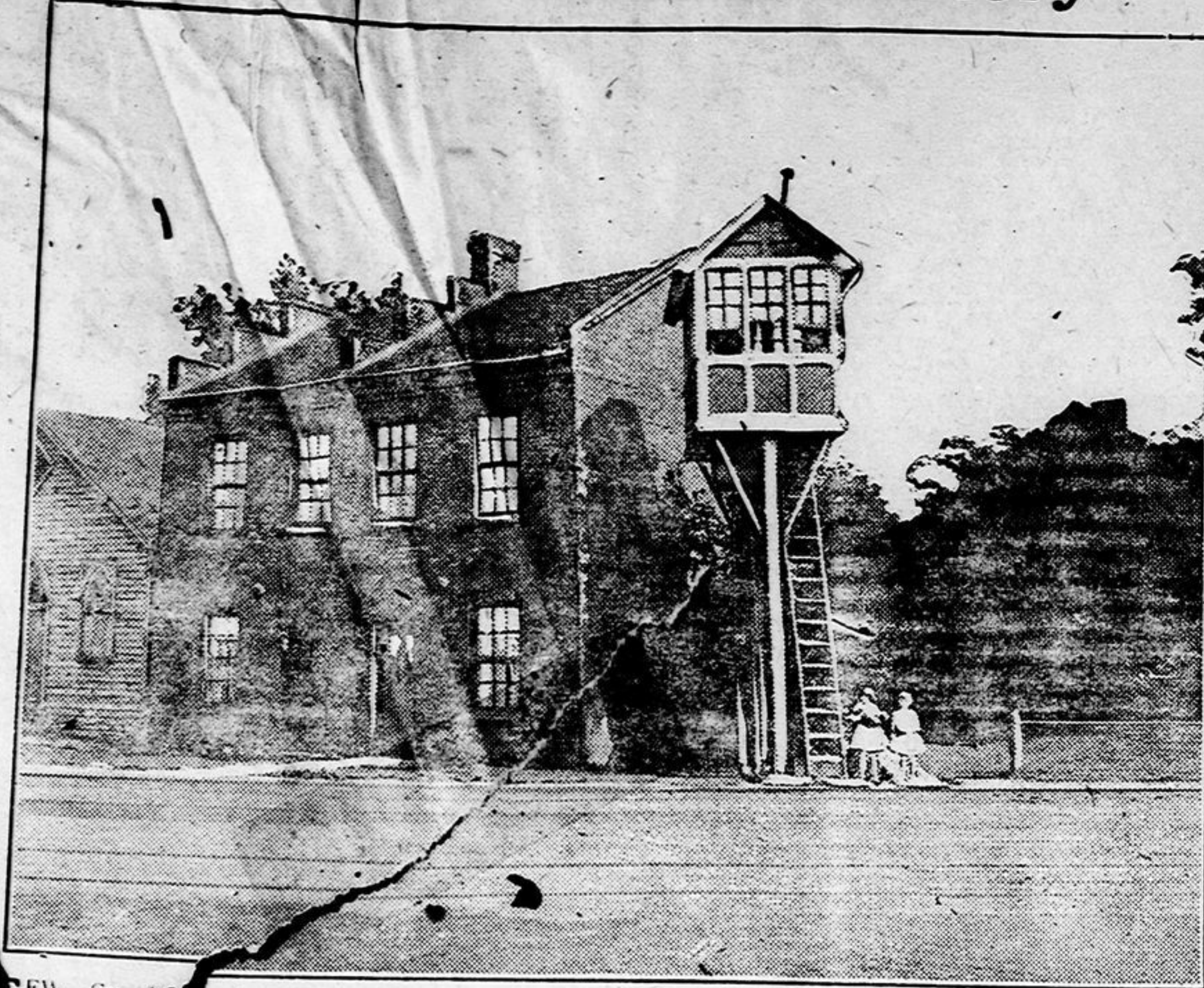


# A House With a History



NEW Canadians are aware that among the landmarks of United States history that stand on Canadian soil is the house in which John Brown, of American civil war fame, planned the conspiracy that led to his capture and that helped to precipitate the great struggle between the North and South. The house stands in Chatham, Ontario, within a stone's throw of the C.P.R. station, and in the view of those who pass through, it is a local tradition the house of one of the more imposing residences of the town when, 60 years ago, John Brown and his friends met in one of its rooms to arrange his anti-slavery crusade.

To-day somewhat diminished from its original imposing proportion the building houses the towerman who is on duty at the immediately adjacent street crossing.

Sixty years and more ago, says the Galt Reporter, the present structure was a four-tenement building, and one of the "show places" in the older portion of Chatham. Between 25 and 30 years ago, when the C.P.R. was run through Chatham, half of the building was torn down. Still later, the remaining two tenements were converted into single residences; and as such the building survives to-day.

Chatham in the two decades preceding the Civil War, was one of the northern terminals of the celebrated "underground railway" organized by American abolitionists to facilitate the escape of negro slaves to Canada. Large numbers of the escaped slaves settled in Windsor, Chatham, and various points in Essex and Kent counties, and several townships were laid out at that time as model negro communities.

These townships are still shown on old maps, but the communities themselves unlike Topsy, never "grewed," or, if they attained any proportions have, with one or two exceptions, long since dwindled into insignificance, with the departure of the greater portion of the colored population.

In the latter 50's, however, Southwestern Ontario contained a large negro element, and many of the escaped slaves had established themselves in business and were ambitious, well-educated and well-to-do. So when "Ossawatimic" Brown, nursing his daring scheme of freeing the slaves at a single stroke, looked about for support, he turned naturally to the negro settlements in Southwestern Ontario for funds and helpers.

The exact date of the conference at which the date was planned is not preserved in the local tradition. It seems probable that John Brown visited Chatham on several occasions in connection with his work for the slaves. The conference probably took place late in 1858, or early in 1859.

The Chatham structure is often carelessly referred to as "the Holden house." The owner, however, was a colored man named Eli Holden. Holden was present at the meeting held by John Brown. So was Isaac Holden, another prominent colored man. Both were big men, physically, and leaders in the colored community. E. C. Cooper and a little man named Harris, with several others, took part in the conference.

To what extent Brown secured support, financial and otherwise, is not known. The details of the meeting were, naturally, kept secret at the time; and what little the public ultimately knew

came out, most of it, after the raid. It was on Oct. 17, 1859, that the Chatham conference bore fruit in the startling raid on Harper's Ferry, in Northern Virginia, where Brown, with several of his sons and a number of other white men, seized the national armory and issued a proclamation calling upon the slaves to rise in insurrection against their master. The raid in a few hours spread consternation, not merely throughout Virginia, but throughout the United States. Lt.-Col. Robert E. Lee, however, arrived with a detachment of marines, the armory was recaptured, and Brown and a few of his companions were taken prisoners. Brown was hanged at Charleston, Virginia, Dec. 2, 1859.

A few months later, Abraham Lincoln, at his Cooper Institute speech at New York, referred to Brown's raid in the following words:

"John Brown's effort was peculiar. It was not a slave insurrection. It was an attempt by white men to get up a revolt among the slaves, in which the slaves refused to participate. In fact, it was so absurd that the slaves, with all their ignorance, saw plainly enough it could not succeed."

Within a little more than a year of that speech, and within two years of the raid, Lincoln was in the White House, and the Southern States were seceding. However thinking men might condemn his folly, the Northern States generally regarded Brown as a martyr, and "John Brown's body lies a-rotting in the grave, but his soul goes marching on," became the battle cry of the soldiers who were destined, a few years later, to compel the surrender at Appomattox of Brown's conqueror.

in the city.

- Such a district encourages specialized and intensive farming, (a) to furnish local supplies of food, such as milk, fruit and vegetables; (b) to supply raw material for city manufacturers (there is little co-ordination in this matter between farming and city manufacturing).
- Where climate and soil are favorable, intensive and specialized farming is on the increase, with corresponding increase in local population.
- Where dairying or fruit growing are followed extensively with mixed farming, the population tends to remain steady: dairying—Oxford, Brant, Perth, Waterloo, Hastings, Haldimand; fruit growing—Prince Edward, Norfolk, Elgin.
- The mixed farming areas, without large local markets to encourage specialized farming, have declined heavily in population: Huron, Bruce, Grey, Dufferin.
- There are 24 cities in Ontario, with a total population of 1,063,555. The decennial census is 274,444, or 34.8 per cent. Only one city, Owen Sound, declined in population in the period.
- The total population of Ontario is 2,931,400. The decennial increase is 407,826, or 16 per cent.
- Of 60 towns and villages having populations between 500 and 2,500, 37 have lost populations to the amount of 5,959, and 23 have gained 4,786.

In Old Ontario—	Gained	Lost
South of 43rd parallel	9	4
North of 43rd parallel	7	32
In New Ontario—	7	1

9. Of 50 towns having a population of 2,500 and under 5,000, 37 have gained a population of 41,734, and 13 have lost 4,661.

### HEALTH OF DAIRY CATTLE

If dairymen in particular, and farmers generally, would know how to have healthy cattle, they should lose no time in sending to the publications Branch, Ottawa, for a copy of recently issued Pamphlet No. 16 of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, prepared under the immediate supervision of the Veterinary General. It contains 85 definite questions and 85 explicit answers couched in plain, straightforward language, regarding the Accredited Her System and the identification, prevention and eradication of tuberculosis; also relative to the requirements of and provision for official inspecting and testing. The primary principle for the prevention of tuberculosis, or for that matter, any other disease of live stock, is cleanliness, accompanied by free ventilation and plenty of light; and the first element in sanitation is cleanliness. That this is a prime consideration is indicated by the statement that the officially appointed inspector will not undertake to test a herd for tuberculosis until he is assured by personal observation that the premises are clean and sanitary. Besides details of the provisions made for Government testing, explanations are given in the question and answer form regarding a variety of matters, including municipal testing and the classification of dairies, testing by private practitioners with departmentally supplied tuberculin, and the ways in which swine and poultry are liable to become infected with tuberculosis.

### A LONG LOVERS' CHASE

After having travelled about 100,000 miles a couple were married at a Durham (England) Church recently, says the Yorkshire Post. Sergeant Thomson of Melbourne, Australia, was among the first contingent of Anzacs to reach the battlefields. He was wounded at Gallipoli. Miss Armstrong, the bride, nursed him back to health, and when they parted they were engaged. On a certain boat Miss Armstrong was to have gone to Australia to be married. She missed it and being impatient of delay, Thomson set sail for England. Meanwhile Miss Armstrong had taken another boat. For nearly two years they thus played hide-and-seek, as it were, on the high seas.

The Chronicle will do it.

## Larger Business

If the business of any retailer in this community is to grow bigger in the years to come, it will not be a matter of accident or due to an increase of population only—it will be the result of intelligence added to energy, plus ADVERTISING.

Wherever you find a big flourishing business you will find behind it a strong, pushing man of indomitable spirit, driven by the power of these five words—"I can and I will." This man advertises—he MUST deliver his message to those with ears to hear. Multiplied customers and larger turnovers are absolutely essential to his progress.

### A WORD TO THE PUBLIC

Help on the business of those who show themselves eager to have your custom—who invite it and prize it enough to ask for it. Shop where you receive the best service, values and goods. Reward with your favor those who solicit your favor by messages addressed to you each week in our advertising columns.

### Shop Where You are Invited to Shop

Issued by the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association.

## Feed Oats and Ground Feed at Special Prices

We have a good stock of Feed Oats we are selling at 55c per bus. (without sacks) and Ground Screens at \$20.00 a ton. (sacks included) and Whole Screenings at \$18.00 a ton (without sacks)

Also FEED OATMEAL at \$32. a ton and a stock of Good Mixed Feed on hand we are selling at \$1.50 per 100 lbs. sacks included, while it lasts.

No Town Delivery Terms Cash  
BUSINESS HOURS: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**ROB ROY MILLS LIMITED**  
PHONES: Day 4, Night 81. DURHAM, ONT.

### PRESIDENT REYNOLDS SPEAKS ON RURAL DEPOPULATION

(Guelph Herald).

The following address was delivered this morning at the O.A.C. by President Reynolds to the Intermediate Summer School, which is composed of High school teachers and inspectors, and contains a lot of valuable and interesting information:

There has been no rural depopulation in Ontario in the last ten years. There has been a shifting of population from back to front; from districts distant from markets to the neighborhood of markets; from districts ill-provided with transportation to those well-provided; from general farming areas to areas where climate and soil favor intensified farming; from general farming areas in Old Ontario to general farming areas in New Ontario where land is cheap and fertile; from small villages and towns to larger towns and cities. So far as census returns are available, these indicate a small net rural increase.

In districts where a decline in population has actually occurred, it does not necessarily mean either abandonment of land as a result or a decline in earning power as a cause. The causes are mainly these:

- Increased use of machinery, enabling the cultivation of more acres per man. The results are large

er farms, fewer farmers, and fewer families.

- The difficulty in hiring competent labor, outdoors and in, owing to higher wages paid in industries than the farmer is able to pay. Frequently high industrial wages and opportunities for town business have enticed the farmers themselves from the farms. This desertion has left to those remaining on the land more acres than they can manage to till. Hence in some districts the farms have become pastures for sheep and cattle.
- Young people particularly have been attracted to town life and occupations, so that eventually many homesteads are sold to neighbors, and the size of the holdings increased, the system of farming becoming less intensive.
- Not only are there fewer families in such districts, but smaller families. Schools and churches and social life have consequently declined, and with these have declined the general satisfaction of country life.
- Added to these is the lack of transportation and of market facilities, in most of all of the back districts, where general farming is in vogue.

Population has declined in the mixed farming districts. Though this decline entails certain social disabilities already mentioned it

does not mean an economic disability to the farmers themselves. It means, rather, a lower production, less competition, and consequently better returns.

To the nation and the world, however, this decline in productive power in agriculture means a distinct loss. For agriculture more than any other productive occupation creates wealth, and a decline of productive power in this class means a decline in the means of subsistence and a decline in wealth-production. Hence rural depopulation is less a problem for rural people than for towns people and for the nation.

- Districts surrounding large cities have become suburban areas, places of residence for those working

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REPAIRING ALL KINDS MACHINERY

Lawn Mowers, Scythes and all other tools or cutlery resharpened and made like new. Work called for and delivered if desired.

**F. W. MOON**  
Machinist, Etc.  
Nearly opposite Post Office

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MARKET BASKET  
SPRING BUILDING PLANS

What are your health building plans for the spring time? Our pure food is the builder who will aid you and your family to enjoy the days and weeks of the beautiful spring. We expect to hear from you.

**Take Notice**  
I have secured the agency for Wodehouse Animal Invigorator, Baby Chick Food, Poultry Food, Lice Killer, etc.

We also sell Zenoleum, the best disinfectant.

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NO. 40  
**E. A. ROWE-GROCER**  
DURHAM

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Save the coupons

10 for 17c 25 for 40c

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Seed Buckwheat, Shorts, Bran and Feed of all kinds  
FLY DESTROYER

**CREAM WANTED**  
for **Palmerston Creamery**  
HIGHEST PRICES PAID.  
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.  
Call and see us. Get a Can.

SEE US FOR SALT--We have a car load on the road which will arrive some time this week.

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