

Richmond Hill Small Village In 1890

By MARY DAWSON

Forty-eight names of residents of Richmond Hill and their occupations were listed in the Dominion of Canada Business Directory of 1890-1, published by R. L. Polk & Co. with Canadian head office at 18 Wellington Street East, Toronto, J. M. Might, manager. The directory is the property of E. C. Mansbridge, Levedale Road, who recently purchased it from a dealer in antiques in Galt. It had been shipped to that dealer from Quebec to be sold.

The business directory is a book measuring six inches by nine inches and five inches thick, listing all the businesses in Canada, along with information about the government of each section of the country. The book deals with British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, the Northwest Territories and the Colony of Newfoundland.

RICHMOND HILL

Names listed in Richmond Hill were: Anderson, Albert, barber; Atkinson, William, general store; Atkinson, W. D., general store; Bell Telephone Co., A. J. Rupert, agent; Brillinger, Benjamin, hotel; Brown, O. J. grocer; Clift, Samuel, blacksmith; Cooper, William, blacksmith; Coulter, John, tailor; Egan, Rev. J. J. (Roman Catholic); Elgin House, R. Joyce, proprietor; Francy, C. H., physician; Glass, W. H., butcher; Graham, John, confectioner; Grand Trunk Railway; GNV Telegraph Co.; Hagerman Bros., bakers; Hall, Joseph, grocer; Harrison, Mrs. Christina, fancy goods; Harrison, William, harness; Hopper, Henry F., butcher; Innes, Leslie & Sons, saw and planing mills; Joyce, Redmond, hotel; Keefer, Matthias H., books and stationery, proprietor; York Herald; Kennerly, John, boots and shoes; Kirby, J. G., flour mill; Langstaff, L. G., physician; Lawrence and Milligan, barristers; "The Liberal", weekly newspaper; T. F. McMahon, proprietor; London and Lancashire Life Assurance Co.; B. Reditt, agent; McConaghy, Francis, boots and shoes; McDonald, George, harness; Mason, Charles, stoves and tinware; Moodie, Alexander, general store; Naughton Bros., general store; Neville, R. W., tanners; Palmer, John, hotel; Percival, Rev. W. W. (Presbyterian) Puggley, Wm. H., cattle dealer; Redditt, B., insurance agent; Ruppel, A. J., hotel and telephone agent; Rutledge, Rev. G. N. (Methodist); Sanderson Bros. (Methodist); Sanderson, J. H. veterinary surgeon; Savage, Peter C., grocer; Sievers, Robert, boots and shoes; Simpson, Rev. J. M. (Methodist); Skeele, Andrew L., watchmaker; Teefy, Matthew, J.P. notary and postmaster; Trench, William, carriage manufacturer; Trevelthan, Charles, tailor; Wilson, W. J., physician; Wright Bros., undertakers.

It is interesting to note that the only 1890 business still being carried on in the same name in Richmond Hill in 1965 is "The Liberal", located on the same site but in a different building.

There is still a Dr. Langstaff practicing medicine in the community, but Dr. James R. Langstaff is a son of Dr. Rolph Langstaff, whose cousin, Dr. L. Garry Langstaff took over his practice while our local physician was studying in Edinburgh. Dr. Innes, Leslie & Sons, saw and planing mills; Joyce, Redmond, hotel; Keefer, Matthias H., books and stationery, proprietor; York Herald; Kennerly, John, boots and shoes; Kirby, J. G., flour mill; Langstaff, L. G., physician; Lawrence and Milligan, barristers; "The Liberal", weekly newspaper; T. F. McMahon, proprietor; London and Lancashire Life Assurance Co.; B. Reditt, agent; McConaghy, Francis, boots and shoes; McDonald, George, harness; Mason, Charles, stoves and tinware; Moodie, Alexander, general store; Naughton Bros., general store; Neville, R. W., tanners; Palmer, John, hotel; Percival, Rev. W. W. (Presbyterian) Puggley, Wm. H., cattle dealer; Redditt, B., insurance agent; Ruppel, A. J., hotel and telephone agent; Rutledge, Rev. G. N. (Methodist); Sanderson Bros. (Methodist); Sanderson, J. H. veterinary surgeon; Savage, Peter C., grocer; Sievers, Robert, boots and shoes; Simpson, Rev. J. M. (Methodist); Skeele, Andrew L., watchmaker; Teefy, Matthew, J.P. notary and postmaster; Trench, William, carriage manufacturer; Trevelthan, Charles, tailor; Wilson, W. J., physician; Wright Bros., undertakers.

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The name of Wright remained connected with the undertaking business located at 126 Yonge Street North which was operated for years under the name Wright & Taylor Funeral Home, until a few years ago. It is now known as the Pipher Funeral Home.

Richmond Hill's lone hotel, the Richmond Inn, opened for business just last year, after several years had passed without an operating hostelry. In 1890 there were four thriving hotels.

Occupations which have disappeared from the list in the past 75 years are blacksmiths, harnessmakers, wagonmakers, carriage makers, cattle dealers, tanners, flour millers, saw and planing mill operators.

Introducing Richmond Hill, the directory describes it as "an incorporated village on a branch of the Don River (which supplies power), in York County, 16 miles north of Toronto, the county seat, and 3 1/2 miles east of Richmond Hill Station on the N & NW div. GTR, its nearest railway point. Nearest bank at Toronto.

"It was incorporated in 1872, and contains carriage works, foundry, saw mill and tannery, Catholic, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, and Methodist churches, and high and public schools. Two newspapers are published weekly. The Liberal and the York Herald. Stage to Toronto daily, fare 40c. Population 900. Tel. GNV, telephone connection. Express Canadian. Mail daily, Matthew Teefy, postmaster.

THORNHILL
Thornhill is described as a village on the river Don (which supplies power), 12 miles north of Toronto, nearest bank location, and three miles east of Thornhill Station, its nearest railway point.

The famous Hawthorn mineral springs are located here, and it contains Methodist, Roman Catholic, Episcopalian and Presbyterian Churches and public schools and ships mineral waters. Stage daily to Richmond Hill. Population 700. John T. B. Lindsay, postmaster.

Lindsay, Francis & Co. druggists, general store, livery, insurance agents were agents for the Bell Telephone Co.; Boniface, Andrew A., tailor; Chapman, Wesley, butcher; Cherry, James, livestock; Clay, Wm. T., millwright; Cogswell, Mason E., carriage manufacturer; Cooper, Samuel S., grain thresher; Craig, Allen, agricultural implements; Dean and Barroclough, butchers; Doyle Bros., hotel; Edy, William, carpenter; Ellston, John, crockery; Francis, Samuel, livestock; Gallanough, Frederick J., veterinary surgeon; Huff, Peter, shoemaker; Hall, William, flour mill;

Kinsella, Thomas, shoemaker; Langstaff, G. A., physician; Langstaff, John, manager of the mineral springs; Lellyott, William and Robert, masons; Lonsby, Thomas, florist; Ludford, Caleb, harness; McDonald, James, blacksmith; Martin, James, carpenter; Martin, John and Edward, carpenters; Miller & Duncan, barbers; Muldoon, Arthur, lumber, agricultural implements and coal; Muldoon Bros., butchers; Munday, Joseph, blacksmith; Musselman, Benjamin, general agent; Nelles, David A., physician; Parkinson, Edward, machinist; Queen's Hotel, William Skardon, proprietor; Schmidt, H. B. flour mill; Shuter, James, general store; Skardon, William, hotel; Steel, John, hotel; Webster, James, butcher; Wilson, John, undertaker and painter; Wright, Mrs. Jane, saw mill.

MAPLE
A village in York County, 18 miles northwest of Toronto and 3 1/2 miles west of Richmond Hill. It is situated at the Richmond Hill Station on the N&NW div. GTR. It contains Methodist and Presbyterian churches and a public school, Masonic hall, pump factory and planing mill. Stage to Richmond Hill daily, fare 25c. Population 400. William Hood, postmaster.

Colls, J. R.; tinsmith; Cousins, Thomas, blacksmith; Denne, V. grain, Dilworth, John, county agent; Gardner, George, barber; Ham, C. T., painter; Harris, W. W., general store; Hood & Thomson, general store; Jackson, William, planing mill and pump manufacturer; Johnston, Savid, mason; Kaiser, Joshua, carpenter; Knight, J., carriage builder; McBride, William, wagonmaker; McQuarrie, J. C., justice of peace; Marsh, Henry, saw mill; Orr, Rowland, physician; Richardson, Leeds, harness; Richardson, William, hotel; Shunk, Amos, livestock; Shunk Nathaniel, carpenter; Smith, George, general store; Speight, William, shoemaker; Woods, William, butcher and livestock.

VICTORIA SQUARE
John Perkins was postmaster of this settlement of 280 people. The businessmen were: Baker, Jacob, carpenter; Boynton, William, butcher; Brown, S. M., insurance agent; Clifford, John, carpenter; Eavens, G., hotel; Flavey, Harry, blacksmith; Frisby, William, blacksmith; Goodyear, Robert, contractor; Hunt, Miss E., dressmaker; Hunt, Thomas, contractor; Mackenzie, Colin, general agent; Mackenzie, John, blacksmith; Meek, William, general store; Qubell, Geo. butcher; Roebotham, John, wagonmaker; Thudgeon, William, carpenter; Train, James, carpenter; Wilson, John, carpet weaver; Woodward, Sylvanus, general store. Mr. Perkins also ran a general store.

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EMO Drills Could Bring On School "Emergency"

Sending children home from school as part of an emergency dismissal drill may create the biggest emergency of all, Superintendent Gordon McIntyre told a meeting of Richmond Hill Public School Board Thursday night of last week.

Mr. McIntyre made his remarks during a discussion by the board on the possibility of an emergency, such as a recurrence of the hydro blackout, which would necessitate sending the children home.

Board Chairman Walter Hutchinson wondered if the school principals shouldn't remind the parents of the policy for such an event. The policy, which grew out of an EMO request, calls for two emergency dismissal drills during the year and one fire drill every month. Principals are to use their discretion about dismissing the pupils.

Mr. McIntyre said the principals were to advise parents the day before any such dismissals were planned. "If they didn't do this, and there wasn't an emergency, they might create one", he said.

Said Trustee David Stephenson: "Why not send them home without any notice and the parents might make an effort next time".

His suggestion didn't meet with too much approval from the rest of the board.

Said Mr. Hutchinson: "The point I wanted to make was that the principals should remind parents of this".

The board agreed to give the parents plenty of warning.

The board also: Approved a recommendation of the superintendent to advertise immediately for two vice-principals for 1966 for Crosby Heights and Beverley Acres The two posts were held jointly formerly by Peter Ross, who retired last June.

Announced a meeting with the teachers' negotiating committee January 20 to discuss salary schedules for 1966.

Reported that no letters had been received from parents of students in the Walter Scott area, following the board's request for comments with the cancellation of the bus transporting grade seven students there to Crosby Heights. The bus was cancelled following completion of the walkway.

Moved to send a \$50 deposit to the Toronto Symphony Orchestra to hold 238 seats for grade seven and eight pupils in the system to attend a special concert by the TSA in Toronto, February 25.

Agreed to ask the 1966 board for \$1,000 for science equipment, which is to be purchased as part of a six-day science workshop in Toronto July 4 to 9. A teacher from McConaghy is available for the course, which is for grade seven and eight teachers.

Announced the holding of a science fair at Pleasantville School January 27 and 28.



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