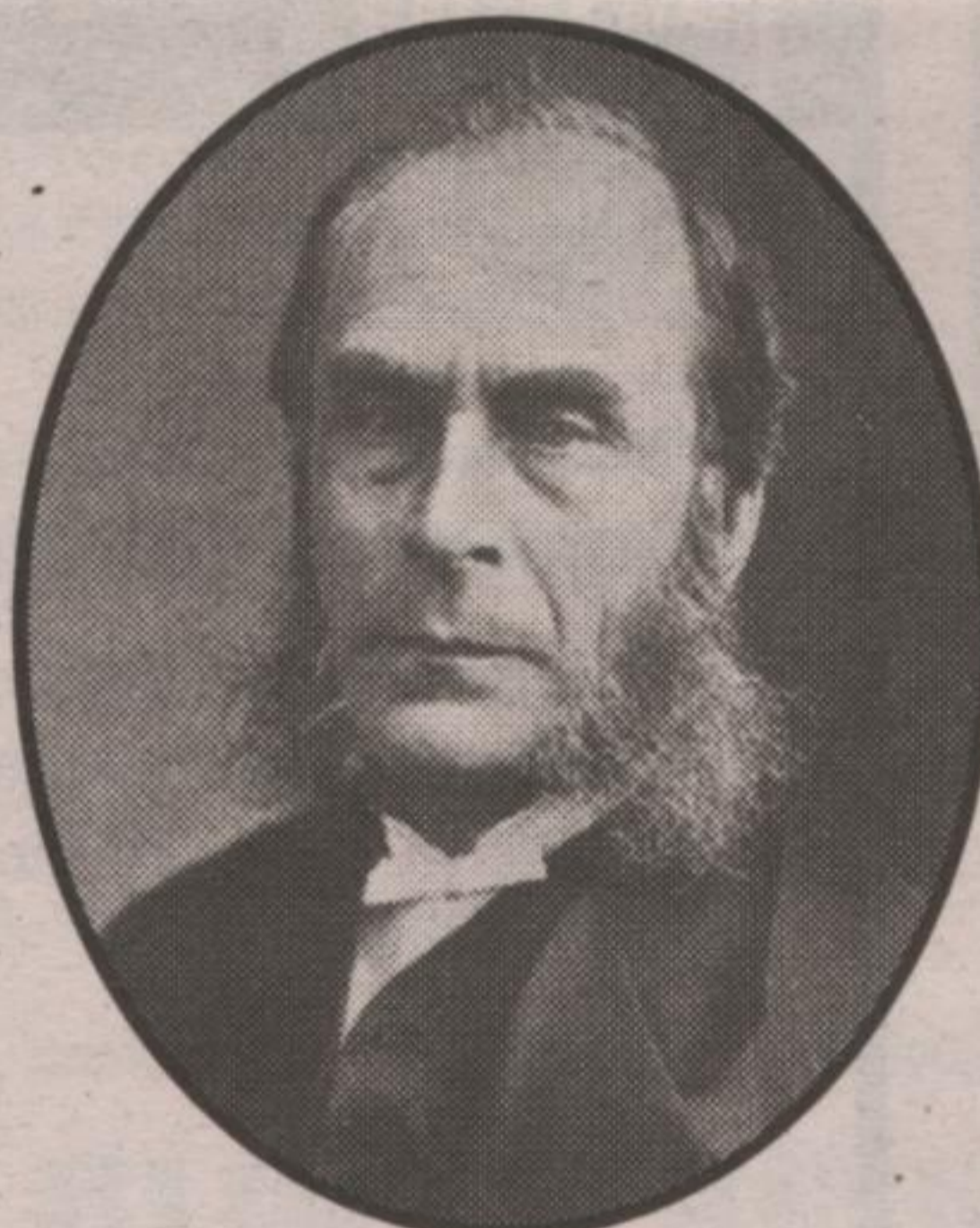
Rev. John McLachlan



John Stewart



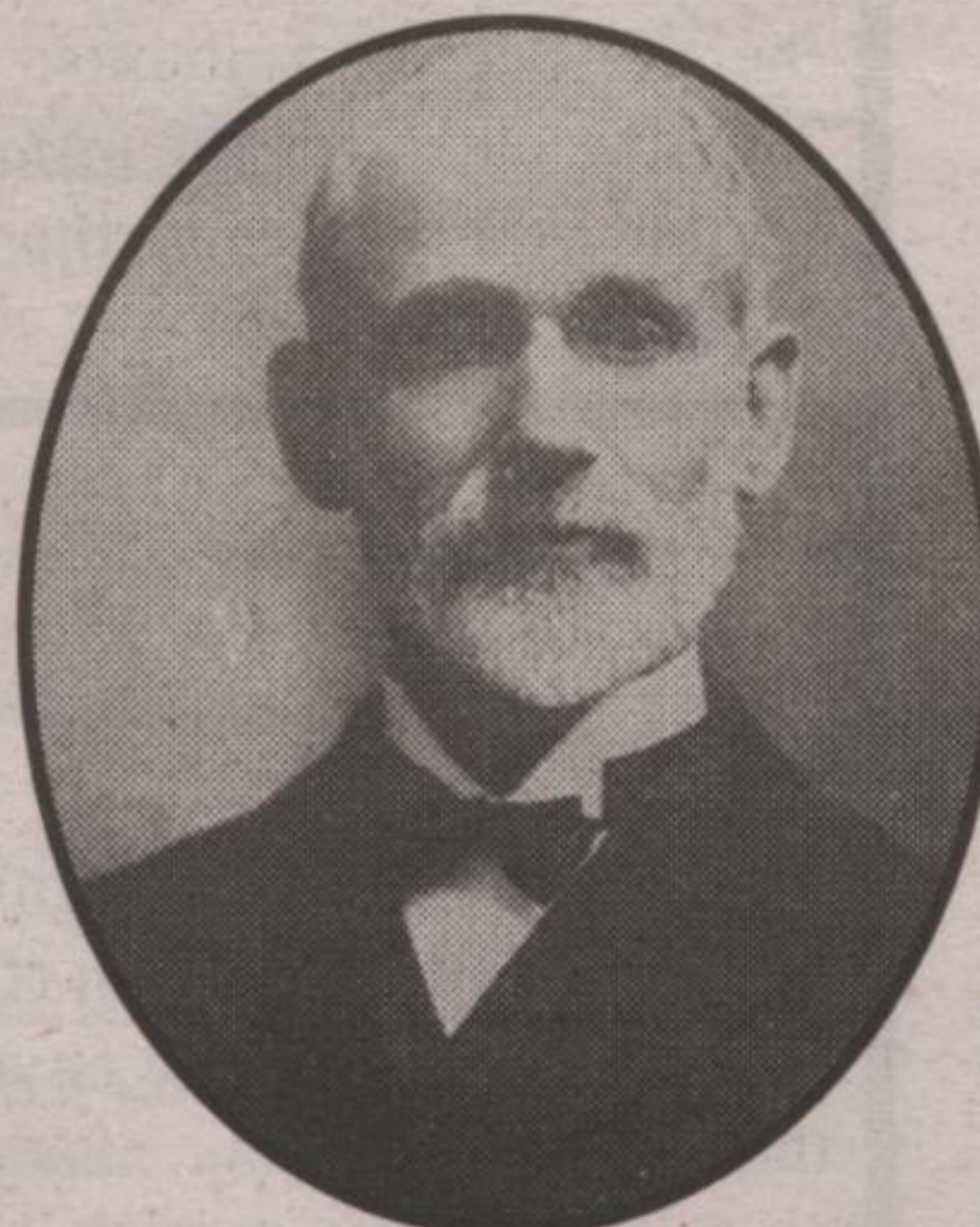
Rev. James Mitchell



Rev. Patrick Gray



Robert Stewart



Robert Laidlaw

Shoebox

Presbyterian
Meeting House

Lot 6, Conc. 4,
Esquesing

~ circa 1865 ~



The first church service held in the Scotch Block was conducted to the farm of Andrew Laidlaw, Lot 6, Conc. 4, Esquesing. A man's sermon, which reflected the difficulties of the early homestead peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land, and they shall be no more. In 1821, Reverend Abner Wright from Niagara preached near the farm of James Laidlaw, Robert Shortreed, George Barbour, Thomas Barbour, and a committee of Malcolm McNaughton, Duncan Campbell and James Martin. The committee purchased one and half acres from Andrew Laidlaw for seven pounds, three shillings and three pence in lawful currency. The church was built on the site of Martin's Mill at Trafalgar by February 1, 1825. On April 9, 1824, Malcolm McNaughton, James Martin and Jasper Martin were elected as trustees, and it was decided to proceed with the building on the same site. However, construction did not begin until 1825 when the building was completed in 1835, although the structure had been used for some time. The building on the same site. There was a door on each end, and a staircase with a door that was reached by a staircase. When the minister was seated in the shoebox in front of the pulpit, and the pews all had doors. The Reverend James Laidlaw preached the first service in the Boston Presbyterian Congregation in Esquesing on April 11, 1832. During the next two years the congregation met in meeting houses on the Third Line - the Anti Burgher church, later known as the church on Lot 8 to the north. The splits in the original congregation were due to the fact that the original congregation split again with the smaller group of members returning to the area and is buried in Boston Cemetery. The larger group of members was ministered to by student ministers from Knox College. The two congregations were named the church "Boston" in honour of Reverend Thomas Boston, a minister in the place of the Laidlaw family. In 1860, under the ministry of Reverend James Laidlaw, the church was moved to its present site in 1866 to build a new stone church that was completed in 1870. Stone was quarried from the farm of James Duff on Lot 9, Conc. 2, timber cut on the farm of James Laidlaw. In the cornerstones of Boston church are coins totalling 43 cents. The original frame church was moved to what is now the Boston parking lot in Georgetown for implementation as a shop. Through the years Boston Presbyterian Church has had members from Hornby, Union and Norval, and Acton. Since 1929, Boston has been assisted by the descendants of Robert Laidlaw to assist with maintenance of the church and an addition constructed on the back for a kitchen, Sunday school room and organ installed in readiness for the present building's centennial during 1975. The Boston Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 180th Anniversary with its present building.

Boston Church Session

~ 1975 ~



Back Row, L to R - Charles Head, Clifford Brown, Allan Parsons, Stanley Wilson, Wilfred Schreiber, Ernest Wilson, Thomas McDonald and Emmett McGibbon. Front Row - Edwin Parsons, Edward Snow, Rev. Rod Lewis, Robert Dredge and John Irving.

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