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That the village of Richmond Hill
enjoys a climate conducive to general
good health, that it has its proper
share of ozone so that malaria is not
one of its annual products, and that
its elevated position and wide spread
airy surroundings are congenial to
longevity of life, is apparent from the
number of octogenarians within its
limits. But far exceeding in years
these ancient citizens, our "oldest in-
habitant" resides in one of our largest
brick edifices, the senior partner in our
South End Laundry Works.

Susannah Augusta Stokes was born
in the County of Lancaster, Pennsylv-
ania, United States. The present
century was then but four years old,
so that on the 1st of March last our
neighbor saw her ninety-sixth birth-
day.

Susannah Augusta is a colored wo-
man, but free born. Pennsylvania
with commendable pride has from its
early history boasted that she has
raised all her own colored population,
that she has neither bought nor sold.
Colored children, whose parents had
died, or were unable to care for them,
were cared for and raised by the State
either in Homes or in the families of
her citizens—girls until the age of 18
years, and boys until the age of 21
years, when they were expected to
take care of themselves. Susannah
Augusta was one of these. Her par-
ents died when she was but a child.
With two others she was placed under
the guardianship of a Mr. Harpen, a
land owner of several hundred acres.
Mrs. Harpen acted toward them as a
mother, taught Susannah to read, sew
and knit, with good instructions in
household duties. The Harpen family
consisted of parents and three children,
besides the adopted ones, but all were
treated alike, and all looked back in
after years to the old farm as their
own familiar home.

At the age of 18 years Susannah
gained her independence. Her excel-
lent training in household affairs en-
abled her to earn her own living,
which she did.

Although free born and in the midst
of a people sternly opposed from prin-
ciple to slavery in all its aspects, there
was always among the colored people
a fear of danger on account of the con-
tinued encroachments of the advocates
of slavery. Mason's and Dixon's line,
known as the boundary line between
the free and slavery States of the
Union, was the southern boundary
line of the State of Pennsylvania.
Kidnappers plied their nefarious work
in all the border towns. To seize the
colored folks, run them across the line
and sell them by auction in a slave
State, was a paying enterprise. This
was frequently done, the perpetrators
becoming more and more aggressive
in their inhuman exploits.

Our neighbor tells of an incident
that came under her own knowledge.
A colored girl of 16 years went to the
well a short distance from the house
for water. She was heard to scream,
and disappeared from sight. She was
hurried by her captors across the line.
Her master went in pursuit, overtook
and arrested the parties, fought the
matter out in the courts, proved that
the girl was free born, and returned
with her to his home.

Soon after Susannah Augusta be-
came a married woman, a rumor
reached the village where she resided
that a band of kidnappers were pre-
paring to make a raid on the place
and capture every colored man and
woman within reach. Word was sent
to the city for a strong force of police.
White and colored alike armed them-
selves for a determined resistance.
The rumor proved a reality. The raid
was made at midnight. A fight en-
sued, in which life was lost on both
sides. A white man and a colored
woman were killed on the side of the
defenders. The raiders were defeated.
This greatly increased the uneasiness
and awakened alarm among the col-
ored people. Hearing that in Canada
they could live unmolested and no
longer be in dread of being sent south,
many came over and settled in our
country, among them being Mrs. Max-
well and her family.

During the more than half a century
Mrs. Maxwell has been a resident of
our village she has seen her share of
trouble. She has lost her husband,
and out of five children she has lost
four. A year ago last May her
daughter Mary died. Miss Mary was
a happy tempered, good natured
laughing girl, liked by all who knew
her, and at her death her coffin was
covered with floral tributes. Miss
Mary's celebrity was somewhat of a
local character, but like many whose
names appear on the historic roll
whose fame was far more world-wide
than her's, her obsequies were un-
dertaken by the State. The reeve, as-
sisted by members of the council and
the village municipal guardian, conveyed
her remains to the cemetery, the
casket followed by a long procession
of our most prominent citizens.

All expenses connected with the in-
terment were defrayed by a generous
public.

The family have always been well
respected. Industrious and careful
they have always provided for them-
selves, except when sickness inter-
vened, then the neighbors were always
ready to assist. As a harmless family
they have always had neighborly sym-
pathy and civic protection. If from
any of the juvenile depravity of the
village they have suffered annoyance,
it has been immediately suppressed by
the reigning authorities.

Mrs. Maxwell's only remaining
daughter Tilly has left an excellent
situation in Toronto, where she is
highly esteemed, to maintain and care
for her aged mother. The old lady
at ninety-five years of age is still hale
and hearty. Her memory is excellent,
and her conversation on early recol-
lections lively and interesting.

Mrs. Maxwell hopes to reach a cen-
tury of years. Judging from her pre-
sent prospects of longevity there is
every probability of our nonagenar-
ian's anticipations being realized—
if her life should be spared.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Thornhill.

On Monday evening, June 25, the
brethren of Patterson Lodge, No. 265,
A. F. & A. M., and their lady friends
spent a most enjoyable time. The
"Society Hall" down stairs was nicely
fitted up as a reception room, where
ladies assembled and engaged in parlor
games while the brethren were at
work in the Masonic lodge.

The ceremony of installation was
performed by Rt. W. Bro. J. Fisher,
assisted by W. Bro. Smith of Black-
wood Lodge, Woodbridge, W. Bro. G.
Fisher, and W. Bro. Steele. The fol-
lowing officers were installed:

W. Bro. J. Drury, W. M.; W. Bro.
G. Fisher, I. P. M.; Bro. R. Forbes,
S. W.; Bro. W. L. Bond, J. W.; W.
Bro. J. C. Steele, Treas.; Bro. A.
Muckle, Sec'y; Bro. A. A. Dame,
Chaplain; W. Bro. J. Ed. Francis,
D. of C.; W. Bro. R. Thompson, S. D.;
Bro. J. Breakley, J. D.; Bro. T. S.
Cook, S. S.; Bro. J. C. Bales, J. S.;
Bro. J. Baxter, I. G.; Bro. H. Horne,
Tyler.

The officers having taken their re-
spective chairs, Rt. W. Bro. Fisher
presented W. Bro. G. Fisher, I. P. M.,
with a Past Master's Jewel as a slight
token of the high appreciation the
members have of his work during the
past year. Rt. Bro. Fisher stated that
he had been a member of Patterson
Lodge for over 20 years, that he had
seen it in times of prosperity and ad-
versity, but never had there been a
more successful year than the past.
He congratulated the retiring Master
and brethren on the high standing of
the Lodge, and bespoke success for it
in the future. In a few well chosen
remarks W. Bro. Fisher thanked the
officers and members for their un-
expected kindness, and said he would
be ready and willing at all times to
assist in the work of Patterson Lodge.

Then W. Bro. Francis surprised W.
Bro. R. Thompson by presenting him
with a Past Master's Jewel as an in-
dication of the valuable services he had
rendered his mother lodge for several
years, being always a true and faith-
ful brother. W. Bro. Thompson
heartily thanked the brethren, and
stated that he had only endeavored to
do his duty as a man and a Mason.

The lodge then closed in harmony,
the brethren conducting the ladies
through their lodge room. They all
retired to the banquet hall, where an
excellent spread had been provided.
When the inner man had been fully
satisfied, the company was called to
order by W. Bro. J. Drury, and was
entertained by the following program
of toasts and songs:

"The Queen and the Craft"; all
rose and sang God Save the Queen.
"The Grand Lodge of Canada," Rt.
W. Bro. Fisher; "The Retiring Mas-
ter," W. Bro. Fisher; song, "Sons of
the British Empire," Bro. Harry
Bates, Toronto; "Newly Installed
Officers," W. Bro. Drury, Bro. R.
Forbes, Bro. W. L. Bond; "Canada,"
W. Bro. Francis; violin solo, Bro. A.
Muckle; "Medical Profession," Bro.
Dr. Bond, Bro. Dr. Nelles; "Our Boys
in South Africa," Bro. Dr. Dame;
song, "When Johnny Canuck Comes
Home," Bro. Bates; "The Ladies,"
Bro. Leadley; J. W.'s Toast—"Happy
to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet
again."

The evening's entertainment was a
great success, and the members of
Patterson Lodge may justly congratu-
late themselves on their first attempt
to entertain the ladies.

Markham Council.

Markham Township Council met at
Victoria Hall, Unionville, on Tuesday,
19th inst. Members all present, ex-
cepting Mr. Dimma, who is away en-
joying his wedding trip. The reeve
in the chair. Minutes of last meeting
read and confirmed.

Communications were received from
J. Fleury & Son, re improving road

scraper; from J. K. Macdonald, re
land sale for taxes vs. J. Kendrick;
from Geo. Forester, re dog tax refund;
from J. W. McCullough, re matter J.
Kendrick; from C. P. Reid, re culvert;
from Wm. Robinson, re Metropolitan
R. R. Co.

A petition was received from James
Young and 15 others asking a grant of
\$50 to gravel part of the 10th con. at
lots 21 and 22, the petitioners to do
gratis work to the same value.

Summerfeldt—Eckardt—that the
treas. pay the commissioner the ap-
propriation granted to road between
lots 30 and 31, con. 3.

Summerfeldt—Sisley—that the
mover be a commissioner to repair ap-
proach to bridge between lots 20 and
21, con. 8; also to clean out ditch op-
posite lot 21, con. 6.

Sisley—Eckardt—that the clerk be
instructed to ascertain from J. F.
Fleury & Sons whether their manu-
factured shares are suitable for the
T. C. Austin & Co., Chicago, road
machine, and the price therefor.

Sisley—Summerfeldt—that this
council grant \$40 to gravel roadway
between lots 21 and 22, con. 10, pro-
vided the ratepayers in the vicinity do
a like amount gratis, and that Messrs.
Dimma and J. Young be commis-
sioners to expend the same.

Eckardt—Summerfeldt—that this
council grant \$25 to drain the road-
way between lots 10 and 11, con. 6, and
the mover be commissioner to expend
the same.

Sisley—Summerfeldt—that the clerk
notify Mr. D. Beaton that this council
do not feel disposed at present to
make any further grant on townline
between Markham and Pickering.

Sisley—Summerfeldt—that the clerk
be instructed to take the necessary
course to settle with the County Treas.
the matter of the Kendrick property.

Eckardt—Summerfeldt—that the
treas. pay Wm. Mackenard \$10 for
filling washout and repairing road be-
tween lots 15 and 16, con. 5.

Sisley—Eckardt—that the clerk
notify the County Treasurer that the
lot known as the Size property, lot 13,
con. 6, entered on the assessment roll
as containing 2 acres, is the property
which was sold for taxes by the County
Treasurer March 22, 1900, and is en-
closed in one lot.

Eckardt—Sisley—that Messrs.
Quantz, Sisley and Eckardt be a com-
mittee to examine bridges on west
side of township, and that Messrs.
Dimma and Summerfeldt be a com-
mittee to examine bridges on east side
of township, and report at next meet-
ing of the council.

Summerfeldt—Sisley—that the clerk
purchase the shears for grader.

Summerfeldt—Eckardt—that the
treas. pay, on order of the reeve, \$25,
being solicitor's fees re Metropolitan
Railway Co. before Legislature.

Eckardt—Sisley—that this council
congratulate Mr. James Dimma upon
his taking unto himself a worthy help-
mate, and join in wishing the couple a
happy, long and prosperous union.

Sisley—Summerfeldt—that the reeve
and mover be commissioners to open
ditch and repair culvert between lots
30 and 31, con. 2.

Eckardt—Summerfeldt—that by re-
quest the grant to Mr. Spring, made
the 15th day of March, be discontinued.

A number of gravel and other ac-
counts were passed, and the council
adjourned until July 17.

News Notes.

Ex-Ald. John Halkam died at his
home in Toronto Thursday night.

New stock of Crompton's celebrated
corsets, all prices and sizes. Atkinson
& Switzer.

The Toronto lacrosse team defeated
Cornwall on Saturday by a score of 4
to 2.

Ladies black cotton hose, in light
weight, 12c. per pair; with polka dot,
25c. per pair. Atkinson & Switzer.

McKinley and Roosevelt are the
Republican nominees for President
and Vice-President respectively.

Big range of plain, white, dotted,
and striped muslins, insertions, em-
broideries and laces, for summer
blouses, etc. Atkinson & Switzer.

Miss Kathleen Wells, eldest daugh-
ter of R. Wells, Esq., Aurora, was on
the 18th inst. married in Vancouver,
B. C., to A. E. Thorley, formerly of
Toronto.

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