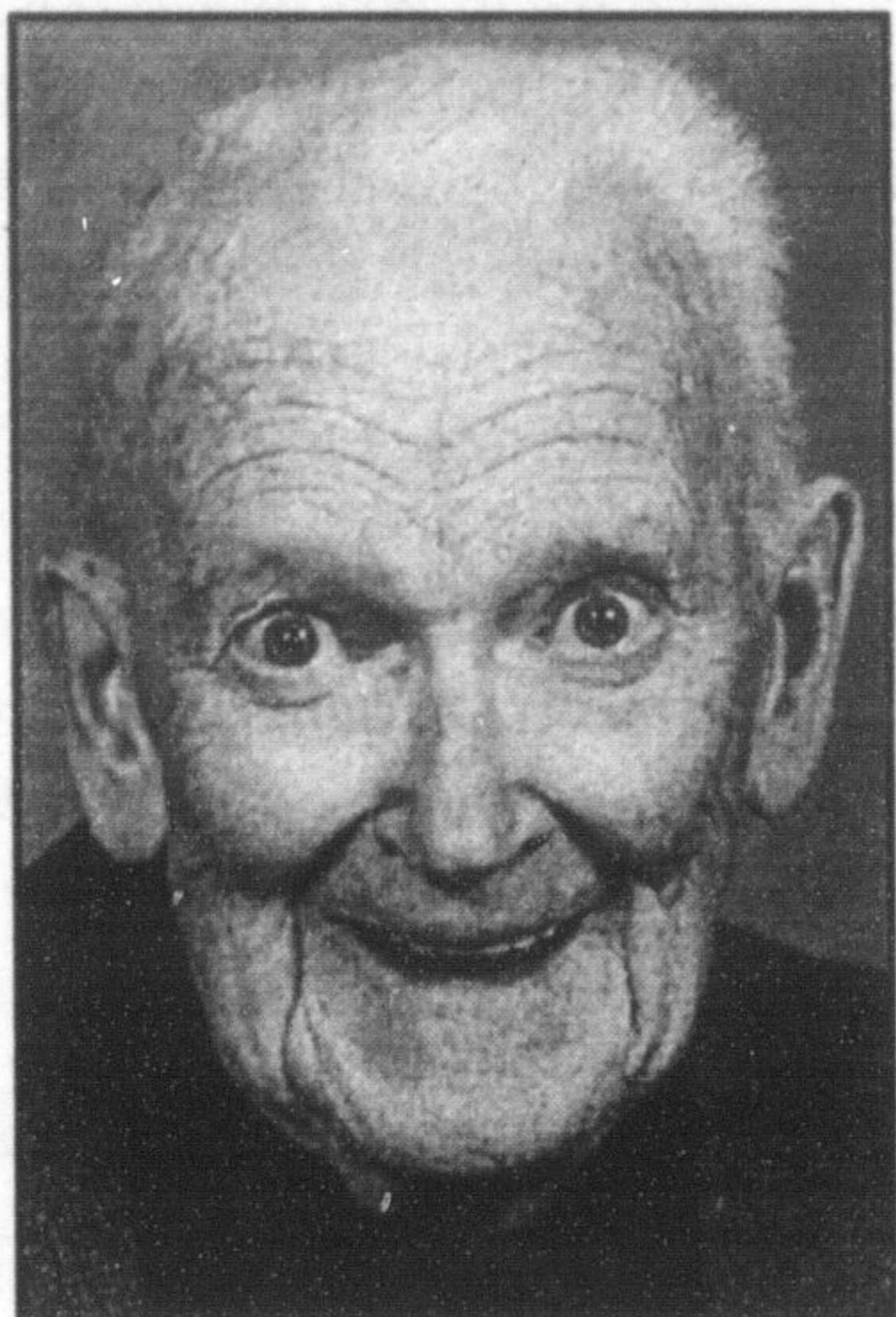


Local historian Cooke will be remembered for work to preserve local heritage

Those in Halton's heritage community and friends in his life-long hometown of Milton were saddened by the recent death of Alex Cooke as he neared his 85th birthday.



Life-long Miltonian Alex Cooke, who passed away recently at the age of 84, was a major contributor to the documentation of local heritage through his work with the Halton Region Museum, Milton Historical Society and Halton-Peel branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

He's survived by his wife Ruth. Mr. Cooke contributed to the Halton Region Museum, Milton Historical Society and Halton-Peel branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society in helpful ways over more than 40 years.

He has responded to genealogical requests for information from around the world and travelled to Scotland in search of his family roots, which he traced to the Scotch Block. In earlier years, Mr. Cooke was active in assisting sports teams and serving on provincial sports executive boards. For several years he was also a member of the Milton Public School Board.

Mr. Cooke was recognized in 1997 with the Ontario Heritage Award. He helped write some of 220 biographies of local people for the Milton Historical Society.

Mr. Cooke was enthusiastic in meeting school children and helping them with local history projects. Many could find him in the local library received valuable

Twitchell, curator at the Halton Region Museum, who had known Mr. Cooke for 21 years. "He left a definite void. He was a good friend to all the staff here."

He was active in research for the Milton Historical Society, compiling background detail on local properties and assisting in the two volumes of Historic Homes and Buildings of Milton. Mr. Cooke assisted Jack Charlton and Jim Dills in compiling the book Moments in History, which was published in 1993.

"Alex never stopped contributing to the recording of Halton history and the encouragement of others," Mr. Dills said.

Mr. Cooke was involved in the 200-page genealogy and history of the Zimmerman family for the Halton Region Museum. He was a regular volunteer at the museum and often answered inquiries from families and assisted staff and volunteers.

He listed the stones in Evergreen Cemetery in Milton as part of his work with the Halton-Peel branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

A private funeral service was held.

advice in searching their own family history.

"Alex Cooke was instrumental in the founding foundation of the museum in 1962," said Linda

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