

# Wixson brothers were Claremont area pioneers

By LILLIAN GAUSLIN  
The pioneers of the northern part of Pickering Township (now the Town of Pickering) were the Wixson brothers, Joseph and Joshua.

They came to the town toward the end of the 18th century from Steuben County, New York and put down roots in the vicinity of what is now the 9th Concession.

Their English ancestors had immigrated to America and settled in the State of Massachusetts in 1684.

Joseph took on the land west of Brock Road and erected a home just north of the bend in the road east of Claremont. He is rumored to have owned all the land on the west side of Brock Road from the 9th Line to the 8th Concession.

Brother Joshua made his home to the east of Joseph. It was there with his wife he raised 10 children. Their daughter Ruth is believed to have been the first child born of white parents in the northern half of the township.

When the Wixsons arrived, there were no people to greet them, no roads to travel, no clearings to build their homes and no

stores to purchase clothing or food. There was not even a building where they could worship.

Joshua was voted elder of the first Baptist Church of Christ in 1822.

It was decided the church would be constructed on Joseph Wixson's lot, but before it was completed Joshua died.

In 1866 they built a new brick church that is still in use today.

While Joshua was concerned with church affairs, Joseph was more interested in political life.

In 1811 he was appointed pound-keeper for the Township. He would later hold the position of councillor and deputy reeve.

G.M. Forsyth, a direct descendant of the Wixson family settled on the street after retiring from the farming business in 1973.

At the time of the Mackenzie Rebellion in 1837, many settlers demanded reform of the laws of the country. Among those who took part were the Barclays, Wixsons and Tracys.

Three were caught and transported to England in chains. They were kept there until 1839 when they were allowed to return to America.



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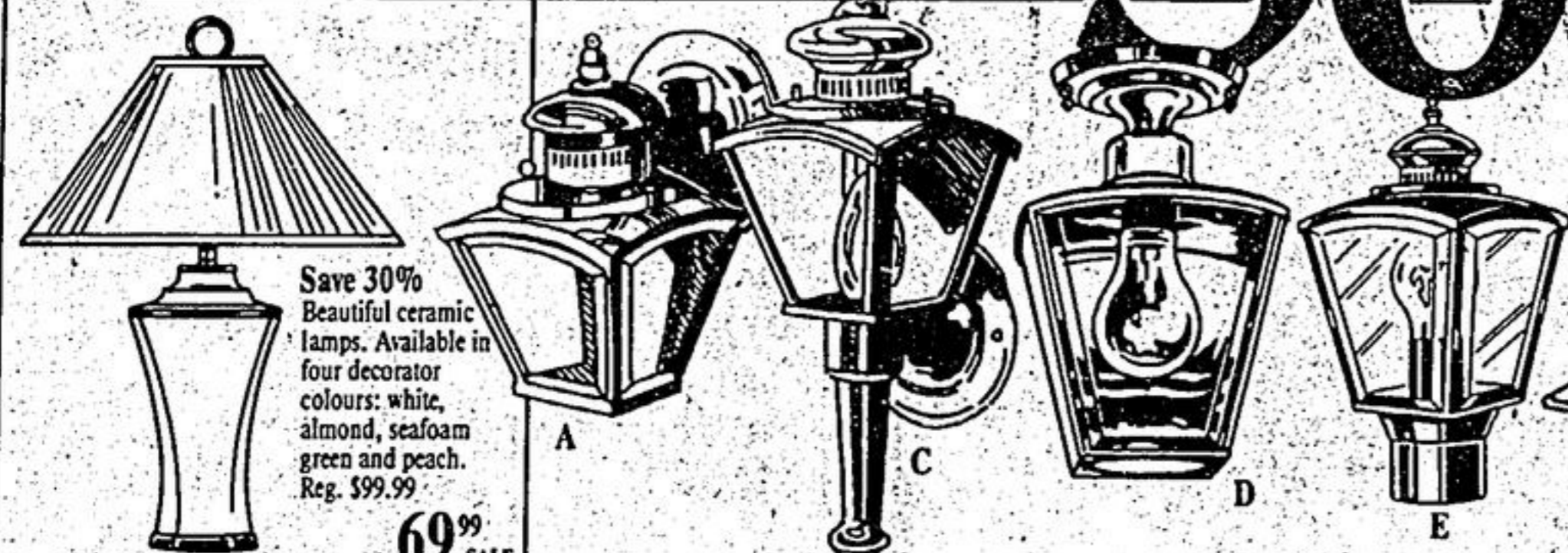
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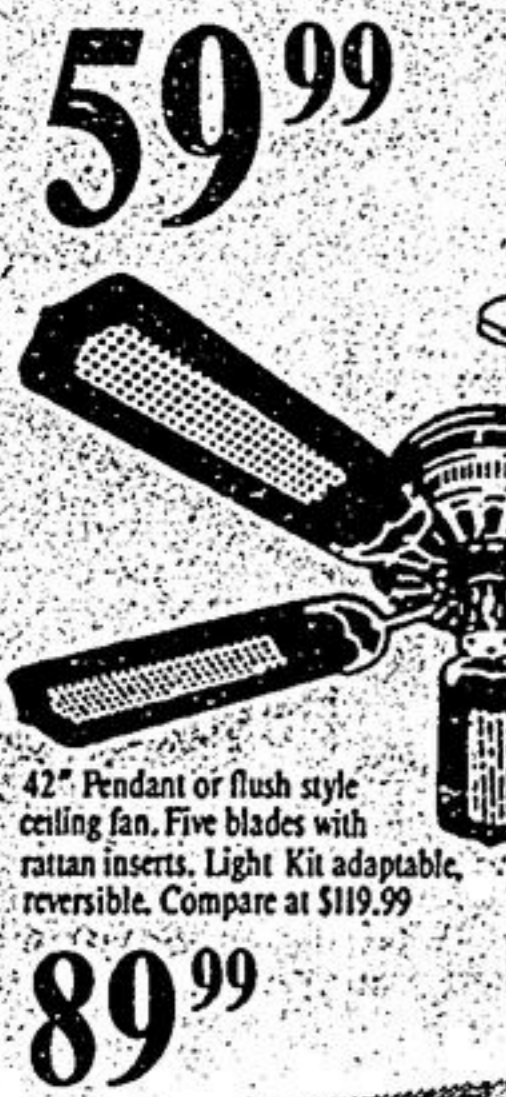
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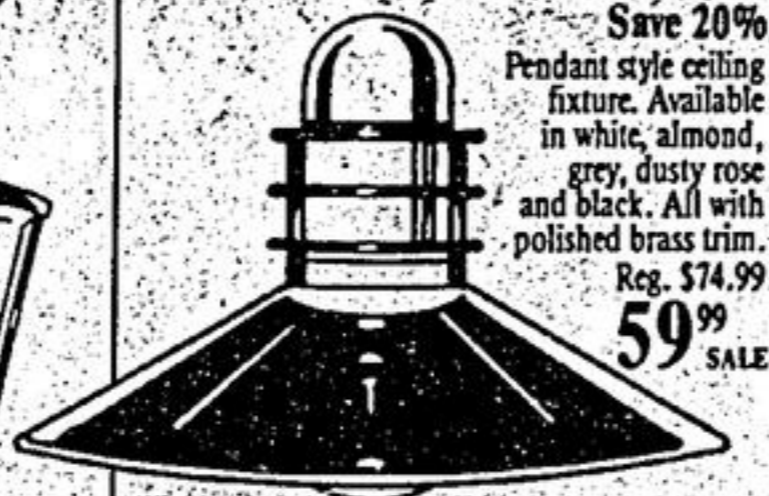
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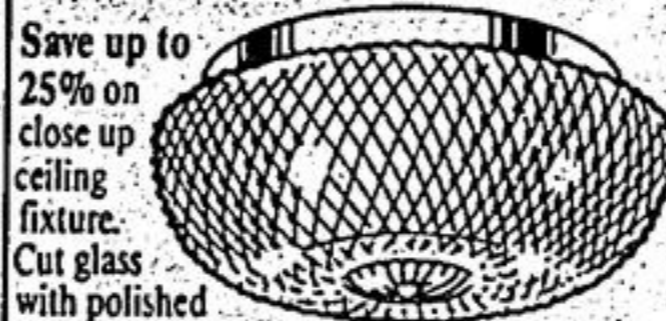
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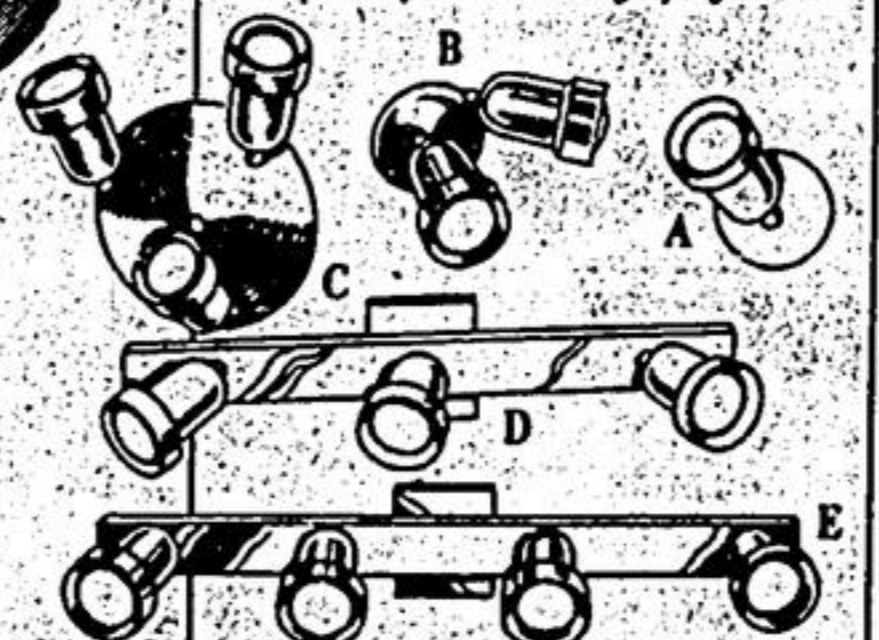


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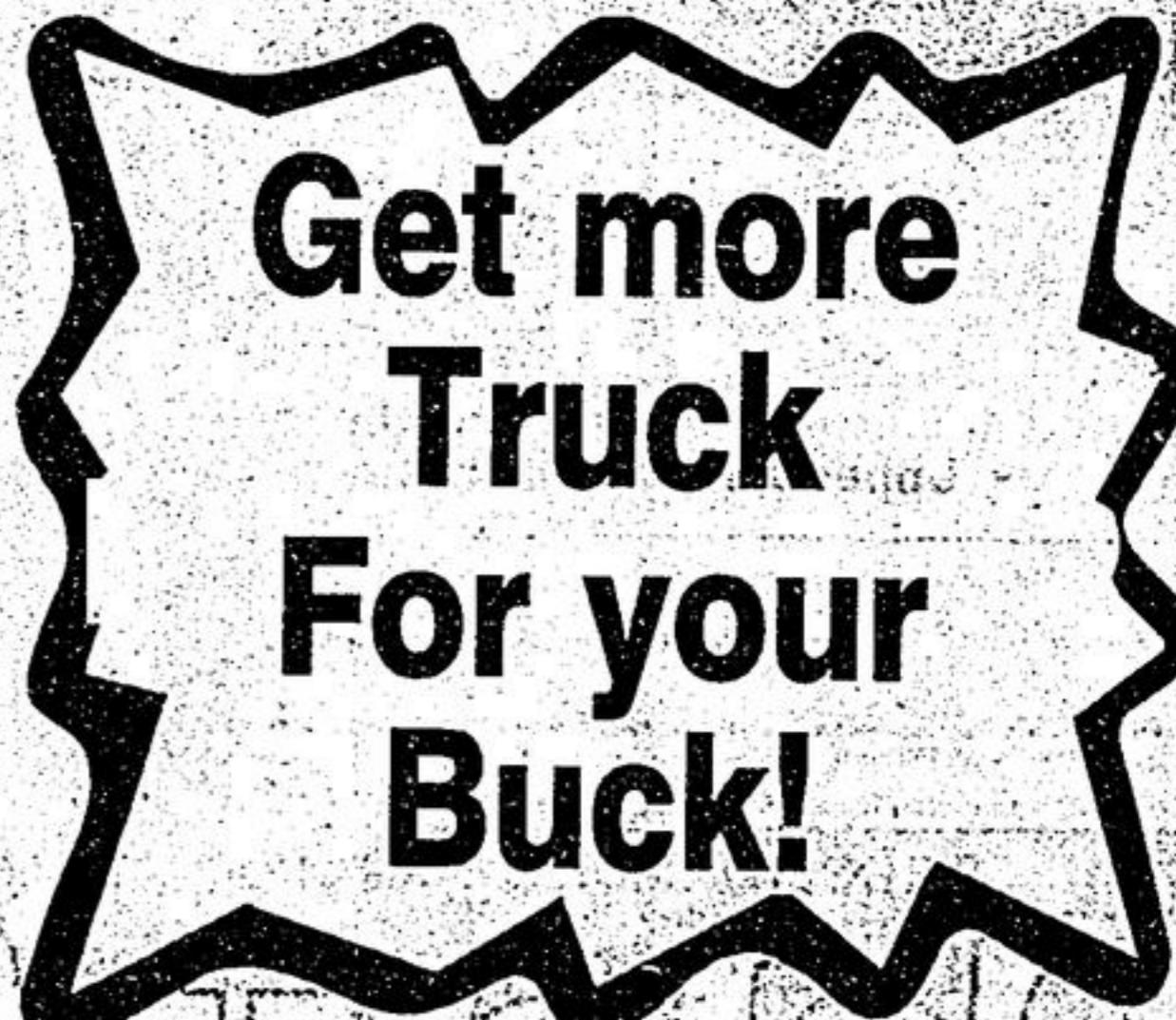
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