



150th Anniversary Recalls Pioneers

The 150th anniversary celebration of the founding of Bethesda Lutheran Church, Unionville, was terminated Sunday afternoon, when a Memorial service was held in the cemetery on the hill which is on the site of the original church. A fitting tribute was paid to the pioneers of 1794, many of whom rest in this cemetery, by the establishment of a maintenance fund amounting to \$3000 which will insure the perpetual up-keep of the cemetery for all time. Rev. N. Willison, D.D., President of the Lutheran College and Seminary, Saskatoon, a former pastor of Bethesda church, gave the address. Mr. Willison stated in his address during the week that there are 20,000 Lutherans in uniform with 18 chaplains.

The original settlement comprised 64 German families, who immigrated under the guidance of William Berczy, in response to an offer of grants of land by Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe. After a voyage of thirteen weeks in a sailing vessel from Germany, they landed at Philadelphia, where they waited to purchase equip-

ment. They bought livestock, and wagons with large deep boxes and caulked seams capable of floating across bodies of water. They also secured rope, harness, forestry and agricultural tools.

On the way up the cattle grazed as they went and furnished milk, part of which was put into containers and churned into butter by the jolting of the wagons.

They entered Canada by Niagara and followed the Indian trail along the shores of Lake Ontario to York. From there the cavalcade headed north along the old Yonge street trail, and in due time reached their objective, Markham Township.

They received their grants of land under the following conditions: "They must within the term of two years from the time of occupation, clear, fit for cultivation, and fence the acres of the lot obtained; build a house of logs or frame 16 by 20 feet with shingle

roof, also cut down all the timber in front of and the whole width of the lot, 35 feet of which must be cleared and left smooth for half of the road."

HEVED OWN HOMES
They built their homes of logs hewn on the spot. The shingles also were hand-hewn; raised their own food, made their own clothing, soap, and candles; built their own schoolhouses and places of worship, and laid the foundations of a prosperous community.

Rev. C. S. Leibrich accompanied these pioneers, and on their arrival at their new homes filled the positions of minister, teacher and doctor, but met a tragic death a year or two afterward, being killed by a falling tree during the erection of a log school-house.

Rev. G. R. Deiel took his place until his death, when the community found great difficulty in procuring a Lutheran preacher, the nearest being in New York State. They made application for a clergyman of the Church of England who could perform the service in both German and English, and Rev. P. V. Mayerhoffer, an ordained Anglican, was sent. He preached to them in German and English, on alternate Sundays.

shell-shocked and the rest wounded."

Today I talked to some of the men who fought for 36 hours a mile behind the main body of the battalion, to keep a narrow escape route open. For two nights and a day they sought to prevent the Germans from sealing the last crack in their trap of steel so that somehow the rifle companies might make their way out.

When that hope disappeared, these 40 or 50 covering troops—many of them cooks, batmen and

drivers—made ready to advance join the valiant group whose heroic valedictory was being written on the hillside up ahead. It was then that Phil Griffin, the 24-year-old major from Vancouver, who had taken command of the battalion after his two immediate seniors were killed, sent back the order that no more men must be brought forward.

Capt. Ronald Bennett, 27-year-old former Osgoode Hall law student, commanded the detachment fighting the secondary battle along the line of advance. As one of the three officers who was unscathed his was the most complete and detailed story of an action whose complete details perhaps will never be known.

"We hit a great deal of trouble before we ever reached our start line," Capt. Bennett said. "According to the plan, the two villages on our left flank, St. Andre-sur-Orne and St. Martin de Fontenay, were to have been cleared before we set out for our objective beyond the ridge just east of May-sur-Orne. The battalion working on our flank ran into heavy opposition itself, and the whole operation fell behind schedule. The minute we stepped into St. Andre, we came under heavy machine-gun fire.

Officers Killed Early
"Their guns were sighted at very short range in the orchards and along a long broken wall just on the east of St. Andre. From there, we fought our way ahead, foot by foot. The colonel was killed. Another officer replaced him, and he was killed. When Major Griffin took over the battalion, it was still 1,000 yards short of the point where our part of the battle was to start and the casualties were fairly numerous. In each of the rifle companies, just one officer was left. Two of the acting company commanders were captains and two were subalterns. The platoons were commanded by sergeants or corporals.

"I can't tell you enough about Major Griffin. We had some tanks with us and they became involved in a nasty fight with German self-propelled guns and anti-tank guns that dominated them. The tanks did grand work but they were too busy with their own problems to

FLATTERING WORDS FROM OLD SUBSCRIBER

The Tribune takes the liberty of publishing one of several letters received recently from subscribers far away to indicate how much they appreciate the home paper. The following letter is from Mrs. Isaac Stouffer of Greenfield, Alta., who is so well known to many around Stouffville. It reads:

"As it is time to renew my subscription for The Tribune for another year, I do take pleasure in forwarding \$2 for same.

Just cannot do without my home town paper, and especially when it has been winning laurels again. Congratulations, Mr. Editor. I enjoy the pictures you publish very much; they are so plain and well done. I cut many of them out.

We can report fairly good crops through the district. Frequent rains have been a blessing. Cutting will start very soon."

give us much immediate support. The delay in getting forward also meant that the artillery program that had been directed against our objectives 1,000 yards away was virtually useless.

"When Major Griffin gave the order to move, the men sprang to their places behind their corporals and sergeants and as they swung off into the wheatfields under that severe fire, the battalion was as orderly and well disciplined and completely organized as it ever was on parade back in England.

All the way up the slope, they were under observed fire. By the time they got to the crest, all their wireless sets had been hit and there was no communication with the rear. They went over the crest carrying only their hand ammunition, hand weapons, and water bottles. The whole ridge was a solid mass of enemy armor and self-propelled guns, with infantry dug in all round.

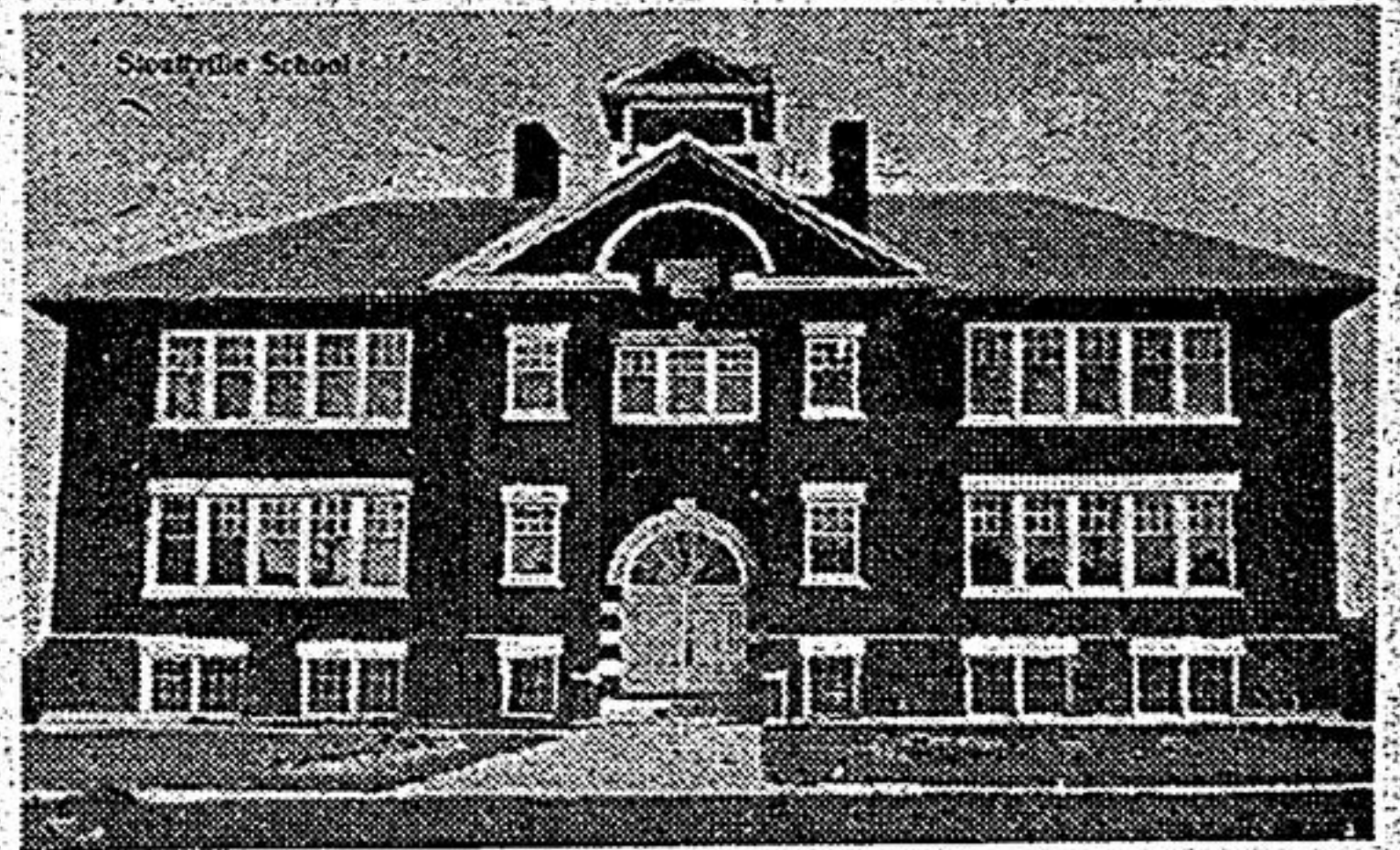
That is about all that any one can tell about the epitaph of a regiment. Already a new Black Watch Regiment is being formed around the hard core of those who are left. The rear and support echelons escaped relatively lightly—although to give an idea of how bravely they fought, eight company clerks two were killed and three wounded trying to give what aid they could to the lost riflemen. In a quiet little field just back of the front, those who are left are busy today polishing their mortars and cleaning their rifles before they stretched out in the sun to get a little rest.

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Tuesday, September 5

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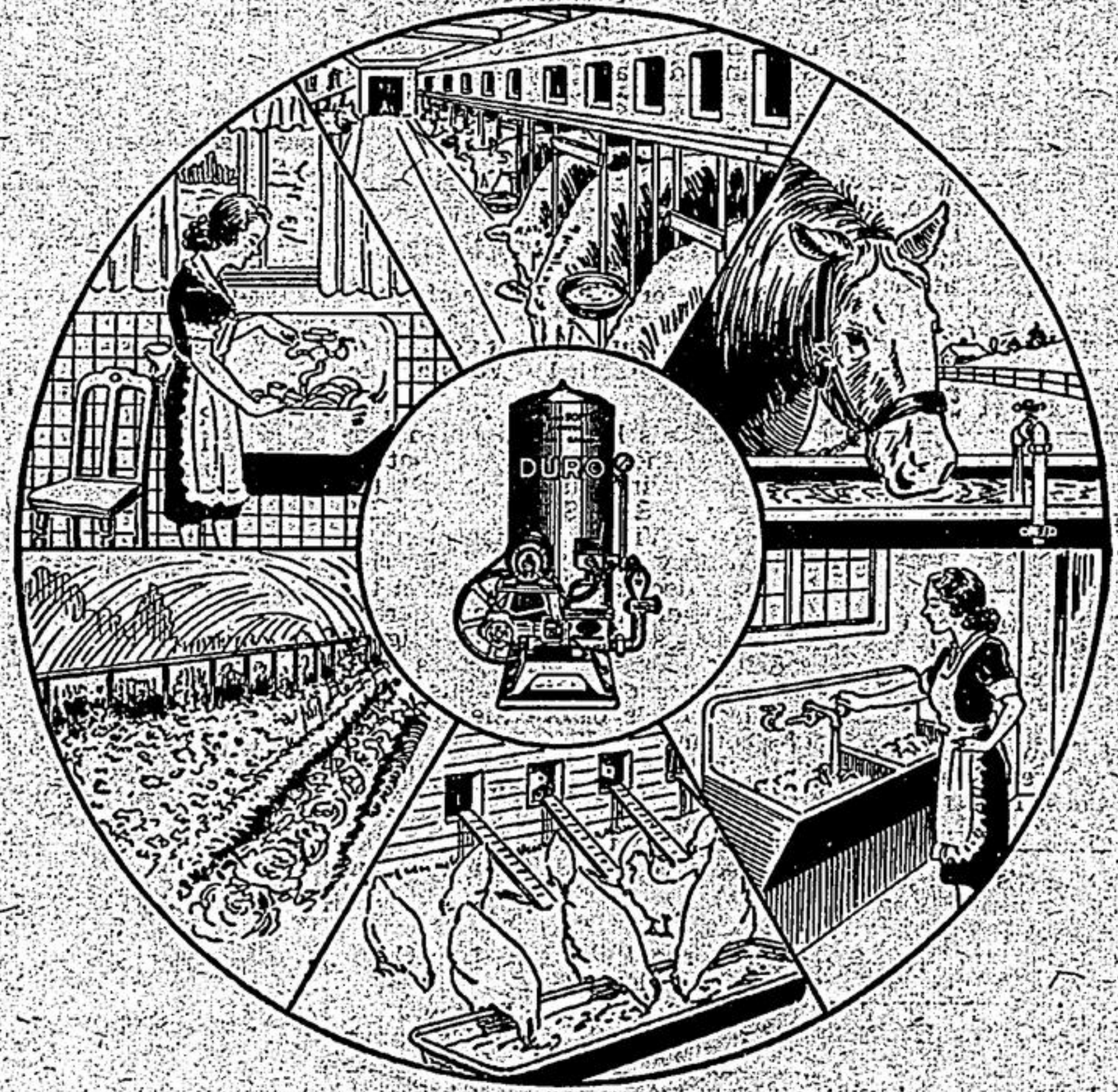
If unable to be present at that time, be sure and contact the Principal before hand by mail, telephone 181 or in person.

THE STAFF

Miss Jean Collins, B.A., assistant, French and Latin
Miss Mary Borisuk, B.A., assistant, English, History
Physical Education
Miss Mary Johnson, B.A., assistant, English, History,
Home Economics
Paul W. Sherk, B.A., assistant, Mathematics, Physics,
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