

Alexander homestead

Escarpment beauty for Glen Eden home

Adam Alexander (1781-1864) came to Canada from Scotland with his wife in 1836. Having undertaken the perilous six week ocean voyage and hectic journey from Montreal, he came upon the present site and, struck by the awesome beauty of the escarpment, called his new home Glen Eden.

A stonemason by trade, Adam began clearing the land, living in the rough but comfortable log cabin he found on the site. He found his

first employment as a stonemason working on the last phases of the construction of Dundurn Castle in Hamilton. However, he and his family soon turned to farming as a way of life.

Limestone there

His son Adam II carried on the tradition of self-reliance and expanded the farm to produce a variety of grains, fruits, vegetables and livestock with timber and limestone from the escarpment for use on the farm. He built the barn, pigsty and stone house between 1860-70.

Adam Alexander III (1853-1941) was the inventor of the family and built the blacksmith shop in 1880 as well as installing the water wheels and a variety of other machinery. These machines eased the difficult work on the farm and even provided electric power years before the advent of hydro.

By the early 1900s saws, corn choppers and even washing machines were operated with the help of electric power. Adam Alexander IV (Duff) operated the farm until 1966. He died this year in Halton Centennial Manor.

Mistletoe magic

Ancient followers of the Druid religion were the first to regard mistletoe as a sacred plant. They supposed it to have panacean virtues in warding off everything from witches to disease.

Each year, about the time Christmas is celebrated today, there was a ceremonial rite in which Druid priests, using a golden sickle, cut the mistletoe leaves from the "sacred oak" and distributed.

The Saxons also valued this plant; they were the first to call it mistletoe. To them, mistletoe symbolized everlasting peace.



PORCELAIN DOLL IN CRADLE IS admired by young Kathryn Boyle of Milton. The doll is one of many toys donated to the museum by the people of Halton Region.



CHRISTMAS carols are sung by Vi Slade and Kathryn Boyle at the antique spinet on display at Halton Region Museum. The music is read by candlelight.

Colors are meaningful

The traditional colors of the Christmas season are red and green. These colors have meant different things to different people over the ages. Color has been used as the symbol of abstract ideas from time immemorial.

Green was a sacred color among the ancient and medieval Egyptians who wore it as a symbol of hope and the joy of spring.

In early and medieval Christian art, colors had a mystic or symbolic meaning. Red indicated passion. In its good sense it was a symbol of divine energy and love and the creative power of the Holy Spirit; in its bad sense it was a sign of hate. In that meaning it became a sign of Satan.

Emerald green is often the symbol of hope and growth in many Christian paintings.



A Christmas Wish

We wish our friends and patrons the merriest Christmas ever and a holiday season filled with good cheer. Our grateful thanks to all.

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a very special Merry Christmas!

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Greetings

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