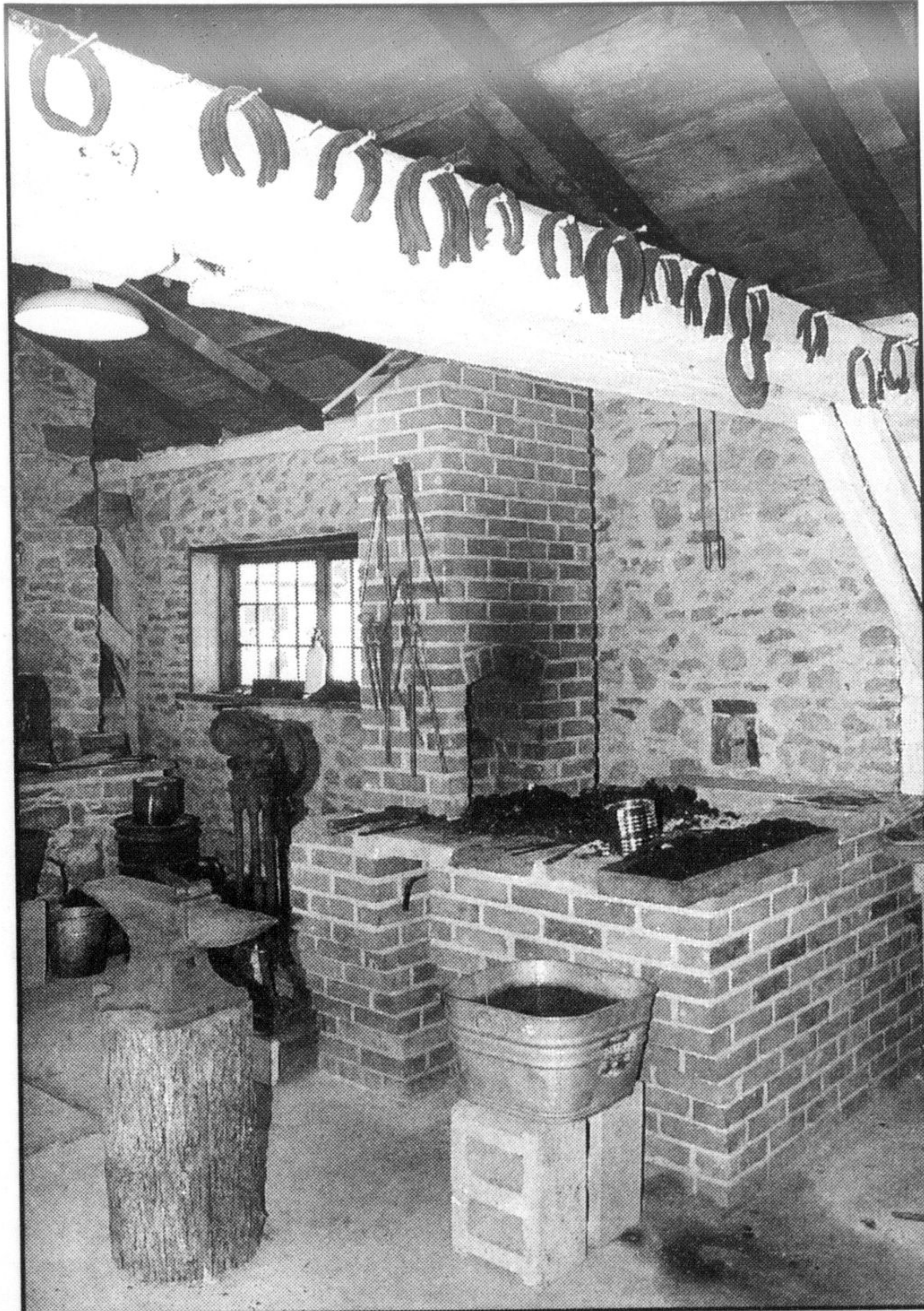


# Historic Waldie's Blacksmith Shop re-opens door



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"It was worth while waiting for. I remember when horses were important to Milton. This is something I've supported from the start."

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh said residents can now reflect on what Milton was like in 1865.

"Hopefully this project will be one of tremendous success now and in the future."

Mandy Sedgwick, Milton Historical Society member and chair of the restoration committee, told the crowd she feels restoring the shop is giving something back to the community that would have otherwise been lost forever.

The blacksmith doors opened with a ribbon cutting by Mayor Krantz, Mr. Chudleigh and Ms Sedgwick. The public was then invited to tour the inside of the shop.

Blacksmiths were busy demonstrating the use of forges with a hammer and an anvil while numerous displays of artifacts found while digging drew quite an interest.

Items that were dug up included a Feather Swirl pressed glass sauce dish manufactured between 1896 to 1905 and a 1893 Baker and Company ironstone dinner plate.

"It's a dream come true," said Marsha Waldie, great-grand daughter of James Alfred Waldie, founder of the original shop.

Edna Waldie, wife of the late Alfred Waldie, who was a third generation blacksmith, told The Champion she thought the re-opening of the shop was wonderful.

"When we started the project we didn't want to see another building lost in Milton," added Ms Sedgwick. "There were four generations of Waldies here and they kept everything. We're very fortunate the Waldies leased the blacksmith shop to the historical society."

The shop will be used for school tours and meeting room rentals.

The gift shop will feature historical publications, photographs, artifacts, crafts and clothing.



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Above, members of the Acton Citizens Band play on the lawn of St. Paul's United Church during the re-opening of Waldie's Blacksmith Shop, which (as seen at top) has been restored.

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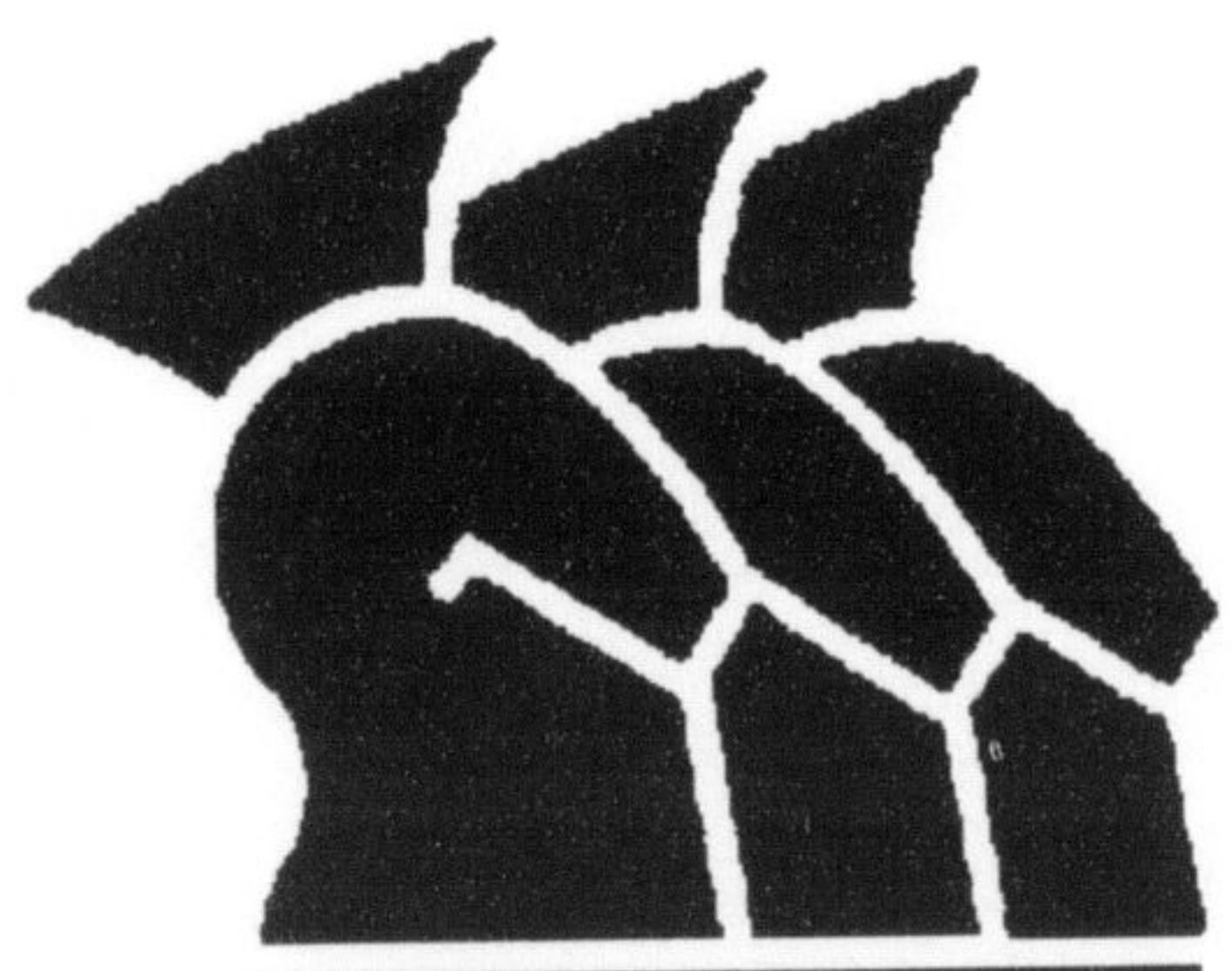
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