

The Stouffville Tribune

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Eight Pages

Ballantrae Left Without Church Building by Fire

Building Destroyed on Site Deeded to Primitive Methodists in 1863

For the first time in three-quarters of a century the hamlet of Ballantrae is without a church building. It was back in 1863 that land was first deeded and a building erected, but on Wednesday night of last week the little frame structure 26x38 in size which seated a hundred people was burned to the ground. The fire started from a heap of rubbish and leaves in the shed which is attached to the church. It was first noticed by Roy Andrew, Schell Gas station proprietor, who sounded the alarm. It was shortly after 10.30 in the evening, and Mr. Andrew had gone out to lock up the gas pumps when he saw the reflection in the sheds across the way and went over to investigate.

"I never saw a small blaze run so fast," said Herb Simpson who assisted with the Ballantrae fire truck. The sheds were quickly consumed and when it was seen the church was in danger Stouffville chemical truck was called. Willing hand turned in and lifted everything out of the building, even to the furnace and pews. The frame was soon reduced to a heap of ruins. Among the fire fighters was the pastor of the church Rev. W. E. Irwin.

Insurance one buildings is \$1,100, all the contents insured separately were saved.

"I do not think there are any grounds for the suggestion that the fire was of incendiary origin," said Pastor Irwin. He discussed the fact that it was a mere bonfire when first seen, and was inclined to believe that someone had entered the shed and carelessly threw down a cigarette butt, or lighted match. The place was littered with dry leaves and bark from the wood pile.

In 1863 land was first deeded to the Primitive Methodists for a church at this site. The deed is signed by William King and Chris. Hoover to the trustees Henry McMullen, Henry Philips, Richard Macy, Wm. Mercer, Robert Gray. These men are now all deceased. Twelve years ago the frame was lifted and a basement built under the church, electric lights were added and the building was painted. It was again redecorated only recently.

New Snow-Plow for Markham Twp.

On Saturday afternoon Markham Township Council met to consider tenders for the purchase of a new snow plough. After meeting salesmen for five different companies the order was finally given to the Sawyer Massey Co., at a cost of \$550. A large quantity of snow fence recently purchased will help to keep the roads throughout the township open.

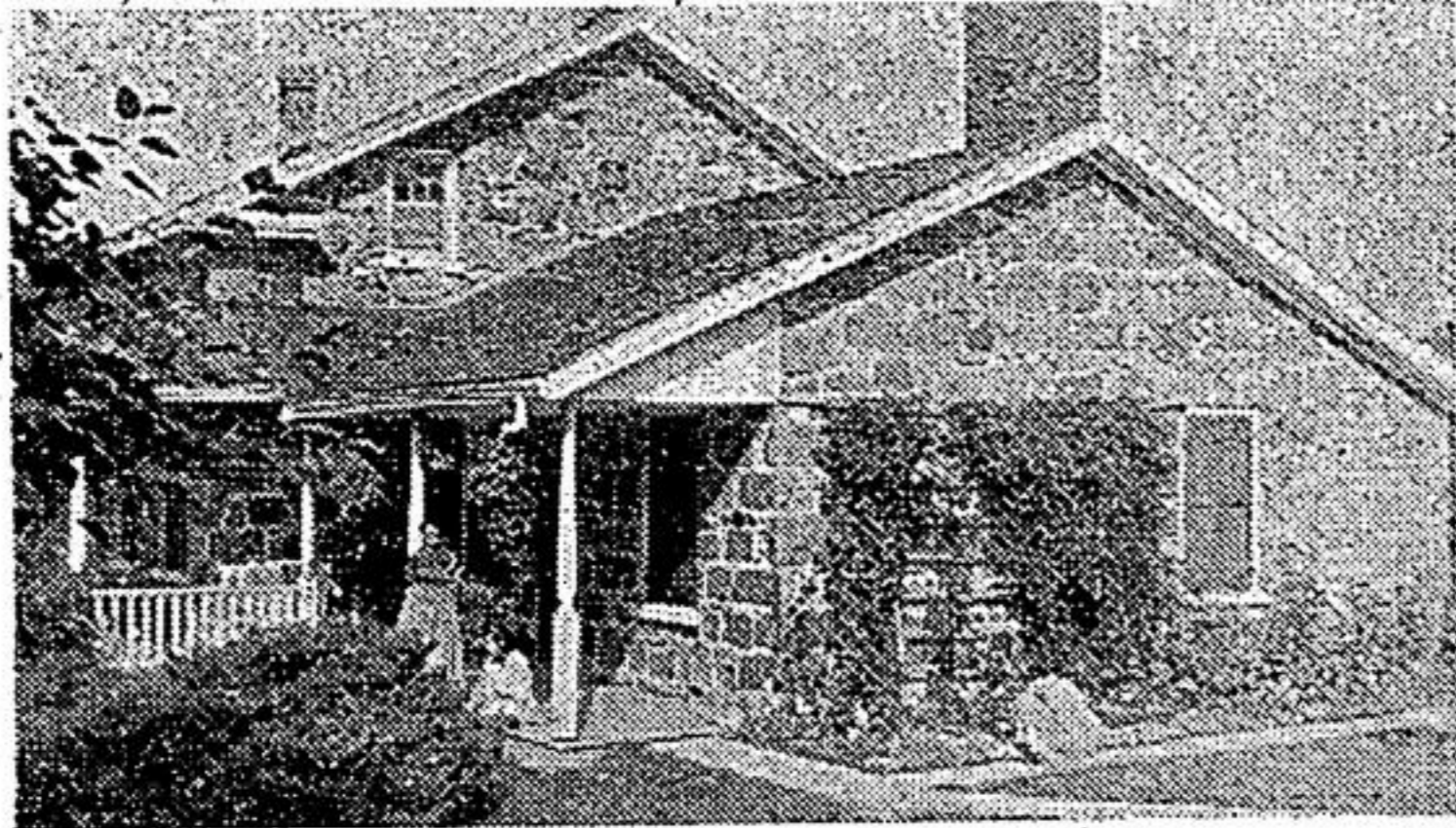
Tran Barn Raised on Tuesday

A successful barn raising on Tuesday saw the big frame for the Tran barn in Pickering well put in place, and men are rushing the sheeting and roof work to completion, taking advantage of the very fine weather. Around 175 aided at the raising on Tuesday afternoon which was carried out without any mishap. Robert Windsor, Ballantrae, is the carpenter contractor. The structure is about 46x80.

Lived Nearly Eighty Years in Same Farm Home, is Remarkable Record

To have been born and lived fifth generation on the home on the same farm nearly all her life of 80 years, is the remarkable record of Mrs. Tilman Reesor, who on Monday was tendered a birthday party at the old Reesor homestead where she

Farm Bought Before War of 1812, Still in the Family



129 years ago the father of Joseph Barkey bought the Reesor farm on the 8th Concession of Markham which is still in the family to this day with the fifth generation. This fine stone house was built there in 1862.

first saw the light of day in the year 1859. The fine substantial stone residence is just two and a half miles south of Ringwood on the 8th concession of Markham.

Mrs. Reesor is the last survivor of three sisters, daughters of pioneer parents Joseph Barkey and Annie Hare. Mr. Barkey was a Mennonite preacher, who was also born on the farm here, so that today the fifth generation are actually living there.

Mrs. Reesor was married in 1880, but has been a widow now for six years. There are three in her family, two sons and one daughter namely, Albert of Markham, who is a member of the township council, Joseph on the homestead, and Mrs. Jos. Hoover of Dickson Hill. There are eleven grandchildren, the family of Joseph making the

The fine old mother was indeed delighted and surprised with the remembrance brought to her on Monday when the entire family and many friends joined to offer their love and congratulations. Mrs. Reesor is a faithful member of the Wide-man church, a lover of flowers and beauty, she perhaps had much to do with the landscaping about the fine old home. Needlework, too, demands much of her time, and has down through the years. Plenty of her work is in possession of her children attesting the ability of their beloved mother in the line of quilt work and needlecraft.

Among the guests who called at the Reesor home on Monday were Dr. Thos. Mitchell, an old school chum. Mrs. Reesor received some 150 cards congratulating her on her 80th year.

Car Thieves Finally Rounded Up

A stolen Cadillac car caused no end of excitement in town on Monday afternoon when it made off from the west end service station with about ten gallons of gasoline without settling the bill. Dashing away from the tank, the hose was nearly torn from the pump, and left the service man standing with the gasoline cap in his hand. Constable Quibell gave chase and aided by Don Wilson of Ringwood followed the thieves up the 8th concession of Whitchurch, where they eluded their pursuers by taking to a side-road going east. Uxbridge was notified and informed our constable that they had received word to look out for a Cadillac stolen in Toronto.

There were four men in the gang it would appear when they left the city, and two of them stole Reeve Orval Heise's car in Markham, which was later abandoned on the 7th of Whitchurch, the report claims.

Police believe the two cars were to be used in a break-in, and the local banks here were notified and were ready for an attack.

However, later in the evening they turned up at Brougham and got away with another serving of gasoline without pay. This time they headed back to Toronto, and two of them were caught in the police net that night, and placed in jail. One lad was only 17, the other 23 years of age.

Mr. Melbourne Pipher of Western Canada is visiting at the home of his brother, Mr. Cliff Pipher, Church Street.

Parents Agree to Shorter Noon Hour

Half Hour Saved at Noon Allows School Out at 3.30 Instead of 4 O'clock

Beginning with the first week in December our village school staffs and students will take one hour for noon instead of one and a half hours as heretofore and the half hour saved will be cut off at the end of the day, thus school will be dismissed at 3.30 instead of 4 o'clock.

A questionnaire sent to all the homes of children, revealed the fact that nine out of every ten agreed to the proposed change.

In favor of the change it is argued that students from the country will be able to leave for home a half hour sooner, which is a big consideration, especially in winter season and bad roads.

Many children bring their lunch to school, and in unfavorable weather they congregate in halls and basement waiting for school to be called. Reducing this waiting period will remove some of the wear and tear on hats, etc., that a hundred youngsters cause. With limited inside accommodation for recreation the shorter period will suit pupils and teachers alike.

In agreeing to the change it would appear that parents in the village were largely actuated by the maxim of "the greatest good to the greatest number," and agreed to the change with that idea as much as from any personal reason.

Thus with school next week the hours will be from 9 to 12, and from 1 to 3.30 o'clock.

LIFE-TIME SUBSCRIPTION

"What's the reduction for a life-time subscription? Don't believe I've seen it quoted," is a poser put to this paper last week by a subscriber down in New York City. Never in the 25 years of our business as a publisher have we had this question asked us before. Perhaps it shows the modern trend, as well as the popularity of the paper, or perhaps it is only a joke, but in any event we are taking it seriously. We hope the paper will always merit that spirit on the part of subscribers, and the query may go down as the very first time it has ever been put to a newspaper.

The School Board on Tuesday evening awarded a painting contract for \$110 to Frank Mowder. The two large halls and one entire room upstairs as well as minor work in other rooms will be gone over. Highest tender received for this work more than doubled that of the successful tenderer.

Mansion House Hotel Bought by Ford Dealer for New Service Station

Will be Remodelled into Fine Service Station and Car Show Rooms

The Mansion House hotel which has served Stouffville as a stopping place for travellers for more than sixty years, will shortly close its doors to this line of business. The large brick building has been sold by the Latchford-Miller interests to Mr. Delbert Holden, Ford Service man, who will remodel the place into a service station and show room, and perhaps provide living apartments on the two floors above. Mr. Holden gets possession on the first of January and intends to commence work at that time.

When completed, this famous corner which for so many years dispensed beer to the thirsty will dispense another sort of liquid for automobiles, which will accordingly maintain its original existence for handling out something with a "kick" in. Of course the place has been without a license now for more than 25 years, and which with this end of the business taken away it steadily declined until receipts from travellers was not sufficient to attract a tenant who could pay rent that would maintain the building. Gordon Robinson, present host, will continue to operate the hotel until the end of the year.

The Mansion House was built by the late Elijah Miller between 1876 and 1885. In 1887 Mr. Miller died and the business was continued by his son Frank who died 27 years ago, shortly after local option came into force in Stouffville. His widow who is a patient at present in the Brierbush Hospital, continued to operate the place until twelve or thirteen years ago, since which time various tenants have occupied it.

Back in the so-called "good-old-days" the Mansion boasted accommodation for 75 to 100 guests; and trade was humming for long years. The place then was a spot of beauty and was always admired by travellers on the train, it being easily seen from the station, or train windows.

The passing of the Mansion House as the town's only hostelry, leaves one with the same regret as though an old friend had passed on. Commercially the town is handicapped that cannot offer a good hotel to the travelling public.

This issue of The Tribune will be read by 4,000 people, a powerful advertising medium.

Christmas Fair Horse Section to be Enlarged

The arrangements for the Christmas market are going on full steam ahead. Monday night a number of those interested in horses commenced arrangements and are expected to offer a good list of prizes in this line, and the horse program this year will be handled exclusively by this end of the association.

The prize lists will be issued next week and will show a liberal offering of prizes and specials. Also will be published the list of donors, so if you have not subscribed to the expense of this market get in touch with the secretary H. Quibell and see that he receives your dollar or two to help along the show.

Trio are Fined on Liquor Charge

Murray Hopkins, William Tindall and George Brown were each assessed \$10 and costs, total each \$11.75 on a charge of consuming liquor in an illegal place when they appeared before Magistrate Keith in county court on Monday morning. The charge was laid by Constable Quibell who states that following complaints he had made various efforts to clean up on this business, and when he carried out a raid the chief offenders were "not at home." However, the chief believes that the example made of the trio, all first offenders, will end this breach of the law.

Marriages

Forsyth — Wells

The marriage took place on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 25, in Lemonville parsonage of Miss Reta Elene Wells, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Wells to Mr. Floyd Stouffer Forsyth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Levi Forsyth. Rev. W. S. Irwin officiated. The bride was lovely in royal blue velvet with corsage of pink roses and sweet peas.

Miss Lola Forsyth, sister of the groom was bridesmaid, and Mr. Lewis Wells, brother of the bride, was groomsman.

A reception for the immediate families was held at the home of the bride's parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Forsyth left on a motor trip to Buffalo; and on their return will live on the home farm on the Tenth Concession of Whitchurch.

Local Lawyer Acts as Groomsman

Mr. Reg. Button acted as groomsman on Saturday afternoon for the wedding of Mr. Howard F. Stiver of Unionville to Miss Mary D. Kerr. The ceremony was performed at the home of the bride's parents Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Kerr at "Sillyton Grove," Ashburn. Rev. W.B. Mitchell and Rev. Mr. Simpson tied the nuptial knot, and Mrs. Robert Heron officiated at the organ. Mrs. W. J. Russel of Unionville was soloist.

Among the out-of-town guests were Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Button and Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Watts. The newly wedded couple are popular young people of their respective districts. They left on a motor trip to Quebec, and will locate in Agincourt.

PROMINENT MEN IN YORK COUNTY COUNCIL AND COL. GEORGE A. DREW



York county council honored its 78th warden, Reeve Gordon Harris of Weston, at its annual banquet at the King Edward hotel last Thursday night. Guest speaker Lieut. Col. Geo. A. Drew gave a stirring address forecasting a bright future for

Canada during and after the war. Col. Drew is second from the right in the picture while on the extreme right is our own Whitchurch township reeve Earl Toole, one of the county commissioners this year who is prominently mentioned as the

next warden from the north end of the county. At the extreme left of the picture in line stands the other commissioner John Warren, reeve of East York, then Fred G. Gardiner, reeve of Forest Hill, banquet chairman, and in the centre Warden Harris