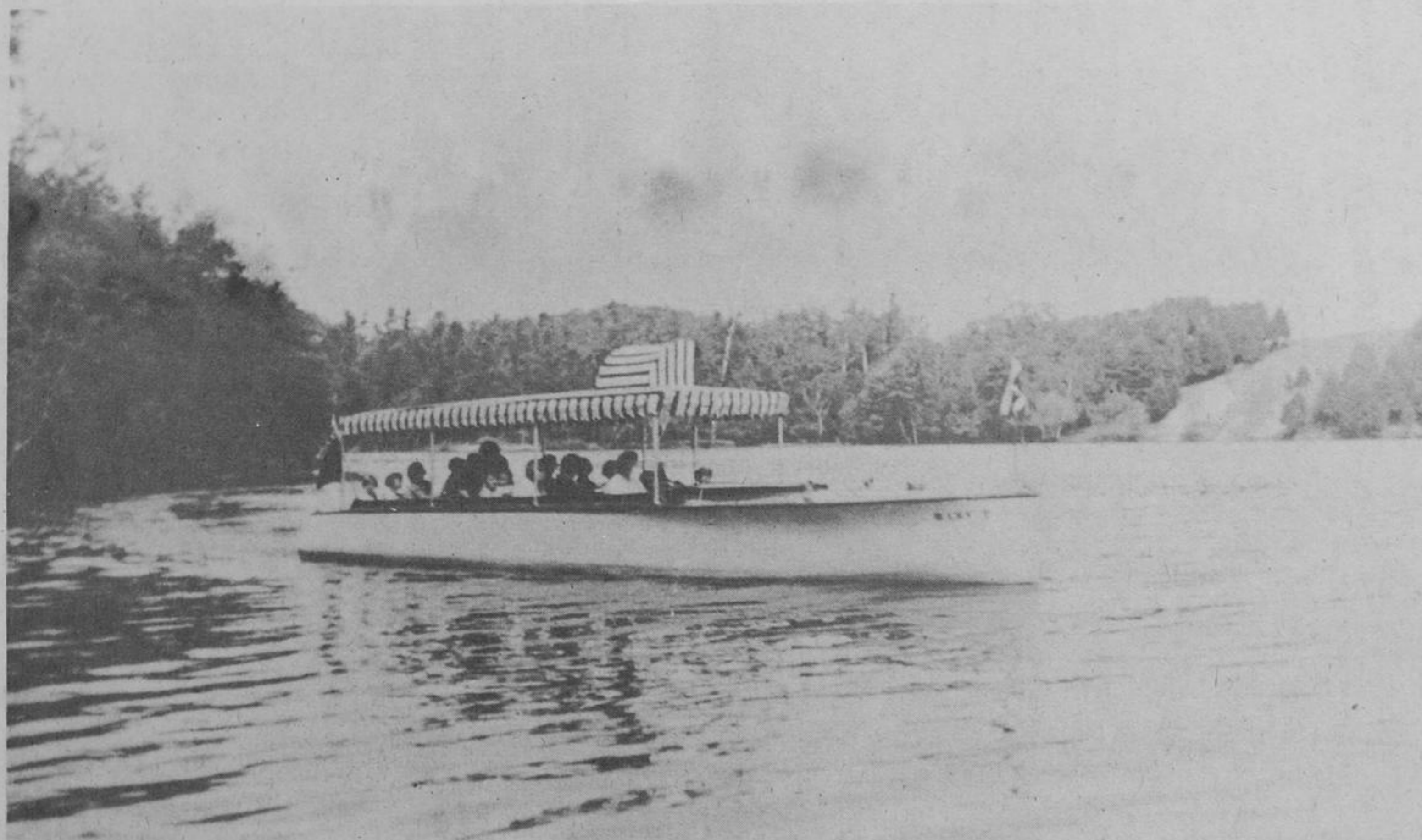


Only memories remain of the great times at Bond Lake parties



Cruising on Bond Lake on a sunny afternoon

"Ridge Inn" perfect as a halfway house

In 1837, a hotel was built in Oak Ridges on Yonge Street. The location was perfect for a stopover as travellers went to or from Toronto.

The first owners were people named Hudgins, and they called it the 'Ridge Inn'. Mr. Hudgins ran a livery service for the travellers, and his wife ran a dining room where a good meal could be had. Stage coaches changed horses at the Ridge Inn, and passengers could rest and have a bite to eat as well.

The Hudgins family owned the business until 1921 when they sold it to John and Ida Malloy.

With their four children, Archie, Harry, Gertrude and Doris, the Malloys ran a successful hotel and livery service until 1921 when they decided to move to New York State.

An auction sale was held at the

Schomberg Junction of the property of the Malloy family and the business was sold to John and Annie Thompson.

The Thompsons continued running the business as a family concern.

The radial line was very popular at this time, and people could now take a trolley to the Inn for dinner and a beautiful meal could be had for 50 cents.

John Thompson still had sleighs left from the days of the livery stables, and he used to rent them to parties who were looking for that kind of fun.

In the 1930s and 40s, the Lake Simcoe Ice Company used Lake Wilcox as a source for ice, and their employees used to board at the hotel.

The Thompsons sold the hotel to Grant and Nellie McCachen in 1944.

For a few years, they carried on the dining room tradition, but after awhile, that changed, and they only had catered functions in the dining room.

The Ridge Inn was a great place to have a wedding reception. The Oak Ridges Lions used to hold all their meetings there.

In the 1940s, a steak dinner for two cost only \$5.

The hotel ceased to be a hotel in 1967 when a corporation bought the building.

At the present time, the building has seen some alterations. It now houses a real estate office and several apartments. It is one of the oldest buildings still standing on Yonge Street, and is one of the very few of the old inns still in existence.

List of reeves and mayors who have led Richmond Hill

Abraham Law was the first reeve of Richmond Hill in 1873. He was succeeded by William Harrison in 1874. Elected in 1875 William Trench served for that year and the four following years and was returned to the reeveship in 1881 for another two years. Dr. James Langstaff was reeve in 1880.

John Brown served as reeve in 1883 and 84. William Pugsley was reeve from 1885 to 1896 inclusive and again from 1907 to 1918 inclusive.

Peter Savage occupied the chair from 1897 to 1905 inclusive and Isaac Crosby was reeve in 1906.

The first record of ownership of Bond Lake located just south of Oak Ridges shows the lake and land surrounding it being granted to William Bond in 1794.

Around the middle of the 1800s, Mr. and Mrs. William Bell acquired the part of Bond's property containing the lake, and on the death of her husband, in 1898, Mrs. Bell sold her Bond Lake farm to the Metropolitan Railway Company.

At about the same time, the Bond Lake Tavern, which was across Yonge Street from the lake, was sold to the Railway Company by William Legge.

The tavern was built as a home by Thomas MacAdam in 1834. He sold his home and the surrounding land to Hiram Beach in 1835. Mr. Beach was the first person to operate a tavern on that site.

The property changed hands several times from 1835 until William Legge sold it to the railway company on January 25, 1899.

The Bond Lake Tavern was often called the Bond Lake Hotel. It was a very large building with 20 rooms for guests and a huge ballroom. The lower storey had 21 inch thick walls made of mud-brick and gravel. The walls of the upper storey were frame and roughcast.

The ballroom was the scene of many parties of sleigh drivers from Richmond Hill, Thornhill and Newmarket.

The tavern was a favorite gathering spot for the curlers from Toronto and Newmarket who held their matches on the frozen waters of Bond Lake.

Farmers from Newmarket and points north used to take rest stops at the Bond Lake Tavern. It was a convenient place to refresh themselves in their 18 and sometimes 24-hour round trips to and from the markets in Toronto.

Any excuse for a party, brought people from miles around to the tavern, which was a favorite for wedding receptions or wakes.

With the radial line coming north at the turn of the century, the area around Bond Lake became more popular.

PICNICS AND HYDRO

The McKenzie and Mann Corporation, who owned the Metropolitan Railway Company in the early 1900s, turned Bond Lake into a park area for their employees. They had a dancing pavilion erected and a playground for the children.

People could rent canoes or take a ride in the paddle steamer "The Lady of the Lake".

There was a bathing beach. Some people have said there was never any swimming at Bond Lake, but people who actually went there on a picnic have verified that there was indeed public bathing.

The radial cars stopped at a platform at Bond Lake directly across Yonge Street from the tavern.

There was a steam generating plant at the southwest corner of the lake, and when the Hydro Electric Power Commission came into being, they took it over and ran hydro lines north to power the trains on the Schomberg Aurora Railway which did become electric in 1916.

SAWDUST AND SPRING WATER

On the north shore of Bond Lake, about the turn of the century, there are records of brothers by the name of Mortens. They ran a sawmill at Bond Lake, one at the Town line between King and Vaughan and another at Jefferson where Jack Passmore now lives.

For many years, sawdust would show up in the underground springs to the east of the sawmill site.

END OF AN ERA

With motor vehicles coming into their own, the radial line ceased operation beyond Richmond Hill in 1930.

Bond Lake was bought by Robert C. Gamble in 1931 and became a private property once more. It remains in that family today, and is still private property.

The Bond Lake Tavern was destroyed by fire on September 17, 1920, and was never rebuilt. The old fashioned tavern and livery stables were becoming a thing of the past.

Some of the playground equipment still remains at Bond Lake and foundations of the hydro plant can still be seen on the shore of the lake, but not much else except memories remain of an era of great times at a beautiful lake.

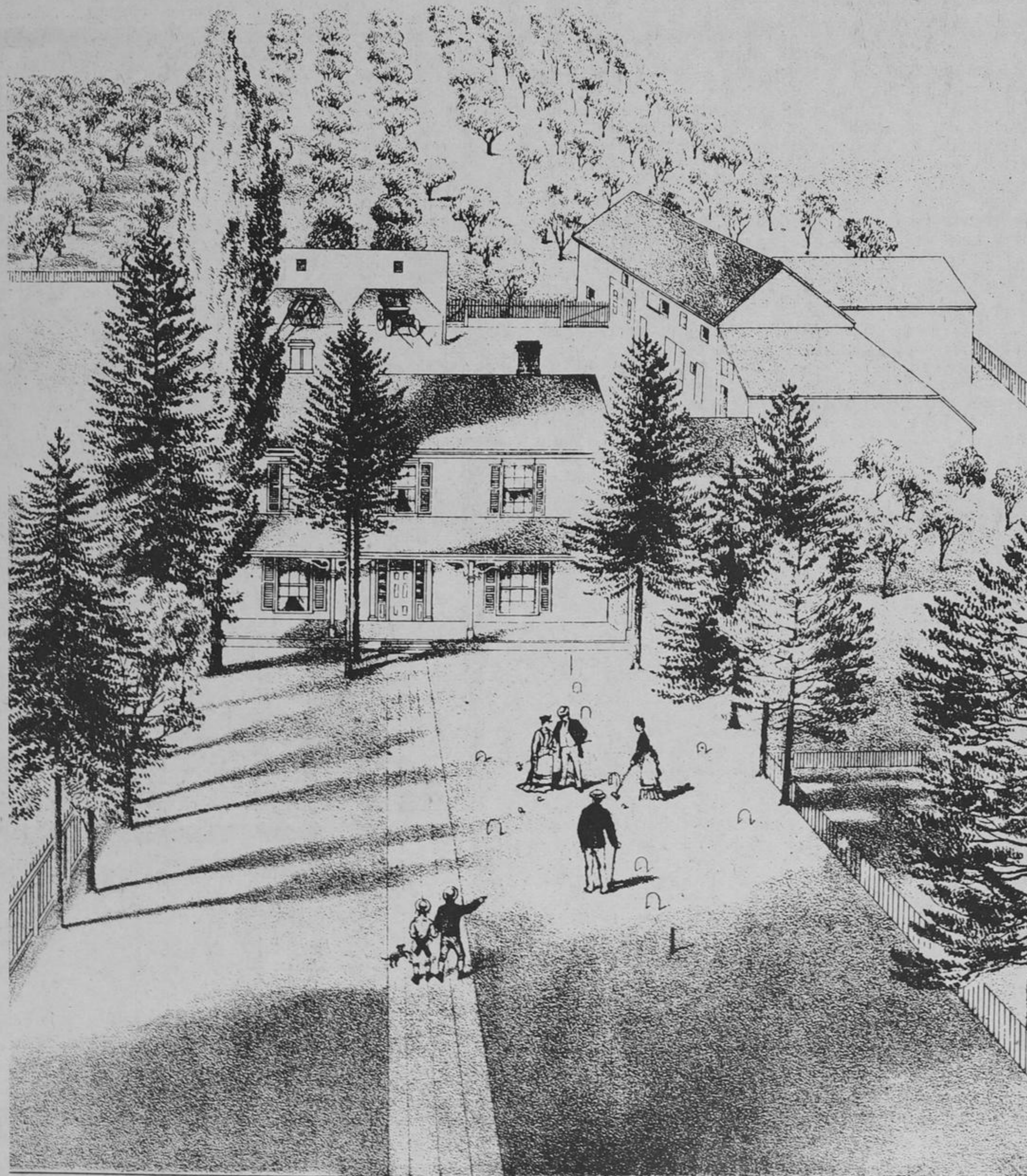
He did alot

In 1893 the Village of Richmond Hill paid James Brownlee \$30 a month to act as lamplighter, poundkeeper, health and sanitary inspector, caretaker of the village schools, park buildings, lockup, fire engine and other apparatus and to look after the roads and streets.

The village used the Methodist Church bell at a cost of \$15 a year and paid F. Wiley \$30 a year to ring it.

Matthew Teefy was paid \$25 a quarter as clerk-treasurer, J. W. Elliott \$25 as assessor and Ben Redditt and Hesse Nicholls \$5 each as auditors.

The province contributed \$87 toward public school expenses.



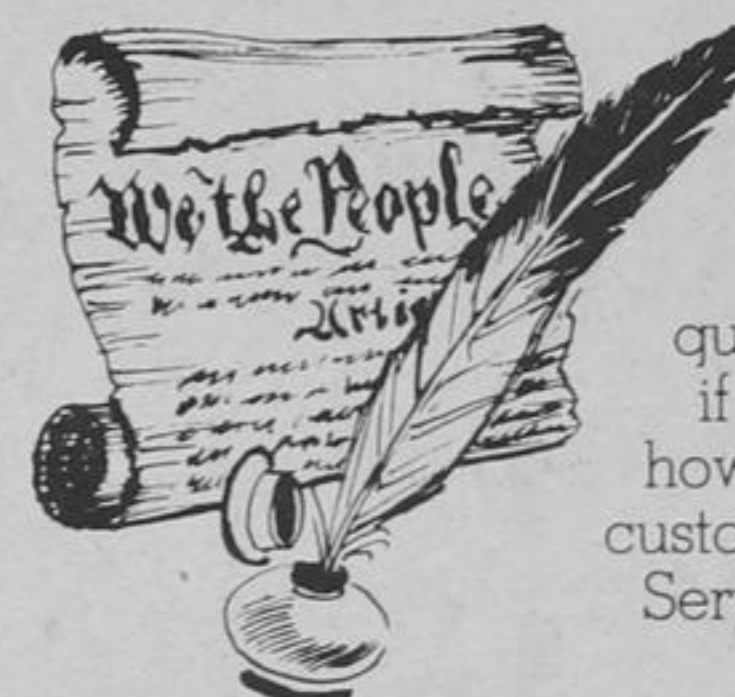
DR LANGSTAFF'S RESIDENCE, HOLMWOOD, RICHMOND HILL.

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