

INCORPORATION

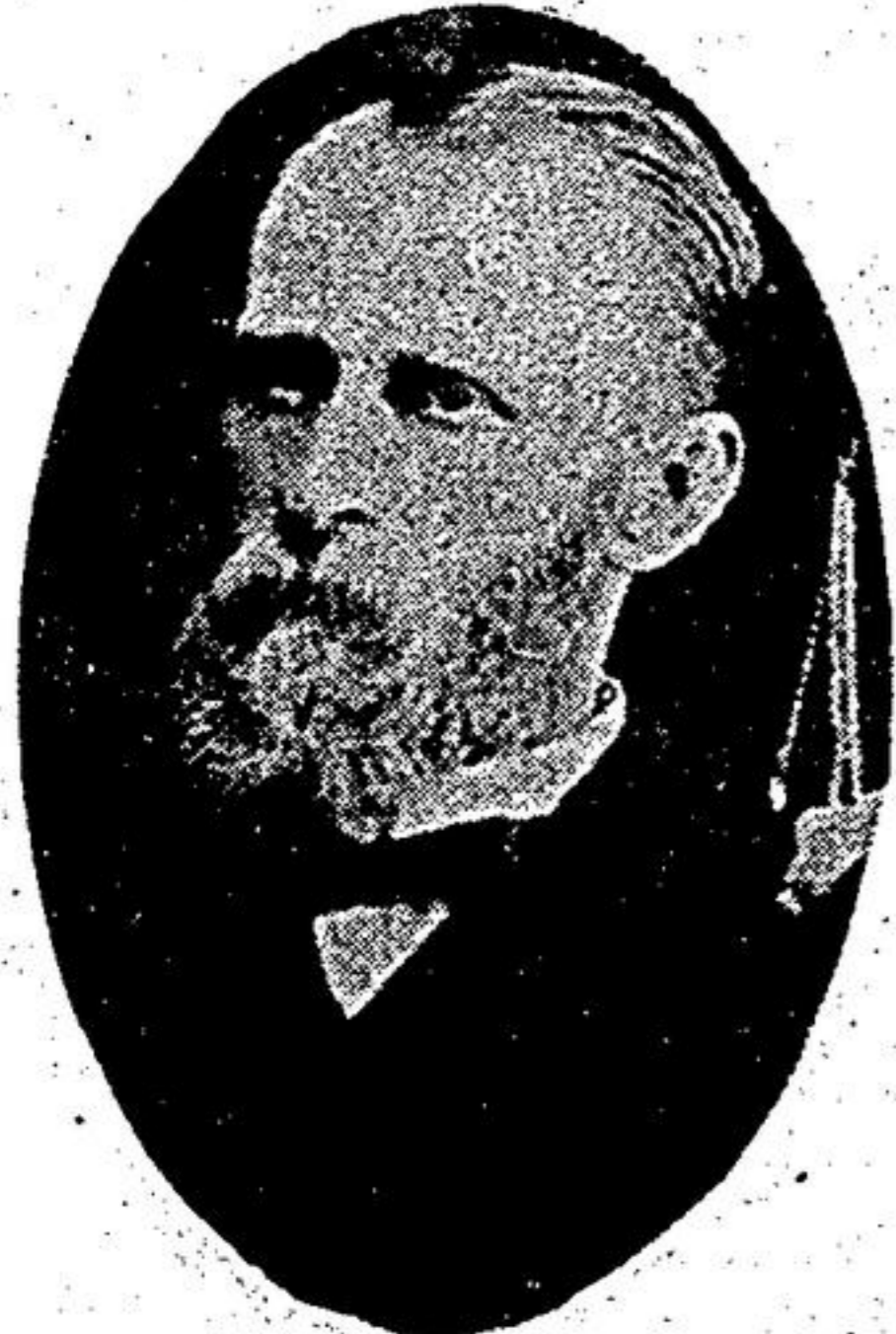
THE TOWN'S BIRTH



James Dougherty 1877-1878, 1881-1882



W.B. Sanders 1883-1889, 1893
Warden York County 1887



Hiram Johnson 1894-1896



W.L. Stark 1899-1900

Stouffville's long history does not start at the incorporation of the town, although the act did officially give the people and businesses in the area the right to govern themselves.

The history of the town has its beginnings in the early 18th century, when Pennsylvanian settlers laid claim to the Stouffville area.

The land prospered and more and more settlers came up and by the time July 1, 1867 rolled around there were approximately 600 people here to celebrate Canada's birth.

It was only nine years later, in 1876, when the people who had previously been governed under the Whitchurch Township, decided that they wanted their own identity, and government for the new town of Stouffville.

The area designated for the town was comprised of lot 35 of the 9th concession of Markham, 200 acres and lot one, concession nine of the Whitchurch Township; 200 acres, and a few acres east of the 10th line.

The incorporation was consummated July 1, 1877 and the Town of Stouffville was born.

The first reeve of the town was James Dougherty and the first collector was David Stouffer. The inaugural meeting was held January 15, 1877 at Brown's barn. The council members got right down to work and quickly passed the first four bylaws.

The first bylaw concerned itself with the appointment of a clerk and treasurer. It was Henry William Woodgate that was given the job which entitled him to a salary of \$50 a year.

The first actual law passed by council dealt with the removal of snow from sidewalks, and the control of "Furious driving and horses remaining at large."

That any person who neglected to remove snow from his sidewalk property within four hours of every snow fall

was given a stiff fine equal to the expense of having the town corporation remove it.

Graffiti writers were also taken care of at this first meeting, as council outlined in the second bylaw that any person caught defacing or disfiguring public or private property, along with any person posting or putting indecent or immoral word or drawings on buildings would be fined, providing they could be caught.

And woe to any person caught letting his horse run wild through the town's streets. For he would be unceremoniously brought before the reeve or justice and fined "the sum of fifty dollars for each offence and costs of prosecution". In case the poor accused could not raise this high sum of money his property would be sold and if he didn't even have enough property he would be then committed to "the common gaol of the City of Toronto with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding twenty one days unless the said penalty and costs be sooner paid."

Fairly harsh punishment for someone with a frisky horse.

To have a person enforcing the laws council chose Thomas J. Dougall as police inspector with the sum of \$20 for his services.

Along with the police inspector, council appointed John Urquhart as assessor, and his pay was only \$15.

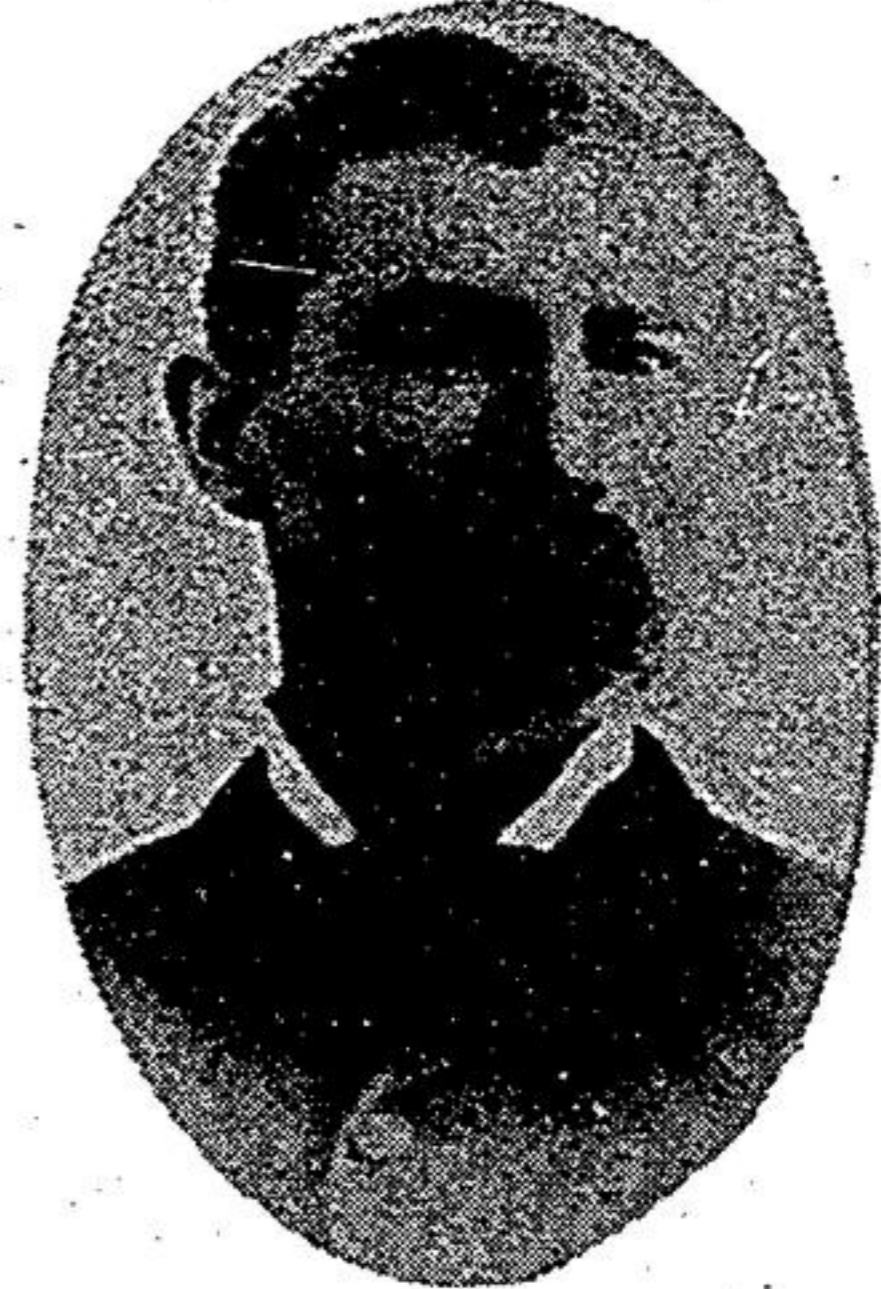
The final bylaw of that inaugural meeting took to task "Transient Traders"; those people who occupied places of business for less than one year and have not been in the assessment roll.

A \$40 fine was in store for anyone breaking this bylaw and if the money could not be raised it was a jail term of 21 days.

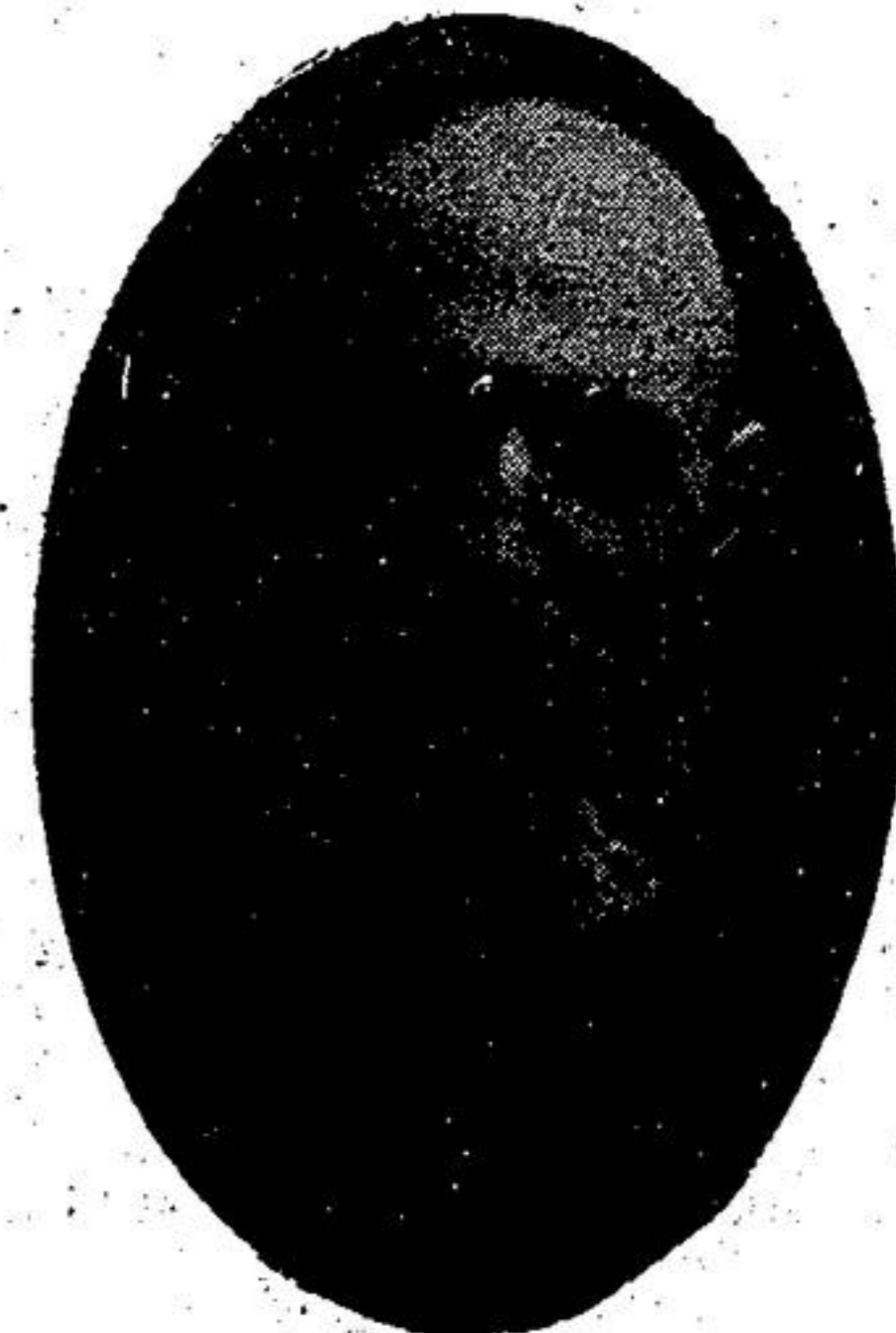
From that auspicious beginning of the town's birth and initial bylaws has come the people, places and laws that make up present day Stouffville.



Ed Wheeler 1879-1880



R.J. Daley 1890-1892



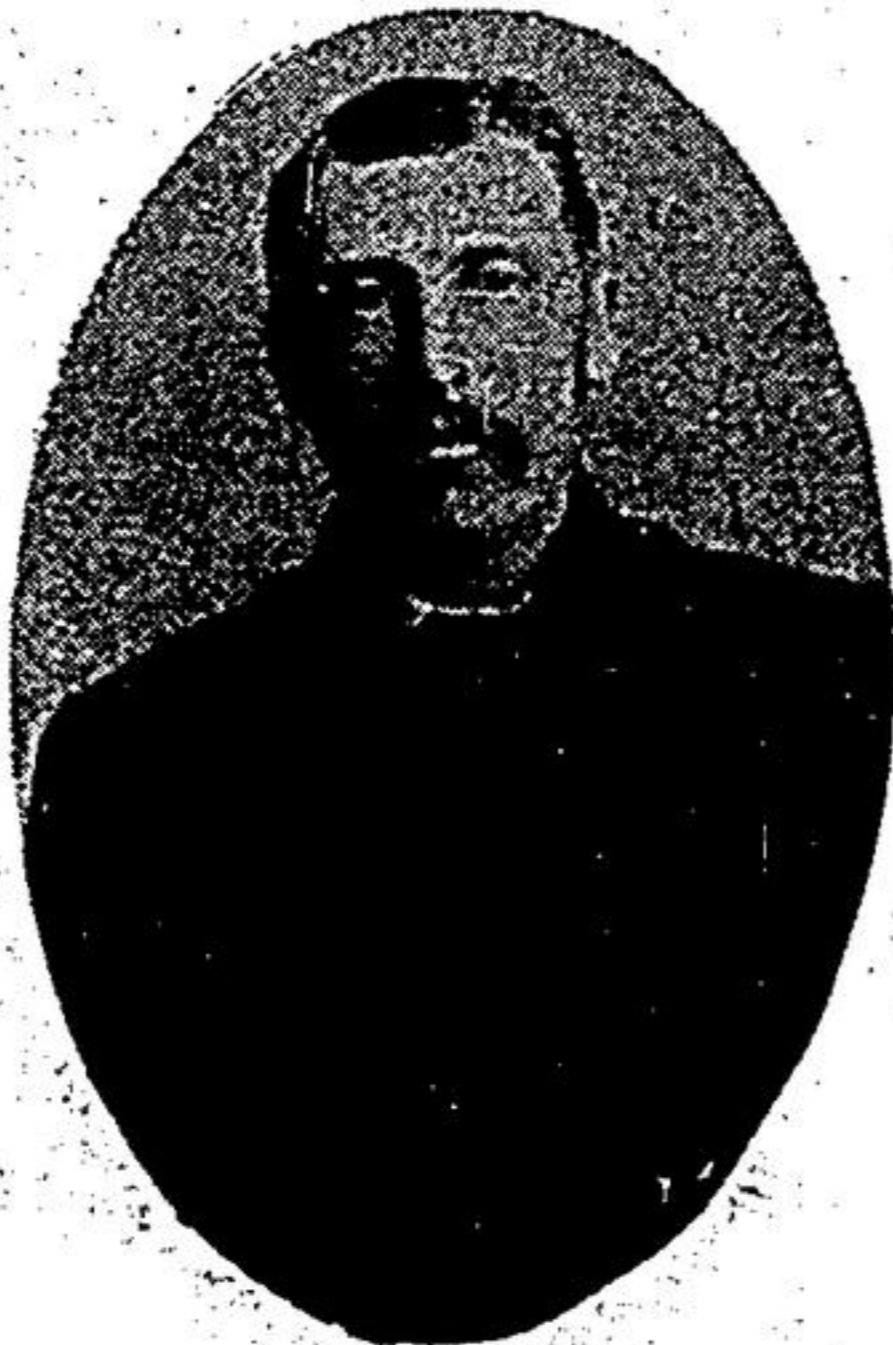
J.H. Ralstaff 1897-1898, 1917-1921



J.A. Todd 1902



Richard Urquhart 1903-1904



J.L. Baker 1901-1902