

The Stouffville Tribune

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EARLY HISTORY OF STOUFFVILLE

Extracts from the Stouffville Free Press of Nov. 1895, (28 years ago) published by Covington Bros. which the following historical facts regarding pioneers and pioneer days are here given:

Away back when the century was only four years old Abraham Stouffer made the tollsome journey from Pennsylvania to this part of Upper Canada. He took lawful possession of six hundred acres of land. It lay between the ninth and tenth concessions, four hundred north of what is now Main Street and two hundred south. Mr. Stouffer was the progenitor of the somewhat numerous family that now bears the name. Abram Samuel, Christian, David and Simon, well known and respected, are his grandsons. The history of the village very naturally falls into three periods. The first marks the beginning and considerable development of village life. I venture to call this the Stouffer period. Not long after settling here Mr. Stouffer erected, where Daley's hall stands, the first grist mill in this part of the country. The hardy settlers who made the clearings in the forest were not unnecessarily fastidious, for they were accustomed to have their wheat, rye, corn, buckwheat and peas all ground on the same run of stones. Before there were any carriages in the vicinity or any roads on which to drive them, the carrying was done by ox-team or on horseback. The boy astride a horse with a sack of corn or wheat in front of him, bringing grist to mill, soon became a familiar sight to the few residents of Stouffville. After two mills were burned on the south side of the street Mr. Stouffer erected a third on the north side east of the creek. The family home, like King David's house built of cedar, stood on the site now occupied by Dr. Freeel's beautiful residence. The milling business came into the hands of Mr. Stouffer's son, Christian, who continued in business here until the advent of Mr. E. Wheeler in 1847.

With the mill came the store, the blacksmith shop and the tavern. The first store was kept by Charles Sheldon in one corner of Mr. Stouffer's mill. He afterwards built his residence on the site of Mr. J. Urquhart's block and his store farther west on the same side. Doctor Lloyd and it ultimately became Sangster's hotel. Mr. Cheney, who for a time was in partnership with Mr. Sheldon, kept a general store on the south side of the street nearly opposite Mr. Sheldon's. He did quite an extensive business as dealer in grain and potatoes. Next came Mr. John Boyer, whose father, Benjamin Boyer, came from Pennsylvania about the same time as Mr. Stouffer. He built a store and drug shop on the site of the Post Office block. His residence is said to have occupied the ground now covered by Mr. Barnes' house. His stock was not so fine, extensive or artistically arranged; but it represented almost as many departments as one of Toronto's mammoth stores. One could buy anything from a broad-axe to a yard of blue drill. Mr. Boyer was quite a village fastidist. He was merchant, postmaster, justice of the peace, and for a time "printer to the people." His buildings were destroyed by fire and the block of land sold into lots.

The blacksmith shop belongs to every well-regulated village. Mr. H. Casler is remembered as the first village smith. He set up his forge on the south side beyond the tenth. A Mr. Anderson, a hearty rebel that he did not return after the rebellion consecrated to Vulcan the ground on which today's Carriage Shop stands. He was succeeded by Mr. James Johnson, and he in turn by Mr. Muirhead. The oldest inhabitant says that before the village got out of its swaddling clothes there were three taverns, and the place was not noted for its orderliness. The first building in the east end was a shoe shop built by John Yake, father of John Yake still living. It stood on the south-east corner, was enlarged by Hiram Yake and converted into a tavern. Yake's corner became known by the somewhat suggestive, yet euphonious name of Brimstone Point. Cock-fighting and horse racing were familiar village sports. It was not unusual to close the week with a "sport", and settle the accounts at the taverns. The justice of the peace generally gave a final settlement to these accounts by disposing of several cases in his "court" on Monday morning. The old Allan building was one of the west end hostleries, which keeps green the memory of Divine, Morden and Shoefeldt. Another of them stood nearly

opposite on the north side of the street. This record would hardly be complete without at least a passing reference to two other classes of men. The wise cobbler and the lame tailor help to round out the life of every old time village. The cobbler was here in the very beginning, but we have failed to learn that any of his craft in Stouffville ever became a Samuel Drew, a Sir Cloudsley Shovel, or a William Carey. No doubt, however, that here as elsewhere, much wisdom went out from his bench. The little lame tailor is still remembered by some of the oldest inhabitants. Chance Stephens, down the tenth, made coats for the men, and cut butter nut dyed cloths for the boys' winter wear, in the long ago.

A new era in the life of the village is marked by the coming of Mr. Ed. Wheeler, the same year in which the Congregational church was built. Mr. John Yake bought one acre of bush land on the south west corner at the tenth, on which he built a shop. In this Mr. Wheeler kept store for a short time. The old brick building now standing on the corner was built by him for a store, where, for a long time Matthew Flint did business. Later it was converted into a tavern. Mr. John Yake built on the north side, where, for many years he kept tavern and store. In those days the East end was a busy place. It was a halting station for all the farmers from the north townships. For some time Mr. Wheeler conducted a store in the building now occupied by Mr. H. Johnson. Having sold the stock to Mr. Leakey at the request of the Post Office Inspector he built the store that went up on the south side, in order that the Post Office might be centrally located. The next Post Office building erected by Mr. Wheeler was the one still used and which forms part of Sanders' block. It is worth while inserting at this point the following item of interest in regard to the Stouffville Office. It is said that for several years after the rebellion no mail was forwarded here. Mr. Boyer was too much "agin the Government" to be counted one of the Crown's trusted subjects. Most citizens of Stouffville over twenty years of age remember Wheeler's mill. It was first a grist mill only, but later a saw mill was added. Dusky Dave's reign as broker is still in the memory of the boys.

An example of the enterprise of the people a third of a century ago is seen in the building of the plank road from Yake's corner to Ringwood and then straight through to Kingston road. Our present gravelled turnpikes were not then known. I record the names of the directors of the company, Messrs. John Reesor, Jos. Tomlinson, Arch. Barker, Abram Stouffer, Peter Ramer, Jonathan Gates and Edward Wheeler. The planks for this section of the road were sawn in Mr. Wheeler's mill which stood on the north side about where Sanders' elevator is. Planks did not, for several reasons, make the ideal country road. We are sorry to say that the ideal country road is yet to be found. During this period of our growth we were not without our "native" industries. The old tannery, built by John Boyer, continued under Somerville and McMurphy to do slow tanning. And who does not remember Flint's factory where the celebrated revolving horse-rack, which could pull peas and thresh them at the same time, was made? Hardly less famous was Gibney's plow. But before these commanded public attention Billy Rodick made wagons for Anderson to iron. He did not run for member of parliament or mingle much in society. We have not heard anything as to the quality of Billy's wagons, but tradition says that he was kind to the needy. These however belong to the past, and we rejoice in the period of greatest progress. We acknowledge our indebtedness to many who helped to lay the foundations whose names do not appear in these columns. The tracing of the religious life of the village will be found in the history of the churches for many years. Doctors Lloyd and Freeel looked after the sick of the community.

Twenty four years ago this autumn the villagers assembled to witness the arrival of the first train on the Nipissing Narrow Gauge. It came and stayed with us for awhile. It marked another era. It was better than the stage. We rejoiced when it came; we are not sorry that it is gone. It would be unwise for us to attempt to indicate in detail the progress that has marked these later years. When the Narrow Gauge came there were only a few houses west of the mill. Now there is quite a town. There are stores, several manufactories and many pleasant homes. Main street too has changed. Most of the old buildings have given way to solid business blocks. Few towns of its size can boast of so many substantial and comfortable homes. We have made a marked advance in a score of years. This well informed inquirer some of us in the present position. We are aspired to home rule and driving, how what may be to hope, tells us that it is

CAMP MEETING

The Annual Mennonite Camp Meeting is being held this year in a beautiful grove just 1/2 mile north of Stouffville, in what is known as Brown's bush. It begins Friday evening, June 29th and continues till Sunday evening, July 3th.

This is an ideal place for a camp meeting and the committee are bending every effort to add every convenience possible. The grounds have been cleaned up and levelled, ample provision has been made for tying space for horses and the road fence has been moved in making a most beautiful parking ground for cars. Abundant supply of fresh cold water right on the grounds, an electric light plant is being installed for the occasion. There will be a large boarding tent and roomy tents, a mothers tent, etc., besides upwards of 75 tents of folks who will be living on the camp grounds during the ten days.

Rev. N. W. Rich of Rocky Ford, Colorado, will be the evangelist and conduct the evening services, he will also give Bible Lectures during the day. Willard Hallman, professor in songs and his brother evangelist, will have charge of the singing and render special messages in song. There will be a number of returned missionaries from India and Africa. A full attendance of Ministers and Mission Workers of the Ontario Conference is expected, also a number from the American side.

They will be ten great days with a program brim full of soul inspiring and thrilling messages on Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Mission work in the large towns and cities. Prophecy and the spreading of the blessed gospel.

The aim of this special effort is the salvation of immortal souls and the sanctification of believers.

A cordial invitation to attend these services is extended to one and all.

"The Son of Man is come to save that which was lost."—Matt. 18:11

GOODWOOD

Miss A. Brown was in the village on Tuesday.

Mrs. G. Maye and her father drove to Uxbridge on Saturday.

Quite a few children and a few adults have whooping cough.

Mrs. Fine returned to the city after spending a week here.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Jones of Orangeville are staying at Mrs. Meyers at present.

Mrs. Millan visited at the home of Mrs. C. Harper, on Sunday; also daughter Alice.

The S. School held a meeting to plan for a strawberry festival to be held soon. Watch the paper.

The S. School was addressed by Mr. Bell who gave us a stirring talk in his old time earnest style.

The holidays have already begun for many teachers. Exams are keeping the pupils busy. It's an anxious time.

Some of our young people held a shower for Mr. and Mrs. C. Watson and spent a pleasant evening one night last week.

There was a large crowd at the football match on Saturday, between Goodwood and Claremont. The result being a tie 1-1. Better luck next time.

Mr. and Mrs. I. Wagg, Miss E. Pugh and several others from the Baptist church here, attended the Baptist Association held at Claremont last week.

There was such a heavy electrical storm in this locality on Tuesday during the noon hour which lasted for some time, the gardens and fields had a good soaking, as well as anyone who happened to be caught in its wake unprotected.

Miss Legate enjoyed the trip to Beaverton last week, when some of the W. I. members attended the district convention. The report will be given this week at the Institute meeting held at Mrs. Plummerfelt.

WITH THE CHURCHES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Announcements for the week

Subjects

Thursday 8 p.m.—The Kingdom of God, Friday 8 p.m.—The Name of Jesus Christ; Sunday 11 a.m.—If any man draws back; 3 p.m.—The World Meaning of the Cross; Monday 8 p.m.—Sin and its Remedy; Tuesday 8 p.m.—A World Program; Wednesday 8 p.m.—The Spirit of God. Everyone cordially invited. Use the question box.

BAPTIST

Sunday, June 24th
0 a.m.—Sabbath school and Bible class.
1 a.m.—Church service.
3:30 p.m.—Prayer Service.
8 p.m.—Church Service.
B. Y. P. U. Monday at 8 p.m.
W. W. Flescher, Pastor.

MENNONITE

W. M. McGuire, Pastor
Sunday, June 24th
10 a.m.—Sunday School.
Assistant Officers and Teachers in charge.

11 a.m.—Preaching by the Pastor.
7 p.m.—Preaching by local helper.
ALTONA
10 a.m.—Review Sunday, Missionary program.
7 p.m.—Preaching by the Pastor.

PERSONAL NOTES

Westley Boadway is spending a few days at home.

Chas. Nendick of Aurora spent the week end in town.

Mrs. Peters returned home this week after a two months absence.

John Brawley from Whitby is now working in the Stancard in place of T. Ibbetson.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Raymer of Mount Joy visited Mr. and Mrs. Nathan on Saturday.

Miss Robinson has returned after her winter vacation in Florida and other points.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. M. Hill motored to Peterboro on Sunday.

Miss Mitchell of South Part, England, visited this week with Mrs. Dr. I. A. Freel.

Mrs. G. W. Brownsberger and Mrs. H. D. Sawyer are visiting relatives at Midland.

Master Ralph Madill of Toronto has been spending a couple of weeks with his aunt, Mrs. Geo. Lee.

Percy Valentine of Toronto, spent the week end with his mother, Mrs. Valentine of the East End.

Mrs. Frank Cooper of Sunderland was a visitor at her sister's Mrs. Williams of the East End.

Rev. Mr. Fenning, newly appointed Anglican Rector to Sutton West died very suddenly last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Steele and Mrs. MacNair of Toronto visited at the home of their sister, Miss MacCallum.

Miss Hattie Smith was home for over Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Hess and sons Gordon and Harold, motored out from Toronto to Mrs. W. H. Wilson's on Sunday.

Mrs. T. H. Nicholls and sons of Winnipeg, are visiting at the home of her sister-in-law, Mrs. W. T. Byam.

Miss Bertie Raymer who has been ill for the last four weeks, has fully recovered and has returned to Toronto.

Mrs. George Gooding and little son Gilbert of Scarborough spent a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. White.

Mrs. Wetherell of Cannington, spent the week end with her son of the Standard Bank, at the home of Mrs. Fairies.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Sloan, of Aurora, called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Malloy's on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Davey accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. L. Hoover motored to Bradford on Sunday and visited Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Cook.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Gayman, Mrs. J. Fretz, of Fonthill and Mrs. Gayman of Vineland, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Reaman on Sunday.

Mrs. R. B. Hastings returned to Toronto after spending a couple of weeks with her son, S. W. Hastings of Lemonville, her little granddaughter accompanied her.

Miss Susie Daley left last week for Jackson's Point, for the summer where she has been again engaged by H. W. Sanders to take charge of the Lakeview summer hotel.

Mr. Thos. Williamson started this week on an extended trip to Saginaw, Mich., and other American points where he will spend three months visiting relatives and friends.

Mrs. Vanburen Forsyth accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Stouffer leave for Erie, Pa., tomorrow (Friday) on a weeks visit with Mrs. Forsyth's brother, Dr. Peter Barkey.

Dr. and Mrs. A. H. Hutchinson of Vancouver, B. C. with their two children Ruth and Billie are visiting his parents and brother on the 7th line of Whitechurch. Dr. Hutchinson is head of the Botany in the University of British Columbia.

Miss Myrtle Beebe left last Friday morning from Toronto for Port Huron, Mich., to assist in the musical part of the ceremony at the Martin wedding. Miss Martin is a grand-daughter of L. W. Hastings, formerly of this place.

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Election Day, M...

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