

# LOOKING BACKWARD

A WEEKLY GLIMPSE AT LOCAL HISTORY

By Paul L. Fox  
Incorporated in the annals of our village are several atrocious murders which have been set down in history. Not the least of these by any means is the case of Robert More.

Close to 1870 a few months after her death, word was whispered about the street corners of the village that Mrs. Robert More died under suspicious circumstances. The matter was brought to the attention of Henry Miller Sr., Coroner. A jury was impanelled with M. Teffy, J.P. as foreman. The body was exhumed and Dr. James Langstaff made the post mortem investigation.

Before I go on I must give you some of the history of Robert More. A native of Belfast, Ireland, he was a corporal in the 71st Battalion Royal Regiment and was stationed in Gibraltar. In 1842 he received his discharge and a few years later came to Canada.

The scene of the supposed tragedy was three quarters of a mile from the village, a low roofed shanty near Kirby's Mills. More did as little labour as possible around the village. He quit a job peddling because, as he said, he could not do enough lying to make a success. Until the date of the murder he was generally respected about the village because he was a man of regular habits.

More had been exceedingly cruel to his wife for years, venting his violent passion upon her on the most trivial occasions which the woman had, unknown to others, patiently borne.

When the body was visited by the jury, after lying four days in the home, it was in a bad state of putrefaction. The blackened eyes, and bruised condition of the corpse, evidences of cruel usage, were clearly visible.

While the evidence was being given at the inquest someone shouted in the window, "For God's sake come here, More's cut his throat." A hurried adjournment took place and everyone rushed out. They found More lying behind a strawstack, bleeding profusely with seven gashes in his throat. The sides of his throat as jagged as a saw. A razor was ly-

ing alongside him and another in his pocket. More could manage to whisper and he said that he might as well take his own life as be hung. He made a statement against his wife which was taken in writing by a magistrate, but was afterwards disproved by the evidence, which went to show he had brutally used the unfortunate woman for years. The jury came to the verdict that Mrs. More had come to her death by blows and kicks administered by her husband.

More survived the attempt on his own life and was brought up in the assizes in Toronto. A verdict of manslaughter was brought in and his sentence was two years in the penitentiary. The observer remarks that within six months he was walking the streets again, a free man... "truly a maladministration of justice."

As soon as he was released he came back to Richmond Hill. Meeting a group of villagers on the main street he began to shake hands. Col. David Briggford, one of the group, suddenly drew back and giving the murderer a look of indignation and scorn that made him quail, said, "No there is blood upon that hand and I'll have naught to do with it."

There is nothing more of what he did after that but it was generally assumed that being humiliated in public this way, he slunk away and settled perhaps in another shanty to ponder over his atrocious deed and his debt to mankind as yet unpaid.

## REAR ADMIRAL NELLES BACKS SHIPS AGAINST PLANES

Rear Admiral Percy W. Nelles, while he realizes the value of air power, still thinks the warships are superior. The chief of the Royal Canadian Navy points to the British and French evacuation of the port of Dunkirk, under pressure of the whole German air fleet, to substantiate his claim.

## BROWN'S CORNERS UNITED CHURCH NOTES

The regular meeting was held on Wednesday, June 12th at the parsonage at Agincourt when Rev. and Mrs. Rummy entertained the ladies of the W.M.S. The meeting was under the leadership of Mrs. Stevenson and Miss Jessie Thompson. In the absence of Miss Thompson, Mrs. Stiver assisted. There were twenty-three present.

The devotional period was taken by Mrs. Stiver, assisted by several of the ladies. The Prayer was taken by Mrs. Russell. There was an appeal from the Neighbourhood Workers for homes for children for a period of two weeks. Mrs. Stevenson sang a very appropriate solo.

The topic for the meeting was "Building for Peace through the Christian Church". This was taken by Mrs. Stiver assisted by several of the ladies. The offertory prayer was taken by Mrs. Craig Sr. Rev. Rummy gave the closing prayer.

Lunch was then served, following this the Misses Rummy entertained the ladies with vocal, piano and violin music. This was very much enjoyed by all. A very cordial invitation was given to use the parsonage for any meetings they wished to hold.

A meeting was held Tuesday evening to discuss plans for the annual Garden Party of Brown's Corners United Church. Further notice will be given next week.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rodick and family and Mr. and Mrs. Will Rodick and family attended the Mitchell reunion at Newmarket Saturday last.

## Red Cross Notes

The complete receipts from the baking sale and afternoon tea held at the home of Mrs. P. C. Hill on Friday, June 14th, amounted to the splendid sum of \$104.14. To all those who gave their generous support the Red Cross Society extends hearty thanks.

Mrs. McMahon, president of the former Richmond Hill Red Cross Society 1914-1916, drew the lucky tickets on the draw, at the tea, with the result that Miss Ball of 36 Arnold Street, Richmond Hill, won the pieced quilt, Mrs. Poole of Concord the blouse and Mrs. O. L. Wright the box of biscuits. Congratulations. Total receipts from this draw amounted to \$59.00.

The following letter was received from headquarters in acknowledgment of the Richmond Hill shipment of blankets:

### TORONTO BRANCH

The Canadian Red Cross wishes to thank you for your generous response to its appeal for blankets to be sent overseas.

The people of Toronto have been not only quick to answer this emergency call we made, but more than willing to help in many ways.

On behalf of the Toronto Branch of the Canadian Red Cross may we thank you again and hope for your continued support in the work of this organization.

Yours very sincerely,  
Leigh H. Gossage  
(Mrs. Brookes Gossage)  
Chairman of Blanket Appeal Committee.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Seraphim Swint of Dayton, Ohio, announce the marriage of their daughter Ellen Dolores, to Mr. John Alfred Greene, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Greene, Richmond Hill, on Saturday, June fifteenth, nineteen hundred and forty.

### EUCHRE, EVERYONE WELCOME

Mothers Auxiliary Boy Scouts Association will hold a euchre on Tuesday, June 25th at 2 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Carter, Centre Street West.

### MRS. JAMES McMAHON

A life long resident of Vaughan township, Mrs. James McMahon passed away at her home on the 6th concession Thursday, June 13. Mrs. McMahon was born in Vaughan 56 years ago and was the former Vernetta Mossey Lyon. She had been in ill health for a year prior to her death. Surviving her are her husband, three sons, James of Dixie, Jack of Maple, Peter at home, and three daughters, Beatrice of Long Branch, Kathleen of Toronto, and Ruby at home.

Funeral services, conducted Saturday afternoon at the late residence by Rev. Mr. Davis, King City, were followed by interment in Maple cemetery. Pallbearers were Messrs. Dave Julian, Jim Marwood, Lou Marwood, William Wood, Lester Downing and Edward Downing.

### ST. MARY'S CHURCH

(Anglican)  
RICHMOND HILL  
Rector: Rev. W. F. Wrixon, L.Th.  
4 Markham Road

Sunday, June 23rd Trinity 5  
10 a.m.—Sunday School.

11 a.m.—Morning Prayer and Sermon.

7 p.m.—Guide Service. All Guides, Scouts, Cubs and Brownies invited to attend this patriotic service. Special prayers for Great Britain at all services.

Intercessions Wednesday 8.30 p.m. All invited.

### RICHMOND HILL UNITED CHURCH

Rev. C. W. Follett, B.D. Pastor  
Sunday, June 23rd

9.45 a.m.—Sunday School. All Departments.

11 a.m.—"The Fixed Heart." The Pastor.

7 p.m.—Mr. Gillies, leader of Riverside United Church, will preach. Inspiring music at all services and a hearty welcome to members and friends of the congregation.

"Prayer moves the hand that moves the world." Join us in prayer on Sunday.

### RICHMOND HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. J. B. Cunningham, B.D., Minister  
Sunday, June 23rd

10 a.m.—Sunday School.

11 a.m.—"Good News for Bad Times."

7 p.m.—"Cure Worry or it will get you."

Success may ruin a once hardy and forceful nation.

### KING CITY

A Street Dance will be held in King City on Wednesday, August 7. Further notice later.

## RICHMOND LODGE OFFICERS ELECTED

The annual election of officers of Richmond Lodge A.F. & A.M. took place Wednesday evening when the following were elected: Worshipful Master, Bro. Albert R. Hill; I.P.M., W. Bro. C. Swanson; S.W., Bro. H. F. Austin; J.W., Bro. P. G. Savage; Chaplain, W. Bro. W. A. Wright; Treasurer, W. Bro. A. A. Eden; Secretary, W. Bro. J. E. Smith; S.D., Bro. James D. McLean; J.D., Bro. C. Mylks; I.G., Bro. Rand Phipps; Tyler, Bro. Harry Sayers. The annual ceremony of installation and investiture will be held Friday evening, June 21st.

## WEDDINGS

### MACKLIN-CLARK

The marriage took place at the home of the bride's parents in Gormley on Saturday, June 15, of Betty Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Clark, to Jack Macklin, son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Macklin of Agincourt. Rev. Dr. Hardy Andrews officiated and Mrs. Murray Macklin played the wedding music. During the signing of the register Miss Vera Thomson sang. The bride, who was unattended, was given in marriage by her father. She wore a gown of Cannes blue sheer with a corsage of roses and lilies of the valley. Following their wedding trip to Kirkland Lake, the couple will reside in Agincourt. For travelling the bride donned a blue wool boucle dressmaker suit with white accessories.

### HOWELL-JEFFERIES

Thornhill United Church was the scene of a pretty wedding on Saturday afternoon, June 15th, when Ruby, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney George Jefferies, became the bride of Walter Cecil, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Howell, all of Thornhill. Rev. E. B. Cooke performed the ceremony.

Palms, ferns, pale pink and white peonies and pink Shasta daisies made an effective setting for the bridal party, which appeared to the strains of the bridal chorus from Lohengrin, played by Mr. S. Floyd Davies.

Prior to the service, Mrs. Charles J. Harding, cousin of the bride, sang the wedding hymn, "The Voice That Breathed O'er Eden", and during the signing of the register sang "I Love You Truly".

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of shell bloom chiffon over taffeta. From the low-waisted bodice, with its heartshaped neckline, fell the deep folds of the long gathered skirt. The long tight fitting sleeves tapered to a point over her hands and she wore pink satin slippers. Her fingertip veil of bridal net, in the same delicate shade as her gown, fell in graceful folds from a sweetheart halo of pleated net, adorned with seed pearls. She carried a circular bouquet of sweetheart roses, bouvardia and touches of pale blue forget-me-not, tied with pink net ribbon.

Miss Helen Jefferies was her cousin's only attendant. She wore a Heavenly blue net gown appliqued with pink Shasta daisies. Her little blue hat was appliqued with the same daisies, holding her noseveil of matching blue tulle. She carried an arm bouquet of mixed garden flowers in shades of blue, tied with blue velvet ribbon.

Mr. James Ince was best man and the ushers were Mr. Robert Campbell and Mr. Ernest Gellately, brother-in-law of the groom.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the home of the bride's parents on Yonge St. Here Mrs. Jefferies received her guests wearing a gown of Antoinette blue Faconne sheer, with a large natural colored leghorn hat with touches of blue. Her shoulder corsage was of Joanna Hill roses and blue forget-me-not. Mrs. Howell, mother of the groom, who assisted, chose a gown of blush rose novelty sheer, with large sand tone hat of straw with brown ribbon. Her corsage was of pink roses and bouvardia.

Later the happy young couple left by motor for Montreal and Quebec, the bride travelling in a navy and white printed silk gown with navy and white accessories, and wore a silver fox fur, the gift of the groom, and a corsage of pink roses and forget-me-not. On their return they will take up residence in Thornhill.

### Why We Shake Hands?

This is an old custom originating in the "good old days" when all men carried weapons, and were quick to use them! Whenever a man met someone with whom he had no quarrel, he grasped his hand with his own right hand to prove that he was friendly. Whilst these two people were grasping hands, they were unable to use a weapon.

## Social and Personal

Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Walwin visited in Detroit this week.

Mrs. J. Willson Hannon of Regina is visiting Mrs. Frederick Mason, "Aspley", Yonge Street.

Mr. A. Melecci is conducting examinations in Piano at the Toronto Conservatory of Music this week.

Don't forget the Red Cross Dance in the High School on Wednesday, July 3rd.

Mrs. N. Wellwood is spending a few weeks with Mrs. Wall at her cottage in Alcona Beach.

Rev. J. G. and Mrs. Rogers of Toronto were visitors at the United Church parsonage this week.

Mrs. Esther Phillips of the Woman's Missionary Society's office of the United Church spent Sunday in town the guest of Miss Evelyn G. Follett.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith, Steele's Avenue East, are celebrating their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary on Monday, July 1st and will be at home to their friends from 7-10 p.m.

## SOFTBALL NOTES

In their last two starts away from home Richmond Hill have been able to break even with Aurora on Tuesday night and lose out by the one-sided score of 8-1 to the strong Barrie team last Thursday night.

The next home game will be Tuesday next with Midhurst as the opposition. These two teams played a good brand of ball in their meeting at Midhurst and a large crowd at the local diamond will encourage the boys on to another win.

### SCHEDULE

Tuesday, June 25—  
Midhurst at Richmond Hill

R.C.A.F. at Barrie  
Newmarket at Aurora

Thursday, June 27—  
Richmond Hill at R.C.A.F.

Aurora at Midhurst  
Barrie at Newmarket

Tuesday, July 2—  
R.C.A.F. at Aurora  
Newmarket at Midhurst  
Barrie at Richmond Hill

## CANADIAN NAVY CAPTURES ITALIAN SHIP

In the first act of war in Canadian waters since the start of the present conflict the H.M.C.S. Bras d'Or, Royal Canadian Navy Minesweeper, captured the Italian ship, Capo Noli and made prisoners of the Italian crew. The Cayo Noli was run aground and set afire by her crew in an attempt to scuttle her off Bic Island in the St Lawrence river.



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**YOUNG'S Service Station**  
YONGE ST. RICHMOND HILL

# ROYAL THEATRE AURORA

SHOWS START AT 8 P.M. and 10 P.M. D.S.T.

TODAY, THURSDAY, JUNE 20  
JOAN BENNETT - GEORGE RAFT in  
"HOUSE ACROSS THE BAY"

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 21 - 22  
ROY ROGERS - GEORGE HAYES in  
"YOUNG BUFFALO BILL"

— AND —  
EDITH FELLOWS - RONALD SINCLAIR in  
"Five Little Peppers and How They Grew"

MONDAY & TUESDAY, JUNE 24 - 25  
Robert Montgomery - Edward Arnold - Reginald Owen in  
"THE EARL OF CHICAGO"

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, JUNE 26 - 27  
GLADYS GEORGE - JEFFREY LYNN in  
"A CHILD IS BORN"

— AND —  
MAY ROBSON - HARRY DAVENPORT in  
"GRANNY GET YOUR GUN"

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TIRES GUARANTEED 25,000 MILES

Size	Tires	Tubes
450 x 21	\$6.35	\$1.25
500 x 19	7.00	1.50
500 x 20	7.25	1.50
525 x 18	8.75	1.75
525 x 17	8.75	1.75
600 x 16	9.85	1.75

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Steering Wheel Spinners, each 39c. and 50c.  
Jewelled Spinner Sets \$1.25  
Sealed Power Spark Plugs, each 50c.  
Flashlight Batteries, each 10c.  
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To Orillia  
8.18 a.m.  
1.43 p.m.  
a 5.48 p.m.  
b 6.48 p.m.  
\*—To North Bay  
a—daily except Sat., Sun. & Hol., b—Sat., Sun. & Hol.

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Telephone 177  
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(Cut this out for future Reference)

# Dancing!

(Summer and Winter) olde tyme and modern at the following halls

APOLLO HALL (Brunswick & Bloor) Tuesday, Friday  
ST. JULIAN'S HALL (1330 Bloor St. W.) Wednesday  
SOVEREIGN HALL (805 Dovercourt Rd.) Saturday  
Courtesy and strict order assured  
PRIZES EVERY NIGHT ADMISSION 35c.  
Caller — Milt Abrahams  
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MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 1st