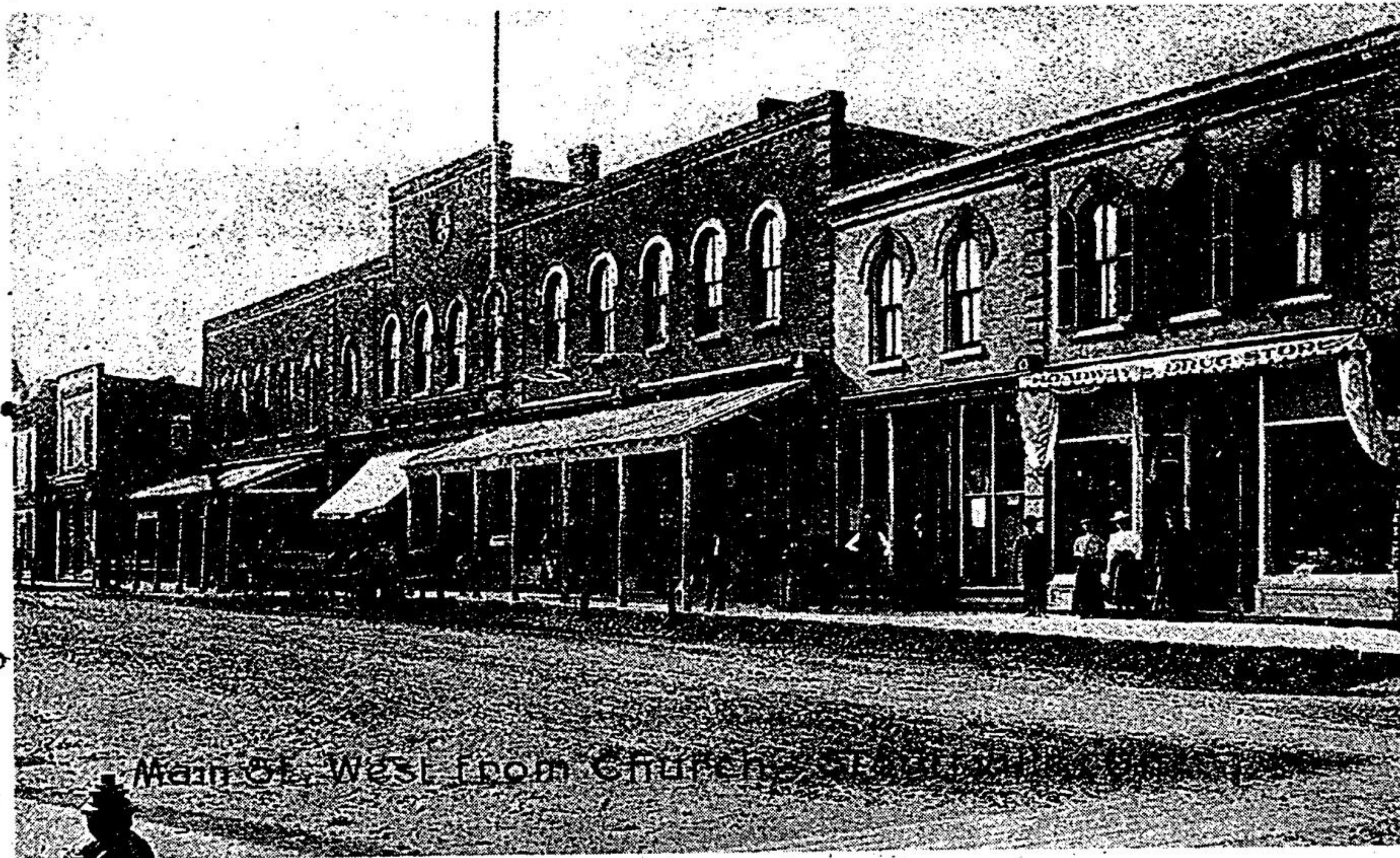
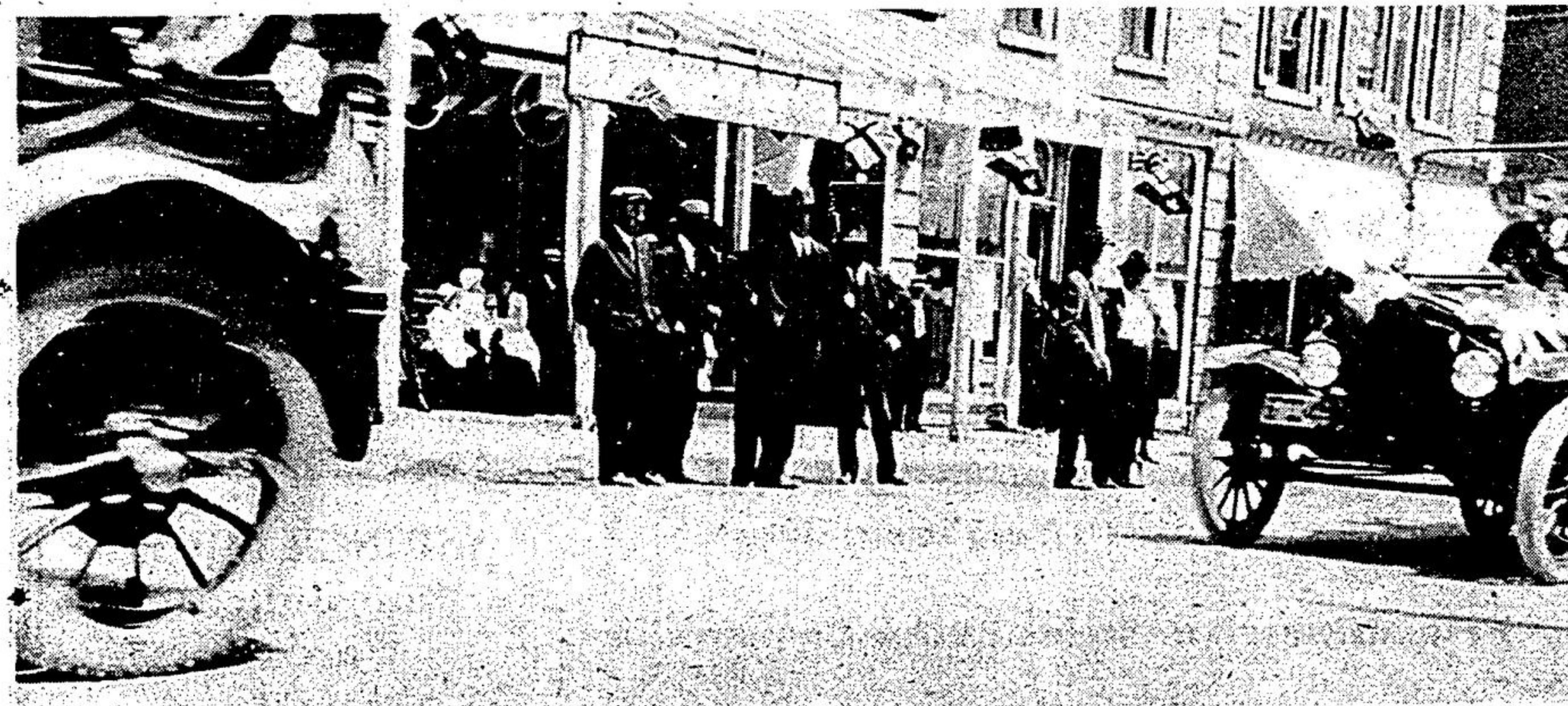


# THE TOWN'S BEGINNINGS



Main St. West from Church



STOUFFVILLE

MARKET DAY

(Continued from Pg. 4) six weeks of strenuous work and adventure they arrived at their destination, to hew out of the forest their future homes. When they arrived in Markham Township at the river Rouge, Peter Reesor pointed out to his people the place he had selected for the principal part of his people, and sure enough they heartily approved and made quite a community centre there, which was for a number of years called Reesorville, but is now Markham village.

**Purchases Site of Village.**  
Peter Reesor and Abraham Stouffer with their families and transports went about three miles further east to where Mr. Reesor had selected his home, which is known as Cedar Grove. Abraham Stouffer prospected through the woods to the north, about 8 miles, and coming to a small clearing of about two acres, beside a creek, made enquiries of the squatter on the land. Through him Abraham Stouffer found the owner, who was Russell Hoag. Possession was given almost immediately to lot 1, con. 1, Whitchurch, 200 acres, but the title is dated March 11th, 1805, the price is not recorded.

Then on July 9th, 1805, the records show that Abraham Stouffer purchased from John Williams, lot 35 in the 9th concession, Township of Markham, 200 acres, the consideration being £62.10s. Lot 2, 9th con. Whitchurch, 200 acres, was not taken from the Crown until a few years later.

As soon as our pioneer, Abraham Stouffer, got possession of lot 1, Whitchurch, he commenced clearing more land, making the shack habitable and building a mill dam and saw mill. In this way he made his own lumber and soon attracted other settlers' attention for miles around for they were as yet few and far between.

On May 13th, 1806, his son Abraham, the first child of the family in Canada, was born—now this was a great event to me—as he became my father. Then in a few years my grandfather built his grist mill, being a millwright, as well as a miller. This of course, caused a considerable stir in the neighborhood. The good news soon spread and was the means of bringing other settlers to the neighborhood, farmers in the country and merchants and tradesman of various kinds to the new village, which for a time was called Stouffer's village.

The names of some of

the new settlers were: Macklem, Wideman, Yake, Brown, Boyer, Lehman, Johnson, Law, Kester, Morden, Winterstein, Fenton, Mertens, Long, Davis, Fockler, Ramer, Hoover, Hamilton, Miller, and other farmers. Some of the merchants and tradesmen were: Sheldon, Boyer, Caslor, Boadway, Cameron, Rusnell, Dr. A. C. Lloyd, Johnson, Roddick, Breuls, Stevens, McCallum, Shaw, Dunn, Steers, Flint, DeGeer, & c.

Unfortunately Stouffer's grist mill was struck by lightning and burned to the ground, after having been in operation only a few years. The mill had, however, done good service to the neighborhood and proprietor, and Mr. Stouffer with the willing co-operation of the neighbors, soon had another mill at work, this time on the south side of Main street. The next important thing was the establishing of the post office, which took place in 1832 with C.D. Sheldon as postmaster, and in 1835 succeeded by W.H. Doyle. My information from Ottawa says that the office was ceased in 1839 and re-opened in 1841, with John Boyer as postmaster. John Boyer was for sometime quite an important business man of the village. About this time the wife of our pioneer died, in 1835, and he had also the misfortune of losing the use of his hand, through an accident, his family also having grown up, he gave his milling property and part of his farm into the hands of his eldest son, Christian, who also being a practical miller, carried on the business successfully for some years. In 1848 Christian having a family of boys growing up, was for their sake, lured to what was at that time called "The Queen's Bush", settling in the County of Oxford. He disposed of his Stouffville property to Edward Wheeler, a wide awake young Devonshire man, who had married our Peter Reesor's daughter. The reign of Abraham Stouffer was ended, and the reign of Edward Wheeler began in 1848. Soon afterwards came the Crimean War, which worked to the financial advantage of business men and farmers here. Although far away from railway station or lake port Mr. Wheeler kept his mill running constantly, but transportation was the discouraging feature of the business. However, the village grew and prospered though not very fast.