

# Meet Us - & Your Friends - at Markham Fair

STOUFFVILLE

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ONTARIO

### S. J. MILLER IS NEW CLERK BROCK TWP.

At the next meeting of Brock Township Council, the minutes of the last meeting will be read by Stanley J. Miller who was appointed

ed clerk and treasurer of the Township last week. Mr. Miller is well qualified for the position, having served as reeve, deputy-reeve and councillor of the township for several years and he has a wide knowledge of the township and its affairs.

### Sunshine Harvesting In Saskatchewan

Sept. 20, 1950.

Hello Stouffville, This is your roving reporter writing from Stoughton, Sask., where I have been harvesting. The weather has changed quite a lot since last Sunday, when I wrote from Moose Jaw, Sask. There was ice on the water tank yesterday morning and now snow is falling in Stoughton as I am writing. We finished threshing a small field of wheat last night at 7.45 p.m. It was dark but these prairie farmers seem to have exceptionally good eyesight. The small field of wheat by the way was 120 acres. I am sending a copy of the Stoughton Times, which I hope you will enjoy reading. Reading is such a wonderful way in which to find almost complete relaxation. It is about 90 miles to Regina by rail. Here by the way, was, in 1904, the

longest straight piece of track in the world. Since that time Russia and U.S.A. have beaten that record. From Stoughton to Arcola (a divisional point) there is a slight decline in the track and about 20 years ago, the longest train load ever hauled in the world by one engine, was pulled over this track. It was a load of wheat. This information was given to me by the editor of the Stoughton Times, Mr. Richard Lobb.

Sunshine

newspaper and in current events. Last February, a few days before he celebrated his 100th birthday, Mr. Armitage was a volunteer in the first diabetic survey of a Canadian community. The oldest person tested in the survey, he was found to be free of diabetes.

For many years he farmed on the Yonge St. farm settled by his father. For 14 years, prior to his retirement 30 years ago, Mr. Armitage was superintendent of the York County Old People's Home, Newmarket.

His great-grandfather settled in Whitchurch Township in 1894. He was a member of Newmarket Presbyterian Church, where he served for some years as an elder. He was also a member of the York Pioneers and Historical Society.

His wife died several years ago. He leaves one brother, Dr. Clayton Armitage, Harbour Beach, Mich.

The barefoot boy with his sling-shot is only emulating ancient Syrian warriors. They invented the weapon about 200 years B.C.

### Writes Interesting Reminiscences

(continued from front page)

My father, seven brothers and two sisters received their primary education there. Two of his brothers went to Cobourg grammar school as it was then called (afterwards Victoria College).

They were ordained in 1868. Now if you will bear with me a while longer (I can imagine the W.P.B. is yawning) I shall try to tell you something about the school in the old log school house.

The name of the first teacher eludes my memory (although I have often heard it). He was from the Old Land. Father used to say he was good at sharpening the pens. I suppose they used quills. The New Testament was used as a text book. Young men and young ladies attended the school anxious to receive instruction. Children under ten years of age were not allowed to go in winter time, thus leaving more room for the grown ups! Keeping order was a difficult task. Never heard of the teacher having trouble to keep the girls in order, no doubt they were always good.

When a boy was in need of chastening the teacher sent him into the bush for an armful of beech switches and then asked the culprit to drape himself over a bench and he would then proceed to administer a "flogging." The teacher wore a "swallow tailed" coat and everytime the switch was brought down the coat tails flew up over his back, much to the amusement of the scholars.

Another form of punishment was when the teacher drew a circle on the wall and the culprit was asked to stand on his toes, and keep his nose in the centre of the circle.

There was an alternative—they could walk out of school, but as the older scholars could only go in winter they generally took the punishment meted out to them.

After the first teacher, Mr. Macey taught. Maxon Jones, Jas. Dougherty, who afterwards joined Mr. Sylvester in the hardware business in Stouffville. There may have been others, I have heard these spoken of as teachers.

In 1852 my mother's people moved from Wilfred in Brock Twp. to the place now owned by Mr. Herbert Simpson in Ballantrae. They also were Wesleyan Methodists and joined the service in the old log school house. My mother was eight years old. She also went to the only school in the district for a number of years.

I think Ballantrae school, section No. 11 was built in the centre of the section about the time the Methodist Church was built at Church Hill in 1863. The church was built on the south east corner. The Christian Church was built in 1872. We always had friendly relations with our neighbouring church, a union S.S., union choir, and a union Y.P.S.

I began school at section No. 11 in 1878. The teachers were as follows: Mr. Mason, Miss Almeda Dafeo, Joseph Lemon of Lemonville, Miss Jennie McCall, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Dowswell, Mr. Edwin Pall, Mr. Edwin Quantz and his brother John taught a short while. John Lemon from Scott Township, Geo. E. Pegg, Marshall Grant. It was during his term the school house burned down. School was held in the Methodist Church at Church Hill until a new one was built. Mr. Fotheringham is the only inspector I can recall.

My grandmother often told me of her good neighbours, the Varneys, who lived on the west side of the ninth, just up the hill and a little ways to the west of them. They had three grown up children, Asa, Pheobe and Lydia. There had been younger children but as with many others, they had succumbed to a mild form of cholera. Asa was a fine young man of twenty-four years of age, very anxious to acquire a little education. At that time, the year my father was born, 1834, there was a man living where Bloomington is now situated who took pupils into his home, to teach them. Asa decided to go to him. He went blithely off in the morning but never came home again. It was believed he had been eaten by wolves. They ran in packs in those days. He was greatly mourned.

Another strange thing about it is James and Hannah Varney turned out to be my late husband's grandparents.

My daughter came into possession of Pheobe Varney's leather bound Bible. In it is a record of births and deaths, that had been neatly kept. I turned to the death record and found—Asa Varney age 24 years, 1834, thus corroborating with grandmother's story. What relation would Asa be to my great grandchildren.

Old Subscriber, Mrs. Andrew Pegg

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