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As we have seen in the past, the town of Milton has had a colorful and interesting history, filled with fascinating characters and stories. One of these stories has to do with Edward Keenan, who was born on

June 29th, 1843 in the county of Monagban, Ireland.

His parents emigrated to Canada when he was 12 months old, settling in Milton. Young Edward went to the common school in town and got a decent education, However, at the age of 16, he left school and fell in with a group of young, disorderly kids.

One day, after finishing two quarts of whiskey, Edward became enraged, and beat his mother with his bare hands, killing her. Edward was arrested and found guilty of murder. He was sentenced to hang at the town jail for his crime. For some days before the execution, the local sheriff tired to get a stay of execution, but the

Governor General would not change his mind.

On June 18th 1862, an article appeared in the Canadian Champion, detailing the death of young Keenan. An estimated

seven hundred people came to watch, and to DIG 1600 RECORD the authors dismay, two hundred were ladies "...many of whom took their station at an early hour, fearful of missing what to such vitiated tastes, might be considered a rare treat." At ten

o'clock, the floor dropped from underneath him.

As most of you may already know, the very place where these hangings took place still stands. The now beautiful and lush gardens of the Town Hall court yard was the infamous site of this and other hangings.

Stay tuned for more Milton Historical Tidbits.

Austen

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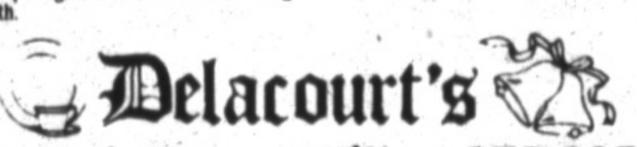
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